

BC ALPHA WORK REPORT (JULY 2020 – JULY 2021)

Prepared by Thekla Lit
President of BC ALPHA



July - September, 2020

Yale's Stand with "Comfort Women"

Promote and participate in the following webinars:-

July 17 ["Comfort Women": The Struggle for Justice Webinar](#)

July 31 ["Comfort Women": Historical Denialism & Revisionism](#)

Aug 14 ["Comfort Women": The Day of Remembrance](#)

Sept 18 ["Comfort Women": Representation in Media and Art](#)

Watch full webinars, go to:

<https://www.yalestatueofpeace.org/webinars>

July 23, 2020

Donation to CWJC Eternal Testimony Educational Project

Comfort Women Justice Coalition is partnering with the Nanjing Museum's LiJiXiang Comfort Stations and the Shoah Foundation-University Southern California, to develop an educational project known as the “**Eternal Testimony**” which will forever preserve the testimony of a Chinese “comfort woman” survivor. The Project uses a new state of the art technology known as the **New Dimensions in Testimony** (NDT). NDT is an interactive testimony platform created by Shoah Foundation-University of Southern California. The innovative project allows a person the opportunity to interact with survivors through a virtual conversation. The budget for this project is US\$200,000. **BC ALPHA donated US\$2000 to support this project.**

July 25, 2020

Webinar on the U.S. Decision to Drop the Atomic Bombs on Japan

BC ALPHA participated and helped to promote this event to educators.

The webinar critically explored in depth the “official” explanation that use of the atomic bombs was the only way to force the fanatically resistant Japanese to surrender without an Allied invasion that would have cost hundreds of thousands of U.S. and British and an even greater number of Japanese lives. For more details, go to:

<http://peacephilosophy.blogspot.com/2020/07/attention-public-webinar-on-july-25-sat.html>

August 3, 2020

SPEAKING THEIR PEACE HIBAKUSHA IN THEIR OWN WORDS

A Live Zoom Presentation of Poetry & Personal Testimonials
Aug 3, 2020, 7-8 PM PDT

August 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This event is sponsored by Vancouver Peace Poppies, and World Beyond War. BC ALPHA participated and helped promote this event. Recording of the event is here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9bvQd1-HEvk>

August 7, 2020

Message for the 8th Int'l Memorial Day for Victims of Japanese Military Sexual Slavery was issued to the Korean Council to be read out at the event on August 15, 2020.

The message is available here:

<http://www.alpha-canada.org/alpha-news/letter-to-korean-council-8th-intl-memorial-day-for-victims-of-japanese-military-sexual-slavery>

August 15, 2020 (Asian Time) Jan Ruff O'Herne Commemoration Day

Remembering Jan



Jan Ruff O'Herne

18 Jan 1923 ~ 19 Aug 2019



To honour Jan her courage and legacy to
restore women's dignity and human rights

To come together and share
hope and determination for the
"Comfort Women" issue



- ✦ DATE Saturday 15 August 2020
- ✦ TIME 10 AM (Australian Eastern Standard Time AEST)
- ✦ PLACE Zoom Meeting*
- ✦ RSVP rememberingjan.eventbrite.com.au
(by Thursday 13 Aug 2020)
- ✦ Contact rememberingjan@sysochu.com
- ✦ Co-hosted by Friends of 'Comfort Women' in Sydney
& MCWM Task Force

Supporting organisations

The Korean Council for Justice and Remembrance for the issues of Military Sexual Slavery by Japan (Korea), ALPHA Education (Canada), BC ALPHA (Canada), Korea Verband (Germany), Japan Nationwide Action for Resolution of the Japan's Military 'Comfort Women' Issue (Japan), Korean New Zealanders for a Better Future (NZ), Nabi Fund (US), Washington DC Butterfly for Hope Working for Justice For Comfort Women Issues (US), Kim Bok Dong Foundation (US), Education for Social Justice Foundation (US), Seonyoung Song and Soonho Park (Adelaide), Justice and Human Rights For All (Brisbane), Korean Cultural Centre Incorporated (Sydney)

*Private Zoom & Youtube link to the event will be provided to you upon registering to attend

BC ALPHA is one of the supporting organizations of this event. Our Youtube of Jan was used for promotional purpose.

