

1. United States of America

H. Res. 121
House of Representatives

30 July 2007

Whereas the Government of Japan, during its colonial and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands from the 1930s through the duration of World War II, officially commissioned the acquisition of young women for the sole purpose of sexual servitude to its Imperial Armed Forces, who became known to the world as *ianfu* or “comfort women”;

Whereas the “comfort women” system of forced military prostitution by the Government of Japan, considered unprecedented in its cruelty and magnitude, included gang rape, forced abortions, humiliation, and sexual violence resulting in mutilation, death, or eventual suicide in one of the largest cases of human trafficking in the 20th century;

Whereas some new textbooks used in Japanese schools seek to downplay the “comfort women” tragedy and other Japanese war crimes during World War II; Whereas Japanese public and private officials have recently expressed a desire to dilute or rescind the 1993 statement by Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono on the “comfort women”, which expressed the Government’s sincere apologies and remorse for their ordeal;

Whereas the Government of Japan did sign the 1921 International Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Women and Children and supported the 2000 United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security which recognized the unique impact on women of armed conflict;

Whereas the House of Representatives commends Japan’s efforts to promote human security, human rights, democratic values, and rule of law, as well as for being a supporter of Security Council Resolution 1325;

Whereas the United States-Japan alliance is the cornerstone of United States security interests in Asia and the Pacific and is fundamental to regional stability and prosperity;

Whereas, despite the changes in the post-cold war strategic landscape, the United States-Japan alliance continues to be based on shared vital interests and values in the Asia-Pacific region, including the preservation and promotion of political and economic freedoms, support for human rights and democratic institutions, and the securing of prosperity for the people of both countries and the international community;

Whereas the House of Representatives commends those Japanese officials and private citizens whose hard work and compassion resulted in the establishment in 1995 of Japan’s private Asian Women’s Fund;

Whereas the Asian Women’s Fund has raised \$5,700,000 to extend “atonement” from the Japanese people to the comfort women; and

Whereas the mandate of the Asian Women’s Fund, a government-initiated and largely government-funded private foundation whose purpose was the carrying out of programs and projects with the aim of atonement for the maltreatment and suffering of the “comfort women”, came to an end on March 31, 2007, and the Fund has been disbanded as of that date: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that the Government of Japan--

(1) should formally acknowledge, apologize, and accept historical responsibility in a clear and unequivocal manner for its Imperial Armed Forces’ coercion of young women into sexual slavery, known to the world as “comfort women”, during its colonial and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands from the 1930s through the duration of World War II;

(2) would help to resolve recurring questions about the sincerity and status of prior statements if the Prime Minister of Japan were to make such an apology as a public statement in his official capacity;

(3) should clearly and publicly refute any claims that the sexual enslavement and trafficking of the “comfort women” for the Japanese Imperial Armed Forces never occurred; and

(4) should educate current and future generations about this horrible crime while following the recommendations of the international community with respect to the ‘comfort women’.

2. The Netherlands

Motion by Van Baalen
House of the Netherlands

Adopted 8 November 2007

The House, having heard the debate,

considering that Japan is a strategic partner in Asia, with whom the Netherlands has been maintaining relations for 400 years, 150 years of which diplomatic relations by 2008, and with whom our country wants to shape a common future;

taking the view that Japan should publicly take full responsibility, without any reserve, for the system of forced prostitution as operated in the years before and during the Second World War, and for the suffering thus caused to the so-called comfort women and about which no doubts can and should be raised;

observing that the Japanese government, by means of the so-called Kono statement from 1993, has acknowledged the fate of the comfort women, has expressed their regret towards the victims and has accepted responsibility with this statement, but at the same time observing that the Japanese government and Japanese members of parliament have, on various occasions, distanced themselves from this, as is shown by the statements by the then prime minister Shinzo Abe last March which were later retracted, and by the advertisement of members of the Japanese House of Representatives in the Washington Post earlier this year on the same subject;

