

Domestic Violence Prevention and Victim Services

A total of 1,367 victims of domestic violence received help from TWRF in 2016, and more than 80% 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 13 support group meetings, five sessions, and three parent-child activities in 2016.

Debunk Myth, Embrace Self-Love

Women who experience domestic violence often lose their self-esteem and have unrealistic hopes for behavioral changes of abusers, and thus are reluctant to walk away from an abusive relationship. In response to this, the foundation organized group sessions where victims realized the "behavioral changes" myth of abusers and became aware of the importance of placing a higher priority on self-love. By loving themselves more, it is expected that female victims can establish a healthy relationship with intimate partners, as well as increase their capacity to care for their children.

The Women Circle Project

Due to limited funding, government support services generally are available to domestic violence victims for only three to six months. Considering victims' long-term needs for emotional support, trauma recovery and empowerment, TWRF started a two-year support group, Women's Circle, in 2015, and invited female victims to participate. Through creative art sessions, film screenings and writing, this support group helped victims nurture emotional wellness, rebuild self-esteem and connect with others. Participants responded positively and called the group a precious experience in their lives.



Services for Child Witnesses of Domestic Violence

TWRF provided services for 278 child witnesses in 2016. We hosted a one-day trip and a Thanksgiving party for mothers and their children affected by domestic violence. These events offered them an opportunity to enjoy, reconnect and express their appreciation for each other's presence. To ensure the continuity of support services, TWRF also organized a weekend fundraising fair in May, where donated items, and handicrafts and snacks made by female victims were sold.

Campus Outreach

TWRF developed a new outreach program to primary school campuses. Child witnesses had a greater sense of security and were willing to express themselves when receiving services in a familiar environment. In this program, children explored the nature of violence, identified their physical and emotional



responses as witnesses to violence, and learned to refrain from resorting to letting out anger by hurting others as the abusers did.

Play Together, Stay Together

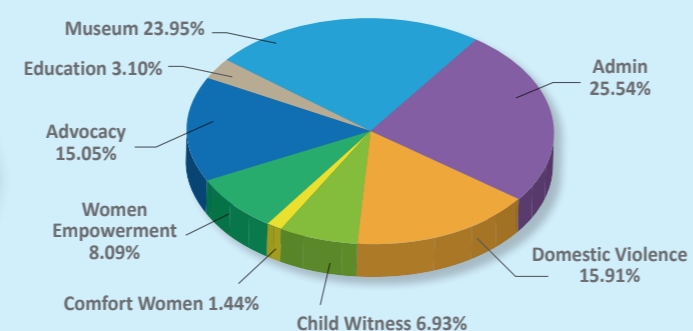
Family playtime is crucial and important in child development. However, in most families with domestic violence, children's needs are overlooked and playtime is usually ignored. Thus, TWRF initiated a program titled "Play Together, Stay together" to include six group sessions of mothers and children (six years of age or under) in June and July. During these sessions, children received full attention from their mothers while playing together. Through games during playtime, child witnesses had a good opportunity to reconnect with their mothers and resolve any issues in their relationships



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 50% of TWRF fund came from government grants, 48% from individual donors and corporate giving. The chart reflects the total allocation of funds TWRF received in the Fiscal Year of 2016.

Allocation of Resources



Taipei Women's Rescue Foundation

婦女救援基金會 Annual Report 2016

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.

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

TWRF identified 58 former Taiwanese comfort women in 1992; as of 2016, there are only 3 "comfort women" survivors, whom we respectfully call "Ama," remaining in Taiwan; they are on average 90 years old. TWRF's licensed social worker continues to provide direct services for the Amas, such as regular home visits, phone greetings, and referrals to other services.

TWRF founded the first non-governmental women's human rights museum in Taiwan, through various small-scale donations from around Taiwan and overseas. We hope the AMA Museum will be a place to remember history and also to care for contemporary women's human rights. Seminars, speeches, workshops and training sessions will be organized at the museum to promote human rights education, prevent gender-based violence and empower women. TWRF also plans to work with women's and human rights museums overseas to organize special exhibitions at the AMA Museum in an effort to expand international communication.

