

Weaving Generations for Peace

WOMEN CROSS DMZ ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023



MOBILIZING WOMEN
FOR PEACE IN KOREA
WOMENCROSSDMZ

From the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

July 27, 2023 marked the 70th anniversary of the signing of the armistice that halted, but did not end, the brutal Korean War. We are in the seventh decade of divided Korean families, an unrelenting global arms race, and the rising risk of nuclear war.

As the global community struggles to advance peaceful solutions to crises in Russia-Ukraine, Israel-Palestine, U.S.-China and beyond, creating peace in Korea and in our world has become ever more urgent. This is no easy task, but as the great feminist author bell hooks wrote, “Changing the narrative is the first step towards true healing and liberation.”

Our accomplishments in the past year, reflected in this report, show that we have made significant progress in changing the narrative about the Korean War and inspiring more people to join our movement to end the longest-standing U.S. war abroad.

Crossings, the documentary film by Deann Borshay Liem chronicling our 2015 journey across the DMZ by 30 international peace activists, was shown at dozens of film festivals, webinars, and community screenings around the world, as well as to Nobel Peace Laureates and senior officials at the United Nations and the State Department. At nearly every screening, we heard from audience members who were unaware that the Korean War was still ongoing and that the U.S. played a significant role in Korea’s division and continuing conflict.

To mark the anniversary of the armistice, Women Cross DMZ and our partners organized Korea Peace Action, a three-day national gathering in Washington, DC on July 26-28. Hundreds of people from around the country traveled to the nation’s capital to call on President Biden and Congress to end the Korean War. And thanks to our supporters, we raised funds to bring 30 activists under age 30 to participate, helping to invigorate and energize our movement. It was exhilarating to feel the new synergy created by this multigenerational, multiracial convening.

We also changed hearts and minds thanks to media coverage on Democracy Now! and PBS NewsHour, and in *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Washington Post*, and NBC News, among others.

Our work in Washington to build the political will for peace with North Korea continues thanks to Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA), who reintroduced the Peace on the Korean Peninsula Act (H.R.1369). As of this publication, the bill has 35 co-sponsors across partisan lines. We’re also grateful to our Korea Peace Now! grassroots activists who have called their representatives, sent letters and postcards, written op-eds and letters to the editor, and organized meetings and webinars. Through these relentless efforts, we are strengthening our democracy to ensure that our voices are heard, and that U.S. foreign policy reflects the overwhelming wishes of the people to end America’s forever wars.

On the cover:
Hundreds of
Korea peace
supporters
gather after
marching to
the Lincoln
Memorial to call
for an end to the
Korean War on
July 27, 2023, the
70th anniversary
of the armistice
in Washington,
DC.

Photo by
Constance Faulk



As we have become more effective, however, those working to diminish our impact have become bolder. Labeling our movement as “phony” and peace as “dangerous,” they have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on operatives and ads targeting Women Cross DMZ, our Korea Peace Now! Grassroots Network, and the Peace on the Korean Peninsula Act — all funded by a shadowy oligarch. But we are undeterred. Not only is our peace movement growing larger and stronger, but our hard work is gaining traction and being recognized.

This past year I was honored with the 2022 Peace Summit Medal for Social Activism by the Nobel Peace Laureates, and also received a 2023 Honorary Certificate from the Honolulu City Council for my peace activism.

Finally, we are pleased to report a major boost to Women Cross DMZ with the recent onboarding of Cathi Choi, our new Director of Policy and Organizing. Cathi is a former

civil rights attorney in Los Angeles who brings both expertise and energy to policy and legal analysis, as well as valuable organizing skills to our Korea Peace Now! Grassroots Network. A very warm welcome to Cathi!

On behalf of all of us at Women Cross DMZ, thank you for your steadfast support over the past year — for believing in women’s leadership and the power of grassroots advocacy to end the ongoing Korean War. But we cannot end America’s oldest war alone. We need your continued friendship and support in order to sustain our small but powerful organization. Please continue to walk with us to reach peace in Korea — in our lifetime.

In peace and hope,

CHRISTINE AHN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WOMEN CROSS DMZ

On December 13, 2022, WCDMZ Executive Director Christine Ahn received the 2022 Peace Summit Medal for Social Activism, which is awarded every year during the World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates to a human rights activist in recognition of the positive impact of social activism generated in communities throughout the world.
Photo by Michael Hahn



Our Accomplishments

Korea Peace
Champion Rep.
Barbara Lee
(D-CA) speaks
in favor of “a
transformative,
peace-first
approach to
ending the
Korean War” to
members of the
media and Korea
peace supporters
in front of the
U.S. Capitol on
July 27, 2023.
*Photo by
Constance Faulk*

Korea Peace Action

July 27, 2023 marked 70 years since the signing of the armistice that halted, but did not officially end, the Korean War. While U.S. and South Korean government officials reaffirmed the U.S.-R.O.K. military alliance, and both militaries held massive live-fire war drills near the DMZ, Women Cross DMZ took the opportunity to remind Americans — especially our elected officials — about the human costs of this unresolved war, including separated families, crushing sanctions, increasing militarization, and the heightened risk of nuclear war.

