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# THE KOREAN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2019

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!

## *Korean Council 29th Anniversary*

Nov 10 is the 29th anniversary of the Korean Council!
Come celebrate and support at the Oktoberfest in Jongno, Seoul, from 2pm to 10pm!
(Ceremony will take place from 5pm)

Facebook Event >>

## *Support Kim Bok-dong Center in Uganda*

Support **Kim Bok-dong Center in Uganda**, a shelter for LRA Insurgency survivors and memorial for Japanese Military Sexual Slavery and LRA Insurgency in Uganda victims to open in 2020!

The construction officially starts on Nov 25, the International Day

## *Remember Jan Ruff O' Herne halmoni*

Dutch-Australian victim of the Japanese military sexual slavery Jan Ruff-O'Herne halmoni passed away in Adelaide, Australia, at the age of 96 in the morning of August 19th, 2019.

Leave Message >>

for Elimination of
Violence against Women!

Donate to the Korean
Council via PayPal to
war_women@naver.com!

Read more >>

# 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.

**Wednesday Demonstration**

1400th Wednesday Demonstration was held on August 14th, coinciding with the 7th International Memorial Day for Japanese Military "Comfort Women". Organizations and citizens across 53 regions in 37 cities, across Korea, Japan, Taiwan, U.S., Canada, U.K., Germany, France, Australia, New Zealand, DR Congo, Uganda, stood together through prayers, Wednesday Demonstrations, and exhibitions. North Korean Committee issued a statement in solidarity!

Find 1400th Wednesday Demonstration Statement and Thank You!
Solidarity video from survivors and activists across the world!

At the 1401st Wednesday Demonstration, Lee Ok-seon halmoni participated and we commemorated Jan Ruff O' Herne halmoni.
At the 1402nd Wednesday Demonstration, Lee Ok-seon halmoni participated.
At the 1404th Wednesday Demonstration, Lee Ok-seon halmoni

participated.
At the 1405th Wednesday Demonstration, Lee Yong-soo halmoni participated.
At the 1407th Wednesday Demonstration, Lee Ok-seon halmoni participated.
At the 1408th Wednesday Demonstration, Lee Ok-seon and Lee Yong-soo halmoni participated.

**Halmoni, how are you?**

The Korean Council regularly visits halmonis in Korea.

We prepared a pair of white socks for Yoon Soonman halmoni, since white is her favorite color. Yet she seemed not to recognize us...

For Kim halmoni's birthday, we were planning to go out for lunch. Yet

she caught a cold, so we brought her cake, flowers, and beef to celebrate at home instead.

Lee Makdal halmoni enjoys drawing at the care center. She steamed sweet potatoes for us and was happy with the jacket sponsored by TOPTEN.

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

Lee Ok-seon halmoni traveled to Japan recently to promote the movie <Roundabout Way 에움길> based on two Lee Ok-seon halmonis' story.

Park Pil-geun halmoni usually spends time playing cards, yet she also planted sweet potatoes this time! She was happy to see the cards and pain killers we brought as gifts.

Park Ok-seon, Chung Bok-soo, Kang Il-chul, Lee Ok-seon halmoni didn't seem to have much appetite...

**Peaceful Our Home (*Urijip of Peace*)**

Gil Won-ok halmoni has been working on her poem and drawings, to publish a poetry book by the end of this year!

On Aug 27, Japanese students who are participating in the Kibotane Fund youth trip to learn about the history of the Japanese military sexual slavery issue, visited Peaceful Our Home and spent time with Gil Won-ok halmoni!

On Sep 10, Lee Jung-ok, minister of gender equality and family, visited Peaceful Our Home to meet with Gil Won-ok halmoni

From Oct 25 to 29, Halmoni traveled to Washington D.C. for the establishment of Statue of Peace!

**Lectures for Future Generation!**

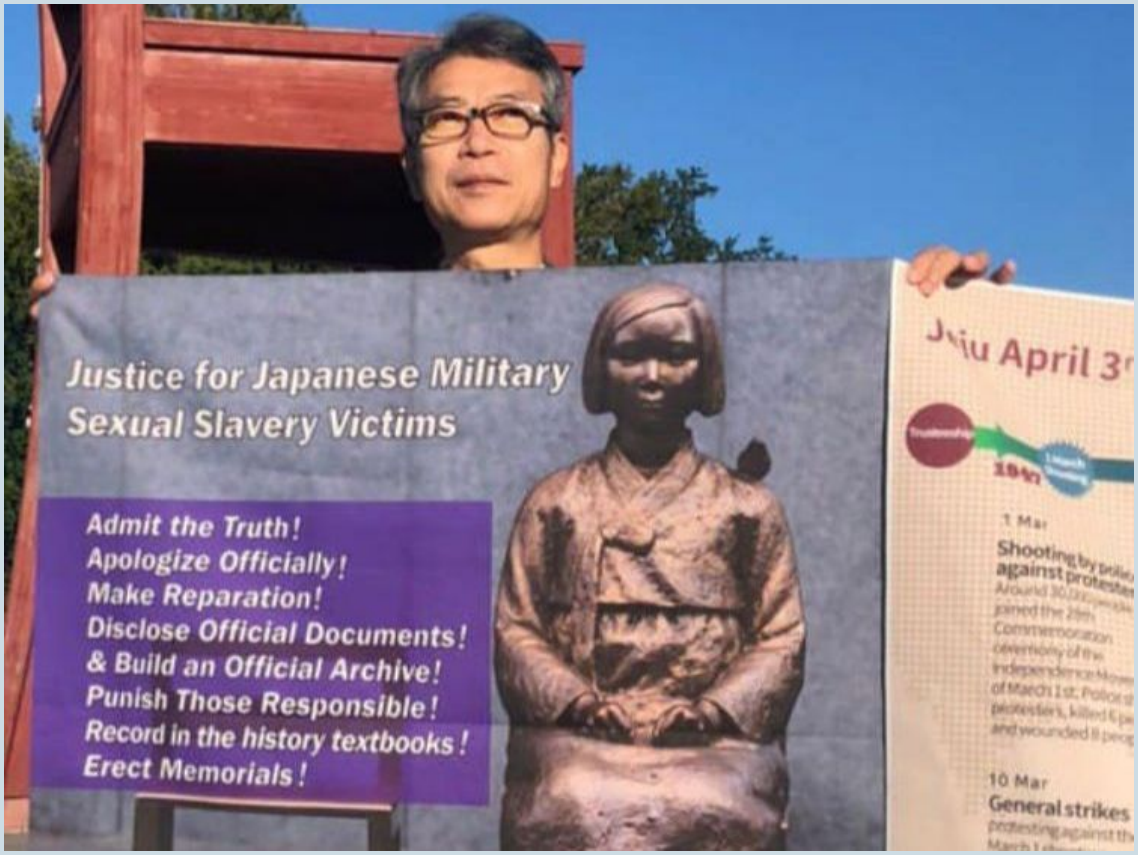
In addition to the lectures for visitors to the War and Women's Human Rights Museum, Meehyang Yoon and the Korean Council activists travel across schools, cities companies, and organizations to learn about the Japanese military sexual slavery issue, the movement, and halmonis' lives together! After the lecture, due to demands from the audience, a book-signing for *25 Years of Wednesday* also took place. *25 Years of Wednesday* (English) is available for sale. Learn more>>

**Press Interview on the Japanese Government**

On July 24, the Korean Council and the artists who organized *Bottari* exhibition in Bochum, Germany organized a press interview to condemn the Japanese Government's interference with the Korean Council activities - including the Butterfly Fund, establishment of Statue of Peace, and arbitrary detainment of activist - and with the exhibition on the Japanese military sexual slavery issue.

