

Into the New World

WOMEN CROSS DMZ ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025



MOBILIZING WOMEN
FOR PEACE IN KOREA
WOMENCROSSDMZ



From the Executive Director

Dear Friend,

As I write this, ICE officers are tearing apart families and armed National Guard troops are patrolling the streets across the United States. In September, more than 300 South Korean nationals were detained by federal agents after a raid on a Hyundai plant in Georgia, straining relationship between Washington and Seoul. The next day, news broke that a botched Navy SEAL mission into North Korea in 2019 killed several unarmed civilians and risked triggering a major military crisis between two nuclear powers.

At home and abroad, U.S. militarism is eroding the safety of our communities, reinforcing authoritarianism, and costing us nearly \$1 trillion annually. At Women Cross DMZ, we're working to realize a more peaceful and just future by advocating for an official end to the Korean War, building transnational solidarity with other peace activists, growing our grassroots network, and creating space for collective healing and liberation.

This year marked the 10-year anniversary of the historic 2015 DMZ crossing that founded WCDMZ. To celebrate this anniversary, we brought an international delegation of diasporic feminist leaders to South Korea for a peace walk with hundreds of civil society activists outside the largest overseas U.S. military base, in Pyeongtaek. We also held meetings with women peace organizers across the country to build transnational solidarity and strengthen our collective peacebuilding efforts.

This year also marked the 80th anniversary of Korea's division and 75th year of the unended Korean War. In order to highlight the ongoing impacts of war and division, especially on women's lives, we released two groundbreaking

reports: In March, we published *Women's Rights Under the Division System in Korea*, which exposes the gendered dimensions of issues such as landmines, the U.S. military presence, and separated families. The report calls for a more comprehensive approach to human rights that prioritizes the needs and agency of the Korean people, and women in particular. We presented the report at a packed session of the NGO CSW Forum at the United Nations' 69th Commission on the Status of Women in New York City.

That same month, the Feminist Peace Initiative — a coalition led by MADRE, Women Cross DMZ, and Grassroots Global Justice Alliance — and the Inclusive Global Leadership Institute at the University of Denver released the *Feminist Peace Playbook*, a guide to transforming U.S. foreign policy by advancing a feminist peace framework. We launched the report in Washington, DC, with Reps. Ilhan Omar and Delia Ramirez.

During our 10th annual Korea Peace Advocacy Week in June, hundreds of peace advocates across the country urged their members of Congress to support a diplomatic solution to the conflict and a peace-first approach. H.R. 1841, the Peace on the Korean Peninsula Act, has 45 co-sponsors as of this publication. We also advocated for Congress to increase transparency in military spending and amend the National Defense Authorization Act to remove harmful U.S. military spending policies in Korea.

In our organizational structure, a smooth leadership transition took place on our Board of Directors. Our founding Board Chair, Aiyoung Choi, stepped down after a term of esteemed service, and we welcomed Professor

On the cover: Members of an international delegation of peace activists staged historic artwork by Korean American interdisciplinary artist Yong Soon Min, "Movement Towards" (2018) at the Civilian Control Zone during WCDMZ's 10-year anniversary trek to Korea. Min's lifelong work exposed the lasting reverberations of the Cold War and Korea's division. Photo by Yoon Ra



Ji-Yeon Yuh as the new Board Chair. Ji-Yeon is the founding faculty member of the Asian American Studies Program at Northwestern University, where she teaches Asian American history, Asian diasporas, race and gender, and oral history. Her book, *Beyond the Shadow of Camptown: Korean Military Brides in America*, was the first substantive work to examine the consequences of U.S. militarism in Korea for migration and diaspora. She is a longtime advocate for Korea peace and currently serves on the board of the Korea Policy Institute. Ji-Yeon is a native of Seoul and Chicago, a fan of pungmul, a taekwondo black belt, a science fiction reader, and the mother of three children. We are excited to have Ji-Yeon's leadership!

Finally, we continue to educate the public about the connections between anti-Asian violence and U.S. foreign policy, the consequences of the ballooning war economy, and the far-right networks undermining democracy and peace in both the U.S. and South Korea.

There are very real consequences to this unended Korean War. Last December, President Yoon Suk Yeol attempted a coup by declaring

martial law in South Korea, citing "threats posed by North Korea's communist forces" and "anti-state elements." Millions of South Koreans, led largely by young women, took to the streets and fought to defend their democracy, leading to Yoon's impeachment and a snap election. They adopted as their unofficial anthem the song "Into the New World" by K-pop group Girls' Generation.