To that end, we organized Korea Peace Action: National Mobilization to End the Korean War in Washington, DC, July 26-28, to urge the Biden administration and Congress to replace the armistice with a peace agreement.

This historic event brought together more than 500 people, including Korean Americans from divided families, youth activists, humanitarian aid workers, experts, scholars, and many friends and allies in a powerful display of the growing strength and diversity of the Korea peace movement in the United States. It also ignited a sense of renewed solidarity and provided a rare opportunity to connect with one another in the long struggle for peace in Korea.

Here are some of the highlights:

- At meetings with Congressional offices we asked for support and thanked those for supporting H.R.1369, the Peace on the Korean Peninsula Act. We met with senior officials in the State Department and the National Security Council to urge lifting the U.S. travel ban to North Korea, stressing the urgency for

family reunions, humanitarian engagements, repatriation of U.S. service members' remains, and other peace-building initiatives.

- A press conference at the Capitol featured Reps. Barbara Lee, Judy Chu, and Delia Ramirez. Other speakers included Joy Lee Powell Gebhard, a member of a divided family; Rick Downes, Executive Director of the Coalition of Families of Korean & Cold War POW/MIAs; Dan Leaf, retired Lt. General of the U.S. Air Force and former Acting Commander of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command; Joyce Ajlouny, General Secretary of American Friends Service Committee; and 14-year-old Hana Marie Kim from California, a fifth-generation member of a divided family.
- “Unbind Your Heart: Korean Han/Grief Transmutation Ceremony” allowed

participants to collectively grieve, heal and dance through our *han* (generational grief/rage). It included an interfaith prayer by Sulkiro Song, pastor of HA:N United Methodist Church; a participatory writing prompt and construction of a community altar led by acclaimed author Joseph Han; and a communal grief ritual led by renowned artist and shaman Dohee Lee. This deeply moving and cathartic experience helped to transform our collective grief and rage into renewed strength, determination, and hope for unity and peace.

- We came together in front of the White House for a rousing rally and march to the Lincoln Memorial, where we held an interfaith vigil that included a powerful chant for peace by Ingoong Sunim, Abbot of the Jogyesa Buddhist Temple in New York



Renowned multidisciplinary artist Dohee Lee led a powerful communal grief ritual as part of Korea Peace Action on July 27, 2023. Photo by Constance Faulk



Korea peace supporters march to the Lincoln Memorial on the 70th anniversary of the Korean War armistice.
Photo by Constance Faulk

City. Speakers at the rally included Medea Benjamin of CODEPINK; Nick Cho, internet personality also known as @YourKoreanDad; and David Kim, a rising candidate to represent California's 34th Congressional District. Josephine Lee of the Chicago Children's Choir concluded with a rousing rendition of "Arirang."

- The packed three-day national mobilization concluded with an all-day conference at George Washington University. After the keynote by University of Chicago historian Bruce Cumings, we had expert panels on "The Human Costs of Unending War" and "Peace to Prevent Nuclear War." Speakers included Joy Lee Powell Gebhard; Rick Downes; Dr. Kee Park, Director of Policy and Advocacy at Harvard University Department of Global Health and Social Medicine; Professor Siegfried Hecker, former Director of Los Alamos National Laboratory; Dan Leaf; and Ann Wright, retired U.S. Army Colonel, former U.S. diplomat, and current Secretary of Women Cross DMZ.

Our message of peace was amplified in several media outlets, including *The Washington Post*, PBS NewsHour, *Newsweek*, *Chicago Tribune*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, Democracy Now!, *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*, NBC Asian America, *In These Times*, Truthout, Hawai'i Public Radio, *LA Progressive*, *Korean Quarterly*, and many more.

Special thanks are due to all our co-convenors and supporters — American Friends Service Committee, Korean American Peace Fund, Mennonite Central Committee, National Association of Korean Americans, The United Methodist Church, Veterans for Peace, the "30 under 30" cohort, Rep. Barbara Lee (for hosting our press conference), and the hundreds of Korea peace activists and allies — for attending, volunteering, donating, and helping to make this event a success.

Crossings

The 70th anniversary of the armistice was an opportune time to promote *Crossings*, Deann Borshay Liem's documentary film about our transnational women-led movement to



end the Korean War. As part of the impact campaign, the film streamed worldwide on the WORLD Channel (July 21-August 21), as well as screened on PBS stations.

In collaboration with Mu Films and the Center for Asian American Media (CAAM), we organized 70 simultaneous watch parties around the country for a special pre-broadcast streaming event on July 22. To date, *Crossings* has screened over 75 times to thousands of people around the world, in Seoul, Geneva, Toronto, and major cities in the U.S., and to strategic audiences such as the Nobel Peace Laureates, the State Department, and the United Nations. And this fall, *Crossings* has embarked on an educational tour to major college campuses.

Nobel Peace Summit

Last December Christine Ahn attended the 18th World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates in Pyeongchang, South Korea, to receive the 2022 Peace Summit Medal for Social Activism. A special highlight was receiving it from Leymah Gbowee, Nobel Peace Laureate from Liberia and one of the 30 women peacemakers who crossed the DMZ with Christine in 2015.

