A LIFE OF SERVICE FOR PEACE

Dr. Hak Ja Han

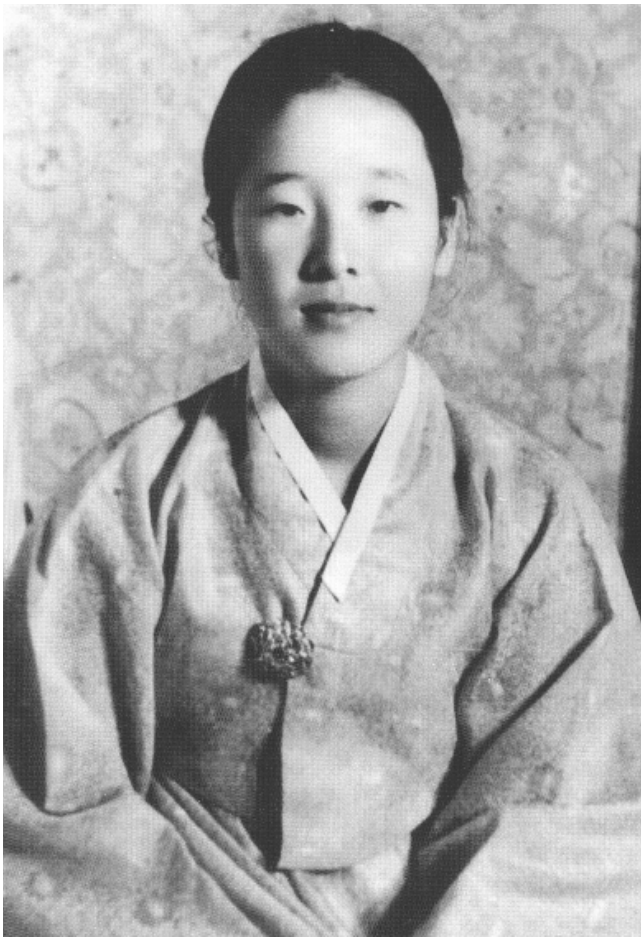
CO-FOUNDER OF THE UNIVERSAL PEACE FEDERATION



About
Dr. Hak Ja Han

Dr. Hak Ja Han is the co-Founder of the Universal Peace Federation and an international advocate for peace, interreligious cooperation, women's leadership, strong families and service to future generations.

Hak Ja Han was born on February 10, 1943, in Anju, South Pyeongan Province, in what is now North Korea. At the time Korea was one nation, under Japanese occupation. Two years later it would be liberated, only to be divided into two – a communist North and democratic South – by Soviet and American forces.



When she was six years old, amid the turbulence that preceded the Korean War, Hak Ja Han moved south with her mother and grandmother to the South. Her childhood was shaped by displacement and war; the small family moved frequently as her mother, an extremely devout Christian, was determined to provide a physically and spiritually safe environment for her daughter.



In 1955 her mother met Rev. Sun Myung Moon in Seoul and joined his fledgling Unification Church. Five years later, in 1960, Hak Ja Han married Rev. Moon and began a life of shared public work that spanned five decades. They also raised 14 children, and now have more than 40 grandchildren.



Since Rev. Moon's passing in 2012, Dr. Han has further contributed to the development of institutions and programs that bring together leaders from government, religion, academia, civil society, media, culture and other fields. In her public work she has consistently emphasized reconciliation, responsible leadership, service to others, and the contribution of stable and caring families to peaceful societies.

Her leadership has impacted diverse international audiences and inspired cooperation among peoples and groups divided by historical, cultural, religious and ideological differences, based on the understanding that humanity is one family under God.

Universities and civic institutions in the Americas, Asia and Europe have recognized Dr. Han's public work throuxgh honorary degrees and peace awards.





Contributing to Global Governance

In 2005 Dr. Han and Rev. Moon established the Universal Peace Federation as an international and interreligious organization dedicated to peace. Together, they have founded and supported institutions in the fields of peace-building, education, religion, humanitarian service, media, culture and family life.

UPF supports the work of the United Nations and the Sustainable Development Goals, and convenes leaders and civil society partners around peace, dialogue, human development and international cooperation.

Family as a Foundation for Peace

A consistent theme in the work of Dr. Han and Rev. Moon has been the social importance of marriage, family, and intergenerational bonds. In 1994, the Unification Church changed its name to the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, stressing faith and family as the foundational components of peace in society and the world.

Within their faith tradition, Dr. Han and Rev. Moon have conducted ceremonies known as the Marriage Blessing for thousands of couples around the world. They have particularly encouraged marriage between young people from different races, nations, cultures and religions. This reflects their conviction that faith, love and commitment within the family can overcome all differences, even a historical sense of enmity between a couple's ancestors. They also hold that peaceful societies emerge when families practice faith and fidelity within the home, along with a commitment to public service.



Empowering Women at Home and in Society

Dr. Han founded the Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) in 1992. Rallying women to create a "culture of heart" by employing the "logic of love," this organization has empowered women around the world in a myriad of ways.

