

# Highlights

**“Community conversations should not be a one-off.  
They should be the way policy is made.”**

*Clare Lockhart, WRN Regional Executive Board Member & Co-Founder and Director of the Institute for State Effectiveness*

**How do we highlight violations against women by state and non-state actors alike? How do we increase the visibility of internally displaced women who are strong agents of change, but who have been forgotten in the global migration dialogue?**

These key questions were the focus of WRN's activities in 2016. The Network members documented the experiences of women internally displaced from various conflict zones: Kunduz & Helmand, Afghanistan; North & South Waziristan, Pakistan and Assam, India. In September, WRN released the Community Conversation reports conducted in the 3 countries; the WRN Regional Overview, highlighting interlinkages across the region and the WRN Scoping Study on a South Asia Women's Human Rights Tribunal. This research led to invitations for WRN members to be delegates at high level UN, EU & US refugee and migration related events.

## Publication Launches

**Joint panel with U.S. Institute of Peace:  
“Displaced Women: From Violations to Voice: Afghanistan, India and Pakistan Cases Show How to Strengthen Women and End Impunity”, Sept. 14, 2016**

- Representatives from the WRN, USAID, USIP and the Women's Refugee Commission addressed the humanitarian and legal issues of forced displacement across the region, entrenched militarization, shrinking democracy and the failure of States to fulfill their obligations to protect their citizens.
- The event featured the WRN Tribunal Scoping Study which draws upon the WRN's 2015 Community Conversations (CCs) on internally displaced women, and presents a South Asia Tribunal on Women's Human Rights as a mechanism to address ongoing human rights violations committed against women across the region.
- A Tribunal will be implemented in solidarity with civil society groups across the sub-region in order to: create a legitimate community

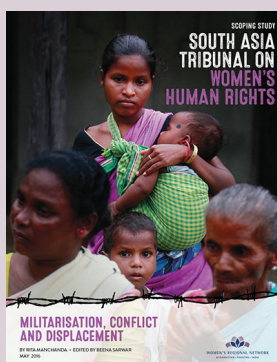
led public platform to amplify women's testimony across caste, class, religion, ethnicity, and national borders; highlight human rights violations; pinpoint accountability and seek justice. Panel details can be found [here](#) and the full USIP live webcast can be accessed [here](#).

## 2015 CCs Launch Event, Nov./Dec. 2016

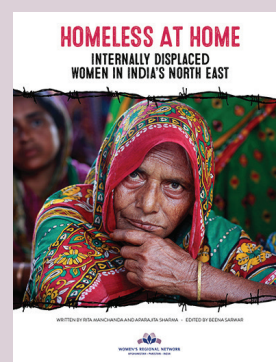
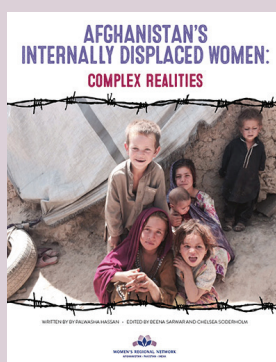
- The WRN's 2015 CCs will be launched in their respective country capitals: Islamabad, Kabul and Delhi as well as additional cities of importance. Each launch event will engage policymakers, academics, activists and media to bring public visibility to the issues women IDPs face in each country.

## 2016 Regional Report

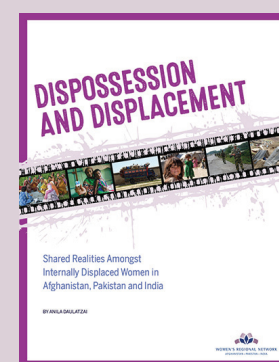
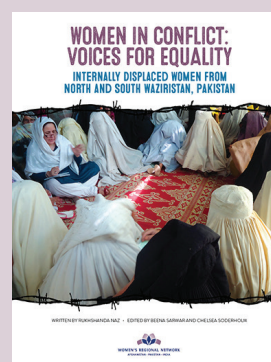
- The regional report “Dispossession and Displacement: Shared Realities Amongst Internally Displaced Women in Afghanistan, Pakistan and India” identifies the interlinkages of women's experiences and provides a regional synthesis of the three Country Reports.



