

Bridging Movements for Feminist Peace

WOMEN CROSS DMZ ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024



MOBILIZING WOMEN
FOR PEACE IN KOREA
WOMENCROSSDMZ

From the Co-Directors

Dear Friends,

We are in the midst of many transitions. We are bracing for the November elections and a new administration that will greatly impact the future direction of U.S. foreign policy. The world — and the Korean Peninsula especially — has changed dramatically since we crossed the DMZ from North to South Korea in 2015, and so have our strategies and tactics, which will continue to evolve in 2025 and beyond.

Our accomplishments this past year show how we have adapted to increased U.S. militarism and unprecedented violence across the globe, by building solidarity across movements, growing the leadership of the next generation of Korea peace activists, and connecting our movement for Korea peace to global struggles for demilitarization and decolonization.

In May, leading feminist scholars and activists gathered to discuss advancing a new U.S. foreign policy — away from endless wars and toward feminist principles of peace, justice, and sustainability, led by people of color, diasporic communities, and Indigenous Peoples. Women Cross DMZ, along with our Feminist Peace Initiative partners and the Inclusive Global Leadership Initiative, co-hosted this inaugural Feminist Peace Summit at the University of Denver's Sié Center for International Security and Diplomacy.

Our Korea Peace Now! Grassroots Network expanded its membership base to grow our political power and mobilize more voices calling for a peace-first approach to end the Korean War. From Los Angeles to Seattle, Chicago, New York, Atlanta, and Washington, DC, we coordinated public demonstrations with fellow anti-war organizations. Our

monthly national meetings for community building and political education regularly drew 70-plus members on weeknights. We held educational webinars on the gendered impacts of the Korean War and busted myths about the Peace on the Korean Peninsula Act, and our education committee launched the first-ever New Member Orientation Series, providing key data on the Korean War and U.S. militarism. Our guest speakers focused on topics such as the BDS (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions) movement in Korea and the campaign to cancel RIMPAC, the world's largest international maritime war exercise. And we launched a groundbreaking Intergenerational Healing and Learning Series led by artists, psychologists, writers, and other culture bearers to center intergenerational trauma as an integral part of our work to end the Korean War. These sustained initiatives have ensured our ability to build a base of grassroots power to advocate for an end to the Korean War.

In March, we organized the ninth annual Korea Peace Advocacy Week to urge members of Congress to support legislation for peace in Korea. Thanks to this nationally coordinated action with our faith-based partners and our grassroots activists across the country, H.R.1369, the Peace on the Korean Peninsula Act, now has 50 co-sponsors.

Our message of Korea peace continues to draw major media coverage, including in Al Jazeera, the *Chicago Tribune*, *The Chronicle of Philanthropy*, *The National Interest*, *Common Dreams*, *The Daily Beast*, *Foreign Policy in Focus*, *The Hill*, *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*, *LA Progressive*, *Truthout*, and *YES! Magazine*, among others.

On the cover:
Friends and supporters of Women Cross DMZ gathered at a fundraiser in Los Angeles on July 14, 2024.
Photo by Enji Chung



WCDMZ
Co-Directors
Christine Ahn
and Cathi Choi.
*Photo by Taylor
Kaltman*

In our organizational structure, a smooth leadership transition took place early this year as we became Co-Directors of WCDMZ. In January 2025, Cathi will become Executive Director, as Christine leaves her post as Founder and Co-Director to become a Senior Fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies. Christine will continue to serve as a strategic advisor for WCDMZ.

Over the past year we have worked closely on every aspect of the organization, from ensuring fiscal soundness to forming a strong team capable of responding to the world's rapidly changing geopolitical landscapes. Cathi will continue to expand Women Cross DMZ's visibility and reach, and cultivate a new generation of Korea peace activists for the long-term viability of our global peace movement.

We're also excited to introduce WCDMZ's new communications coordinator, Solby Lim. Solby is a Korean diasporic researcher and

storyteller based out of New York City who earned her master's degree from Columbia University.

Finally, 2025 will mark the ten-year anniversary of Women Cross DMZ and a symbolic new chapter for our Korea peace movement. As we approach the new year, we stand strong in knowing that we are part of a vibrant and growing global movement for peace and justice, and that working together, we can democratize and shape a progressive foreign policy for a more secure and equitable world. Thank you for being part of our journey.

