



3rd Annual Commemoration of the Declaration of Peace and Cessation of War (DPCW)

Subtitle: Civil Society's Role for Peaceful Unification of the Korean Peninsula

Thursday, 14 March 2019, 4:00 PM

Jamsil Indoor Stadium, Seoul Sports Complex

| Outline |

The 3rd Annual Commemoration of the Declaration of Peace and Cessation of War (DPCW)¹ is to be held on 14 March 2019 in Seoul, Korea and other major cities around the world under the subtitle, “Civil Society’s Role for Peaceful Unification of the Korean Peninsula.” This event will serve as a platform to share the outcomes of activities undertaken to introduce the 10 articles and 38 clauses of the DPCW to the United Nations and the present status of the international community’s support and to discuss the role of civil society for peaceful unification of the Korean Peninsula.

At the World Peace Summit hosted in September 2014, HWPL brought to the fore that an international legal instrument on peace and cessation of war is one of the top priorities for the realization of global peace. To this end, HWPL has been engaging political and community leaders, journalists, religious leaders, as well as youth and women in the non-governmental sector in continuous and comprehensive cooperation. Also in 2015, the HWPL International Law Peace Committee was established, made up of international law experts and scholars. The Committee drafted a document for peace and cessation of war and consequently proclaimed the DPCW to the whole world.

¹ Declaration of Peace and Cessation of War (DPCW), consisting of 10 articles and 38 clauses proclaimed by Heavenly Culture, World Peace, Restoration of Light (HWPL) on 14 March 2016 at 3:14pm proposes a solution for global peace and conflict resolution and a framework for spreading a culture of peace

Since then, HWPL has been holding an annual commemoration of the DPCW on the 14th of March every year to present the outcomes of creating and spreading a culture of peace based on worldwide support for the DPCW and to share the progress of activities undertaken to introduce the DPCW to the UN, which is part of the implementation process. At the 3rd Annual Commemoration, the status of global cooperation, based on support for the DPCW that is more expanded and practical than ever, will be introduced as below.

Support at the national level

Starting with Seychelles, Eswatini, and Comoros, official support for the DPCW at the governmental level is increasing.

Expanding support at the international level through IGOs

International organizations' support and participation for the DPCW have continued. PARLACEN (Central American Parliament) passed a resolution in support of the DPCW. The Pan-African Parliament, which is the legislative body of the African Union consisting of 55 African countries, and the International Centre for Black Sea-Baltic Studies and Consensus Practices signed memoranda of understanding. Also in May 2018, at the UN Headquarters in front of the UN Permanent Representatives of 145 countries, HWPL made known the importance of introducing the DPCW to the UN in the form of a draft resolution and establishing a binding instrument for peace.

Expanding civil society's movement for the DPCW advocacy

HWPL's "Legislate Peace" Campaign is an advocacy campaign at the civilian level in support of the DPCW and its implementation, and it is taking place in 174 countries around the world. This campaign includes peace education that can raise awareness of peace among citizens, students, and refugees, "Peace Letter" Campaign where the youth call for peace in letters to national leaders, and peace projects and advocacy activities for improving women's rights.

Discussing civil society's role for peaceful unification of the Korean Peninsula

During this year's commemoration, civil society's role for peaceful unification of the Korean Peninsula will be discussed. Participants will get an opportunity to understand unification in depth and discuss ways to draw cooperation of Korea and the international community for a permanent peace regime and stable development of the Korean Peninsula. Through a lecture on "Civil Society's

Role for Peaceful Unification, Exchange, and Cooperation of the Korean Peninsula,” there will be a discussion on cooperation for building up social consensus on peace and unification among civil society.

| Background |

This year, 2019, is the 100th anniversary of the March First Movement and the Provisional Government of the Republic of Korea. In March 1919, 100 years ago from today, mass hurrah demonstrations were held for Korea’s independence, and the Korean Declaration of Independence was proclaimed on 1 March to make known to the world that the Republic of Korea is a sovereign nation. But over the past century, the Korean Peninsula went through history marred with the Korean War and loss of sovereignty, and it still remains as one of the most probable places of conflict that can bring the world’s codestruction.

The Korean Declaration of Independence states that the great cause of Korean independence is a command of the heavens and what the era is calling for, and that it is a just right of humanity to coexist. It also emphasizes that true independence comes when people are no longer ruled by power and when the moral principles of peace and coexistence govern the world, a new era of peace.

HWPL’s Declaration of Peace and Cessation of War (DPCW) also states the great cause of opening up a new era, moving from the rule of power towards the rule of law. It shows that the spirit of Korean independence and sovereignty of its people are in line with the establishment of a peace regime on the Korean Peninsula and the achievement of world peace and cessation of war. World peace based on justice, coexistence, and understanding is possible only through improved relationships and cooperation between nations as well as the participation of civil society, which is rising as the main driving force of the international community. This is why the DPCW urges cooperation based on a culture of peace.

The Korean War brought forth an extreme confrontation unprecedented in the past century, and the military confrontation is still continuing today. Stability and reconciliation on the Korean Peninsula are a very important factor in world peace. Just as civic awareness and participation pulled Korea out of the ruins of war into economic growth and democracy, civil society’s active participation and awareness hold a great significance and responsibility in achieving a peaceful unification on the Korean Peninsula. In such situation and time, HWPL plans to discuss its direction of how to expand and strengthen civil society’s participation and role in achieving unification on the Korean Peninsula.

| Host |

HWPL, the host of this event, is a peace NGO in Special Consultative Status with the UN ECOSOC and associated with the Seoul Metropolitan Government and the UN DGC. For the purpose of ceasing all wars and creating a peaceful world as a legacy for future generations, HWPL is building a global peace network. This network includes the HWPL International Law Peace Committee made up of international law experts, 192 members of the HWPL Peace Advisory Council made up of political and community leaders, and 556 HWPL Publicity Ambassadors made up of religious leaders and experts in education and media.

Also, HWPL is cooperating with the International Women's Peace Group (IWPG) and the International Peace Youth Group (IPYG), which has about 830 youth groups around the world as its affiliates, to lead civil society's support and participation in building global peace.