The takeaway from this failed coup attempt? People have the true power, and feminist leadership is the key to our success. Now, as we face rising authoritarianism and militarism at home, we must be ever more vigilant, strategic, and resourceful to protect our communities and our planet. Together, we must meet this moment by building our movement in order to realize a more peaceful future for all.

Thank you for your support.

CATHI CHOI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In March 2025, WCDMZ Executive Director Cathi Choi spoke at "The Far Right and the New Cold War: Transnational Organizing from Korea to the US," a conversation hosted by Mark Tseng-Putterman at the University of Pennsylvania's Asian American Studies Program, co-sponsored by Koreans 4 Decolonization and the James Joo-Jin Kim Center for Korean Studies. Photo by Joe Piette



Our Achievements

WCDMZ
Director of
Organizing
Echo marched
with a pungmul
drum group at
the "Armistice
Then, Liberation
Now!" rally in
Times Square in
July 2025, calling
for an end to the
Korean War and
the joint U.S.-
R.O.K.-Japan
war drills, as well
as for divestment
from militarism
and investment
in our
communities.

Photo by
Joe Piette

Korea Peace Advocacy

We held our tenth annual Korea Peace Advocacy Week, from June 9-13, 2025, alongside our partners from the American Friends Service Committee, United Methodist Church Global Ministries and Church & Society, Mennonite Central Committee, Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, Korean American Peace Fund, and Korea Peace Now! Grassroots Network. Over 180 peace advocates across the country participated in meetings with 152 Congressional offices in 29 states to advocate for peace-focused policies, including H.R. 1841, the Peace on the Korean Peninsula Act, which calls for a formal end to the Korean War. First-time participants joined veteran legislative advocates in educating their representatives in Congress about the urgent need to pursue peace on the Korean Peninsula.

"I have visited all 50 states of America and traveled to almost 100 countries, crossing many borders on foot all over the world. Yet I cannot go to North Korea because we are at war. I am almost 84 years old. I don't have many more years left. I want to go and see the other half of my origin and heritage. I want to talk with the people there and share food with them. Sponsoring H.R. 1841 will put you on this honored path with peacemakers."

– Myung Ja Yoon, constituent
of Rep. Jamie Raskin (MD-8)

"I am stuck with memories of nuclear bomb drills when I was a child, and being scared when the air raid siren went off. U.S.-North Korea relations are at the forefront of this issue now. A peace agreement in Korea will reduce tensions and avert further nuclear tensions."

– Ron Zucker, constituent
of Rep. Jared Huffman (CA-2)

H.R. 1841, the Peace on the Korean Peninsula Act, was reintroduced in Congress in March 2025. As of this writing, 45 members of Congress have signed on as co-sponsors.

Growing Our Grassroots Network

Our Korea Peace Now! Grassroots Network (KPNGN) continues to grow. More than 90 new members joined our network between September 2024 and August 2025. We now have over 700 members nationwide! Our three-part New Member Orientation Series welcomes new members while providing them with an overview of how we educate, advocate, and organize for Korea peace.

Our Advocacy, Coalition-Building, Education, and Membership Committees, plus our Korean Language and Faith-Based Caucuses, organize monthly meetings and support various online and in-person events. The Steering Committee is planning to hold its first retreat at the end of 2025 to strengthen our grassroots leadership.

Intergenerational Healing & Learning Series

We continued to develop our Intergenerational Healing & Learning Series this year. The series features

speakers exploring the connections between intergenerational healing and efforts to end the ongoing Korean War.

For our third gathering, “Memoir, Trauma, and Healing for the Korean Diaspora,” we invited author and professor Grace M. Cho and journalist and writer Iris Yi Youn Kim to discuss how memoir can act as a vessel for unpacking and healing intergenerational trauma.

For our fourth gathering, “The Stories We Bring to Bear: Flipping the Script on Adoption,” we partnered with the Los Angeles-based Korean American cultural organization GYOPO to host a conversation with award-winning filmmaker Deann Borshay Liem and community organizer and aspiring director Meejin Seol, moderated by journalist Anna Kook. Speakers discussed documenting family history and understanding the history of transnational adoption.

Since starting this series, we have deepened our understanding of how the unresolved Korean War is connected globally to all struggles seeking to end U.S. wars. Through critical conversation and creative storytelling, we will continue to empower people to take action for peace and forge a path toward collective healing.

A Timeline of Women Cross DMZ Milestones

May 24, 2015: WCDMZ organized a historic crossing of the DMZ by 30 international women peacemakers, calling for an end to the Korean War, the reunion of separated families, and women’s participation in the peace process.