having read the letter which the chairman of the Japanese House of Representatives wrote on 7 November last in reply to the letter of the chairman of the House of 26 June last about the advertisement in the Washington Post and in which he distances himself from said advertisement;

considering that certain teaching materials in Japanese schools do insufficient justice to the acknowledgement of the Japanese war crimes, among them the treatment of the comfort women;

considering that Japan, via the Asian Women's Fund, has offered forms of compensation to the former comfort women, partly financed by public funds, but that this compensation was granted by a private organisation;

entreats the government to urgently ask the government of Japan to abandon any statement which devalues the expression of regret from 1993 and to take full responsibility for the involvement of the Japanese army in the system of forced prostitution;

entreats the government to urgently ask the government of Japan to make an additional gesture by offering the comfort women still alive today some form of direct moral and financial compensation respectively for the suffering caused;

entreats the government to urgently ask the government of Japan to encourage that all teaching materials in Japanese schools provide a factual picture of the Japanese role in the Second World War, including the fate of the comfort women;

and proceeds to the order of the day.

Van Baalen
Van Gennip
Van Dam
Van Bommel

Wilders
Peters
Voordewind
Pechtold

Van der Staaij
Thieme
Verdonk

3. Canada

Journals No. 26
Motion by Olivia Chow
House of Commons of Canada

Adopted 28 November 2007

Moved that, in the opinion of the House:

i. during its wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands, from the 1930s through the duration of World War II, the Imperial Armed Forces of Japan officially commissioned the acquisition of young women for the sole purpose of sexual servitude, who became known as “comfort women”;

ii. some Japanese public officials have recently expressed a regrettable desire to dilute or rescind the 1993 statement by Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono on the “comfort women”, which expressed the Government's sincere apologies and remorse for their ordeal;

iii. Japan has made progress since 1945 in recognizing and atoning for its past actions, and for many decades has been a major contributor to international peace, security, and development, including through the United Nations;

iv. the Canada-Japan alliance continues to be based on shared vital interests and values in the Asia-Pacific region, including the preservation and promotion of political and economic freedoms, support for human rights and democratic institutions, and the securing of prosperity for the people of both countries and the international community; and

v. the Government of Canada should therefore encourage 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.

4. European Parliament

Resolution on Justice for the ‘Comfort Women’ (sex slaves in Asia before and during World War II)
European Parliament

13 December 2007
P6_TA(2007)0632

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade in 2007,
- having regard to the International Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Women and Children (1921), to which Japan is a signatory,
- having regard to ILO Convention No. 29 on Forced Labour (1930), ratified by Japan,
- having regard to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women and Peace and Security,
- having regard to the report by Gay McDougall, UN Special Rapporteur on Systematic Rape, Sexual Slavery and Slave-like Practices during Armed Conflict (22 June 1998),

