

ADVOCACY & EDUCATION

Amendment of Domestic Violence Prevention Act and Child and Youth Sexual Transaction Prevention Act

TWRF has lobbied for changes in the Domestic Violence Prevention Act (DVPA) and the Child and Youth Sexual Transaction Prevention Act (CYSTPA) for more than three years. Through our tireless efforts, the amendments to both Acts has finally passed the third reading in early 2015. The DVPA expands its protection to include child witness to domestic violence, and partners or former partners in non-cohabiting relationships. It also broadens the definition of domestic violence to include financial control and cyberstalking. Acknowledging the concept that sexual transaction with children is in fact sexual exploitation, the government renames the CYSTPA as Child and Youth Sexual "Exploitation" Prevention Act. The amended Act includes obscene act for a consideration, erotic performance, child pornography, and erotic waitressing in the definition of child and youth sexual exploitation.

Review and presentation of the Taiwan CEDAW second national report

As the Taiwanese government was required to submit the second CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women) national report, TWRF also submitted its NGO report to reflect the real situation of women in the country. TWRF's report focused on domestic violence, human trafficking, the "comfort women," and the improper disclosure and discrimination of female victims of gender-based violence in the news media. TWRF participated in the three-day review of the Taiwan national report, and gave recommendations to the CEDAW committee members from the NGO's perspective.

Let's Talk about Pornography

As sex and gender education is insufficient in Taiwan, porn becomes the main source of youth's knowledge on sex. Hosting the "Let's Talk about Pornography – 2014 International Symposium and Series of Events," TWRF invited academics, therapist, and counselors from the US, Netherlands, and Taiwan, to speak on the relationship between pornography and sexual violence, gender concepts, and intimate relationship; the treatment of compulsory pornography use; sexual-affective education for the youths in Netherlands; and gender inequality in porn.



TWRF invited practitioners and experts from Jordan, Lebanon, Bahrain, and Iraq to Taiwan for a series of anti-trafficking training covering effective prosecution and victim-centered protection. TWRF later formed a delegation of experts to Amman, Jordan, to visit the country's law enforcement agencies, victim protection facilities, and a legal aid organization for experience sharing.

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 accomplishment in empowering the Ahma through the therapeutic workshop that had lasted for 16 years.

TWRF served as a speaker of the seminar **"Human Trafficking of Women and Girls—Global Strategies for Improving Awareness & Advocacy"** hosted by PPSEAWA International in Chicago. TWRF introduced the background of human trafficking in Taiwan, and shared the campaigns and advocacy works we have carried out since 2009.

TWRF participated in the **12th Asian Solidarity Conference for the Issue of Military Sexual Slavery by Japan** held in Tokyo. The representatives from Japan and each victimized countries passed a resolution to jointly push the United Nations to set August 14 as the official International "Comfort Women" Memorial Day. TWRF also joined all the representatives to deliver the proof of the "comfort women" system to Japan's Cabinet Office.



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Taipei Women's Rescue Foundation 婦女救援基金會 Annual Report 2014

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 reforms, trains professionals and practitioners, and raises people's awareness of gender equality.



People joined TWRF in the protest in front of Japan's embassy



Young student spoke out for victims' justice

Before the demonstration, TWRF invited people around the world to write or draw their demands on a Japanese flag and a heart flag, and used the collected flags to make the protest banner. TWRF asked the representative of the embassy to receive the banner, to forward our demands to its government, and get back to us within a month. Unfortunately, although the embassy did give a response within the time limit, the Japanese government refused to give a formal written statement, but a verbal statement with no apology.

Sexual Slavery in the Japanese Military during WWII ("Comfort Women")

TWRF identified 58 former Taiwanese "comfort women" in 1992; as of 2014, there are only 5 "comfort women" survivors, who we call intimately, "Ahma," remaining in Taiwan, on average 90 years old. TWRF's licensed social worker continues to provide direct services for the Ahma, such as regular home visits, phone greetings, and referral to other social services.

Dear Japan, I have got something to say

On August 14, the International "Comfort Women" Memorial Day, legislators, women's rights activists, and people who care about the issue of the "comfort women" joined TWRF in the protest against Japan for its reluctance to admit its historical wrongs. The theme of the demonstration "Dear Japan, I Have Got Something to Say", reflected TWRF's hope that the protesters could also speak out rather than being silent participants. A young student said, "my Japanese friend has never learned about the history of the 'comfort women' because it has been deliberately removed from the textbooks. I urged the Japanese government to educate its people what has happened during WWII, and give the victims a formal apology and compensation as soon as possible."



