



One Korea Global Campaign



**BUILDING A KOREAN-LED, GLOBALLY SUPPORTED
MOVEMENT FOR A FREE AND UNIFIED KOREA**



One Korea Global Campaign

The One Korea Global Campaign is a growing popular movement to build international support and expand Korean-led grassroots initiatives to advance the peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula.



KOREA AT A TURNING POINT

The more than 70-year division of the Korean peninsula has undermined global security, separated a people with a shared heritage, and perpetuated a humanitarian crisis in the North.

Diplomatic initiatives like the Six-Party Talks and the recent Inter-Korea, US-DPRK summits aimed at resolving security concerns surrounding North Korea's nuclear weapons program have led to little progress in bridging the Cold War divide between the two Koreas.

The reunification of Korea is a formal stated goal of both North and South Korean governments, and is the deepest hope of the Korean people, connected by a common language and culture for nearly 5,000 years.

★ *Korean reunification has implications for peace and shared prosperity not only for Korea but also Northeast Asia and the world.*

Global Peace Foundation has been a leading partner in a global coalition advancing a comprehensive approach to resolving the division on the peninsula, focused on a vision that draws upon the native Korean ethic of Hongik Ingan, "to live to benefit humanity."

Defining the character and scope of a unified Korea as an end goal brings clarity to the process of unifying one people in radically different societies.

With Korean-led initiatives and international support, the One Korea Global Campaign is building momentum and consensus for peace through reunification, with participation of South Korean and international elected officials, Korea scholars and experts, civic and faith leaders, Korean K-pop stars, youth, and global citizens.



KOREAN DREAM: A VISION FOR A UNIFIED KOREA



The Korean Dream expresses the enduring aspiration of the Korean people to create a nation united, independent and free, grounded in the ancient ideal of *Hongik Ingan*, or “living for the benefit of humanity,” and honoring God-given human rights. Over centuries, Hongik Ingan has been embedded in the Korean psyche, forged through the experience of a suffering history and the culture of the extended family, yet has not been sufficiently recognized as an essential foundation for peaceful reunification.

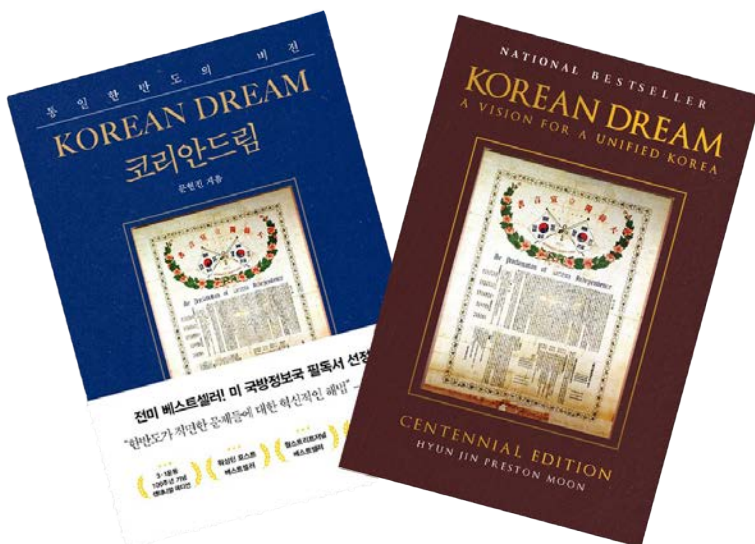
With the collapse of the Soviet Union, the geopolitical realities of the Cold War era that led to the division of the Korean peninsula have changed dramatically. Unification is increasingly being examined, not as a distant dream for future generations, but as a realistic and a strategic approach to promoting regional stability, economic growth, and denuclearization of the peninsula. The brief 73-year span of political division cannot overshadow the centuries of heritage and aspirations for unity and peace shared by all Koreans.

In *Korean Dream: A Vision for a Unified Korea*, Global Peace Foundation Chairman Dr. Hyun Jin Preston Moon presents an innovative way forward on the Korean peninsula, addressing the political division, the oppression and human rights violations endured by Koreans living in the North, as well as the profound social costs of breakneck economic development in the South.

★ ***The Korean Dream is not merely a blueprint for reunification of the Korean peninsula but is a vision that reaches out from the nation to the world.***

Published in 2014, the book was named Book of the Year by the Korean Culture and Arts Publications and has been revised and updated in the English and Korean Centennial edition in 2019. The updated book includes a chapter on advances in the grassroots movement for a free and unified Korea since 2014, as well as growing international recognition of reunification as the most promising approach to promoting global security and human rights. The new edition also includes a timeline of major milestones toward a reunified Korean homeland.

Korean Dream has been recognized by multiple bestseller lists including the *Wall Street Journal* Bestseller List, the *Washington Post* Bestseller List, *Los Angeles Times* Bestseller List, and the Independent Booksellers Alliance Bestsellers List.



