

**Think-Piece on North Korea Diaspora**  
**on Journalism Training + Article 19 Awareness**  
**(version for UK, adaptable for other countries globally)**

**DRAFT by Betsy A. Kawamura**

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**Mission/Objective:** Assisting North Korean diaspora in United Kingdom (with global opportunities) with training on professional journalism and photo-journalism by relevant and ethical press/media agencies (media Ngos, foundations) and allied partners. Apparently, about 500 defectors/refugees are resettled in the UK, mostly in northern regions of England, and about 850 are believed to be resettled throughout Europe.

**Such a professional training program may:**

- enable journalistic excellence, including impartial, ethical reporting to sustain the ethos of Article 19, which is currently out of the reach of ordinary North Koreans back in the DPRK.
- encourage individual opinions and expressions re the DPRK, independent from the government or religious obligations by the State.
- empower the voices of the DPRK diaspora community to assist in democracy-building, and augment their political inclusion in local governments. Special attention will be provided to empower the voices of NK diaspora women to augment gender equality and political inclusion. Sustaining the voices of diaspora, especially for women, with a 'safe platform' can contribute toward meaningful dialogue and reconciliation efforts for the Korean Peninsula and enhance UNSCR 1325 efforts.
- augment on-going International Criminal Court hearing procedures including '*proprio motu*' initiatives. Training can contribute toward data collection, reporting to the ICC and relevant agencies with support materials, thus potentially hastening media integrity and justice-reporting processes to DPRK. Relevant reportage could be included in "6-Party Talk" discussion papers.
- encourage dialogue with reliable media institutions and knowledge-centers in universities in the UK and abroad— i.e. those with high standard journalism/media, peace studies, law and political science departments, for example.
- support training of NK diaspora in UK that would assist with sustainable local integration efforts. Potentially creates work/career/skills and opportunities for the diaspora community through language and technical training. Skills can lead to economic and social empowerment and financial independence of defectors. Trainees can eventually train others. Basic journalistic training can be applied to other career paths.

The diaspora community could be given a chance to practice and apply the principles of freedom of expression, not currently possible in North Korea. They can be empowered by being taught human rights and media freedom in highly effective manner as journalists/writers/analysts, which can be applied to various career paths. Immigration/asylum officials may recognize rehabilitation/reintegrative merits of a skill building program that encourages rapid economic assimilation

**Potential Tactics:**

**Networking/coordination of information and action perhaps with relevant UK governmental and non governmental groups required, which require security considerations. Some of the dialogue**

**partners could include: UNESCO UK, NGOs (also in South Korea), media foundations and academic institutions with international arms that are well-versed on NK and security issues.**

**Existing documentaries and programs to review for inspiration and 'lessons learned' include:**

**Burma VJ** - <http://burmavjmovie.com/> (Mediamente, Oslo.) Review techniques used by Burma VJ which includes underground video and still journalists on location - main office is in Oslo, Norway. ( This method of using on location activist/reporters can still presents risks to those back in Myanmar.) This documentary is effective in trying to inspire activists outside of Burma and could provide an example in mobilizing and catalyzing activists/researchers/media personnel internationally outside of DPRK including diaspora groups.

**Yodok Stories, producers Piraya Films, Oslo** <http://www.nfi.no/english/norwegianfilms/show.html?id=793>, and **Kimjongilia** - extensive film festival coverage and campaigning possibilities The films could encourage civil society activism and journalistic follow up to perhaps eventually prepare for changes inside NK.

**Free North Korea Radio, won 2009 Asia Democracy and Human Rights Award - provides independent source of news and information to the people of North Korea**

<http://www.ictj.org/en/news/coverage/article/3262.html> Won 2008 Media Prize from Reporters Without Borders. Could be source of reference.

**Voice of America, Radio Free Asia** – Actively interested in NK issues - Potential source of further information at grass roots levels.

**International Think-Tanks, NGOs w/sustained focus/analysis on DPRK issues– Amnesty, HRW, NUI, North Korea Freedom Coalition, Soros Foundation, etc..**

### **Step Forward for Further Discussion:**

**Information exchange and finding suitable partners** – Would be valuable for fruits of the labour to augment International Criminal Court procedures journalists/NGO agencies/think tanks working at The Hague, and other key humanitarian NGOs and individuals aiming to catalyze peace in the Korean Peninsula. News of international activities focused on media action could encourage people closer to the DPRK or diaspora communities to feel more secure to write of their experience and opinions. The discourse could impact strategies on North/South Korea relations for reconciliation and peace-enhancement. The reportage and resulting stories can be enhanced by efforts of the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, UN and other global referees interested in North/South relations.

**Next steps would include:** selecting partners for collaboration on the ground level within the diaspora community itself in Europe, as well as screening media/journalism arms. Selection criteria include ethics and security issues, and promotion of gender equality to encourage women's participation . Some potential partners could include: Panos London, Human Rights House Network members such as Index for Censorship, PEN International, Ministry of Foreign Affairs departments, (Ministry of Defense), Dart Centre for Journalism and Trauma, Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting, 'boutique agencies' such as VII, Magnum, and selected independent journalists/media professionals, etc.. In general, this program would require analysis of human rights, geo-politics, security and gender issues covering Asia Pacific regions, which would have global impact.

**Betsy Kawamura** [bkawamura10@hotmail.com](mailto:bkawamura10@hotmail.com) Nordlivien 4 i, Oslo, Norway

**Skype BetsyKawamura** [www.w4nv.com](http://www.w4nv.com) **Women4NonViolence**