AMA Museum

Taiwan's first museum dedicated to "comfort women" opens

The AMA Museum, Taiwan's first museum centered on "comfort women" and women's rights, was inaugurated on March 8, 2016, the International Women's Day. The museum opened to the public on December 10, the International Human Rights Day of the same year.

After more than a decade of searching for a venue and planning the facilities, TWRF overcame all obstacles and unveiled the museum to honor those women who survived Japanese military sexual slavery in World War II. The museum's name "Ama" means "grandmother" in Taiwanese. Housed within an old building in Taipei's historic Dadaocheng area, a permanent exhibition in the museum features the life stories of Taiwanese "comfort women" and their struggle for justice. All exhibits include text and images, as well as historical documents and objects, with descriptions in Chinese, English, Japanese and Korean. The museum also contains an exhibition of art created by the Amas during 16 years of wellness workshops held by the TWRF. Additionally, the hallway connecting the museum's two sections has a theme of "Song of the Reed Walk." It is decorated with more than 2,000 transparent tubes, symbolizing reeds, and 59 metal lights on the ceiling, representing the power of life of the more than 2,000 unknown Taiwanese comfort women and the 59 known Amas. When visitors put their hands under the metal lights, the names of the Amas are projected onto the palms of their hands — a creative and touching art installation.



▲ "Comfort Women" survivor Chen Lien-Hua, at right, visits the AMA Museum

The opening of the AMA Museum sets a new milestone in 25-year human rights movements of comfort women in Taiwan. It also represents the tireless efforts of TWRF in protecting female victims of sexual violence. TWRF hopes the museum will serve as a channel for people, especially young people, to understand the issue of "comfort women" and to reflect on wartime sexual violence, exploitation, and transitional justice.

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Human Rights Movements of "Comfort Women"

Protests for "Comfort Women" Demand Apology and Compensation



More than 100 protesters from various non-governmental organizations joined a rally launched by TWRP outside the Taipei Office of Japan's Interchange Association on August 15, the anniversary of Japan's announcement of surrender during World War II, calling for the Japanese government's apology to Taiwanese "comfort woman" and reparation for their ordeal. Regardless of their political preferences and affiliations, several legislators attended the rally to support the protest. One street performer protested silently by dressing up as a "comfort woman" statue to symbolize the Amas' participation. TWRP pointed out that the agreement made between Korea and Japan on the "comfort women" issues in December 2015 was a political deal rather than a settlement focusing on victims' human rights and trampled on the efforts and aspirations of victims, civil society and people's organizations around the world who have worked on this issue.

The International Symposium on the "Museum Activist"

Opened on December 10, 2016, the AMA Museum is the first museum in Taiwan focused on activism for the "comfort women" of the Second World War. Though it is the first such museum in Taiwan, several museums and memorial halls for "comfort women" already have been established in other countries, including Korea, Japan, and China. To help the people of Taiwan understand how museums in other countries preserve the history of "comfort women" and to initiate an activist platform, TWRP held an International Symposium on Activism. Specialists from the "comfort women" museums of Taiwan, South Korea, Japan, and China gathered on December 11, the first day of the museum's soft opening, to share their experiences advocating for the human rights of "comfort women" through museums.

This international forum included four sessions from morning to evening. The experiences shared by the experts of South Korea, Japan, China and Taiwan represent different modes of museum operation and echo the social contexts of each country. Taiwan needs to increase its historical research on "comfort women", and the successful work in other countries could serve as a model for Taiwan.

Voice of the "Comfort Women"

Led by Korea, 14 civic groups (including TWRP) from eight countries launched an international project to list "comfort women" documents in the Memory of the World Register, titled "Voices of the Comfort Women." All participating groups formed a committee in 2015, and signed the application at the meeting in Seoul after a year's hard work. The application was officially submitted to UNESCO on May 31, 2016. The purpose of the UNESCO'S listing action is to enable the historical documents to be well-preserved and the comfort women's voices fighting for their own rights to be heard by the world.