DR. HYUN JIN P. MOON, CHAIRMAN OF THE GLOBAL PEACE FOUNDATION AND AUTHOR OF *KOREAN DREAM: A VISION FOR A UNIFIED KOREA*



The 73-year division of the Korean peninsula following the conclusion of World War II has undermined global security, separated a people with a shared history and tradition, and prolonged a humanitarian crisis in the North.

Two starkly different societies have emerged since the 1953 armistice ended the fighting of the Korean War. From the ruins of war, South Korea has experienced unprecedented economic growth, rapid industrialization, technological and educational advancement, and growing middle class prosperity. Yet deep social fissures have opened with breakneck development. North Korea, in contrast, has become one of the most repressive and isolated regimes in the world, with a stagnating economy, massive human rights abuses, and a nuclear-armed military that threatens the region and destabilizes the international order.

Inter-Korean and international efforts aimed at resolving security concerns surrounding North Korea's nuclear weapons program and providing support for separated families have led to little progress in the decades since the end of the Korean War.

THE MARCH 1, 1919 MOVEMENT

The March 1, 1919 Movement was a peaceful, people-led movement for Korean independence against Japanese occupation that influenced later independence and civil rights movements in the twentieth century.

The movement unified the Korean people in spirit and drew worldwide attention as an expression of the right to national self-determination articulated in January 1918 by U.S. President Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points. The March 1 Movement had an important influence on later twentieth-century people-led movements, including the Indian movement for independence from British colonial rule, the U.S. civil rights movement, and South Africa's peaceful anti-apartheid movement.



AUGUST 15, KOREAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

At the end of World War II in 1945, Korea was finally liberated from colonial rule. But the hopes of the Korean people for one free and independent nation were dashed; during the transition after the war, the peninsula was divided in a process that was intended to be temporary. The August 15 Independence Movement Day was established as a national holiday in South Korea in May 1949 and is recognized as a national holiday in both North and South Korea.

In recent years, the prospect of reunification has taken on new interest and urgency. The One Korea Global Campaign is broadening popular support and advancing a vision for peaceful reunification.

ONE K
One Korea
Global Campaign



TWO STARKLY DIFFERENT SOCIETIES HAVE EMERGED SINCE THE 1953 ARMISTICE.

—— KOREAN DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE (1919) ——

“We claim independence in the interest of the eternal and free development of our people and in accordance with the great movement for world reform based upon the awakening conscience of mankind.”



BUILDING A KOREAN-LED MOVEMENT FOR REUNIFICATION



Action for Korea United, a civil society alliance of more than 1,000 organizations, has spearheaded a movement to build consensus among Koreans from the North, South and in the diaspora around a shared vision and founding principles for a reunified Korea.

★ *The work of building a free, independent, democratic and prosperous Korea rests in the hands of the Korean people.*

Starting from the historic ideals that shaped the Korean people and culture, and with the rekindled spirit and determination of the March 1st Movement, the unfulfilled aspiration for a free, independent and unified Korea can finally be realized.



LECTURE SERIES AND PROFESSORS ASSOCIATION BUILD SUPPORT AMONG OPINION LEADERS

Action for Korea United has taken on the unfinished cause of Korean self-determination and realizing a unified nation that is true to its history, heritage, and ideals.

AKU continued its vital work amid the pandemic, adapting to limitations on in-person gatherings throughout 2020-21 and beyond. Virtual and hybrid meetings, forums, and trainings were organized to support and advance this growing popular movement.



In 2021, AKU sponsored retreats and a **Korean Dream Lecture Series** for South Korea's opinion leaders. Sessions were convened every week throughout 2021 and continue in 2022. Other new initiatives were launched including the founding of the **Action for Korea United Professors Association**. AKU's new offices in Seoul will serve as the base for the Professors Association and as a think tank for reunification-related issues.

INTERNATIONAL FORUMS



Forums addressing social and economic reforms needed to facilitate reunification have convened policy experts and public officials.

SHARED IDENTITY



Sharing circles and ping pong tournaments support resettlement and develop rapport with North Korean refugees.

STUDY CIRCLES / CLASSES



Koreans of all ages study their past and present and develop creative ways to support the vision of a united Korea.

YOUTH EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT



Campus-based events are engaging university students throughout South Korea on the topic of reunification.

CULTURAL CAMPAIGNS



Cultural campaigns like the New Unification Song Campaign and the One K Global Concert Tour are building intergenerational awareness and support.

SUPPORT FOR NORTH KOREAN CHILDREN



Nationwide campaigns seek to provide food, medical care and other urgent needs for North Korean children.

KOREAN HISTORY AND CULTURE TOURS



Diaspora Koreans and native Koreans visit historic sites to study the virtues of Korean culture that serve as a common ground for reunification.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT



Economic capacity building programs, ENM (Educating + Networking + Mentoring), connect North Korean defectors with South Korean Entrepreneurs.

