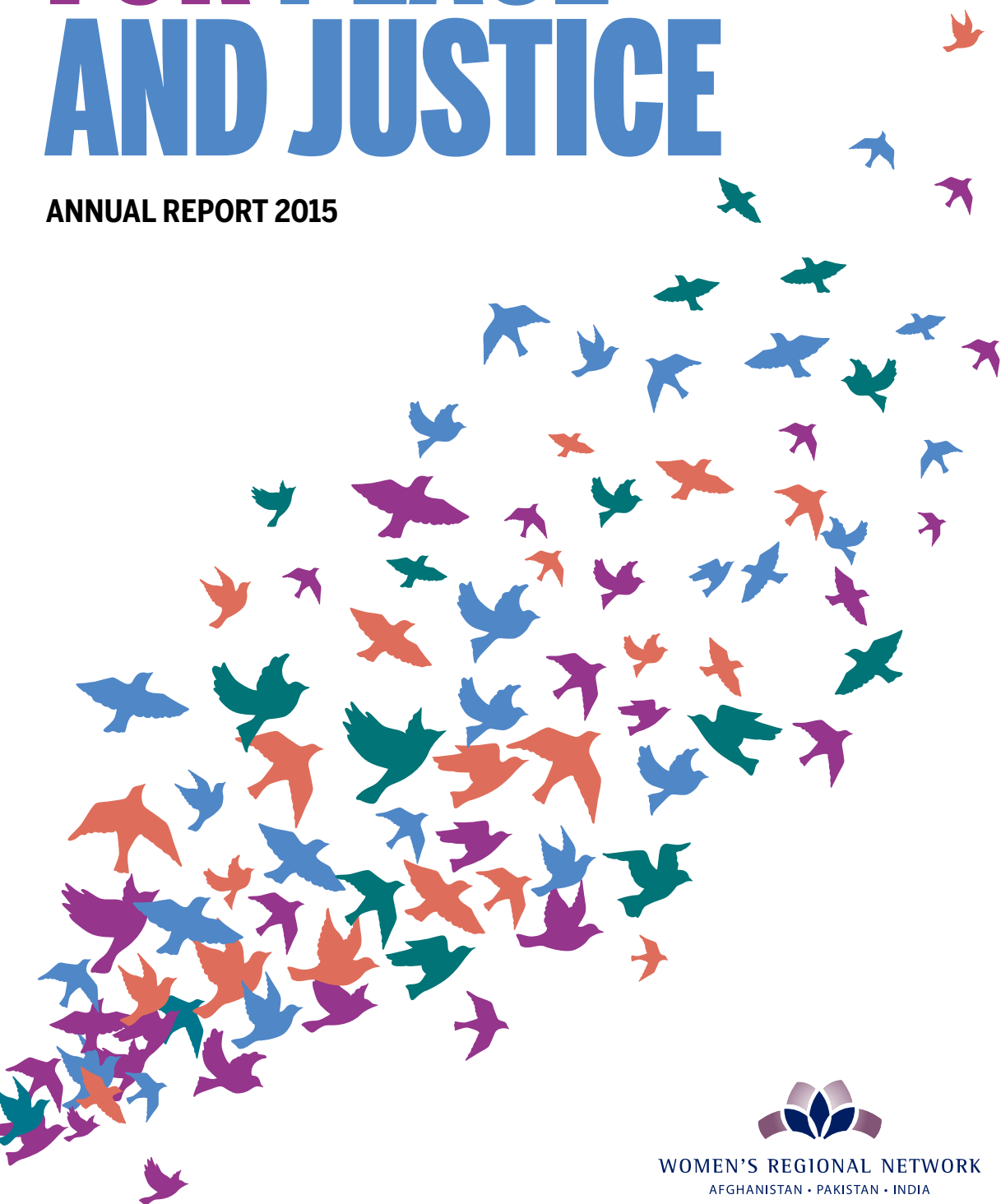


WORKING REGIONALLY FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

ANNUAL REPORT 2015



WOMEN'S REGIONAL NETWORK
AFGHANISTAN • PAKISTAN • INDIA



Introduction

The core purpose of WRN is to amplify the voices of unheard, marginalized women, and together address the interlinked issues of peace and security, justice and governance and growing militarization in South Asia.