A total of 2,744 documents regarding "comfort women" were submitted to UNESCO, and the information included the system of "comfort women", survivors' experiences, and their efforts to seek compensation. For Taiwan, TWRP selected 271 documents and objects among its collection of 5,772 pieces. "Voices of the Comfort Women" is the largest application with the most comprehensive documents that UNESCO has ever received. The result will be available as early as October 2017.



Advocacy & Actions to Counter Revenge Porn

TWRP established a website of anti-revenge porn for various related information. It also provides a telephone hotline and free legal consultation for victims. More than 90 percent of the 90 individuals who sought help in 2016 were women, among whom nearly 60 percent were young women aged between 21 and 35, while a 12-year-old girl was the youngest victim. Judging from the fact that 51 percent of perpetrators in these cases were the victims' former or current partners, it was evident that revenge porn is an emerging form of intimate partner abuse. Notably, 90 percent of the compromising materials were disseminated online.

Forum at NGO-CSW

TWRP organized an international forum focused on legal actions targeting revenge porn. This forum was a parallel event of the New York-based Non-Governmental Organization Committee on the Status of Women (NGO-CSW) forum in March. The South West Grid for Learning and the Cyber Civil Rights Initiative (CCRI) shared their experiences working on related issues in the UK and US respectively. TWRP proposed that Taiwan specifically make revenge porn an offence with new legislation.

Symposium on Nonconsensual Pornography

TWRP organized a symposium in October entitled "Sexual Violence in the Digital Age," inviting the CCRI, the Lighthouse Japan, as well as lawyers, judges, members of the law enforcement and internet service providers to discuss challenges in curbing revenge porn and solutions. The symposium reaffirmed the need for legislation to prohibit and criminalize specifically the distribution of sexually explicit photos and films online without consent, and also that awareness campaigns and cross-border crackdowns are indispensable for effectively reducing revenge porn.



Expand Support to Combat Abuse

Cooperating with two popular websites that host discussion forums for sexual abuse victims to express their inner thoughts, TWRP held a press conference in March and launched an online event entitled "Be brave and seek help. We have your back." Viewers are welcome to share and write comments to comfort revenge porn victims. Through this civic engagement, the goal is to promote public awareness of anti-revenge porn, and encourage a friendly social environment for victims.

Campus Awareness Campaigns

TWRP organized 12 information sessions on campuses in 2016 as part of the awareness campaign on revenge porn. A total of 1,380 university students learned about its definition and preventive measures. After attending these events, 90 percent of the participants said they would not allow their intimate partners to take private pictures or video and had become more aware of how to avoid being victimized.

Violence Prevention Education

Being a Friendly Bystander

In working toward preventing violence, TWRP initiated "Being a friendly bystander" program. We encourage people to pay attention and care for latent violence victims, and to safely intervene in any crisis. In collaboration with the Taipei City Government, TWRP focused the bystander intervention program in 2016

on bringing the concept and approaches to local communities. Training sessions on the knowledge and skills required for safe and effective intervention were provided to five community organizations, so that the members could subsequently introduce the concepts and techniques to local residents during community events.



Hualien Women's Welfare Service Center

Commissioned by the Hualien County government, TWRP 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, and gardening to promote healthy, safe and happy living for all women in the community.

The center held numerous community-based activities in 2016. Leaflets about women's health and workplace rights were distributed in local markets on Mother's Day. In November, an international film festival was launched to focus on women or gender issues followed by post-film discussions. An exhibition was also held to showcase the artwork and writing by women who explored self-worth and inner strength through group sessions at the center. A community fair with fun games was organized to promote gender equality. The center will continue to help women improve their quality of life and make Hualien County become a more friendly environment for women and children.



Men as Partners to Promote Gender Equality

In 2016, TWRP initiated two "Men speak out loud" male groups to promote gender equality. The session is based on the idea that males as half of the population cannot be excluded to achieve equality between the two genders. Gender equality will be achieved only when men observe and reflect on their experience to empathize with women's suppression. Making men realize this not only helps prevent and reduce gender-based violence, but also improves their lives by freeing them from harmful and limiting cultural constructions of masculinity as well as gender stereotyping. Participants were encouraged to reflect on the roles they played in different stages of life. They were encouraged to express any pressure and suppression they experienced as males due to expectations from society.

