



Women's Regional Network (WRN) is a collective network of women within and beyond borders committed to strengthening the security of women and enhancing women's leadership to take action in preventing conflict, building peace, and protecting women's rights in South Asia and beyond.

Dear Friends of the Women's Regional Network (WRN),

Now in existence for six years, WRN continues to make an impact in the lives of women across South Asia. We are off to a busy 2017. The last three months have been full of activity in the region, including recent launches of our latest Community Conversation (CC) reports and multiple projects planned for 2017!

Community Conversations

CCs are a key component of WRN's research and advocacy and the most recent round of CCs focused on internally displaced women and children fleeing conflict in their countries. The recent public launches of these CC's are used to demand state accountability and obligation to protect those fleeing conflict in accordance with International Law and Covenants and to demand enforcement of existing laws and policies that guarantee safe passage and humanitarian care for women and children in flight.

Pakistan

- Panelists and attendees included members from civil society, government and the media.
- Media coverage includes DAWN's [December 2016](#) and [January 2017](#) articles.
- A final launch will take place in Islamabad in a few weeks time.

Afghanistan

- The Afghanistan CC launch was held in Kabul in Dec. 2016 and hosted by Dr. Sima Samar, Head of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission. In attendance included high level individuals: Mr. Johan Meyer, Minister Counselor of the Embassy of Norway; Safia Siddiqi, Advisor to the Minister of Social Affairs and Martyr; and Mrs. Zohra Yusuf, Advisor to First Lady of Afghanistan.

India

- India's CC report was launched in Delhi on Jan. 28, 2017 and included media, international donor, academia and civil society actors from across the entire region.
- A panel discussion was moderated by [Miloon Kothari](#), former special rapporteur.
- Panelists included renowned activists Harsh Mander, Suneeta Dhar and Ranjana Phadi.
- The final launch will be held in Guwahati, Assam on February 9, 2017 at the Tata Institute for Social Sciences (TISS).

New Projects for 2017

As a result of the dynamic global political environment, strengthening women's rights, security and participation is even more important. WRN's projects for 2017 include:

- Regional Peace Mapping- a research project that documents exemplary models of women peace actors negotiating peace at multiple levels throughout the region.
- Regional Peace Roster- development of a roster of women peace actors operating in the region that will also serve as a powerful lobbying tool used to increase their active and meaningful participation in additional peace negotiations.
- The Platform to Power the Global Alliance for Women- a web-based women's power network that connects tens of thousands of women and allies across 190 countries in partnership with [World Pulse](#).
- Democracy Challenged: A Series of South Asian Dialogues- designed to strengthen women's collective narrative amidst South Asia's shrinking democratic space.

Goals for 2017

The WRN is focused on achieving the following key objectives in 2017:

- Complete all CC launches by February 2017.
- Conduct a regional consultation process and peer review to inform the Democracy Challenged: A Series of South Asian Dialogues project.
- Launch The Platform to Power the Global Alliance for Women.
- Initiate Peace Mapping and Peace Roster projects in the region.
- Share stories of women affected by conflict, war and displacement through all social media platforms, including [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and our [website](#). Please follow us and share your thoughts and photos using #womensregionalnetwork and #VoicesTogether.
- Achieve our goal of raising \$5,000 for the [Global Women Peacemakers](#) campaign by March 31, 2017. We are halfway there! You can help us by sharing this campaign with your networks via social media or email.

coming months!

Sincerely,

Patricia Cooper
Founder/Convener
Women's Regional Network



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