RECOMMENDATIONS: The Korea Peace Process

Where pressure has failed for decades, a peace agreement is the most viable and effective framework for resolving the security crisis on the Korean Peninsula. For the Korea peace process to be successful, the Korea Peace Now! campaign recommends:

1. The United States, South Korea, and North Korea should immediately conclude a fair and binding peace agreement that acts as a final settlement of the war and serves as a foundation for a peace regime.
   a. The parties should not set political preconditions.
   b. The parties may first declare an end to the war in a nonbinding instrument, if necessary, to build political momentum toward the ratification of a binding agreement.
   c. They should recognize that wartime rights to use force have ended.
   d. The parties should recognize that a peace agreement implies the end of the Armistice and the United Nations Command.
   e. The parties should recognize the borders declared in the Armistice.
   f. The parties should conclude peace regardless of whether they achieve consensus on aspects of the security crisis beyond the use of force.
   g. They should commit to further pursue the resolution of the crisis through the eventual realization of a lasting and stable peace regime and through the normalization of diplomatic relations.
   h. The parties should refrain from instrumentalizing the prospect of a peace agreement as a bargaining chip for subjects beyond the use of force.

2. In order to maximize the sustainability of a peace agreement, the parties should realize a peace regime based on the following principles:
   a. The pursuit of cooperative and shared security through fair arms reduction and military confidence-building measures.
   b. Ending the division of the region into Cold War blocs by mutual recognition of each side’s right to exist, their sovereign equality, and their basic freedom to choose their own political, social, economic, and cultural system.
   c. Holding all sides accountable to their responsibility in realizing a nuclear-weapons free world.
   d. The full realization of the right to peace and the recognition that life without war is the primary international prerequisite for the full implementation of the rights and fundamental human freedoms proclaimed by the United Nations.
   e. The inclusion of women in the peace process, pursuant to the requirements of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, as well as the Women, Peace, and Security Framework laid out in United Nations Security Council resolution 1325. A peace regime should establish procedures for the full, effective, and meaningful participation of women and civil society groups advocating for peace and redefine security away from militarism and war and toward a feminist understanding that centers human needs and ecological sustainability.

These recommendations are based on the findings in Path to Peace: The Case for a Peace Agreement to End the Korean War, published by the transnational feminist campaign Korea Peace Now! Women Mobilizing to End the War in February 2021. Read the full report at KoreaPeaceNow.org.