February 7-14, 2016: WCDMZ organized meetings with North Korean and South Korean women in Bali, Indonesia, to deepen relationships and develop shared strategies for achieving peace.

April 26, 2017: As President Trump escalated tensions with North Korea to dangerous levels, we sent a letter signed by more than 200 women from over 40 countries urging diplomacy to resolve the threat of war.





Friends and supporters of Women Cross DMZ gathered in New York City for a spring benefit in March 2025.
Photo by JP Yim

Women Cross DMZ Spring Benefit

In March 2025, we held an intimate 10-Year Anniversary Spring Benefit in New York City. We celebrated our vibrant intergenerational and intersectional community. Executive Director Cathi Choi, Founder Christine Ahn, and founding Board Chair Aiyoung Choi spoke alongside Democracy Now! host Amy Goodman, WCDMZ Board Member Ann Wright, WCDMZ Board Chair Ji-Yeon Yuh, and delegates from the 2015 DMZ crossing, including Nobel Peace

Laureate Leymah Gbowee. KPNGN Coordinator Hannah Lee gave a moving performance on her violin, showcasing classical music pieces related to peace activism and Korean history.

Thank you to the members of our community who donated, volunteered, and came together to create a meaningful evening celebrating women's leadership and Korea peace activism. We are particularly grateful to our host committee: Aiyoung Choi, Marie Berry, Helen Song, Teresa O, and Sally Jones.

March 18, 2018: WCDMZ Founder Christine Ahn joined Sen. Bernie Sanders for a MoveOn teach-in commemorating the 15th anniversary of the U.S. war on Iraq, with 80,000 online viewers.

December 4-6, 2018: We held the Northeast Asia Roundtable on Women, Peace and Security in Beijing, China, bringing together 25 women experts and peacemakers from seven countries, including North Korea, South Korea, China, Japan, Russia, Canada, and the United States.

February 26, 2019: We worked with members of Congress to introduce H.Res. 152, the first Congressional resolution calling for an end to the Korean War. It has been reintroduced every year since, and has bipartisan support.

Women's Rights Under the Division System Report

On March 3, 2025, we released a new report, *Women's Rights Under the Division System in Korea*, which sheds light on the urgent and often overlooked consequences of Korea's division on women's lives.

The report — released to coincide with International Women's Day, the 69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), and the 80th year of Korea's division — exposes the profound and persistent impact of the division system and ongoing militarization. Drawing from historical and contemporary analysis, the report highlights how women's human rights in Korea are harmed by the presence of U.S. military bases, the gendered consequences of landmines and unexploded ordnance, and the enduring trauma of family separation.

WCDMZ Executive Director Cathi Choi launched the report at the NGO CSW Forum in New York in a joint session with partners and the Education for Social Justice Foundation titled "Women and Families in Conflict-Related Sexual Violence: Transnational Lessons from Asia & Latin America."

Feminist Peace Playbook

In March 2025, we released the *Feminist Peace Playbook: A Guide to Transforming U.S. Policy* in New York City and Washington, DC. This comprehensive guide for movements, researchers, policymakers, philanthropists, and journalists seeks to reorient U.S. foreign policy away from militarism and endless wars and toward justice, peace, and collective security. We launched the playbook with our Feminist Peace Initiative partners, MADRE and Grassroots Global Justice Alliance, and the Inclusive Global Leadership Initiative at the University of Denver. At our Washington, DC launch, we were joined by Representatives Ilhan Omar and Delia Ramirez.

WCDMZ Founder Christine Ahn presented a joint session with Feminist Peace Initiative partners, "Launching the Feminist Peace Playbook: A Guide to Transforming U.S. Foreign Policy," at the NGO CSW Forum.

People's Summit for Korea

In July 2025, KPNGN members joined the People's Summit for Korea, alongside dozens of organizations. Cathi Choi and KPNGN Coordinator Hayden Smith co-hosted a panel, "Policy and People Power: The Role of Advocacy in the Korean Liberation Movement."

March 12, 2019: We launched the global campaign Korea Peace Now! Women Mobilizing to End the War in Washington, DC, with the Nobel Women's Initiative, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and the Korean Women's Movement for Peace. We formed the Korea Peace Now! Grassroots Network to organize communities in the United States to call for a shift in U.S. policy toward peace.

October 30, 2019: We released *The Human Costs and Gendered Impact of Sanctions on North Korea*, the first comprehensive assessment of the adverse consequences of sanctions on the DPRK.



