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THE KOREAN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2020

The Korean Council for Justice and Remembrance for the Issues of Military Sexual Slavery by Japan (the Korean Council) is a NGO in South Korea working for **just resolution of Japanese military sexual slavery issue**, its education, and prevention of sexual violence in armed conflict.

Since its beginning in 1990, the Korean Council has worked with victims to restore the dignity of Japanese military sexual slavery victims and human rights and to educate the message of peace.

Join Us!

30th Year of the Korean Council

Established in 1990, the Korean Council has worked for resolution of Japanese military sexual slavery issue for the past 30 years.
Please join us to welcome our 30th anniversary and continue the international solidarity for justice for "comfort women" victims, on the road of human rights. peace and hope!

28th Year of Wednesday Demonstration

Jan 8, 2020 marks the 28th year of the Wednesday Demonstration for Resolution of the Japanese Military Sexual Slavery Issue that has called for justice for "comfort women" victims since Jan 8, 1992.
Plan your actions and let us know to stand in solidarity!

RECAP 2019 Movement

Let's recap the 2019 activities for resolution of the Japanese military sexual slavery issue with a short video

Watch video>>

Updates

The Korean Council organizes various activities to demand official apology and reparations from the Japanese Government, promote the historical truth of the Japanese military sexual slavery issue, and stand in solidarity for a peaceful world without war and violence against women.

South Korean Court holds the 1st hearing

Nov 13, the South Korean Court held the 1st hearing on the case filed by Japanese military sexual slavery victims back in 2016, asking for the Japanese Government's official apology and legal reparations. Lee Ok-seon, Gil Won-ok, and Lee Yong-su halmonis attended the hearing despite the heavy rain and cold weather.

See related article (English)>>

Immediate Withdrawal of the Moon Hee-Sang Proposal

The South Korean National Assembly Speaker Moon Hee-Sang proposed to create a fund with contributions made by the Japanese and South Korean governments + corporations + public donations to "settle" for the issues of Japanese Government's crimes against humanity during its illegal colonization of Korea. The Korean Council and international organizations in solidarity published statements, international declaration of conscience, and held press interviews to call for immediate discardment of the Moon Hee-Sang Proposal

See International Declaration of Conscience (English)>>

See International Declaration of Conscience (Japanese)>>

See Korean Council Statement>>

Wednesday Demonstration

1420th Wednesday Demonstration opened the New Year's Day of 2020 with citizens who held pickets for "Dignity and Human Rights to Halmonis" and "Immediate Withdrawal of the Moon Hee-Sang Proposal", and shared their New Year's Resolution for Resolution of the Japanese Military Sexual Slavery issue.

1419th Wednesday Demonstration was held on Christmas and commemorated 5 halmonis who passed away in 2019. We pray that they rest in peace, and promise to carry on the fight for official apology and legal reparations from the Japanese Government.

Photos>>

1414th Wednesday Demonstration was attended by the Filipino lolas(halmonis) Estelita Dy and Narcisa Claveria, and family Nenita Escobedo, and Lila Pilipina activist Sharon, who stood together to call for the Japanese Government's official apology and legal reparations.

Lectures for Future Generation!

In addition to the lectures for visitors to the War and Women's Human Rights Museum, Yoon Meehyang and the Korean Council activists travel across schools, cities, companies, and organizations to learn about the Japanese military sexual slavery issue, the movement, and halmonis' lives together!

Participants shared that they learned about the issue through history class, reading *25 Years of Wednesdays*, or watching the recent movie *My Name is Kim Bok Dong*, and organized campaigns to promote the issue and join the movement for its resolution (even making Statue of Peace with milk cartons!)

***25 Years of Wednesdays* is available for sale.** Learn more>>

Halmoni, how are you?

The Korean Council regularly visits halmonis in Korea.

Yoon halmoni welcomed us in the bed..

Kim halmoni shared her favorite coffee from Canada after the meal.

Kim halmoni stays in the hospital, and she was able to wave her hands when she saw us.

Kim halmoni welcomed us right after coming from a walk with her

daughter.

Lee halmoni in Busan moved recently and often spends time at the day care center, and she always has a very gracious smile.

Park Pil-geun halmoni recently pulled a tooth out that she only ate porridge for a while, yet we were able to have nice warm dinner together.

With Ham halmoni, we were able to enjoy a date with lunch at the mall and conversation!

We had birthday cakes for Lee Ok-seon and Lee Yong-su halmonis. They loved the sweater and scarf.

Kang Il-chul, Lee Ok-seon, and Lee Yong-su halmonis decorated flowers during the therapy class.

Another Lee Ok-seon halmoni and Jeong halmoni didn't have much energy after catching a cold...

Peaceful Our Home (*Urijip of Peace*)

Nov 19 - Halmoni's birthday! Born in 1928, she celebrated her 91st birthday with the Korean Council, War and Women's Human Rights Museum, Hope of Kim Bok Dong, Yonsei University Health System Trade Union, Marymond, Peace Butterfly Network, MediaMongu and

lolas(halmonis) and activist from the Philippines who were visiting at the right time!

Nov 22 - Members of Danba Museum, a museum commemorating Koreans who were taken as forced laborers to the Danba Manganese Mine in Japan, visited Giil Won-ok halmoni and shared the resolution to continue the fight for official apology and legal reparations.

Dec 3 - Kimchi-making day with Seodaemun-Mapo-Eunpyong iCOOP members included fun, delicious meal, singing with Gil Won-ok halmoni and donation for the Butterfly Fund.

Dec 24 - Christmas Eve, KB Kookmin Bank Union members visited the Peaceful Our Home to continue the solidarity!

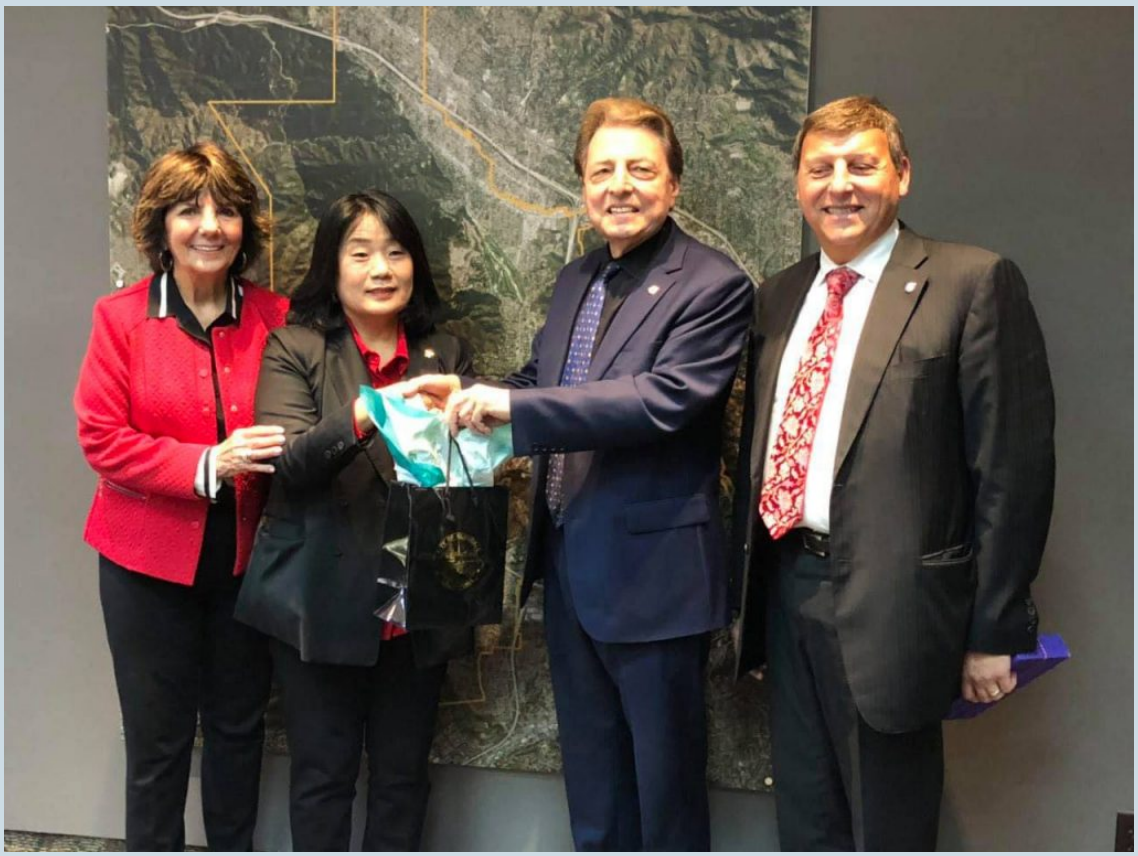
Melbourne Statue of Peace

Nov 14, Statue of Peace was established in Melbourne, Australia, as the 10th Statue of Peace established abroad. See video>>

Houston Statue of Peace Exhibition

Dec 10, International Human Rights Day, The Korean Council representative Yoon Meehyang, sculptors of Statue of Peace Kim Suh-kyung and Kim Un-sung visited Houston to hold temporary exhibition of the Statue of Peace at Bori Gallery in Houston.

