Dear Friends,

What a dramatic year it’s been. One year ago, President Donald Trump threatened to unleash “fire and fury” on North Korea. Now, the prospect of permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula looms on the horizon, and Women Cross DMZ is poised to play a key role in the process.

How did we get here?

The reversal began with the Winter Olympics, when the two Koreas marched together carrying the One Korea flag. South Korean President Moon Jae-In and North Korean Chairman Kim Jong-Un held three inter-Korean summits and signed two declarations, agreeing to family reunions, joint athletic teams, civil society exchanges, and the reopening of joint economic ventures. South Korea opened a liaison office in Kaesong to facilitate year-round communications between Seoul and Pyongyang.

Then, in a landmark meeting in Singapore, President Trump and Chairman Kim committed to improving relations, establishing a peace process, and moving towards denuclearization. Although Trump administration officials soon returned to their rhetoric of “maximum pressure,” imposing new sanctions, prolonging the U.S. travel ban to North Korea, and impeding U.S. NGOs’ humanitarian operations, Korean leaders continue to advance the wishes of the Korean people to peacefully coexist. In September, the two Koreas signed a historic military agreement to turn the DMZ into a peace zone, end military exercises, and establish a no-fly zone along the military line dividing Korea. On October 1, engineers on both sides began to de-mine the DMZ.

The Korean War is the longest standing U.S. conflict. As a key party to the Korean War and a signatory to the Armistice Agreement, the United States must come to the table to negotiate a permanent settlement by signing a Korea Peace Treaty.

That’s where we come in. In the past year, Women Cross DMZ was at the center of mobilizing opposition to Trump’s war on North Korea.

Through talks, webinars, conferences, and the media, we reached millions with our calls for peace and diplomacy. We rallied our partners in South Korea and North Korea, women’s peace, faith-based, humanitarian, and Korean diaspora organizations around the world to call for an end to the Korean War. We deepened our partnerships with the South Korean women’s movement, the Nobel Women’s Initiative, and Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom and strengthened the U.S.-based Korea Peace Network. We engaged government officials in the United States, South Korea, North Korea, Canada, other key countries, and the United Nations.

In just three years, WomenCross DMZ has become a formidable voice calling for peace. Our analysis is sought regularly by MSNBC, BBC, CNN, and Democracy Now! and publications such as The Wall Street Journal, Los Angeles Times, and TIME Magazine.

Whether protesting outside the Foreign Ministers meeting in Vancouver or the U.S. Embassy in Seoul, or breaking new ground walking in the DMZ, we continue to call for women’s inclusion in the peace process because we know that when women are involved, not only does it lead to an actual agreement, but a far more durable one.

We have never been this close to ending the Korean War. Let’s finish the job.

Thanks to the generous support of our committed donors and the NoVo Foundation’s Radical Hope Fund, we will launch our 2020 Women-Led Korea Peace Treaty Campaign with our partners, mobilizing women worldwide to push towards a peace agreement by 2020.

We believe in the power of women to bring peace, justice, and healing to the Korean Peninsula and the world. Thanks for helping us end this war.

With gratitude and in peace,

CHRISTINE AHN
International Coordinator
2020 Women-Led Korea Peace Treaty Campaign

“In 2015 when 30 women leaders from around the world formed Women Cross DMZ—and actually got permission from North Korea, South Korea and the US to cross that land-mined and desolate strip dividing Korea—it was a radical act of the imagination. Now, the NoVo Radical Hope Fund has contributed $2 million to this peace effort, and leaders on all sides are running to catch up with their followers.”

— Gloria Steinem

Women Cross DMZ has emerged as a leading voice in calling for a Korea Peace Treaty. With the formal declaration to end the Korean War on the horizon, we have an unprecedented opportunity to mobilize women around the world to educate, organize, and advocate together for a Korea Peace Treaty.

Our dream of launching a 2020 Women-Led Korea Peace Treaty Campaign was realized when the NoVo Foundation awarded a $2 million, two-year grant to Women Cross DMZ and our campaign partners: South Korean women’s peace groups, the Nobel Women’s Initiative, and Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom.

