Building Radiant Peace

WOMEN CROSS DMZ ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026



From the Executive Director

Dear Friend,

We are living through a time of profound instability. Wars continue to ravage communities while draining much-needed resources away from the things that make us truly safe. Authoritarianism is dismantling democratic institutions and far right movements are dividing and sowing disinformation in communities. In moments like these, it's easy to feel overwhelmed and hopeless.

On the cover: Staff, board members, and supporters at the 2026 Spring Benefit for Women Cross DMZ in New York City (above). Photo by JP Yim. Armistice to Peace rally in Washington DC (below). Photo by Chris Ki.

But we are not powerless. At Women Cross DMZ, we are demonstrating how peacebuilding empowers and heals communities to create more just and resilient futures. By democratizing U.S. foreign policymaking, we are fueling the collective movement to end forever wars in Korea and globally.

In 2026, we marked 11 years of our peace advocacy, education, and organizing. And we are seeing remarkable results. Ideas that once seemed outside the political mainstream are now central to conversations about diplomacy, military spending, and the future of the U.S. role on the Korean Peninsula. Our narrative change work is reaching wide audiences. We've reached over 80,000 platforms and garnered over 320,000 views through our media and narrative work across social platforms and newsletters. We've also organized over 2,600 individuals through direct actions across the country.

We expanded our advocacy in exciting new ways to meet the current political moment, build bridges, and forge paths in emerging fields. In response to the proposed $1.5 trillion Pentagon budget, we organized "No Money for War," a grassroots-driven campaign to challenge harmful provisions of the National Defense Authorization Act related to the Korean Peninsula. Our campaign was bolstered by groundbreaking new research by David Vine at the Center for International Policy showing that U.S. taxpayers spend approximately $6 billion to maintain the ongoing Korean War, with likely billions more in hidden costs.

We invited immigrants' rights and grassroots leaders to join our advocacy efforts and make the case that spending on forever wars takes away critical investments and resources needed for health care, education, and other essential services at home. These connections matter because peace globally is inextricably linked to the health and safety of our local communities.

We also led efforts in solidarity with Korean women demanding justice for past harms and sexual violence at camptowns surrounding U.S. miltary bases in South Korea. On International Women's Day, we sent a historic letter to Congress calling for accountability and redress, signed by more than 100 global women leaders. We bolstered this effort with online and in-person education events – in both English and Korean – at various gatherings across the U.S., including a local immigrants' rights center in Los Angeles, the United Nations' Commission on the Status of Women, national Asian American civil rights conferences, and universities across the country.

We expanded our annual Korea Peace Advocacy campaign from one week to all summer, organizing over 160 grassroots advocates from across the country to meet with more than 25 members of Congress and their staff to advocate for diplomacy, dialogue, lifting sanctions, ending the U.S. travel ban to North Korea, and ending the Korean War with a peace agreement.



WCDMZ Executive Director Cathi Choi, Founder Christine Ahn, and partners at the Washington DC launch of the Feminist Peace Playbook, a comprehensive guide for movements, researchers, policymakers, philanthropists, and journalists. The Feminist Peace Playbook was released by the Feminist Peace Initiative, led by MADRE, Women Cross DMZ, the Grassroots Global Justice Alliance, and the Inclusive Global Leadership Initiative at the University of Denver.

Demonstrating the power of our nimble structure and broad-based grassroots movement, we mounted rapid response campaigns in the wake of unexpected developments. For example, after Trump announced he would reduce joint U.S.-South Korea military drills, we quickly organized a joint letter to members of Congress outlining steps to encourage meaningful diplomacy and mobilized a grassroots response.

Most importantly, I have seen how the very act of building peace can replenish hope. Grassroots members across the country have shared with me how organizing with Women Cross DMZ helped them feel less isolated and more empowered and engaged. This community building is peacebuilding, too. We heal not by turning away from the world, but by creating relationships that allow us to transform it together.

This is the light I see in Women Cross DMZ: the light we inherit, kindle, and pass forward. It is in the courage of leaders who came before us, in the people finding one another through this movement today, and in the generations who will carry this work into the future.