Christine also spoke at the opening plenary, “Open Scars of War,” with Youkyoung Ko of Korea Peace Now! Youngmi Cho of the Korean Women’s Movement for Peace spoke on “Women In Need/Need for Women” with Dr. Chung Hyun-baek, former ROK Minister of Gender Equality. Over 300 attendees watched *Crossings*, including dozens of youths from around the world.

Gloria Steinem Dinner & Fundraiser

On June 15 our beloved friend and longtime donor Anne Delaney hosted an intimate gathering of peacemakers at her home, in honor of Gloria Steinem. The group heard from Christine Ahn, WCDMZ Board Chair Aiyoung Choi, Gloria Steinem, and Ana Oliveira, President of The New York Women’s Foundation. Anne said, “Women Cross DMZ is an extraordinary group of courageous and visionary activists who believe that peace is achievable on the Korean Peninsula and have the experience and the political savvy to make it a reality. We need this to happen sooner rather than later. If we stand with them, the 21st century can tip in the direction of peace.” Thanks to this event, we raised \$75,000 for our national mobilization in Washington, DC.

WCDMZ
Board Chair
Aiyoung Choi,
artist Michael
Joo, WCDMZ
Executive
Director
Christine Ahn,
Gloria Steinem,
and artist Anne
Delaney were
among the
attendees at a
Women Cross
DMZ fundraiser
in New York on
June 15, 2023.
Photo by
Constance Faulk.



Women Cross DMZ's Cathi Choi (center) with members of the Korea Peace Now! Grassroots Network tabling at MAUM Market: Korean Liberation Festival in Los Angeles on August 13, 2023.

Meeting with UN Special Rapporteur on DPRK Elizabeth Salmón

WCDMZ Board Chair Aiyoung Choi organized a meeting with Elizabeth Salmón, UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the DPRK, and 11 members of the New York/New Jersey Korea Peace Now! Grassroots Chapter, during her stay in New York to report to the UN Security Council. Our informal discussion covered the challenges of data collection given Ms. Salmón's inability to enter the DPRK, and the importance of trust-building to obtain accurate data. She acknowledged that the ongoing Korean War is a major obstacle to accessing accurate data, and that conditions of genuine peace and security on the Korean Peninsula would lead to better humanitarian conditions and human rights in the DPRK. It was reassuring that Ms. Salmón testified to the UNSC, "The preparation for any possible peacemaking process needs to include women as decision makers, and this process needs to start now."

Advocating for Peace in Congress

Our major advocacy work in Congress focused on the Peace on the Korean Peninsula Act, which Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA) reintroduced

in March 2023. The bill (H.R.1369) calls for serious urgent diplomacy for a binding peace agreement to formally end the Korean War, urges the Secretary of State to enter into negotiations with North Korea to establish liaison offices in each country's capital, and requires the Secretary of State to conduct a full review of the travel restrictions to North Korea. (Recently, the State Department decided to loosen some of the travel restrictions.)

With our partners the American Friends Service Committee and Mennonite Central Committee, we organized the 8th Annual Korea Peace Advocacy Week, June 5-9, 2023, which consisted of virtual lobby visits with 82 Congressional offices in 19 states. We stressed the urgency for Congressional support of the Peace on the Korean Peninsula Act and the Enhancing North Korean Humanitarian Assistance Act (H.R.1504/S.690) to ease the impact of sanctions on humanitarian aid to North Korea. Over 130 activists and allies participated in this year's Advocacy Week, resulting in seven new representatives signing on to H.R.1369. As of this publication, the bill has 35 co-sponsors, including one Republican. In the last Congress the bill (then H.R.3446) yielded 46 co-sponsors after two years of advocacy, so we're well on our way to surpassing the previous benchmark.

Growing Our Grassroots Network

Since our national mobilization, our Korea Peace Now! Grassroots Network has grown exponentially, thanks especially to the outpouring of activism from younger generations such as our Millennial and Gen Z members. Many have already assumed leadership positions in our local chapters.

This multigenerational and multiracial network now consists of hundreds of members in 12 regional chapters across the country: in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Honolulu, New York/ New Jersey, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, the San Francisco Bay Area, Seattle, Washington DC, and, most recently, Colorado and Texas. In addition, there are three themed groups: Generation Peace (Millennial and Gen Z members); Korean speakers; and Interfaith,

which organized the July 27 interfaith vigil in Washington, DC. New young activists have also joined from North Carolina and Tennessee.

Activism and Political Education

The Korea Peace Now! Grassroots Network has broadened the agenda for monthly meetings to share not only updates on regional work progress but also to increase our study of Korean history, culture, politics, the environment, and more.

In May, Tony Cho, a UC San Diego Ph.D. student, and South Korea-based environmental activist Dr. Juneseo Hwang spoke about the environmental impacts of U.S. military bases in South Korea and the importance of fostering transnational alliances to ensure environmental justice for all.