OUR GOALS BY 2020:

1. Peace-building process including a formal ending of the Korean War, a Korea Peace Treaty, and normalized relations.

2. Tangible de-militarization: denuclearization, removal of landmines, and reduction of bases/troops.

3. Women’s leadership and gender-based analysis (government & civil society) in peace processes.

4. Lift broad-based sanctions against North Korea, especially those impacting humanitarian conditions.

5. Redefine security from national security based on war and militarism to a feminist understanding of security centered on basic human needs and ecological sustainability.

Women Cross DMZ
L to R Top: 2015 DMZ Crossing, Paju, South Korea (Photo, Stephen Wunrow); Campaign partners retreat, Sonoma, CA, July 2018.

“In 2015 when 30 women leaders from around the world formed Women Cross DMZ—and actually got permission from North Korea, South Korea and the US to cross that land-mined and desolate strip dividing Korea—it was a radical act of the imagination. Now, the NoVo Radical Hope Fund has contributed $2 million to this peace effort, and leaders on all sides are running to catch up with their followers.”

— Gloria Steinem
EDUCATION

Women Cross DMZ has educated millions worldwide through our talks, webinars, conferences, and appearances in the media about the urgency to resolve the Korean War through peace and diplomacy.

We led national efforts to challenge President Trump’s threats to “totally destroy” North Korea by organizing online teach-ins that provided historical context and analysis to understand how the U.S. and North Korea were on the brink of war.

We held webinars with global experts on a range of topics, including how sanctions harm innocent lives and how to transform the ceasefire to a peace treaty.

Christine Ahn joined Senator Bernie Sanders for a Move On teach-in commemorating the 15th anniversary of the U.S. war on Iraq, with 80,000 online viewers. We seized every opportunity to open people’s minds and hearts that peace is the only solution for resolving the Korean conflict.

ADVOCACY

In the past year, Women Cross DMZ met with senior officials from the U.S., South Korea, North Korea, Canada, and other countries to advocate for diplomacy and a peace agreement to permanently end the Korean War.

In Ottawa and Vancouver, with our Canadian sister organizations, we urged the Trudeau administration to pursue a more constructive approach that aligned with its feminist foreign policy.

In Seoul, our delegation met with diplomats at the U.S., U.K., Japanese, Swedish, and Canadian embassies to discuss women’s critical role in supporting the Korea peace process.

With the Korea Peace Network, six WCDMZ members gathered in Washington, D.C. on June 13, a day after the Trump-Kim Summit in Singapore, to urge members of Congress to support the peace process. Over 75 Korea Peace
Network delegates traveled from 22 states across the country to meet with their representatives and key Members of the House and Senate.

**ORGANIZING**

Over the past 12 months, Women Cross DMZ successfully created new partnerships and increased our capacity to press for peace, diplomacy, and women’s inclusion in peacebuilding.

From January 16-18, as the U.S. and Canada convened a high-level Korea summit in Vancouver, WCDMZ mobilized women peacemakers to urge the foreign ministers to prepare the table for peace talks with North Korea.

We organized a three-day program of strategic discussion, engagement with ministers and media, and events, including a candlelight vigil and a teach-in. Several of our delegates were invited to share our views with Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland at a civil society roundtable the Canadian government established as a result of pressure from us.

From May 22-28, we held several events, including an international women’s peace symposium at the ROK National Assembly and a women’s DMZ peace walk with over 1,200 South Koreans. We were the first civilians to walk across the Unification Bridge in the DMZ.

Our trip coincided with President Trump canceling his meeting with Kim Jong-Un, so we held protests outside the U.S. Embassy urging President Moon to “Pick up the phone!” and call Chairman Kim. The next day, as we were walking in the DMZ, Moon and Kim were meeting just miles away to get Washington and Pyongyang back on track.