The team introduced the stories of victims who had survived and the values of "peace" and "human rights" that the Statue of Peace hold.



Glendale Meeting with Mayor and Councilmembers and Restoring Statue of Peace

In Glendale, the team met with the mayor Ara Najarian and councilmembers Vrej Agajanian and Paula Devine to deliver thanks for protecting the Statue of Peace from recent hate attacks and to request continued solidarity for justice for the victims.

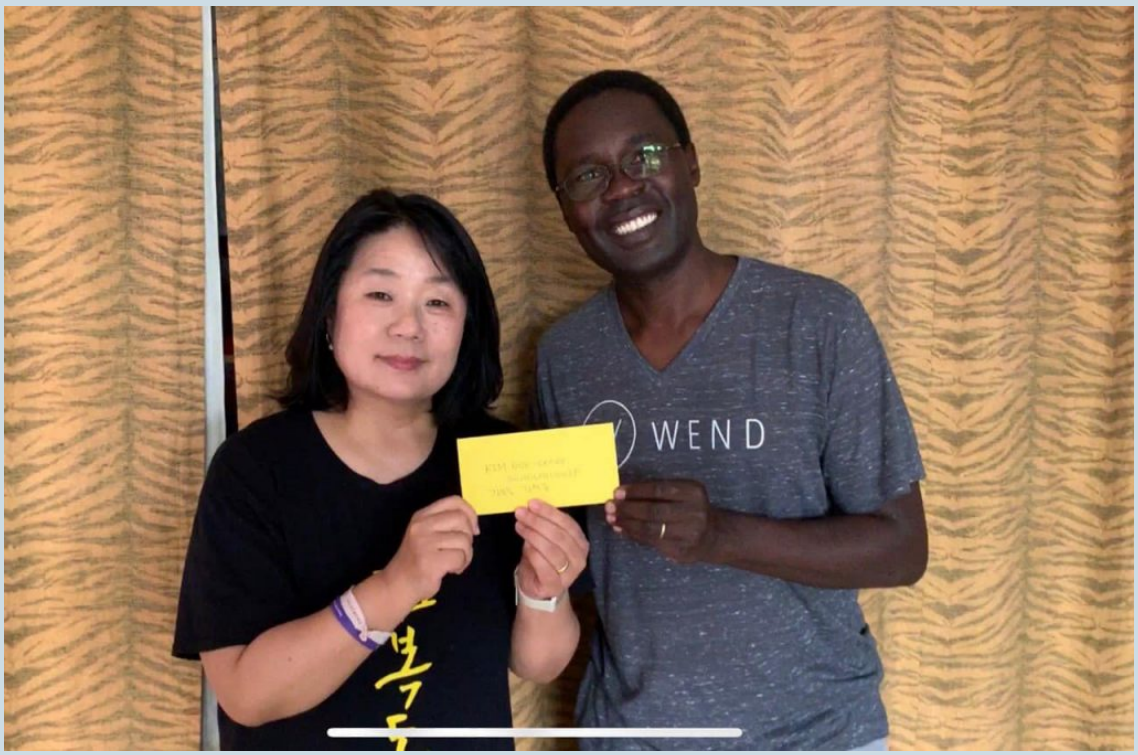
Then the team worked to restore the damages on the Statue of Peace

Butterfly Fund

Founded by Japanese military sexual slavery victims Kim Bok-dong and Gil Won-ok, the Butterfly Fund flies to Uganda, DR Congo, and Vietnam to support victims of sexual violence in conflict.

Uganda - From Nov 17 to 28, the Korean Council visited Uganda and conducted interviews survivors of sexual slavery by the Lord's Resistance Army during the Uganda Insurgency.

Many victims were abucted by the rebels at young age, were forced to become "wives" of the rebel commanders. The trauma of sexual violence and stigma in the society still remain, to affect not only the victims themselves but also the children who are born from captivity.



The Korean Council delivered scholarships to support children born from captivity who face stigma and discrimination in the society, to support their hope to continue education.

War and Women's Human Rights Museum

Learn about the Japanese military sexual slavery issue and the movement for just resolution, at the War and Women's Human Rights Museum located 15

minutes from Hongik University Station in Seoul. Open 11am to 6pm Tuesdays to Saturdays.

Planning to visit the War and Women's Human Rights Museum? Guide to War and Women's Human Rights Museum is available on YouTube with English subtitles! Watch Guide>>

Feb 20~26 2020 the Butterfly Peace Trip will visit Vietnam to learn about the history of the Korean military's civilian massacre and sexual violence during the U.S.-Vietnam War and to deliver the message of apology and peace.

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