

## Women's Active Museum on War and Peace (WAM)

Author: WAM, <https://wam-peace.org/en/>

Location: Tokyo, Japan

**OVERVIEW:** Opened in August 2005 as the first institution in Japan dedicated to addressing wartime sexual violence, WAM has become a center for social activism and memory preservation. Guided by the spirit of the late Yayori Matsui who first conceived of a Women's International War Crimes Tribunal to pass judgement on the Japanese wartime military system of sexual slavery and then threw herself into making it a reality in 2000, WAM strives to serve as "a place where people encounter the singular lives of each of the women victims" and operates in accordance with five principles: 1) to focus on wartime sexual violence from the perspective of gender justice, 2) to uncover suffering from sexual violence and identify those responsible for it, 3) to serve as a center for peaceful, non-violent activism, and 4) to promote collective action that transcends national borders, 5) as a grassroots movement of the people.

The Women's Active Museum of War and Peace is a place where the reality of war crimes is recorded and kept for posterity. We come here to remember historical facts about "comfort women," and to listen to their stories. And we raise our voices and say, "Never Again, anywhere in the world."

**EXHIBITS and ACTIVITIES:** Most of the panel exhibition section is dedicated to special exhibits held once or twice a year focused on "comfort women" victims and the nations to which they belong. The permanent exhibit displays portraits of women victims of sexual violence committed by the Japanese military in nations across Asia, an overview of the Women's International War Crimes Tribunal, a panel showing those responsible for the Japanese military's system of sexual slavery, a "Map of Japanese Military Comfort Stations" spread throughout Asia, and a "comfort women" timeline. The materials-viewing section contains a wide variety of printed and visual materials related to Japanese military "comfort women." We also engage in educational activities, such as sponsoring seminars, symposiums and video showings to coincide with special exhibits, holding WAM de Café (themed discussion in a café-like setting), publishing catalogs of special exhibit panels, and loaning panels to exhibits throughout Japan.

We promote the creation of a world of peace and nonviolence and efforts to bring justice to women survivors by carrying out research related to Japanese military comfort women and forming alliances with other groups around the world.

Source: The program brochure of the 1<sup>st</sup> "comfort women" Museum conference, Tokyo, Japan in 2017