Crossings screening at the University of Pennsylvania with WCDMZ Director/ Coordinator of Activism and Special Campaigns Echo (front row, center, holding blue sign), and (to her left) Korea Peace Now! Grassroots Network members Hannah Lee and Hye-Jung Park, and *Crossings* director Deann Borschay Liem on March 22, 2023.



In June, filmmaker Yoon Grace Ra — in partnership with their grandfather Youngsook Ra, who is based in Ansan, South Korea — presented on the practice of cultural organizing across borders. Youngsook leads Silver Nest, a collective of elders in South Korea that produces media to share their stories, including ritual protests at the DMZ, histories of sacred sites, and relationship-building with Indigenous peoples beyond national borders.

30 Under 30

For the national mobilization in Washington DC, one of our major goals was to bring a group of “30 Under 30” activists from around the country. Cultivating the next generation

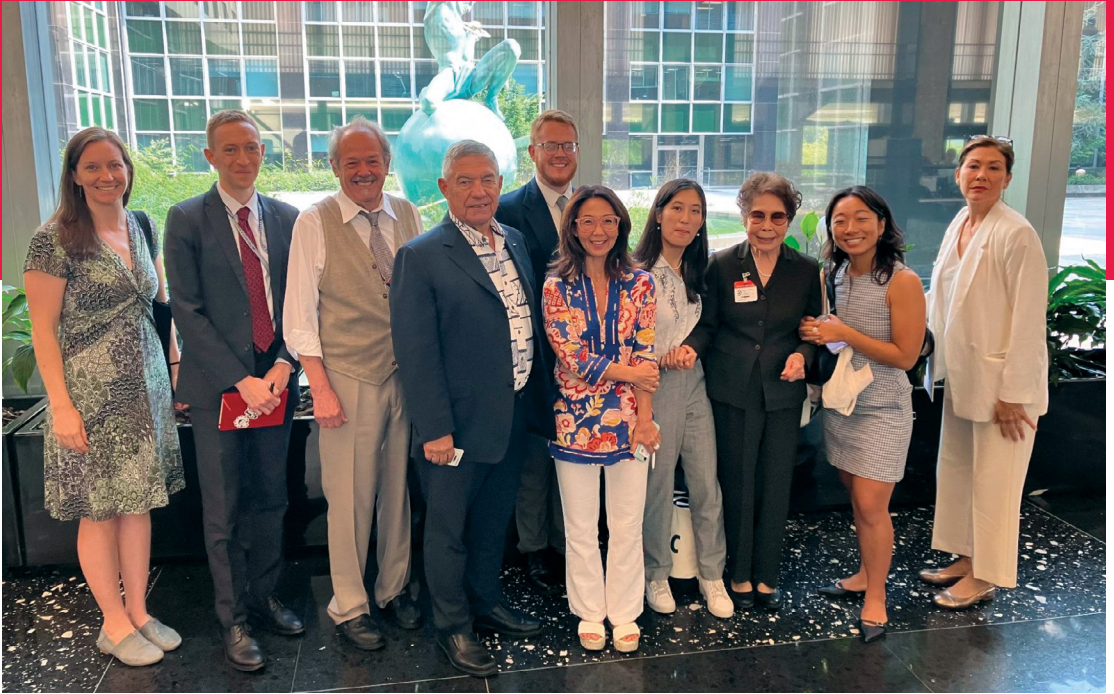
of Korea peace leaders was the realization of a cherished dream shared by the late Hyun Lee, our beloved organizer who passed away on March 7, 2022.

We recruited 30 brilliant young individuals from diverse backgrounds — writers, organizers, doctors, healers, activists, students, academics, artists and more — who are determined not only to challenge the dominant U.S. narrative on the unended Korean War and build peace on the Korean Peninsula, but also to advancing social justice, community health, climate action, and democracy here in the United States.

They used their skills to document the national mobilization through video,

Members of our 30 Under 30 cohort gather after an interfaith vigil in front of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC, on July 27, 2023.





photography, and other media, and have begun mobilizing their communities for legislative advocacy. Their leadership has already proven crucial to this movement, and will be essential to reinvigorating our efforts to end the war.

Progress on Lifting the Travel Ban to North Korea

We continued our work with humanitarian leaders, members of divided families, and legal advocates to lift the ban on U.S. citizens traveling to North Korea, including a very productive in-person meeting with State Department officials on July 26. Two months later, the State Department made limited but significant revisions to the ban (which is still in effect): extending special validation passports from one year to two years, and considering U.S. citizens wishing to visit family in North Korea for special validation passports. We will continue to keep up the pressure for further easing of travel restrictions toward a total lifting of the ban to once again allow more humanitarian work in North Korea and regular people-to-people contact and trust-building initiatives such as educational tours and cultural exchanges.

Above (l-r): Jennifer Deibert, DPRK Program Director, American Friends Service Committee; Zachary Barter, Office of Korean and Mongolian Affairs, U.S. Department of State; Rick Downes, Executive Director of the Coalition of Families of Korean and Cold War POW/MIAs; Dan Leaf, retired Lt. General of the U.S. Air Force and former Acting Commander of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command; Zachary Murray, Legislative Associate, Mennonite Central Committee; Christine Ahn, Executive Director, Women Cross DMZ; Alison Kahn, Policy Fellow, American Friends Service Committee; divided family member Joy Lee Powell Gebhard; Cathi Choi, Director of Policy and Organizing, Women Cross DMZ; and Joy Lee Powell Gebhard's daughter, MiRan Powell.