**PUBLIC SPEAKING VENUES**

Beyond the Bomb, Los Angeles, CA
Center for Political Education, Oakland, CA
First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany, NY
First Universalist Church of Southold, NY
Friends Quaker House, Honolulu, HI
Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church, Atlanta, GA
Human Rights Council at the UN Palais de Nations, Geneva, Switzerland
Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Los Angeles, CA
Korea Peace Network Summit, Washington, D.C.
Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue, Simon Fraser Univ., Vancouver, Canada
Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, Santa Barbara, CA
Pacific Command, U.S. Department of Defense, Hawaii
Ploughshares Fund Annual Conference, Washington, DC
Republic of Korea National Assembly, Seoul, South Korea
State University of New York, Albany, NY
United Methodist Church Conference, Washington, D.C.
UN DPA Northeast Asia Women, Peace and Security Forum, Beijing, China
UN Commission on the Status of Women, New York, NY
University of California, Irvine
University of Denver Inclusive Global Leadership Initiative, Denver, CO
University of Minnesota Law School in St. Paul, MN
Veterans for Peace Annual Convention, Minneapolis, MN
Women’s Action for New Direction Mother’s Day Conference, Atlanta, GA
World Beyond War Conference, Toronto, Canada
“Trump's State of the Union sought to build the moral case for a U.S. preventive war to 'liberate' North Koreans,” says Christine Ahn, founder of Women Cross DMZ, a group that mobilizes women for Korean peace. The speech, she says, was “highly reminiscent of George W. Bush’s ‘Axis of Evil’ speech in 2002 before the U.S. went to war with Iraq.”

– TIME Magazine, January 31, 2018

“Youth if there were ever a U.S. president capable of striking an impossible deal, it is Trump. But first, he must educate himself about North Korea’s long-held demand for a peace treaty, or at least nonaggression pact, to replace the 1953 armistice agreement, which would normalize relations and allow North Korea’s economy to grow and develop.”

– Christine Ahn Op-ed, Fortune Magazine, March 9, 2018

“The two moves indicate women are playing a more important role in the country’s diplomacy” says Christine Ahn, International Coordinator of Women Cross DMZ, which advocates for peace on the Korean peninsula.

“We at Women Cross DMZ feel very heartened and hopeful about the diplomatic and peace gestures coming from all sides – Seoul, Pyongyang, Washington and Beijing -- and welcome the participation of women, including from the DPRK, at all levels.”

– CNN, April 18, 2018

“[President Moon’s] job is to connect the rails between Washington and Pyongyang, as relations have clearly gotten off track,” said Christine Ahn, the founder of Women Cross DMZ, a group that seeks inter-Korean peace.

– Los Angeles Times, May 21, 2018

“Respect and reciprocity are key elements in Korean culture. During our recent trip to South Korea as part of an international women’s peace delegation, South Korean women complained that Donald Trump’s erratic conduct showed disrespect for the mediating role of their president, Moon Jae-in.”

– Medea Benjamin & Ann Wright Op-ed in The Guardian, June 4, 2018
Growing Community

INVESTING IN WOMEN’S PEACEBUILDING

“We have been proud of the ways that WCDMZ has been on the frontlines of disrupting the Trump administration’s war agenda through high-profile letter campaigns, conferences, media, education, advocacy and organizing. They are one of the leanest and most strategic organizations we know!”

— Katrin Wilde, Executive Director, Channel Foundation

2017 REVENUE & EXPENSES

Thanks to our generous community of donors, WCDMZ raised over $200,000 in 2017. We organized conferences and walks and reached millions worldwide through talks, webinars, and media on a shoestring budget of $118,000.

That’s because we partner with other organizations and steward carefully every donation we receive. Our work is possible only because of the strong movement of supporters like you who believe in women’s vital work in building lasting peace in Korea and the world.

2017 Expenses: $117,571
- 59% Consulting & Professional Fees
- 23% Conferences & Meetings
- 15% Administrative Costs
- 3% Fundraising Costs

2017 Revenue: $201,503
- 59% Foundations
- 34% Individuals
- 4% Corporate / Religious
- 3% Speaking Fees

2018 - 2019 FISCAL YEAR

As the fiscal sponsor for the 2020 Campaign, the Peace Development Fund is providing WCDMZ critical administrative and finance support. To better align with their accounting systems, we shifted from a calendar year (January 1 to December 31) to a fiscal year (July 1 to June 30).

Our FY 2018/2019 budget (July 1-June 30) is $482,000. A surplus of $88,000 from 2017 gave us a strong start this year, as did the generous NoVo Foundation grant for our peace treaty campaign. As of October 1, 2018, we raised $364,000 and spent $138,000.

SPRING BENEFIT

On March 9, 2018, WCDMZ held a sold-out Spring Benefit in New York City. Hosted by a formidable committee led by Aiyoung Choi and Jacquelyn Wells, the evening included inspiring words from Gloria Steinem, Anne Delaney, and Christine Ahn and uplifting performances from local artists.