August 15, 2020 (Asian Time) Grandma Is More Than A Comfort Woman by Filipino Lila

BC ALPHA participated and helped promote this online book reading and conversation on militarism. Recording is available here:

<https://www.facebook.com/lilapilipina1992/videos/334846354353386>

September 19, 2020

Hiroshima Revisited

BC ALPHA participated and helped promote this presentation at the **The 10th International Conference of Museums for Peace** questioning the Japanese narrative of war and the atomic bombing and invite the Conference participants to a special Q&A session. This discussion is based on the following three paper presentations:

- Yuki Tanaka: [The U.S.-Japan Conspiracy: Remembering Hiroshima and Nagasaki](#) (11 min.)
- Satoko Oka Norimatsu: [We Need an Alternative Peace Museum in Hiroshima: Questioning Japanese Hiroshima-centred War Memory](#) (15 min.)
- Akari Kojima and Yoshiki Kanai, RADICAL BANANA: [Voices Suppressed by the "Peace Memorial City"](#) (25 min.)

September 27, 2020

Standing Tall 3: Demanding Justice

BC ALPHA participated and helped promote this event held on the 3rd Anniversary of the "Comfort Women" Memorial in San Francisco. Program included the followings:-

- World Premier of Thread: An Animated Experimental Documentary by Yuri Jang (11:05-18:58)
- Music by Stephanie Chou
- Survivor Testimonies from Korea, China, and the Philippines

Recording of the event available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VoH1iOzxung&t=257s>

October 6, 2020

**“Hush... It’s All in the Past”:
Exploring the Silenced Narratives
around Conflict-Related Sexual
Violence in Asia**

This event was hosted by Institute of Asian Research at the UBC School of Public Policy and Global Affairs with students of Korean descent working behind the scene. BC ALPHA had been consulted all along by the students and made suggestions of speakers. For details, go to: <https://sppga.ubc.ca/events/event/hush-its-all-in-the-past-exploring-the-silenced-narratives-around-conflict-related-sexual-violence-in-asia/>

November 11, 2020 Participation at White Poppy Remembrance Day

This year the commemoration was done online.

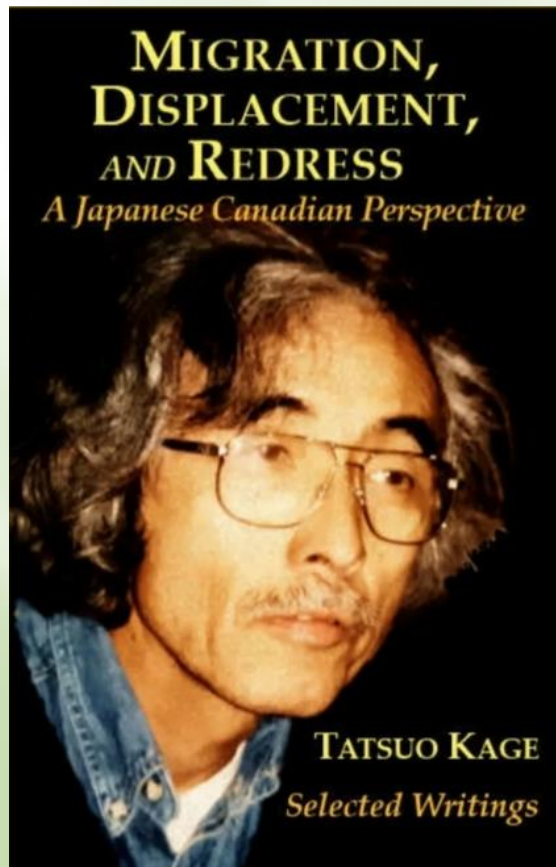


BC ALPHA was still one of the event participants. The video of the full event is here:

<https://peacepoppies.ca/wreath-ceremony/>

November 14, 2020

Book Launch of Migration, Displacement, and Redress: A Japanese Canadian Perspective



This book is the selected writings of BC ALPHA's long term friend and supporter, Tatsuo Kage. Many articles in this book were in fact speeches and reports about the works of BC ALPHA. Thekla Lit of BC ALPHA was asked to speak at this book launch event. Video of the full event is here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jP9kwoS5lQs>

Thekla's speech is here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HA23F2KMIUg&t=23s>

December 7, 2020

Support publishing of The Fifth World



According to [this introduction](#), the Fifth World is home to native people who were denied their natural identity and forcibly relocated. In the Fifth World there is “no representation, no recourse, no recognition: just the racist violence; just the forcible removal of the children to another group; just the physical and mental harm to members of the group. And the privilege of paying for the crimes against themselves with their taxes to the state”. For more details of the book, go to:

<https://electromagneticprint.com/tsaskiy-ron-george>

BC ALPHA donated \$500 to support the publishing of this book which is anticipated to be out in October 2021.