In peace and hope,

CHRISTINE AHN & CATHI CHOI



Our Achievements

Feminist Peace Summit

WCDMZ
Co-Directors
Christine Ahn
(far left) and
Cathi Choi (far
right) moderated
a discussion at
the Feminist
Peace Summit
on “Preventing
a New Cold
War,” with
Cynthia Lazaroff
(Women
Transforming
Our Nuclear
Legacy), Sara
Haghdoosti
(Win Without
War), and Sandy
Shan (Justice is
Global). Photo
by Christina
Patsiokas/Green
Lion Images

To advance a progressive U.S. foreign policy, Women Cross DMZ and our Feminist Peace Initiative partners, MADRE and Grassroots Global Justice Alliance, and the Inclusive Global Leadership Initiative at the Sié Center for International Security and Diplomacy, co-hosted the inaugural Feminist Peace Summit at the University of Denver in early May.

Over two days more than 200 feminist scholars, activists, and movement leaders discussed ways to advance a new U.S. foreign policy centered on feminist principles of peace, justice, and sustainability led by people of color, diasporic communities, and Indigenous Peoples. The Summit was guided by three major themes:

- Challenge U.S. militarism and repair historical harms

- Ground feminist foreign policy in all movements for peace and justice
- Bridge the domestic and foreign policy divide

Plenary topics included why this political moment calls for feminist peace, how feminist foreign policy informed by diasporic wisdom can resolve global conflicts, what anti-militarist grassroots organizing looks like in communities of color, and how feminist strategies can confront growing authoritarianism across borders. More than a dozen breakout groups focused on topics including Palestine, migration and borders, sex and care work, feminist foreign policy, preventing a new Cold War, building intergenerational movements, Black and women’s nuclear abolition, organizing against the global right, climate and militarism, building narrative power, and funding the feminist peace movement.



Speakers included grassroots leaders and academics working to challenge war and militarism: Linda Burnham (Project 2050), Cynthia Enloe (Clark University), Nana Gyamfi (Black Alliance for Just Immigration), Sara Haghdoosti (Win Without War), Lara Kiswani (Arab Resource and Organizing Center), Diana Lopez (Southwest Workers Union), Margo Okazawa-Rey (San Francisco State University), Yoon Ra (Red Canary Song), Sandy Shan (Justice is Global), Halema Wali (Afghans for a Better Tomorrow), and Janene Yazzie (NDN Collective).

The gathering was a call to action to strengthen our movement in this moment of transformative political awakening against militarization, and to collectively reimagine peace, security, and liberation through feminist values of care, cooperation, and centering those most impacted.

Instead of hearing from foreign policy elites whose perspectives can be steeped in harmful, colonial, and militarized thinking, the Summit amplified the expertise of feminist grassroots leaders whose wisdom and experience are essential to our understanding of conflicts and to advance real, community-based solutions. It was heartening to reconnect with longtime friends and meet new ones, be inspired and challenged by new thinking, and to collectively witness and affirm the power of the growing U.S. feminist and internationalist demilitarization movement.

Building on the Feminist Peace Initiative's 2020 report, "A Vision for a Feminist Peace," in 2025 we will release a report on a feminist foreign policy for peace, with strategies and recommendations for movement leaders, philanthropists, policymakers, and those in academia.

Thanks to our co-sponsors and donors who made this Summit possible, including the Rockefeller Brothers Fund and Pax Sapiens. We left the Summit smarter, sharper, and filled with new energy and determination to strengthen the U.S. peace movement and democratize the process of shaping U.S. foreign policy.

Korea Peace Advocacy Week

For our ninth annual Korea Peace Advocacy Week, March 18-22, over 200 activists from across the U.S. registered for meetings with 175 Congressional offices in 32 states to advocate for H.R.1369, the Peace on the Korean Peninsula Act, calling for a peace agreement to formally end the Korean War. They were a diverse coalition of religious leaders, humanitarian workers, anti-nuclear advocates, veterans, multigenerational Korean Americans, and many other allies.