Thank you for helping keep this light alive. Your support makes it possible for us to build campaigns, nurture new leaders, and grow the movement for peace. Approximately 90 percent of the money we raise goes directly to support our education, advocacy, and organizing. As we enter another year, I hope you will continue this journey with us.

With gratitude,



CATHI CHOI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Our Achievements

Advocacy

Korea Peace Advocacy

Our Korea peace advocacy efforts have grown significantly this past year, bringing together coalitions of anti-war and peace organizations across diasporic, faith, and political communities. We also expanded the scope of our advocacy to address the many effects of the ongoing war – including through the lenses of gender-based violence and military spending.

In March, we organized a retreat to develop a new peace-first policy and legislative advocacy strategy with our Korea Peace Network partners, including the American Friends Service Committee, United Methodist Church Global Ministries and Church & Society, Mennonite Central Committee, Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, Korean American Peace Fund, and the Korea Peace Now! Grassroots Network. We assessed the past 11 years of our Korea peace advocacy efforts and national grassroots network, identified new opportunities to build relationships with the wider U.S.-based anti-war movement, and determined the analysis needed to respond to new opportunities in the current political landscape. We reaffirmed our plans to work together toward establishing a just peace on the Korean Peninsula by advocating for engagement, trust-building, reconciliation, and dialogue between all concerned governments and civil society groups.

Building off our strategic retreat, we organized the first-ever Korea Peace Advocacy Summer, an expansion of our Korea Peace Advocacy Week, which had been held annually since 2015. From June to August, over 160 grassroots



On July 26, 2026, we marked 73 years since the signing of the Korean War Armistice to demand an immediate end to the war and urgent diplomacy in pursuit of a binding peace agreement. Over 100 peace advocates joined us in Washington, DC from Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, North Carolina, Connecticut, and elsewhere. The rally was co-hosted by the Korea Peace Network. Photo by Chris Ki.

advocates joined over 25 in-person and virtual meetings with their members of Congress and staff to urge them to support an official end to the Korean War and policies that advance peace – including lifting sanctions, ending the U.S. travel ban to North Korea, and advocating for diplomacy and dialogue. We trained advocates to organize their own in-district meetings, held virtual phone-banking sessions, and organized constituents from Washington, DC; Maryland; and Virginia to attend in-person meetings on the Hill. As of October 1, H.R.1841, the Peace on the Korean Peninsula Act, has 51 co-sponsors with bipartisan support.

No Money for War Campaign

In March, we launched "No Money for War: Take Action on the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)", our first-ever grassroots campaign challenging harmful, ineffective, and excessive U.S. military spending policies that fuel forever war in Korea. We targeted the NDAA, which funds the Department of Defense (and, by extension, the U.S. military), dictates a large portion of U.S. defense policy, and outlines congressional military spending priorities in Korea. Advocates sent over 100 letters calling for members of Congress to support policies that would establish an official plan for a peace process to formally end the Korean War; challenge the joint U.S.-South Korea war drills; and increase transparency regarding the billions of dollars spent by the Pentagon to "counter China" in the Asia-Pacific region.

We also collaborated with researcher and scholar David Vine on his groundbreaking report, *The True Cost of the U.S. Military in South Korea*, released by the Center for International Policy in July. The report shows that the Pentagon has significantly understated how much U.S. taxpayers spend to keep the U.S. military in South Korea. Vine's report also shows that U.S. taxpayers currently spend approximately $6 billion annually to maintain U.S. bases and troops in South Korea—nearly $2.19 billion more than what the Pentagon has previously reported.

Advocating for Survivors of Militarized Sexual Violence in Korea

For decades, camptowns surrounding U.S. military bases in South Korea have been sites of harm and human rights abuses against Korean women and girls – including systems of illegal prostitution at camptowns to sustain the South Korea-U.S. military alliance and forcible detention of Korean women for the treatment of sexually transmitted diseases.

WCDMZ led advocacy and education efforts to demand redress and justice from the U.S. government and lawmakers, connecting militarized violence against women with the devastating costs of U.S. forever wars in Korea and globally.