PROMOTING A CULTURE OF SERVICE



Through local and overseas volunteer opportunities, Koreans are putting into practice the ethic of Hongik Ingan, "to live for the benefit of humanity."



GLOBAL SUPPORT FOR KOREAN REUNIFICATION

The volatile state of the Korean peninsula, the civil and human rights crisis to the North, and the unfinished work of self-determination for the Korean people make Korean reunification a **major civil rights issue** of today.

In the course of self-determination, the Korean people must own and drive the process of defining the founding vision and principles of their nation. Yet, as global support has contributed to progress in major areas such as sustainable development, poverty eradication, national independence and human rights, global support for Korean unification is critical to advancing peace, prosperity and respect for human rights in the region.

The One Korea Global Campaign is building a groundswell of global support for Korean reunification through ongoing initiatives that engage all sectors of society.

INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON ONE KOREA

Over the past decade, the Global Peace Foundation, Action for Korea United, Alliance for Korea United USA, One Korea Foundation, and other partners have been consistently promoting international support for nuclear-free and Korean-led peaceful unification to uphold freedom, democratic values, rule of law, and human rights, as an urgent, not a distant goal, based on the shared identity and cultural heritage of the Korean people.

The International Forum on One Korea is an ongoing series of forums organized by the Global Peace Foundation to advance global support for a free and united Korea to resolve the security and human rights issues on the divided peninsula. Convened in the United States, Korea, Japan, Mongolia, India and Ireland, these forums have brought international focus to the Korean peninsula. The forums have addressed regional dynamics, historical and recent trends, implications and approaches of reunification, and social and economic reforms needed to prepare for reunification. Prominent scholars, policymakers, journalists, and civil society leaders from Korea and the global community also examine changing circumstances, identify new opportunities, and develop a more specific roadmap for a free and unified Korea predicated on the ideals embodied in the ancient Korean ethos of Hongik Ingan – “living for the benefit of all humanity.”



★ **International experts bring essential perspectives to the economic, political, and social implications of a reunified Korean peninsula.**

INTERNATIONAL FORUMS FOR ONE KOREA

The unprecedented global COVID-19 pandemic in 2019 disrupted virtually every aspect of daily life around the world, including the many initiatives to further the Korean Dream of a free and unified Korea. In response, the Global Peace Foundation deployed developing technology to host international experts through virtual convenings. While scholars, parliamentarians, and civil society leaders lost opportunities to engage directly and personally, the virtual environment ultimately expanded the scope of engagement, without the costs and disruptions of travel for in-person gatherings.

Virtual convenings addressed a range of important issues, including:

- International Cooperation to support Freedom and Human Rights in North Korea
- A Free and Unified Korea as a Catalyst for Regional and Global Peace and Development
- US-ROK Alliance for a Free and United Korea
- Mongolia Forum on Northeast Asian Peaceful Development and Korean Unification
- Challenges and Opportunities amid the Dynamic U.S.-China-Korea Relations
- Congressional and Parliamentary Roundtables and Forums on a Free and Unified Korea Framework



U.S. REP. YOUNG KIM (CA), LEFT, AND FORMER MONGOLIAN AMBASSADOR THE UN JARGALSAIKHAN ENKHSAIKHAN WERE AMONG THE PRESENTERS AT THE VIRTUAL FORUM.

THE KOREAN DIASPORA

Alliance for Korea United USA and **Action for Korea United Japan** represent Korean diaspora communities committed to Korean reunification. During the March 1st 1919 Korean Independence Movement, Korean expatriates played a critical role in drawing global support and articulating the ideals of the new nation. Syngman Rhee, the first and last president of the Provisional Government of the Republic of Korea from 1919 to 1925, and other Koreans living in the United States, drew on the ideals of freedom and self-determination from their experience in the U.S.

Today there are over six million ethnic Koreans living outside of Korea. Among the largest diaspora communities, Japanese Koreans have brought international attention to North Korean abductions and human rights abuses. Ethnic Koreans living abroad are a powerful force in the work of creating a united, free, and just Korea.



GLOBAL PEACE CONVENTION 2009-2017

A signature initiative of the Global Peace Foundation, the Global Peace Convention is a world-level platform to share best practices and develop collaborative strategies in areas of education, community-based development, environmental sustainability, media responsibility, women and youth empowerment, and conflict resolution. Drawing thousands of experts and stakeholders from government, civil society, and the faith community, Global Peace Conventions in Asia, Africa, and the Americas have brought global focus to issues relating to the Korean peninsula.



★ *The Global Peace Convention presents a comprehensive, values-based approach to peace and social progress that reflects the highest human aspirations.*

Prominent faith leaders, corporate executives, policy experts, and parliamentarians discover unexpected common ground and forge innovative action plans in this unique assembly, united by a vision for peace based on shared values that transcends conventional boundaries. Since 2009 Global Peace Conventions have been hosted around the globe.

