WORKING REGIONALLY FOR PEACE, SECURITY AND JUSTICE

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

WOMEN'S REGIONAL NETWORK
AFGHANISTAN - PAKISTAN - INDIA
“Community conversations should not be a one-off. They should be the way policy is made.”

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

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

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? How do we increase women’s full and meaningful participation in peacebuilding? These key questions were the focus of WRN’s activities in 2016.

OVERVIEW

• Documented the experiences of women internally displaced from conflict zones across Afghanistan; North & South Waziristan, Pakistan and Assam, India.

• Released the Community Conversation reports conducted in the three countries; the WRN Regional Overview, highlighting interlinkages across the region and the WRN Scoping Study on a South Asia Women’s Human Rights Tribunal at the United States Institute for Peace.

• Conducted associated advocacy with recommendations from women on the ground at the local, national, regional and international level.

• Sent delegates to high level UN, EU & U.S. refugee and migration related events.

• Strengthened our work on youth mentorship inviting more young women leaders to join the network across the region.
  a) Developed women peace and security online courses
  b) Initiated partnership with Emerging Young Women Leaders Congress (EYWLC) led by the Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies (Pakistan).

• Developed a peace roster of qualified women to sit in various peace negotiations on behalf of Afghanistan.
AFGHAN INITIATIVES

2016 saw the highest number of civilian casualties ever recorded in Afghanistan. As the security and political situation continued to deteriorate, WRN began 2016 with a series of internal and external meetings and activities:

WRN Meetings:
• Held a forum on the South Asia Tribunal on Women’s Human Rights at the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission. Dr. Sima Samar hosted key female judges, civil society, UN and media representatives to form a national working group focusing on women IDP issues.
• Hosted three internal meetings to strengthen the advocacy efforts of the WRN Afghanistan core group.

Women Peace Roster:
• Co-hosted a series of meetings with Ambassador Deborah Lyons, Ambassador of Canada to Afghanistan, regarding women’s participation on peace councils:
  a) Developed criteria to identify qualified women to participate in peace negotiations with key civil society organizations, journalists, women’s networks, female judges, members of Parliament and representatives of the President’s office.
  b) Advocated to President Ghani the finalized roster of qualified women to the High Peace Council. Two of the women candidates from the roster were successfully nominated.
PUBLICATION LAUNCHES

Representatives from WRN, USAID, U.S. State Department, 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. Click here to see panel details and the full USIP live webcast.

2016 REPORT LAUNCHES
WRN launched a series of Community Conversation reports across the region. Each launch engaged policymakers, academics, activists and media to bring public visibility to the common issues women IDPs face. WRN launched our reports in Afghanistan (Kabul), Pakistan (Peshawar, Quetta, Lahore, Karachi and Islamabad) and India (Delhi and Guwahati) in late 2016 and early 2017.

Afghanistan:
WRN member and author of Afghanistan’s Internally Displaced Women: Complex Realities, Palwasha Hassan, spearheaded the launch which took place at the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission in Kabul. WRN Global Advisor and Chairperson of Human Rights Commission, Dr. Sima Samar, opened the symposium. This high level meeting was attended by the Special Advisor to the First Lady of Afghanistan, UN entities, Members of Parliament, Afghan ministries and embassies.
Pakistan:
The WRN Pakistan team, led by WRN member and author of Women in Conflict: Voices for Equality Internally Displaced Women from North and South Waziristan, Rukhshanda Naz, started a series of launches across the country in December 2016. Launches were held at the National Commission on Human Rights (Karachi), the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP), Lahore, Balochi Academy, Quetta and at Peshawar University in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where many of the IDP women from the Tribal areas have fled. This strategy was taken to ensure wide dissemination of the findings; to develop partnerships with various state and civil society institutions and to identify interlinkages among displacement issues across Pakistan.

Launches were attended by activists, policymakers and various media outlets including TV and print media. Read the coverage in Dawn (Pakistan’s leading daily English newspaper) of the WRN launches in Peshawar and Karachi.

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 Community Conversation reports.

WRN MEETINGS, INTERNATIONAL EVENTS AND ADVOCACY
WRN India Meeting in Bhopal, India, April 18–19, 2016
WRN India met at the strategic location of Bhopal, India to convene Core Members and meet leaders of local resistance movements who have been forcibly displaced. New WRN members joined the gathering, including minority and youth voices from diverse geographical areas.

AWID Forum, Salvador, Brazil, Sept., 2016
WRN’s proposal was selected from over a 1000 submissions to present on a panel titled, “Our Fears, Our Courage, Our Priorities, Our Solutions: Women’s Voices from Conflict Zones of Afghanistan, Pakistan and India.” WRN was represented by panel members Abha Bhaiya (India), Nooria Sultani (Afghanistan) and Nadia Imtiaz (Pakistan).

Ottawa, Canada, June and Sept., 2016
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, and discussing a feminist foreign and development aid policy. WRN members met with Senators Mobina Jaffer, Nancy Ruth, Ratna Omidvar and Salma Ataullahjan and were invited as official guests of the Canadian Senate.
WRN held its first board meeting as a newly registered non-profit foundation in The Netherlands. Board members are Abha Bhaiya (Founder, Jagori Rural, 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 held stakeholder and fundraising meetings in New York City.

WRN members met with key DC stakeholders including civil society representatives, policymakers and media outlets focusing on the regional tribunal. Interviews were conducted by CNN, VOA (Urdu and Dari) and Devex.

- Rita Manchanda (India) live on CNN.
- Judge Najla Ayubi (Afghanistan) on VOA.
- Rita Manchanda on Devex.

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

WRN Afghanistan members, Nooria Sultani, Zarqa Yaftali and Palwasha Hassan, were selected among five women from civil society to represent Afghanistan at the conference. This was a key event to map the way forward for Afghanistan and its partnership with the European Union. Click here to see Palwasha Hassan’s official speech.
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 TO WRN IN 2016

Due to the generous support of our donors over the past six years, the Network has been able to build partnerships between women leaders of Afghanistan, Pakistan and India and philanthropists, foundations and individual 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.

$30,000 and above
Channel Foundation
Open Society Foundations

$20,000 to $30,000
Cynda Collins Arsenault
Anne Carter
Patricia Cooper

$10,000 to $20,000
CarEth Foundation
Jane Hays
Lynda Goldstein
Linda Mason

$2,000 to $10,000
Karen and Brad Yuan
Association for Women in Development
Mary Zinn

Up to $2,000
Beth Fischer
Helen Gair
Patricia Hinnen
Elizabeth Gregg
Lauren Marinelli
Stephanie Morgan
Jenni Prisk
Jean Saul
Cindy Sezlik
Madeline Sorkin
Gary Shullaw
Mary Sissel
Janice Soderholm
Jo Lynne Whiting
Amy Claire Wild
Deme Yuan

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.

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

STAFF

Chelsea Soderholm: Chief Operating Officer, Former Consultant, United Nations Civil Society Advisory Group on Women, Peace and Security
Nooria Sultan: Regional Advisor, Women’s Regional Network, former Advocacy and Programs Manager Equality for Peace and Democracy
Mackenzie McGrath: Senior Advisor, Women’s Regional Network, Founder of Enso L.L.C., development consulting company specializing in peace and conflict resolution and women’s work
Christina Ibanez: Communication and Research Intern
Ingrid von Kleydorff: Organizational Development and Research Intern
Trishna R. Rana: Communications and Research Intern
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)
Sudha Vargese (Bihar)
Rakhee Kalita (Assam)
Nusrat Sultanpuri (Kashmir)
Zainab Akhter (Ladakh)

Pakistan
Rukhsandra Naz (Peshawar)
Farhat Parveen (Karachi)
Huma Fouladi (Quetta)
Farhat Asif (Islamabad, Kashmir)
Saima Jasam (Lahore)
Bushra Gohar (Peshawar)
Shad Begum (Peshawar)
Zaida Munir (Balochistan)
Romana Bashir (Punjab)
Gulalai KK (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa)
Sadia Bibi (Kashmir)
Nida Ibrahim (Gilgit Baltistan)

Afghanistan
Nooria Sultani (Kabul)
Sajia Behgam (Kabul)
Zarqa Yafati (Kabul)
Maryam Rahmani (Kabul)
Najila Raheel (Kabul)
Judge Homa Alizoy (Kabul)
Rangina Hamidi (Kandahar)
Malalai Wardak (Kabul, Wardak)
Najiba Ayoubi (Kabul, Parwan)
Palwasha Hassan (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
Humna 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
Nimalka Fernando: President of the International Movement against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR)
Dr. Syeda Saiyidain Hameed: Former Member, Planning Commission of India
Hossai Wardak: Former Chief of Staff, Office of the First Lady, Afghanistan
Abdul Wahed (Zia) Moballegh: Country Director for Heinrich Böll Foundation, Afghanistan

Honorary Members
John McCann, President, Partners in Performance
Stephen McCormick, Principal, Skillfull Means
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 and Assistant Director – Centre for the Study of Social Exclusion and 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 Wazed (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 (WHHRD IC) and Regional Coordinator of Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD)
## Financials

**COLORADO NONPROFIT DEVELOPMENT CENTER**  
Statement of Financial Position  
**WRN—Women’s Regional Network**  
As of 12/31/2016

### ASSETS

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### LIABILITIES

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### NET ASSETS

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### Total Liabilities & Net Assets

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<td><strong>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</strong></td>
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“As leaders and as stakeholders, we have all experienced being inspired and making commitments to attempt great strides on behalf of women. We’ve also experienced how the day-to-day challenges in our communities, our organizations and our personal lives that can diminish inspiration and dampen our precious dreams. As I read and re-read this important WRN Scoping Study, I am inspired to imagine what our world can be. I hope that you too will continue to imagine the very best world.”

Dr. Susanne Jalbert, CEO, Jalbert Consulting
WRN Community Conversations, Assam, India