Activism & Political Education

Our efforts to bring an end to the Korean War and build an inter-community movement for peace happen virtually and in-person. Online political education focuses on deepening and expanding the public's awareness of Korea peace and related issues, and our in-person activism amplifies our demands for peace and builds solidarity with other anti-war movements.

Rapid Mobilization in Response to Martial Law

In December 2024, grassroots members across the country quickly mobilized and organized rallies to express solidarity with the South Korean people's demand for Yoon Suk Yeol to resign, after his failed coup attempt and martial law declaration.

- December 4, Washington, DC
- December 6, Honolulu
- December 13, New York
- December 13, Las Vegas
- December 14, Guåhan
- December 15, Philadelphia

Congressional Letter Campaign

We organized a letter campaign focused on pressuring members of Congress to support the South Korean mass movement for democracy. Constituents sent over 400 letters to 125 U.S.

Congressional representatives, calling for an end to the "ironclad" alliance with Yoon in alignment with the mass democracy movement in South Korea.

The People's March

In January 2025, we participated in the People's March in Washington, DC to call for an end to U.S. forever wars, oppose the global rise of authoritarianism, and support peace in Korea.

The Far Right and the New Cold War: Transnational Organizing from Korea to the U.S.

On March 19, 2025, Cathi Choi joined scholar Mark Tseng-Putterman's course at the University of Pennsylvania to discuss the rise in right-wing forces in Korea following impeached President Yoon's martial law declaration and the bipartisan U.S. policy escalating tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

Apology & Reparation: The Jeju 4.3 Tragedy

On April 2, 2025, we invited legal scholars Eric Yamamoto and Miyoko Pettit-Toledo to present on Jeju 4.3 and the connections between persecuted villagers' trials and the 1980s petitions to reopen the cases of Japanese

February 6, 2020: We launched the Feminist Peace Initiative with MADRE and Grassroots Global Justice Alliance to advance our vision for a movement-driven U.S. foreign policy based on feminist principles of peace, justice, and collective security.

February 2, 2021: We released the *Path to Peace* report, showing how a peace-first approach can resolve the security crisis on the Korean Peninsula.

2021-2024: We organized more than 80 global screenings of *Crossings*, a documentary film by Emmy-award-winning filmmaker Deann Borshay Liem, about our historic 2015 crossing — reaching thousands of people and helping to shift the narrative on the Korean War.



Americans who were criminalized for resisting internment during World War II. Panelists discussed how Korean and Japanese American resisters utilized legal advocacy, community organizing, and reparations to achieve justice and social healing.

How to Prevent a Coup

On April 25, 2025, Cathi Choi joined World Beyond War's webinar to discuss the people-powered movement that strategically and successfully stopped martial law in South Korea and lessons in grassroots mobilizing for democracy and self-governance.

Boycott, Divest, and Sanctions Korea

At a rally during the 42nd Urgent Action by Korean Civil Society Condemning Israel's Genocide in Gaza, led by Palestine Peace Solidarity (팔레스타인평화연대), in May 2025, Cathi Choi spoke on the connections between the Palestinian struggle for liberation and

Korean resistance to rampant militarism. "Military solutions, more policing, more surveilling — these are not our only options. We deserve more from life," Cathi reflected.

How Global U.S. Militarism Impacts Americans: Korea, War, and U.S. Domestic Policies

On August 10, 2025, WCDMZ Director of Organizing Echo and Board Chair Ji-Yeon Yuh discussed the consequences of the ballooning war economy and U.S. militarism in Korea at the HANA Center in Chicago.

8.15 National Liberation Day Rallies

KPNGN members joined and organized rallies for National Liberation Day on August 15 in Washington, DC, Philadelphia, and Los Angeles. We called for an end to the Korean War and halting the U.S.-South Korean joint war games, which escalate tensions, harm civilians, and renew the threat of conflict.

U.S. Representative Delia Ramirez speaks at the Feminist Peace Playbook launch led by Women Cross DMZ, MADRE, and Grassroots Global Justice Alliance in Washington, DC in May 2025. Photo by Zay Cruise Media

July 27-28, 2023: Together with our partners, we organized Korea Peace Action, a national gathering of hundreds of Korea peace supporters in Washington, DC, on the 70th anniversary of the Korean War armistice.

May 23-27, 2025: On the 10-year anniversary of Women Cross DMZ's founding crossing, we brought a delegation of feminist leaders to meet with leading peace activists and organizers in Korea. Our activities included a peace walk around Camp Humphreys in Pyeongtaek, the largest overseas U.S. military base.