- 2009 Manila, Philippines
- 2010 Nairobi, Kenya
- 2011 Seoul, South Korea
- 2012 Atlanta, USA
- 2013 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2014 Asunción, Paraguay
- 2017 Manila, Philippines
- 2019 Seoul, South Korea
- 2021 Virtual (global)



ADVANCING GLOBAL SUPPORT FOR KOREAN REUNIFICATION

Drawing thousands of experts and stakeholders from government, civil society, and the faith community, Global Peace Conventions in Asia, Africa, and the Americas have brought international attention to urgent priorities on the Korean peninsula. Dedicated convention tracks have highlighted security threats and human rights abuses that undermine the international order. Conventions in Seoul in 2011 and 2019 have specifically focused on the political complexities relating to the Korean peninsula and the competing interests of China, Japan, Russia, and the United States, while working toward a roadmap for peace, freedom, regional development, and social progress through reunification.

The August 2021 Global Peace Convention drew more than 200 panelists and more than 6000 international participants in an unprecedented virtual environment.

Dozens of experts from China, the ROK, Japan, Russia, Mongolia, India, the UK, and the United States evaluated the complexities of resolving the North Korean threat, prospects of regional economic integration, and recent developments toward peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula during an August 6-14 virtual convening of the International Forum on One Korea.

The 2019 Global Peace Convention in Seoul brought renewed national attention to reunification on the centennial of the Korean Independence Movement. International Korea experts and National Assembly members convened on a reunification agenda, while thousands gathered for celebrations honoring the Independence Movement patriots and the enduring values expressed in the Korean Declaration of Independence.

GLOBAL PEACE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Global Peace Leadership Conferences (GPLC) are strategic, multi-sector convenings of the Global Peace Foundation and partners that address pressing regional challenges and work toward collaborative solutions within a framework of shared values and moral and innovative leadership.

★ ***Global Peace Conventions in Asia, Africa, and the Americas have brought global focus to the Korean peninsula and to security and human rights issues that undermine the international order.***



These expert convenings provide space for leaders and innovators from government, the private sector, faith communities, and women and youth to develop effective and original responses to the challenges of conflict and underdevelopment, while also drawing lessons from the experiences of Germany, Vietnam, and Northern Ireland that are relevant to the division of Korea. GPLCs have been convened in Malaysia, Philippines, Nepal, Indonesia, India, South Korea, Nigeria, Mongolia, Tanzania, Uganda, Northern Ireland, Brazil, and the United States.

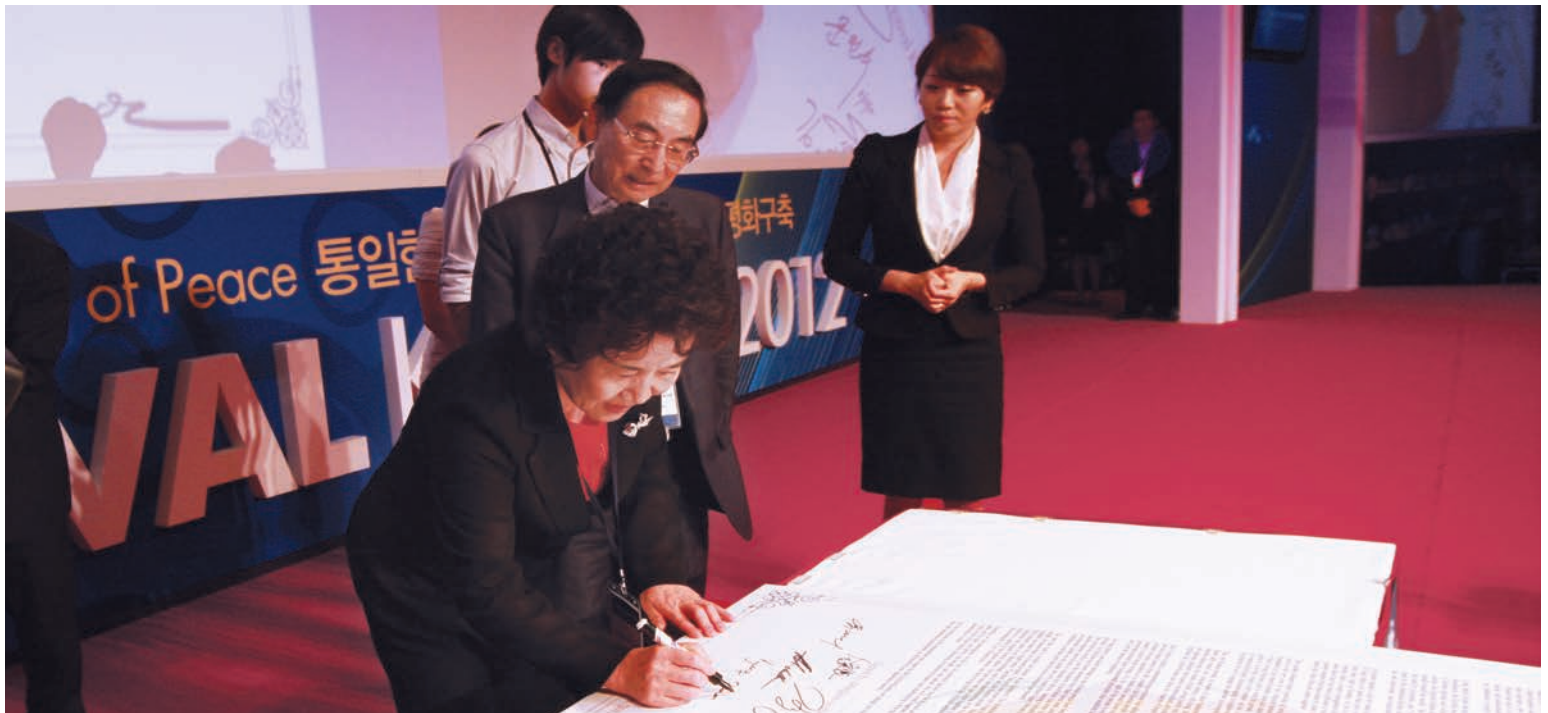
ONE K CAMPAIGN FOR REUNIFICATION SUPPORTERS



