

FFWPU UK: Olympic Games Highlight Korean Unity through Athletes' Symbolic Selfie

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A heartwarming selfie between North and South Korean athletes at the 2024 Olympics underscores our movement's vision for peace and unity on the Korean Peninsula.

Our movement's vision for Korean reunification is deeply rooted in its core teachings of universal peace and family unity. Over the decades, the FFWPU/Unification Church has organised numerous events, including peace conferences, interfaith dialogues, and cultural exchanges aimed at bridging the gap between the two Koreas. These efforts are not only religious but also humanitarian, as our movement has provided substantial aid to North Korea, including food and medical supplies.

A recent event at the 2024 Olympic Games has highlighted the importance and impact of these efforts. During the games, a heartwarming moment captured global attention when Olympic table tennis players from North and South Korea posed for a selfie together. This simple act of camaraderie and unity resonates with the goals of our movement.

With South Korea winning bronze behind North Korea's silver in the mixed doubles, South Korea's Lim Jonghoon suggested a group photo. North Korea's Ri Jong Sik and Kim Kum Yong, the South's Shin Yubin, and the victorious Chinese team of Wang Chuqin and Sun Yingsha all beamed for Lim's photo.

This spontaneous gesture also resonated deeply with audiences worldwide, emphasising the human capacity for connection and understanding beyond political barriers. It showcased the Olympics as not just a competition but a platform for promoting peace and unity.

Our movement believes that such moments are crucial in building the foundation for lasting peace. We continue to advocate for more cultural and social interactions between North and South Koreans, viewing these as essential in fostering mutual understanding and trust.

While political solutions to the Korean conflict remain complex and challenging, moments like these at the Olympics offer a glimmer of hope. They remind us that, despite the differences, the desire for peace and unity can prevail.