10-Year Anniversary Trek

We marked the 10-year anniversary of our historic crossing of the DMZ by bringing a delegation of feminist leaders from the United States to meet with fellow peace activists in Korea. We forged transnational solidarity and amplified calls to end the Korean War. Strengthening these connections is particularly important as democracies across the globe face growing attacks by far-right forces, and tensions continue to escalate between the U.S. and China, raising the risk of war in Northeast Asia. Our delegation included Afghan American, Indigenous (to Turtle Island), Korean American, and South Asian feminist leaders.

We learned about the ongoing impact of the Korean War, and how everyday people — especially women — are working to bring peace and undo decades of harmful militarism. On the trip, we engaged hundreds of people in-person, and our daily reels on social media racked up over 100,000 views.

Pyeongtaek March

On International Women’s Day for Peace and Disarmament, we commemorated the ten-year anniversary of Women Cross DMZ’s inaugural crossing by marching with hundreds of women peace activists outside the largest overseas U.S. military base, Camp Humphreys, in Pyeongtaek. With this action, we called for an end to the 75-year-old Korean War and rampant militarism in Korea.

Dongducheon

We visited the site of a former medical detention center, euphemistically called the “Monkey House,” in Dongducheon. In the 1960s and ‘70s, thousands of Korean women were confined within its walls, forcibly subjected to painful and sometimes deadly STD treatment — primarily intended to protect U.S. servicemen, with no regard for the women’s health. The



Pyeongtaek March



Pyeongtaek March



Dongducheon

South Korean government and the U.S. military cooperated in creating this system of violence against women. Now the government wants to demolish the site. We visited with the activists staging an encampment to preserve this site so that future generations can learn about the history of human rights abuses.



Jeju 4.3 Ceremony



Jeju Boat Send-Off Ceremony



Jeju Gangjeong

Jeju 4.3

We traveled to Jeju Island, where we learned about how the U.S.-backed South Korean police and military forces indiscriminately killed tens of thousands of civilians between April 3, 1948 and May 1949 in what is referred to as the April 3rd Jeju “Incident.” In the aftermath of Korea’s division, Jeju civilians organized protests and a strike against the forced elections in the U.S.-occupied half of southern Korea. In response, U.S.-backed Korean police forces and paramilitary groups killed an estimated 30,000 people, destroyed 300 villages, and displaced 80,000 to 90,000 people. South Korean government officials heavily censored and covered up evidence of the massacre. Survivors were silenced, disappeared, or imprisoned.

After years of civic activism, the National Committee for Investigation of the Truth about

the Jeju 4.3 Events was established in 2000, and found that the U.S. military played an active role in overseeing mass executions, forced displacement, and the starvation of civilians. While the South Korean government has issued an official apology for the atrocities, the U.S. has yet to take accountability. Our delegation visited with leaders of the Jeju 4.3 Peace Park and participated in a memorial for the victims.

Jeju Gangjeong

We visited Gangjeong on Jeju Island, where the construction of a South Korean naval base in 2016 has been the focus of ongoing resistance. Gangjeong activists hold daily human chain rallies in front of the base to protest its presence, draw attention to the human and environmental harm, and call for the complete demilitarization of Jeju. We joined the human chain rally and discussed the importance of challenging militarism for both environmental justice and genuine human security.

Our delegation also participated in a send-off ceremony for a boat sailing from Jeju Island to the DMZ, calling for peace in Korea. Villagers, young and old, sang and danced, highlighting the island’s ongoing militarization and its connections to struggles across the globe.

What People Are Saying About Women Cross DMZ

"Korean Americans have a unique role to play in ending the Korean War, the longest-running U.S. conflict. Women Cross DMZ embodies the leadership our communities need. Their commitment to feminist peace speaks directly to the lived experiences of all immigrants who understand that U.S. forever wars and militarism abroad impact our communities back home. By uplifting the next generation, empowering women's leadership, and advocating to reunite families, Women Cross DMZ reminds us that Korea peace is possible, and that our stories, leadership, and actions matter."

**- Inhe Choi, Executive Director,
Organizing and Resource Institute**



"Women Cross DMZ demonstrates what principled, community-rooted advocacy looks like — amplifying grassroots voices and building intergenerational leadership. As a co-sponsor of the Peace on the Korean Peninsula Act and Founder and Co-Chair of the Global Migration Caucus, I recognize the critical work they do to strengthen peace through diplomacy and reunite families divided by the Korean War. I commend Women Cross DMZ for their consistent feminist leadership in paving a new way of diplomacy, women's leadership, and lasting peace."