In 1919, over two million Koreans participated in one of the world's first people-led social movements. Starting on March 1, 1919, some 1,500 demonstrations took place across the peninsula and around the world. The Korean Declaration of Independence was publicly read at the demonstrations in a display of solidarity with the vision of a free and independent Korea that would benefit succeeding generations and the world. 100 years later, the hope of those two million Koreans and their descendants remains unfulfilled.

★ ***The One K Global Campaign has launched a movement to engage one million people worldwide to support the Declaration for Korean Reunification.***

The Declaration draws on the spirit of the March 1st Movement and the Korean people's unfulfilled dream of self-determination, declaring the Korean people's right to a unified, free nation.





SOCIAL MEDIA AND AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

Through social media and public awareness campaigns, the One Korea Global Campaign is building consensus and engagement around a peaceful approach to addressing the issues of the Korean peninsula. The growing popular support is becoming a citizen-driven movement for Korean reunification.

- One Dream One Korea Signature Campaign
- One Dream One Korea Cover Song Contest
- Signature Campaign for One Korea at the United Nations
- Unification Pledge Campaign
- Need U Idea Unification Project Contest (2012-2014)
- Walk/Bike-a-thons for Unification
- Screening of the film 'Under the Sun'
- One Dream One Korea Sign Campaign
- Classroom Chalkboard Campaign for One Korea
- Annual Seoul International Student Cultural Festival



ART EXHIBITION

ONE K KOREAN ART FESTIVAL

The One K Korean Art Festival focuses on Korea's shared heritage, while invoking the spirit of the March 1 Movement and the hope for a new united Korea that can contribute to peace on the peninsula, Asia and the world. Organized by the Korean Artist Association, an association of 40,000 members worldwide and 160 branches, the exhibition seeks to foster cultural exchange between North and South Korea in preparation for reunification.



Featuring the work of Korean artists from around the world, with a special collection of North Korean fine arts and embroidery, the exhibitions will also enable representative artists from the North and South Korea to have direct exchange with each other. The exhibition will travel to Pyongyang, North Korea following its Seoul show.



ONE K POP ART MURAL PAINTING *100 YEARS TOWARDS INDEPENDENCE*

Public art has been a powerful platform to raise awareness on critical global issues. Pop and Pop ENT Creative Company, which represents 30 influential young artists from Korea, will coordinate a dynamic public art project that integrates social media and contemporary art in honor of the March 1 centenary.

The Public Art Festival, entitled “One K 100 Years of History,” will feature a live production of five murals depicting major events since the March 1 1919 Movement: the March 1 Movement, Korean Liberation, the Korean War, the tragedy of the subsequent division and present-day Korea at the Yeouido New Construction Building.



NORTH AND SOUTH KOREAN ARTISTS FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS HOPES FOR RECONCILIATION

The 2018 Korea Art Festival at the Korea International Exhibition and Convention Center debuted rare North Korean artwork at the South and North Peace Art Exhibition. The special exhibition was a joint effort of Korea Fine Arts Association, KINTEX, One Korea Global Campaign Organizing Committee, Korea Arts Festival Art Fair Organizing Committee, Chosun News Press, and Art & People. With the inclusion of the South and North Peace Art Exhibition, the festival reflected the spirit of reconciliation between the two Koreas.



