



Taipei Women's Rescue Foundation

婦女救援基金會 Annual Report 2017

30th Anniversary of TWRF

The year 2017 marked the 30th birthday of the Taipei Women's Rescue Foundation (TWRF). In the 1980s, child prostitution was a prevalent problem in Taiwan. To rescue these young girls, a group of passionate attorneys, scholars, and women's human

rights advocates established the foundation, despite a lack of financial and human resources.

◀ Words were spray-painted on the ground during the 1988 demonstration to rescue child prostitutes on Hwahsi Street (aka Snake Alley) in Taipei.

Service for victims of human trafficking and domestic violence

While TWRF had success in rescuing Taiwan child prostitutes during its initial periods, sex trafficking from China and Southeast Asia started to become a major problem in Taiwan in the 1990s. The foundation then turned to tackle the issues of prevention of trans-national human trafficking and served the non-Taiwanese victims. In 1997, the foundation engaged in serving victims of domestic violence and established the first telephone hotline for domestic violence in Taiwan. Thereafter, the service was expanded to child witnesses of domestic violence. Both mothers' and children's needs were served.

Fighting justice for "comfort women" (Sexual slavery in the Japanese military during WWII)



TWRF established a grievance hotline for "comfort women" and held the very first press conference to protest the crime in 1992.



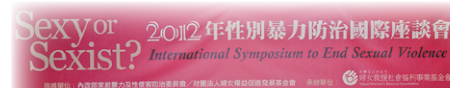
In 2005, "comfort women" survivors protested and demanded that the Japanese government apologize and compensate the victims.

In 1992, TWRF started to engage in Taiwanese "comfort women" issues and became the only civic group dedicating its long-term service to fight for human rights of "comfort women". For more than 20 years, the foundation investigated and validated "comfort women" victims. It also organized a

group of attorneys to accompany the representatives of victims to Japan to file lawsuits against the Japanese government. Psychotherapy workshops were offered for 16 years to provide therapy and counseling for "comfort women" survivors. The foundation has fought for justice for "comfort women" through annual protests, demonstrations, memorial events, and vigils to demand an apology and compensation from the Japanese government.

Advocacy and Education

Other than providing victims with rescuing, counseling, and empowerment services, TWRF also has worked to legislate sexual exploitation and sexual violence issues, including the *Child and Youth Sexual Exploitation Prevention Act*, the *Domestic Violence Prevention Act*, and the *Human Trafficking Prevention Act*. This legislation succeeded because TWRF worked with other civic groups. The foundation also promoted the awareness of these issues among the public via various channels.



▲ TWRF organized the 2012 Gender Violence Prevention Conference to promote awareness of the problem of children viewing pornography.

Dedicated to continued persistence

TWRF organized a banquet to celebrate its 30th anniversary on Human Rights Day, December 10, 2017. The Chairperson of TWRF, Shu-Ling Huang, stated that with its 30 years of hard work and collaboration with other civic groups, the foundation has helped Taiwan achieve the highest gender equality among Asian countries. The foundation will continue with its missions to provide Taiwan with a future with even more respect and greater equality without violence.

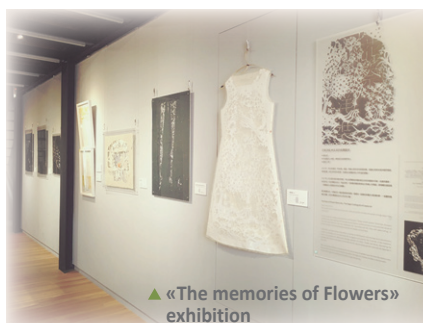


In 2017, the Chairperson of TWRF, Shu-Ling Huang (3rd from left), celebrated the 30th anniversary of the foundation with special guests.

Human Rights Movement of “Comfort Women” & AMA Museum

TWRF has been a human rights advocate for “comfort women”- sexual slaves of the Japanese military during WWII - for 26 years. The foundation identified 58 former Taiwanese “comfort women” in 1992. Of those, as of 2017, there are only two “comfort women” survivors, whom we intimately call “Ama,” remaining in Taiwan. TWRF’s social worker continues to provide direct services for the Amas, such as regular home visits, phone greetings, and referrals to other services.

In December 2016, TWRF founded the AMA Museum, the first museum dedicated to “comfort women” in Taiwan. The AMA museum features a permanent exhibition of photos, documents and videos related to Taiwanese “comfort women” and the two decades of work by the foundation to document their history. As a “comfort women” human rights initiative and educational platform, the AMA museum hosted many events in 2017.



Exhibitions and Lectures

A paper carving art exhibition, *The memories of Flowers*, was launched in May 2017. With “dresses” as the theme, paper carvings celebrate comfort women’s beautiful, yet short, lives as flowers and honor the genuine kindness of their hearts. Another exhibition, *The Brave Ones and Their Rainbows*, features art that numerous “comfort women” created in the psychotherapy workshop that TWRF established in 1996 to help “comfort women” survivors heal.

In 2017, 9 sessions of lectures and workshops took place in the AMA museum. Counselors and artists who are familiar with “comfort women” issues led the discussions about the survivors’ healing process. In addition, Korean “comfort women” survivor Lee Yong-soo was invited to share her story. Korean historian Hn Hye-In, with research focused on “comfort women”, came to the museum to share her analysis of the development and critiques of international “comfort women” rights movements.

International Comfort Women Human Rights Film Festival

Five documentaries and feature films were shown at The 2017 International Comfort Women Human Rights Film Festival August 4-13. *The Apology* features the self-healing journey during the twilight years of three “comfort women” from South Korea, China and the Philippines. *Twenty Two* focuses on the stories of 22 “comfort women” survivors in China. The documentary *Song of the Reed*, which was produced by TWRF, portrays the struggles of six Taiwanese “comfort women” survivors nearing the end of their lives as they come to terms with their traumatic past. Directors of these three documentary films of “comfort women” participated in seminars to share with audiences their experiences of filming those survivors. All three directors expressed their hope for more international films festivals dedicated to “comfort women”. The festival also featured two films on wartime sexual violence, *As If I Am Not There* and *For Those Who Can Tell No Tales*.

One Person, One Heart; One Person, One Card Campaign

The foundation launched this campaign in 2014, and now expands it in the AMA Museum. Artist Phoebe Man designed two versions of cards with the Japan flag and a red heart. Visitors are encouraged to write and draw their demands to the Japanese government on the cards. To honor International Memorial Day for the Comfort Women on August 14, thousands of cards were displayed in the museum and then sent to the Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association so the Japanese government could hear the voices from Taiwan. Many NGOs and legislators also supported this campaign.



International Youth Convention – Taiwan and Korea

A total of 15 delegates of Taiwan teenagers were selected to join 34 Korean high schoolers in a four-day visit in Korea. Together they visited Lee Yong-soo, a surviving victim in South Korea, and the Museum of Military Sexual Slavery by Japan in Daegu City. They shared emotions and opinions through a film viewing, group discussions, presentations, and artistic performances. This is the first exchange among youth from both nations on the issue. The Taiwanese students then showed how they were inspired by the trip at the AMA Museum. They spoke highly of the Korean students’ efforts to support comfort women and vowed to promote awareness of comfort women’s human rights issues among young people through public speaking and social media.



Domestic Violence Prevention and Victim Services

A total of 2,001 victims of domestic violence received help from TWRF in 2017, and more than 80 percent of them were women.

To meet these victims' needs, TWRF social workers provided victim-oriented services, such as case management, home visits, risk management, referral to shelters, legal consultation, counseling, and accompaniment to hospital and legal proceedings. TWRF also hosted 16 support group meetings and 9 sessions in 2017.

TWRF expanded its domestic violence service from Taipei City to many regions in New Taipei City. The office dedicated to serving these newly added regions opened in May 2017.

“Hands-on Projects to Create Happiness”: Healing Workshop & Benefit Yoga Class

TWRF launched a healing workshop for victims of domestic violence in 2017. Two counselors led the group by teaching victims to make skin moisturizers, lip balm, candles, essential oil diffusers and rollerballs. During these sessions in a relaxing atmosphere, most participants started to unwind and release their stress. Some gradually opened up to express their emotions and share their



experiences of traumatic divorce, separation, and conflict. This healing workshop helped participants become positive and also begin to actively socialize with others.

TWRF also invited celebrity Winnie Ho to teach a benefit yoga class to domestic violence survivors. For more than 80 percent of the participants, this was their first experience with yoga. The exercises can be done easily at home and help improve both physical and mental health. Several participants stated that this class helped them reduce stress and anxiety, and eventually regain inner peace and confidence.

Services for Child Witnesses of Domestic Violence

TWRF provided services for 195 child witnesses in 2017. The foundation formed two counseling groups at TWRF's office and at an individual school, as well as a parent-child play group for child witnesses who are under 6 years old.

Campus Outreach

In 2016, TWRF started counseling child witnesses of domestic violence on an elementary school campus. The foundation continued this service in 2017 at another school; a total of 8 group counseling sessions were carried out. Children were more willing to participate and express themselves



since they were familiar with the space in their school and had a greater sense of security. In addition to offering direct service to child witnesses, foundation social workers also continued their education work in elementary and middle schools and preschools. A total of 17 sessions were held on campuses. Teachers were educated about the issues of child witnesses, and TWRF hopes that social workers and teachers will connect to provide a supportive network for child witnesses.

Integration Service for Mothers and Children

Integration is a unique service the foundation provides for domestic violence victims and their child witnesses. It focuses on the needs of both mothers and children. In 2017, 10 sessions of family playtime were organized for children ages six and under. During family playtime, children received full attention from their mothers. Children and mothers reconnected with each other and resolved issues in their relationships. Other integration events, such as family day trips and baking workshops, also were organized.

Hualien Women's Welfare Service Center

Commissioned by the Hualien County government, TWRF has operated the Hualien Women's Welfare Service Center since 2014. The center provides legal consultation, career services, and educational sessions such as art therapy, writing, gardening, and human relationship workshops to promote healthy, safe and happy living for all women in the community. In 2017, the center organized several large-scale events, such as distributing leaflets about women's rights at local markets on Mother's Day and viewing films on women and gender equality issues. This year the center created various domestic violence prevention plans for 8 different communities and presented the results. Hopefully, Hualien is becoming a more friendly place for women and children.



Advocacy & Actions to Counter Revenge Porn

TWRF established a website of anti-revenge porn for various related information, and provides a telephone hotline and free legal consultation for victims. In 2017, a total of 88 calls were received via the telephone hotline and 72 victims were served. Most victims were females. Approximately 70 percent were between 18 and 35 years old, while the youngest victim was 12 years old. About 3 percent of the victims were under 18 years old when the intimate images were taken. Notably, the ages of victims have been lower than previous years.

Conference of Nonconsensual Intimate Images

To tackle the issues of non-consensual distribution of intimate images, TWRF organized a conference in Taipei in October. At the conference, the foundation published its latest survey results of 1,138 respondents to reveal that 46% of males and 34% of females were subjects of intimate images that were produced either in consensual conditions or by themselves. More



than 40% of the respondents between the ages of 23 to 39 had been the subject of intimate images, which shows that producing such images has become a rather popular behavior.

TWRF pointed out that the problem is not the production of the images, but the act of distribution – especially when it is not consensual. Yet, the current laws in Taiwan restrain the crime of distributing intimate images mostly through the Offenses Against Morality (distributing obscene objects), and the maximum sentence is only two to three years in prison – most of which can be converted to a fine, which has little preventative force on the perpetrators. Due to the lack of a law specifically addressing this issue, TWRF has invited various specialists to form a task force and has had 10 meetings to discuss legislation. A draft of the special law will be provided in 2018.

Campus Awareness Campaigns

To promote awareness of issues of revenge porn among young people, TWRF was invited to 16 universities in 2017 to talk about the issues, and nearly 2,000 students learned how to protect themselves from revenge porn. The foundation also organized two educational sessions for about 90 professionals, including attorneys.

Violence Prevention Education

Being a Friendly Bystander

TWRF has been dedicated to promoting violence prevention education over the past few years. One focus is to urge citizens to be “friendly bystanders” – to proactively intervene in any violent actions with safe approaches. In 2017, the foundation organized 33 workshops and several events in communities and campuses to educate people to be friendly bystanders. TWRF initiated a “domestic violence prevention advocacy instructor group” in 2017. A group of citizens was recruited, and all individuals were trained for five months to become professional lecturers to promote prevention of domestic violence. This group will

promote awareness of domestic violence in Taipei communities through role-playing, games, and art performances. The foundation also organized a competition to elicit creative proposals that help promote the awareness of gender violence. The proposals included plans for both communities and campuses. In addition, TWRF cooperated with community volunteers and students to transform a dark and messy Taipei alley into a bright and safe passage for pedestrians. This project successfully encouraged residents to be friendly bystanders and make their living environment a better place.



Financial Statement

TWRF’s projects were made possible through the support of government sectors and the generous contribution of the donors who share our passion and commitment to promote gender equality. Approximately 50 percent of TWRF funds came from government grants, 44 percent from individual donors and corporate giving. The chart reflects the total allocation of funds TWRF received in Fiscal Year 2017.

Allocation of Resources

Total USD\$ 1,915,377

