

Women March for Peace, Reconciliation in Historic Korean Border Crossing

By [Nadia Prupis](#)

Global Research, May 25, 2015

[Common Dreams](#) 24 May 2015

Region: [Asia](#)

In-depth Report: [NORTH KOREA](#)

Gloria Steinem, center, walked with other human rights and peace activists, known as the 'WomenCrossDMZ' marchers, across Korea's demilitarized zone on Sunday. (Photo: AP)

An international group of women activists, including Gloria Steinem and two Nobel Peace laureates, on Sunday crossed the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) between North and South Korea in a call for global peace and reconciliation.

"We are walking for a peaceful world, we are walking for a peaceful world," the activists [sang](#) as they crossed one section of the heavily fortified two-mile-wide zone.

[WomenCrossDMZ](#) hit a brief roadblock when the activists were denied an attempt to walk across the final stretch, but they were able to make the crossing by bus.

"Not only have we received the blessing for our historic crossing, we've gotten both Korean governments to communicate. That is a success," one of the Nobel Peace laureates, Leymah Gbowee, who was recognized in 2011 for her role in Liberian peace movement, [told CBS News](#).

The event was formed to "call for an end to the Korean War and for a new beginning for a reunified Korea," the organizers state on their website. They continue:

2015 marks the 70th anniversary of Korea's division into two separate states by Cold War powers, which precipitated the 1950-53 Korean War. After nearly 4 million people were killed, mostly Korean civilians, fighting was halted when North Korea, China, and the United States representing the UN Command signed a ceasefire agreement. They promised within three months to sign a peace treaty; over 60 years later, we're still waiting.

Sunday's event also includes forums in Pyongyang and Seoul for Korean women to share their experiences of being split apart from their families and for the activists to discuss mobilizing women for an end to the conflict.

Some South Korean protesters were critical of the march, saying the activists did not do enough to point out human rights abuses carried out by the North Korean government, but WomenCrossDMZ said the action had a different focus.

"This is about human relationships, this is about us seeing our common humanity in each other," Mairead Maguire, who received the Nobel in 1976 for her work in ending the conflict

in Northern Ireland, said at a press conference on the southern side of the inter-Korean border.

“We are trying to make person-by-person connections so that there is understanding and accuracy,” Steinem said at the press conference. “We feel very celebratory and positive that we have created a voyage across the DMZ in peace and reconciliation that was said to be impossible.”

The original source of this article is [Common Dreams](#)

Copyright © [Nadia Prupis](#), [Common Dreams](#), 2015

[**Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page**](#)

[**Become a Member of Global Research**](#)

Articles by: [**Nadia Prupis**](#)

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca