

## FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Hate Speech Disguised As Sarcasm

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Venerer of sarcasm to make hate speech palatable

# Rolling Stone

Rolling Stone, the American monthly magazine that focuses on music, politics and popular culture, published an article 20th August 2023 titled "[How Sun Myung Moon](#) 'Digested the Scientists' and Fueled Climate-Change Denial", full of hate speech under a veneer of sarcasm.

The article by David Lipsky, a longtime Rolling Stone writer, is actually an excerpt from his new book *The Parrot and the Igloo: Climate and the Science of Denial*. The author takes a look at climate change denial, and according to USA Today, the book spotlights "a large cast of swindlers, zealots, politicians and hucksters to get to the heart of virulent anti-science ideologies in

America."

First of all, to make it clear: [Sun Myung Moon](#) (1920-2012) was never a climate change denier. He mentions in his autobiography how important the climate is,

## As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen



"We need to begin now to study the climate, the soil, and the character of the people in areas that suffer from hunger." (As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen, [Father Moon](#)'s autobiography, 2010, p. 317)

He always taught that it is the basic responsibility of human beings to be good guardians of the earth. A central part of his teachings is the concept "The Three Blessings", that [God](#) gave to humankind soon after the first man and woman had been created. The third of those blessings, described in the Bible (Genesis 1:28), is all about human beings maintaining a responsible stewardship of the earth and the environment.

And after [Father Moon](#) left this world, [Mother Moon](#), [Hak Ja Han](#), has carried on his environmental commitment.

In May this year, [Hak Ja Han](#) clearly pointed to climate change,

"Today, our planet suffers immensely due to ignorance. Due to the lack of rainfall resulting from climate change, one third of the population of the nation of Somalia, located southeast of the Sahara Desert, have been displaced as migrant refugees

and are hoping for aid from the rest of the world. How is it that this beautiful Earth, which [God](#) created for humankind, has suffered such changes?" (From [peace message](#) given by [Hak Ja Han](#) 3rd May 2023 at an international peace conference in Seoul)



*Mother Moon speaking in Sao Paulo 4th Aug. 2018*

In many of her recent speeches she mentions the environment. In August 2018, she said,

"Two decades ago, my husband and I went to remote parts of the Amazon in Paraguay. The Amazon is like the Earth's lungs and heart. By preserving the Amazon, we can have a future for humanity and an active providence in this Amazon region. [...] We need to preserve and save our beautiful planet, which [God](#), the original owner, created. We can no longer be bystanders. We should not live for only today. We should live for the past, present, and future." (From speech by [Hak Ja Han](#) at an international conference in Sao Paulo, Brazil, 3rd August 2018)

And in 2013, [Mother Moon](#) established the [Sunhak Peace Prize](#), awarded to individuals or organisations that have made significant contributions to ecological conservation, peace and human development and conflict resolution. The focus of the first award ceremony, held in 2015 in Seoul, was climate change and the food crisis. One of the two recipients was Aote Tong, the former President of the Pacific island nation of Kiribati. He headed an international campaign against climate change.

Lipsky may well have intended the excerpt printed in Rolling Stone to be a good promotional piece for his book *The Parrot and the Igloo*. But if the above content is indicative of the quality of his book, then it certainly looks like a waste of time reading it.

And the Rolling Stone excerpt clearly shows that Lipsky has relied on unreliable sources. Right at the start it says "Singer climbed into a strange van. At the wheel was the Reverend [Sun Myung Moon](#)." It is actually a well-known fact that [Father Moon](#) never drove a car in the USA. Someone else was always at the wheel.



*Steven Hassan at anti-cult conference in March 2000*

Later on in the excerpt we get an indication of who the source of such disinformation may be. Lipsky quotes a "former [Unification Church](#) leader" and a "former church official". Those are appellations Steven Hassan, a self-proclaimed "cult expert", likes to use about himself. His identity is for some reason not revealed by David Lipsky.

But it may well be that he wants to distance himself from Hassan, who is known to exaggerate his own background in an attempt to appear more qualified for his expert title than he actually is. He thus claims to have been a leader within the [Unification Church](#). In reality, he was a member for just over two years from 1974 to 1976 and for some months, as a 21-year-old, he led a small team of six or seven young members on a fundraising mission.

One of Hassan's claims, typical of his hate speech, is that all cult leaders are interested in three things - power, money and sex. As if this is what all new faith movements are after. The spiritual message is not interesting at all.

This is of course a perfect message for the scandal press. It is also a perfect message for Hassan himself. His hate speech makes new religious movements into as big a problem as possible. It is absolutely necessary for him to make money. He makes a living by spreading disinformation and false claims about new religious movements. He constantly twists the truth, so that it suits his interests as much as possible.

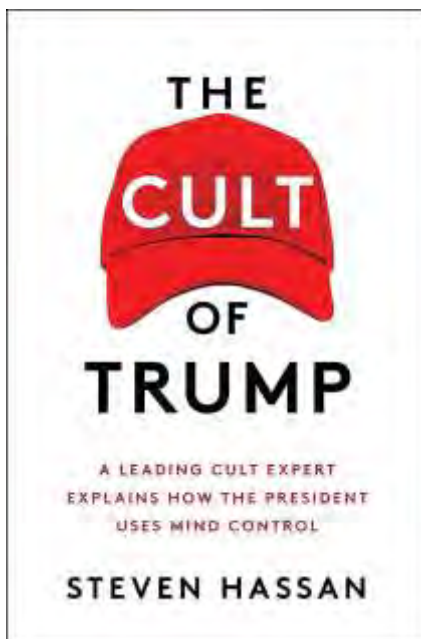
From 1978 until well into the 90s, Steven Hassan was a member of the anti-religious hate group CAN (Cult Awareness Network), which engaged in the forced deprogramming of people who had joined new religious movements and political groups on the left. He was for a long time one of CAN's professional deprogrammers.

The renowned British sociologist Eileen Barker writes:



Dr. Eileen Barker, OBE, in 1997

"Numerous testimonies by those who were subjected to a deprogramming describe how they were threatened with a gun, beaten, denied sleep and food and / or sexually assaulted." (Watching for Violence, paper by Eileen Barker, 2001)



Steven Hassan has still today not abandoned his deprogramming project. In 2020, he published the book "The Cult of Trump". According to Fox News, on 19th January 2021, Hassan told CNN that "all of America needs deprogramming" because of President Trump's negative influence. Of course the deprogramming would have to be done by "experts" like Hassan, who are all part of the anti-cult movement.

That would enable a movement of extremists like Hassan to influence the policy of nations, like it does in a communist China that wages war on religion.

So it is understandable that Lipsky wants to keep a certain distance between himself and the likes of Steven Hassan. But still Lipsky's excerpt from his book is full of anti-cult rhetoric. Karl Marx said in 1843 that religion is the opium of the people. Lipsky quotes The Times of London, "religious cults seem to be the opiate of the seventies."

And throughout the Rolling Stone article, the derogatory terms "cult" and "Moonies" are used, as when Lipsky quotes the American liberal magazine New Republic, "[Sun Myung Moon](#) is to cults what Henry Ford was to cars."

In many large countries such as the USA, Great Britain and Spain, the judiciary has concluded that the [Unification Church](#), now called the [Family Federation](#), is a bona fide (genuine) religion.

According to Italian sociologist of religion Massimo Introvigne, former representative for combating racism, xenophobia, and religious intolerance and discrimination of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and leading expert on new religious movements,



"'Cult' is just a label used to discriminate against groups that powerful lobbies, for whatever reasons, do not like." (Quoted from the article [The Abe Assassination. The Word 'Cult' Is A Tool for Discrimination](#), published by [Bitter Winter](#), a magazine on religious liberty and human rights, 2nd Sept. 2022.)

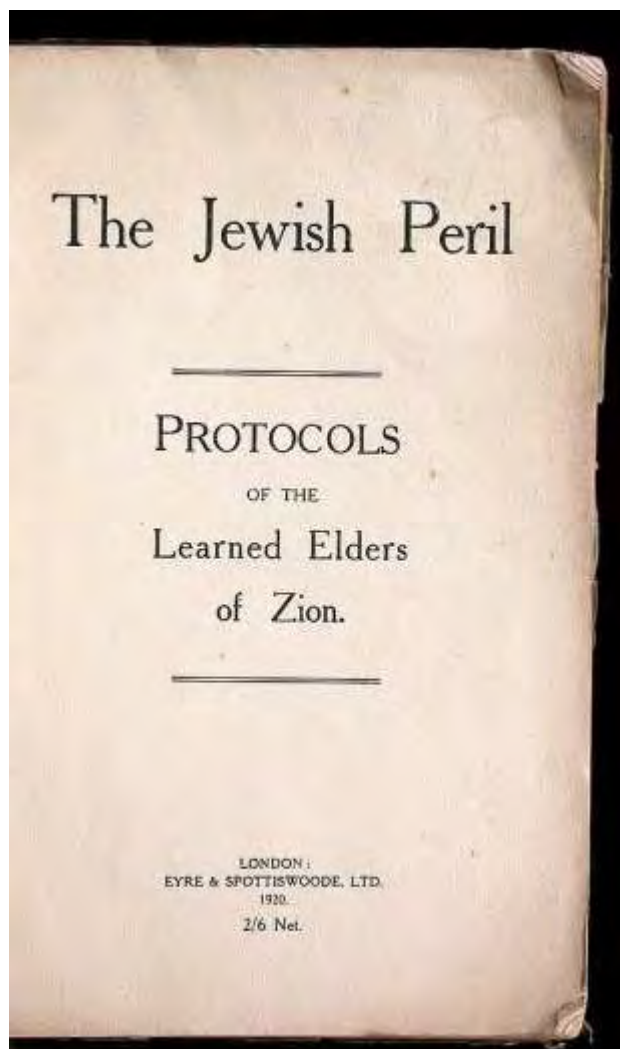
Another demeaning term used by Lipsky is "Moonies". It is on purpose used by the anti-cult movement in its hate speech campaigns to belittle the [Unification Church](#), now called the [Family Federation](#), and its members.

The global news agency Reuters and mainstream US media like the New York Times and Chicago Tribune abstain from using the term. The Oxford English Dictionary describes "Moonie" as a pejorative word.

There is clearly also the tendency to dehumanize members of the [Family Federation](#) in the Rolling Stone article. Young members are described as "kids with stary and transfixed eyes", as if they were hypnotized. The mass weddings are described in a degrading manner, "Just row after row of identically



dressed couples, like the assembly line at a wedding cake factory."



The title page of the 1920 British publication of the anonymous edition of the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, an antisemitic fraudulent publication describing an alleged Jewish conspiracy to take over the world. Photo: Eyre and Spottiswoode / Wikimedia Commons. [Public domain](#) image

In hate speech against Jews, it is claimed they try to take over the world. Lipsky makes a similar claim about [Father Moon](#), "The reverend's aim [...] was global theocracy - [...] which would be governed by [Moon](#) and his followers."

Much of the excerpt from Lipsky's book is written in order to ridicule the [Family Federation](#) and its co-founder [Father Moon](#). Insults, mockery, ridicule, and sarcasm are used based on claims, wild exaggerations and outright lies from the anti-cult movement.

Sarcasm is a dominant journalistic genre in the discussion of religion and is often used as a creative linguistic device to gain the sympathy of the reader. Religion is portrayed as something funny and ridiculous. It is not something we need to give serious thought to. Anti-religious writers like David Lipsky use the witty mockery of sarcasm as a veneer on hate speech in order to make it more palatable to the reader. The outright aggressive comments and hate speech of the anti-cult movement are disguised by Lipsky's witty and entertaining language.

The whole article is obviously not an attempt to report objectively, but to paint a black picture of a religious movement.

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Featured image above: David Lipsky reading at the 2023 National Book Festival. Photo: Frypie / Wikimedia Commons. License: [CC ASA 4.0 Int](#). Cropped

"Hate speech disguised as sarcasm" - text: Knut Holdhus





## Rev. Sun Myung Moon – Father Moon (1920 – 2012)

### In a nutshell

- **Name:** Sun Myung Moon. In Korean 문선명 (Moon Seon-myeong – the family name always comes first in Korean). Written in Chinese characters, the name is 文鮮明. He was born as 문용명 (Moon Yong-myeong), but changed his name in 1953. Many call him Father Moon.
- **Born:** 25<sup>th</sup> February 1920 (6th day of the first month according to the Oriental lunar calendar) in Sangsa, a hamlet in Chongju (town status since 1994) of North Pyeongan province in Korea, now North Korea).
- **Married:** 11th April 1960 to **Hak Ja Han**. Together they realize the ideal of **True Parents**. They had 14 children together. This was his second

Sun Myung Moon founded several organizations, including the **Unification Church in 1954** in Seoul, South Korea, with his wife **Hak Ja Han**, the **Family Federation for World Peace and Unification** in 1996 in Washington DC, and the **Universal Peace Federation** in 2005 in New York.

He and his wife are also known for arranging so-called “**Blessing Ceremonies**” since 1960, the year they themselves **got married**. The ceremonies are often called **mass marriages** or mass weddings.

Father Moon is also known for founding several newspapers, including **The Washington Times**, in 1982.

Sun Myung Moon was a skilled orator, and his speeches have been published in collections of over 600 volumes, mainly in Korean, but extracts from the speeches have been translated and published in a wide range of languages.

His original religious teachings are called the **Unification Principles** (Wolli – 원리 – in Korean – translated as Divine Principle in English. The Korean word wolli actually means principle or principles.)

Sun Myung Moon was far more than a religious leader. He thus founded and supported dozens of organizations to promote international understanding and create lasting peace in the world.

He was an outspoken opponent of totalitarian atheistic communism and founded several organizations that developed a systematic ideological critique of communist ideology.



### Timeline

**1920:** Born after World War I into a Korea suffering and struggling under Japanese occupation.

**1935:** Easter 1935, he had a mystical life-changing **encounter with Jesus Christ**, who commissioned him to a great mission and taught him personally.

**1940s:** In his student years, he found crystal clear answers to the mysteries of religion and life’s big questions.

He was tortured for his involvement in the underground Korean independence movement.

**1945:** After World War II and Korean independence, he began to share his profound insights with key persons and movements **God** led him to. Met with misunderstanding in South Korea. He walked to North Korea and built his own movement there. Soon arrested and tortured by the Communist regime. In 1948, sentenced to 5 years in a concentration camp.

**1950s:** Miraculously **saved from certain death** by UN forces. Came as a penniless refugee to the South.

The rapid growth of his



North Korea. Public domain image. Cropped



his second marriage. First married on 28<sup>th</sup> April 1945 to Seon-Gil Choi, but divorced on 8<sup>th</sup> January 1957. A son was born to her in 1946.

- **Died:** 2nd Sept. (European time) 2012 (3rd Sept. Korean time) in Gapyeong, South Korea, aged 92.
- **Autobiography:** "A Peace-Loving Global Citizen"
- **Teachings:** **Unificationism.** See also **Brief about the Teachings** and the **Unification Principles.**
- **Education:** Graduated in September 1943 from the electrical engineering department at Waseda College of Engineering in Tokyo, Japan, affiliated with Waseda University, one of Japan's top universities.

systematic ideological critique of communist ideology.

Sun Myung Moon also strongly believed in culture and sport as peace-making activities and invested in football clubs, symphony orchestras, and ballet. Already in 1962, he formed a dance troupe for children, The Little Angels, which eventually became outstanding ambassadors for Korean culture.

Father Moon invested large sums in establishing a car factory in North Korea. He saw the ocean's resources as the key to fighting hunger and malnutrition and invested in fish farming, and also developed fish products rich in high-quality protein.

Sun Myung Moon organized a long series of interfaith conferences to promote cooperation between religions and also proposed the creation of an Interfaith Council at the United Nations.

He was, in addition, an ardent advocate of the construction of a tunnel under the Bering Strait to unite the nations of the world by means of an international highway.

Ever since it became clear that the messianic task could not be completed through Jesus because of his untimely death, **God** began to prepare the world again, as he had done before the birth of Jesus. As the **Unification Principles** (Divine Principle) shows there are striking points of similarity between the 2,000-year period before Jesus and the last 2,000 years.

**God's** preparations for the **Kingdom of Heaven** intensified in the last centuries before the coming of Jesus. Buddha, Confucius, Zoroaster, and others laid spiritual foundations in their respective parts of the world. Major reforms were carried out within Judaism. Greek and Roman civilizations created major changes here in Europe.

In the same way, the last centuries from the Renaissance and the Reformation have been a time characterized by great upheavals. The purpose of all these changes has been to create the conditions for an ideal world without war, suffering, and injustice.

The prerequisite for **God's** and humankind's longing for a harmonious world to become reality is that someone shows us the way to **true love**, true marriages, and true families. That is why **God** has also prepared the world for **True Parents**.

The Messiah comes to realize the ideal that **True Parents** represent, namely a man and a woman who has achieved the standard that men and women, fathers and mothers, should have, according to **God's** original plan.

movement after the Korean War in 1953 was **officially registered** in Seoul in 1954.

Against all odds, with a handful of followers, he built what, within 25 years, became a global movement.

**1960s:** **Holy Marriage to Hak Ja Han** in 1960. Began holding larger and larger **Marriage Blessing** events, first for his followers and then for people of all faiths and nations.

**1970s:** Preached throughout the USA. His rallies filled big stadiums; the largest in Washington attracted 300.000. In South Korea, he gathered 1.2 million in 1975. Established schools, newspapers, a hospital, humanitarian aid organizations, shipbuilding facilities, and businesses. Started annual conferences for hundreds of eminent scientists, media people, and academics. **Blessed the marriage** of several thousand couples.

**1980s:** More newspapers were established, including The Washington Times. Organized large interreligious conferences. Formed organizations are exposing weaknesses of atheistic materialism. Predicted the imminent collapse of Communism in 1985. **Large weddings** are held for 15,000 couples.

**1990s:** Personal meetings with top leaders of the Communist world – President Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow and Chairman Kim Il-sung in Pyongyang. Seven years later, he built a car factory in North Korea. Launched global educational, interfaith, and peace initiatives: **Family Federation for World Peace and Unification**, and Women's Federation for World Peace. Millions of couples receive **marriage blessing**.

Published *World Scripture – A Comparative Anthology of Sacred Texts*.

**2000s:**

Major efforts for peace in the Middle East. Launched the Universal Peace Federation.

120-nation speaking tour at the age of 85. Received many honorary doctorates.

Autobiography *As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen* published 2009. Became a

bestseller in South Korea.

**2010s:** Died at the age of 92 in 2012. Dr. **Hak Ja Han Moon** continued to expand the activities throughout the world. Large religious groups with millions of followers started to embrace the teachings.

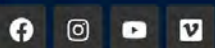
Sunhak Peace Prize was established to support individuals and organizations excelling in work for peace and environmental protection. **Large weddings** for thousands of couples every year.

**2020:** World Summit 2020, with thousands of VIPs, including many heads of state, held in Seoul.

Launch of global peace networks connecting parliamentarians, religious leaders, media experts, scientists, students, academics, and entrepreneurs. Continuing efforts for Korea's reunification.



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## Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon – Mother Moon

### In a nutshell

**Name:** Hak Ja Han (pronounced with long a), sometimes written Hak Ja Han Moon. In Korean 한학자 (Han Hak-ja – the family name always comes first in Korean). Written in Chinese characters, the name is 韓鶴子. Many call her Mother Moon.

**Born:** 10<sup>th</sup> February 1943 (6th day of the first month according to the Oriental lunar calendar) in the village of Shineui in the district of Anju of South Pyeongan Province in Korea, now North Korea).

**Married:** 11th April 1960 to [Sun Myung Moon](#). Together they realize the ideal of [True Parents](#). They had 14 children together.

#### Positions:

- President and co-founder of Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP, founded 1992)
- Co-founder of [Family federation for World Peace and Unification](#) (FFWPU, founded 1996)
- Co-founder of Universal Peace federation (UPF, founded 2005)
- Co-founder of Sunhak Peace Prize (founded 2013)
- Founder of International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP, founded 2016)
- Founder of Interreligious Association for Peace and Development (IAPD, founded 2017)

**Memoirs:** "Mother of Peace"

#### Awards:

- Honorary Doctorate of Humanities from Bloomfield College, NJ, USA (1990)
- Honorary Doctorate of Humanities from Bridgeport University, USA (1995)
- Honorary Doctorate of Literature from Taiwan University of Culture (1999)
- Honorary Doctorate of Pedagogics from Stefba Theological College of Bahia State, Brazil (1999)

Dr. Hak Ja Han was born on 10<sup>th</sup> February 1943 (6th day of the first month according to the Oriental lunar calendar) in the village of Shineui in the district of Anju in present day North Korea. Her parents were committed Christians. She became an only child because her parents were separated due to political unrest.



North Korea. *Public domain image. Cropped*

[Unification Church](#) founder [Sun Myung Moon](#) (1920-2012).

Over the next 21 years, the couple had 14 children – seven girls and seven boys. Mother Moon, as she is fondly called by members, is now a grandmother with over 40 grandchildren and has also become a great-grandmother. In addition to taking care of all the children, she has always been involved in activities with her husband.

This led to an extensive travel itinerary. In [Sun Myung Moon's](#) autobiography "As a Peace Loving Global Citizen", he writes that she was always concerned about the children: "So great was her love for the children that she did not let a single day pass without writing and sending letters and postcards to the children when she was away from home and traveling with me to various places in the world on speaking tours" (translated from Korean version, pages 226-7).

After the family moved to the United States in 1972, she and her husband completed countless public appearances at conferences and festivals, seminars and Unification Movement events.

She also spent considerable time with [her husband](#) and other family members in nature – salmon fishing in Alaska and trips to the South American Pantanal wetlands. Both she and [her husband](#) were very concerned with green issues and the environmental crisis, which is described in detail in "As a Peace Loving Global Citizen" (pages 307-311).





- Honorary Doctorate of Pedagogics from Kyrgyzstan State Pedagogical University (2000)
- Honorary Doctorate of Philosophy from Upper Volga University, Russia (2000)
- Honorary Doctorate of Humanities from Federico Enriquez Carbahal University, Dominican Republic(2000)
- Awarded with the Grand Prix Peace Award of International Association of Educators for World Peace (IAEWP) (2001)
- Honorary Doctorate of Literature from Sunmoon University, South Korea (2002)
- Honorary doctorate from University of Peace, Costa Rica (2022)

**Children:**

- Ye Jin Moon, daughter, born 11<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1960.
- Hyo Jin Moon, son, born 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec. 1961, ascended 17<sup>th</sup> March 2008.
- Hye Jin Moon, daughter, born 27<sup>th</sup> July 1964, ascended 4<sup>th</sup> Aug. 1964.
- In Jin Moon, daughter, born 18<sup>th</sup> July 1965.
- Heung Jin Moon, son, born 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct. 1966, ascended 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan. 1984.
- Un Jin Moon, daughter, born 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov. 1967.
- Hyun Jin "Preston" Moon, son, born 10<sup>th</sup> Apr. 1969.
- Kook Jin "Justin" Moon, son, born 14<sup>th</sup> June 1970.
- Kwon Jin Moon, son, born 20<sup>th</sup> Jan. 1975.
- Sun Jin Moon, daughter, born 15<sup>th</sup> June 1976.
- Young Jin Moon, son, born 17<sup>th</sup> May 1978, ascended 27<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1999.
- Hyung Jin "Sean" Moon, son, born 6<sup>th</sup> Aug. 1979.
- Yeon Jin Moon, daughter, born 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan. 1981.
- Jeung Jin Moon, daughter, born 14<sup>th</sup> June 1982.



Hak Ja Han became the first president of the Women's Federation for World Peace, a women's movement she and **her husband** founded in April 1992 in Seoul.



From that year, she embarked on several speaking tours. She gave public speeches in more than 100 countries all over the world. In 1993, she spoke at the UN building in New York and at the Capitol, seat of the US Congress, in Washington DC.

During a visit to Beijing, a meeting was arranged with the son of Chinese President Deng Xiaoping to promote a charity project. Hak Ja Han received much media attention when she spoke with former US President George W. Bush and his wife Barbara at peace events in September 1995 in Tokyo and other cities in Japan.

Hak Ja Han holds several positions. She is co-founder of the **Family Federation for World Peace and Unification** and the **Universal Peace Federation** – just to name a few.

She has been awarded many honorary doctorates.

After her husband's death in 2012, she has only continued her lifelong efforts to build a **kingdom of heaven** here on earth, a peaceful world based on harmonious families and individuals. She has also launched notable new initiatives such as the founding of the Sunhak Peace Prize.



She is particularly interested in the reunification of the Korean peninsula, and in recent years took the initiative to large rallies for peace in the largest South Korean cities as well as speaking at large peace meetings with over 10,000 participants in major cities around the world, including Vienna, New York, Sao Paulo, Tokyo, Bangkok, Busan, Osaka and Nagoya.

Hak Ja Han is perhaps best known for the large **mass weddings** which she and **her husband** officiated for many years. After he passed away in 2012, she has continued with such **large weddings** every single year.

Together with her husband **Sun Myung Moon**, Hak Ja Han holds the title "**True Parents**".

Her name is sometimes written Hak Ja Han Moon, especially in the Western world. In South Korea, women do not take the husband's name when marrying, but in Western countries "Moon" is often added after her name to make it clear that she is **Sun Myung Moon's** wife.



In Korean writing, the name is 한학자 – Han Hak-ja. The family name always comes first. The family name Han is pronounced with a long a. Hak Ja are the two first names, sometimes written Hak-ja, pronounced with short a's.



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