

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon
United Nations Headquarters

September 27, 2016

Dear Secretary-General Ban:

We are women leaders from 38 countries, including many from nations that fought in the Korean War. We are from academia, business, civil society and the military, and represent a diversity of ethnicities, nationalities, religions, and political views. We are united by our belief that diplomacy is the only way to end the Korean War.

On July 27, 1953 leaders from the United States, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and China signed the Armistice Agreement to halt the Korean War. They promised to re-convene within three months to replace the ceasefire with a binding peace agreement. This never occurred and an entrenched state of war has ever since defined inter-Korean and U.S.-D.P.R.K. relations. This war must end.

We urge you as the leader of the UN, which was established "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war," to fulfill a promise you made in a 2007 speech where you stated, "*Beyond a peaceful resolution of the nuclear issue with North Korea, we should aim to establish a peace mechanism, through transition from armistice to a permanent peace regimen.*"

Korea is the only nation to remain divided as a result of WWII. For three generations, millions of families have been separated by the world's most militarized border. **We urge you to lead the process of bringing formal closure to the longest standing war before you leave your post in the United Nations.**

During your remaining time as Secretary-General, we urge you to:

1. Initiate a peace process, together with the UN Security Council President, to replace the 1953 Armistice Agreement with a binding peace treaty to end the Korean War.
2. Aim to conclude this peace process by 2018, the 70th anniversary of Korea's division into two separate states.
3. Ensure that women are significantly represented in the peace process in accordance with the spirit of UNSCR 1325.

On both sides of the De-Militarized Zone, the absence of a binding peace accord fuels fear, violations of human rights, and economic deprivation caused by diverting resources in preparation for war. Since 1950 Korea has been threatened with nuclear weapons (first by the United States and now also by North Korea), North Korean missile tests, and U.S.-South Korean military exercises. Furthermore, the recent decision to install the U.S. THAAD missile defense system in South Korea is viewed by countries in the region as a highly provocative and potentially destabilizing move.

Peace is the most powerful deterrent of all. As the Secretary-General of the UN with the mandate to maintain international peace and security, we urge you to take steps now to help formally end the Korean War with a peace treaty. Doing so would lead to greater peace and security in the world by countering the escalating militarization in the region and the proliferation of nuclear weapons worldwide.

The global community can no longer ignore the tragedy suffered by the Korean people. We look to you to leave behind a legacy of diplomacy for peace in Korea, Northeast Asia and our world, and to continue your active engagement for peace in Korea in your private capacity. We would appreciate acknowledgment of your receipt of this letter to info@womencrossdmz.org.

