

IPYG

NEWSLETTER

FEATURE ARTICLE

Korean Youth Stand
for Peace after Bitter
Suffering of War

LETTER TO IPYG

Cease War - Let Peace
Reign

INTERVIEW

Jordan Bowen, Messenger
of Peace Without Borders



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FEATURE ARTICLE 1

Korean Youth Stand for Peace after Bitter Suffering of War

Peace movement taking place on a street of Changwon



Photos of IPYG and the DPCW

The IPYG Eastern Busan & Gyeongnam Branch held a Peace Letter event in Changwon, Gyeongsangnamdo on June 24th, 2018. At the event - subtitled “A letter to show young people’s desire to oppose the bitter suffering of war and to effect change for a better world” - citizens wrote letters to support the peaceful unification of Korea, so that a tragic and fratricidal war like the Korean War never again breaks out.

The Korean War was one of the most tragic wars in world history, resulting in more than 5 million casualties. Through the Peace Letter event, the IPYG raised Changwon citizens’ awareness of the tragedy of the Korean War and presented an answer for world peace, an answer which could prevent this kind of war. To do this, IPYG set up booths in the center

of the street in Jungang-dong, Changwon, to present information on the Korean War. In addition, pictures of IPYG’s activities and HWPL’s Declaration of Peace and Cessation of War (DPCW) were displayed. Members of IPYG’s Eastern Busan & Gyeongnam Branch participated as volunteers to show the tragedy of war and the answer for peace.

Approximately 200 of the Changwon citizens who attended the event wrote a Peace Letter to call on the president of Korea to achieve peaceful unification. One citizen, Mr. Choi, wrote a letter saying, “I am so pleased and impressed to see youth taking an interest in the Korean War and working towards peace on the Korean Peninsula”. He added, “I hope to make sure that our heart (written in the letter) is conveyed to the president”.

An American youth also wrote a letter, strongly agreeing that war should not break out again and that unification should be achieved as soon as possible. About 120 hand-written letters were gathered during the event. These activities generated interest among Changwon citizens’ in IPYG and its activities for peace. Plus, through the event, we came to know that foreign youth also desire peace on the Korean Peninsula. This display of solidarity gave extra meaning to the event.

The organizers from the IPYG Eastern Busan and Gyeongnam Branch expressed their hopes, saying “We will continue to work for peace by interacting with youth and youth organizations in Changwon, along with the citizens who wrote the letters and the people who joined IPYG.”



Members of IPYG promoting IPYG and the DPCW



An American Youth Writing a Peace Letter

FEATURE ARTICLE 2

South and North Korean Youth Talk together about Peace on the Korean Peninsula

Youth of the Korean Peninsula Taking the Lead for Peaceful Unification



Two Speakers (Secretary General Gu Young Mo, Education Team Leader Kim Pil Joo) with the Participants of South-North Korean Youth TALK

The International Peace Youth Group (IPYG)'s Incheon Branch hosted the "South-North Korean Youth TALK" with the theme of "Talk for Peace on the Korean Peninsula". Held on June 23rd in one of restaurants called "Coexistence" in Bupyeong district, Incheon, the event was organized to remember the pain of war, to hope for peace on the Korean peninsula and to find a way for peaceful unification on the anniversary of the outbreak of Korean War. About 50 South and North Korean youth participated in the event, both members of the IPYG, and an organization

concerned with human rights in North Korea, Now Action and Unity for Human Rights (NAUH) and spoke of peace.

Emphasizing the role of youth in the work of peace, the Secretary General of the Council for National Unification and Democracy stated, "The youth who will take the lead role in establishing peace on the Korean peninsula and ushering in an era of unification should consider for themselves why Koreans need peaceful unification. They should voluntarily search for and take part in small actions for peace and unification, which we can set into motion now.

Mentioning the necessity of making an effort so that North and South can understand each other, Education Team Leader, Kim Pil Joo said, "It is necessary for North and South Korea to make effort to eliminate misunderstanding, prejudice, and discrimination through understanding each other correctly. It is important to have a proper will to search each country's/

person's role in all spheres of life and to put that into action." After listening to the two speeches attentively, North and South Korean youth discussed the topic based on the speeches and presented the role of youth in achieving a peaceful unification of Korea.

