
Korea Peace Now!
Campus Network

Created
June 2022

EVENT CALENDAR 2022-2023

A suggested timeline of activities and themes to deepen your understanding of Korea peace issues during the school year.



SEPTEMBER THEME: THE UNENDED KOREAN WAR

The Korean War (1950-53) never technically ended but was only halted by a ceasefire. This unresolved war — the oldest US forever war — is the root cause of tensions and militarism on the Korean Peninsula. Learn more about why we need a peace agreement to formally end the Korean War.

Suggested activities:

- Read and discuss "[Path to Peace: The Case for a Peace Agreement to End the Korean War](#)"
- [Sign up](#) to join our annual Korea Peace Advocacy Week
- Read our [Lobby Visit Guide](#) and [How to Share Your Story](#), and then set up a meeting with and/or [email](#) your members of Congress to advocate for H.R.3446, the Peace on the Korean Peninsula Act

Administrative checklist:

- Register your club for the 2022-2023 school year. Use our starter kit to help recruit members.
- Meet with your leadership team to plan for the year
- Recruit new members through fairs, social media, etc.

Important dates:

- September 19: Anniversary of Pyongyang Joint Declaration (2018)
- September 21: International Day of Peace

OCTOBER THEME: THE IMPACT OF SANCTIONS

Decades of pressure-based tactics such as sanctions and isolation have not had the intended effect on North Korea; in fact, they've only fueled Pyongyang's nuclear ambitions. Sanctions also harm the most vulnerable people of North Korea. Learn about the impact of sanctions and why they must be lifted to achieve lasting peace in Korea.

Suggested activities:

- Read and discuss "The Human Costs and Gendered Impact of [Sanctions on North Korea](#)"
- Host an event to educate students on this issue

Important dates:

- October 4: Anniversary of North-South Summit Declaration (2007)
- October 31: Anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325

NOVEMBER THEME: CAMPTOWNS & US MILITARY PRESENCE IN SOUTH KOREA

The “North Korean threat” is used as justification for the ongoing US military presence in South Korea. Yet the US military has been far from a benign presence. Learn about the impact of US military bases in South Korea, particularly as it relates to prostitution around “camptowns.”

- Read “[Welcome to the Monkey House](#)” by Tim Shorrock
- Watch “[The Women Outside: Korean Women and the U.S. Military](#)” by J.T. Takagi and Hye Jung Park
- Discuss how Korean women have been harmed for the sake of strengthening the US-ROK alliance

DECEMBER THEME: HUMAN RIGHTS AND PEACE

Human rights abuses are often cited as a reason to withhold peace with North Korea. Learn about the connection between human rights and peace and how the two issues are mutually reinforcing.

Suggested activities:

- Host a screening of “[Peace and Human Rights in North Korea: An Argument For Ending the War](#)”
- Read and discuss “[Human rights concerns must not be an obstacle to peace with North Korea](#)”
- Discuss the connection between peace and human rights

Important dates:

- December 10: Human Rights Day



A scene from Deann Borshay Liem's documentary CROSSINGS.

JANUARY THEME: US-ROK MILITARY EXERCISES

Every spring and fall, the United States and South Korea hold costly and provocative joint military exercises. Learn why it's critical to end them to achieve peace on the Korean Peninsula.

Suggested activities:

- Watch "For Peace in Korea, No More War Drills!"
- Brainstorm ways to call attention to the US-ROK war games and how they set back peace negotiations.

FEBRUARY THEME: DIVIDED FAMILIES AND TRAVEL BAN

Since 2017, the State Department has prohibited US citizens from traveling to North Korea. This ban prevents Korean Americans from visiting their family members in North Korea, hinders humanitarian organizations from delivering critical assistance, and obstructs US citizens from engaging in people-to-people exchanges and peace-building efforts. It's yet another tragic cost of the unresolved 70-year-old Korean War. Learn more about the tragedy of divided families and take action to lift the travel ban.

Suggested activities:

- Watch and discuss the webinar "LIFT for Peace: End the Travel Ban to North Korea"
- Sign the petition calling on the State Department to allow US citizens to once again travel to North Korea
- Urge your members of Congress to support H.R.1504, the Enhancing North Korea Humanitarian Assistance Act, and S.2688, the Korean War Divided Families Reunification Act
- Join a meeting of the LIFT campaign (Let Individuals Freely Travel). Email echo@womenscrossdmz.org for Zoom link.

Separated families are one of the most tragic consequences of the ongoing Korean War.



MARCH THEME: WOMEN'S PEACEBUILDING

Korean women have a particular stake in resolving the Korean War due to the gendered impacts of war and militarism, and have long been calling for an end to the war, yet few women are involved in formal peacemaking initiatives. Understand why women should be involved in the Korea peace process and how feminism can offer a framework for reshaping US foreign policy.

Suggested activities:

- Read and discuss "[From grassroots to peace talks: Women in the inter-Korean peace process](#)"
- Read "[Crossing Borders: a feminist history of Women Cross DMZ](#)"
- Host a screening of the documentary CROSSINGS and consider inviting a member of the original delegation for a Q&A. Use the toolkit to spark a discussion about the importance of women's peacebuilding efforts.
- Read the Feminist Peace Initiative's "[A Vision for a Feminist Peace: Building a Movement-Driven Foreign Policy](#)."
- Discuss how intersectional feminist principles can offer a framework for reshaping US foreign policy

Important dates:

- March: Women's History Month
- March 8: International Women's Day

APRIL THEME: INTER-KOREAN PEACE

In 2018, South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean Leader Kim Jong Un adopted the Panmunjom Declaration for Peace, Prosperity and Reunification of the Korean Peninsula. The two leaders agreed to cooperate on officially ending the Korean War, beginning a new era of peace and national reconciliation, and improving inter-Korean communications and relations. Yet the United States has repeatedly impeded inter-Korean cooperation.

Suggested activities:

- Read the text of the Panmunjom Declaration.
- Read chapters 6-8 of Korea: Division, Reunification, and U.S. Foreign Policy by Martin Hart-Landsberg
- Discuss how inter-Korean efforts can further the cause of peace.

Important dates:

- April 22: Earth Day
- April 27: Anniversary of the Panmunjom Declaration

MAY THEME: US IMPERIALISM AND RACISM

For Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, discuss the ways that the AAPI experience is shaped by US foreign policy.

Suggested activities:

- Read "[Anti-Asian Violence in America Is Rooted in US Empire](#)"
- Discuss the connections between US foreign policy in Asia and anti-Asian violence in the United States
- Brainstorm ways that Korea peace can offer an opportunity for building international solidarity with other movements across national, racial, and other lines

Administrative checklist:

- Meet with your club members and elect next year's leadership board.
- Provide end of year feedback to elisha@womencrossdmz.org.

Important dates:

- May: Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month
- May 18: Anniversary of the Gwangju Uprising
- May 24: International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament (anniversary of Women Cross DMZ's 2015 crossing)

Members of the San Francisco Bay Area chapter of the Korea Peace Now! Grassroots Network meet with Rep. Ro Khanna.