Armistice to Peace rally attendees and partner organizations perform an energizing dance in front of the Lincoln Memorial during our Armistice to Peace rally on July 26, 2026. Photo by Chris Ki.

In January, we hosted "Women and War: U.S. Military Camptowns in Korea" webinar, with simultaneous English and Korean translation, on the disproportionate impact of U.S. militarism on women in South Korea. Speakers included U.S. Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib (D-MI), South Korean organizer Ko Mira, Director of 세움터 (Sae-oom-teo), human rights lawyer Ha Ju Hee, Veterans for Peace president Susan Schnall, and International Women's Network Against Militarism founding member Margo Okazawa-Rey. In July, we co-organized "Lessons from the Pacific: Feminist Solidarities Towards a Demilitarized Pacific" in Los Angeles with GYOPO and Nodutdol. Over 70 attendees joined to learn about intertwined legacies of militarized prostitution under Japanese colonialism and the U.S. occupation of Korea.

On March 8, International Women's Day, we sent a letter signed by more than 100 prominent global women leaders and organizations calling on the U.S. Congress to pursue accountability measures and redress for Korean women survivors of the U.S. militarized sex trade. Signatories included leading U.S. women's rights advocates and peacebuilders from MADRE, The United Methodist Church – General Board of Church and Society, and Win Without War.

Organizing

Strengthening Grassroots and Intergenerational Organizing

Our Korea Peace Now! Grassroots Network (KPNGN) has grown to over 700 members nationwide. We engage our base through online and in-person events across the country. Our organizing-informed advocacy shows how we can democratize U.S. foreign policy through people power. Our 12-person Steering Committee of volunteer leaders organizes the Membership, Education, Advocacy, and Coalition Building Committees, as well as Faith-Based and Korean Language Caucuses.



From right to left: WCDMZ Executive Director Cathi Choi, scholar and WCDMZ Board Chair Ji-Yeon Yuh, legal scholar Miyoko Pettit-Toledo, Inclusive Global Leadership Initiative Program Manager Carly Paul, and MADRE Senior Director of Advocacy and Policy Diana Duarte at the United Nations' 70th session of the Commission on the Status of Women Commission in New York on March 13, 2026. Photo by Ruthie Brownfield.

Rapid Response Campaigns

This year, WCDMZ rolled out several rapid responses and mobilized our grassroots base to advocate for peace-first policies during key moments. This demonstrated our ability to be a leading voice to shape U.S. policy in Korea by harnessing grassroots power.

In August, President Trump made a surprise announcement about scaling down the 11-day Freedom Ulchi Shield joint military exercises with South Korea. Many U.S. lawmakers criticized this announcement. In response, we quickly acted to organize over 500 peace advocates, including a phone-banking session with our Korea Peace Network partners, to urge members of Congress to support diplomacy toward reducing risk on the Korean Peninsula and reopening dialogue with North Korea.

We also organized over 45 civil society organizations to call on Congress to support diplomacy with North Korea. The letter, delivered in September, called on U.S. lawmakers to hold the Trump administration accountable in prioritizing diplomatic engagement and an end to military exercises on the Korean Peninsula, support legislation to end the Korean War with a peace agreement, and speak out in favor of renewed diplomacy and measures that can deescalate tensions. Signatories included Peace Action, National Priorities Project at the Institute for Policy Studies, Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft, Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, and the Friends Committee on National Legislation.

Following the nomination of former Representative Michelle Park Steel to serve as U.S. Ambassador to South Korea in April, Women Cross DMZ and the Korea Peace Now! Grassroots Network launched a national campaign highlighting how, as a Congresswoman, Steel took a hawkish approach to China and North Korea and firmly opposed efforts to end the Korean War. We gathered



Northern Virginia Korea Peace constituents pose with U.S. Representative Don Beyer (VA-8). From left to right: DK Kim (Korea Peace Now! Grassroots Network), Colleen Moore (United Methodist Church), HK Suh (National Association of Korean Americans), Jai Myung Lee (Jungto International), Silvia Patton (Korean American Democratic National Organization), Don Beyer, Jaesoo Lee (Peaceful Unification Advisory Council), Young Joo Shim (Korea Peace Now! Grassroots Network), WCDMZ Organizing Director Echo, and Robin Kwon (Coalition of Koreans in America). Advocates urged Rep. Beyer to support Korea peace by co-sponsoring the Peace on the Korean Peninsula Act.