December 12, 2020

Women's International War Crimes Tribunal 20th Anniversary Online International Symposium



In 2000, the court held 64 victim women, prosecutors and women's groups in 8 countries, and global citizens in collaboration with the VAWW-NET Japan (currently VAWW RAC) of the perpetrator country and the support groups of the victim countries.

The purpose of the court was to respond to the victim's call for justice, to judge the person responsible for the perpetrator of Japanese military slavery under international law based on evidence, and to break the chain of sexual violence "impunity" that continues today. .. Furthermore, it questioned the Japanese aggression and colonial rule behind it, that is, colonialism. In the final judgment, the Japanese military and government clearly found that they "executed sexual slavery and assault on crimes against humanity."

Twenty years later, the "comfort women" issue has not been resolved in Japan, and sexual violence "impunity" (= acquittal) and hate speech to other races are serious. Meanwhile, the world is developing the #MeToo movement to question sexual violence and the Black Lives Matter movement to re-question slavery and colonialism. This symposium is a unique opportunity to look back on the courtroom, listen directly to the voices of survivors from each country, and pass on judgments and testimonies to the next generation.

Representatives of BC ALPHA participated in the 2000 Tribunal and was thus obliged to join the 2020 symposium to demonstrate solidarity with other sister organizations.

January 6, 2021

Soliderity Message for the 29th anniversary of the Wednesday Demonstration

The solidarity message to the Korean Council
sent by BC ALPHA is here:

<http://www.alpha-canada.org/alpha-news/in-commemoration-of-29th-anniversary-of-wednesday-demonstration>

January 27 2021

South Korean Court Ruling on “Comfort Women” Lawsuit

On January 8, Seoul Central District Court Civil Chamber 34 ruled on the lawsuit filed by the Japanese military sexual slavery (“comfort women”) victims with a groundbreaking decision which declared that universal human rights take precedence over state immunity, recognizing the Japanese Government’s responsibilities to make reparations to the Japanese military sexual slavery (“comfort women”) victims.

104 organizations including BC ALPHA issue a co-statement for Korean Government to practice active diplomacy towards Japan for the reparations.

Joint Statement is here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfw7PKy2SWt5z8FSYa6KZ9ZoQr6jT8B9VIJe4MrtNpadLcZTA/viewform>

February 6, 2021

Memorial Service of Mr. David Tsang

Founding member of GA (Global alliance & APTSW (Francisco))

A memorial service poster for Mr. David Tsang. The background is dark blue. On the right side, there is a portrait of Mr. David Tsang, an elderly man with glasses, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and dark bow tie. He is holding a large bouquet of white daisies. On the left side, there is white text. At the top, it says '華人楷模 薪火相傳'. Below that, it says '臧大化博士網上追思會'. Further down, it says 'Sat. 02/06/2021 5:00pm'. At the bottom left, there is a black rectangular box with white text that says '((•)) Waiting for Diana Ding February 6, 2021 at 5:00 PM'.

華人楷模 薪火相傳

臧大化博士網上追思會

Sat. 02/06/2021 5:00pm

((•)) Waiting for Diana Ding
February 6, 2021 at 5:00 PM

<http://www.dingdingtv.com/?p=71029>

【加拿大卑詩省史維會悼臧大化先生】

庚子歲末，聞護持三藩市及世界史維會之大德臧先生
大化逝世，本會全人咸感痛惜。憶往日聯手於北
美大力還原並宣講南京大屠殺史實、支援遭強擄赴
日奴工索償謝罪諸事，仍歷歷在目。哀哲人其萎，
惟大疫肆虐，欲親臨致祭而路阻，僅能以韻句遙表
哀思。

日落金門徹夜寒，別君俠骨淚潛潛。
移根敢任興科教，去國不忘護史刊。
廣結良朋謀正義，殫擊狂流捍尊顏。
屠城擄劫滔天罪，普化存真慰祭壇。

加拿大卑詩省亞洲二戰浩劫史實維護會會長列國遠
暨全人敬悼

February 2020

Harvard Law School Mitsubishi Professor John Mark Ramseyer's Denialism of "Comfort Women" History

BC ALPH joined the international voice to co-sign an Open Letter Regarding Harvard Law School Mitsubishi Professor John Mark Ramseyer's methodological flaws and academic credibility on Japanese military "comfort women".

