

# FRIENDS of "COMFORT WOMEN" in AUSTRALIA

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Newsletter No. 6 June/July 2007

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## **Japan: Advertisement**

Japanese politicians and journalists advertised misleading and conflated information about "Comfort Women". This misrepresentation was upsetting for survivors like Jan Ruff O'Herne, who had to repeat (and in some cases defend the) the coercion and threat used on them for the recruitment of "Comfort Women".

To see copy of the advertisement, go to:  
<http://www.fcwa.org.au/Washington%20Post%20matters.html>

## **Update: H RES. 121, USA**

On 26 June (Washington time) the resolution passed the Committee on Foreign Affairs by 39:2. And promptly on 31 July, it was passed through the House of Representatives with more than 160 co-sponsors to the resolution, formalizing the call for official and unequivocal apology by the government of Japan from the US government.

After repeated rejection due to strong lobbying by the Japanese government, this is a wonderful result. For more information go to our website: [www.facw.org.au](http://www.facw.org.au)

## **July 2: FCWA Meeting**

In Sydney, FCWA activists and friends met to discuss upcoming events and campaigns. The focus was on planning a successful briefing to Australian parliamentarians and how to support US Resolution 121.

Further we recognized funding issues and the need to move forward with administrative tasks such as registering with tax deductible NGO status.

## **Letter from Netherland**

FCWA received its first letter of support. Marjolein Doets is a 31 year old woman from Netherlands who read an article about Jan Ruff O'Herne in the Dutch newspapers on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2007.

She was so inspired that she wrote to us: "Nobody should experience anything like that in their lives. I hope they will receive the justice and recognition they deserve. And that this violation of human rights can be prevented in the future". Thank you, Marjolein!

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## **Lecture: At Shrine of Remembrance**

As part of "Women and War" series, "Comfort Women" lecture was given by PhD candidate Mohita Roman, Monash University in Melbourne. Clips from "50 Years of Silence" and the latest *Australian Story* was viewed. FCWA campaign co-ordinator Anna Song also gave brief global campaign summary. Surviving Australian war veterans were among the diverse audience and expressed support for the "Comfort Women".

## **July 25: Preparing Canberra Briefing**

FCWA President Vivian Pak and FCWA's active campaigner Joon Shik Shin met with Senator Kerry Nettle's office and identified opposing Senators to target in the lead up to the Canberra Briefing on 15 August. This day marks the anniversary of end of WWII and is also part of Global Action week. The aim of the briefing is to successfully pass a motion in Senate on "Comfort Women" issue before the federal election this year.

## **Coming Up - August**

### **Film Fundraiser in Melbourne –Thurs 2 Aug**

For details see:

<http://www.fcwa.org.au/Fundraiser%20invitation.html>

### **Exhibition dedicated to "Comfort Women" in Sydney – Opening drinks Sat 18 Aug**

For details contact Steve Han 0410 320 290 or Sherry Lee 02 9361 5758 or watch out for flyer on our website coming shortly

### **Korean Music Concert Fundraiser in Sydney – details TBA**

### **Parliamentary Briefing in Canberra – Wed**

15 Aug. If you would like join us in writing to senators to pass a motion in the senate, please email [fcw\\_australia@hotmail.com](mailto:fcw_australia@hotmail.com)

## **Fundraising for Canberra Briefing**

**Help us in our efforts to fundraise by donation.**

FCWA account details: BSB: 633 - 000  
Account no: 129895678