

WORKING REGIONALLY FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

ANNUAL REPORT 2014



WOMEN'S REGIONAL NETWORK
AFGHANISTAN • PAKISTAN • INDIA



Introduction

AFGHANISTAN, PAKISTAN AND INDIA together make up one of the crossroads of Asia. Long before this region became synonymous with protracted conflict and bitter inter-state rivalries, it was a hub for the exchange of goods, ideas and people across the vast Eurasian landmass. In recent decades, it has become hard to narrate an Afghan, Pakistani or Indian story entirely divorced from the reality of internal and international conflict.

In the region, women share a struggle with these inter and intra state conflicts, the root and consequences of which increasingly connect the politics of the three countries. What unites women is the aspiration to live in peace and security. The best way to build a culture of peace is to improve the status of women. The Women's Regional Network embraces the truth of our interconnectedness and interdependence by strengthening relationships with women across the political and social spectrum for peace, justice and equitable development.

This year the region has faced increased violence towards women and children, while shrinking the democratic space for dissent in all three countries. This has challenged us to think creatively and most importantly, regionally, to address the multitude of threats women face within and outside their homes. The initiatives undertaken in 2014 to strengthen the voices of women in the most remote and conflicted regions of their three countries are the focus of this report, as well as outlining the activities the Network plans to undertake in 2015-16 to continue raising those voices.

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, to listen and learn 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.

THE COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

How do you take discussions about security, conflict, militarization and governance outside elite security policy circles? How do you bring more women's voices into this discussion? How do we integrate their experiences and concerns into the security discourse? Brainstorming around these questions generated the idea of Community Conversations (CCs).

The Community Conversation process started in 2011 and has generated rich and detailed accounts from Afghanistan, India and Pakistan of the gendered social impact of politicized violence, militarization and corruption in conflict-affected areas. It anchors WRN's work firmly in the real world of women's experience.

The Community Conversations emphasize women as survivors and make visible their agency in everyday life and in resistance movements. They also acknowledge women's contribution to the post-conflict processes of justice, peace and social reintegration.

Milestones

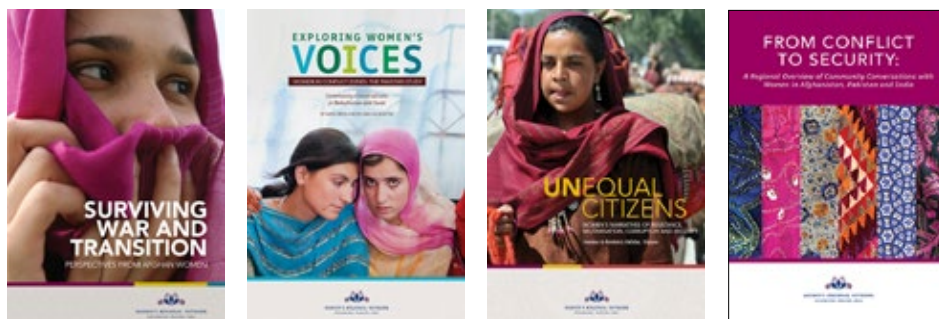
Women's Voices Amplified! This year WRN succeeded in amplifying the voices of women documented in the Community Conversation reports, by bringing their voices to the highest levels of policy-making both nationally and internationally.

While the findings of the Community Conversations are context-specific to that country, by identifying the common threads and themes, WRN will create cross-border strategies and seek common solutions. These strategies and solutions form the activities the Network has agreed to undertake in 2015-16.



"OUR GOVERNMENT IS ALL SET TO WORK WITH THE WOMEN'S REGIONAL NETWORK. PLEASE PROVIDE US WITH A PLAN OF ACTION SO THAT WE CAN TAKE CONCRETE STEPS."

Chief Minister of Balochistan,
Abdul Malik Baloch



Reports and executive summaries have been translated into local languages such as Urdu, Hindi, Dari and Pashto to ensure maximum outreach and impact for the women whose voices we documented and their communities.

RELEASE OF WRN COMMUNITY CONVERSATION REPORTS

AFGHANISTAN: Surviving War and Transition: Perspectives from Afghan Women

WRN Afghanistan launched its seminal report at the University of Kabul on May 31, 2014, despite ongoing elections and security threats. The meeting consisted of panels of public policy leaders who play critical roles in the promotion of women's participation, peace-building and good governance in the country.

PAKISTAN: Women in Conflict Zones: The Pakistan Study

WRN Pakistan launched its report in Quetta on March 6th, 2014 at a time of heightened insecurity. Despite reduced freedom of movement and a distracted press corps, the meeting was a success with participation of all WRN members from across Pakistan. The local and national media covered the event, and the meeting catalyzed a strategic relationship between WRN Pakistan and the leaders of the Government of Balochistan Province.

INDIA: Unequal Citizens: Women's Narratives of Resistance, Militarization, Corruption and Security

WRN India chose a different format for the launch of its publication, due to the large regional stakeholder meeting held in Delhi in November 2013 that included significant media interest and new stakeholders. The climate in India, due to pending national elections, was also taken into account. The reports were distributed at relevant conferences to more than 200 key stakeholders.