nearly 400 signatures across the United States for a petition opposing Steel's nomination, and coordinated with the Seattle-based Evergreen Coalition, which collected more than 3,000 signatures globally. We hand-delivered these petitions to the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations and met directly with member offices. Our campaign expanded public discussion about the importance of diplomacy, educated lawmakers, and demonstrated our growing ability to coordinate rapid-response advocacy.

Building Coalitions Across Movements

An important aspect of our work involves building coalitions and community across movements, which is more critical than ever in light of increased attacks on anti-war and peace groups.

In 2026, Women Cross DMZ marked its sixth year co-leading the Feminist Peace Initiative (FPI) with Grassroots Global Justice Alliance and MADRE. With support from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the FPI has articulated a vision for a truly feminist U.S. foreign policy that advances peace, justice, and collective security. This year, FPI implemented four core strategies from our Feminist Peace Playbook: increasing public awareness of militarism; redefining national security through community safety, dignity, and well-being; bridging divides across movements to build power; and grounding policymaking in movements to advance feminist peace. We did this through convenings, educational and policy analysis, and cross-sector collaboration among researchers, activists, philanthropists, and policymakers.

WCDMZ helped to expand distribution of the Playbook and the Spanish translation version, co-organized educational programs with students and university communities, and helped put on public panels addressing militarism, authoritarianism, extremism, and security. In April, FPI co-convened the "Futures Beyond Militarism" conference at the University of Texas at Austin, bringing together scholars and activists to examine global alternatives to militarism and how communities can enact sustainable and interdependent futures.

WCDMZ co-organized FPI's inaugural Policy Labs, bringing together dozens of grassroots organizers, labor leaders, Hill staffers, funders, international NGOs, think tanks, and others to identify shared policy priorities and models for collaboration.

Women Cross DMZ regularly brings together anti-war and peace groups including Pacific Peace Network, Veterans for Peace, and other U.S. and South Korean anti-war groups. We have also organized in-person gatherings with transnational partners, including the Korean Sharing Movement.

One of the most exciting developments in the past year has been the expansion of our coalition-building partnerships with leading immigrant rights and civil service organizations. As U.S. state repression and immigration enforcement become increasingly militarized, we recognized the urgency of building solidarity among movements and showing that forever wars abroad exacerbate militarism at home.

We invited notable Korean American civil society leaders and immigrant rights advocates to Korea peace advocacy meetings to make the case that forever wars take away much-needed resources from health care, education, and other essential services at home.

We also joined efforts organized by immigrant rights groups, including by co-hosting an Immigration Enforcement Bystander Training with National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC) online and joining the Korean Resource Center (KRC) in Los Angeles in-person program to share how the forever war in Korea has militarized policing and immigration enforcement at home. In June, we joined the



Dozens attended "Feminist Solidarities Toward a Demilitarized Pacific" in Los Angeles to learn about the intertwined legacies of militarized prostitution under Japanese colonialism and U.S. occupation in Korea. Photo by Angeline Woo.

Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF) and Fordham Law School's Center on Asian Americans and the Law as a panelist in their inaugural conference alongside national civil rights leaders. We discussed how anti-Asian racism in the United States is connected to U.S. foreign policy, demonstrating how escalating tensions with China, the unresolved Korean War, and anti-China rhetoric contribute to xenophobia and the rising far-right movement.

These engagements are part of Women Cross DMZ's broader initiative to connect the Korea peace movement with anti-war and civil rights leaders, because advancing peace requires partnerships that extend beyond traditional foreign policy circles to include those working on democracy, racial justice, immigrant rights, and civil liberties.



Organizing Director Echo joined partner organizations at the July 4 Veterans Against Fascism Rally in Philadelphia. Photo by Joe Piette.