Lastly, hoping for a peaceful unification of Korea, youth hand-wrote peace letters to urge the head of state to support the Declaration of Peace and Cessation of War (DPCW). The letters will be delivered to the president of South Korean, Moon Jae In, within the year.

A youth participant from the North said, "I could see that the peaceful unification of Korea is not too far away. I would like to be a part of fulfilling the role of youth in working for peace." Having a chance to communicate with each other through the South-North Korean Youth TALK, youth of North and South Korea promised to participate in the work of peace with the IPYG and showed anticipation for future events.



Speech of Secretary General Gu Young Mo with the Topic 'Reunification of the Korean Peninsula'



Speech of Education Team Leader Kim Pil Joo with the Topic 'The Importance of Understanding Between South and North Korea'



Invited VIP

FEATURE ARTICLE 3

“2018 Peace U” – Peace Seminar in Daejeon

Daejeon & Chungcheong Branch of IPYG prepared a peace lecture for June, Memorial Month in Korea

For June, the month of remembrance, the International Peace Youth Group (IPYG)’s Daejeon & Chungcheong Branch organized a peace seminar, “2018 Peace U”. The “(I) peace you” in the title of the event means to share peace with others, just like people say, “I love you” to show their affection to others. In the hope of communicating peace to everyone, the title “Peace U” became the permanent title for the event of the branch. In 2017, the branch held the event under the same name.

At this year's seminar, many distinguished guests honored the event by attending: the Chief Branch Manager of HWPL’s Daejeon Chungcheong Branch; the Manager of Daejeon Chungcheong Branch of the IWPG; Seo Sung Hae, President of the Korean Filial Piety Young Federation; Kim Mu Gang, Vice President of Konyang Cyber University; and Ms. Song Hwa Ryeong who lived through the Korean War. The peace seminar was mainly composed of lectures looking back at the war and reminding people of the importance of peace.

In Daejeon – called the city of noblemen for people's tendency to remain emotionally unaffected – the 250 participating youth drew attention with their gathering and by raising one voice for peace. Distinguished guests of the event expressed

Youth Reporters Writing Articles



their astonishment at the great number of youth participating in a peace event and hoped that peace could boom in Daejeon. They also hoped to have such valuable events that open the door for peace more often.

One young participant said, "It was my pleasure to participate in the seminar and I was amazed to see that there are so many people who are concerned about peace." Giving a ringing compliment, another participant, who later joined the IPYG, was inspired by the activities of the IPYG said, "It is my first time having a meaningful Korean War Day. I enjoyed most parts, but I was particularly touched by the video promoting the Peace Letters, the video clip about war, and the speech delivered by the IPYG Chief Branch Manager."

Youth reporters who attended the event will also write articles and reports to promote the concerns of youth for peace and the work of the IPYG's Daejeon Chuncheong branch. In addition, many of the youth who participated in the event hand-wrote Peace Letters and committed themselves to actively joining future events held by the IPYG.



Writing a Peace Letter



Group Photo After the Event

FEATURE ARTICLE 4

“IPYG Peace Talk – Summer of Peace”: Youth Open the Peace on Korean Peninsula

Resolving the Unification of Korea through the Declaration of Peace and Cessation of War

With lush shade of trees signaling the beginning of summer, the Memorial month of June has come after the Inter-Korean Summit in April and the 5th Annual Commemoration of the Declaration of World Peace in May in Korea. During June, to commemorate soldiers and patriotic martyrs who gave up their lives for the country, the International Peace Youth Group maintained the noble spirit as youth with Peace Letter activities throughout Korea.

On June 23rd, the IPYG's Southern Seoul and Gyeonggi Branch hosted “Peace Talk – Summer of Peace” in Seoul, Korea, to provide youth a chance to gather and establish the foundation for the unification of Korea in the future. To encourage youth working for peace, eight experts on inter-Korean relations and peaceful unification including Head of Researcher on Unification of One Nation, faculties of Hangyere Middle and High School, and the Secretary General of the Korean Association of Peace Studies attended the event.



A Participant Looking at the Brochure of the Event



A Participant Saluting to the National Flag

Explaining the aim of the event, the organizer of the event, IPYG's Southern Seoul and Gyeonggi Branch said, "The event is organized to inspire the spirit of patriotic martyrs and ancestors through education and discussion for youth in their 20s and 30s facing the reality of a competitive society without education on unification."