“Women, peace and security is about preventing war, not about making war safer for women.”

Rita Manchanda, The Asia Pacific Regional Consultation on The Global Study on UN Res. 1325 in Kathmandu, Nepal, March 2015



A Koch Rajbongshi tribal woman in Vidyapur IDP camp, Assam, India

THE WOMEN'S REGIONAL NETWORK

Founded in 2011, the Women's Regional Network (WRN) is a network of individual women civil society leaders from Afghanistan, India and Pakistan working together to strengthen women's rights to ensure peace and security in the region. WRN is animated by a vision of women working collaboratively within and across borders, listening and learning from each other to construct a common agenda towards equitable development in building a just peace. At its launch, members of the Network identified interlinked areas of concern—militarization, extremism and corruption—and their impact on women's security, as a priority for all three countries.

Initiatives

Instability continues in 2015 with the shrinking space for dissenting voices and democratic state weakness in conjunction with ascendant multi-faceted forms of extremism amidst deteriorating security situations in Afghanistan and Pakistan and revival of tensions and confrontational state policies in all three countries.





WRN India team conducts Community Conversations with women IDPs in remote camps in Assam, India

KEY ISSUES IN THE SUB-REGION AND WRN'S INITIATIVES

The WRN plans to hold a **symposium on democracy**, secularism and extremism to deepen the feminist analysis of the role of democracy and secularism in countering diverse strands of violent extremism across the region and also analyze the multi-faceted roles women play in relation to radicalization.

As the global displacement crisis continues with the number of people displaced surpassing the numbers during WWII, the WRN continues to **focus on women IDPs** (Internally Displaced Persons) in conflict areas of the sub-region.

This year the network has continued our **Community Conversations** to document the narratives of marginalized women's voices to demand rights and accountability, and influence policies and programmes which directly affect them. The CCs reflect the inter-linkages women face regarding issues of militarization, corruption, insecurity, injustice, discrimination and extremism and the interdependence of the conflict dynamics of the sub-region.

To honour and amplify these women's voices the WRN has embarked on the process of holding a **South Asia Tribunal** on violations of women's rights. The Tribunal will be a community led public platform for women's testimony across caste, class, religion, ethnicity and national borders to identify gendered concerns and needs, and to demand accountability. WHRDs are at the forefront of these struggles for justice but also some of the most threatened across the region with a spate of attacks on human rights defenders in Pakistan including the murder of renowned WHRD Sabine Mahmood and the targeting and hit list of the Taliban for WHRDs during their siege of Kunduz province.

The WRN's **South Asia Emergency protection fund** was successfully activated in 2015 in conjunction with the development of a regional protection protocol to support the protection of WHRDs, particularly those in remote and isolated areas.

In order to amplify the voices from the ground, the calls for peace and justice and the needs of WHRDs on the frontlines, the WRN is working and advocating for a '**Peace Roster**' which identifies qualified women to participate in various level of peace negotiations as well as build capacity of those in remote and isolated areas. Complementarily WRN will document the lessons learned from failed peace negotiations as well as little known parallel women led initiatives. As a **model** that has interested diverse women's groups, the WRN plans to share its model with other regions including Central and Latin American countries.



ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

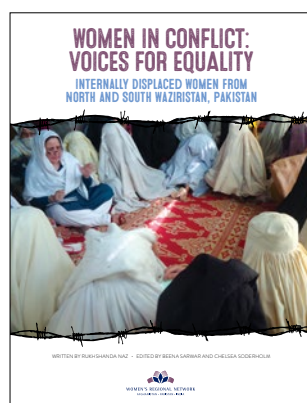
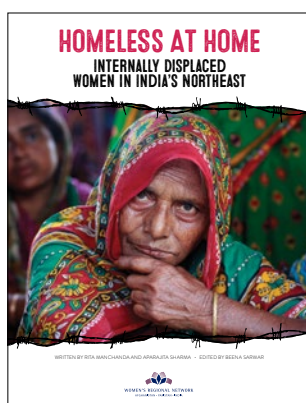
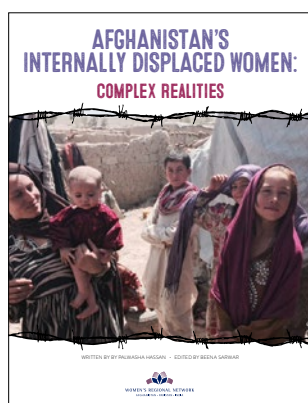
- Worked with leading institutional development expert Stephen McCormick on developing two core documents.
- Appointed a new Regional Executive board of Trustees :Abha Bhaiya (India), Kishwar Sultana (Pakistan), Judge Najla Ayubi (Afghanistan), Clare Lockhart (United Kingdom and the USA), and Patricia Cooper (Canada and the USA).
- Registered legally in The Hague, Netherlands as a Stichting to be located in the city of peace and justice
- Developed a set of organizational statutes
- Developed a set of organizational by-laws
- Identified areas for internal policy development

ESTABLISHMENT OF COUNTRY OFFICES IN THE REGION

- WRN established an office in Pakistan and India in 2015 housed respectively at the Insan Foundation Trust in Islamabad and the Multiple Action Research Group (MARG) in Delhi.
- Positions were developed and two country coordinators were hired for the first time.
- WRN has created a position for a WRN Afghanistan Country Coordinator to be housed at the Equality for Peace and Democracy office in Kabul.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

WRN's key programmatic activity is to document violations and realities of marginalized women to amplify their voice in shaping policies and programs, which affect their lives. The Community Conversations held in 2015 are interlinked with the Tribunal and focus on the internally displaced. The Tribunal will serve as the next step to honor the voices we documented and seek justice.



These stand-alone country reports will be released mid-2016 along with a Regional Overview identifying the interlinked issues facing women in each of the three countries.



Women IDPs from Waziristan in Bakahel Camp, Khyber Paktunhwa, Pakistan.



SOUTH ASIA TRIBUNAL FOR WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS

- A Scoping Study including desk based research and field work was conducted across the three countries to determine the interlinked issues and rights violations for the upcoming regional South Asia Tribunal on Women's Human Rights to be held in 2017.

This study serves two purposes: 1) document the concerns of internally displaced women; identify their coping mechanisms and make recommendations, where appropriate 2) identify the regionally interlinked issues facing internally displaced women, collect potential testimonies and violations of rights and crimes committed by state and non-state actors in order to challenge the culture of impunity on a regional platform.

- A Tribunal Preparatory Committee of prominent human rights lawyers and activists adopted the scoping study in January 2016 at a meeting in Sri Lanka and developed the strategy to move forward with the tribunal in 2017.

COMPLETED RESEARCH IN 2015

- *Exploring Ahmadi Women's Voices*, by Kishwar Sultana, (Pakistan)
- *Human Rights Tribunals: Lessons and Checklists*, by Dr. Swarna Rajagopalan (India)
- *An Overview of Regimes and Policies Covering Refugees and IDPs*, by Dr. Swarna Rajagopalan
- *Tribunal Scoping Study on women IDPs in Nepal, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka*, by One Earth Future Foundation, (Colorado, USA)
- *Women in Conflict: Voices for Equality Internally Displaced Women from North and South Waziristan, Pakistan*, by Rukhshanda Naz
- *Afghanistan's Internally Displaced Women: Complex Realities*, by Palwasha Hassan
- *Homeless at Home Internally Displaced Women in India's Northeast*, by Rita Manchanda and Aparajita Sharma
- *Dispossession and Displacement: Responsiveness and Liveability Amongst Internally Displaced Women in Afghanistan, Pakistan and India*, by Anila Daulatzai
- *South Asia Tribunal on Women's Human Rights (Militarization, Conflict and Displacement)*, by Rita Manchanda



