



# SUMMIT ON FORCED DISPLACEMENT IN SOUTH ASIA WHY GENDER MATTERS



WOMEN'S REGIONAL NETWORK  
AFGHANISTAN • PAKISTAN • INDIA

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**27-28 FEBRUARY, 1 MARCH 2019 // LE MÉRIDIEN, KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA**

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The Women's Regional Network (WRN) will host a Summit on Forcible Displacement and Gender in South Asia. WRN is a network of women civil society leaders working together to advance women's rights and regional peace in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India. The multi-stakeholder Summit builds upon WRN's research regarding internally displaced people (IDP) and refugees and focuses on the situation of forcibly displaced women and girls. The Summit will address the policy and practice gaps in meeting the needs and rights of women and girls whose voices are rarely heard and realities seldom considered. The Summit is organised by Women's Regional Network (WRN) and is being hosted by the International Women's Rights Action Watch, Asia Pacific (IWRAW-AP), a global women's rights organisation based in Malaysia.

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## **1 THE NEED FOR VISIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

The Summit will bring together diverse stakeholders to build upon WRN's core work of giving visibility to the forcibly displaced and argue 'why gender matters.' The Summit will be grounded in an analysis of the human rights violations of forcibly displaced women and girls, highlighting the Rohingya refugee crisis, among others, and advocating for the accountability of governments, as well as regional, and international humanitarian obligations for prevention, protection and the urgent need for a durable solution.

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## **2 ENGAGEMENT OF STAKEHOLDERS**

Regional leaders from international refugee organizations, civil society leaders from across South Asia, representatives from donor governments, academics and representatives of the WRN and the partner organizations supporting this Summit will be invited, along with key policy makers in the major refugee producing countries in the region.

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## **3 A SOUTH ASIA CALL FOR ACTION ON GENDER IN IDP PROTECTION & RIGHTS**

The Summit will enhance the visibility of those displaced due to conflict or development-induced dislocation as well as highlight the shared humanitarian and political response required across the region.

At the conclusion of the Summit, a South Asia Call to Action on Gender in Forcible Displacement will be adopted. Furthermore, a Regional Working Group will be established to coordinate a South Asia response to any emerging refugee and IDP crisis and to ensure the Global Compact on Migration is implemented and strengthened. There will be an extensive media component to the Summit to highlight the issues that displaced persons face daily and to raise awareness regarding the Call to Action coming out of the Summit.

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## ABOUT WRN'S WORK

Through WRN's trademark "Community Conversations," WRN has amplified the voices of women living in conflict to ensure their voices directly shape political discourse and policy. Confronted with the huge numbers of forcibly displaced persons, WRN researchers travelled to remote and conflicted areas in Afghanistan, India, and Pakistan to understand and document everyday realities of IDP women as they cope with flight and insecurity, ruptured families, destroyed homesteads, uprooted livelihoods and, equally importantly, the struggle to rebuild their lives. In 2016, WRN prepared a Scoping Study around the idea of holding a Tribunal on IDP women's rights violations.

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## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S RIGHTS ACTION WATCH ASIA PACIFIC



International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAP AP) is an independent, not for profit NGO based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia working to advance women's rights globally, ensuring implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and other international human rights instruments at the national level. IWRAP AP has Special Consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, is registered as a company limited by guarantee in Malaysia, and is led and managed by women from the global south.

**The Summit will take place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia for 40-50 key stakeholders engaged over a 3-day dialogue.**