Our growing community of supporters enabled us to raise over $30,000 to support our efforts to mobilize women for peace in Korea.

2020 & BEYOND

We still need to raise $118,000 by March 1, 2019 to implement our core work of mobilizing women through education, advocacy and organizing.

We also have ambitious plans to mobilize key U.S. cities to press for a peace treaty, establish a Northeast Asia regional network of women’s groups, and bring South Korean women Parliamentarians to Washington, D.C. to dialogue with U.S. Congresswomen to advance a Peace Treaty.
Support Women Cross DMZ to educate, organize, and advocate for a peace agreement to end the Korean War. Your donation will help us amplify calls for peace and diplomacy and build a strong organization to ensure women’s leadership in the Korea peace process. We will press for a seat at the table, while setting our own.

Send checks to:
Peace Development Fund & Women Cross DMZ
P.O. Box 40250
San Francisco, CA 94140-0250
Donate online www.womencrossdmz.org

Support Women Cross DMZ to educate, organize, and advocate for a peace agreement to end the Korean War. Your donation will help us amplify calls for peace and diplomacy and build a strong organization to ensure women’s leadership in the Korea peace process. We will press for a seat at the table, while setting our own.

OUR SUPPORTERS

INDIVIDUAL DONORS
Aditi Davray
Aiyoung Choi
Alan Nayer
Alexander K. Choi
Andrew J. Seigner
Ann Kittredge
Ann Wright
Anne Liske
Anonymous
Arla S. Ertz
Arnold Kawano
Art Chang
Barbara Benanti
Barbara Nieshen
Burton R. Kassell
Camille Scribner
Carol P. Murphy
Chia W. Hamilton
Christine Ahn
Cora Weiss
Cynthia C. Arsenault
Cynthia H. Enloe
David Guerrero
David Knutten
David W. Silver
David Leiper
Dr. Byungchul Kang
Elaine I. Ko
Elizabeth J. Young
Elizabeth L. Colton
Erica Wikken
Eugene Schwake
Eunhee Kauneo
Ewa Eriksson-Fortier
Frank Baldwin
Gayle Wells
Glenda Paige
Gloria Steinem
Greg Chou
Greta Schiller
Gwyenth Kirk
Helen Song
Hye-Jung Park
In-sook Koo
Jackie Quan
Jacqueline Huey
Jacquelyn Wells
Jae McGuire
James E. Best
Jane Han
Jane Hirschmann
Janie Alton
Jennifer Kim
John P. Foz
John Wells
John Yoo
Joseph Han
Joan Hadden
Joy Lieberthal
J.T. Takagi
Judy Gorman
Julie A. Chi
Jung Ha
Kathleen Marra
Kern Eccles
Ki-Bun Koo
Kwan Nam
Lap W. Chan
Lauren U. Lee
Linda Gore
Margaret Gerhart
Margaret Ness
Matthew Brock
Matthew Viscuse
Melissa G. Reineberg
Michael Covey
Michael M. Yi
Miriam Josie
Myung S. Chung
Namhee Lee
Nan Kim-Paik
Pamela Albers
Patricia Kozu
Peter M. Gerhart
Regina Clancy
Peter Rasmussen
Regina Gray
Richard Crerie
Robert H. Stiver
Rune Horneland
Sarah Haubner
Shan Brink
Sunny Xiang
Susan Alt
Susan Davidson
Suzy Kim
T. Walter Herbert
Theresa Kim
Thomas Layton
Thomas I. Miller
Thomas Robinson
Vera Khan
Wei Zhang
Wendi Deetz

INSTITUTIONAL DONORS
ARCA Foundation
Benjamin Fund Inc.
Channel Foundation
CODEPINK
Compton Fund
Don and Lore Rasmussen Fund
Rasmussen Fund
Georgia W.A.N.D. Education Fund
Janelia Foundation
Morgan Stanley
Smith Barney Global Impact
Funding Trust Inc.
NoVo Foundation
Nuclear Age Peace Fund
Peace Action Fund of New York State
Ploughshares Fund
Samuel Rubin Foundation
Starry Night Fund
Stewart R. Mott Foundation
Trinity United Methodist Church
United Methodist Women
WILPF
World Beyond War

Special thanks to Edward Krauland, Elizabeth Arkell & Steptoe Johnson, LLP for providing pro bono legal services.