The event began with a salute to the national flag and a silent tribute for the patriotic martyrs. The venue went solemn for the time to remember the sacrifices made due to the tragedy that occurred 68 years ago. Following this, Lee Gyeong Tae, the Head of Researcher on Unification of One Nation, said in his congratulatory message that youth of Korean is necessary for achieving peaceful unification of Korea.



You Jun Yeol, from IPYG HQ Giving a Speech

On that day, the Headquarters Director of the IPYG, You Jun Yeol, gave a lecture. During the lecture, with the topic, "Youth speaks of unification," he raised awareness of the answer for peace and emphasized that the painful history of the division of Korea must be reviewed.

Explaining the cause of the division, Director You said, "In 1945 on the Korean Peninsula, there were two significant events: independence and division. Korean citizens who rejoiced the independence with laughter and tears became the victims of a conflict between capitalism and socialism, which caused the division." He added, "We should not pass down un-



Lee Gyeong Tae, the Head of Researcher on Unification of One Nation Giving his Congratulatory Speech

fortunate events to future generations, which lets our country's destiny remain in the hands of other countries. To prevent this, let the voice of North and South Korean youth be heard for the unification of Korea," and emphasized, "We should not entrust only the government with the matter of unification but let the youth, who are citizens, raise their voice through civil society and let the government carry out the work." Furthermore, announcing that Heavenly Culture, World Peace, Restoration of Light (HWPL) has gathered letters of support for the peaceful unification of Korea and the IPYG has written "Peace Letters", he presented that these two activities are the answer to achieve peace.

After listening to the lecture, one of youth participants responded, "I was not concerned about unification at all but I could have a meaningful experience here today." Furthermore, he determined to spread and promote the IPYG and its work to others.



Participants from Different Groups Taking Photos After the Discussion



VIPs Writing the Peace Letter

During the break time after the lecture, participants got to experience North Korea second hand by trying snacks that North Koreans enjoy eating. Moreover, the coordinator introduced the IPYG's program for July in which youth will take an active role in studying, planning, and experiencing activities to achieve peace and cease wars for 11 months. Expressing enthusiastic responses, youth participants said, "Participating in this kind of event, where people get an understanding of peace and discuss the importance of education and communication, is the way to put into action for peaceful unification." Then, they determined to join the IPYG and participate in peace activities.

For the discussion, the participants were divided into two groups, youth participants and VIP guests. Experts of each field in VIP guests group gave practical advice for the IPYG's action plan and initiatives for the second half. They exchanged practical suggestions and ways to apply peace education in official school curriculum and to activate IPYG's programs in July constantly. At the end of discussion, all wrote Peace Letter as they consent unanimously to write it.

"War is not done with sword nor the rifle. Genuine triumph is for the sake of the people in the country."

This is the impressive remark by Commander Richard Seabury Whitcomb of US Logistics Support Base. Three years after Korean War, a fire spread in a shantytown of Busan that displaced more than 30,000 people and made people fall into despair. Commander Whitcomb said this quote when he was summoned to U.S. court for transgressing the military law to help the citizens of Busan.

An open sore caused by Korean War has gradually healed by the wind of peace blowing over Korean Peninsula. Wherever the desire for peace is, there are always youth. One single candle light cannot drive out a deep darkness. However, gathering of 10 or 100 candle lights eliminates the darkness. It is desperately necessary to have participants and the support of people in their 20s and 30s until the voice of North and South Korean youth as citizens of Korea is heard.

Group Photo After the Event



LETTER TO IPYG

Cease War - Let Peace Reign

A Peace Letter from Nigeria

Salaam Abdul Lateef is a youth activist, a UN Peace Ambassador, a Pan-African Youth Leader and identified with lots of passion for purposeful engagement and development of the Youth. For the past 10 years, Lateef has been appointed General Secretary to seven different organizations (Local, State and National). He passionately believes in the enhancement of grassroots support programs towards developing youth. He is currently working as the Country Representative of the African Youth for Development Commission (AYDEC). Since his introduction to the IPYG, he has always been working with a positive, assertive and energetic mind to make peace a reality in Nigeria, through the Peace Letter Campaign. He is planning to deliver the peace letter to Ministers from the federal government of Nigeria. His fervor for causes that he thinks are right is definitely the best quality that he could have as a youth leader: always working for the accomplishment of his duties. A model of example for all of us.