Sincerely Yours,

1. Abigail Disney, USA, Filmmaker and Philanthropist
2. Aiyoung Choi, USA, Steering Committee Member, Women Cross DMZ

3. Alice Slater, USA, Coordinating Committee Member, World Beyond War
4. Alice Walker, USA, Author and Activist
5. Amina Mama, Nigeria/USA, Professor, University of California, Davis
6. Amira Ali, Ethiopia, Author and Activist
7. Ana Oliveira, USA, Philanthropist
8. Anasuya Sengupta, India, Feminist author and activist, co-founder Whose Voices?
9. Ani DiFranco, USA, Singer, Songwriter, Poet, Multi-instrumentalist & Businesswoman
10. Anne Delaney, USA, Artist and Philanthropist
11. Anuradha Mittal, USA, Executive Director, Oakland Institute
12. Ann Patterson, Northern Ireland, Peace People
13. Ann Wright, USA, Retired US Army Colonel & Diplomat
14. Anne Beldo, Norway, Lawyer and Partner of Hegg & Co. Law Firm
15. Annette Groth, Germany, Member of Bundestag
16. Annie Isabel Fukushima, USA, Professor, University of Utah
17. Audrey McLaughlin, Canada, Former President, Socialist International Women
18. Betty Reardon, USA, Founding Director of the International Institute on Peace Education
19. Brinton Lykes, USA, Professor, Boston College
20. Charlotte Wiktorsson, Sweden, Swedish Physicians Against War
21. Christine Ahn, USA, International Coordinator, Women Cross DMZ
22. Chung-Wha Hong, USA, Executive Director, Grassroots International
23. Cindy Wiesner, USA, Grassroots Global Justice Alliance National Coordinator
24. Coleen Baik, USA, Twitter @Design Alumna
25. Cora Weiss, USA, Founder, Hague Appeal for Peace
26. Cynda Collins Arsenault, USA, Philanthropist, Secure World Foundation
27. Cynthia Enloe, USA, Professor, Clark University
28. Deann Borshay Liem, USA, Filmmaker
29. Don Mee Choi, USA, Poet & Translator, International Women's Network Against Militarism
30. Dorchen A. Leidholdt, USA, Attorney, Professor, Feminist
31. Ekaterina Zagladina, Russia, Permanent Secretariat, Nobel Peace Summit
32. Elaine H. Kim, USA, Professor, University of California, Berkeley
33. Eleana J. Kim, Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of California, Irvine
34. Ellen Carol DuBois, Professor, History and Gender Studies, University of California, Los Angeles
35. Emilia Castro, Canada, Co-Representative of Intl. Committee, Americas Region, World March of Women
36. Eve Ensler, USA, Playwright
37. Fiona Dove, Netherlands, Executive Director, Transnational Institute
38. Fragkiska Megaloudi, Greece, Journalist
39. Frances Kissling, USA, University of Pennsylvania; former President, Catholics for Choice
40. Francisca de Haan, Netherlands, Professor, Central European University
41. Gabriela Zapata Alvarez, Mexico, Consultative Group to Assist the Poor
42. Gay Dillingham, USA, Filmmaker, Former Advisor to Governor Bill Richardson
43. Glenda Paige, USA, Secretary, Governing Council, Center for Global Nonkilling
44. Gloria Steinem, USA, Writer and Activist, Presidential Medal of Freedom Awardee
45. Grace Cho, USA, Professor, College of Staten Island, City University of New York
46. Gwyn Kirk, USA, Women for Genuine Security
47. Hazel Smith, United Kingdom, Professor, University of Central Lancashire
48. Helen Caldicott, Australia, Founding President of Physicians for Social Responsibility
49. Helena Wong, USA, U.S. National Organizer, World March of Women
50. Hope A. Cristobal, Guam, Former Senator
51. Hye-Jung Park, USA, Filmmaker, Community Media Activist
52. Hyaeweol Choi, Australia, Professor, Australian National University
53. Hyunju Bae, Republic of Korea, Central and Executive Committee, World Council of Churches
54. Ingeborg Breines, Norway, Co-President, International Peace Bureau; former Director UNESCO
55. Isabella Sargsyan, Armenia, Helsinki Citizens' Assembly
56. Isabelle Geukens, Netherlands, Executive Director, Women Peacemakers Program
57. Jackie Cabasso, USA, U.S. Mayors for Peace
58. Jane Jin Kaisen, Denmark, Artist and Filmmaker

