

# HYEONSEO LEE

EXPERT ON NORTH-SOUTH KOREA



Hyeonsoo Lee is a North Korean refugee living in Seoul, South Korea.

Born in North Korea, Hyeonsoo Lee left for China in 1997. Now living in South Korea, she has become an activist for fellow refugees.

Currently she is an undergraduate student at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies majoring in English and Chinese, and a Young Leader at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

As a child growing up in North Korea, Hyeonsoo Lee thought her country was "the best on the planet." It wasn't until the famine of the 90s that she began to wonder. She escaped the country at 14 to begin a life in hiding as a refugee in China.

Hyeonsoo spends much of her time speaking about North Korean human rights and refugee issues, including a speech at the British Embassy in Seoul, and has personally met public officials like UK Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg and the South Korean Minister of Unification, Yu Woo-ik, to discuss these issues.

In February 2013, she gave a TED Talk that has already surpassed 3 million views. Hyeonsoo has written articles for the Wall Street Journal Korea Real-Time, the London School of Economics Big Ideas blog and worked as a student journalist for the South Korean Ministry of Unification. She has also been interviewed by the BBC, CNN, CBS News, Swiss TV and numerous other television, newspaper and radio outlets spanning over 10 countries throughout the world.

Her memoir, 'The Girl with Seven Names: My Life in North Korea (and Escape to Freedom)' was published July 2015 and has received critical acclaim worldwide.



An extraordinary insight into life under one of the world's most ruthless and secretive dictatorships – and the story of one woman's terrifying struggle to avoid capture and guide her family to freedom.

## TOPICS

-Asia/China  
-Globalisation  
-Politics