

Emi Koyama, Co-Founder
Japan-U.S. Feminist Network for Decolonization
PO Box 40570
Portland, Oregon 97240

October 19, 2014

The Honorable Doug Chaffee and City Council Members
303 W Commonwealth Avenue
Fullerton, California 92832

Dear Mayor Chaffee and City Council Members,

On behalf of the newly formed group, Japan-U.S. Feminist Network for Decolonization (FeND), I am writing to express our wholehearted support for the Council's effort to memorialize the victims and survivors of Japanese "comfort women" system during the WWII.

FeND is a network of U.S.-based individuals who have roots in Japan, and those who support our goals. We are activists, teachers, researchers, and other community members who came together earlier this year to counteract the rise of antagonistic nationalism and historical revisionism in some corners of Japan and within (mostly first generation migrant) Japanese communities in the U.S.

As individuals who have roots in Japan, we want to assure you that these antagonistic nationalists and historical revisionists do not speak for us.

By publicly memorializing and honoring former "comfort women," as you are planning to, Fullerton will send a clear message that violation of human rights anywhere, anytime to anybody is unacceptable and that its victims deserve respect and redress. If the City were to succumb to the campaign of intimidation and historical revisionism and backtrack its support for former "comfort women," we fear that it could catalyze a further escalation of antagonistic rhetoric among Japanese right-wing nationalists and their sympathizers in the U.S.

We appreciate your interest in addressing this very important and timely issue. We are hopeful that the City Council will hold firm to its support for victims and survivors of the "comfort women" system, consistent with our shared belief in peace, justice, and human rights for all.

Best,

Emi Koyama, Co-Founder
Japan-U.S. Feminist Network for Decolonization

P.S. We are holding a workshop/seminar titled "Confronting Japanese Right-Wing Organizing in Southern California" at UCLA on Friday, November 14th. More information can be found on our website at www.fendnow.org.