59. Janis Alton, Canada, Co-Chair, Canadian Voice of Women for Peace
60. Jean Chung, Republic of Korea/USA, Founder, Action for One Korea
61. Jennifer Kwon-Dobbs, USA, Professor, St. Olaf College
62. Jodie Evans, USA, Co-founder, Code Pink
63. Judy Rebick, Canada, Former President, National Action Committee on the Status of Women
64. Julie Young, USA, Board Chair, Korean American Story
65. Justine Kwachu Kumche, Cameroon, Executive Director, Women in Alternative Action—WAA
66. Kate Dewes, New Zealand, Former Member of United Nations Secretary General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters; Co-Director of the Disarmament and Security Centre
67. Kate Hudson, United Kingdom, General Secretary, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
68. Kavita Ramdas, USA, Ford Foundation
69. Khin Ohmar, Burma/Myanmar, Coordinator, Burma Partnership
70. Kim Ku'ulei Birnie, Hawaii/USA, Women's Voices, Women Speak
71. Kim Phuc, Canada/Vietnam, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador
72. Kozue Akibayashi, Japan, Intl. President, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
73. Krassimira Daskalova, Bulgaria, Professor, University of Sofia
74. Krishanti Dharmaraj, USA, Executive Director, Center for Women's Global Leadership
75. Kyeong-Hee Choi, USA, Professor, University of Chicago
76. Laura Hein, USA, Professor, Northwestern University
77. Leymah Gbowee, Liberia, 2011 Nobel Peace Laureate
78. Lindsey German, United Kingdom, National Convener, Stop the War Coalition
79. Lisa Natividad, Guam, President, Guahan Coalition for Peace and Justice
80. Liza Maza, Philippines, former Parliamentarian; Gabriella Network
81. Hon. Rev. Lois Wilson, Canada, Senator; Former Moderator of United Church of Canada
82. Luisa Morgantini, Italy, Member, European Parliament
83. Lydia Alpizar, Mexico, Executive Director, AWID (Association of Women's Rights in Development)
84. Madeline Rees, United Kingdom, Secretary General, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
85. Mairead Maguire, Northern Ireland, 1976 Nobel Peace Laureate
86. Maja Vitas Majstorovic, Serbia, Gender Coordinator, Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict
87. Margo Okazawa-Rey, USA, Professor Emerita, San Francisco State University
88. Marilyn Waring, New Zealand, Professor of Public Policy, Auckland University of Technology
89. Marilyn Young, USA, Professor, New York University
90. Mary C. Murphree, USA, Sociologist
91. Medea Benjamin, USA, Co-founder, Code Pink
92. Meenakshi Gopinath, India, Women in Security, Conflict Management and Peace (WISCOMP)
93. Megan Burke, USA, Director, International Campaign to Ban Landmines-Cluster Munitions Coalition
94. Meredith Woo, USA, Open Society Foundations
95. Meri Joyce, Australia, Regional Coordinator, Global Partnership for Prevention of Armed Conflict
96. Mimi Han, Republic of Korea/USA, International Vice President, YWCA
97. Mimi Kim, USA, Professor, Cal State University, Long Beach
98. Mina Watanabe, Japan, Secretary General, Women's Active Museum on War and Peace
99. Nada Drobnjak, Montenegro, Member of Parliament
100. Namhee Lee, USA, Professor, University of California, Los Angeles
101. Nan Kim, USA, Professor, University of Wisconsin
102. Nancy Ruth, Canada, Senator
103. Naomi Klein, Canada, Journalist and Activist
104. Netsai Mushonga, Zimbabwe, Commissioner, Zimbabwe Electoral Commission; African Women Active Nonviolence Initiative for Social Change
105. Nighat Said Khan, Pakistan, Executive Chair, DidiBahini
106. Nina Tsikhistavi-Khutsishvili, Georgia, Board Chair, International Center on Conflict and Negotiation
107. Nunu Kidane, USA, Board Member, Priority Africa Network
108. Patricia Thane, United Kingdom, Professor, Kings College
109. Penny Rosenwasser, USA, Founding Board Member, Jewish Voice for Peace
110. Phyllis Bennis, USA, Director, New Internationalism Project, Institute for Policy Studies
111. Regina Munoz, Sweden, Peace Activist

112. Rose Othieno, Uganda, Executive Director, Center for Conflict Resolution
 113. Saloni Singh, Nepal, Executive Chair, DidiBahini
 114. Sandra Moran, Guatemala, Co-Representative of Intl. Committee, Americas Region, World March of Women
 115. Setsuko Thurlow, Canada, International Educator, Hibakusha/A-Bomb Survivor
 116. Sharon Bhagwan Rolls, Fiji, Executive Producer, FemLINKpacific; Board Chair, Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict
 117. Shirley Douglas, Canada, Actor and Activist
 118. Simone Chun, USA, Journalist and Activist
 119. Sophie Toupin, Canada, Women Peace and Security Network Canada
 120. Sung-ok Lee, USA, Assistant General Secretary, United Methodist Women
 121. Suzuyo Takazato, Japan, Okinawa Women Act Against Military Violence
 122. Suzy Kim, USA, Professor, Rutgers University
 123. Taina Bien-Aime, USA, Executive Director, International Coalition Against Trafficking in Women
 124. Tani Barlow, USA, Professor, Rice University
 125. Terrilee Kekoolani, Ko Pae'Aina Hawai'i, Kanaka Maoli
 126. Terry Greenblatt, Israel/USA, The Ploughshares Fund
 127. Rev. Unzu Lee, USA, Presbyterian Minister, Women for Genuine Security
 128. Valerie Plame, USA, Former Covert CIA Operations Officer
 129. Visaka Dharmadasa, Sri Lanka, Founder, Association of War Affected Women
 130. Wei Zhang, USA, Folk Art Researcher and Philanthropist
 131. Wendi Deetz, USA, Global Fund for Women
 132. Winnie Wang, USA, Center for Global Nonkilling
 133. Yayoi Tsuchida, Japan, General Secretary, Japan Council Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs
 134. Yoonkyung Lee, Canada, Professor, University of Toronto
 135. Youngju Ryu, USA, Professor, University of Michigan
- (List in formation)*

