

Advocacy & Education

Revenge Porn Is Not Your Fault

TWRF established a Web site of anti-revenge porn and provides free legal consultation for victims. Because smartphones and camera equipment are now ubiquitous, it is common for people in intimate relationships to take sexually explicit photos or videos. However, once the relationships have gone sour, one might use these images to intimidate the partner to not break off the relationship or to blackmail the partner into performing sex acts or providing ransom money. The images are usually available for viewers to download and re-post. This viral invasion of privacy causes the victims' shame and embarrassment. The victims of this form of sexual abuse usually suffer from severe mental and physical trauma; some even attempt suicide. TWRF calls for all victims to seek professional help and avoid self-blaming.



The Anti-Revenge Porn Web site : <http://advocacy3.wix.com/twrf-antirevengeporn#about-us/hkre4>

Fed With Sex: International Anti-Sex Violence Film Festival

To promote awareness of sex violence, TWRF hosted a film festival, titled Fed With Sex, and showcased three documentary films. After each viewing, the audience was invited to stay for a discussion session. The films included Because We Were Beautiful, The Price of Sex, and Sex – Made in Germany. After the festival, TWRF also showed the films on several college and university campuses.



International Violence Prevention Expert Shares Advice with Taiwan Advocates

TWRF hosted a three-day conference, titled Engaging Bystanders: International Conference for Gender-Biased Violence Prevention, and invited Dorothy J. Edwards, Ph.D., to share her experiences in preventing violence in intimate relationships. Edwards is the founder and executive director of Green Dot, etc., a well-known non-profit organization focusing on violence intervention and prevention. The conference kicked off with large series of symposiums on November 11. The focus during the last two days was workshops led by Edwards for counselors and social workers. Shu-Hua Kang, executive director of the TWRF, suggested that violence prevention education needs to start with young people in communities. The successful experiences of Green Dot, etc. serve as good examples for Taiwan.



Taipei Women's Rescue Foundation

婦女救援基金會 Annual Report 2015

About TWRF

Taipei Women's Rescue Foundation (TWRF) is committed to promoting women's rights and ending gender-based violence. To achieve these goals, TWRF continues to strengthen services for victims of domestic violence (including child witnesses), victims of sexual slavery (the "comfort women") during WWII and victims of human trafficking. The foundation also advocates for policy reforms, trains professionals and practitioners, and promotes gender equality.

Named Winner of the 8th Presidential Culture Award

TWRF was honored as a winner of the Presidential Culture Award, which is regarded as one of the highest honors in the country. Chairperson Shu-Ling Hwang received a trophy from President Ma at the Office of the President on October 30. President Ma indicated that TWRF is an impressive organization



TWRF Chairperson Shu-Ling Hwang, at right, receives the Presidential Culture Award from President Ma.

based on its persistent hard work in individualized treatment for victims since its initial efforts to fight child prostitution. TWRF also was praised for its work in preserving all documentations of comfort women and women's rights, and for demanding for more than 20 years that Japan issues a formal apology and compensation to comfort women.

Chairperson Hwang expressed her gratitude for all the support for TWRF. TWRF branded itself with the motto "focusing on what others have not done and doing what we do the best" to uncover minority issues related to women and children that had been ignored by society. TWRF has served as an innovator, reformer, long-term companion, and hard worker for the issue of gender-based violence prevention. During the past several years, TWRF has prepared to establish the AMA Museum to share the stories of "comfort women" and promote violence prevention.

Sexual Slavery in the Japanese Military during WWII (comfort women)

TWRF identified 58 former Taiwanese comfort women in 1992; as of 2015, there are only 4 "comfort women" survivors, whom we respectfully call "Ahmas," remaining in Taiwan; they are on average 90 years old. TWRF's licensed social worker continues to provide direct services for the Ahmas, such as regular home visits, phone greetings, and referrals to other services.

Group to hold vigil in memory of World War II comfort women



Several women's rights support groups attend the night vigil on August 14.

TWRF held a night vigil on August 14, an international memorial day for comfort women. This year marks the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II. The event was held to call for a formal apology from Japan for the crimes the Japanese Imperial Army committed and to encourage people not to forget about the history of wartime violence during WWII. The vigil, titled Comfort Women Never Be Forgotten, occurred at Qing Cheng Park near the Japan Interchange Association's Taipei office. The participants included numerous civic groups and citizens who support women's rights.