Community Conversations in the outskirts of Kabul—a widowed woman who sold her two daughters into marriage out of desperation to pay urgent medical treatment bills

WRN'S SOUTH ASIA WOMEN'S EMERGENCY PROTECTION FUND

WRN activated a human rights defenders fund with 3 rapid response grants for women human rights defenders in Afghanistan fleeing the siege of Kunduz City, by the Taliban. The funding and support they received has protected them from imminent threats and helped save their lives. Consultations with shelter homes and activists have begun to develop a regional protocol for the protection of women human rights defenders including a safe house mapping, regionally inter-linked service providers and evacuation protocols.

DONORS TO THE SOUTH ASIA WOMEN'S EMERGENCY PROTECTION FUND IN 2015

Over \$5,000

Arsenault Family Foundation

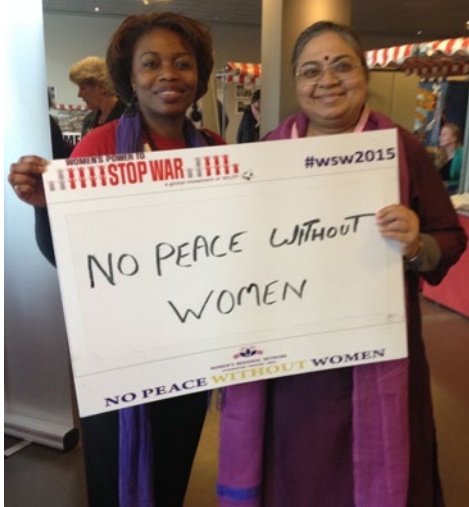
Women's Foundation of Colorado (Beyond Our Borders, a Special Group Fund)

Elaine Nonneman

Under \$200

Janice Soderholm

Ingrid Srinath



Top Left: WILPF 100 year Anniversary joint panel on networking for peace with the Joan B. Kroc institute for peace and justice; Top right: WRN Campaign "No Peace Without Women"; Bottom: WRN Group photo Tribunal Preparatory Committee Meeting, Colombo, Sri Lanka January 2016

GLOBAL REACH

WRN participated in the following conferences in 2015

- The Asia Pacific Regional Consultation on The Global Study on UN Res. 1325 in Kathmandu, Nepal, March 2015
- Kishwar Sultana, WRN Pakistan, attended The Naval War College *Constructive Pathways: Stimulating and Safeguarding Components of Women, Peace, and Security* in Rhode Island, USA
- Women's Power to Stop War Conference in The Hague in April 2015. Co-hosted panel with Joan Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice (IPJ) on Women's Peace-building Networks: Uniting for Peace
- IPJ Defying Extremism Regional Dialogue in Bosnia Hercegovina, May 2015
- Women's Court a Feminist Approach to Justice – Regional court held in Sarajevo, May 2015
- 16th Women in Black Conference and Women's Court, Bangalore, India, November 2015
- WRN was part of the drafting process of the Pakistan Statement on Gender Equality submitted for the first ever World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016
- AWID Forum September 2016: Brazil, WRN workshop: *Our Fears, Our Courage, Our Priorities, Our Solutions* (selected as one of 150 from over a thousand proposals submitted)



Donors

Everything we do is made possible by our generous supporters who share our vision of women working within and beyond borders to strengthen the security of women and enhance women's leadership to develop solutions for eradicating corruption and working collectively towards building peace and justice across the region.