Legislators, women's rights activists, and human rights advocates displayed the flags collected from the public.

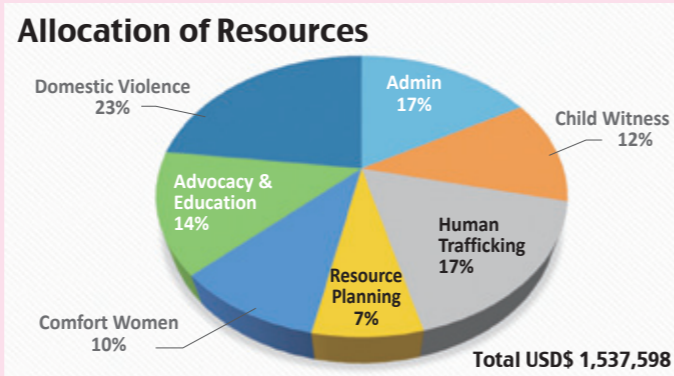
"One Person One Heart" Special Exhibition

Collaborating with the Hong-Kong based artist, Phoebe Man, TWRF invited people to write or draw their demands to the Japanese government on Japanese flags, and send them to us. Our goal was to collect 814 flags, symbolizing "August 14," the International "Comfort Women" Memorial Day. People from Taiwan, South Korea, Japan, the US, Saudi Arabia, and the Philippines all participated in the project by sending in their artworks, which were later displayed on the exhibition. Visitors could also do it at the venue and be part of the exhibition. In the end, a total of 1,184 flags were collected.



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 54% of the Foundation's fund came from government grants, 40% from individual donors, and 5% from corporate giving. The chart reflects the total allocation of funds TWRF received in the Fiscal Year of 2014.



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Passing on the Ahma's Legacy

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

As the Ahma left us one by one, 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. To prepare for the opening of the museum in 2015, TWRF has started to reach out to the public by hosting exhibitions and screenings, hoping to make more people aware of the violation of women's rights during war time. We envision the future museum to be a place where TWRF can spread its belief that gender-based violence shall not be tolerated.

"Asia Transforming: Old Values and New Presences" Conference

TWRF was invited by the Hofstra Cultural Center and the New York Conference on Asian Studies to be a speaker at the "Asia Transforming: Old Values and New Presences" Conference. Executive Director Shu-hua Kang introduced the history of the "comfort women" movement in Taiwan, the empowerment of Taiwanese survivors, and the blueprints of the future "AMA Museum," which is expected to be established in 2015. We also took part in the "Breaking the Silence: Military Sexual Slavery in the Asia-Pacific War" exhibition held at Hofstra University. The exhibition featured not only the history of the "comfort women" system, but also testimonies of the victims, including many Taiwanese Ahma.

Screenings of Documentary "Song of the Reed"

Since "Song of the Reed" was premiered in Taipei in 2013, TWRF have hosted screenings in Kyoto, Tokyo, and New York, and have got positive feedbacks from the audience. Although astonished to learn the history of the "comfort women," the audience were all touched by the Ahma's courage and perseverance. In 2014, "Song of the Reed" won the Best Anthropology Concern Award at the International Gold Panda Awards for Documentary in Sichuan, China. The documentary is expected to be in theaters in 2015.



▼ President Ma invited Ahma for formal lunch

Domestic Violence Prevention and Victim Services

A total of 1,508 potential victims of domestic violence sought help from TWRF in 2014; 86% of them are women. To meet these women's needs, TWRF social workers provided victim-oriented services, such as case management, home visits, risk management, referral to shelter, legal consultation, and counseling, and accompaniment to hospital and legal proceedings. TWRF also hosted support groups for 155 women, and parent-child activities for 218 women and children. Women not only found peer support through these activities, but took the opportunity to improve relationship with their children. This year TWRF organized a pressure relief workshop for women suffered from domestic violence to express their feelings through painting and meditation. The counselor started conversation with each woman based on her painting, and led the discussion of the myth in traditional gender cultures. The workshop aimed to encourage the women to love themselves more and to increase their self-consciousness.



A.C.T. Bystanders Intervention Program

To encourage communities and individuals to take action against domestic violence, the A.C.T. program is a pioneer violence prevention program in Taiwan. TWRF used awareness raising campaigns and worked with grassroots communities to introduce the concept of A.C.T: Awake, Challenge, and Transform. We awoke people to their responsibility for eliminating violence, encouraged every individual to safely intervene in any forms of violent crisis to challenge the myths, and gradually transformed the culture of violence. TWRF believes that everyone could be a "friendly bystander." Taipei Veterinary Medical Association and software company ChyLyng Co. joined TWRF as friendly bystanders, who respectively provide free animal shelters for domestic violence victims' pets, and develop "HelpMee", an app aimed at ensuring women's safety both in public and at home.



Beware of revenge porn!

TWRF held a press conference on the eve of Valentine's Day to remind women of the risk of filming sexual videos or taking intimate photos during sex. According to TWRF's analysis, in the past two years 51.2% of the perpetrators (mostly men) had used photos or videos to threaten their former partners in a bid to get back together, while 28.8% had just been seeking revenge and to damage the reputation of the victim. Other offenses had used revenge porn to extort for sex (15.2%) or money (12.1%). TWRF encouraged the victims to file lawsuits against their former partners, and demanded the government to amend the law to increase the penalties and fines for posting revenge porn online. We also called upon the public not to spread the photos or videos.



Human Trafficking Prevention and Victim Protection

TWRF has 24-hour hotlines for the law enforcement to request social workers' accompaniment for potential victims of human trafficking. In 2014, TWRF social workers accompanied 62 potential victims during victim interviews or interrogation, giving emotional support, explaining labor rights, and bridging the communication gap between victims and the police or prosecutors. A total of 32 people were later identified by the law enforcement as trafficked victims, among whom 20 people were forced labors, and 12 people were sexually exploited. TWRF also provided trainings for over 1,000 practitioners, including interpreters, government officials, prosecutors, the police, social workers, and medical staff, to increase their knowledge and awareness of human trafficking. TWRF currently serves as the Secretariat of the Anti-Trafficking Alliance Watch, aiming to advocate for the amendment of the Human Trafficking Prevention Act.

Hualien Shelter

The Hualien Shelter is TWRF's initiative for female victims of human trafficking. Since its inception in 2009, the shelter has served 40 victims, of whom 18 came from China, 17 from Indonesia, 2 from Cambodia, 2 from Thailand, and 1 from Vietnam. These victims were mostly lured to Taiwan through fraudulent marriage. They were brought to the shelter after being found by the law enforcement and identified as trafficked victims. The shelter is staffed 24 hours by social workers and shelter managers, who provide counseling, vocational training, job hunt, referral to legal aid, accompaniment to court etc. In the past 6 years TWRF social workers have assisted 93% of the victims in finding a job in Hualien during their stay in the shelter. It is crucial for the victims to remain financially independent, for a stable income could reduce the chance of being re-trafficked.



Services for Child Witness to Domestic Violence

TWRF provided services for 307 child witnesses in Taipei and Taoyuan areas. In 2014, TWRF developed the Foundation's first storybook specifically designed for child witnesses, Tien's Black Cloud, hoping to help children express their feelings about domestic violence. We also started experimental group workshops for adolescent girls and children under 12.

Let's travel!

TWRF hosted a handicraft workshop for child witnesses to domestic violence who were girls at age 14 to 15. Being in a violent environment at home for a long-term made them more sensitive when interacting with the opposite sex. In the workshop, girls tried various types of handicrafts, such as postcard making and rubber stamp engraving. They were encouraged to plan a one day trip, where they could use the postcards and stamps they have made. In the discussion, the girls learned to express their desires, and the art of compromise.



I no longer fear for the fire-breathing dragon

TWRF formed a small counseling group for child witnesses to domestic violence at age 10 to 12. The male counselor used paintings, games, and storybooks to convey the idea that adult men can be gentle, and that they do not need to use violence to solve problems like their fathers. In the storybook, the fire-breathing dragon symbolizes the abuser of domestic violence. TWRF specifically invited a male counselor to lead the group with a female social worker, demonstrating the positive interaction between men and women.