- having regard to the conclusions and recommendations of the 38th session of the UN Committee Against Torture (9-10 May 2007),
 - having regard to the Report of a Study of Dutch Government Documents on the Forced Prostitution of Dutch Women in the Dutch East Indies During the Japanese Occupation, The Hague (2004),
 - having regard to the resolutions on the comfort women adopted by the US Congress on 30 July 2007, and by the Canadian Parliament on 29 November 2007,
 - having regard to Rule 115(5) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the government of Japan, during its colonial and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands from the 1930s until the end of World War II, officially ordered the acquisition of young women, who became known to the world as ianfu or "comfort women", for the sole purpose of sexual servitude to its Imperial Armed Forces,
 - B. whereas the "comfort women" system included gang rape, forced abortions, humiliation, and sexual violence resulting in mutilation, death or eventual suicide, in one of the largest cases of human trafficking in the 20th century,
 - C. whereas the dozens of "comfort women" cases brought before Japanese courts have all ended in the dismissal of plaintiffs' claims for compensation, despite court judgments acknowledging the Imperial Armed Forces' direct and indirect involvement, and the State's responsibility,
 - D. whereas most of the victims of the "comfort women" system have passed away, and the remaining survivors are 80 or more years of age;
 - E. whereas over the past years numerous high-ranking members and officials of the Japanese Government have made apologetic statements on the "comfort women" system, while some Japanese officials have recently expressed a regrettable desire to dilute or rescind those statements,
 - F. whereas the full extent of the sexual slavery system has never been fully disclosed by the government of Japan and some new required readings used in Japanese schools try to minimise the tragedy of the "comfort women" and other Japanese war crimes during World War II,
 - G. whereas the mandate of the Asian Women's Fund, a government-initiated private foundation whose aim was the implementation of programmes and projects to compensate for the abuse and suffering of the "comfort women", came to an end on 31 March 2007,
1. Welcomes the excellent relationship between the European Union and Japan based on the mutually shared values of a multi-party democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights;
 2. Expresses its solidarity with the women who were victims of the "comfort women" system for the duration of World War II;
 3. Welcomes the statements by Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono in 1993 and by the then Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama in 1995 on the "comfort women", as well as the resolutions of the Japanese parliament (the Diet) of 1995 and 2005 expressing apologies for wartime victims, including victims of the "comfort women" system;
 4. Welcomes the Japanese Government's initiative to establish, in 1995, the now-dissolved Asian Women's Fund, a largely government-funded private foundation, which distributed some "atonement money" to several hundred "comfort women", but considers that this humanitarian initiative cannot satisfy the victims' claims of legal recognition and reparation

under public international law, as stated by the UN Special Rapporteur Gay McDougall in her above-mentioned report of 1998;

5. Calls on the Japanese Government formally to acknowledge, apologise, and accept historical and legal responsibility, in a clear and unequivocal manner, for its Imperial Armed Forces' coercion of young women into sexual slavery, known to the world as "comfort women", during its colonial and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands from the 1930s until the end of World War II;
6. Calls on the Japanese Government to implement effective administrative mechanisms to provide reparations to all surviving victims of the "comfort women" system and the families of its deceased victims;
7. Calls on the Japanese parliament (the Diet) to take legal measures to remove existing obstacles to obtaining reparations before Japanese courts; in particular, the right of individuals to claim reparations from the government should be expressly recognised in national law, and cases for reparations for the survivors of sexual slavery, as a crime under international law, should be prioritised, taking into account the age of the survivors;
8. Calls on the government of Japan to refute publicly any claims that the subjugation and enslavement of "comfort women" never occurred;
9. Encourages the Japanese people and government to take further steps to recognise the full history of their nation, as is the moral duty of all countries, and to foster awareness in Japan of its actions in the 1930s and 1940s, including in relation to "comfort women"; calls on the government of Japan to educate current and future generations about those events;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, to the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the Japanese Government and Parliament, the UN Human Rights Council, the governments of the ASEAN States, to the governments of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Korea, the People's Republic of China, Taiwan and Timor-Leste.

5. Republic of Korea

Summary of

A resolution that demands Japan's formal apology and full compensation to war time "Comfort Women" for the sake of restoration of their honor and dignity

Presented by Shin Hak Kyun

Parliament of South Korea

8 October 2008
Bill No. 1125

The South Korea Parliament passed a resolution condemning Japan and demanding Japan to compensate and officially apologize to hundreds of thousands of women from Korea and other Asian/Oceanic countries who were abducted and were forced to serve frontline Japanese imperial soldiers as sex slaves during World War II.

The South Korea Parliament was inspired by similar resolutions first adopted in 2007 by the United States House of Representatives and subsequently by the Netherlands, Canada and the European Union, demanding the Japanese government's sincere apology and compensation. It was also inspired by the international recognition of the necessity of an awareness campaign for future generations in order to pass on a record of the negative legacy.

It should be noted that several Japanese local governments such as the Takarazuka and Kiyose City Councils, etc. have also adopted resolutions and written statements since March 2008, demanding that Japan take full responsibility for committing the abuse of war-time "Comfort

Women.” The South Korea Parliament supports these recent movements.