As a new anti-war movement emerges in the U.S., we have ensured that Korea peace remains a central issue in any discussions about ending U.S. forever wars abroad. Throughout

WCDMZ
Co-Director
Cathi Choi led a
breakout session
on "Building
Intergenerational
Movements"
at the Feminist
Peace Summit.
*Photo by Christina
Patsiokas/Green
Lion Images*

the week, grassroots members educated their congressional representatives about the need for peace on the Korean Peninsula, and in turn learned about the U.S. political process. This year's Advocacy Week was organized by Women Cross DMZ, American Friends Service Committee, Mennonite Central Committee, and Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church.

“The more I learn about the unresolved trauma resulting from the Korean War for all sides involved, the more I realize that we need to turn the armistice of 1953 into a permanent peace agreement. I hope the rest of Congress follows my Representative Nicole Malliotakis in signing on to H.R.1369, this important first step towards that goal.”

— Sally, constituent of Rep. Nicole Malliotakis (R-NY)

“Gabe Amo has made an important step in laying the groundwork for peace in Korea, and I admire his initiative as the first Rhode Island legislator to voice support for a 70-year overdue peace treaty. I hope he will continue to take a stand against U.S. militarism and push his colleagues to do so, too!”

— Beka, constituent of Rep. Gabe Amo (D-RI)

Intergenerational Healing & Learning Series

This year we launched an online educational series featuring activists, artists, and scholars to explore the complex legacies of trauma stemming from the unended Korean War and various practices of collective healing across generations. All the speakers highlighted how intergenerational healing informs their work and efforts to end the ongoing Korean War.

For the first session of the series, “Intergenerational Trauma and the Korean War: Healing Across Generations,” award-winning author Joseph Han and psychologist and shaman Helena Choi Soholm shared their approaches to healing intergenerational trauma and grappling with their families' histories, the legacies of U.S. imperialism, and the ongoing war in Korea.

At the second session, communications strategist Jungwon Kim and documentary filmmaker Yoon Ra shared their reflections of “Unbind Your Heart: Korean Han/Grief Transmutation Ceremony,” which was held in July 2023 on the 70th anniversary of the Korean War armistice in Washington, DC. They discussed integrating grassroots community organizing with ritual, performance, and song to counter state violence and war-making.

As this series continues, we will deepen our understanding of how the unresolved Korean War is connected globally to all struggles seeking to end U.S. wars and militarism. Through dialogue, political education, and storytelling, our work empowers people to take action for peace, build bridges across generations and movements, and forge a path toward our collective security and liberation.

Women Cross DMZ LA Fundraiser

On July 14, 2024, we held our first West Coast fundraiser, “Midsummer Dreams for Korea Peace: Celebrating Our Narrative Changemakers,” in Los Angeles. The event featured three narrative changemakers who challenge entrenched paradigms and elevate our work for peace in Korea, the Asia-Pacific, and beyond. Our speakers were Bruce Cumings, foremost historian on the Korean War; Deann Borshay Liem, Emmy award-



winning documentary filmmaker; and Viet Thanh Nguyen, Pulitzer Prize-winning author. Multidisciplinary artist Dohee Lee and Samsuk Ulim, featuring Jiae Jang, JaeEun Jun, and Jio Im, gave a memorable performance of Korean traditional drumming, song, and dance.

Bruce Cumings said, “I think it’s a war crime for a country of America’s size to constantly threaten a small country [like North Korea] with nuclear weapons.” He explained that the only deterrent North Korea has is its nuclear weapons, and that, ultimately, the U.S. is responsible for finding a way to peace.

“Censorship in Korea combined with McCarthyism at home meant that the Korean War wasn’t forgotten; it was never known.”

— Bruce Cumings

Viet Thanh Nguyen said, “Wars didn’t end just because we said they did,” and explained how growing up in America he was acutely aware that “the Vietnam War was being fought over and over again in popular culture.” Allowing that there can be competing memories and narratives of history, Nguyen talked about “ethical

memory,” which he defined as “memory work that recalls both one’s own as well as others.” He stressed not turning memory into a “war revenge, which only leads us into further warfare and the demonization of others.”

“We should overcome binaristic narratives....

We must recognize that our enemies are human and that we ourselves are also capable of terrible atrocities. It’s our obligation to get into contradictions.”

— Viet Thanh Nguyen

Deann Borshay Liem’s films show the ways that war and militarism affect people across generations. In her research on Korean adoption, she discovered how the plight of displaced and orphaned children became the grounds for U.S. intervention, with servicemen positioned as protectors. “Less reported was the widespread bombing and use of napalm that created orphans,” she said. “My work ... is to recover and remember the hidden stories of civilians and what some people call ‘war trash’ — orphans, widows, prostitutes, the disabled — to democratize the way we remember the war.”

WCMDMZ Co-Director Cathi Choi (left) moderated a discussion with filmmaker Deann Borshay Liem, historian Bruce Cumings, and writer Viet Thanh Nguyen. Photo by Taylor Kaltman



Members of the Korea Peace Now! Grassroots Network participated in the Korean American March for Peace in New York City on April 27, 2024. Photo by KCMB

“Koreans have had to deny the existence of our mothers and fathers and brothers and sisters on the other side of the border. Or we have had to acknowledge them as an enemy. Thinking about peace and how we reconcile and pass these stories on to the next generation, it’s storytelling. ... Telling our stories is essential to building this movement.”

— Deann Borshay Liem

We were heartened that so many community members came to support our work to end the “forgotten” Korean War and cultivate the next generation of Korea peace activists. Thanks to our community who donated, volunteered, took photos and videos, and overall helped make the event successful. Special thanks to our sponsors Angell Foundation, Asian Women United, Compton Foundation, and Korean American Peace Fund. And to our host committee: Alexandra Suh, Eunice Kwon, Jai Lee Wong, Jisung Catherine Kim, Leah Hong, Leslie Ito, Stella Chung, and Una Kim.

Growing Our Grassroots Network

In January 2024 the Korea Peace Now! Grassroots Network switched from a structure of regional chapters to one of subject area committees to better match members’ skills and interests and increase their active engagement. The results are these five committees:

- **Education:** To oversee the ongoing political education of grassroots members ranging from introductory teachings on the Korean War to more advanced analyses of current affairs on the Korean Peninsula.
- **Membership:** To welcome new members, nurture future organizers, and grow our base.
- **Advocacy:** To build the political will in the U.S. (through public education and legislative advocacy) for a peace agreement to officially end the Korean War.
- **Communications:** To build narrative power for peace by elevating stories of the ongoing impacts of the Korean War, using traditional and nontraditional media platforms, creating public education campaigns, and empowering grassroots activists with tools to amplify their voices.
- **Coalition-Building:** To build collaborations and partnerships with other progressive anti-war, anti-militarism, and peace movements.

In addition to these five committees, **Korean Language Caucus**, and **Faith-Based Caucus**, we have also formed a Steering Committee of volunteer members who meet quarterly and collectively lead our Grassroots Network. We have also launched a new-member orientation series. Offered on an ongoing basis, it is composed of three parts:



- **Part 1:** Introduction to the history, values, and work of the Korea Peace Now! campaign.
- **Part 2:** Overview of the Korean War and the Armistice agreement.
- **Part 3:** Q&A about movement-building and the path to Korea peace.

Progress on Lifting the Travel Ban to North Korea

In August we sent a letter to the State Department urging revisions to the travel ban restricting U.S. citizens from traveling to North Korea. We stated that the travel ban seriously impedes humanitarian activities and people-to-people engagement, including family reunions.

We argued that, short of lifting the ban altogether, the State Department should

revise its travel restrictions to more closely mirror the newly revised and less stringent regulations from the Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control, and that family reunions should be explicitly permitted, including through non-governmental channels. Several weeks later, we followed up with a meeting with Ambassador Julie Turner and other officials at the State Department, including a representative from Consular Affairs.

Although the travel ban was renewed in whole for its eighth consecutive year, we have seen loosening of some restrictions and improvement of rhetoric. Our advocacy has made a positive impact and we remain hopeful that U.S. passport holders will be allowed to once again travel to North Korea in the near future.

At the WCDMZ fundraiser in Los Angeles, artist Dohee Lee performed a ritual that involved audience members untying symbolic knots. L-R: WCDMZ Co-Directors Christine Ahn and Cathi Choi and WCDMZ Board Chair Aiyoung Choi. Photo by Taylor Kaltman

Activism and Political Education

In our efforts to bring an end to the Korean War, we have broadened our scope of work to include online political education to deepen and expand the public's awareness of Korea peace and related issues, while our in-person activism has focused on amplifying our demands for peace and building solidarity with other anti-war movements.

