

# FRIENDS of "COMFORT WOMEN" in AUSTRALIA

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Newsletter No. 8 October/November/December 2007

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## **Seasons Greetings 2007**

Happy Holidays! This is the last newsletter of 2007. Thank you for your support for FCWA this year. We look forward to your continuing interest and support in 2008 as we grow in friendship to deliver justice for "Comfort Women".

## **"CW" motions around the world!**

Since the success of US resolution 121, more parliaments around the world are adopting "CW" motions. On 19 November, the motion in the Dutch parliament was passed during Amnesty International's EU speaking tour. On 28 November, the Canadian parliament unanimously passed motion 291. Watch Canadian MP Olivia Chow's remarks on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CU5isHP0g1E>. On 13 December, the EU parliament passed resolution P6\_TA(2007)0632. For the full resolution see <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&reference=P6-TA-2007-0632&language=EN&ring=B6-2007-0542>.

## **Screening on 2000 Women's Tribunal**

In collaboration with Japanese for Peace (JfP), the screening was held in Melbourne on 30 November. It was wonderful to learn together about the Women's International Tribunal on Japan's Military Sexual Slavery, where the same legal principles as applied in 1946 Tokyo Tribunal pronounced the Japanese Emperor Hirohito guilty. The deliberations have been published through the International Criminal Court in 2001. This Tribunal brought together survivors from North and South Korea, Philippines, Malaysia, China, Netherlands and Australia as well as East Timor, and gave the issue an even more sound legal framework for campaigns. More info at: <http://www1.jca.apc.org/vaww-net-japan/english/womenstribunal2000/whatstribunal.html>

Following the screening, Mohita Roman, PhD student, Monash University, shared her insights during the Q&A session. Thank you for everyone who came for the screening, signed the Xmas cards to survivor Jan Ruff O'Herne and supported the fundraiser for the building of Women and War Museum in Korea.

## **"The Jammed" & the butterfly**

On 21 November, Dee McLachlan and Andrea Buck, the makers of IF awards winning film *The Jammed*, which is made in Australia about trafficking of women for sexual slavery in Melbourne, kindly donated the butterfly necklace from the film.

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Email: [fcw\\_australia@hotmail.com](mailto:fcw_australia@hotmail.com)

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The butterfly is the symbol of "CW". In the film the butterfly necklace is given to Ruby – a Chinese girl who gets trapped in the sex trafficking industry after her mother is tricked into sending her away for a "factory job". There's close similarity in these victims' testimonies and that of some "CW". Women like Ruby are caught in a sexual slavery system where they are paying off "debt" to their captors.

FCWA will donate this necklace to Korean Council's Women and War Museum to bring awareness to continuing sexual slavery of women - in both war and peace - to highlight the need to break the cycle of sexual slavery of women.

## **Kevin O'7 & Aussie "CW" Motion**

The change to a Labor government in Australia gives "CW" motion a better chance. A clear majority held in the House Representatives presents a new opportunity for a successful passage.

We are delighted to have existing and new members of the government who are committed to the issue. And we hope to seek continued support and advice from outgoing members of parliament. Additionally, we welcome the reaffirmation of support from academics in Canberra as we prepare for parliamentary campaigns in 2008.

## **27 Dec Activists' Workshop in Korea**

Anna Song and Mohita Roman have been invited by Korean Council to attend the activists' workshop for 2008 planning session.

Main activities in Korea will most likely include:

- 24 Dec: Meetings with supporting organisations
- 25 Dec: Visiting survivors at the House of Sharing
- 26 Dec: Wed Demo and vigil for deceased survivors
- 27 Dec: Workshop
- 28 Dec: Workshop and Farewell lunch with survivors

## **2008 FCWA School Visits in Melbourne**

In 2008, FCWA aims to actively engage with high schools in Melbourne by making school visits/presentations, as educating the young generation is crucial to non-repetition. Documentaries, teaching resource kits, funding opportunities and Teachers' Study Tours opportunities can be located/made available. If you and your school is interested, please contact us by email: [fcw\\_australia@hotmail.com](mailto:fcw_australia@hotmail.com)