The UN Conference for Human Rights was held in Vienna in 1993. Since then, a wide range of recommendations aiming for a solution to the “Comfort Women” issue have been continuously presented by the UN Commission on Human Rights and various other international organizations. As of June 2008, the Japanese government has not accepted these recommendations. The South Korea Parliament declares the deepest concern about the Japanese government's failure to officially acknowledge its responsibility for these crimes.

The majority of the surviving comfort women are now in their late 70s or older and their numbers continue to diminish as the condition of their health deteriorates. The South Korea Parliament adopted a resolution for the sake of restoring the honor and dignity of the comfort women with the detailed statement shown below.

1. South Korea Parliament demands that Japanese government officially give a full apology to these women from many Asian and Oceanic countries who had been sexually enslaved for the Japanese imperial soldiers since 1930s until the end of WWII for the restoration of the honor and dignity of the war victims.
2. In order to restore the substantial human rights and dignity of these “Comfort Women,” the South Korean Parliament demands that the Japanese government admit these crimes against humanity and allow school textbooks to carry facts about the “Comfort Women” so that those inhumane acts will not be repeated. It also calls for the Japanese government to provide adequate and effective compensation to the comfort women which should be promoted by decisive action, such as having the Japanese Diet establish related regulations.
3. For "Justice for the Comfort Women," the South Korean Parliament demands that the South Korean government play an active and evidential role in ensuring that the Japanese government officially apologizes, provides compensation and allows for the teaching of the true story in history textbooks by accepting the recommendations of international bodies including the UN Commission on Human Rights and the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, etc.

6. Taiwan

Legislative Branch

Documentation of: 7th period, 2nd session, 8th meeting

Drafted by Sue-Ying Huang, Li-Huan Yang, Ching-Te Lai, Men-An Pan

5 November 2008

PROPOSAL

Twenty-eight members of the Legislative Branch, including Sue-Ying Huang, Li-Huan Yang, Ching-Te Lai, and Men-An Pan, have issued the following proposal. It documents that “we ask that the Government of Japan should officially recognize its historical responsibility on its war-time sexual slavery system, make a sincere apology and due compensation directly to victims alive thereby recovering their dignity and realizing their justice, and henceforth, sincerely observe the proposal by the UN Human Rights Council and educate the relevant historical truths to the present and the future generations forever.”

RATIONALE

1. The Japanese military forcibly put a number of women into sexual slavery through recruitment, abduction, threatening, and cheating at the sites occupied by the Japanese

military during the WWII. The Government of Japan has not yet officially recognized, and even denied its historical responsibility for this sexual slavery, thereby damaging the dignity of the victims. The continued Japanese refusal of apology and compensation further defames the victims whose trauma has not yet healed.

2. It has been sixty-three years since the end of the WWII. The Government of Japan must take necessary action to resolve the remaining problems resulting from the sexual slavery by the Japanese military, and to compensate the victims for the defamation and the damage inflicted upon them.
3. The victims in Taiwan are all in their 80s and/or 90s. While they are alive, it is necessary that the Government of Japan resolve the problem of compensation, which will enable the recovery of the dignity and secure the human rights of the victims. The House Resolution 121, passed in the U.S. House of Representatives on July 2, 2007, states that the Government of Japan should formally acknowledge, apologize, and accept historical responsibility in a clear and unequivocal manner for its Imperial Armed Force's coercion of young women into sexual slavery. Upon the passage of this resolution in the U.S. House of Representatives, the Legislative Branch of Taiwan sincerely hopes that the human rights issue of "comfort women" has to be diligently observed by the international milieu of justice. We pay special attention to the serious situation in which the Government of Japan has not resolved the "comfort women" issue, and thus, demand the Government of Japan should attend to the problem, to legislate to take its historical responsibility, and to provide compensation directly to the victims.