Citizens observe a moment of silence tribute for the victims.

Hualien County Women Welfare Service Center

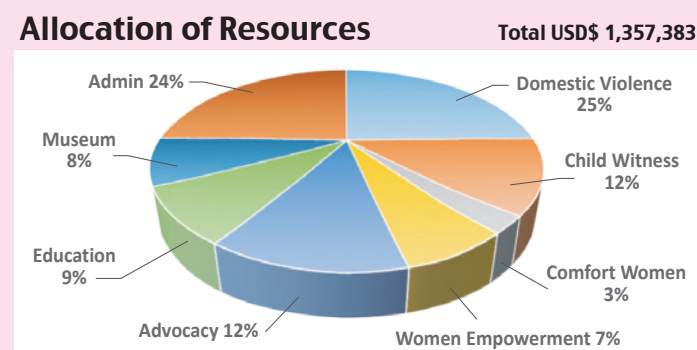


At the end of 2014, TWRF inherited the operation of the Hualien Women Welfare Service Center from the Hualien County government. In March 2015, an official ceremony was held to celebrate the opening of the center. We proposed the slogan "Love Women, Go Go Go" to promote healthy, safe and happy living for women. The center has provided legal consultation and career services. Services and events are for all women and families in the community.

TWRF has held numerous events at the center to help women improve their quality of life. The events include Power Women Group – a forum to discuss women's status and share personal experiences among group members – and weekly movie screening about gender inequality. Other events, such as music therapy sessions, art exhibits, and Mother's Day celebrations, focused on families and promoted strong, positive relationships between parents and children. The center will continue to promote a high quality of life and make the County become a friendly environment for women and children.

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 61% of TWRF fund came from government grants, 35% from individual donors and corporate giving. The chart reflects the total allocation of funds TWRF received in the Fiscal Year of 2015.



Establishment of the AMA Museum Preserving the Legacy of "Comfort Women" and Promoting Women's Rights

After more than a decade of searching, TWRF overcame all obstacles and successfully secured a location for the AMA Museum. As Ahmas have been aging and leaving us one by one, this historical center aims to preserve all forms of records related to "comfort women" to pass on their legacy to future generations. The main

objective of establishing the museum is to help the public reflect on the concerns of gender-based violence, sexual exploitation, and transitional justice via the issues of women's rights. AMA museum will be located at the west side of Taipei City. The grand opening is scheduled for the autumn of 2016.



Documentary "Song of the Reed" is in Theaters

The film "Song of the Reed" opened with two million New Taiwan dollars (USD\$60,240) in theater box office earnings in less than a month, from August 14 to September 10. TWRF spent three years to produce this documentary. The stories of six "comfort women" – four of whom passed away before the showing – touched many people's hearts. Although the film was available in only six theaters in three cities, more than 50 cinemas in other regions were reserved privately for viewing the documentary. Politicians from various parties attended the premiere and expressed their support for "comfort women." The highlight of the premiere was the surprise guest appearance of Lien-Hwa Ahma, one of the main characters in the film. All of the obstacles overcome to get this film in theaters made this successful release even more special.



If I Were: An Exhibit of "Comfort Women's" Human Rights at the 70th Anniversary of End of WWII

To attract the younger generation to learn about the history of the war and "comfort women," TWRF invited artist Phoebe Man of Hong Kong to exhibit her art work related to the war. Man started in 2013 to engage college students both in Hong Kong and Taiwan to role-play and create art from perspectives of all people during the war. More than 500 pieces of art created by students were displayed in the form of installation art. Man regards this type of art as "socially engaged art."

Visitors to the exhibit were invited to play the roles of Japanese soldiers, young women, survivors of "comfort women," and bystanders during WWII, and ponder what they would do during the circumstances. Visitors also were encouraged to draw or write down their thoughts. By viewing others' artwork, visitors could feel and understand what all people experienced during the war.



INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION

TWRF participated in the forum of the **United Nations Non-Governmental Organization Commission on the Status of Women (NGO CSW)** in March. TWRF also hosted a screening of the documentary film "Song of the Reed" in Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in New York. Invited by Asia Policy Point and US-Korean Institute, TWRF presented the redress movement of Taiwan "Comfort Women" at John Hopkins University.



TWRF attended the **7th National Conference on Health and Domestic Violence (NCHDV)**. TWRF presented the project "Awake. Challenge. Transform" to show the results of its work in gender-based violence prevention in a poster session.

TWRF presented the work and status of "comfort women" in Taiwan at the **Asian Solidarity Conference for the Issue of Military Sexual Slavery by Japan** in Seoul in May. The resolution and action plans of the conference focused on the monitoring of the Abe Cabinet's address to the public for the 70th anniversary of the end of the war on August 15, 2015.

TWRF attended the **104th International Labour Conference** in Geneva, Switzerland. The purpose of participation is to improve the performance of the Taiwan anti-trafficking policy. On June 16, the delegates from Taiwan held a symposium, entitled "Human Trafficking and Forced Labor: The Situation of Migrant Workers in Taiwan," in which they presented the development of human rights in labor to the international conference participants.



Domestic Violence Prevention and Victim Services

A total of 1,515 victims of domestic violence received help from TWRF in 2015; 83% of them are women. To meet these victims' needs, TWRF social workers provided victim-oriented services, such as case management, home visits, risk management, referral to shelter, legal consultation, counseling, and accompaniment to hospital and legal proceedings. TWRF also hosted 20 support group meetings. This year TWRF lead groups of victims watching movies that depict unfaithful marriages and domestic violence. Through discussions after the viewing, victims resonated with the characters' experiences and were inspired by the positive healing process of the victims in the movies.

Ladies Circle Project

Although TWRF has provided victims of intimate partner violence with various services, the limited amount of social workers has made comprehensive care a challenge. The lack of continuing support leaves the victims with confusion, self-doubt, and depression. TWRF started a long-term support group – Ladies Circle Project in May. Through art creation, writing, and video viewing, they face their anger, pain, and doubt toward violence. This support group aims to help survivors receive long-term trauma healing, emotional support, and establish self-esteem – the goal most members expect to achieve through this project.



Community Empowerment Men's Group

In August, TWRF initiated a community-based group Reflexive Masculinity to include solely men in promoting gender equality. This group is based on the idea that half of the population – males – cannot be excluded to achieve equality between two genders. Gender equality will be achieved only when men observe and reflect on their experience to empathize with women's suppression. During the group, participants engaged in various games and role playing to ponder the conventional idea of masculinity. These activities were designed to help participants acknowledge that gender stereotypes might contribute to inequality and victimize both men and women. Most participants responded positively and several called the group a special experience.

Services for Child Witnesses of Domestic Violence



TWRF provided services for 315 child witnesses from 234 different households in 2015. We hosted two major parties during the year – a Halloween party and a Christmas party. A local accounting company and musicians sponsored a concert, and all revenue was donated to TWRF. Several women and children victims of domestic violence were invited to attend the concert. Since they were wearing Halloween costumes, the victims were free of worries of being recognized and enjoyed the party. The Christmas party has become a TWRF tradition, drawing more than 100 participants this year enjoying music, singing, dancing, and games.

Support Group for Adults Who Witnessed Domestic Violence During Childhood

"Finally, someone noticed me. Finally, someone pays attention to the little me, the child with wounds all over." These are the words from an adult participant who witnessed domestic violence during childhood. TWRF initiated eight meetings in 2015 to support adults who witnessed domestic violence during childhood. Many participants expressed that the trauma has followed them into their adulthood and attribute any negative events in life to this childhood experience. The group aims to connect the participants with others who had similar childhood experiences so they can support each other. It also help counselors and social workers understand better what the children survivors need so they can be better served.

Fundraising Event

To help more than 90,000 children who witnessed domestic violence, TWRF launched a fundraising event in June. Through a picture book, Tien Tien's Dark Cloud, TWRF told the story of a child, Tien Tien, suffering from witnessing violence at home. The book promotes awareness of children victims. Individuals were encouraged to adopt a penny bank to fill up and donate to TWRF. Several businesses also support fundraising events in various ways, such as advertising, gifts to individual donors, and providing other channels for convenient donating.

