



**KOREA PEACE
NOW**

Women Mobilizing to End War

A Letter Jointly Addressed to

Donald Trump, President of the United States of America

and

Kim Jong Un, Chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

February 22, 2019

Dear Mr. President and Mr. Chairman:

We are women leaders representing a range of fields from 33 countries. We welcome the imminent occasion of the 2019 DPRK-USA Vietnam Summit held in Hanoi from February 27-28. We are hopeful about its potential to achieve a major breakthrough toward ending 70 years of hostile relations between the United States and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK/North Korea). Your mutual commitment to ushering in a new era of peace in Korea will not only benefit 80 million people living on the Peninsula but will also help transform unresolved historical tensions throughout the region.

We are heartened by US Special Representative Stephen Biegun's remarks about the goals of the Vietnam summit: "*[To] build trust between our two countries and advance further progress in parallel on the Singapore summit objectives of transforming relations, establishing a permanent peace regime on the peninsula, and complete denuclearization.*"

We urge you to take three steps in Vietnam toward transforming US-DPRK relations:

- 1) Declare an end to the Korean War and a new era of peace.**
- 2) Establish an inclusive peace process toward the signing of a peace agreement with civil society participation, especially women's organizations; and**
- 3) Normalize relations by a) establishing reciprocal liaison offices; b) lifting sanctions that harm vulnerable individuals; and c) facilitating people-to-people engagement, including reunions between Korean-Americans with their families in North Korea.**

The world is looking to you to fulfill the promise made by the two Korean leaders to transform the Korean Peninsula "into a land of peace free from nuclear weapons and nuclear threats."

We are writing now to stress that, in order to truly achieve a lasting peace that would endure as a legacy for Korea and the world, an inclusive peace process with women at

the table is essential. As decades of studies have shown, women's participation significantly increases the probability that a peace agreement will be signed and will last far longer than otherwise. Indeed, peace agreements are 36 percent more likely to succeed when civil society representatives, including women's groups, meaningfully participate. Recognizing this, President Trump signed into law [the Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2017](#), signaling U.S. commitment to increase women's participation in peace processes to prevent, end and rebuild after conflict, which passed with bi-partisan Congressional support. Now is the time to implement it.

Our representatives from the global campaign *Korea Peace Now: Women Mobilizing to End the War* will travel to Hanoi, Vietnam, to be present during the summit. Drawing upon their extensive experience in international peace-building, we respectfully request your assistance in securing a meeting for them with US-DPRK negotiators to discuss an inclusive peace process that includes women at all levels. Their insight and expertise will prove to be invaluable to this delicate and challenging peace process.

Our representatives can be reached at the following:
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Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely on behalf of the global women's campaign,

Alice Walker, Author and Activist, USA
Gloria Steinem, Feminist Author and Activist, USA
Jane Fonda, Actor and Activist, USA
Jody Williams, Nobel Peace Prize (1997)
Mairead Maguire, Nobel Peace Prize (1976)
Dr. Shirin Ebadi, Nobel Peace Prize (2003)
Tawakkol Karman, Nobel Peace Prize (2011)
Leymah Gbowee, Nobel Peace Prize (2011)
Christine Ahn, Women Cross DMZ, Executive Director, USA
Liz Bernstein, Nobel Women's Initiative, Executive Director, Canada
Sally Armstrong, Journalist, Author, Human Rights Activist, Canada
Abigail Disney, Fork Films, Filmmaker, USA
Abigail Richards, USA
Aijen Poo, National Domestic Workers United, USA
Aimee Allison, President, USA
Aiyoung Choi, Board Chair, Women Cross DMZ, USA
Altantsetseg Noosgoi, "Blue Banner" NGO, National University of Mongolia,
Mongolia

See nobelwomensinitiative.org or womenscrossdmz.org for full list of signatories