**- U.S. Representative
Delia Ramirez (D-IL)**



"Women Cross DMZ are invaluable leaders and partners in our advocacy for Korea Peace. We could not do it without them. Inspired by our Catholic faith and Maryknoll's long history accompanying people on the Korean Peninsula, we look with confidence and gratitude to Women Cross DMZ for expert insight, strategic guidance, and mobilizing power. Essential to us is Women Cross DMZ's emphasis on the crucial leadership of women in building just and sustainable peace."

- Dan Moriarty, Senior Program Officer for Peace & Nonviolence, Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns



"Traveling to Korea revealed the tragic costs of this unresolved war on all Koreans, especially women. Standing at the DMZ, I was struck by how arbitrary so many borders are—imposed by imperial powers that fracture communities who share more than what separates them. As a Sindhi American whose family was dispossessed from Sindh in present-day Pakistan, I felt this deeply. To me, Women Cross DMZ represents a model of how to overcome these fractures by investing in women peacebuilders and people-powered advocacy and imagine a future beyond artificial divides—one rooted in justice and collective security for all."

– **Sonia Jagtiani, Program Associate, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, & 10-Year Anniversary Korea Trek Delegate**



"As a women's peace leader in my home country, Liberia, I know firsthand how critical women's leadership is in building peace. Joining the 2015 crossing forever changed how I view Korea and the tragic 85-year division. For the past decade, Women Cross DMZ has brought new champions to Korea peace. I am honored to support them for the decade to come!"

– **Leymah Gbowee, Nobel Laureate, Peace Activist, and 2015 Crossing Delegate**



"As an attorney and law professor, I have seen firsthand how reparative justice and intergenerational healing are critical parts of peace advocacy. Women Cross DMZ has developed an incredible model of intergenerational healing, peacebuilding, and cross-collective activism that champions grassroots change for peace and justice in Korea and the U.S."

– **Miyoko Pettit-Toledo, Professor of Law, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa**



"This past year has marked an especially tumultuous time in U.S.-Korea relations. Women Cross DMZ has empowered everyday people in the United States like me to overcome the tendency to just watch such vast events as a helpless bystander and instead engage with our current times as a driven organizer for peace in Korea and across all war-ravaged parts of the world. Women Cross DMZ's educational resources, organizing infrastructure, and coalitions have played a major role in helping the Korean diaspora community and other individuals based in the U.S. to stave off feelings of isolation and apathy, and instead find community, build people power, and take collective action to challenge the normalization of U.S. militarism and build peace."

– **Hayden Smith, Coordinator, Korea Peace Now! Grassroots Network**



Events We Participated In

10.18.24	"Path to Peace for Korean Americans," Los Angeles, CA	3.13.25	"Launching the <i>Feminist Peace Playbook: A Guide to Transforming U.S. Foreign Policy</i>," Feminist Peace Initiative, New York, NY
10.24.24	"Paths Across Borders: Women and Migration from Korea and Mexico," University of Guadalajara and Korea Mex Kulture, online	3.19.25	"The Far Right and the New Cold War: Transnational Organizing from Korea to the US," Asian American Studies Program, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
11.11-15.24	Korea Peace Legislative Advocacy retreat, Akron, PA	3.24.25	"Peace and Justice Conversations: The Feminist Path to Peace," New Hampshire Peace Action, online
12.2.24	"What Trump Means for Korea: 2024 Election Webinar," Nodutdol and Korea Peace Now! Grassroots Network, online	4.2.25	"Apology & Reparation: The Jeju 4.3 Retrials and the Japanese American coram nobis Cases: United States, South Korea, and the Jeju 4.3 Tragedy," Women Cross DMZ and Korea Peace Now! Grassroots Network, online
12.3.24	Emergency Rally: No Martial Law in South Korea!, Washington, DC	4.25.25	"How to Prevent a Coup: Lessons From Korea," World Beyond War, online
12.4.24	Emergency Mobilization: Yoon Must Resign, San Francisco, CA	5.24.25	Crossings 10-Year Anniversary Screening, Women Cross DMZ and Korea Peace Now! Grassroots Network, online
12.6.24	Emergency Rally: No Martial Law in South Korea!, Honolulu, HI	5.28.25	42nd Urgent Action by Korean Civil Society Condemning Israel's Genocide in Gaza, hosted by BDS Korea, Seoul, South Korea
12.8.24	"Martial Law Interrupted: Views from South Korea," Korea Peace Now! Grassroots Network, Nodutdol, Women Cross DMZ, the Korea Policy Institute, and The Center for Racial Justice at UC Santa Cruz, online	6.9-13.25	Korea Peace Advocacy Week, online and Washington, DC
12.13.24	Emergency Rally to Support the Democracy Movement in Korea, Washington, DC	6.10.25	"Peace Within, Peace for Korea: Buddhist Wisdom for Sustained Activism," Korea Peace Now! Grassroots Network Faith-Based Caucus, online
12.13.24	Emergency Mobilization: Yoon Must Resign, New York, NY	6.28.25	Conference of Asian Pacific American Law Faculty (CAPALF) at the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Honolulu, HI
1.15.25	"Atomic Bomb Victims Seek Justice - and the Outlawing of Nuclear Weapons - Through the People's Tribunal," hosted by The People's Tribunal Organizing Committee, online	7.25-27.25	People's Summit for Korea, New York, NY
2.6.25	"The Stories We Bring to Bear: Flipping the Script on Adoption," Korea Peace Now! Grassroots Network and GYOPO, online	8.10.25	"How Global U.S. Militarism Impacts Americans: Korea, War, and U.S. Domestic Policies," Korea Peace Now! Grassroots Network, Chicago, IL
3.8.25	"International Women's Day: How Secure Aren't We?," Ploughshares Fund, online	8.27.25	"Transnational Political Activism among Korean and Korean American Women," Northwestern University and Ewha Women's University, online
3.10.25	Women's Rights Under the Division System in Korea Report Launch webinar, online	9.9.25	"Peace is Local" panel at Feminist Funded 2025, Washington, DC
3.12.25	"Women and Families in Conflict-Related Sexual Violence: Transnational Lessons from Asia & Latin America," Women Cross DMZ and the Education for Social Justice Foundation, United Nations' 69th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, New York, NY		

