

SHAPING THE NORTH KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS CONVERSATION

A YEAR IN REVIEW



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Shaping the North Korean Human Rights Conversation 2018 in Review



TO OUR MOST VALUABLE PLAYERS

We would like to give a special thanks



We would like to give a special thanks to those who made this year successful. First, we would like to thank our donors, partners, and co-hosting organizations, without whose commitment to North Korean human rights issues and spirit of collaboration our work would not be made possible. We would also like to thank our wonderful interns and volunteers, who came from over seven countries to contribute their skills and talents to PSCORE, dedicated months of hard work and were instrumental in ensuring the continuation of PSCORE's mission.

We would especially like to thank PSCORE Executive Director Kim Tae-hoon who joined PSCORE this year and whose leadership and connections to organizations concerned with North Korean human rights have already proven invaluable to furthering PSCORE's mission and to expanding our operations internationally. We would also like to thank Secretary General Nam Bada, whose oversight of the reports to the U.N. and whose management ensures that PSCORE's daily operations continue to run smoothly.

Last but certainly not least, we would like to thank Kim Young-II, PSCORE founder, director, and North Korean defector. We appreciate his valuable insight into North Korean human rights issues and continued dedication in working towards sustainable, peaceful reunification that ensures basic human rights to North Koreans.

To all who continue to fight for the human rights of North Koreans, we applaud you and will continue to fight with you.

Awareness Actions



2018 Street Campaigns

In collaboration with the International Association of Students in Economics and Commercial Sciences (AIESEC) Yonsei, PSCORE organized street campaigns between the 10th of August to the 12th of August. Our team raised public awareness about North Korean human rights issues through direct interaction with both local and foreign people.

PSCORE held street campaigns and encouraged interactive communication about human rights abuses in North Korea. In campaigns held between the 17th and the 21st of September, PSCORE hosted a survey board which asked:

"Did you know that 20,000 child laborers were used for North Korea's recent Mass Games?" and participants answered with either "Yes" or "No. "

The survey concluded that 80% of the participants were not aware of this issue. Thus, our survey not only helped us collect information and estimate the level of public awareness but also addressed this gap in knowledge by informing the participants.



Seminars and Speech Events

OUTCOMES OF A UNIFIED KOREA

On the 27th of April, PSCORE held a seminar titled: "How the enactment of the North Korean Human Rights Bill could take place in a desirable and appropriate way." Participants discussed the outcomes of a unified Korea, including North-South social integration and possible enactments of the North Korean Human Rights Bill. PSCORE led debates about the respective roles the South Korean and the international community would have in forming human rights policy in North Korean society. Statements by North Korean defectors about former South Korean President Goh Kun's and current President Moon's policies regarding North Korea were also sourced and presented. Through these evaluations, PSCORE assessed the imminent direction of current policies.



POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF INTER-KOREA SUMMIT

This speech event, co-hosted with Korea University's Graduate School of International Studies (GSIS), was held on the 4th of June. It focused on the Korean summits and raised awareness of the human rights abuses suffered by North Koreans daily. Two North Korean defectors, alongside PSCORE's founder Kim Young-Il, contributed to a discussion of the first inter-Korean summit and its political implications on future talks. Jeon Geum-Ju shared her information on her life in North Korea and gave a testimony about her defection experience. With the help of PSCORE and PSCORE's education program, Geum-Ju has successfully integrated into South Korean society and is now a thriving florist and florist teacher in Seoul.

ASKING THE WORLD YOUTH

On the 5th of October, PSCORE hosted the seminar "Asking the World Youth—Beyond the Cold War towards International Peace" to identify and discuss issues regarding peace-building and Korean reunification, especially in light of the first inter-Korean and United States-North Korea summits. We were supported by Ms. Signe Poulsen, the representative of the U.N. Human Rights Office in Seoul, and her encouraging speech about the role of the youth in overcoming human rights violations and establishing peace. The panel was further enriched by three experts on North Korea, and included a discussion forum of youth from seven countries around the world, including those from North and South Korea.



DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS



PSCORE Visits the United Nations in Geneva and New York

Visit to the United Nations in Geneva

PSCORE made its annual visit to attend the United Nations Human Right Council thanks to its U.N. Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) special consultative status. PSCORE founder and preceding Executive Director Young-Il Kim and Secretary General Bada Nam served as PSCORE's delegates. Young-Il Kim presented an oral statement to the Special U.N. Rapporteur about corruption and the human rights situation in North Korea, and Bada Nam gave a statement on child labor.

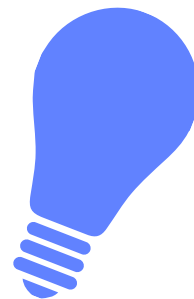
In addition, PSCORE had meetings with the International Organization for the Right to Education and Freedom of Education (OIDEL) and a desk officer for the DPRK, ROK and Mongolia. PSCORE also co-hosted a side event to discuss issues of corruption, accountability and abuse in North Korea. This event was hosted in collaboration with Human Rights Watch and Christian Solidarity Worldwide.

Visit to the United Nations in New York

PSCORE visited the U.N. Headquarters in New York City to attend the U.N. General Assembly Third Committee in October. We co-hosted a special event called "Real Stories: In Conversation with NK Defector Ro Hee Chang" in which North Korean defector Ro Hee Chang shared his personal testimony about escaping North Korea. Mr. Hee also shared his testimony at our main U.N. event, and PSCORE Executive Director Kim Tae-hoon presented a speech about North Korean human rights violations.

In addition to U.N. engagements, PSCORE also held a press conference at the National Press Club. Delegates spoke with the European Union (EU) delegation who is working on a resolution for Korean reunification and established stronger ties with other organizations, including the Korea Society and U.S. lawyers who support North Korean human rights. PSCORE hopes to continue establishing connections with other organizations in the United States as part of a holistic strategy to expand operations in the U.S. and raise awareness of human rights in North Korea.

Education Program



PSCORE's education program is a one-on-one tutoring project designed to fulfill the specific educational needs of North Korean refugees. The objective is to empower North Korean refugees by equipping them with knowledge and providing support for their adjustment in South Korea.

Students apply for diverse subjects of different levels, and are then matched with volunteer instructors. Students also received mentoring from instructors who share advice and information for socio-cultural involvement.

Weekly English classes are also held every Wednesday at the PSCORE office as an extension of the one-on-one tutoring program. Students interested in improving their English skills, such as listening, writing, and speaking, are encouraged to drop by freely.

English instructors are mainly composed of international volunteers, providing opportunities of intercultural exchange. Culturally enriching English textbooks published by PSCORE are provided.



PSCORE hopes to close the cultural and educational gaps of North Korean refugees through its interactive education program, helping them to become global citizens.



PSCORE REPORTS

WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON CHILDREN'S ISSUES

Unending Toil: Child Labour Within North Korea



This report used personal testimonies and other research to document the prevalence of child labor in North Korea. PSCORE seeks to call attention to and stop the systemic abuse that routinely occurs both within the North Korean education system and beyond it. You can read the report at <https://tinyurl.com/y7v63ue6>

An Overview of the Human Rights Situation in the DPRK in Light of the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights



Published in coordination with Lawyers for Human Rights and Unification of Korea, this report provided an update (as of October 2018) of the most pressing human rights issues in North Korea. It was created for the Third Committee of the General Assembly at the United Nation's Seventy-Third Session.

Violation of Children's Rights in North Korea



This 15-page booklet provides a comprehensive summary of PSCORE's research on the education system, child labor, and child abuse in North Korea. You can read this report at <https://tinyurl.com/yayomosk>.



IN PROGRESS



Child Abuse in North Korea

In this report, PSCORE uses defector testimonies and original research to document patterns of abuse—including physical, psychological, sexual abuse and neglect in North Korea.



