



WOMEN'S REGIONAL NETWORK
AFGHANISTAN • PAKISTAN • INDIA

Dear Friends of Women's Regional Network

It has been a year of growth for the Women's Regional Network as we continue to document the **voices of women**, produce **qualitative research**, and conduct local and regional advocacy to contribute to **movement building** in South Asia and globally. **WRN opened Country Offices and hired three Country Coordinators** in Kabul, Islamabad and Delhi, to strengthen our collaborative efforts. As we celebrate the 17th Anniversary of UN Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security **WRN is sharing our innovative model** with women civil society leaders in 8 countries across the Americas.

.....

WRN MODEL TO BE REPLICATED IN THE AMERICAS



Civil society leaders and peace activists from across the Americas came together to form a new network dedicated to working for women's rights, peace, and justice in the region.
November 2017, Antigua, Guatemala

The WRN model is being replicated in the Americas! Women civil society leaders from Cuba, Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico, Colombia, the United States, Puerto Rico and El Salvador gathered to form a regional network across borders to collaborate and find joint regional strategies for the most critical Women, Peace and Security (WPS) issues we face today. A WRN delegation participated in the Americas network founding meeting in Antigua, Guatemala from October 31 to November 2, 2017.

We look forward to supporting the regional network of women in the Americas to work together towards peace, participation, and justice for women across the globe.



Bushra Gohar, *Pakistan* - WRN Global Advisor and former Member of Parliament; Swarna Rajagopalan, *India* - WRN Board Member and founder of Prajnya; Sofi Ospina Collazos, *Colombia* - Leading feminist activist and instrumental actor in Colombian Peace Process; Deborah Petersen Smalls, *USA* - Lawyer and thought leader on the impact of punitive drug policies on poor communities

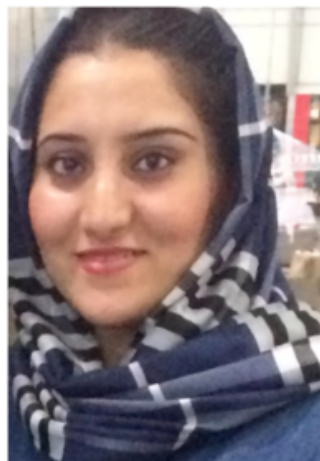
WELCOME COUNTRY COORDINATORS PADMINI GHOSH, FATEMA SULTAN, AND FAREEHA KOHESTANI

This August, **WRN hired three Country Coordinators based in Delhi, Kabul, and Islamabad** who are housed in the offices of our fiscal agents and existing civil society organizations; Rozan (Islamabad), Equality for Peace and Democracy (Kabul), and Aman Trust (Dehli). With a full-time staff person in each country we have already made great strides on programing, networking, and connecting to local constituencies as it continues to ensure ownership and collaboration. Presence in each country will ensure WRN supports the Core Group members in amplifying the voices of women regarding displacement due to conflict, extremisms and increased militarization.

[Read the Country Coordinator's bios on our website!](#)



Padmini Ghosh
Country Coordinator
Afghanistan



Fatema Kohestani
Country Coordinator
Afghanistan



Fareeha Sultan
Country Coordinator
Pakistan

WOMEN PEACE AND SECURITY ONLINE COURSE LAUNCH

WRN has launched its first WPS Online Course convening 23 students from India, Pakistan

and Afghanistan to deepen their knowledge on Women, Peace and Security. Students are learning from the expertise of WRN Members, receiving lectures from network members and renowned activists from across South Asia and globally from Nigeria, Yemen and Bosnia. Lecturers will engage with students on various topics such as violent extremism, conflict resolution, movement building, and women in peace processes and politics.

Borderless Classroom for Peace

Coming from diverse backgrounds and areas of Afghanistan, Pakistan and India, **students are learning from each other and strengthening regional peace efforts.** They bring their perspectives from both sides of Kashmir, conflict zones such as Kunduz and Balochistan, as well as young men.

“As a feminist, peace activist and researcher it is important for me to gain new insights and perspectives on women and peace. It broadens our view ourselves and each other, enriches our knowledge, and adds new depth to our work.”