Note: Organizations/Affiliations Listed Only for Identification Purposes

South Korean Women's and Peace Organizations

1. Women Making Peace (평화여성회)
2. Korea Women's Association United (한국여성단체연합/7개 지부, 30개 회원단체)
3. Korean Association of Women Theologians (한국여신학자협의회)
4. The Council of Churches in Korea, Women's Committee (한국기독교교회협의회 여성위원회)
5. The Association of Major Superiors of Women Religious in Korea (한국천주교여자수도회 장상연합회)
6. The Righteous People for Korean Unification (새로운 백년을 여는 통일의병)
7. The Gongju Women Human Rights Center (공주 여성인권)
8. The World Council of Churches (세계교회협의회)
9. The Christian Network for Peace and Unification (평화와통일을위한기독인연대)
10. beyondit (너머서)
11. Okedongmu Children in Korea (어린이 어깨동무)
12. Women History Forum (여성역사포럼)
13. Peace Mother (평화어머니회)
14. Kyunggi Women's Association United (경기여성연합)
15. Kyunggi Goyang-Paju Women Link (경기 고양파주 민우회)
16. Kyunggi Women's Network (경기여성네트워크)
17. The Korean Council for the Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan (한국정신대문제대책협의회)
18. Korea Women's Political Solidarity (여세연)
19. Korean Sharing Movement (우리민족서로돕기운동)
20. People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy (참여연대)
21. Iftopia (문화세상 이프토피아)

22. Ewha Women's Alumni Meeting for Democracy (이화민주동우회)
23. Kyunggi Jinbo Women United (경기여성자주연대)
24. Kyunggi Council of Women (경기여성단체협의회)
25. Chungchung-namdo Education Center for Equality (충청남도 성평등교육문화센터)
26. 21st Century Seoul Women's Union (21세기 서울여성회)
27. Common Nourishing and Education (공동육아와 공동체 교육)
28. Ecumenical Youth Network (에큐메니칼 청년 네트워크)
29. Women Ministers Association of Presbyterian Churches Korea (대한예수교장로회 전국여교역자연합회)
30. Women Ministers' Association of Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (한국기독교장로회여교역자협의회)
31. Korea Association Methodist Women in Ministry (기독교대한감리회 여교역자회)
32. Korea Methodist Women's Leadership Institute (감리교여성지도력개발원)
33. Korea Church Women United (한국교회여성연합회)
34. Duraebang (두레방)
35. Sunlit Sisters' Center (햇살사회복지회)
36. United for Women's Rights Against US Military Bases' Crime (기지촌여성인권연대)
37. United Voice for the Eradication of Prostitution: Hansori (성매매근절을위한 한소리회)

Women Cross DMZ (www.womencrossdmz.org)

Women Cross DMZ is an organization led by women working globally for peace in Korea. In May 2015, on the 70th anniversary of the division of Korea, Women Cross DMZ led a historic women's peace walk across the De-Militarized Zone from North to South Korea to draw global attention to the urgent need to end the Korean War with a peace treaty, reunite divided families, and ensure women's leadership in peacebuilding. Representing 15 countries, our 30-member international delegation walked with 10,000 Korean women on both sides of the DMZ. Our mission is to: 1.) Promote women's leadership in the peacebuilding process in Korea; 2.) Raise awareness about the urgent need for peace in Korea; and 3.) Expand and deepen relationships with women leaders and organizations in South Korea, North Korea, and around the world.