Below (l-r): Screening of *Crossings* at the State Department with Ann Wright, Board Secretary, Women Cross DMZ; Christine Ahn, Executive Director, Women Cross DMZ; Mark Pannell, Deputy Office Director and Senior Advisor in the Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues, U.S. Department of State; Allison Dower, East Asia & Pacific Regional Policy Advisor, U.S. Department of State; and former U.S. Ambassador Swanee Hunt.



What People Are Saying About Women Cross DMZ

“In 2015 when I joined Christine Ahn and a group of women crossing the DMZ, I was inspired by the opportunity to put our bodies where our hopes are: the reunification of families and a nation still divided by the Korean war of more than seventy years ago. We felt that it was important to do with our physical selves what we hope could be done politically. Engagement and dialogue are way more likely to achieve the kinds of goals we want than isolation and silence. Women Cross DMZ is still leading the movement to end America’s longest war. Join us!”

— **Gloria Steinem, Feminist Scholar & Activist**



“Against the backdrop of increasing military tension on the Korean Peninsula and lack of dialogue, Women Cross DMZ continues to play the critical role of advocating for the end of war and diplomacy, educating the general public, and bridging the civil society with policymakers.”

— **Dr. Kee Park, Lecturer on Global Health & Social Medicine, Harvard Medical School**



“Thanks to the groundbreaking work of Women Cross DMZ, we have a fighting chance to end the Korean War, America’s oldest war abroad. With women’s leadership, democracy and peace are always stronger.”

— **Ana Oliveira, President and CEO, The New York Women’s Foundation**



“If my last name represents mainstream America around the world, especially in a place like North Korea, then I was so grateful to be there in Pyongyang listening to North Korean women. Women Cross DMZ created that opportunity for my listening, which is the first step towards healing and reconciliation.”

— **Abigail Disney, Filmmaker & Philanthropist**



"I am so grateful to be an original co-sponsor of H.R.1369, the Peace on the Korean Peninsula Act. It will call for a formal end to the Korean War, it will promote diplomacy by establishing liaison offices on US-North Korea relations, and it will recognize the 100,000 Americans who have relatives in North Korea. None of this would be possible without advocates like Women Cross DMZ and its allies, so thank you for your leadership and for pressing for progress on these issues here in Washington DC."

— Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA)



"Those of us who have gone through the Korean War and lost everything know that the price of war is great, but the cost of continued aggression on the Korean Peninsula will be catastrophic. The peace action mobilized by Christine Ahn and Women Cross DMZ, and the solidarity witnessed among other peace-minded and humanitarian-focused groups like AFSC and Coalition of Families of Korean and Cold War POW/MIAs, were inspiring, impactful, and personally encouraging."

— Joy Lee Powell Gebhard,
Peace Activist & Divided Family Member



"My commitment is to work with Women Cross DMZ and stand and say enough is enough. Let's work towards peace. The time has come."

— Rep. Delia Ramirez (D-IL)



"As a two-war combat veteran who served four years in the Republic of Korea and as former Deputy Commander and Acting Commander of the U.S. Pacific Command, I believe Congress must act now to push for the end of America's longest war, reduce the risk of a nuclear catastrophe, and set the conditions through peace for addressing denuclearization and human rights. Christine Ahn and Women Cross DMZ are the reasons my March 2023 op-ed was featured in *The New York Times*, which led to a CNN interview with Christiane Amanpour and an interview with NK News. This has opened doors on Capitol Hill, and we now have a real chance to make a difference."

