

PSCORE'S

RECAP OF

2023



SWIPE TO SEE SOME OF PSCORE'S BIGGEST
ACHIEVEMENTS AND EVENTS OF 2023



SUPPORTED DEFECTORS NGOS FOR GRANT PROPOSAL

Throughout the first half of 2023, PSCORE played a role in supporting two North Korean defectors' NGOs, helping them secure funding from the United States. Our collaborative efforts involved crafting impactful English documents that effectively communicated the NGOs' innovative ideas. This successful collaboration resulted in one of the NGOs securing funding for their project.

The achievement not only underscores the importance of effective communication and collaboration but also reflects our pride in empowering NGOs. We are dedicated to enabling transformative projects and advocating for meaningful change on an international scale.



2023

MODEL UNSF 2023

In the beginning of 2023, the Model UNSF was held online from the 10th to the 12th of February. All the participants were split into 4 discussion groups and were assigned one of the Strategic Priorities; Food and Nutrition Security, Social Development Services, Resilience and Sustainability, and Data and Human Rights Development.

Talks were held by notable speakers such as PSCORE President, Kim Tae-hoon, a North Korean defector, Director of Maebong Institute for One Korea Nam Kwang-kyu, as well as the UNIKOREA foundation.

By the end of the Model UNSF, with the help of the delegates and Chair speakers, a Final Proposal was drafted which offered solutions to the 10 most prominent issues in North Korea.



2023

GENEVA 52ND HUMAN RIGHT COUNCIL

In March, PSCORE had the honour of being invited to join the 52nd UN Human Right Council in Geneva, so we packed our bags and headed to Switzerland for an unforgettable trip!

PSCORE participated in two events from the 20th to the 21st regarding North Korean human rights with distinguished speakers such as Special Rapporteur on the DPRK, Elizabeth Salmón and Ambassador for International Cooperation on North Korean Human Rights, Shinwa Lee. Time was also set aside to enjoy Geneva through it's wonderful food and scenery, which we are looking forward to enjoying again in 2024 for the 53rd UN Session!



2023

RELEASE OF 'DIGITAL HOSTAGES' AT THE RIGHTSCON CONFERENCE

In June at the RightsCon Conference, PSCORE presented its latest report, "Digital Hostages." The DPRK consistently restricts internet access for its citizens, with only a privileged few, such as researchers and government officials, having limited access whilst being closely monitored. Despite widespread limitations, there is a lack of reports focusing on the human rights aspects of internet restrictions in North Korea.

Recognizing this gap, PSCORE conducted in-depth research leading to the release of the comprehensive "Digital Hostages" report with the help of a dedicated team of interns, interviewees, and translators! You can read the full report here: <https://bit.ly/InternetFreedomNK>

State censorship and cyber threats in North Korea and East Asia

RIGHTSCON 12TH EDITION - COSTA RICA

INTERNET IN THE DPRK

Access to the Internet

Firewall

- Internal firewall separates foreign and domestic subscribers.
- Foreigners unrestricted internet access.
- Domestic extremely restricted internet access for all except for the state-owned.

Network usage protocols

- Cumbersome application process.
- Few information due to harsh censorship.
- Access only available in strictly selected areas.
- Surveillance of overseas workers.

Shilla H. Kang

Bada Nam

Shilla H. Kang

At the RightsCon 2023, PSCORE employees Bada Nam and Shilla H. Kang gave an online lecture regarding internet freedom in North Korea and presented the aforementioned report.



2023

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH SEMINAR

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KOREAN ARMISTICE AGREEMENT

In July, PSCORE held a 2 day International Youth Seminar & Workshop in Commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of the Korean Armistice Agreement which ended the Korean War in 1953. The trip was planned with the goal in mind of engaging and celebrating Korean history and culture, whilst teaching the youth about the importance of historical awareness.

The trip included visits to historical and cultural sites such as the Unification Observation Tower, the Korean War Exhibition, and the DMZ Museum where guided tours were given and insightful discussions were held among the participants. We look forward to hosting similar workshops in the new year!



2023

EXCURSION TO HANAWON



On the 31st of August, PSCORE took a trip alongside participants and invited guests to Hanawon, which is a resettlement centre for North Korean defectors. We were greeted at the entrance by security and staff, whereafter presentations were held, which described the work the staff at Hanawon do to ensure that the defectors have the best start to their new lives in South Korea. We were taken on a tour of all the facilities such as the school, the hospital, the dormitories, the cafeteria, and the vocational training classes.

We all enjoyed a delicious lunch together and afterwards, we are able to talk and ask questions to defectors, who had stayed at Hanawon about their experiences and current life outside of North Korea.

It was truly an eye-opening and once in a lifetime experience and the PSCORE team were so glad to be able to experience this. Hopefully, more of such trips will be possible in the future, so keep an eye out for announcements on our social media!





UN COMMEMORANCE DAY IN BUSAN



In October, PSCORE and NKHRC went on a two-day to Busan to commemorate United Nations Day (Oct. 24) that marks the 78th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Charter in 1945. Busan holds a significant historical value that reflects the UN's support in defending South Korea during the Korean War.

To commemorate the day, a conference was held to underscore the role of the UN during the Korean War and what can be done by the UN to aid the cause of North Korean human rights. Speeches were held by 3 North Korean human rights experts, as well as 4 PSCORE interns from various countries to highlight the important role that the international community also plays in the discussion regarding North Korea.



During the trip, the PSCORE team explored significant historical sites relating to the Korean War, such as the Provisional Capital Memorial Hall, Gamcheon village, Yeongdo Daegyo bridge, the Gukje market, as well visiting and honoring the fallen UN soldiers at the only UN Memorial Cemetery in the world.



R2P & NORTH KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE

In November, PSCORE and the Ministry of Unification held the first Responsibility to Protect conference in South Korea with a focus on North Korean Human Rights. The conference was successful due to the multitude of experts, speakers, and engaged participants who supported the event. Notable presences and key-speakers within the field of R2P and Human Rights were the 8th UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon; Kim Young-ho, Elisabeth Pramendorfer; James Heenan; Karen Smith; Vasilka Sancin; Noel Morada and many more distinguished panelists.

The conference ended with the promise of continuing the work and hopefully reunite at future R2P conferences with a focus on North Korean Human Rights.



2023

Thank you to anyone who participated in any of PSCORE's events throughout 2023!

We appreciate your contributions, insights and support for PSCORE and our mission to spread awareness on North Korean human rights within the international community.

We were able to reach many new heights this year, and we owe it all to you and our dedicated PSCORE team. We hope that you will continue to follow us in 2024, where we aim to do even better!

Thank you!



PSCORE



2023