WRN's Scoping Study: South Asia Tribunal on Women's Human Rights



WRN's 2015 Community Conversations



WRN's regional report “Dispossession and Displacement: Shared Realities Amongst Internally Displaced Women in Afghanistan, Pakistan and India”



WRN Members meeting with Canadian Senators



Tribunal Scoping Study author and WRN Member Rita Manchanda is interviewed on CNN

## WRN Meetings, International Events and Advocacy

### WRN India Meeting in Bhopal, India, April 18–19, 2016

- WRN India met in the strategic location of Bhopal, India to convene Core Members and to meet leaders of local resistance movements and those who have been forcibly displaced.
- This meeting drew new members to the WRN India team, including minority and youth voices from diverse geographical areas.

### AWID Forum, Salvador, Brazil, Sept. 8–11, 2016

- WRN was selected from over a 1000 proposals to present a panel titled: "Our Fears, Our Courage, Our Priorities, Our Solutions: Women's Voices from Conflict Zones of Afghanistan, Pakistan and India."
- Panel members: Abha Bhaiya (India), Nooria Sultani (Afghanistan) & Nadia Imtiaz (Pakistan).

### Ottawa, Canada, June 15 and Sept. 29, 2016

- The WRN met with key stakeholders in Canada, including the Foreign Ministry, academics and civil society members working on women, peace and security. Discussions were timely as the Canadian government is reviewing its National Action Plan on UN Res. 1325, & discussing a feminist foreign and development aid policy.
- WRN Members met with women Senators: Mobina Jaffer, Nancy Ruth, Ratna Omidvar, and Salma Ataullahjan and were invited as official guests of the Canadian Senate.

### New York City, June 19–22, 2016

- The WRN held its first Board Meeting since being registered as a Non Profit Foundation in The Netherlands. Board members are: Abha Bhaiya (Founder, Jagori, India) Clare Lockhart (Director, Institute for State Effectiveness ,U.S./UK); Patricia Cooper (Founder and Convener, Women's Regional Network, Canada/U.S.), Kishwar Sultana (Executive Director, Insan Foundation Trust, Pakistan); and Judge Najla

Ayoubi (Former Deputy Country Representative, Asia Foundation, Afghanistan).

- WRN met with INGOs & foundations in NYC to garner support for its activities.

### Washington, DC, Sept. 11–14, 2016

- WRN members met with key DC stakeholders at the World Bank, USAID, State Department, World Learning, Asia Foundation and The Institute for Inclusive Security.
- Network members also conducted media outreach focusing on the regional Tribunal. Interviews were conducted with CNN, VOA (Urdu and Dari) and Devex.
  - Click [here](#) to see Rita Manchanda (India) live on CNN.
  - Click [here](#) to see Judge Najla Ayubi (Afghanistan) on VOA.
  - Click [here](#) to see Rita Manchanda on Devex.

### United Nations Summit for Refugees and Migrants, New York City, Sept. 19, 2016

- Network members, Rita Manchanda (India) and Rukhshanda Naz (Pakistan) attended the U.N. Summit for Refugees and Migrants Civil Society meeting, providing an opportunity to speak on the commitments made in the Summit outcome document.

### Brussels Afghanistan Conference (BAC), Brussels, Belgium, Oct. 4–5, 2016

- WRN Afghanistan members, Nooria Sultani and Zarqa Yaftali and the author of the latest WRN Afghanistan community conversation, Palwasha Hassan, were selected among five women from civil society to represent Afghanistan at the Brussels Afghanistan Conference. This was a key conference to map the way forward for Afghanistan and its partnership with the European Union.
- Click [here](#) to see Palwasha Hassan's official speech.



WOMEN'S REGIONAL NETWORK  
AFGHANISTAN • PAKISTAN • INDIA

The Women's Regional Network (WRN) is comprised of women leaders of civil society from Afghanistan, Pakistan and India working to advance peace and justice for women in one of the most militarized sub-regions of the world. 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.

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