In developing countries WFWP has built elementary and secondary schools and supported girls' attendance, provided equipment and training to enhance women's economic capacity, assisted with healthcare and childcare, and many other projects. In developed countries WFWP has conducted leadership workshops and networking conferences to inspire and unite women in projects for the betterment of their families and societies.

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Youth and Students for Peace

Dr. Han established the International Association of Youth and Students for Peace (IAYSP) in 2017, with the goal of inspiring young people to become responsible global citizens. Character education programs instill values such as empathy and responsibility; community service initiatives provide opportunities to put these values into practice.

The Peace Designer program mentors young people in creating their own service projects, and SINERGY (Students + Ideas + Energy) is a public speaking competition that invites students to propose innovative solutions to social issues. IAYSP's peacebuilding initiatives promote understanding between different cultural and religious groups through interfaith dialogue and international youth conferences. They also engage youth in efforts to address global challenges such as poverty, inequality and environmental sustainability.

LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS

TOGETHER WITH REV. SUN MYUNG MOON



BUILDING PEACE THROUGH INTERRELIGIOUS COOPERATION

Dr. Han and Rev. Sun Myung Moon consistently promoted cooperation among religions as a practical contribution to peace. This vision became central to UPF's interfaith programs, including many related to the United Nations observance of World Interfaith Harmony Week.



ENCOURAGING CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY

Their public work in the United States and other countries emphasized civic responsibility, religious freedom, family stability, moral leadership and service to the wider community.



BRIDGING IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL DIVIDES

Rev. Moon and Dr. Han pursued dialogue with leaders from opposing political systems, including their meeting with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in 1990 (above) and their meeting with North Korean President Kim Il Sung in 1991 (below). These encounters reflected an approach centered on communication and reconciliation across deep political divisions.



COMMITMENT TO PEACE AND RECONCILIATION ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA

Both born in North Korea, Rev. Moon and Dr. Han maintained a personal commitment to peaceful reconciliation on the Korean Peninsula. They have supported dialogue, humanitarian action and international cooperation toward a peaceful future for Koreans in North and South.

WORLD SUMMIT SERIES

UPF's World Summit series, since 2013, has convened current and former heads of state and government, parliamentarians, religious leaders and experts to consider peace, security, development and the future of international cooperation.





RALLY OF HOPE SERIES

A series of Rally of Hope programs connected global audiences during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021, through online programs addressing peace, solidarity and responsibility







THINK TANK 2022

Think Tank 2022 brought together experts and leaders to consider peaceful approaches to the future of the Korean Peninsula.





PEACE SUMMIT

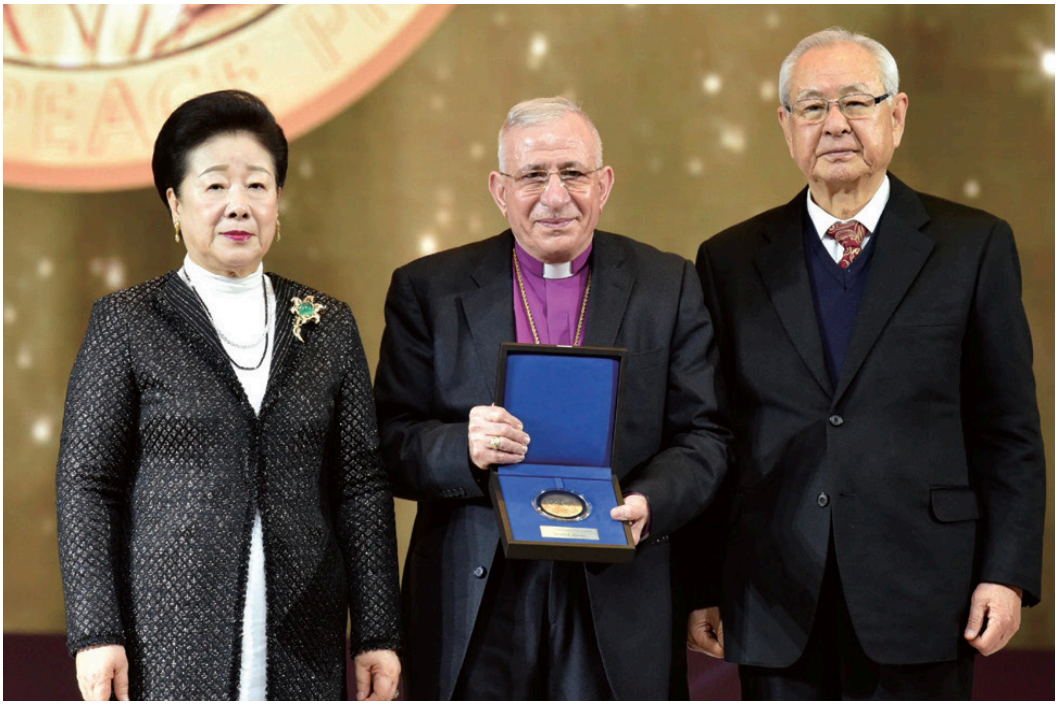
Peace Summit programs provide space for experienced political, religious and civic leaders to exchange perspectives on conflict prevention, reconciliation and public leadership.