— 3-Star Retired U.S. Air Force General Dan Leaf



Events We Participated In

10.13.22	“Challenges & Opportunities” University of Hawai’i at Manoa, Honolulu, HI	2.24-25.23	Peace Action New York State Student Peace Conference, NY
10.21.22	Crossings screening, Boston Asian American Film Festival, Boston MA	2.25.23	Crossings screening at the Seattle Asian American Film Festival, WA
10.25.22	“Women Peacemakers Before and After 1325,” hosted by the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies, Seton Hall University, online	3.6.23	“The Roadmap to Unification of the Korean Peninsula,” hosted by Massachusetts Peace Action and New England Korea Peace Campaign, online
10.26.22	“U.S.-China Competition & the Korean Peninsula,” hosted by Women Cross DMZ, online	3.15.23	Crossings screening, University of Colorado, Boulder
10.29.22	Crossings screening, UN Association Film Festival, Palo Alto, CA	3.16.23	Crossings screening, Frasier Meadows, Boulder, CO
11.8.22	Crossings screening, San Diego Asian Film Festival, CA	3.16.23	Crossings screening, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA
11.10.22	Crossings screening, Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival, Canada	3.18.23	Crossings screening, Association of Asian Studies Film Expo, Boston, MA
11.18.22	Crossings screening, hosted by East Asia Collective, Emory University, Atlanta, GA	3.22.23	Crossings screening, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
11.19.22	Crossings screening, Korean Church of Atlanta UMC, Duluth, GA	3.21.23	Crossings screening, Ecumenical Centre, Geneva, Switzerland
12.12.22	Crossings screening at Nobel Peace Summit, Pyeongchang, Korea	4.19.23	Crossings screening, City College of New York
12.13.22	“Open Scars of War,” Nobel Peace Summit, Pyeongchang, Korea	4.20.23	Crossings screening, Manhattan Country School, New York
12.13.22	Press Conference with Nobel Peace Laureates and Women Leaders, Nobel Peace Summit, Pyeongchang, Korea	4.21.23	Crossings screening, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
12.15.22	Crossings screening with National Assembly Women’s Committee, Seoul, Korea	4.22.23	Crossings screening, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI
1.16.23	“To Strike First: Preemptive Doctrines and Dangers of War in Northeast Asia,” hosted by New England KPNGN and Massachusetts Peace Action, online	4.24.23	Korea Peace Tabling, University of Hawai’i at Manoa, Honolulu, HI
1.29.23	“Promoting Peace Between the Koreas,” hosted by Massachusetts Peace Action, online	4.26.23	“An Evening with Noam Chomsky: The Korean Peninsula and the US Drumbeat to War in East Asia,” hosted by the Korea Policy Institute, online
2.24.23	Crossings screening at the DisOrient Asian American Film Festival of Oregon, Eugene	4.27.23	“How Peace/War Affects the World, University of Hawai’i at Manoa, Honolulu, HI
		4.28.23	Crossings screening, University of Hawai’i at Manoa, Honolulu, HI

- 5.7.23 **HA:N United Methodist Church, 70th Year of Korean War Armistice Series, online**
- 5.11.23 **“Environmental Justice and Militarized Spaces,” Korea Peace Now! Grassroots Network National Meeting, online**
- 5.13.23 **Crossings screening, CAAMFest, San Francisco, CA**
- 5.25.23 **“Keeping Nuclear Memories Alive,” APLN-ISYP Roundtable, hosted by Asia-Pacific Leadership Network, online**
- 6.5-9.23 **Korea Peace Advocacy Week, online**
- 6.8.23 **“Korean Cultural Organizing Across Borders,” Korea Peace Now! Grassroots Network National Meeting, online**
- 6.15.23 **Women Cross DMZ fundraiser with Gloria Steinem, New York, NY**
- 6.20.23 **Crossings screening, Gwangju Independent Cinema, Gwangju, Korea**
- 6.24.23 **“The Korean War: 70 Years On,” hosted by DSA International Committee, online**
- 6.27.23 **Crossings screening, Insa, Brooklyn, NY**
- 6.30.23 **Berkshire Conference of Women Historians, Santa Clara University, CA**
- 7.15.23 **“Building a Feminist, Anti-Racist Peace Movement,” Netroots Nation, Chicago, IL**
- 7.27.23 **“70th Year of the Korean War Armistice International Symposium: From Armistice to Peace,” hosted by Korea Peace Appeal, Seoul, Korea, online**
- 7.27.23 **Congressional Press Conference, Korea Peace Action, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC**
- 7.27.23 **Unbind Your Heart: Participatory Grief Transmutation Ceremony, Korea Peace Action, Washington, DC**
- 7.27.23 **Rally, March, and Interfaith Vigil, Korea Peace Action, Washington, DC**
- 7.28.23 **“70th Anniversary of the Korean War Armistice: Prospects and Challenges for a Peace Agreement,” George Washington University, Korea Peace Action, Washington, DC**
- 8.13.23 **Maum Market: Korean Liberation Festival, Los Angeles, CA**
- 8.18.23 **“Axis of War: The Japan/Korea/US Trilateral Alliance,” hosted by the Korea Policy Institute, online**
- 9.7.23 **“Ending America’s Longest, Endless War in Korea,” Rotary Club of Golden, online**
- 9.30.23 **Bay Area Chuseok Festival, San Francisco, CA**
- 9.30.23 **Korea Peace March & Rally, hosted by Korea Peace Appeal, New York City, NY**
- 10.1.23 **Civil Society Workshop for Korea, hosted by Korea Peace Appeal, New York City**
- 10.7.23 **Korea Peace Appeal Roundtable, Flushing, NY**
- 10.8.23 **Korea Peace Appeal Rally at the White House, Washington, DC**
- 10.8.23 **Korea Peace Appeal Roundtable, Fairfax, VA**
- 10.10.23 **“A Sanctioned World: A Crime Normalized: Voices from Sanctioned Nations,” hosted by World Beyond War, online**
- 10.11.23 **Crossings screening, University of Washington, Seattle, WA**
- 10.13.23 **Crossings screening, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ**
- 10.13.23 **People Are the Sky, LIFT (Let Individuals Freely Travel) Film Series, online**
- 10.16.23 **Crossings screening, Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies, Bloomington, IN**
- 10.16.23 **“How We Strengthen Our Social Change Roles, Practices, and Ecosystems,” hosted by the Korea Peace Now! Grassroots Network Los Angeles Chapter & GYOPO, Los Angeles, CA**
- 10.17.23 **Crossings screening, The State Theatre, Ann Arbor, MI**