REGIONAL REPORT: From Conflict to Security: A Regional Overview of Community Conversations with Women in Afghanistan, Pakistan and India

The WRN regional report was launched in June 2014 at the United States Institute of Peace in Washington, D.C. A panel of WRN Members presented the regional inter-linkages and findings from the report. The event was widely attended by internationally renowned scholars, development practitioners and government officials. The launch was webcasted with listeners worldwide and was promoted by our team to include 100,000 subscribers to the Foreign Policy South Asia Channel.



Afghanistan Report Release: Surviving War and Transition: Perspectives from Afghan Women, Kabul.



WRN award winning member Shad Begum from the conflict area of Khyber Pakhtunwha provides an interview at the Pakistan Report Launch, Quetta.



Vrinda Grover, human rights lawyer and advocate to the Supreme Court of India, addresses the Tribunal Preparatory Committee meeting in Nepal.



Disseminated reports in Delhi to relevant stakeholders working on issues of peace and security.

ADVOCACY TOUR ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

Washington, D.C., June 17-20, 2014

The Network met with various politicians and ambassadors, civil society leaders and media to present the findings from the Community Conversations and advocate for the recommendations as documented in the reports. The meetings were fruitful in establishing a relationship with important actors. WRN was provided with the opportunity to follow up with technical support and provide relevant recommendations in upcoming bills and the strategic actions of military forces in the region.

Meetings:

- USAID
- USIP (Regional Report Release)
- Women Donors Network
- BookSmart
- D.C. Media Training
- U.S. State Department: Ambassador's Office of Global Women's Issues
- Senators: Mary Landrieu & Jeanne Shaheen
- National Security Council
- Georgetown Institute of Women, Peace, and Security with Ambassador Verveer
- Senate Armed Services Committee
- Senate Foreign Relations Committee
- The Pentagon: The Joint Staff Pakistan-Afghanistan Coordination Cell (PACC), Federation Forum
- World Bank
- Peace and Security Funders Group
- Media Engagements: Kojo Nnamdi Show, PBS News Hour, BBC, Voice of America, Devex



Launch of the WRN Regional Report: From Conflict to Security—a Regional Overview of Community Conversations with Women from Afghanistan, Pakistan and India, United States Institute of Peace.

PREPARATORY MEETING FOR A REGIONAL SOUTH ASIA TRIBUNAL ON WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS

Kathmandu, Nepal, December, 2014

WRN held a preparatory meeting including high level delegates with expertise in the legal, political, social and religious arenas of their countries. An action plan to move this activity forward was developed.

SOUTH ASIA WOMEN'S EMERGENCY PROTECTION FUND

July 2014

WRN in partnership with Urgent Action Fund (UAF) for Women's Human Rights launched the South Asia Women's Emergency Protection Fund—a special interest fund for women human rights defenders in Afghanistan, Pakistan and India. This fund provides protection as well as evacuation, if necessary, for women at risk in their communities for their women's rights activism.



Moving ahead

The Network held an internal planning meeting in Dubai in February 2014 to develop the strategic plan for the year and to finalize policies and procedures. The next meeting, held in Airlie, Virginia in June, conducted a capacity vs. impact assessment and contextualized the work of WRN within the changing dynamics of the region. The final meeting of 2014 was held in Kathmandu, Nepal in December prior to the tribunal preparatory meeting.



OUR ACTION PLAN FOR 2015/2016:

1. South Asia Women's Emergency Protection Fund:

Continue to support WHRDs at risk and develop a regional protocol paper.

2. South Asia Tribunal on Women's Human Rights (Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs):

Conduct a Scoping Study with desk and field research components. The result of this study will be a comprehensive document providing recommendations and detailing the most effective strategies to hold a regional tribunal on women's human rights in South Asia.

3. Community Conversations continued with women IDPs and Refugees:

Continue to collect women's voices in the most isolated and remote areas, documenting their role as agents of change in their communities and advocating for their recommendations at the highest levels of policymaking.

4. Mapping Peace Processes:

Conduct research to analyze the causes for the failures of official peace processes across the region and highlight the parallel efforts of unofficial peace processes led by women, ensuring lessons learned will be shared, while promoting women's meaningful participation.

5. Peace Table Roster:

Develop a peace roster of qualified women to participate in peace negotiations in the three countries, based on both standardized international criteria and local consultation. Strengthen the capacity of local women leaders through training, and distribute the roster to relevant mediation parties, including states governments.

6. Regional Peace Advocacy Tour (Afghanistan, Pakistan and India)

As a continuum of the Washington, D.C. international advocacy tour, the Network will regionally advocate for the recommendations from the most marginalized and isolated women in conflict zones, amplifying their voices on issues of militarization, security and corruption to influence high-ranking policymakers.

7. Sharing the WRN Model:

Commission an internal paper to address the request of activists interested in modeling the Network in East Africa, Latin America and the Middle East through an international symposium.

