HERSTORY

The Women’s Active Museum on War and Peace (WAM) was established in August 2005 with donations from people in Japan and abroad. WAM is Japan’s only museum focusing on violence against women in war and conflict situations, particularly Japan’s military sexual slavery, euphemistically called the “comfort women” issue.

In December 2000, the Women’s International War Crimes Tribunal on Japan’s Military Sexual Slavery was held in Tokyo by the global civil society to end the cycle of impunity of wartime sexual violence. We envisioned a museum that preserved tribunal documents and the testimonies of victims/survivors to pass onto the next generation.

WAM seeks to make the Japanese government accountable for Japan’s military sexual slavery system and provides a space to remember women’s stories of suffering as well as the struggle to restore dignity and justice. Let’s create a world of peace together, where no woman suffers from violence or discrimination.

WAM received the 2007 Pax Christi International Peace Award and the 2013 Peace Award of the Peace Studies Association of Japan.
Welcome to the Women’s Active Museum on War and Peace (WAM)!

As you enter WAM, you will be welcomed by portraits of the victims/survivors of Japan’s military sexual slavery. There are 179 women from 10 countries and region who gave us their permission to share their pictures, names and experiences with WAM visitors.

WAM provides you with books, newsletters and testimonial documentaries on Japan’s military sexual slavery and violence against women in armed conflicts today.

“The only way to fight against globalization is by globalizing our solidarity.”

Yayori Matsui (1934-2002) was a prominent journalist and feminist activist. She proposed the Women’s International War Crimes Tribunal and envisioned WAM. You can find all of her books and articles in our museum.

What we do:
- Focusing on wartime sexual violence from the perspective of gender justice
- Listening to the survivors/victims as well as looking at state/individual responsibility for the crimes
- Preserving past documents while creating a space for future actions
- Operating the museum solely as a people’s movement, independent from state power
- Making actions and sharing information in solidarity with the global civil society

WAM never stands still.
We are an ACTIVE museum:

Education: We hold symposiums, seminars and film screenings inviting experts and supporters in order to help deeper understanding of our exhibitions. We also hold “wam de cafe,” casual seminars on a variety of issues.

Research/Archiving: We conduct research on Japan’s military sexual slavery system, including collecting testimonies and documents to establish the “comfort women” archives for future generations. The “map of comfort stations” is also our major project.

Action: We take action towards restoring justice for “comfort women” survivors and to make Japanese society face up to their wrongdoings in the past. Together with the global civil society, we will make every effort to end military sexual violence.

Join and Support WAM!

WAM is managed by the membership fee and donations. We do not seek government funding to maintain our independence.

Friends of WAM JPY3000 (US$30) / year
You will receive: newsletters; information on events and exhibitions; and exclusive access to the members-only mailing-list (in Japanese).

Supporters of WAM JPY10000 (US$100) / year
You will receive all of the benefits above, plus: free admission to WAM; and discounts on seminars and publications.

Donation
Your donation will be highly appreciated to maintain our activities.

Bank Account
MUFG Bank, LTD. (SWIFT Code: BOTJKPYT)
Women’s Fund for Peace and Human Rights

We cannot accept personal cheques due the high cost of commission. If you prefer to use PayPal, please visit our website to find the link.

Thank you very much for your support!

Special Exhibitions:
1. All About the Women’s International War Crimes Tribunal Aug.-Nov. 2005