

ADVOCACY & EDUCATION

"Addiction" International Symposium and Film Screening



Pornography distorts the value and meaning of sex, and will affect youth's intimate relationships when they grow up. TWRF's survey shows that over 90% of the questionnaire respondents' first exposure to pornography happened before 18 years old. However, sex and gender education in Taiwan is insufficient and ineffective. As internet pornography becomes easily accessible, the average age of first exposure to pornography is decreasing. TWRF also discovered that heavy porn users tend to like violent pornography that involves abuse, incest, sexual assault, and even rape, and may want to recreate these on-screen actions in real life. TWRF hosted the "Addiction" International Symposium to tackle porn addiction, along with the screening of the documentary « The Price of Pleasure: Pornography, Sexuality and Relationships ». The Foundation also invited the documentary director, an Australian scholar and a Dutch therapist to talk about how pornography shapes gender roles, and how pornography addiction influences male users.

Youth Anti-Violence Project

TWRF brought in the "Safe Date" teaching material published by the Hazelden Foundation to introduce the concept of gender-based violence to high school students. The Foundation collaborated with 4 high schools in Northern Taiwan to provide over 1,100 students with 10 lecture series covering sex education, gender identity, dating, breakup, dating violence, personal boundaries, and premarital pregnancy.



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

TWRF's works 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 69% of the Foundation's funds came from government grants, 21% from individual donors, and 10% from corporate giving. The chart reflects the total allocation of funds TWRF received in the Fiscal Year of 2013.

INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION

TWRF participated in the United Nations Non-Governmental Organization Committee on the Status of Women (NGO CSW) in New York in March. The Foundation presented its accomplishments in empowering the Ahmas, echoing with that year's theme: "violence against women."

TWRF joined the InterAction Forum 2013, learning advocacy methods and building relationships with NGOs around the world.

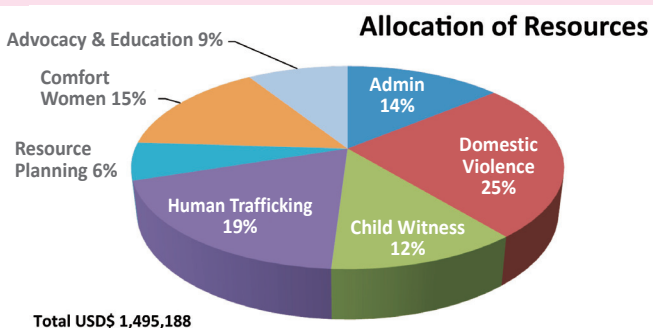


TWRF hosted the 18th Coordinators' Meeting of the International Solidarity Council on Redress (ISCR). Coordinators from victimized countries gathered in Taipei to plan the annual conference and develop this year's action plan.

TWRF submitted a report to United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva expressing Taiwanese "comfort women" survivors' urgent demand for Japan's formal apology.

TWRF participated in the Innovation Conference for Combating Human Trafficking organized by the US Embassy Phnom Penh, seeking to create innovative solutions with immediate impacts for the key problems that NGOs encounter in combating human trafficking in Southeast Asia. TWRF was one of the Grand Challenge Winners for its co-creation of an interactive speaker system, where domestic workers can call in and record their stories to share. Domestic Workers are usually isolated from society, but with this system they are able to exchange information and even get help.

TWRF drafted the CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women) NGO Report, reflecting violence and discrimination against women in Taiwan, including domestic violence, human trafficking, the "comfort women," and the improper disclosure and discrimination of female victims of gender-based violence in the news media. The report will be submitted for CEDAW committee members' review in 2014.



Taipei Women's Rescue Foundation 婦女救援基金會 Annual Report 2013

About TWRF

Taipei Women's Rescue Foundation (TWRF) is committed to promoting women's rights and ending gender-based violence. In order to achieve this, TWRF continues to strengthen services for victims of domestic violence (including child witnesses), victims of sexual slavery in the Japanese military during WWII (the "comfort women,") and victims of human trafficking. With the findings derived from its services, the Foundation further advocates for policy reform, trains professionals and practitioners, and raises people's awareness of gender equality.

