

## **BC ALPHA WORK REPORT (JULY 2013 – JUNE 2014)**

### **23 September 2013 A reminder to Harper and Abe: History Denied = Justice Denied**

As Japan's Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe, was visiting Canada and being received by Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, BC ALPHA issued some important reminders to PM Stephen Harper. We reminded Prime Minister Harper of Motion 291. Motion 291 calls for the Government of Japan to abandon any statement which devalues the expression of regret from the Kono Statement of 1993; to clearly and publicly refute any claims that the sexual enslavement and trafficking of the 'comfort women' for the Japanese Imperial Forces never occurred; to take full responsibility for the involvement of the Japanese Imperial Forces in the system of forced prostitution, including through a formal and sincere apology expressed in the Diet to all of those who were victims; and to continue to address those affected in a spirit of reconciliation.

For full text read: [PDF in English](#) | [PDF in Chinese](#) | [PDF in Korean](#)

### **29 September, 2013 [A reminder ignored: History Denied = Justice Denied](#)**

Japan's Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe, was received on September 23, 2014 by Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper. We are disappointed to learn that rather than urging Abe to address the "comfort women" issue, Prime Minister Harper has agreed to "strengthen defence relations with Japan." BC ALPHA thus urges Prime Minister Harper to use this moment of proposed military cooperation to raise the issue of military sexual slavery with Prime Minister Abe. In addition to an apology, Prime Minister Harper must encourage Prime Minister Abe to ensure that every single Japanese student knows about this history, and uses this knowledge to build a peaceful and just future, both within and beyond Japan.

**25 October 2013** Information table was set up at the [BC Social Studies Teachers' Association Provincial Conference](#) at Vancouver Technical Secondary School to promote the newly re-designed ALPHA website and related works of BC ALPHA.

**November 2013** **Donation Appeal** was sent out to solicit donations to support the work of BC ALPHA.

**5 & 6 December 2013** The 5th [International Human Rights Day Symposium: Human Rights in the Asia-Pacific 1931-1945](#) was held at Vancouver Technical Secondary School sponsored by Vancouver School Board. The symposium was organized to help students better understand and reflect on issues of human rights violations during the Asia-Pacific War (1931- 1945) and to make connections to present day local and global issues. Videos of the symposium are available at the following YouTube links:-

- Special Remarks by Joy Kogawa - <http://youtu.be/Ne-bFBfQOLO>
- Three Van Tech students talked about 2013 IHRDSS - <http://youtu.be/bAN4YNUT6zY>
- In Remembrance (from Requiem) performed at the 2013 IHRDSS - <http://youtu.be/veaPLNmwtWI>

Media report are available at the following links:-

- <http://www.alpha-canada.org/alpha-news/2013-student-symposium-on-wwii-human-rights-sing-tao-daily>
- <http://www.alpha-canada.org/alpha-news/student-symposium-on-human-rights-ming-pao>
- <http://www.westca.com/Forums/viewtopic/t=542586/lang=schinese.html>
- <http://www.alpha-canada.org/alpha-news/high-school-students-symposium-on-human-rights-wj>

Teachers of Social Studies 11, History 12, Law 12 & Social Justice 12 registered to bring their students to attend the Symposium. A total of 708 students and 31 teachers from 13 secondary schools of 7 school districts participated in the Symposium. For feedbacks of the Symposium, refer to the **Feedback Analysis** prepared by Heather Evans, Education Director.

**11 February, 2014** BC ALPHA issued an [Open letter To Mr. Ban Ki-moon, General Secretary of UN & and Ms. Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO](#) urging them to reject the submission of the kamikaze letters to the Memory of the World Register.

**25 March 2014** **Workshop: The “Comfort Women” and Contemporary Forms of Sexual Violence Against Women** co-sponsored by BC ALPHA, [UBC Awareness of WWII in Asia Club](#) and [UBC Association of Koran-Candian Scientists & Engineers](#) was attended by 300 people at UBC. Through presentations and small-group discussions, participants explored the “Comfort Women” issue as not merely an historical phenomenon but as a manifestation of systemic oppression that is directly connected to contemporary forms of sexual violence against women worldwide. For detail program and speakers list, visit <http://www.alpha-canada.org/event/the-comfort-women-contemporary-forms-of-sexual-violence-against-women>

Media Reports are available at:

- <http://www.alpha-canada.org/alpha-news/workshop-on-issues-of-comfort-women-and-sexual-violence-ming-pao>
- <http://www.alpha-canada.org/alpha-news/over-a-hundred-participants-joined-comfort-women-workshop-at-ubc>
- <http://www.alpha-canada.org/alpha-news/reflection-on-sexual-violence-through-comfort-women>

**27 & 28 April 2014** **Author Talks on “Chinese Comfort Women – Testimonies of Japan’s Military Sex Slaves”** were co-sponsored by BC ALPHA, UBC Press, Vancouver Public Library and Richmond Library. Prof. Qiu Peipei, author of the book made presentations at Vancouver Public Library (Main Branch) and Richmond Public Library (Brighouse Main Branch) on the 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> respectively. Both events were well-packed (300+ & 120+ respectively) and have generated a lot of media coverage. Book

Reviews are available at <http://www.alpha-canada.org/book-reviews/chinese-comfort-women> .

Media Reports are available at:

- 26 April, 2014 Author Talks on “Comfort Women” in Richmond Library (Ming Pao) [read](#)
- 26 April, 2014 Author Talks: Chinese Comfort Women (WJ) [read](#)
- 25 April, 2014 “Chinese Comfort Women” recommended by Vancouver Sun Columnist (Lahoo) [read](#)
- 24 April, 2014 ALPHA presents authors of new English book on “Comfort Women” (DW) [read](#)
- 17 April, 2014 UBC Published First Book about Chinese “Comfort Women” in English (Sing Tao) [read](#)
- 17 April, 2014 First Book on Chinese “Comfort Women” Published by UBC (WJ) [read](#)
- 15 April, 2014 Author to give talk on Chinese comfort women [read](#)
- 11 April, 2014 Author Talks on ‘Chinese Comfort Women’ (GCP News) [read](#)

**28 April 2014** Information table was set up at the [Peace & Global Education Conference](#) at Fraser Height Secondary School to promote the Classroom Presentation Program newly offered by BC ALPHA.

**22 June, 2014 Statement issued by Canada ALPHA in response to Japan’s Recent Review of the Kono Statement**

On June 20, 2014, the Japanese government presented to its parliament the results of a review by a panel of government-selected “experts” on the study that formed the basis of the 1993 Kono Statement. This recent review, rather than a sincere step towards solving the issue of military sexual slavery during the Asia-Pacific War, is yet another attempt on the part of the Japanese government to evade responsibility for its wartime crimes with smoke and mirrors. Canada ALPHA thus issued a statement in response to Japan’s recent of the Kono Statement. Read the statement: [PDF in English](#) | [PDF in Chinese](#)

**School Outreach Program:** Heather Evans has been hired as Education Director since January 2014. Her main focus is to develop the School Outreach Program including making [classroom presentations](#) on topics of the Asian Holocaust and to reach out to teachers to support them to teach the Asian Holocaust in their own schools. For details, refer to Report on School Outreach for BC ALPHA AGM 2014 prepared by Heather Evans.

**Website & Social Media:** Our website [www.alpha-canada.org](http://www.alpha-canada.org) has been constructively used to promote our events and issued statements and constantly updated with most [current news](#) related to the Asian Holocaust (Thanks to Sylvester Kong, our General Secretary). Our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Canada.alpha> is also actively used to post related news and events (Thanks to Heather Evans, our Education Director).

Videos Updates: Here is the list for the uploaded videos onto our [YouTube Channel](#) completed during the past year (Thanks to Martha Wong, our Hon Treasurer):-

- [In Remembrance \(from Requiem\) performed at the 2013 IHRDSS](#)
- [2013 IHRDSS Joy's Remarks with English Subtitles](#)
- [Three Van Tech students talked about 2013 IHRDSS](#)
- [Message from Marius for students of IHRDSS](#)
- [To Halmonies with Love from Canada](#)
- [“Comfort Women” Workshop – Presentations by Featured Speakers](#)
- [“Comfort Women” Workshop – Keynote by Jude Lee](#)
- [“Comfort Women” Workshop – Keynote by Dr. Leonora Angeles](#)
- [“Comfort Women” Workshop – Keynote by Angela Lytte](#)
- [Prof. Peipei Qiu's Author Talks on "Chinese Comfort Women"](#)

***Prepared by Thekla Lit, President of BC ALPHA  
For AGM on June 28, 2014***