Gaza Statement & BDS Korea

On January 11, 2024, our Korea Peace Now! Grassroots Network invited organizers from BDS Korea and other Korea-based activists to discuss taking solidarity actions for Palestine by supporting "Palestine Emergency Action," a coalition of 149 activist groups in Korea.

From Chinatown to Vietnam: Locating Histories of Asian American Anti-Imperialism

One of our best attended meetings was held on February 8, 2024, with historian and writer Mark Tseng-Putterman, who covered the history of Asian American anti-imperialist organizing. He discussed how prior generations of Asian American anti-war activism inform our work today to end the war in Korea as well as U.S. militarism globally.

The Gendered Impact of the Korean War: Past, Present, and Future

For International Women's Day, in March 2024 we held a webinar with renowned feminist scholar-activists Suzy Kim, Na-Young Lee, and Ji-Yeon Yuh on the gendered impact of the Korean War and the role of women to advance peace and justice.



WCDMZ Co-Director Cathi Choi spoke at a "Korean Americans for Palestine" rally in Los Angeles on July 8, 2024. *Photo by Bowm Kim*



In April 2024, WCDMZ Co-Director Christine Ahn (center) co-organized an international gathering on "Demilitarizing Hawai'i and the Pacific for Planetary Survival."

Demilitarizing Hawai'i and the Pacific for Planetary Survival

On April 4-6, 2024, Women Cross DMZ, in partnership with Hawai'i Peace and Justice and the Costs of War Project, organized an international gathering of leading activists, academics, and members of the philanthropic community to imagine ways to dismantle U.S. militarism in the Pacific and Asia in pursuit of a more sustainable and just future for all.



Korean Americans marched to demand an end to the Korean War on the 71st anniversary of the armistice signing in Washington, DC. Photo by Monica Chang

Korean American March for Peace in Korea

On April 27, 2024, Korea Peace Now!, the Korean American Peace Fund, the Korean Council for Reunification and Cooperation of Greater New York, the 6.15 US Committee for Reunification of Korea, and Heungsadahn NY marched with hundreds in New York City to advocate for a peace agreement to end the Korean War and a stop to U.S.-led war drills in Korea.

Korean Americans for Palestine

WCDMZ Co-Director Cathi Choi spoke about the connections between movements to end the Korean War and those for a Free Palestine at the July 8, 2024 gathering of Korean Americans for Palestine (KA4P), a collective of Korean American organizations gathering weekly in Koreatown, Los Angeles to demand an end to the genocide in Palestine. WCDMZ Board Chair Aiyong Choi, Board Member Ji-Yeon Yuh, and Korea Peace Now! Grassroots Membership Committee Leader Nahmi Jones attended the KA4P rally on July 15.



WCDMZ's Director/Coordinator of Activism and Special Campaigns Echo (left) marches with WCDMZ Advisory Board member Nan Kim and Board member Ann Wright at the climate march in NYC in September 2023.

Armistice to Peace: DC Action to End the Korean War

On July 27, 2024, the 71st anniversary of the 1953 Korean Armistice agreement, Korea Peace Now! organized a rally in Washington, DC with more than 80 community members to call for a formal end to the Korean War.

Beyond Utopia

In April 2024, WCDMZ published a critique of the documentary film *Beyond Utopia* about North Korean defectors, for its lack of context crucial to understanding the human rights situation in North Korea, specifically as it relates to the role of the U.S. and the unresolved Korean War.

No Nuclear War Drills!

On August 18, 2024, Washington, DC-based community members joined a rally organized by Korea Peace Now! at the White House to demand an end to the U.S.-led war drills in South Korea, including the first-ever joint U.S.-R.O.K. nuclear exercise.

What People Are Saying About Women Cross DMZ

“Through advocacy, mobilization, and coalition work, Women Cross DMZ is moving us all closer toward peace that is rooted in feminist principles and collective well-being. Whether it is Women Cross DMZ’s efforts to secure peace on the Korean Peninsula or to reimagine U.S. foreign policy as rooted in justice, peace, and collective security, Women Cross DMZ is helping to shape a more peaceful future for us all.”

— **Karen Karnicki, Peacebuilding Program Officer, Rockefeller Brothers Fund**



“Women Cross DMZ plays vital roles in the social justice ecosystem. As visionaries, they remind the world that peace in the Korean Peninsula is possible. As disruptors and storytellers, they show us how to push for change in unjust systems and policies. And as weavers, they build solidarity with other transnational movements for peace and self-determination.”

