

Lesson Plan 2

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Title: Lesson plan - Justice for “Comfort Women”

Purpose: This activity allows students to consider what is justice for “Comfort Women” and how they have struggled until today to obtain justice long after the war had ended.

Objective: Students will learn about the 2015 Republic of Korea-Japan agreement on “Comfort Women” issue and how it is different from what the survivors / activists have demanded. Students will be able to see differences and to discuss what justice means for the victims of human rights violations.

CA HSS Content Standards: 10.8.3, 10.8.6

CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy: RH, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8

CA ELD Standards: ELD.PI.1-12, PII.1-7

Procedure

- Teachers give a lecture on the movement supporting “Comfort Women” survivors and the controversy following the 2015 South Korea-Japan Agreement on “Comfort Women” issue. Using the powerpoint files, teachers can explain major actions and different views from governments, international organizations, human rights activists, survivors, and others, from the 1990s to present. Teachers also can use news articles, if applicable (links are provided below).
- Students read (1) Japan’s position (2) South Korea’s position (in the 2015 agreement), and (3) WCCW(Washington Coalition for Comfort Women Issues)’s statement on the agreement. Students highlight major points of each statement.
- In small groups, students share what they highlighted in the material and discuss, by answering the following questions:
 - How are the views of the two governments different from the position of WCCW (and the survivors)?
 - Can you imagine how the survivors responded to the agreement?
- Teachers lead a whole class discussion about what is justice for the “Comfort Women” victims. They can use the following discussion questions:
 - Do you think that the “Comfort Women” survivors achieved justice? Why, or why not?
 - What would constitute justice for the survivors?
 - What have been achieved and what should be done for redress?
 - Do you think Japanese textbooks and curriculum should include the issue of “Comfort Women”? Why, or why not?

Materials / Handout

- Powerpoint files, (1) on background (2) on “Comfort Women” movement (downloadable at www.ComfortWomenEducation.org)
- Republic of Korea-Japan Agreement on “Comfort Women” issue (2015)
- Statement by Washington Coalition for Comfort Women Issues (2016)
- “Japan’s Apology to South Korea Shows What Public Apologies Should (Not) Do,” from Huffington Post (January 29, 2016), https://www.huffpost.com/entry/japans-apology-to-south-k_b_9111566
- “In the #MeToo Era, Women Used as Sex Slaves by Japanese in WW II Are Still Seen as Prostitutes, Not Victims,” from CBC/Radio-Canada (July 7, 2018), <https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/comfort-women-japan-apology-metoo-1.4732458>
- “South Korea: World’s Longest Protest over “Comfort Women,” from Al Jazeera (September 7, 2017), <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/9/8/south-korea-worlds-longest-protest-over-comfort-women>
- “Shinzo Abe Rebuked over Japan’s Stance on “Comfort Women,”” from Financial Times (May 6, 2015), <https://www.ft.com/content/a8499da0-f45e-11e4-bd16-00144feab7de>