We express our concern with Harvard Law School Mitsubishi Professor of Japanese Legal Studies John Mark Ramseyer's recent scholarship on Japanese military "comfort women" that puts forth a sexist, patriarchal, and colonialist view on the atrocities suffered by numerous women who were forced into sexual slavery by the Japanese military before and during World War II (the Asian-Pacific War). We are concerned that such a line of argument can be used to justify violence against women and the perpetuation of systems of sexual slavery and exploitation.

The Open Letter is available here:

<https://sites.google.com/view/feministsonramseyer/home>

February 16, 2021

Debunking Japanese Denialism on the "Comfort Women" Issue Through the Grassroots Movement in the U.S.

In Response to Professor Ramseyer's Denialism of "comfort women" history, Harvard Asian Pacific American Law Students Association organized a roundtable discussion on the ongoing "comfort women" issue, featuring speakers who have been directly involved in the U.S., across various disciplines, in a joint effort to seek justice for the "comfort women" survivors.

The discussion focused on the grassroots movement around the "comfort women" issue and the ways in which human rights, women's rights, and grassroots activists in the U.S. have played an instrumental role in the passage of H.Res.121 (also known as the "comfort women" resolution) in 2007, as well as the establishment of "comfort women" memorials across the U.S.

Representative of BC ALPHA joined this roundtable discussion.

For related report on this issue, go to: <https://harbus.org/2021/denial-of-violence-and-the-violence-of-denial-controlling-the-comfort-women-narrative/>

February 26, 2021

International Symposium on Korean Court's Historic Ruling on Japanese Military “Comfort Women”

Time (KST)		Register
16:00 ~16:15	Opening Moderator: Cho, Sujin (Secretary-General, MINBYUN – Lawyers for a Democratic Society)	 bit.ly/3bbyFFO
16:15 ~17:15	Keynote Speeches: Korean Court's Historic Ruling in January 2021 Moderator: Cho, Sujin (Secretary-General, MINBYUN – Lawyers for a Democratic Society) 1) Lee, Sang-hee (Lawyer, MINBYUN – Lawyers for a Democratic Society) 2) Kim, Chang Rok (Professor, Kyungpook National University Law School)	
17:15 ~18:30	Panel 1: Tackling Impunity of Wartime Sexual Violence Moderator: Lee, Na-Young (Professor of Sociology, Chung-Ang University & Chair of Board, The Korean Council for Justice and Remembrance for the Issues of Military Sexual Slavery by Japan) 1) Christine Chinkin (Professorial Research Fellow, Centre for Women Peace and Security, London School of Economics & Principal Investigator, research funded by European Research Council on A Gendered Peace) 2) Yang, Hyunah (Professor, Seoul National University School of Law & Chair, Research Network on Japanese Military Sexual Slavery) 3) Regina Mühlhäuser (Senior Researcher, Hamburg Foundation for the Advancement of Research and Culture & Co-Founder, International Research Group "Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict") 4) Ustina Dolgopol (Associate Professor, College of Business, Government and Law, Flinders University & Former chief prosecutor at 2000 Women's International War Crimes Tribunal)	
18:30 ~18:40	Break	
18:40 ~19:40	Panel 2: State Immunity versus Gross Human Rights Violation Moderator: Chung, Chinsung (Member, United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination) 1) Baek, Buhm-Suk (Professor, College of International Studies, Kyung-Hee University & Member, United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) Advisory Committee) 2) Abe Kohki (Professor, International Studies, Meiji Gakuin University) 3) Joachim Lau (Lawyer, Ferrini v. Germany case)	
19:40 ~20:00	Discussion and Q&A Moderator: Chung, Chinsung (Member, United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination)	

BC ALPHA joined this Symposium to add international pressure to both the Korean & Japanese governments.