— **Deepa Iyer, Senior Director of Strategic Initiatives, Building Movement Project**



“Women Cross DMZ made Korea peace a front-burner issue for our office. The way they approach Members of Congress, by remaining open to dialogue and nuance, helps people across the political spectrum hear their message and engage thoughtfully. Women Cross DMZ truly meets people where they are and creates space for people to move towards their position.”

— **Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA)**



“Women Cross DMZ is a key leader in the Korean American community paving the path for Korea peace. Before Women Cross DMZ’s work, this type of legislative advocacy would have been unthinkable. They have expanded the politics of possibility and empowered our community to take action in unprecedented ways. Thank you, Women Cross DMZ, for your leadership.”

— **Kapsong Kim, Korean American Community Development Director, MinKwon Center for Community Action & National Coordinator at Korean American Peace Fund**



“Being connected with Women Cross DMZ has been invaluable, not just by helping me grow my understanding of Korea peace work, but also by providing a loving and supportive community to rely on. Their feminist leadership, which prioritizes love and care, stands in stark contrast to the hierarchical structures found in our patriarchal society. Especially as a younger femme leader, I have felt empowered by Women Cross DMZ to take bold actions and mobilize my generation and others.”

— Hannah Lee, Korea Peace Now! Grassroots Student Leader



“I am grateful to Women Cross DMZ for addressing the issue of ancestral trauma within the realm of political advocacy work through their ‘Intergenerational Healing and Learning Series.’ By giving individuals the space to speak to the challenges of growing up with unspoken narratives of trauma stemming from war and militarism, Women Cross DMZ is supporting the Korean diaspora community and allies to reclaim our whole selves, which is key to our physical and psychological well-being as well as our effort to end the ongoing Korean War.”

— Helena Soholm, Transpersonal Psychologist and Korean Shaman



“It takes enormous courage to work for peace, with innumerable costs on those who dare to do so. Korean Americans who visited North Korea are not immune to persecution both by the South Korean government and the Korean American community. Women Cross DMZ’s courage, to believe in and act for peace and an end to the United States’ oldest war, is deeply inspiring and contagious as seen in the new generations joining this movement.”

— Namhee Lee, Professor and Director of the Center for Korean Studies at UCLA



“You cannot separate the domestic politics of the United States—its inequities, its contradictions, its oppressions—from what the United States does in terms of its foreign policy outside of this country. It’s safe to talk about multiculturalism, representation and diversity, but it takes courage to talk about genocide, war and our government’s complicity. Women Cross DMZ has that courage, and they’ve convinced me of the power of feminist peace.”