Media Coverage of Our Work

Al Jazeera English	The Diplomat	KPFA	Popular Resistance
Arms Control Today	FAIR	KPFK	Real Change News
AsAmNews	Foreign Policy in Focus	LA Progressive	Responsible Statecraft
Berkeleyside	Hankyoreh	Los Angeles Times	Sampan
Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists	Hawai'i Public Radio	The Nation	San Francisco Chronicle
Cape Breton Spectator	Honolulu Star Advertiser	NBC Asian America	Truthout
Chicago Tribune	In These Times	The New York Times	USA Today
Common Dreams	Inkstick Media	Newsweek	Washington Post
Countercurrents	The Korea Times	NK News	WGBH
Democracy Now	Korean Quarterly	Other Words	Workers World
		Peoples Dispatch	Yahoo News

“We are still in a state of war, and as we see in the current growing tensions on the peninsula, with the U.S. sending three nuclear submarines and the massive military exercises and North Korea testing unprecedented numbers of missiles, we are just one step, one accident away from nuclear war.”

— Christine Ahn,
The Washington Post, July 28, 2023

“After decades of failed U.S. policy, the only pathway to resolve the impasse is for the United States to sign a peace agreement with North Korea. An accord would reduce the risk of renewed conflict between North Korea and the United States and build trust in order to better negotiate on North Korea’s nuclear weapons program.”

— Christine Ahn,
op-ed in *USA Today*, July 24, 2023

“For years, I hesitated to look at photographs of our relatives in North Korea because I was afraid of what I’d feel. To even dream about the possibility of lifting this travel ban felt frightening because fighting for change would open me up to heartbreak. I have been tempted to settle into pessimism and dismiss attempts for change as naive. An elder Korean peace activist described this tendency as “so Korean”: to break my own heart before anyone else could break it for me. She counseled me instead to engage in peace advocacy and learn from intergenerational Koreans from across the diaspora who have kept the fight aflame for decades.”

— Cathi Choi,
op-ed in *The Los Angeles Times*, August 24, 2023

“So much depends on the Korean diaspora in the U.S. As American citizens, we get a say in how our elected representatives spend our military budget. We can engage with our democratic systems to demand an end to this war.”

— Cathi Choi,
NBC Asian America, July 27, 2023

Our Financial Health

REVENUE

In fiscal year 2022-23 (July 1 to June 30) our revenues totalled \$683,418, and expenses totalled \$708,465. While expenses exceeded revenues by \$25,046, we ended the year with a healthy balance of \$435,085, leaving us on a good footing for FY 2023-24.

We raised \$611,050 from 26 institutional donors/foundations and \$66,254 from 204 individuals whose gifts ranged from \$5 to \$12,000.

Our leading Institutional Supporters in the fiscal year were:

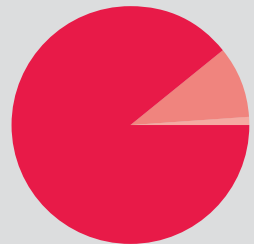
Compton Foundation	\$131,000 [three grants]
Rockefeller Foundation	\$100,000 [for Feminist Peace Initiative]
Ploughshares Fund	\$60,000
Channel Foundation	\$50,000 [second of three-year grant of \$150,000]
Gender Funders Co-Lab	\$50,000
Oak Foundation	\$50,000
Starry Night Fund	\$40,000
HLH Foundation	\$25,000
Pax Sapiens Foundation	\$20,000
Seattle Family Foundation	\$15,000

In the previous fiscal year we were determined to increase the scope of our fundraising. We received grants from a broader range of institutional donors and a greater number of gifts from individual donors. We are very grateful for in-kind support from our pro bono counsel Steptoe & Johnson LLP NY, as well as IT/security support from Tiny Gigantic.

EXPENSES

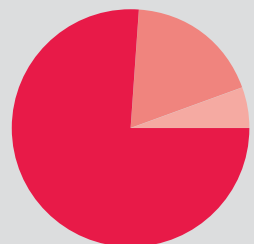
Almost 95 percent of the money raised directly supported our education, advocacy and organizing work, with the majority of this amount going to wages and consulting fees. Because our work continues to be performed mostly virtually and we do not have a dedicated physical office, our administrative overhead was very low. The 5 percent figure for administrative costs reflects expenses principally for preparation of financial reports, insurance, and telecommunications. For grant administration, expenses are reflected in the programming (education, advocacy, organizing) figure.