Signed by Cheng-Er Lin, Yi-Shih Lin, Hung-Chih Lin, Chieh-Jung Lin, Hsueh-Chang Lu, Chin-Chu Wong, Hsiu-Chu Hung, Tsai-Feng, Huang Ho, Shen-Liang Liu, Wen-Chi Kung, Chieh Chen, Ying Chen, Fu-Hai Chen, Ken-Te Chen, Ting-Fei Chen, Fong-Chi Chu, Shao-Ping Lin Hsu, Jen-Fu Yang, Yi-Hsiung Chiang, Ching-Chih Wu, Chia-Chun Chang, Kuo-Tung Chi, Li-Yun Chao, Tian Yu

II. Resolutions Adopted by City Assemblies in Foreign Countries

1. Resolutions adopted by city councils in Australia

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council of the Municipality of Strathfield
Resolution by Councillors Brett-Bowen and Kwon

3 March 2009

Resolved:

THAT this Council:

- (a) Acknowledges the suffering of the so called "Comfort Women" and the importance of restoring their human rights and dignity in marking International Women's Day on 8 March 2009;
- (b) Joins the world community and Japanese councillors from City of Takarazuka, City of Kiyose and City of Sapporo in urging the Japanese government to:
 - (i) Formally and unequivocally apologise to the victims,
 - (ii) Take legal responsibility according to international law,
 - (iii) Take historical responsibility by correct teaching of history.
- (c) Calls on the Commonwealth Government to promptly pass a motion in parliament to the effect of (b) (i), (ii) and (iii).
- (d) Conveys recognition and support to Australian "Comfort Women" survivor Jan Ruff O'Herne in celebration of International Women's Day 2009.

Voting on this item was unanimous.

Minutes of City of Ryde Council Meeting
Motion by Councillors Li and Campbell

10 March 2009

RESOLUTION:

1. That in light of International Women's Day on 8 March 2009 and as one initiative to celebrate Harmony Day 2009, the City of Ryde formally recognises the suffering of the so called World War II "Comfort Women" and the importance of restoring their human rights and dignity.
2. That the City of Ryde Write to the Federal Government to urge the Government of Japan to continue a dialogue with the 'Comfort Women' in the spirit of reconciliation and respect for human rights.
3. The City of Ryde writes a letter to support the Friends of Comfort Women Australia and Korean Australians in their efforts to secure for the victims a formal apology and appropriate acknowledgment, and promote the correct teaching of history internationally. As part of this letter also acknowledge the strength and courage of Australian "Comfort Women" survivor Jan Ruff O'Herne.

2. Resolutions adopted by local councils in the United States

BILL NO J00304 York State Senate SPONSOR AVELLA	the New January 29, 2013
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LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing a Memorial Monument in the State of New York that pays tribute to those who have become known to the world as ‘Comfort Women’

WHEREAS, During the Japanese colonial and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands from the 1930s through the duration of World War II, approximately 200,000 young women were coerced into the Comfort Women system of forced military prostitution; and

WHEREAS, On June 16, 2012, the Comfort Women Memorial Monument was established in the Veterans Memorial at Eisenhower Park in Westbury, New York, to honor and commemorate the victims of the Comfort Women system; and

WHEREAS, The Memorial Monument, being the second memorial of its kind in the United States, symbolizes suffering endured by comfort women and serves as a reminder of the crime against humanity committed through the Comfort Women system; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize historical monuments within the State of New York that are established to increase awareness of serious events that have taken place in history; and

WHEREAS, The United Nations reports that 2.4 million people across the globe are victims of human trafficking at any one time, and 80 percent of them are being exploited as sexual slaves; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize a Memorial Monument in the State of New York that pays tribute to those who have become known to the world as ‘Comfort Women’; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Korean American Public Affairs Committee, the Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center and Korean American Civic Empowerment.