Spring Benefit

In March, we held a benefit in New York City to celebrate our 11-year anniversary. Emmy-winning TV journalist Vivian Lee emceed the event celebrating intergenerational women's leadership and Maya Eng Garcia closed our gathering with a poignant vocal performance. We're thankful to our community members who made this evening possible, especially our set up team Albert Choi, Eunnye Yang, Ranyee Lee, and Veronica Ma; photographer Janice P. Yim; and chefs Susan Kim and Yong Shin. Thank you to our host committee Aiyoung Choi, Gay Dillingham, Helen Song, Marie Berry, Sally Jones, and Teresa O. We are grateful for donations from Second Generation Seeds, Hana Makgeolli, and Roma Liquors.

Education

Public Education and Narrative Change

We share educational resources, action alerts, and news and policy analyses with more than 9,000 subscribers through monthly email newsletters.

We've reached over 80,000 platforms and garnered over 320,000 views through our media and narrative work across social platforms and newsletters. We've organized over 2,600 individuals through direct actions across the country.

Throughout the year, we've spoken at more than 35 events organized by Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy (AAPIP), Asian American Legal Defense Fund, Inclusive Global Leadership Initiative, Korean Resource Center, Minkwon Center, University of Texas at Austin, University of Washington, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, University of Pennsylvania, United Nations' 70th Commission on the Status of Women, Women's Funding Network, and World Beyond War.



Cora Weiss



Helen S. Kim



Gloria Steinem

In Memoriam

This year, Women Cross DMZ mourned the loss of three extraordinary women who made enormous contributions to our organization and the Korea peace movement: Cora Weiss, Helen Kim, and Gloria Steinem.

Cora Weiss was a lifelong peacemaker and advocate for women's leadership whose influence was felt throughout Women Cross DMZ. Cora brought decades of experience from the anti-war and peace movements, and remained unwavering in her conviction that women must have a meaningful place at every peace table. She helped guide and shape WCDMZ's work at critical junctures – reviewing communications, connecting allies, securing meetings with key U.S. leaders, and offering strategic counsel. Cora was generous, strategic, and directed our movement toward greater clarity and courage.

Gloria Steinem was a pioneering feminist leader, but few may know she was also deeply committed to peace on the Korean Peninsula. Gloria was a central figure in the 2015 historic crossing, helping the delegation navigate political tensions and entrenched hostilities. Her commitment to Korea peace continued long after the crossing. She spoke before Congress and the United Nations, wrote about the need to formally end the Korean War, returned to South Korea as a keynote speaker at the 2019 DMZ Peace Forum, and consistently offered her time, guidance, and solidarity to Korean feminist leaders and the broader peace movement. Her legacy reminds us that feminism and peace are inseparable.

Helen S. Kim was a guiding light whose wisdom shaped Women Cross DMZ from its earliest days. Following the 2015 crossing, Helen became an essential force in our growth, generously lending her skills as a gifted facilitator, strategist, educator, and community organizer. She facilitated gatherings between North and South Korean women and supported the launches of critical campaigns. Helen had a remarkable ability to create spaces where people felt genuinely seen and heard, and she opened doors to new funders and partners, strengthening our wider movement for Korea peace.

We are so grateful to these three powerful women leaders. Their legacies live on in Women Cross DMZ's commitment to empowering women's leadership, and remind us that feminist peacebuilding has the power to transform our world.

What People Are Saying About Women Cross DMZ

"Women Cross DMZ's research-backed education and advocacy has been critical to raising awareness for the larger anti-war movement, the country, and the world, revealing the often overlooked costs and consequences of forever war in Korea. As a researcher who shares WCDMZ's passion for using knowledge to catalyze change, I commend their tireless dedication to reshaping public narratives, educating lawmakers, and fundamentally changing the conversation, on Capitol Hill and beyond, about what's possible to end the Korean War."

– David Vine, Author of *Base Nation: How U.S. Military Bases Abroad Harm America and the World*



"Women Cross DMZ has spearheaded a unique and powerful model of intergenerational peacebuilding for Korea and beyond. I have witnessed and joined their peace advocacy efforts and have felt inspired. I celebrate their work and the reminder that when women across generations unite in small but persistent collective action, we can make meaningful change and bend the arc toward justice."