The Impact of Our Work, By the Numbers

9,264

The number of subscribers to our email newsletter.

590+

The number of donors who have supported Women Cross DMZ from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2024.

45

The number of co-sponsors of H.R. 1841, the Peace on the Korean Peninsula Act, as of October 28, 2025.

152

The number of people who signed up to participate in Korea Peace Advocacy Week 2025.

75

The number of Congressional meetings we held to advocate for Korea peace legislation in the past year.

3,306

The number of people Women Cross DMZ engaged at in-person and virtual events in the last year on the issue of Korea peace and ending the Korean War.

35,172

The number of views on Women Cross DMZ's YouTube channel.

260,000+

The number of views Women Cross DMZ and Korea Peace Now! reached on Instagram this year.

70,000+

The number of accounts Women Cross DMZ and Korea Peace Now! reached on Instagram between September 2024 and September 2025.

18,000+

The number of followers Women Cross DMZ and Korea Peace Now! reached across our social media platforms (Instagram, X, and Facebook).

Media Coverage of Our Work

At Paju News 파주에서신문

Common Dreams

Convergence Mag

The Chronicle of Philanthropy

Democracy Now!

Gyeoja

Hawai'i Public Radio

Honolulu Star Advertiser

Hyperallergic

In These Times

Korea Times 한국일보

Korean Quarterly

The Korea Times

The Korean New York Daily

KPFA Radio

The National Interest

Nonprofit Quarterly

NK News

OhmyNews

Rolling Stone

Seattle Korean Daily

Truthout

USA Today

WBAI Radio

“As a country, we have grown accustomed to the lie that we can bomb our way to security. Millions have paid the price, from communities worldwide on the frontlines of U.S. wars to marginalized communities here at home deprived of basic services. The need to challenge U.S. militarism has never been more urgent. Authoritarians rely on militarism to stoke fear, silence dissent, and concentrate control.”

– Christine Ahn, Marie Berry, and Diana Duarte
op-ed in *Convergence Magazine*, June 11, 2025

“In the opening hours of an increasingly possible military conflict between the two Koreas, conservative estimates are that tens of thousands of people would die. ... We can see all too clearly the cycles of U.S.-backed authoritarians in South Korea enacting mass violence against civilians and instigating geopolitical instability with grave consequences. We cannot repeat history.”

– Cathi Choi, op-ed in *In These Times*, February 2, 2025

“The ongoing events in South Korea should not just be a distant news item for U.S. readers with abstract lessons for ‘democracy.’ We must understand that the United States has been involved with the Korean Peninsula for decades, and U.S. militarism has profoundly shaped South Korea’s political landscape.”

– Cathi Choi, op-ed in *In These Times*, February 2, 2025

“No democracy can thrive under toxic patriarchy and militarism. Policies rooted in militarism often shift resources away from policy areas that are critical to the advancement of women and girls. Attacks on democracy and the expansion of militarism threaten women’s rights, and women are more likely to be exposed to gender-based violence during wartime.”