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 The world was peaceful from inception. Adam and eve were created and lived harmoniously, no war, no rancor, no hate speech; however, something went wrong and here we are!
 Undoubtedly, the global atmosphere is in chaos and Nigeria is not in exception. When I rise every morning to the constant news of chaos between ethnic groups, religious institutions and even communities, it baffles my mind. The toll of these anti-peaceful antics in Nigeria reached its height where our young people, especially

school children, are no longer safe; they are being kidnapped, raped, maimed, used as terrorist tools and even killed.

All these chaotic and anti-peaceful activities really call for concern by all sane and peace-loving humans. It's high time we as Nigerians go back to our National Anthem which says to build a nation where PEACE and JUSTICE shall reign. This line and the passion to see a peaceful Nigeria and world at large inspire me to keep giving my all towards establishing peace in Nigeria and beyond.

I'm totally supporting the Declaration of Peace and Cessation of War (DPCW) because the concept addresses the basics of human rights. If rigorously implemented, it'll ameliorate the chaotic rampage of war and disharmony across Nigeria and the world at large.

Articles 8 and 9 of the DPCW emphasize the freedom of religion, ethnic peaceful integration and peaceful coexistence among all, regardless of people's religious beliefs, cultural differences, ideological imbalances and ethnical dexterities. The DPCW document is wholesome in its direction towards sustainable peace. I hereby strongly recommend that the Declaration of Peace and Cessation of

War (DPCW) should be implemented as a legally binding document to all countries and regions across the globe and we, youth should be the foundation for achieving it by calling on our state leaders with the peace letters.

My next project in some war-torn communities in Nigeria is "Cease War - Let Peace Reign". I can't wait to see a peaceful Nigeria and world.

My dream is to see a peaceful and crime-free Nigeria, Africa and world at large.

This, we can achieve in collectivism.

'We are one'

Thanks.

Lateef Oladimeji SALAAM

.....
 These days, Salaam is working hard in order to make the DPCW known to the Nigerian youth, create a movement yearning for peace throughout the whole country and ultimately deliver the Peace letter to the Nigerian President, so that the DPCW can be adopted as an international law that can ultimately become a national law. He is also very excited to participate in the upcoming 4th Annual Commemoration of the WARP Summit that will take place in Seoul. We look forward to seeing more of his never ceasing steps for peace.

INTERVIEW

Jordan Bowen, Messenger of Peace Without Borders

To achieve peace, the UK, Poland, and Germany cannot be a barrier. Meet the person of “Be the change that you wish to see in the world”.

Jordan Bowen is the regional director of HWPL Poland branch, leading HWPL's ending war and world peace. In addition, he has been active in the office of the Religious Union of Poland and making efforts to invite Chairman Lee to Poland for a world peace tour as well as meeting with Chairman Lee directly during the 27th world peace tour in Germany recently.

Through the IPYG, he has formed “Youth Ambassadors for Peace” to promote the DPCW through various activities. From the same young man's side, he is also aware of the importance of youth activity. As the head of the Polish branch of HWPL, he is leading the way with the same goal as Chairman Lee.

Q. Please introduce yourself.

A. My name is Jordan Bowen and I am the Regional Director of HWPL Poland, before accepting the position at HWPL, I worked closely with the United Nations, UK Parliament and ran several of my own successful businesses.

Q. As HWPL Poland, what activities have you done and what was the outcome? What inspired you to work in HWPL Poland? And what is your vision through HWPL Poland?

A. I was delighted to be invited to establish a branch of HWPL in Poland. Whilst this country is relatively peaceful, today's peace is cloaked by a history of war and conflict. Today, whilst Poland remains peaceful to the unknowing, there are a range of underlying issues that will and are leading to conflict and unsettlement. Although HWPL Poland is a relatively young branch of the organization, we have successfully launched a number of initiatives across the capital. In addition to 525 and other initiatives developed and run by IPYG, Poland is the first branch of HWPL to launch the Youth Ambassadors of Peace program, through which, our international volunteers organized their very own ‘March for Our Lives’, an initiative that was founded in America. The entire team and I have a broad vision for the organization here in Poland. Over the course of the next year, we will strengthen our youth core through cooperation with the leading universities, and look to continue the development of our WARP Office, which currently has active participation from four key religious groups.