NEEDLEPOINT WORKS BY NORTH KOREAN ARTISTS

GLOBAL PEACE WOMEN HOST ART CONTEST EXPRESSING IDEAL OF A PEACEFUL, UNIFIED KOREA

Winners of the 2019 Korean Dream Art Contest were also recognized at the Women's Forum of the Global Peace Convention. As one of the Korean Dream projects hosted by Global Peace Women and other partners, the Korean Dream Art Contest aimed to gather art pieces that depict the ideal of a peacefully united Korea, essentially connecting artists to the Korean Dream and spreading the vision to others through their art. Grand prize winner Soeun Lee's painting and four winning pieces of the Korean Dream Art Contest were mounted for exhibition during the forum.



ONE K CONCERTS

2017 ONE K GLOBAL PEACE CONCERT SM Malls Arena, Manila, Philippines

7 K-POP GROUPS, 15,000 FANS, BROADCAST TO 170 COUNTRIES

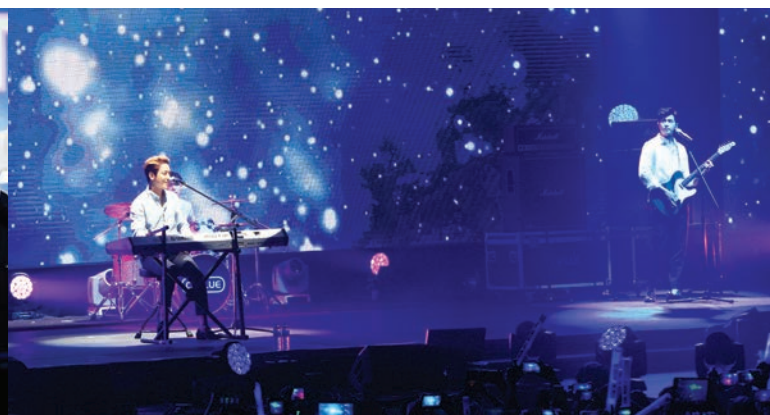


B.A.P. AT THE ONE K GLOBAL PEACE CONCERT 2017 IN MANILA,



PSY AT 2017 ONE K CONCERT

2017 ONE K STARS Psy, SHINee, CNBlue, B1A4, B.A.P., BTOB, AOA, Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis, Sabrina, Edray, Zendee, Peabo Bryson, Dami Im, Jung Dongha, Voisper



2015 ONE K CONCERT World Cup Stadium, Seoul, Korea

24 K-POP GROUPS, 40,000 FANS, 6 MILLION VIEWS FROM 200 COUNTRIES



INSOONI SINGS "THE DREAM OF ONE"



#1 BOY BAND IN THE WORLD, BTS, AT THE ONE K CONCERT 2015

2015 ONE K STARS EXO, Kara, Wonder Girls, Sista, EXID, Girl's Day, Na YoonKwon, VIXX, In Sooni, Red Velvet, Younha, Kim Johan, BTS, GOT7, Monsta X, MFBTY, SonaMoo, Yangpa, SPICA, Rose Inn, Purples, Boys Republic



KOREAN DREAM SONG CAMPAIGN

2019 KOREAN DREAM THEME SONG

Composer Kim Hyung-suk and Lyricist Kim Eana are creating a new theme song with top Korean and international musicians. This version will touch on the tragedy of the Korean division, while capturing the enduring hope for reunification.

As part of One Korea Global Campaign, artists and composers are creating a new genre of songs expressing the aspiration for the peaceful reunification of Korea. In 2021, "Number 1 Korea" was released.



LAUNCH OF THE 2019 KOREAN DREAM SONG CAMPAIGN



COMPOSER KIM HYUNG-SUK AND LYRICIST KIM EANA

★ *"I want to create a song that can reach all generations.
I believe everyone wants unification."*

— Kim Hyung-suk



In the 80's "We Are the World" was a collective effort of internationally renowned artists to raise global awareness and support for famine-stricken Africa. The **Korean Dream Theme Song Campaign** has engaged international composers, lyricists, singers and producers to create anthems for peace and the Korean Dream that have inspired intergenerational, global support for Korean reunification.

2017 Korean Dream

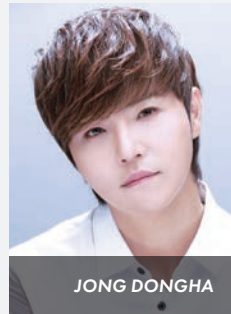


JIMMY JAM AND TERRY LEWIS, FIVE-TIME GRAMMY AWARD WINNERS

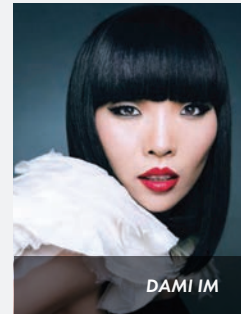
THIS SONG DEBUTED IN FRONT OF A 10,000 CROWD AT THE ONE K GLOBAL PEACE CONCERT IN MANILA.

★ "This song we're giving to the world is really about global peace."

— Jimmy Jam



JONG DONGHA



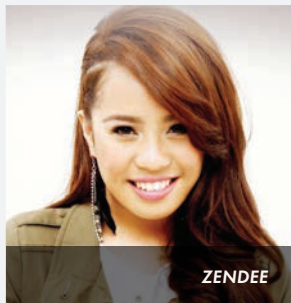
DAMI IM



PEABO BRYSON



EDRAY



ZENDEE



SABRINA



VOISPER

2015 One Dream One Korea



'ONE DREAM ONE KOREA' WAS THE SOUNDTRACK FOR THE CLOSING CEREMONY AT THE FIRST INTER-KOREA SUMMIT WITH KIM JONG-UN AND MOON JAE-IN.



ONE DREAM ONE KOREA SINGERS YoungJae (GOT7), Yangpa, Kyuri (Kara), Yook Joongwan and Kang Joonwoo (Rose Inn), Solji (EXID), Soyoo (Sista), Na Yoon Gwon, Younha, Jungkook (BTS), Ehun (Wonder Girls), Jong Junwoo and Kim Daegyun (Guldu), Kim Joha, Sandul (B1A4), Wendy (Red Velvet), SBS stars Son Joonho, Kim Sohon, Kim Wooju, Yoo Kyungmi and Kim Sunjae, Ken (VIXX), Mina (Girls Day), Joa (AOA), Hong Yongpo (Minister of Reunification), Hon. Kim Musong, Saenuri Party, Hon. Moon Jae-In, New Politics Alliance for Democracy (and former President of ROK)

March 1, 2019 Centennial Celebration and Concert

K-POP ARTISTS BRING MOVEMENT FOR REUNIFICATION TO GLOBAL STAGE

Leading K-pop artists, including Korean-American singer Kim Jo-han, singer-songwriter Ali, boy band SF9 and the six-member band Astro, celebrated the centenary of the March 1 Independence Movement and lent support to the One Korea Global Campaign with a globally televised concert at the National Assembly Plaza before an audience of 8,000 fans.

The Centennial Celebration was organized by the One Korea Global Campaign, an initiative of Action for Korea United (AKU), a coalition of over 1,000 civil society organizations working to build support for peaceful reunification. The Global Peace Foundation is a founding member of AKU.



CENTENIAL COMMEMORATION OF 1919 KOREAN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT



GLOBAL PEACE CONVENTION 2019 – KOREAN DREAM: VISION FOR A UNIFIED KOREA



Scholars and policy makers from South Korea, USA, China, Japan, Russia, Mongolia, India, United Kingdom, Uganda, Indonesia, Malaysia, Paraguay, and Thailand addressed the challenges and prospects for peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula during a series of forums at the 2019 Global Peace Convention in Seoul. The forums were convened while the world's attention was focused on the second Trump-Kim Summit in Hanoi, and concurrent with a national celebration of the centennial of the March 1, 1919 Independence Movement, revered by Koreans as an expression of their shared aspirations to be free and united. The panels reached a consensus to facilitate international support for nuclear-free and Korean-led peaceful unification as an urgent, not a distant goal.

"It is inspiring to see the leadership of civil society assembled in this historical moment in the quest for peaceful unification. It is my honor to stand together with you, and on behalf of the Latin American Presidential Mission, to offer our hand of partnership and support."
— former Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo



MARCH 1 MOVEMENT CENTENARY: KOREANS RALLY FOR PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION

Lawmakers, International Dignitaries, K-pop Artists Honor March 1 Independence Movement One Hundred Years Later at Korea's National Assembly Plaza

Korean and Japanese singers joined in song promoting peace to open the centenary celebration of the March 1, 1919 Korea Independence Movement at the National Assembly Plaza on March 1. A landmark popular uprising for freedom and self-determination during the era of Japanese occupation, the March 1 Movement was the first non-violent civil protest against colonial occupation and inspired later movements for freedom and civil rights in India, the United States, and South Africa.

The Korean Declaration of Independence proclaimed by more than two million people throughout Korea "did not express enmity toward Japan," GPF Chairman Dr. Hyun Jin Moon said at the Centennial rally. "Independence leaders wanted more than just freedom from Japanese colonial rule. Guided by the ancient ethos of Hongik Ingan ['living for the benefit of humanity'] they believed it was their destiny to create an ideal nation that would be an example to the world."



The three-day conference included an examination of comprehensive reunification efforts among youth and women's organizations in Korea and abroad. An International Forum on One Korea included the diverse voices of Korea experts from China, Russia, Japan, Mongolia, India, Great Britain, and the United States. "Peaceful reunification is paramount to Korea, its neighbors, and the world," said former Chinese Ambassador to the United Nations Guo Fang Shen. "The responsibility rests primarily between the two Koreas, and they must do more to foster trust and cooperation."