March 13, 2021

Roundtable Discussion on Academic Responsibility in the Case of "Comfort Women"

Specialists in their respective fields of history, language and cultural studies, law, and economics, academics discuss and respond to issues of scholarly integrity and freedom raised by Harvard Mitsubishi Professor of Japanese Law J. Mark Ramseyer's proposed paper entitled "Contracting for Sex in the Pacific War" in the International Review of Law and Economics.

Representative of BC ALPHA joined this roundtable discussion. Full recording of the roundtable is here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-HB9Tdpfv-k>

April 6, 2021

SAN FRANCISCO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PASSES RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE "COMFORT WOMEN"

WHEREAS, Incidents of gender violence, sex trafficking, and femicide, are increasing in the world; and

WHEREAS, Historical Denialism of the “comfort women” system makes it ever more difficult to eradicate this violence against women; and

WHEREAS, Historical Denialism as evidenced in Mr. Ramseyer’s article also denies women survivors of sexual servitude the justice they deserve; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors denounces J. Mark Ramseyer’s article, “Contracting for Sex in the Pacific War” and urges the International Review of Law and Economics Journal to withdraw the article from circulation.

April 15, 2021

Open Letter in Support of Referral of "Comfort Women" Issues
by the Governments of South Korea and Japan
to the UN International Court of Justice

BC ALPHA is one of the signatories of this Open Letter (<https://sites.google.com/view/openlettercomfortwomenicj/open-letter#h.om5mqobm2bfh>) jointly recommend and urge the governments of South Korea and Japan to refer the dispute over “comfort women” issues to the ICJ, as a ground-breaking and pragmatic recourse.

June 30, 2021

1500th Wednesday Demonstration Essay Contest

The Korean Council is hosting the 1500th Wednesday Demonstration Essay Contest - My Wednesday Demonstration to record the experiences of Wednesday demonstration participants and reflect on the meaning that the Wednesday demonstration hold for them.

BC ALPHA encouraged educators who participated in the Wednesday Demonstration through the Peace & Reconciliation Study send in their submission for this Contest.

July 14, 2021 (Asia Time)

1500th Wednesday Demonstration in support of “Comfort women” organized by the Korean Council



BC ALPHA sent in a solidarity message for the 1500th Wednesday Demonstration which started on January 8, 1992 in response to then Japanese Prime Minister Miyazawa’s visit to South Korea.

For details of the event, go to:

<https://womenandwar.net/kr/1500thwednesdaydemonstration/>

BC ALPHA’s message is at here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=IWr4JiYRyPs&feature=youtu.be>

Pledge to support publication of *VISAS to Shanghai*


This book is about the story of Feng-Shan Ho, a Chinese diplomat in Vienna who saved thousands of Jews during the Holocaust. The author is a 2006 Peace & Reconciliation Study Tour participant from New Jersey who later co-authored the curriculum guide for NJ educators published by the NJ Holocaust Education Commission in 2007.

The Feng-Shan Ho book will cover the background of WWII in both the European and Asia Theatre aiming at Junior High students with illustrations.

BC ALPHA has committed to donate up to US\$3,605.50 for printing of 200 copies of the book to be distributed by the author to his educational network.



Rechnung: Berlin	
Rechnung-Nr.: A 051921	
Erstausgabe: 26. Januar 1944	
Name: Leipzig	
Datum: 5. März 1921	
Quantität: Leipzig	
Chassis: Leipzig	
Datum: Leipzig	
Rechnung: Leipzig	
Elektronen, "Lissa"	



26. Januar 1944

Leipzig

26. Januar 1944

Leipzig

26. Januar 1944

Leipzig

Support for Digitizing War Crimes Material

BC ALPHA has committed to financially support this project of Pacific Atrocities Education (PAE). The scanned documents are categorized and archived at: <http://pacificatrocitiesedu.reclaim.hosting/>

However, due to COVID-19 pandemic. Scanning of the documents located at the US National Archive has been put on hold but such work will probably be resumed in September.

Will follow up with PAE regarding our donation to support this project.

Website & Social Media:

Our website 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 and Tim).

Our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Canada.alpha> is also actively used to post related news and events.

**Videos: For uploaded videos,
visit our Youtube Channel**

[https://www.youtube.com/user/
CanadaALPHA/featured](https://www.youtube.com/user/CanadaALPHA/featured)