– Cathi Choi, op-ed in *Common Dreams*, June 4, 2025

“With the US at war in the Middle East, North Korean troops in Ukraine, and numerous other war zones across the globe, the need for peace in northeast Asia is greater now than ever before.”

– Ji-Yeon Yuh, op-ed in *The National Interest*, July 1, 2025

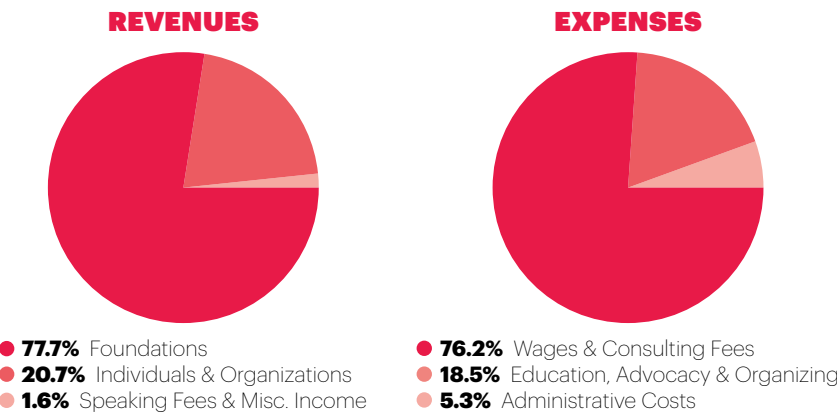
Our Financial Health

In fiscal year 2025 (July 1, 2024- June 30, 2025), our revenues totaled \$637,821: \$503,800 from 13 institutional donors and foundations and \$134,021 from 230 organizations and individuals whose gifts ranged from \$5 to \$20,000. A successful end-of-year fundraising campaign spearheaded by Cathi Choi, with the aid and support of our Founder, Christine Ahn and longtime Board Chair, Aiyoung Choi, raised over \$280,000. We continue to be grateful for the in-kind support from our pro bono counsel, the law firm Steptoe & Johnson, as well as IT/security support from Tiny Gigantic.

Expenses

Our expenses for 2024-2025 totaled \$532,658. Ninety-four percent of the money we raise goes directly to support our education, advocacy, and organizing expenses, with the majority of this total committed to wage and consulting fees for our team. Because our work continues to be mostly virtual, and because we have no dedicated office, hence no rental costs, our administrative overhead continues to be low, a modest 6% of our expenses.

Given the oft-stated goal of the current administration to limit the work of progressive organizations, Women Cross DMZ has taken steps to tighten our financial belt by reducing the size of our staff, capping salaries and wages, and honing the focus of our campaigns for the most strategic impact. We are looking to reduce our expenses by roughly \$75,000 in FY 2026 while expecting lower revenues. We face perennial fundraising challenges: Although Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders make up 7% of the U.S. population, AAPI organizations receive less than 1% of philanthropic funds, while only 2% of philanthropic dollars go to support peace activities. We have undertaken steps to reach out to new foundations and donors. We especially appreciate the many foundations, organizations, and donors who have stood by us year after year.



Who We Are

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The Road Ahead



WCDMZ delegates and supporters hold our peace jogakbo, based on a traditional Korean textile, outside the Camp Humphreys military base in Pyeongtaek on International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament in May 2025.
Photo by Stephen Wunrow

As political changes continue to unfold, we will continue to advocate for Korea peace, center feminist and youth leadership, and build broad coalitions. Our plans for 2026 include:

- Publishing ground-breaking feminist analysis:** We will continue to highlight the impact of war and militarism on women in Korea and globally through analysis, educational initiatives, media advocacy, and more. This will include multifaceted programming on the lawsuit filed by Korean women seeking accountability from the U.S. military for human rights abuses.
- Advocating for progressive Korea peace legislation on the Hill:** We will continue advocating for the Peace on the Korean Peninsula Act and changes in military spending, including amendments to the National Defense Authorization Act.
- Training the next generation of leaders:** We will organize a series of convenings for next generation activists to build skills in legislative advocacy, combating far-right agendas, and seeking redress for historic injustices.
- Feminist counter to the “New Cold War”:** We will convene leading feminist activists and produce policy papers that promote dialogue and civil society engagement on issues pertaining to North Korea, Russia, and China.
- Militarism and Democracy:** We will organize activists, scholars, policymakers, and journalists to engage in critical conversation about the ways in which U.S. forever wars and militarism undermine democracy both at home and abroad.



MOBILIZING WOMEN
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