ACTIVITY INTER-LINKAGES:

WRN activities are interlinked in their objectives, strategies, documentation, outcomes and advocacy. All the documentation, including the Peace Processes, Peace Roster, IDP and refugee analysis, Community Conversations, Tribunal Scoping Study and WRN Model will be included in the key messages for the Regional Advocacy Tours. The Peace Roster will inform other initiatives, while the concerns of women IDPs and refugees will be the focus of the tribunal.



Donors

Everything we do is made possible by our generous supporters who share our vision of women working within and beyond borders to strengthen women's security and leadership.

Our donors have made the Network's journey the past four years a partnership between women civil society leaders in Afghanistan, Pakistan and India and philanthropists and small donors in the United States, Canada and Europe.

DONATIONS IN 2014 TO WRN

\$50,000 and above

Jane Hays
Open Society Foundations

\$25,000 - \$49,999

Channel Foundation
Women Donors Network

\$10,000 - \$24,999

The Arsenault Family Foundation
Beyond Our Borders Special Interest Fund
(Housed with Women's Foundation of Colorado)
CarEth Foundation
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\$3,000 - \$9,999

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\$1,000 - \$2,999

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Darlene Lorrain
Thomas Miller
Virginia Lee Clinch Foundation

SOUTH ASIA EMERGENCY PROTECTION FUND

(housed by Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights)

\$5,000 and above

Arsenault Family Foundation

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Cloverleaf Foundation
Jean Saul

Up to \$1,000

Gordon Arthur
Eva Capozzola
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Patricia Cooper
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Pam Gagel
Sharon Lavoie
Ann Lederer
Amy Livingston
Brigid McAuliffe
Margaret Ness
Lydia Pena
Ruth Silver
Jo Lynne Whiting
Deme 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. The Network is currently growing to include significant participation of young women and men.



EXECUTIVE BOARD

Clare Lockhart, Co-Founder and Director, Institute for State Effectiveness, US

Judge Najla Auybi, Deputy Country Representative, Asia Foundation, Afghanistan

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

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

ADVISORY BOARD

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Jane Barry, Principal, Linksbridge

Julie Shaw, Founder and Former E-D, Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights

Sima Samar, Chairwoman of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission

GLOBAL SECRETARIAT

Patricia Cooper, *Founder/Convener*

Women's Regional Network (Pro Bono), Emeritus Director, Pathfinder International;
Fellow, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University

Chelsea Soderholm, *Regional Coordinator*

Former Project Coordinator, South Asia Forum for Human Rights;
Consultant, United Nations Civil Society Advisory Group on Women, Peace and Security

Jenifer Carpenter, *Executive Assistant*

WRN 2014 WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

AFGHANISTAN

Hossai Wardak, Chief of Staff, Office of the First Lady, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Huma Safi, Former Deputy-Director, Equality for Peace and Democracy, Former Program Manager, Women for Afghan Women, Kabul

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

Nargis Nehan, E-D, Equality for Peace and Democracy, Kabul

Rangina Hamidi, Founder, Kandahar Treasure, Kandahar

Selay Ghaffar, E-D, Humanitarian Assistance for Women and Children in Afghanistan

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

PAKISTAN

Farhat Parveen, E-D, National Organization of Working Communities, Karachi

Huma Fouladi, E-D, Rights, Research and Development Foundation, Quetta

Kishwar Sultana, Director, Insaan Foundation Trust, Islamabad

Rukhshanda Naz, E-D, Legal Aid and Awareness Services, Peshawar

Shad Begum, E-D, Association for Behavior and Knowledge Transformation, Peshawar

INDIA

Abha Bhaiya, Founder, Jagori Delhi and Jagori Rural, Dharamsala

Anuradha Bhasin Jamwal, Executive Editor, Kashmir Times, Jammu

Binalakshmi Nepram, Founder, Manipur Women Gun Survivors, Network Control Arms Foundation of India, Delhi/Imphal

Rita Manchanda, Director, South Asia Forum for Human Rights, Delhi

Sahba Husain, Independent Gender Researcher, Delhi

Swarna Rajagopalan, Founder, Prainya Trust, Chennai

HONORARY MEMBER

John McCann, Founder and President, Partners in Performance Inc.

Financials

	Balance
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Cash	132,700.76
Other Current Assets	
Contributions Receivable 2	60,300.00
Total Other Current Assets	60,300.00
Total Current Assets	193,000.76
Total ASSETS	193,000.76
LIABILITIES	
Accounts Payable	923.00
Accrued Payroll	124.67
Payroll Taxes Payable	23.66
Project Fee Payable	27.00
Total LIABILITIES	1,098.33
NET ASSETS	
Beginning Net Assets	
Project Unrestricted	95,924.81
Temporary Restricted	65,115.37
Total Beginning Net Assets	161,040.18
Year To Date Change In Net Assets	
Project Unrestricted	57,043.70
Temporary Restricted	(26,181.45)
Total Year To Date Change In Net Assets	30,862.25
Total NET ASSETS	191,902.43
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	193,000.76

These financials are unaudited at the time this publication was released.





WOMEN'S REGIONAL NETWORK

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