SUNHAK PEACE PRIZE

Dr. Han established the Sunhak Peace Prize in 2015, to recognize individuals and organizations making substantial contributions to peace and human development. The prize reflects the principle that global citizenship includes responsibility for people beyond one's own nation and a willingness to live for the sake of others.



Dr. Munib A. Younan, former Chair of the Lutheran World Foundation, was awarded the Sunhak Peace Prize in 2020 for his devotion to interreligious dialogue and cooperation between Muslims, Christians and Jews in the Middle East.

Ms. Sakina Yacoobi, founder of the Afghan Institute of Learning, received the 2017 Sunhak Peace Prize for providing education to more than 3,000 girls in over 80 underground schools, in life-threatening circumstances under the Taliban regime.



Former UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon received the Sunhak Founders' Award for his role in advancing the adoption of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as global improvements in gender equality and children's health.



In 2025, the Founder's Award was presented to former Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan for his leadership in good governance, and to Imboni Samuel Radebe, founder of the Revelation Spiritual Home, for bringing spiritual renewal to thousands in Africa. The Sunhak Prize went to Kenyan environmental activist Wanjira Mathai, Australian digital philanthropist Hugh Evans, and Ghanian innovative educator Patrick Awuah.



SELECTED BIOGRAPHICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL MILESTONES

1940'S ~1950'S

1943
Born on February 10, 1943, (the 6th day of the first lunar month) in Anju, South Pyeongan Province, in what is now North Korea.

1956
Graduated from Bongui Elementary School in Chuncheon.

1959
Entered St. Joseph's College of Nursing at Catholic University.



1960'S ~1970'S



1960
Married Rev. Sun Myung Moon and began their public work.

1968
Rev. Moon and Dr. Han developed the Victory Over Communism educational initiative.

1972
The International Conference on the Unity of the Sciences was convened.

1975
World Rally for Korean Freedom gathered 1.2 million people in Seoul

1976
The Washington Monument rally was held in Washington, D.C., during the United States bicentennial year.

1977
The Conference of World Religions was convened.

1979
The International Relief and Friendship Foundation was established.

1980'S

1981
The late Dr. Sun Myung Moon proposed the International Peace Highway.

1982
The Washington Times was founded, and an international conference for media professionals was convened.





1987
The Summit Council for World Peace was established.

1989
Segye Times was founded.

1990'S 2000'S 2010'S



1990
Dr. Han and the late Dr. Sun Myung Moon met Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev at the Kremlin.

1991
They met North Korean President Kim Il Sung in Pyongyang.

1992
Dr. Han founded the Women's Federation for World Peace and addressed audiences including a program at the Great Hall of the People in China.



1993
She spoke at the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea.

1994
The founders met Mikhail Gorbachev again in Seoul.

2000
The American Clergy Leadership Conference was established.

2003
The Interreligious and International Peace Council and the Middle East Peace Initiative expanded the founders' work in interfaith dialogue and peacebuilding.

2005
Dr. Hak Ja Han and the late Dr. Sun Myung Moon founded the Universal Peace Federation in New York.



2005 to 2012
UPF developed a worldwide network of chapters, Ambassadors for Peace, leadership conferences and peace initiatives.



2012
Rev. Sun Myung Moon passed away on September 3. Dr. Han continued the leadership of the institutions they had established.

2013
Dr. Han established the Sunhak Peace Prize.
Peace Prize



2016
At the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, she proposed the establishment of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace.

2018 to 2019
UPF convened regional and continental summits in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Americas and the Pacific.



2020

World Summit 2020 was convened in Seoul. The year also marked the centenary of the birth of Rev. Sun Myung Moon and the sixtieth anniversary of the founders' marriage. The global Rally of Hope series began.







2021

The Rally of Hope series continued, and Think Tank 2022 was launched to support international dialogue on peace on the Korean Peninsula.









2022

World Summit 2022 and the Sunhak Peace Prize ceremony were convened.









2023 2025

Peace Summit 2023 brought together international leaders and experts.

World Summit 2025 was held in Seoul from April 10 to 13 under the theme “Contemporary Challenges to World Order: Establishing a New Era of Peace and Prosperity.”

Its opening commemorated the eightieth anniversary of the United Nations. The year also marked the twentieth anniversary of the Universal Peace Federation and included the sixth Sunhak Peace Prize ceremony.


















The Cheon Won Gung Peace Palace in Gapeong County, South Korea, serves as a center for the spiritual and peacemaking work initiated by Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han, welcoming people of all faiths and all nationalities. The building holds conference rooms and large meeting rooms, intended to host peacemakers from all over the world.

The Universal Peace Federation is an NGO in General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations