Introduction

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.

“Women, peace and security is about preventing war, not about making war safer for women.”

Rita Manchanda, The Asia Pacific Regional Consultation on The Global Study on UN Res. 1325 in Kathmandu, Nepal, March 2015
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, listening and learning 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, extremisms and corruption—and their impact on women’s security, as a priority for all three countries.
Initiatives

Instability continues in 2015 with the shrinking space for dissenting voices and democratic state weakness in conjunction with ascendant multi-faceted forms of extremism amidst deteriorating security situations in Afghanistan and Pakistan and revival of tensions and confrontational state policies in all three countries.
KEY ISSUES IN THE SUB-REGION AND WRN’S INITIATIVES

The WRN plans to hold a symposium on democracy, secularism and extremism to deepen the feminist analysis of the role of democracy and secularism in countering diverse strands of violent extremisms across the region and also analyze the multi-faceted roles women pay in relation to radicalization.

As the global displacement crisis continues with the number of people displaced surpassing the numbers during WWII, the WRN continues to focus on women IDPs (Internally Displaced Persons) in conflict areas of the sub-region.

This year the network has continued its Community Conversations to document the narratives of marginalized women’s voices to demand rights and accountability, and influence policies and programmes which directly affect them. The CCs reflect the inter-linkages women face regarding issues of militarization, corruption, insecurity, injustice, discrimination and extremism and the interdependence of the conflict dynamics of the sub-region.

To honour and amplify these women’s voices the WRN has embarked on the process of holding a South Asia Tribunal on violations of women’s rights. The Tribunal will be a community led public platform for women’s testimony across caste, class, religion, ethnicity and national borders to identify gendered concerns and needs, and to demand accountability. WHRDs are at the forefront of these struggles for justice but also some of the most threatened across the region with a spate of attacks on human rights defenders in Pakistan including the murder of renowned WHRD Sabine Mahmood and the targeting and hit list of the Taliban for WHRDs during their siege of Kunduz province.

The WRN’s South Asia Emergency protection fund was successfully activated in 2015 in conjunction with the development of a regional protection protocol to support the protection of WRHDs, particularly those in remote and isolated areas.

In order to amplify the voices from the ground, the calls for peace and justice and the needs of WHRDs on the frontlines, the WRN is working and advocating for a ‘Peace Roster’ which identifies qualified women to participate in various level of peace negotiations as well as build capacity of those in remote an isolated areas. Complimentarily WRN will document the lessons learned from failed peace negotiations as well as little known parallel women led initiatives. As a model that has interested diverse women’s groups, the WRN plans to share its model with other regions including Central and Latin American countries.
ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

- Worked with leading institutional development expert Stephen McCormick on developing two core documents.
- Appointed a new Regional Executive board of Trustees: Abha Bhaiya (India), Kishwar Sultana (Pakistan), Judge Najla Ayubi (Afghanistan), Clare Lockhart (United Kingdom and the USA), and Patricia Cooper (Canada and the USA).
- Registered legally in The Hague, Netherlands as a Stichting to be located in the city of peace and justice.
- Developed a set of organizational statutes.
- Developed a set of organizational by-laws.
- Identified areas for internal policy development.

ESTABLISHMENT OF COUNTRY OFFICES IN THE REGION

- WRN established an office in Pakistan and India in 2015 housed respectively at the Insan Foundation Trust in Islamabad and the Multiple Action Research Group (MARG) in Delhi.
- Positions were developed and two country coordinators were hired for the first time.
- WRN has created a position for a WRN Afghanistan Country Coordinator to be housed at the Equality for Peace and Democracy office in Kabul.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

WRN’s key programmatic activity is to document violations and realities of marginalized women to amplify their voice in shaping policies and programs, which affect their lives. The Community Conversations held in 2015 are interlinked with the Tribunal and focus on the internally displaced. The Tribunal will serve as the next step to honor the voices we documented and seek justice.

These stand-alone country reports will be released mid-2016 along with a Regional Overview identifying the interlinked issues facing women in each of the three countries.
SOUTH ASIA TRIBUNAL FOR WOMEN’S HUMAN RIGHTS

A Scoping Study including desk based research and field work was conducted across the three countries to determine the interlinked issues and rights violations for the upcoming regional South Asia Tribunal on Women’s Human Rights to be held in 2017. This study serves two purposes: 1) document the concerns of internally displaced women; identify their coping mechanisms and make recommendations, where appropriate 2) identify the regionally interlinked issues facing internally displaced women, collect potential testimonies and violations of rights and crimes committed by state and non-state actors in order to challenge the culture of impunity on a regional platform.

A Tribunal Preparatory Committee of prominent human rights lawyers and activists adopted the scoping study in January 2016 at a meeting in Sri Lanka and developed the strategy to move forward with the tribunal in 2017.

COMPLETED RESEARCH IN 2015

- Exploring Ahmadi Women’s Voices, by Kishwar Sultana, (Pakistan)
- Human Rights Tribunals: Lessons and Checklists, by Dr. Swarna Rajagopalan (India)
- An Overview of Regimes and Policies Covering Refugees and IDPs, by Dr. Swarna Rajagopalan
- Tribunal Scoping Study on women IDPs in Nepal, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka, by One Earth Future Foundation, (Colorado, USA)
- Women in Conflict: Voices for Equality Internally Displaced Women from North and South Waziristan, Pakistan, by Rukhshanda Naz
- Afghanistan’s Internally Displaced Women: Complex Realities, by Palwasha Hassan
- Homeless at Home Internally Displaced Women in India’s Northeast, by Rita Manchanda and Aparajita Sharma
- Dispossession and Displacement: Responsiveness and Liveability Amongst Internally Displaced Women in Afghanistan, Pakistan and India, by Anila Daulatzi
- South Asia Tribunal on Women’s Human Rights (Militarization, Conflict and Displacement), by Rita Manchanda
WRN’S SOUTH ASIA WOMEN’S EMERGENCY PROTECTION FUND

WRN activated a human rights defenders fund with 3 rapid response grants for women human rights defenders in Afghanistan fleeing the siege of Kunduz City, by the Taliban. The funding and support they received has protected them from imminent threats and helped save their lives. Consultations with shelter homes and activists have begun to develop a regional protocol for the protection of women human rights defenders including a safe house mapping, regionally inter-linked service providers and evacuation protocols.

DONORS TO THE SOUTH ASIA WOMEN’S EMERGENCY PROTECTION FUND IN 2015

Over $5,000
Arsenault Family Foundation
Women’s Foundation of Colorado (Beyond Our Borders, a Special Group Fund)
Elaine Nonneman

Under $200
Janice Soderholm
Ingrid Srinath
GLOBAL REACH

WRN participated in the following conferences in 2015

• The Asia Pacific Regional Consultation on The Global Study on UN Res. 1325 in Kathmandu, Nepal, March 2015
• Kishwar Sultana, WRN Pakistan, attended The Naval War College Constructive Pathways: Stimulating and Safeguarding Components of Women, Peace, and Security in Rhode Island, USA
• Women’s Power to Stop War Conference in The Hague in April 2015. Co-hosted panel with Joan Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice (IPJ) on Women’s Peace-building Networks: Uniting for Peace
• IPJ Defying Extremism Regional Dialogue in Bosnia Hercegovina, May 2015
• Women’s Court a Feminist Approach to Justice – Regional court held in Sarajevo, May 2015
• 16th Women in Black Conference and Women’s Court, Bangalore, India, November 2015
• WRN was part of the drafting process of the Pakistan Statement on Gender Equality submitted for the first ever World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016
• AWID Forum September 2016: Brazil, WRN workshop: Our Fears, Our Courage, Our Priorities, Our Solutions (selected as one of 150 from over a thousand proposals submitted)
Donors

Everything we do is made possible by our generous supporters who share our vision of women working within and beyond borders to strengthen the security of women and enhance women’s leadership to develop solutions for eradicating corruption and working collectively towards building peace and justice across the region.
DONATIONS IN 2015 TO WRN

Our donors have made the Network's journey the past five years a partnership between women leaders of Afghanistan, Pakistan and India and philanthropists and small donors in the United States, Canada and Europe, each contributing in their unique way, to bring peace and justice and equality for women across South Asia.

$20,000 and above
Cynda Collins Arsenault
Channel Foundation
Open Society Foundations

$10,000 – $20,000
Anne Carter
Lynda M. Goldstein Family Fund
CarEth Foundation
Linda Mason
Jane Hays

$5,000 – $10,000
David and Joan Hadden
Karen and Brad Yuan

$1,000 – $5,000
Rockefeller Brothers Fund
Mary Sissel
Mary Zinn

Up to $1,000
Lee Palmer Everding
Mary Ann Koehler
Ann Lederer
Janet Larson
Stephanie Morgan
Judi Wagner

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 who are joined by supporters outside the network. The Network is currently growing to include significant participation of young women.

“Through the eyes of Women, is another way of seeing. Is another way of knowing.”

Corinne Kumar, WRN Tribunal Preparatory Committee Member
WOMEN’S REGIONAL NETWORK EXECUTIVE BOARD

Abha Bhaiya: Founder, Jagori Delhi and Jagori Rural, India
Kishwar Sultana: Executive Director, Insan Foundation Trust, Pakistan
Judge Najla Ayubi: Former Deputy Country Representative, Asia Foundation, Afghanistan
Clare Lockhart: Co-Founder and Director, Institute for State Effectiveness, United States and United Kingdom
Patricia Cooper: Founder/Convener, Women’s Regional Network, United States and Canada

Women’s Regional Network Global Secretariat:

WRN CORE MEMBERSHIP

India:
Rita Manchanda (Delhi)
Sahba Hussain (Delhi)
Richa Singh (Delhi)
Sarika Sinha (Bhopal)
Gazala Farooq (Sri Nagar)
Suvarna Damle (Nagpur)
Anuradha Bhasin (Jammu)
Swarna Rajagopalan (Chennai)
Saumya Uma (Bangalore)

Pakistan:
Rukhshanda Naz (Peshawar)
Farhat Parveen (Karachi)
Huma Fouladi (Quetta)
Farhat Asif (Islamabad, Kashmir)
Saima Jasam (Lahore)
Bushra Gohar (Peshawar)
Shad Begum (Peshawar)

Afghanistan:
Nooria Sultani (Kabul)
Sajia Behgam (Kabul)
Zarqa Yaftali (Kabul)
Maryam Rahmani (Kabul)
Najla Raheel (Kabul)
Homa Alizoy (Kabul)
Rangina Hamidi (Kandahar)
Hossai Wardak (Kabul)
Global Advisors

Cynda Collins Arsenault: President, Secure World Foundation
Jane Barry: Principal, Linksbridge
Stephanie Morgan: Western Union
Daisy Khan: ED, American Society for Muslim Advancement
Julie Shaw: Founder, Urgent Action Fund for Women’s Human Rights
Amy Claire Wild: Global Marketing Strategist
Bushra Gohar: Former Parliamentarian, Pakistan
Mary Jane Real: Founder, International Coalition for Women Human Rights Defenders
Nafis Sadik, M.D.: Former Director, UN Population Fund (UNFPA), former Special Advisor to UN Secretary General
Dr. Sima Samar: Chairperson, Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission
Huma Safi: Former Deputy Director, Equality for Peace and Democracy
Wazhma Abdulrahimzay: Former Human Rights Program Officer, Open Society Afghanistan
Nargis Nehan: Head, Policy Coordination Unit, Office of the President of Afghanistan

Honorary Member

John McCann, President, Partners in Performance
WRN TRIBUNAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

India
Dr. Syeda Hameed: Former Member, Planning Commission of India, Renowned Author
Rita Manchanda: Research Director, South Asia Forum for Human Rights
Abha Bhaiya: Founder, Jagori Rural, Global Coordinator- India, One Billion Rising
Geeta Ramaseshan: Senior feminist advocate, former Coordinator, High Court Mediation Centre
Saumya Uma: Assistant Professor & Assistant Director - Centre for the Study of Social Exclusion & Inclusive Policy (CSSEIP), National Law School of India, Bangalore

Afghanistan
Judge Homa Alizoy: Head Judge Juvenile Court of Afghanistan and Women’s Rights Activist
Najiba Ayubi: Director, Killid Group; Co-Founder the Afghan Independent Media Consortium
Palwasha Hassan: Research Consultant and founding member of The Afghan Women’s Network
Abdul Wazeed (Zia) Moballegh: Country Director, Heinrich Boll Stiftung
Nargis Nehan: Policy Coordinator, Office of the President of Afghanistan
Sima Samar, MD: Chairperson, Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission

Pakistan
Bushra Gohar: Former Member of Parliament, Pakistan, Central Member, Awami National Party
Anis Haroon: Former Chairperson, National Commission on the Status of Women
Hina Jilani: Former United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary General on Human Rights Defenders; Advocate, Supreme Court of Pakistan
Rukhshanda Naz: Former Head, UN Women Pakistan (KP-FATA); Executive Director, Legal Aid, Awareness Services (LAAS)
I. A. Rehman: Secretary-General, Human Rights Commission of Pakistan
Kishwar Sultana: Director, Insan Foundation Trust, Member, Provincial CEDAW Committee

Global Advisors
Hauwa Ibrahim: Lawyer and author of Practicing Shariah Law: Seven Strategies for Achieving Justice in Shariah Courts
Corinne Kumar: Secretary General, El Taller International; International Coordinator, Courts of Women; Founding Member, Asian Women’s Human Rights Council
Mary Jane Real: Founding member and former Coordinator of the International Coalition on Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRD IC) & Regional Coordinator of Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD)
Financials
### Statement of Financial Position

**WMN—Women’s REgional Network**  
As of 12/31/2015

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<th>Balance</th>
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<td>Current Assets</td>
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<td>Other Current Assets</td>
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<td><strong>Total ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td>Project Fee Payable</td>
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<td>Beginning Net Assets</td>
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<td>Project Unrestricted</td>
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<td><strong>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>129,040.12</td>
</tr>
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A woman from Hapachara IDP camp, BTAD, Assam, India.
WOMEN’S REGIONAL NETWORK

c/o The Colorado Non-Profit Development Center
789 Sherman Street, Suite 250
Denver, CO 80203

infowrn@gmail.com

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