Political Changes This Year

Political changes were reflected especially by multiple peace talks and new agreements made between leaders of North Korea, South Korea, and the United States. In 2018, PSCORE raised public awareness by documenting and reporting on North Korean human rights abuses to the United Nations, by holding seminars and street campaigns, and by empowering North Korean defectors through its education program. Through these programs and campaigns, PSCORE will continue to strive towards its ultimate mission of ensuring a successful, secure, and sustainable reunification of the Korean Peninsula.

In 2019 as discussions for the conditions for inter-Peninsular peace are expected to continue, PSCORE will monitor new developments. So far, leaders have begun discussions on North Korean denuclearization and development, but as of the publication of this report, significant strides have not been made to address human rights abuses, nor have leaders properly discussed how North Korea will protect citizens' basic rights—including political freedom and civil liberties—as talks of North Korea's integration into the global community move forward. If North Korea's denuclearization is successful, we expect that the U.S. will then exert pressure on the DPRK to prioritize the protection of human rights. For peace to be successfully achieved in North Korea, the basic human rights of its citizens must be protected. PSCORE will continue to monitor new political developments and call on international organizations, world leaders, and the international community to improve the human rights situation in North Korea.

Changes to PSCORE

We are honored by the addition of Kim Tae-hoon, who joined PSCORE as our new Executive Director. Kim Tae-hoon currently leads the Lawyers for Human Rights and Unification of Korea (Hanbyun). While PSCORE will continue to raise awareness of North Korean defector issues, the scope of our work will also include other North Korean human rights issues, such as the 1969 Korean Air Lines YS-11 hijacking, of whom seven passengers and four crew members remain held hostage in North Korea.

In addition, we are proud to say that PSCORE is now a registered non-profit organization in the United States as PSCORE USA. This is just the first step of our plans to expand operations in the United States, and we hope that by doing so we can successfully continue our mission of raising awareness of human rights and calling for their protection in North Korea.



Get Involved

VOLUNTEER. DONATE. SPREAD AWARENESS.

Help PSCORE fight for Human Rights in North Korea

Your donation, no matter how small, will make a positive impact on the lives of North Korean defectors.

Education Programs

In order to further support North Korean defectors in their integration into both South Korean and the international community, PSCORE organizes a multitude of education programs. Our 1 on 1 tutoring involves matching volunteer tutors, who are part an extensive network, with defectors seeking to develop their skills in a variety of disciplines. We also host Wednesday English classes, bringing together teachers and North Korean defectors. Classes are taught from PSCORE's very own textbooks, with sessions allowing defectors the possibility to practice their language skills in a group environment. As an extension of our classes, PSCORE hosts cultural activities to help aid social integration.



International Awareness Efforts

It is with the support of our donors that PSCORE is able to further advocate for North Korean human rights on a global scale. PSCORE has been granted consultative status by the United Nations Economic and Social Council. We actively participate in the United Nations' human rights related sessions and submit our own human rights reports. These are published in multiple languages and contain extensive testimonies from North Korean defectors. Through these initiatives, PSCORE is able to continue fighting for human rights in North Korea.



Community Outreach Campaigns

In order to project the voices of North Koreans, PSCORE hosts monthly awareness campaigns in Seoul. These typically take place in heavily populated suburbs and campuses, and involve participatory activities, informative presentations, petition signing, and data collection. Through these campaigns, PSCORE has been able to diversify our audience and further inform the South Korean public of the abuse and suffering of North Koreans.



PSCORE is a non-profit, non-partisan organization with tax exemption status in the Republic of Korea. PSCORE USA, according to the federal government of the United States, is a non-profit organization with 501(c) 3 status. For more information, or for supporting documentation for your U.S or South Korean tax records, please contact pscore@pscore.org

pscore.org/newest/donate/

Without your generous support, PSCORE's work fighting alongside North Korean defectors for the protection of North Korean human rights would not be possible. Please help us continue the fight and consider making a donation.