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 159 NEW JERSEY Sponsored by: Assemblyman GORDON M. JOHNSON District 37 (Bergen) Assemblywoman CONNIE WAGNER District 38 (Bergen and Passaic) September 24, 2012	STATE OF Introduced Adopted March 21, 2013
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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION commemorating the suffering endured by comfort women during their forced internment in Japanese military camps.

WHEREAS, The term "comfort women" is a euphemism used by the Japanese government to describe women forced into sexual slavery by the Imperial Japanese military between 1932 and

1945; and

WHEREAS, The majority of comfort women were of Korean or Chinese descent but women from Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Australia, and the Netherlands were also interned in military comfort stations run directly by the Imperial Japanese military or by private agents working for the military; and

WHEREAS, Some of the women were sold to the comfort stations as minors, others were deceptively recruited by middlemen with the promise of employment and financial security, and still others were forcibly kidnapped and sent to "work" for soldiers stationed throughout the Japanese occupied territories; and

WHEREAS, Lack of official documentation, most destroyed on the orders of the Japanese government after World War II, has made it difficult to estimate the total number of comfort women; most historians and media sources approximate that about 200,000 young women were recruited or kidnapped by soldiers to serve in Japanese military brothels; and

WHEREAS, Approximately three-quarters of the comfort women have died as a direct result of the brutality inflicted on them during their internment. Those who survived were left infertile due to sexual violence or sexually transmitted diseases and many are now dying without proper acknowledgment by the Japanese government of the suffering they endured during their forced internment in military comfort stations; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting for this House to commemorate the fifth Anniversary of the passage by the United States House of Representatives of H.Res.121 (110th) that called upon the Japanese government to accept historical responsibility for the sexual enslavement of comfort women by the Imperial Japanese military and educate future generations about these crimes; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey (the Senate concurring):

1. The General Assembly commemorates and supports comfort women in their fight for proper acknowledgement by the Japanese government of the suffering they endured during their forced internment in military comfort stations and calls upon the Japanese government to accept historical responsibility for the sexual enslavement of comfort women by the Imperial Japanese military and educate future generations about these crimes.

2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the President of the Senate and attested by the Secretary of the Senate and signed by the Speaker of the General Assembly and attested by the Clerk of the General Assembly, shall be transmitted to the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in the United States, The Office of the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea-New York, The Office of Korean American Civic Empowerment, and The Mayor and Council President of Palisades Park, New Jersey.

3. Resolutions adopted by local councils in the Republic of Korea

Resolution of the City Council of Daegu

July 24, 2009.

Motion Urging the resolution of the Japanese Military “Comfort Women” Issue

Daegu metropolitan city council notes that, regarding the Japanese military “Comfort Women” (Japanese Military Sexual Slavery System), a human rights violation sanctioned by the Japanese Imperial Army during WWII, despite repeated recommendations from the UN Human Rights Council, International Labour Organisation, Amnesty International, and the US House of Representatives, the government of Japan is not only refusing to formally apologise but is refusing to accept responsibility which raises serious concern.

With the belief that a just resolution of past history between Korea – Japan will improve relations between the two nations as well as facilitate co-operation among provincial governments, we adopt the following motion.

Daegu metropolitan city council, for the restoration of honour for the victims of Japanese Military “Comfort Women”, urges the Japanese Parliament and Government to officially recognise and apologise for the Japanese Military “Comfort Women” system inflicted by Japanese Imperialism.

Daegu metropolitan city council, urges the establishment of an official Japanese government body for the purpose of a thorough fact finding on the human rights violations and war crimes committed by the Japanese Imperial Army.

Daegu metropolitan city council urges the government of Japan to repent on its history, regarding the issue of Japanese Military “Comfort Women” through its official government fact finding and to record the factual accounts in history text books to prevent a repetition of such tragic history. Further, we urge the government of Japan to enact through its legal system, compensation that is acceptable to the victims.

4. Daegu metropolitan city council urges our government to do its utmost in restoring the honour and human rights of the Japanese Military “Comfort Women” by proactively fulfilling its obligation in the right of claim and in Korea-Japan diplomatic relations.