REVENUES



- 89.4% Foundations
- 9.7% Individuals
- 0.9% Speaking Fees

EXPENSES



- 76.1% Wages & Consulting Fees
- 18.4% Education & Advocacy
- 5.4% Administrative Costs

**Grant numbers reflect the total award, before fiscal sponsorship fees are subtracted. Numbers shown for total revenues reflect amounts available to WCDMZ, after fees are subtracted.*

Who We Are

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Aiyoung Choi

Chair

Ann Wright

Secretary

Wendi Deetz

Treasurer

Maric Berry

Board Member

Amelia Wu

Board Member

Ji-Yeon Yuh

Board Member

STAFF

Christine Ahn

Executive Director

Cathi Choi

Director of Policy and Organizing

Kathleen Ok-soo Richards

Communications Director

Echo (Hyunsook Elizabeth Cho)

Activism & Special Campaigns Director

Susan Yohn

Administration & Finance Director

Giboom Park

Communications Associate

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Kozue Akibayashi

Professor, Doshisha University, Japan

Medea Benjamin

Co-Founder, Code Pink, USA

Donmee Choi

Poet, Author, Interpreter, USA

Gay Dillingham

Filmmaker, USA

Abigail Disney

Filmmaker, and Philanthropist, USA

Cynthia Enloe

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Retired Humanitarian Aid Worker, Sweden

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Meri Joyce

Peace Boat, Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict, Northeast Asia Regional Coordinator, Australia/Japan

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Emma Leslie

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Liza Maza

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Lisa Natividad

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Hye-Jung Park

Media Activist, USA

Nadia Raynes

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Youngju Ryu

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Elizabeth Son

Associate Professor, Northwestern University, USA

Jay Song

Professor, University of Melbourne, Australia

Gloria Steinem

Activist, Author, Recipient of Presidential Medal of Freedom, USA

Yifat Susskind

Executive Director, MADRE, USA

Cindy Stella Wiesner

Executive Director, Grassroots Global Justice Alliance, USA

Donors

INSTITUTIONAL DONORS

American Friends Service Committee	Global Fund for Women	National Association of Korean Americans	Sharing Korean American Culture and Sports
Angell Foundation	Good Friends USA, Inc.	The New York Women's Foundation	Starry Night Fund
Arc of Justice	Grassroots Global Justice Alliance	Oak Foundation	Third World Newsreel
Ben & Jerry's Foundation	Hawai'i People's Fund	Padosi Foundation	Tides Foundation
Channel Foundation	HLH Foundation	Pax Sapiens Foundation	Urgent Action Fund
Compton Foundation	Jubitz Family Foundation	Ploughshares Fund	Women's Foundation of Colorado
Don and Lore Rasmussen Fund	Korean American National Coordinating Council	Rockefeller Brothers Fund	
Gender Funders Co-Lab	Los Angeles Korean Musicians' Association	San Francisco Foundation	
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church & Society	Mott Foundation	Seattle Family Foundation	

INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP DONORS

Kimberly Agnew	Wendi Deetz	Sekyo Haines	Hyun & Young Kim	Elizabeth Lee	Terry Park	Eileen Tsai
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Rana Cho	Dianne Foster	Ken & Sunny Hwang	Jongdae Kim	Shannon Martin	Sukcha & Ron Schreck	Fukumoto
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Cathi Choi		Hyun Kim	HJ Lee	Glenda H. Paige	Nora Suk	
Julie Chung			Joonmoo	Christine Park	Anne Swayne Kier	
Laura Conwesser			Christopher Lee	Shin-Hwa Park	Millie Tang	
			JeeYeun Lee			

The Road Ahead

Women Cross DMZ will continue our core work to educate, advocate, and organize for lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula. To achieve our goal of formally ending the Korean War by replacing the armistice with a peace agreement, we will continue to 1) challenge the dominant U.S. narrative about the root cause of tensions in Korea; 2) organize our growing grassroots membership to urge members of Congress to support a peace-first approach in Korea; and 3) mobilize historically marginalized communities to democratize the process of shaping U.S. foreign policy to highlight the impacts of the ongoing war and the need for women’s inclusion in the peace process.

South Korean peace activist Youkyoung Ko protests for peace on the 70th anniversary of the armistice in Seoul, Korea on July 27, 2023.



Women Cross DMZ is partnering with other social movement organizations on these initiatives in 2024 and beyond:

- April 2024. Partnering with Hawai'i Peace and Justice and The Costs of War Project at Brown University, we will convene researchers and activists from across the Pacific and Asia to deepen our understanding of the intersection of militarism and climate change and chart alternatives to the militarized future driven by the current U.S.-China great power rivalry.
- May 2024. For the Feminist Peace Initiative with MADRE and Grassroots Global Justice Alliance, we will convene a Feminist Peace Summit with the Inclusive Global Leadership Initiative (IGLI) at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver. We will bring together activists, academics, policymakers, and other key allies to forge a new vision for building a Feminist Foreign Policy for Peace that challenges militarism, centers movements, and connects U.S.-based struggles with those abroad.
- Building on our July 2023 national mobilization, we will foster a community healing process with leading Korean American women activists, artists, authors, filmmakers, and cultural producers to address generational trauma from the Korean War. We will partner with cultural creatives to shift the narrative on the Korean War in the U.S. mainstream. We will involve more Millennials, Gen Z, and Gen Alpha activists in order to broaden, strengthen, and engage more activists in our broad vision for genuine peace and security for Korea and for the world.