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**Women Cross DMZ Supports the Historic Meeting Between
President Trump and Chairman Kim**

Women Cross DMZ applauds the historic meeting of U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean Chairman Kim Jong Un at the DMZ yesterday. Although brief, the encounter marks an important first step in reviving the stalled diplomatic process and building lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula.

The women leaders made their own historic DMZ crossing in 2015, which helped pave the way for yesterday's encounter between the two leaders and South Korean President Moon Jae-in.

“In 2015 when 30 women leaders from around the world formed Women Cross DMZ—and actually got permission from North Korea, South Korea, and the US to cross that land-mined and desolate strip dividing Korea—it was a radical act of the imagination,” said feminist icon Gloria Steinem. Now, the leaders on all sides are running to catch up with the women.

Women Cross DMZ Executive Director Christine Ahn said her organization's established relationships with women leaders of North Korea, South Korea, and in key countries involved in the Korean War would be an asset to the Trump administration, increasing the possibility of a successful peace agreement. “If the U.S., North Korea and South Korea truly want peace, they must invite women to the negotiation table,” said Ahn, noting research that shows when women are involved in peace processes, the resulting agreements are more successful and durable.

What's needed now is a mutual trust-building process through dialogue and cooperation, not just between governments but also via people-to-people engagement. Ending decades of hostilities can only be resolved by building trust step-by-step, such as declaring an end to the Korean War, normalizing relations, lifting sanctions that impact ordinary people, and working toward a peace agreement.

Read the full joint statement from the women leaders of the global campaign Korea Peace Now! Women Mobilizing to End the War: www.koreapeacenow.org.

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