— Viet Thanh Nguyen, Pulitzer Prize-winning author



Events We Participated In

- 1.5.24 **Presentation on the Korea Peace Now! Grassroots Network, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC**
- 1.31.24 **“The Cost of U.S. Militarization in Hawai‘i: Climate, Housing, and Community Impacts,” Funder Hui Learning Call, online**
- 2.1.24 **“North Korea is Not Our Enemy,” hosted by CODEPINK, online**
- 2.8.24 **“From Chinatown to Vietnam: Locating Histories of Asian American Anti-Imperialism,” with Mark Tseng-Putterman, Korea Peace Now! Grassroots Network National Meeting, online**
- 2.20.24 **Presentation on the Korea Peace Now! Grassroots Network and Korea Peace Advocacy Week, UMC Justice Coordinators Meeting, online**
- 3.6.24 **“The Gendered Impact of the Korean War: Past, Present, and Future,” hosted by Women Cross DMZ, online**
- 3.15.24 **“Crossings” screening at Georgetown University, hosted by Georgetown THiNK, Washington, DC**
- 3.18-22.24 **Korea Peace Advocacy Week, online**
- 4.6.24 **“Demilitarizing Hawai‘i and the Pacific for Planetary Survival,” hosted by Hawai‘i Peace & Justice, Costs of War, Department of Ethnic Studies at University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, Kamakākūokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies at University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, Waiwai Collective, and Women Cross DMZ, Honolulu, HI**
- 4.27.24 **Korean American Solidarity Peace March, New York City, NY**
- 5.1-3.24 **Feminist Peace Summit, hosted by the Feminist Peace Initiative (MADRE, Grassroots Global Justice Alliance, and Women Cross DMZ) and the Inclusive Global Leadership Initiative at the Sié Center for International Security & Diplomacy, University of Denver, CO**
- 5.29.24 **“Intergenerational Trauma and the Korean War: Healing Across Generations,” Intergenerational Healing & Learning Series, Korea Peace Now! Grassroots Network, online**
- 6.2.24 **“River of Peace,” WILPF’s U.S. 35th Triennial Congress, online**
- 6.12.24 **“KPNGN Reflections on Unbind Your Heart: Korean Han /Grief Transmutation Ceremony, One Year Later,” Intergenerational Healing & Learning Series, Korea Peace Now! Grassroots Network, online**
- 7.3.24 **“Crossings” watch party and discussion with Veterans for Peace’s Peace Walk team, Annapolis, MD**
- 7.8.24 **Korean Americans for Palestine Rally, Los Angeles, CA**
- 7.14.24 **“Midsummer Dreams for Korea Peace,” Women Cross DMZ Fundraiser, Los Angeles, CA**
- 7.27.24 **“Armistice to Peace: DC Action to End the Korean War,” Washington, DC**
- 8.11.24 **Presentation on Korea Peace Now! Grassroots Network, Korean Fairfax Episcopal Church, Fairfax, VA**
- 8.18.24 **“No Nuclear War Drills” Rally, Washington, DC**
- 8.22.24 **“Humanitarian Engagement with the DPRK in the Midst of a Hardening Political Climate,” with Joy Yoon, hosted by the Korea Peace Now! Grassroots Network Faith-Based Caucus, online**

The Impact of Our Work, By the Numbers

8,318

The number of subscribers to our email newsletter.

400+

The number of donors who have supported Women Cross DMZ from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2024.

50

The number of co-sponsors of House Resolution 1369, the Peace on the Korean Peninsula Act as of October 28, 2024.

210

The number of people who signed up to participate in our Korea Peace Advocacy Week 2024.

77

The number of Congressional meetings we held to advocate for Korea peace legislation in the past year.

1,555

The number of people Women Cross DMZ engaged at in-person and virtual events in the last year on the issue of Korea peace and ending the Korean War.

27,151

The number of views on Women Cross DMZ's YouTube channel.

100,000+

The number of views Women Cross DMZ and Korea Peace Now! reached on Instagram.

50,000+

The number of accounts Women Cross DMZ and Korea Peace Now! reached on Instagram between June-September 2024.

16,000+

The number of followers Women Cross DMZ and Korea Peace Now! reached across our social media platforms (Instagram, X, and Facebook).

Media Coverage of Our Work

Al Jazeera English

Annandale Patch

**The Brown Journal
of World Affairs**

The Charlotte Observer

Chicago Tribune

Common Dreams

The Daily Beast

DC Korea Times

Everand

Foreign Policy in Focus

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

The Herald-Sun

The Hill

Honolulu Star-Advertiser

Kansas City Star

The Korea Times

Korean Quarterly

KPFK 90.7 FM

Ktown Social Club

LA Progressive

Mindle News

The National Interest

The News & Observer

Out-FM

Rising Up with Sonali

The Sacramento Bee

Sun Herald

Truthout

Turning the Tide

Yahoo! News

YES! Magazine

“What is fundamentally missing in the human rights discourse is recognition of the ongoing state of war on the Korean Peninsula, which provides the North Korean government justification to invest its limited resources on defense and maintaining a national security state.”

— Christine Ahn,
op-ed in Foreign Policy in Focus, December 14, 2023

“The legacy of U.S. wars waged throughout Asia has historically shaped generations of solidarity-building between Asian Americans and all peoples facing the brunt of U.S. militarism. And as the U.S. continues to fund Israel, militarize the Pacific, and exacerbate tensions with China, young Asian Americans have a particular role to play in challenging the ever-growing U.S. war machine.”

— Cathi Choi,
op-ed in YES! Magazine, May 8, 2024

“The next president must place Korea higher on their foreign policy priorities before it rises to the top due to a catastrophic crisis with nuclear consequences.”