**2019 International Convention for Asia Pacific Peace and Prosperity**

July 25~27, Yongsoo Lee halmoni, Meehyang Yoon, Kyonghee Han from the Korean Council attended the International Convention for Asia Pacific Peace and Prosperity held in Manila, Philippines. We met with Estelita (lola from Philippines) and Meehyang Yoon gave presentation on the victims' international solidarity.




**Side event at the 42nd UNHRC in Geneva!**

Together with the Association for the bereaved families 4.3 victims, Jeju Dark Tours, MINBYUN, Memorial Committee of the Jeju April 3rd Uprising and Massacre, April 9 Unification & Peace Foundation, Truth Foundation, and OMCT, the Korean Council participated in the organized side events titled *Transitional Justice in Korea: Jeju Massacre and the Korean War* and *Human Rights under the Japanese Colonization* with Fabian Salvioli, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence, as the keynote.

The side events, meetings with different civil society including CIVICUS, and street campaigns brought the issue of foced labour, state violence, and Japanese military "comfort women", during the 42nd UNHRC.

The reports and speeches can be found in the link below!

UN EXTRANET >>

**My Name is Kim Bok Dong Screen Tour and Talk with Meehyang Yoon in U.S.!**

My Name is Kim Bok Dong was released on August 8 and had more than 86,000 viewers in cinemas in Korea, and was invited to group viewings organized by civil society, schools, and film festivals!

From September 14 to 24, the Korean Council held My Name is Kim Bok Dong Screen Tour and Talk with Meehyang Yoon in Washington D.C., Chicago, LA, San Francisco, with local organizations in solidarity including Washington D.C. Butterfly For Hope, Washington Coalition for Comfort Women, SOUT, Chicago KAN-WIN, LA Nabi, and

Education for Social Justice Foundation!

From October 5 to 19, the Tour went to Houston, Princeton University, Brown University, Boston University, Yale University, and Chicago, thanks to the Houston Sewol Hambi, Brown Asian Sisters Empowered, WEHOPE, Yale stands with "comfort women", Chicago 6018 North Gallery, and SAIC. MARYMOND also joined the talk to introduce products designed from halmonis' stories!

In addition to the tour, the Korean Council also met with organizations from Philadelphia and Washington D.C. to discuss ways to build international solidarity for the issue.

Photos >>

**Yale International Conference on 'Comfort Women' and Wartime Sexual Violence**

On Oct 12, the International Conference on "Comfort Women" and Wartime Sexual Violence was co-organized by Yale stands with "comfort women" and the Korean Council, started with short version of My Name is Kim Bok Dong and message from former congressman Mike Honda. Meehyang Yoon and Prof. Yoshimi Yoshiaki gave main panel presentations to introduce the historical background of the Japanese military "comfort women" system and the movement for just resolution! The mini panels discussed international human rights law, historical justice and education, and social activism,

Photos >>

**Statue of Peace established in Annandale, Virginia!**

On October 27th, the Statue of Peace was unveiled in Annandale,

Virginia!

The statue was sent to Washington D.C. in 2016, yet struggled to find a permanent home. Through the works of the Washington D.C. Statue of Peace Committee, the statue finally found home and was welcomed with a ceremony, at which Gil Won-ok halmoni read a poem with Meehyang Yoon.

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# 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.

From DR Congo: 24 kids in primary and secondary school supported by REMED have succeeded and passed to go on to the next class! Still, children need support in school fees for the academic year of 2019-2020 and women who finished the first part of training are in need of more sewing machines. Learn more>>

From Uganda: Through the Butterfly Fund, Can Rewede Pee supported 7 primary/elementary school students, 5 students in 4th grade, 8 students in 6th grade. They are also planning to build a grass thatched house in December, since they do not have a meeting place, other than the tree in center of the village or the house of another resident.

# 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>>

From October 1 to Nov 30, the special exhibition *I was there. And there we are.* sheds light on stories of 4 halmonis who were taken to the comfort station in Dongning, China. Let us learn about their

stories, and also remember the other women who could not come back.

**make a donation**

**visit our website**

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