★ ***Peaceful reunification is paramount to Korea, its neighbors, and the world," "The responsibility rests primarily between the two Koreas, and they must do more to foster trust and cooperation."***

— former Chinese Ambassador to the United Nations Guo Fang Shen

Discussions included realistic assessments of the conflicting interests, alliances, significant costs, and divergent worldviews of the two Koreas as well as perspectives emphasizing the 5,000-year shared history and heritage of the Korean people, the historic opportunity for breakthroughs in diplomatic engagement, and the enormous potential of a unified homeland that fulfills the long-held aspirations of all Koreans. Passionate voices of support for the dream of a unified Korea rang throughout the convening. "Africa supports this dream and promises to become a full partner," affirmed Wilson Mukasa, representing Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni. "Who loses if North and South Korea unite? No one. Who gains? The Korean people gain. The whole world gains."



ACTION FOR KOREA UNITED FESTIVAL COMMEMORATES AUGUST 15—KOREA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

On August 15, 2019, over 15,000 activists, citizens, and friends gathered for the first Action for Korea United (AKU) Festival at the KINTEX Convention Center in Seoul, Korea. Action for Korea United is the largest coalition of civil society organizations working toward a free and unified Korea. AKU has been changing the conversation around peaceful Korean reunification, bringing the issue to the fore of everyday conversations, consciousness, and concern.

Founded in 2012, it has grown to nearly 1,000 member organizations, with overseas partners representing the Korean diaspora around the world. Since its founding, Global Peace Foundation Korea has been a leading partner in the AKU coalition.



August 15, recognized as Korean Independence Day in both North and South Korea, is a bittersweet day for Koreans. Called "Gwangbokjeol," which means "bringing back the light," it signifies the excitement and hope of building a newly freed Korean nation in 1945, liberated from colonial rule with the ending of World War II.



CENTENIAL COMMEMORATION OF 1919 KOREAN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT



But, yet again, these hopes were dashed by the geopolitics of the time, resulting in a peninsula divided into “North Korea” and “South Korea.” “Gwangbokjeol” became a fitting day to remember the excitement of that day and also remind Koreans of the North, South, and diaspora of the importance of that unfinished work to build a nation truly reflecting the Korean people’s history and heritage.

In 2019, an August 15 celebration renewed the spirit of the Korean Independence movement and the 5,000-year legacy that pre-dates all of the current divisions. The 15,000 that gathered became the inheritors of the unfinished work of the 1919 Korean Independence Movement and the patriots, activists, faith leaders, and leaders of civil society that would take up the mantle of building a nation rooted in the ideal of Hongik Ingan and finish the work to form a Korea that could live for the benefit all of humanity.

After a two-year pause due to the global pandemic, the annual Action For Korea United Festival was relaunched in 2022.



SECOND 'SAMIL MOVEMENT' GATHERS SUPPORT TOWARD 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF KOREA LIBERATION DAY IN 2025

Some 10,000 people gathered at Seoul's Independence Memorial and the National Central Youth Training Center on June 18, 2022, to voice support for the upcoming 80th anniversary commemoration of the end of World War II on August 15, 1945, and to remind Koreans of the unfinished business of Korean reunification.

To commemorate August 15, 2022, Korea's 77th National Liberation Day, some 20,000 people gathered at KINTEX Conference Center in Seoul, representing Koreans of the South, North, and diaspora along with international peace advocates supporting the efforts to peacefully reunite the Korean peninsula. The Action for Korea United Festival was co-organized by six major civic organizations with nationwide membership: Parliamentarian's Society of the Republic of Korea, Korea Senior Citizens Association, Korean National Police Veterans Association, Federation of Artistic & Cultural Organization of Korea, Leaders' Alliance for Korea Unification, Federation for Korean American Associations, and Action for Korea United.

This gathering was the launching of a civil society-led campaign, referred to as "the Second Sam-il Movement." The campaign will run for three years, building toward a million person march in 2025 which marks the 80th anniversary of Liberation Day.



KOREAN DREAM SERVICE FESTIVAL

As part of the August 15 festival, Global Peace Women joined Service for Peace and 일천만이산가족위원회 (10 Million Divided Korean Families Association), and members of Action for Korea United, to organize the Korean Dream Service Festival. Koreans, first, second and third generations of Korean divided families, North Korean defectors, and international supporters served together with their hearts and hands, showing that service can unite, empower and bring benefit to our world. "Today, let's put the Korean Dream into action through service," said Dr. Soonok Kang, President of Global Peace Women.

A special photo exhibition sponsored by the 10 Million Divided Korean Families Association documented the human tragedy of the Korean division and the deep desire for reunification. "Today, we want to invest in the dream of the 10 million divided Korean families," said Mr. Jang, President of Service for Peace Korea. A fundraiser encouraged donations to support reunification efforts, driven by the hope to grant surviving divided families their "Last Wish" to set foot once more in their hometowns.



PHOTO EXHIBITION DISPLAYS HUMAN TRAGEDY OF DIVISION ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA





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