— Rev. Sue Park-Hur, Co-Founder, ReconciliAsian



"Women Cross DMZ reminds us of the simple truth that peace is possible. Their work to end the Korean War by prioritizing diplomacy and uniting people across issues, borders, and identities pushes us all to interrogate how existing national security and foreign policy structures have failed so many, and inspires a reimagining of what we might rebuild toward true and enduring safety. It's the kind of courageous leadership necessary to strengthen anti-war movements both here in the United States and abroad and we're proud to work alongside them."

— Shayna Lewis, Deputy Director, Win Without War



"I call on all of us to support Women Cross DMZ. I am grateful to the work of these bold feminist peacemakers who weave together the best of all worlds: evidence-based expertise and lived human experience to advance peace-first legislative policies on the Hill, mobilize a robust grassroots network for civic engagement, and envision a better and more dignified world for all. Women Cross DMZ is an inspiration to us all during these trying times and proof that people from all walks of life can work together to advocate for peace in Korea and globally."

— Bridget Moix, General Secretary of the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)



"We are grateful for the opportunity to support Women Cross DMZ's peacebuilding work. It is crucial to empower the leadership of those most impacted by forever wars and uplift women's leadership in building peace. We applaud Women Cross DMZ's people-centered approach to transform diplomacy, conflict resolution, and policy into genuine pathways to peace and security. Their efforts affirm that we can create a more just and dignified future for all."

— Kehinde A. Togun, Managing Director, Public Engagement & Partnerships, Humanity United



"It's now more important than ever to challenge the U.S. war machine and amplify the voices of those most impacted by militarized violence and oppression. I applaud Women Cross DMZ's leadership in pushing for a formal end to the Korean War by speaking truth to power. I will always support and stand in solidarity with their fight for justice and peace."

— U.S. Representative Rashida Tlaib (D-MI)



"As the leader of a Korean American immigrant rights organization, I am proud to support Women Cross DMZ. We cannot address the violence against communities at home without addressing forever wars abroad. Our democracy and rights protections have been weakened by forever wars, and we have failed to invest in communities at home while funding wars abroad. As a transnational adopted Korean, I know firsthand how the ongoing Korean War reverberates globally on fellow adoptees, immigrants, and more. We must end forever wars. We are stronger together. I am proud to support Women Cross DMZ and Korea peace."

— Danae Kovac, Executive Director, HANA Center



Events We Participated In

9.19.25	**"Civil Society Networking" with New Era Asia Peace Academy, Washington, DC**
10.30.25	**"Remembering Asian America: Unearthing Hidden Histories to Build Solidarity & Diasporic Power," Asian Americans/ Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy, online**
12.4.25	**U.S.–South Korea Civil Society Strategy Meeting with Korean Sharing Movement, Washington, DC**
1.26.26	**"Women and War: U.S. Militarism and Camptowns in South Korea," online**
2.9.26	**Peaceful Unification Advisory Council Leadership Conference, Washington, DC**
3.9.26	**Partition and Solidarity Symposium at the University of Washington, Seattle**
3.11.26	**Korea Peace Network Strategic Advocacy Retreat, Washington, DC**
3.11.26	**"Feminist Wins in a World on Fire," Inclusive Global Leadership Initiative, online**
3.13.26	**"Social Healing Through Advocacy: Women's Leadership in Historical Redress," United Nations' 70th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, New York, NY**
3.31.26	**Discussion Panel of the International Solidarity Committee, Alliance for Independent Unification and Peace, online**
4.23.26	**"Futures Beyond Militarism: Confronting Violence, Restoring the Sacred," UT Austin Center for Asian American Studies Conference, Austin, TX**
4.28.26	**Testimonies from Korean Atomic Bomb Survivors, KPNGN, Washington, DC**
4.30.26	**"Building Lasting Peace and Denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula & Northeast Asia," United Nations' Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, New York, NY**
5.30.26	***Crossings* screening, Ontario College of Art & Design University, Toronto, Canada**
6.16.26	**Justice in Action Conference, Asian Americans Legal Defense and Education Fund, New York, NY**
6.22–23.26	**Global Korea Forum, Unification Ministry, Seoul, South Korea**
6.24.26	**"'America First' in the Asia Pacific: Debriefing Michelle Steel's Nomination," Women Cross DMZ and KPNGN, online**
6.25.26	**Han Park Peace Conference, Atlanta, GA**
7.9.26	**"Lessons from the Pacific: Feminist Solidarities Towards a Demilitarized Pacific," GYOPO, Los Angeles, CA**
7.19–22.26	**"What Is Pax Christi Peace Movement?", KPNGN DC, Fairfax, VA**
7.22.26	**Korea Peace Network Civil Society Roundtable Meeting with Ambassador Lee Sung-hoon, Washington, DC**
7.26.26	**Armistice to Peace Rally, Washington, DC**
8.4.26	**"Nuclear Bombs Never Again," KPNGN and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, virtual**
8.13.26	**"International Forum on Building a Northeast Asia Peace Regime," International Solidarity for a Northeast Asia Peace Regime and Hangang YMCA, Seoul, South Korea**
8.15.26	**Rally Against Forever War in Korea, LA, Seattle, and New York**
8.27.26	**"Action Hour to Support De-Escalation and Diplomacy in Korea," Korea Peace Network, online**

The Impact of Our Work, By the Numbers

9,453

The number of subscribers to our email newsletter.

378

The number of donors who have supported Women Cross DMZ from October 2025 to September 2026.

51

The number of co-sponsors of H.R. 1841, the Peace on the Korean Peninsula Act, as of October 1, 2026.

146

The number of people who signed up to participate in Korea Peace Advocacy Summer 2026.

991

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.

103

The number of letters sent by constituents to Congress advocating for changes to U.S. military spending on the Korean Peninsula.

2,670

The number of organizations and individuals we organized to join sign-on letters related to peace-forward policies including deescalating war drills, calling for diplomacy, and redress for women survivors of militarized sexual violence on the Korean peninsula.

320,000+

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

80,000+

The number of accounts Women Cross DMZ and Korea Peace Now! reached on Instagram between September 2024 and September 2025.

19,000+

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

38,000+

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

Media Coverage of Our Work

Colorado Times

Common Dreams

Daum

DC Korea Times 워싱턴 한국일보

Drop Site News

Foreign Policy

Foreign Policy in Focus

Gyeoja 겨자씨신문

Interruptrr

KNews LA

Korean Quarterly

Korea Times 한국일보

New York Ilbo 뉴욕일보

NewsM

NewsRoh 뉴스로

Northwest Asian Weekly

OhMyNews 오마이뉴스

Overseas Korean News 재외동포신문

Scoop

Seattle Korean Daily 시애틀 코리안 데일리

UM News

"As Korean American women advocating for peace in Korea, we have seen firsthand how engagement efforts can break through where militarized approaches have failed us repeatedly. … Women have consistently been at the forefront of peacebuilding efforts on the peninsula—from family reunification advocacy to feminist peace movements calling for a formal end to the Korean War."

— Cathi Choi and Solby Lim, op-ed in *Common Dreams*, May 18, 2026

"As reports increase on Trump's push to meet with Kim this year, US lawmakers must ensure high-level diplomacy is supported by working level talks and support policies that enable peaceful coexistence on the Korean Peninsula. … For over 70 years, the ongoing Korean War and escalating tensions have undermined human security for 80 million people living on the Korean Peninsula. The United States must act to end its longest war and pursue peace, engagement, and diplomacy. Peace cannot wait for another generation."

— Cathi Choi and Austin Headrick, op-ed in *Common Dreams*, August 24, 2026

Cathi Choi, executive director of Women Cross DMZ, told Drop Site News that despite "serious concerns about Trump's motivations and methods," the reduction of war drills presents "a crucial window to de-escalate tensions." Responding to the argument that scaling back the exercises without a reciprocal concession weakens Washington's negotiating position, Choi said: "Diplomacy is not a gift. It's an imperative for our collective security."