— Dan Leaf and Christine Ahn,
op-ed in the *Chicago Tribune*, October 17, 2024

“Under this eight-year travel ban, we have missed opportunities not only to reunite families, but also for people-to-people exchanges that would include discussing climate policies and disability rights — topics on which North Korea has previously engaged with international bodies and offer pathways towards engagement.”

— Cathi Choi,
op-ed in The Hill, August 12, 2024

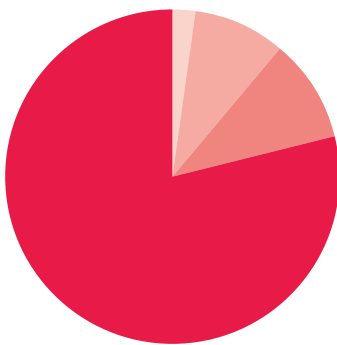
Our Financial Health

In fiscal year 2023-24 (July 1 to June 30) we raised a total of \$926,859. Of this, \$732,743 (79 percent) came from 24 institutional donors and foundations, including a two-year \$300,000 grant for the Feminist Peace Initiative to be shared with our two partners. We also received \$90,940 (10 percent) from 280 organizations and individuals who gave between \$5 to \$20,000, and earned \$15,214 (2 percent) of our revenue in speaking fees. Lastly, we received \$87,962 (9 percent) in in-kind support from our pro bono counsel, the law firm Steptoe & Johnson, and IT/security support from Tiny Gigantic.

Our expenses for FY 2023-24 were \$751,145, of which 88 percent went directly to support our programming, which includes the production of our educational materials, the costs related to our advocacy and organizing programs, and the wages and fees of our staff and consultants. Since we have no office space, our work relies mostly on technology and remote communication, which helps keep our overhead costs to a low 12 percent of total expenses.

Thanks to the generous support of our donor community and pro bono providers, coupled with our lean expenditures, we were able to end the year with a healthy balance of \$378,837, leaving us on a solid footing for FY 2024-25.

REVENUES



- **79%** Foundations
- **10%** Individuals & Organizations
- **2%** Speaking Fees & Misc. Income
- **9%** Pro-Bono Services

EXPENSES



- **50%** Wages & Consulting Fees
- **38%** Education, Advocacy & Organizing
- **12%** Administrative Costs

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The Road Ahead

Next year marks an exciting new chapter for Women Cross DMZ under Cathi Choi’s leadership. WCDMZ will continue to educate, advocate, and organize for peace on the Korean Peninsula and grow the Korea peace movement by building new alliances with peace and anti-war movements across the U.S. WCDMZ will continue cultivating the rising cohort of new young leaders forging the path for a U.S. foreign policy divested from war and invested in peace.

We will ensure that feminist voices and principles guide the peace-building process in Korea, the Asia-Pacific, and globally. Here are some of our initiatives for 2025 and beyond:

- **Women Cross DMZ turns 10!** To commemorate our historic 2015 crossing, we will lead a Healing & Reconciliation Tour to South Korea in 2025, on the 10-year anniversary of the DMZ crossing and the 80th anniversary of Korea’s division.
- **Feminist Peace Report.** With our Feminist Peace Initiative partners, we will publish a report outlining our feminist vision for U.S. foreign policy for the incoming administration.
- **Anti-Asian Violence Conference.** Partnering with the University of Washington, in the fall of 2025 we will host a conference on the connections between anti-Asian violence and U.S. militarism. Scholars and activists will engage in critical conversation about how U.S. forever wars abroad foment violence at home, focusing on anti-Asian violence.
- **Organizing & Advocacy.** We will work with our advocacy partners on developing the best strategies for legislative change, and we will continue organizing the dedicated activists in



our Korea Peace Now! Grassroots Network to advocate for Korea peace legislation and an end to the U.S. ban on travel to North Korea.

- **Healing Intergenerational Trauma.** Responding to the overwhelming interest shown by our grassroots community across the United States, we will enhance our Intergenerational Healing & Learning Series and continue to present it online into 2025. Numerous preeminent speakers — legal experts, scholars, artists, psychologists, community leaders, survivors and allies — will discuss how healing intergenerational trauma stemming from U.S. forever wars is intricately tied to advocating for peace and justice.

Community members marched in Washington, DC, on the anniversary of the Korean War armistice to demand peace on the Korean Peninsula. Photo by Monica Chang