Q. The 27th peace tour was held in Germany in June. We heard you had a meeting with Chairman Lee directly. Could you share us the meeting result and what you have heard from Chairman Lee?

A. It was a true honor and privilege to meet with Chairman Lee and the directors of the organization, who had accompanied Chairman to Frankfurt. Whilst I met with Chairman Lee as Regional Director, I was also present in my official capacity as President of the Sant Nirankari Mandal (CEE), which effectively meant I was there as a religious figure; I believe that this added an additional twist to the meeting, and meant that topics concerning the wider world, were at the forefront of what was discussed. Chairman Lee encouraged our efforts in Poland, and it became apparent very early on in the meeting, that he himself, too, has a very broad and exciting vision for our branch! It was refreshing to understand why Chairman Lee felt the need to continue with this journey, and I was specifically moved by Chairman's call for the masses to be ‘reborn’; it is clear that Chairman Lee believes that we should drop our prehistoric and animalistic ways and live a life of purity.

Q. Peace Letter is a project for youths to urge each head of state for supporting developing DPCW into a legally binding document. Do

you have the idea how peace letter could be forwarded to the President of Poland?

A. Of course, we have a plan to engage the President and other politicians! But shhh! It's a secret!

Just kidding! The entire team is tirelessly researching the events and schedule of the President's office, for opportunities to engage with the President and the First Lady. In addition to our aspirations to engage President Duda in the initiatives that we are running through HWPL, we have recently opened dialogue with a number of leading and influential politicians in the UK, calling for support for our activities across Europe.

Over the next few months we will begin to lobby members of the European Parliament for support with lobbying the EU and UN to adopt the DPCW.

Q. How do you plan to carry on peace activities with Polish youth as HWPL Poland?

A. I am fortunate to be working closely with Ms. Shin, the delegate responsible for overseeing the activities of the IPYG in Poland; together we have prepared several youth led initiatives that we believe will not only engage youth, but most importantly will engage the Polish youth.

Working in partnership with several leading youth organizations, in particular student-led bodies, we aim to enroll volun-

teers, by engaging young people in events and seminars dedicated to topics that affect them directly.

Earlier this month, we launched the IPYG Summer Debate project, which will provide young people with a platform to debate on topics such as migration, racism, sexism and separatism; eventually figures from each of our sectors, will be invited to engage with the young people in question and answer sessions, styled on the BBC program – Free Speech.

Q. We heard that you are a religious leader but at the same time youth, what do you think is the youth's role in achieving peace?

A. It is without question that young people play an imperative role in achieving peace. Regardless of gender, colour, caste, creed, religion, faith, ideology and all other social conforms, it is today's youth that will one day be running the world; therefore, it is essential that young people come together and actively eliminate social divides, irradiating the primitive and outdated mindsets within society, spreading a culture of peace and cohesion.

Young people need to be engaging in political, religious and charitable activities, whether it be locally, nationally or internationally. Making the most of the platforms being provided to them, young people can have an impact on issues that will affect them later on in life.

Q. Please send a message to the youth in the world who will read the IPYG newsletter.

A. Mahatma Gandhi once said, "Be the change that you wish to see in the world"; although it may seem difficult to make an impact as an individual, it is without doubt that by changing your own ways, the people around you will begin to change their own.

Whilst one voice alone can go unrecognized, as the numbers rise, and people begin to voice their opinions collectively, harmoniously, an impact is made.

We are often reminded that charity begins at home; no one should feel pressured into making changes on an international level, alone. I believe that by changing your actions, and your way of thinking, those around you will take a second look at their own actions and so forth, this impact will spread.

Mr. Jordan Bowen is working hard to communicate with each sector so that the head of state can support the DPCW to achieve world peace. He is also looking for ways to deliver the peace letter to the President through young people. We look forward to the future of Mr. Jordan Bowen with HWPL.



NEW MEMBERS

ToBridge

Bangladeshi

The present world needs peace. For achieving this peace, we need a platform. The IPYG provides that platform for youth around the world to work for peace. I am very much happy to be a member of the IPYG. I will do my best to play my role for achieving peace.



IPYG NEWSLETTER JULY

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