

# Vancouver Women's Forum on Peace & Security on the Korean Peninsula

*"From crisis to opportunity"*

**A delegation of 16 women representing peace movements from Asia, Europe, and North America have come to Vancouver to advocate for ways that both officials & ordinary citizens can support the peace process in Korea.**

On January 16, 2018, as Foreign Ministers from twenty nations gather in Vancouver to discuss security and stability on the Korean Peninsula, an international delegation of sixteen women representing feminist peace movements from Asia, Europe and North America will convene in Vancouver to ensure that civil-society perspectives are included in the official talks. The objective of the women's peace delegation is to urge the Foreign Ministers to prepare the table for a diplomatic peace process that moves away from war and increased militarization, and towards peace, reconciliation, and genuine security. Through the Vancouver Women's Forum and other actions, the women delegates will remind government leaders of overwhelming global public opinion that favors a peaceful diplomatic resolution as the only option on the table for resolving the Korean crisis. The outcome of the official summit must support the recent breakthroughs in inter-Korean rapprochement, not derail it.

Members of the international women's peace delegation arrive in Vancouver at a remarkably timely moment for raising these issues. Occurring soon after Canada launched its National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, this Summit provides an ideal opportunity for Canada to put its newly enacted Feminist Foreign Policy into action by heeding the counsel of the women's peace delegation and including them in the official discussions, as endorsed by 217 civil-society organizations from all over the world.

At this momentous juncture in Vancouver, the international women's peace delegation will call upon the Foreign Ministers to pursue a comprehensive and lasting resolution to the longstanding conflict. They will share their experience, knowledge, and wisdom garnered from their efforts working towards achieving peace and genuine security on the Korean Peninsula. Drawing upon their collective expertise on militarism, nuclear disarmament, economic sanctions, and the human, social, and ecological costs of the unresolved 65-year Korean War, the delegation will recommend steps that can ensure a lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula.

While the Foreign Ministers represent most nations of the UN Command that fought and provided humanitarian assistance during the 1950-53 Korean War, the delegates represent a wide range of civil-society organizations and social movements in South Korea, Japan, Guam, Sweden, United States, Canada, and globally.

**January 16, 2018, 2-5 pm**

Morris J Wosk Centre for Dialogue |  
Simon Fraser University  
580 West Hastings Street  
(enter via Seymour St. courtyard  
entrance)

Vancouver, British Columbia V6B 1L6



Images from top: Christine Ahn, Medea Benjamin, Hyun-Kyung Chung, Gloria Steinem, Mairead Maguire and Janis Alton in Pyongyang, DPRK; Janis Alton, Ewa Eriksson Fortier, North Korean woman, and Meri Joyce in women's peace walk in Kaesong, DPRK. Women's Peace Symposium in Pyongyang, DPRK (credit David Guttenfelder);

Come listen to three lively and informative roundtable discussions whose topics include: (1) the historical and geopolitical context that underlies current tensions surrounding the Korean Peninsula, (2) analyses of how engagement has worked in the past and why sanctions are ineffective and destabilizing; and (3) actions that ordinary citizens can take to ensure that nuclear war is averted and to support the realization of a peace agreement in Korea.

2:00 — **Welcome & Roundtable 1:**  
3:00 — Korean crisis in regional context

**Moderator, Ellen Judd**, Canada, Professor of Anthropology, University of Manitoba

**Kozue Akibayashi**, Japan, Professor, Doshisha University; International President of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)

**Mihyeon Lee**, South Korea, Director, Center for Peace and Disarmament, People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy (PSPD)

**Lisa Natividad**, Guam, Associate Professor, University of Guam; President of the Guahan Coalition for Peace and Justice

**Ann Wright**, United States, Retired U.S. Army Colonel and U.S. Diplomat, Veterans for Peace

3:00 — **Roundtable two:**  
4:00 — Why oppose sanctions? Understanding engagement and the human impact of hostilities against North Korea

**Moderator, Patti Talbot**, Canada, United Church of Canada

**Nan Kim**, United States, Associate Professor and Public History Program Director, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, author of Memory, Reconciliation, and Reunions in South Korea: Crossing the Divide

**Yehjung Yi**, South Korea, Planning Director, Korean Sharing Movement

**Ewa Eriksson Fortier**, Sweden, former Head of Country Delegation to the DPRK for an international humanitarian organization

**Mary-wynne Ashford**, Canada, Co-President of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), author of Enough Blood Shed: 101 Solutions to Violence, Terror and War

4:00 — **Roundtable three:**  
5:00 — Alternatives to war, Paths to peace

**Moderator Lyn Adamson**, Canada, Co-Chair, Canadian Voice of Women for Peace

**Susan Bazilli**, Canada, Director, International Women's Rights Project (IWRP); Representative, Women Peace and Security Network – Canada

**Lee Moon Sook**, Republic of Korea, Vice-Chairperson of Reconciliation and Reunification Committee in the National Council of Churches (NCC).

**Erica Fein**, United States, Advocacy Director, Win Without War

**Christine Ahn**, United States, International Coordinator of Women Cross DMZ