Sexual Slavery in the Japanese Military during WWII

(the "Comfort Women")

TWRF identified 58 former Taiwanese "comfort women" in 1992; as of 2013, there are only 5 "comfort women" survivors, who we call, intimately, "Ahma," remaining in Taiwan, on average 90 years old. Three Ahmas passed away in the last year: Ahma Chen Yang, Ahma Iyan Apai, and Ahma Jung-mei. TWRF's social worker continues to visit and greet the Ahmas on the phone on a regular basis to keep track of their health conditions, and refers the Ahmas with special needs to other service providers.

IAJ representative's refusal to speak infuriated the crowd. People started taking out white masks and threw them toward IAJ to show their anger and disappointment.



The hypocritical Japanese politicians' masks were ripped off, and their inappropriate statements were shown on the background.

Rip off Japanese Politicians' Fake Mask

The Demonstration for the Former Taiwanese "Comfort Women"

On August 14, the International "Comfort Women" Memorial Day, legislators and women's rights organizations joined TWRF in the protest against Japan for its reluctance to atone for its past atrocities. Hundreds gathered on this day in front of the Interchange Association, Japan (IAJ), Japan's de-facto embassy in Taiwan, bringing masks and performing skits to satirize the Japanese government and its attempts to gloss over the facts of the comfort women system. Their objective was to demand apologies and reparation for the former comfort women, demonstrating to the Japanese that time

will not wash away the past, and that justice will be sought until Japan takes responsibility for its actions.

In addition to giving a formal apology and reparation, TWRF demanded that the Japanese Government admit once and for all its coerced sexual slavery during World War II, as well as legislation against any public statements that distort historical facts about the "comfort women."

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Passing on the Ahma's Legacy

The Museum on the "Comfort Women" and International Women's Rights

As the number of surviving Ahma declines to 5, how to preserve the history of the "comfort women," and pass it down to the younger generation has become our main priority. To reinforce the belief that "history can be forgiven, but never forgotten," TWRF has advocated for a "comfort

women" museum for years. Before the museum comes into being, TWRF has started to reach out to the general public by hosting exhibitions and screenings, hoping to make more people aware of the violation of women's rights during war time.

« Reasons for Strength »— A Photo Exhibition for Taiwanese Ahmas

TWRF hosted a special exhibit with installation art, showing the photographs of the Ahmas taken for the book « Reasons for Strength », where the family members of the Ahmas describe their interactions with them and the emotions involved; each story more touching than the last. Visitors not only felt the warmth of the Ahma's family support, but also realized how family members' attitude has influenced the Ahma's willingness to join the "comfort women" movement.



Special Exhibition of the Taiwanese "Comfort Women" at Women's Active Museum (Japan)

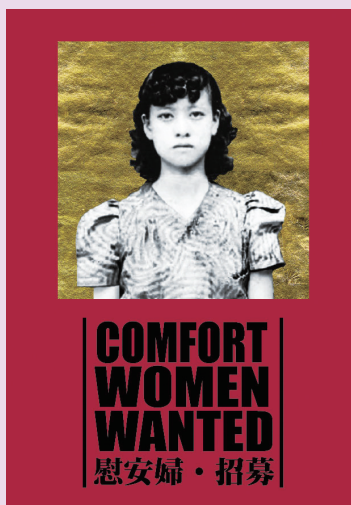
Collaborating with the Tokyo-based Women's Active Museum on War and Peace, TWRF displayed Taiwanese Ahmas' testimonies and the accomplishments of the Ahma's therapeutic workshops in Tokyo, Japan. The 91-year-old Ahma Chen Tao participated in the exhibition in person, and testified in a panel discussion. The exhibition provided an opportunity for the Japanese to learn the history that is deliberately removed from history textbooks.



« Comfort Women Wanted » International Women's Rights Exhibition Series

Comfort Women Wanted brings to light the memory of 200,000 comfort women victims, and increases awareness of sexual violence against women during wartime.

TWRF invited artist Chang-jin Lee to Taiwan to display her artworks, which involve a series of ad-like billboards, phone booth posters, MRT subway light box displays, prints, audio, multichannel video installations, and comfort station recreation. Held in Bopiliao, a popular tourist attraction, the exhibition has attracted young students and international travelers to come and learn about the "comfort women" issue.



« Song of the Reed » Premier

TWRF spent three years filming the Ahma's last therapeutic workshops, and presented to the public « Song of the Reed », the second documentary on the issue of the "comfort women." Different from the first documentary « Ahma's Secret » which features the Ahma's testimonies, « Song of the Reed » focuses on the Ahma's recovery and restoration. The documentary is expected to be in theaters in the third quarter of 2014. TWRF also sent the documentary to major film festivals, hoping to touch the world with the survivors' life stories.

At the premiere of « Song of the Reed », Ahma Lien-hua Chen accepted to be interviewed and filmed by Taiwanese press for the first time in her life, with no fear or hesitance. Having once run away from a press conference for fear that her face would be exposed on TV and newspapers, Ahma Chen has now undoubtedly transformed into an activist, and a women's rights defender.



Domestic Violence Prevention and Victim Services

A total of 1,244 potential victims of domestic violence sought help from TWRF's social workers throughout 2013. To meet these women's needs, TWRF has provided comprehensive case services, and hosted 37 legal consultation sessions, 9 parent-child activities, and 17 women's support group sessions. This year TWRF incorporated "knitting" into the support groups. While women knitted, they chatted about child-parent relationships, personal interests, and holiday plans. This created a positive atmosphere where women felt listened, respected, understood, and supported.



Check in on Facebook for Ending Violence

Collaborating with Taipei City Government, TWRF launched this Facebook campaign in June in response to the 15th anniversary of Taiwan's Domestic Violence Prevention Act. The Foundation has set up 24 check-in spots in Taipei and invited people to check-in at one of the spots to support the anti-violence cause. It also invited a famous baseball player to be the campaign advocate, aiming to not only raise public awareness of violence in general, but also encourage people to be a "friendly bystander" who can intervene and help the victims when acts of violence occur. The campaign has garnered more than 100,000 supporters.



Lobby for the Inclusion of Intimate Partner Violence into the Law

While Taiwan's once progressive Domestic Violence Prevention Act has entered into effect 15 years ago, intimate relationships have also evolved in diverse directions, making the Act inadequate for protecting unmarried couples who are not cohabitating. From TWRF's questionnaire, 23.8% of the people who once had intimate relationships were not cohabitating, among whom 77% are females in the 18-25 age group. Should intimate partner abuse occur, these women will not be protected by the Act. TWRF therefore lobbied for the amendment to the Domestic Violence Prevention Act to expand the scope of protection. The Amendment is expected to be in second reading in 2014.



Services for Child Witness to Domestic Violence



TWRF provided services for 159 child witnesses by providing comprehensive case services, holding 42 group workshops, the aforementioned 9 parent-child activities, and 3 half-day outings. In the group workshops, the concept of "domestic violence" was introduced and clarified. Child witnesses were encouraged to use artistic creation to express their feelings and thoughts about domestic violence. TWRF also held handicraft workshops specifically for teenage girls who witnessed long-term domestic violence, and dealt with the lack of their parents' attention as well as the lack of positive interpersonal relationships.

Human Trafficking Prevention and Victim Protection

Subcontracted with the National Immigration Agency (NIA), TWRF manages the Hualien shelter for female victims of human trafficking. Since its inception, the shelter has helped 38 victims of trafficking, who mostly came to Taiwan through fraudulent marriage. The majority of the victims were trafficked to Taiwan from Indonesia and Mainland China for false job promises. They had to endure either sexual exploitation or

forced labor before being identified as victims of human trafficking and brought to the shelter. In 2013, the shelter served 8 trafficked victims by providing counseling, giving vocational trainings, referring to legal aid, accompanying to court, and offering subsidies.

TWRF also subcontracted with NIA to accompany suspected victims of human trafficking during victim

interviews or interrogation. When a suspected victim is found, the law enforcement will call TWRF's 24-hour hotline to request social workers' assistance in giving suspected victims emotional support, explaining their rights, and bridging the communication gap between them and the police/prosecutors. In 2013 TWRF accompanied 86 suspected victims, of whom 55 were identified as victims of human trafficking.