

Notice

High-resolution image of the “Map of ‘comfort stations’ of the Japanese military” no longer available

As of 30 June 2025, WAM will no longer provide the high-resolution “image of the Map of ‘comfort stations’ of the Japanese military” (hereinafter referred to as the ‘Map image’).

We have been receiving many inquiries regarding the “Map of ‘comfort stations’ of the Japanese military” website (hereinafter referred to as the ‘Website’). Requests for the high-resolution Map image are particularly frequent. While we are grateful for the interest shown by many, the increase in inquiries has also included a significant rise in inquiries from people who appear not to have read the Website’s ‘Introduction’ section, as well as applications for uses that we had not anticipated.

Initially, we had no plans to provide the Map image when the Website was launched in December 2019. During the Website’s development, we made a particular effort to creating the ‘Source Materials’ pages to ensure that both the Map and its supporting documentation would be accessible for all. We also produced printed versions of the Map for sale, especially for those without internet access.

The release of the website has resulted in a high volume of requests for the Map image. We have considered the purpose and intended use of each request, and provided the Map image accordingly. However, we have also received applications for uses that go beyond the original intention of the Map itself. This has made responding to requests difficult.

From the outset, concerns remained about providing high-resolution digital image files that could be easily altered. The Map image is visually appealing; and we have seen the situations where its use is deviated from our original intention. The Map is an ‘illustrative diagram’ intended to visually demonstrate the extent of the evidence showing that the Japanese military’s ‘comfort stations’ existed throughout the Asia-Pacific region. The Map should be understood together with each of the relevant ‘Source Materials’ pages on the Website. Many aspects had to be considered in order to incorporate the various source data into a map form. The ‘Introduction’ page of the Website provides detailed information on how to read the Map and the ‘Source Materials’ pages, as well as on their significance and limitations. By reading the introduction, you will understand that the number of red dots on the Map does not represent the actual total number of ‘comfort stations’, that the absence of red dots in a given area does not suggest that that there were no ‘comfort stations’ in that area, and so on. If the nature of the Map is not properly understood, there is a risk that Map image will be used and/or altered out of context, leading to misinterpretation.

After careful consideration, we have decided to discontinue providing the high-resolution Map image. Nevertheless, the low-resolution version of the Map image is still available to download without any application. When downloading the Map image, please be sure to read the ‘Read Me’ document included in the Zip file and use the Map image accordingly.

We will continue to improve and update the Website so that it can be a useful resource for many people who are interested in the Japanese military ‘comfort women’ issue. Thank you for supporting the Women’s Active Museum on War and Peace (WAM), and we appreciate your understanding.

30 June 2025

Women’s Active Museum on War and Peace (WAM)