— Drop Site News, September 11, 2026

"Diplomatic openings are often built by people who kept talking when high-level channels went silent. Waiting for official talks to resume before investing in these relationships risks missing a narrowing window of opportunity. The cost of trying is low. The potential cost of another decade of drift is not."

— Christine Ahn, Youngmi Cho, and Thania Paffenholz, op-ed in *Foreign Policy*, August 19, 2026

Our Financial Health

Women Cross DMZ is a small but mighty organization with an annual budget of around $500,000. We leverage a highly engaged board of directors, nimble staff, and hundreds of grassroots supporters to advance feminist peace on the Korean Peninsula and beyond.

Approximately 90 percent of the money we raise goes directly to support our education, advocacy, and organizing expenses.

Revenue

Between July 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026, our revenues totaled $523,752 which included: $445,000 from 16 generous institutional donors and foundations and $78,217 from nearly 400 individual donors, whose gifts ranged from $3 to $20,000.

Only 2 percent of foundation giving supports peace and security work, and AAPI communities receive less than 1 percent of foundation funding overall. That is why we remain tremendously grateful to the foundations, organizations and individual donors who partner with us year after year.

In FY 2026, we also reached out to new funders, and we are thankful for new grants from Open Society Foundations, Tiger Baron Foundation, and Humanity United. Thank you also to Steptoe LLP for continued pro bono legal services.

Expenses

Our expenses for FY 2026 totaled $495,660. As a fully remote organization, we have modest overhead costs.

In light of the current political climate and increased attacks on organizations advocating for peace, we adapted our work to respond to a rapidly shifting environment. This included increasing digital security measures, convening our partners and grassroots members, and building cross- movement leadership and community security.

At the end of FY 2026, WCDMZ's leadership had successfully built up a 9-12 month operating expense reserve for sustainability. We closed the year with a surplus of 6 percent. This provided a strong financial position leading into FY 2027. Our FY 2026 financial reports show a lean organization capable of pivoting to meet the moment.

Thanks to your generous support, Women Cross DMZ continues to lead the effort to officially end the Korean War, demilitarize the Korean Peninsula, and build peace globally.

Who We Are

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ji-Yeon Yuh
Board Chair

Eunice Kwon
Board Treasurer

Leah Hong
Board Secretary

Cynthia Choi
Board Member

Marie Berry
Board Member

Ann Wright
Board Member

STAFF

Cathi Choi
Executive Director

Echo (Hyunsook Elizabeth Cho)
Organizing Director

Solby Lim
Communications Associate

Susan Yohn
Administration & Finance Director

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Attendees at the Armistice to Peace rally carry a banner calling for peace in Korea. Photo by Chris Ki

The Road Ahead

As the political landscape continues to change, Women Cross DMZ will forge new paths and coalitions to build the case for Korea peace. Our plans for the coming year include:

- **Building the next chapter of Korea peace advocacy:** Mobilize collective action to end the Korean War, democratize U.S. foreign policy, and contribute to lasting peace.
- **Strengthening our U.S.-based Korea Peace Now! Grassroots Network:** Expand and fortify our grassroots base from all backgrounds and walks of life.
- **Empowering transnational feminist networks:** Bring together intergenerational and feminist leaders, peacebuilders, and democracy and human rights defenders.
- **Bridge domestic and foreign policy:** Organize public programming, publish analysis, and build campaigns to expose how U.S. forever wars and hawkish policies abroad undermine democracy and civil rights at home.
- **Feminist counter to the 'New Cold War':** Convene leading feminist activists promoting dialogue and engagement to move away from a 'New Cold War' framework.

Women Cross DMZ is a U.S.-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. We couldn't do this work without the support of our generous donors. Your donation helps us continue our work for peace, diplomacy, and women's inclusion in peacebuilding on the Korean Peninsula. **To make a tax-deductible contribution by mail, please make your check payable to Women Cross DMZ and send it to Women Cross DMZ, 137 N Larchmont Blvd., Suite 657, Los Angeles, CA 90004. You can also follow the QR code here to make a donation online.**

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