DONATIONS IN 2015 TO WRN

Our donors have made the Network’s journey the past five years a partnership between women leaders of Afghanistan, Pakistan and India and philanthropists and small donors in the United States, Canada and Europe, each contributing in their unique way, to bring peace and justice and equality for women across South Asia.

\$20,000 and above

Cynda Collins Arsenault
Channel Foundation
Open Society Foundations

\$1,000 – \$5,000

Rockefeller Brothers Fund
Mary Sissel
Mary Zinn

\$10,000 – \$20,000

Anne Carter
Lynda M. Goldstein Family Fund
CarEth Foundation
Linda Mason
Jane Hays

Up to \$1,000

Lee Palmer Everding
Mary Ann Koehler
Ann Lederer
Janet Larson
Stephanie Morgan
Judi Wagner

\$5,000 – \$10,000

David and Joan Hadden
Karen and Brad Yuan

To donate online please visit our website at www.womensregionalnetwork.org.

To donate by mail, please send your contribution to the
Colorado Non-Profit Development Center c/o The Women's Regional Network
789 Sherman Street, Suite 250
Denver, Colorado, 80203, U.S.A.



Who we are

The membership is a dynamic network of women peacemakers from Afghanistan, Pakistan and India, inclusive of activists, researchers, academics, students, educators, women entrepreneurs and development practitioners who are joined by supporters outside the network. The Network is currently growing to include significant participation of young women.

“Through the eyes of Women, is another way of seeing. Is another way of knowing.”

Corinne Kumar, WRN Tribunal
Preparatory Committee Member

WOMEN'S REGIONAL NETWORK EXECUTIVE BOARD

Abha Bhaiya: Founder, Jagori Delhi and Jagori Rural, India

Kishwar Sultana: Executive Director, Insan Foundation Trust, Pakistan

Judge Najla Ayubi: Former Deputy Country Representative, Asia Foundation, Afghanistan

Clare Lockhart: Co-Founder and Director, Institute for State Effectiveness, United States and United Kingdom

Patricia Cooper: Founder/Convener, Women's Regional Network, United States and Canada

Women's Regional Network Global Secretariat:

Chelsea Soderholm: Regional Coordinator, Women's Regional Network, former Consultant Realizing Rights and the United Nations Civil Society Advisory Group on Women, Peace and Security

WRN CORE MEMBERSHIP

India:

Rita Manchanda (Delhi)

Sahba Hussain (Delhi)

Richa Singh (Delhi)

Sarika Sinha (Bhopal)

Gazala Farooq (Sri Nagar)

Suvarna Damle (Nagpur)

Anuradha Bhasin (Jammu)

Swarna Rajagopalan (Chennai)

Saumya Uma (Bangalore)

Pakistan:

Rukhshanda Naz (Peshawar)

Farhat Parveen (Karachi)

Huma Fouladi (Quetta)

Farhat Asif (Islamabad, Kashmir)

Saima Jasam (Lahore)

Bushra Gohar (Peshawar)

Shad Begum (Peshawar)

Afghanistan:

Nooria Sultani (Kabul)

Sajia Behgam (Kabul)

Zarqa Yaftali (Kabul)

Maryam Rahmani (Kabul)

Najla Raheel (Kabul)

Homa Alizoy (Kabul)

Rangina Hamidi (Kandahar)

Hossai Wardak (Kabul)



Photo credit: Ellen Jaskol

Global Advisors

Cynda Collins Arsenault: President, Secure World Foundation

Jane Barry: Principal, Linksbridge

Stephanie Morgan: Western Union

Daisy Khan: ED, American Society for Muslim Advancement

Julie Shaw: Founder, Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights

Amy Claire Wild: Global Marketing Strategist

Bushra Gohar: Former Parliamentarian, Pakistan

Mary Jane Real: Founder, International Coalition for Women Human Rights Defenders

Nafis Sadik, M.D.: Former Director, UN Population Fund (UNFPA), former Special Advisor to UN Secretary General

Dr. Sima Samar: Chairperson, Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission

Huma Safi: Former Deputy Director, Equality for Peace and Democracy

Wazhma Abdulrahimzay: Former Human Rights Program Officer, Open Society Afghanistan

Nargis Nehan: Head, Policy Coordination Unit, Office of the President of Afghanistan

Honorary Member

John McCann, President, Partners in Performance



WRN TRIBUNAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

India

Dr. Syeda Hameed: Former Member, Planning Commission of India, Renowned Author

Vrinda Grover: National Advocate, International Commission of Jurists, Founder, Working Group on Human Rights in India and the UN

Rita Manchanda: Research Director, South Asia Forum for Human Rights

Abha Bhaiya: Founder, Jagori Rural, Global Coordinator- India, One Billion Rising

Geeta Ramaseshan: Senior feminist advocate, former Coordinator, High Court Mediation Centre

Saumya Uma: Assistant Professor & Assistant Director - Centre for the Study of Social Exclusion & Inclusive Policy (CSSEIP), National Law School of India, Bangalore

Afghanistan

Judge Homa Alizoy: Head Judge Juvenile Court of Afghanistan and Women's Rights Activist

Najiba Ayubi: Director, Killid Group; Co-Founder the Afghan Independent Media Consortium

Palwasha Hassan: Research Consultant and founding member of The Afghan Women's Network

Abdul Wazeed (Zia) Moballegh: Country Director, Heinrich Boll Stiftung

Nargis Nehan: Policy Coordinator, Office of the President of Afghanistan

Sima Samar, MD: Chairperson, Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission

Pakistan

Bushra Gohar: Former Member of Parliament, Pakistan, Central Member, Awami National Party

Anis Haroon: Former Chairperson, National Commission on the Status of Women

Hina Jilani: Former United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary General on Human Rights Defenders; Advocate, Supreme Court of Pakistan

Rukhshanda Naz: Former Head, UN Women Pakistan (KP-FATA); Executive Director, Legal Aid, Awareness Services (LAAS)

I. A. Rehman: Secretary-General, Human Rights Commission of Pakistan

Kishwar Sultana: Director, Insan Foundation Trust, Member, Provincial CEDAW Committee

Global Advisors

Hauwa Ibrahim: Lawyer and author of Practicing Shariah Law: Seven Strategies for Achieving Justice in Shariah Courts

Corinne Kumar: Secretary General, El Taller International; International Coordinator, Courts of Women; Founding Member, Asian Women's Human Rights Council

Mary Jane Real: Founding member and former Coordinator of the International Coalition on Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRD IC) & Regional Coordinator of Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD)



Financials

COLORADO NONPROFIT DEVELOPMENT CENTER
Statement of Financial Position
WMN–Women’s REgional Network
As of 12/31/2015

	Balance
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Cash	
Operating Cash	108,890.12
Total Cash	108,890.12
Other Current Assets	
Contributions Receivable 2	20,150.00
Total Other Current Assets	20,150.00
Total Current Assets	129,040.12
Total ASSETS	129,040.12
LIABILITIES	
Accounts Payable	1,505.73
Accounts Payable – Other	110.30
Accrued Payroll	159.30
Payroll Taxes Payable	31.70
Project Fee Payable	1,813.50
Total LIABILITIES	3,620.53
NET ASSETS	
Beginning Net Assets	
Project Unrestricted	151,713.46
Temporary Restricted	34,099.94
Total Beginning Net Assets	185,813.40
Year To Date Change In Net Assets	
Project Unrestricted	(29,857.97)
Temporary Restricted	(30,535.84)
Total Year To Date Change In Net Assets	(60,393.81)
Total NET ASSETS	125,419.59
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	129,040.12

A woman from Hapachara IDP
camp, BTAD, Assam, India.







WOMEN'S REGIONAL NETWORK

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WOMEN'S REGIONAL NETWORK

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Registered as "Stichting Women's Regional Network, The Hague, The Netherlands."