-Asad Daudzai, Afghanistan



PAKISTAN

Role of Women in Pakistan’s Peace and Security Report Launch Forum

Network members participated in the Insan’s Foundation event “Role of Women in Pakistan’s Peace and Security Report Launch Forum” in Islamabad, Pakistan. Rukhshanda Naz presented on “*Displacement and Rehabilitation: A Continued Struggle for a Gender Sensitive Policy*”, and Kishwar Sultana on “*Terror Financing and Funding: Experiences as Common Woman*.”

Internal Meetings

WRN-Pakistan members met on October 2, 2017 to discuss a new round of Community Conversations, development of a peace roster and further national and local level activities.



INDIA

Outreach Program



On October 12th, Prajnya and WRN presented at Women's Christian College, Chennai. Participants read an assortment of war and peace poems, broke away to write their own poem, and returned to share with the group.
October 2017, Chennai, India

WRN India has launched the Outreach Program aimed at expanding outreach through trainings and talks on Women, Peace and Security issues with youth and students to expand and build the capacity of peace constituencies beyond activist circles.

Community Conversations

WRN India has successfully completed its fieldwork for a new round of Community Conversations. Set in the hinterland of Madhya Pradesh, the Anti-Chutka movement marks a significant point in the anti-nuclear power plants movement in India. Women in this region shared how this conflict is part and parcel to their “everyday struggles”. Stay tuned for the upcoming report.



AFGHANISTAN

New WRN Board Member Zarqa Yaftali



Zarqa is a WRN member and the Head of the Women and Children Legal Research Foundation. She is a leading voice in Afghanistan on women’s access to justice, early marriages, women’s political participation and violence against women and is a member of the Afghan Women Anti-Corruption Coalition, Afghan Women’s Network and the Civil Society Human Rights Network. We are honored

she has joined the WRN Board. [Read her full bio here.](#)

Internal Meetings



August 2017, Kabul, Afghanistan

WRN-Afghanistan held a number of internal meetings welcoming new members to the network and with the broader international community in Kabul deepening WRN's ties to the Women, Peace and Security movement.

International Day of Peace



Banners read "Let's find true, fair and comprehensive peace by ensuring women's engagement in

On International Peace Day, WRN displayed banners in Dari across Kabul to promote women's participation in peace processes. Country Coordinator Fatema Kohestani attended the International Peace Day event and [shared her insights on our Original Content blog](#).

Youth Film Club

WRN has spearheaded the launch of a Youth Film Club in Kabul for students and young people in Kabul. The film themes center on the experiences of women who have faced challenges, and how they fight and struggle to overcome hardship.



GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

WRN at the Launch of the Canadian National Action Plan

WRN Core Member Hossai Wardak (Afghanistan) attended the launch ceremony of Canada's WPS National Action Plan (NAP) on November 1 in Ottawa, Canada. Canada's feminist foreign policy and NAP put women peace-builders at the center of foreign policy design in development, aid, and funding.

Universal Periodic Review Process

WRN Board Member Rukhshanda Naz (Pakistan) led a civil society consultation process to prepare a shadow report for the Universal Periodic Review of Pakistan, including recommendations from the WRN Community Conversations addressing issues of internally displaced persons and human rights defenders. She will attend the upcoming official UPR session in Geneva in November, 2017. Her participation ensures women's voices from the ground are heard and their issues advocated for.

Inclusive Global Leadership Summer 2017 Institute



The Institute convened 15 women activists from around the world (including the U.S.) who are

WRN Founding Member Abha Bhaiya (India) participated in the Inclusive Global Leadership Summer Institute at the Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver. Participants had workshops on topics such as developing effective movement strategies, inclusive approaches to coalition building, and harnessing technology for social change.

Judge Najla Ayoubi at the Carter Center



“We have to open the veil between ourselves and the people we don’t like or who don’t like us.”

(Photo: The Carter Center/ M.Schwarz)

September 17, 2017, Atlanta, USA

WRN Board Member Judge Najla Ayoubi (Afghanistan) presented at the Human Rights Defenders Forum in May at The Carter Center in Atlanta, Georgia. She spoke eloquently about the complexities of P/CVE and how current programing must be proactive, rather than reactive, for success. [Read the full report.](#)

Click Here to Donate

Copyright © 2017 Women's Regional Network, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:
wrnoffice@womensregionalnetwork.org

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) **or** [unsubscribe from this list](#)