

**LIBERTY**

**IN**

**NORTH**

**KOREA**



# LIBERTY IN NORTH KOREA

**Liberty in North Korea** is a global movement standing with the North Korean people.

We believe the North Korean people will achieve their liberty in our lifetime.



## WHY NORTH KOREA?

**The North Korean regime has stripped the people of their power and potential.**

Ordinary North Koreans cannot freely travel, share their opinions, access the internet and the outside world, or even watch foreign movies without the risk of punishment.

[Read the UN report on human rights violations in North Korea.](#)

“The gravity, scale and nature of these violations reveal a State that does not have any parallel in the contemporary world.”

But despite this extreme repression, there is hope. The North Korean people are shaking things up. ↗

**They’re challenging the limits of the regime’s power and control.**

**“Even listening to foreign radio is considered a crime against the state. If I had been caught, I could have been executed.”**

— Ill Yong Joo, escaped in 2008



# We're working with the North Korean people to accelerate change:

1

## RESCUING REFUGEES

Helping North Koreans who have escaped reach safety and freedom

2

## EMPOWERING NORTH KOREANS IN THEIR NEW LIVES

Working with resettled North Korean refugees to support their success

3

## CHANGING THE NARRATIVE ON NORTH KOREA

Focusing on the stories of the North Korean people, not just the politics

**1200+**

Refugees Rescued

**450+**

Families Reunited

**100+**

LiNK Chapters  
around the world

**750+**

Mentions in  
international media





## REFUGEE RESCUES

**North Koreans are escaping their country *right now*.**

They're fleeing into China but the Chinese government refuses to recognize them as refugees and cooperates with the North Korean government to arrest and forcibly send them back to the regime. Many North Korean refugees do not have the resources to reach safety on their own.

That's where we come in. [Our secret rescue routes](#) provide a safe way out of China for North Korean refugees.

**We have helped more than 1000 North Korean refugees reach safety and freedom through a modern-day underground railroad.**

[Watch undercover footage from real rescue missions.](#) <sup>↗</sup>

"The Chinese police barged into the room, handcuffed all of us, and returned us to North Korea. **Once back in North Korea, the secret police demanded we strip naked, slapping and whipping us the entire time...** I begged them to understand my situation but instead they grabbed my head and slammed it against a nail in the wall. I remember thinking as they took a fistful of my hair 'Is this my fate? Is this how I'll die?'"

— Jo Eun, Rescued by LiNK in 2017



**“Do you know that moment when you are so happy that you break into tears of joy? That was me when I knew that I was finally safe.**

I didn't believe it when I first heard about LiNK. It was too good to be true. Who on Earth would help us without cost or conditions when so many North Korean refugees still get arrested even after paying?

Now that I look back on my journey, everything feels like a dream. I dreamt about this moment for ten years...I still cannot believe that my dream has come true.”

– Hyang Gi, rescued by LiNK in 2018





## EMPOWERING NORTH KOREANS IN THEIR NEW LIVES

The journey for North Korean refugees who reach freedom is far from over. They face enormous challenges after starting new lives in South Korea and the United States.

**So we built the LiNK Community.**

**A way to support resettled North Korean refugees as they transition into a new life of freedom.**

Through workshops, community events, and one-on-one support, the LiNK Community is equipping and empowering North Koreans to thrive in their new lives.

When refugees have the tools to succeed, they become 'pioneers of freedom' and agents of change for their families and friends back inside North Korea.

**"I felt like someone from the 1970s who was put on a time machine and dropped in the 21st century."**

— Seong Cheol Kim  
North Korean refugee





**“When I first arrived in South Korea, I was so confused and didn’t know how to even start my new life in freedom.**

I wasn’t even sure who I was as a person. But with LiNK’s continuous support, I realized that I could achieve my goals if I worked hard every day.

With LiNK’s help I studied English in Canada and finished a florist training program in the United Kingdom. Last October, I finally achieved my dream and opened my very own floral shop!

– Geum Ju, resettled North Korean refugee





## CHANGING THE NARRATIVE ON NORTH KOREA

North Korea is more than Kim Jong-un and nuclear weapons.

But for decades the North Korean regime has dominated the narrative, preventing the North Korean people from raising their voices and sharing their stories with the world.

We create our own media, work with the international media, and empower North Koreans to share their stories. ↗

As more North Koreans share their stories with the world, it helps to humanize the North Korean people and mobilizes more international support.

[Watch our North Korean friend Joseph Kim's TED Talk.](#)

"I did not come here by myself. I had hope, but hope by itself is not enough. Many people helped me along the way to get here."

— Joseph Kim



# “The North Korean government made my entire senior class work in the fields during the planting season.

For 40 days straight we didn't go to school. We just planted rice in the countryside from dawn to dusk. Even though I hated the work, some of my fondest memories are from that time. My friends and I got to hang out all day because we lived and worked together. We sang songs and stole corn and potatoes when we were hungry. I loved the feeling of disobeying the rules together.

We also hung out with the girls. I had the biggest crush on this one classmate. She had the palest skin and long black hair. In school, it was her job to clean the portraits of the leaders. Every morning she'd take her shoes off and stand on the desk while she wiped the frame with a special cloth. It was the highlight of my day watching her do that.

While working in the fields, I told her how much I liked her. After that, I started stealing and roasting corn for the two of us. We would laugh and talk together while we ate it. But the planting season ended and I stopped going to school soon after that because there were rumors my father had defected. I never got to say goodbye and I still think about her.

If I saw her today, I would walk up to her with a piece of roasted corn and just say “remember me?”

— Yusung





*CHECK OUT SOME OF OUR FILMS!*



## The Jangmadang Generation [↗](#)

Our latest documentary, The Jangmadang Generation, shows how North Korean millennials are challenging the status quo. It features 8 North Korean refugees and hidden footage from inside the country.

**"The Jangmadang Generation is the most compelling documentary about North Korea out there. It also achieves the rarest of feats when it comes to coverage of North Korea: It leaves you hopeful."**

— Anna Fifield, Beijing Bureau Chief, The Washington Post





**CHECK OUT SOME OF OUR FILMS!**

*sleep well,  
my baby*

## Sleep Well, My Baby <sup>↗</sup>

This short narrative film, about a North Korean woman who was sold twice as a bride to Chinese men, is based on the actual story of a young woman we rescued in 2015.



*Changing the World Frame by Frame*  
(2018 Silver Award Winner)

*Best Short Film 2018 (Shortlist)*





**LIBERTY  
IN  
NORTH  
KOREA**

**Liberty in North Korea isn't impossible,  
it's inevitable.**

**Join us in supporting the  
North Korean people today.**

Rescue team inquiries: [rescueteam@libertyinnorthkorea.org](mailto:rescueteam@libertyinnorthkorea.org)  
General inquiries: [info@libertyinnorthkorea.org](mailto:info@libertyinnorthkorea.org)

