

Deborah Choi is a North Korean defector and human rights advocate based in Virginia. Born and raised in North Korea, she escaped in 2004 and endured a difficult journey through China and Southeast Asia before arriving in the United States in 2006 as one of the first North Korean refugees admitted under the North Korean Human Rights Act.

After arriving in the United States with little English and few resources, Deborah rebuilt her life from the ground up. She studied English at community college, became a small business owner, and later established a career in real estate.

Drawing on her firsthand experiences in North Korea and China, as well as her experience rebuilding her life as a refugee in the United States, Deborah is committed to raising awareness of the human rights challenges facing the North Korean people. She speaks about life under the North Korean regime, the vulnerabilities faced by North Korean escapees in China, and the challenges refugees face as they rebuild their lives in freedom.

Deborah is actively engaged with the North Korean defector and human rights community. She is also a member of NKFC and a supporter of FNKR, and she seeks to amplify the voices of North Koreans whose stories are rarely heard while advocating for their human rights, dignity, and freedom.

She is also the creator of the YouTube channel “**Deborah Choi: From North Korea to USA,**” where she shares her personal journey and perspectives on North Korea, freedom, and rebuilding life in the United States.

Deborah lives in Virginia with her two children.