Hello,

It is my great honor and pleasure to welcome every one of you to this very meaningful discussion about the English resources for the ‘comfort women’ issue. I sincerely thank Korea University American Law Center, UC Irvine Law School and the Center for Korean Studies at UCLA for co-hosting this event, and our distinguished speakers and panelists for participating.

In 2016, California Board of Education adopted the “comfort women” issue as one of the topics in the high school World History curriculum. Since then, CARE and our partner organization, CWJC in San Francisco have been working very hard to provide lesson plans, teacher’s guidebooks and source materials for the teachers in California and beyond.

This UCLA CKS online archive is part of our effort to set the record straight, focusing on the primary sources, which had not been made available in English before.

The archive is a true collaboration (and also still in progress) with many dedicated people and please bear with me as I'd like to recognize everyone's efforts.

First of all, the translation of the annotations of the source materials was funded by the Research Institute on Japanese Military Sexual Slavery(RIMSS)(일본군위안부문제연구소) of Women’s Human Rights Institute of Korea(WHRIK)(한국여성인권진흥원). Thank you very much. The annotations for the primary sources have been graciously provided by the Northeast Asian History Foundation (동북아역사재단), Jin-sung Chung team at Seoul National University (서울대 정진성 팀) through Seoul Metropolitan Archive (서울시 기록원), and the scholars in the field, Byung-joo Whang and Hye-in Han. The translation and editorial team included Drs. Jimin Kim and Sunghee Shin, and Professor Alexis Dudden, Professor Bonnie Oh. Professor Peipei Qiu provided the Chinese victims’ testimony and translation and helped us with the glossary. I also thank Krisanne Snider and Stephanie Lee from CARE for their sleepless nights and hard work.

CARE is deeply grateful for Prof. Namhee Lee, for working with us to build this online archive for the “comfort women” issue under the Center for Korean Studies website, which will be launched on August 13 this year, simultaneously with the Research Institute on Japanese Military Sexual Slavery(RIMSS)(일본군위안부문제연구소), in commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the first public testimony of Grandma Hak-sun Kim (김학순)

Last but most importantly, I can’t thank enough Professor Kyung-shin Park of Korea University American Law Center who has been more than instrumental in pushing this project forward and organizing this webinar.

We have a lot to cover, so I’ll end here and turn this over to Stephen.