Organizational Structure
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. At the 100th Anniversary of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom conference, WRN core group members gathered in The Hague, Netherlands for 9 days in April to revise our governance structure. The new Board consists of representation from each of the three countries, as well as global members. The Global Advisory Group membership was expanded to include expertise on the key issues WRN addresses. In November, we established our legal entity in The Hague, home of the Peace Palace, the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court. The Colorado Nonprofit Development Center currently serves as our fiscal sponsor. We will seek our own 501 (c) 3 status in the U.S. in 2016. The first Board meeting will be held in January 2016 with Abha Bhaiya (India), Kishwar Sultana (Pakistan), Judge Najla Ayubi (Afghanistan), Clare Lockhart (United Kingdom and the USA), and Patricia Cooper (Canada and the USA).

WRN established an office in Pakistan and India in 2015 housed respectively at the Insan Foundation Trust in Islamabad, and the South Asia Forum for Human Rights in Delhi. Country Coordinators were hired: Sidra Humayun for Pakistan and Aparajita Sharma for India. WRN Regional Coordinator, Chelsea Soderholm, worked from the Pakistan office the past 4 months.

As the region faces an attack on civil society and democratic space by state and non-state actors alike, and tensions peak with politics of hostility, intolerance and confrontation, the women of the region seek to maintain open channels of communication, trust, support and collaboration. We express our deepest gratitude to the funders and supporters who believe in a South Asia without borders and the power of women to lead the process to a sustainable peace for all that transcends all faultlines/divisions.

“We will transform our pain into power for peace.”
—Eman Khammas, Iraq, 16th Women in Black conference Bangalore

South Asia Tribunal for Women’s Human Rights
The Scoping Study for The South Asia Tribunal on Women’s Human Rights in 2017 was completed in early December. 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 from the three countries held their first meeting in Dec. 2014 in Nepal. The Tribunal Preparatory Committee will meet again in late January in Sri Lanka to discuss the findings of the Tribunal Scoping Study and develop the blueprint for moving forward with a Regional 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)
- Community Conversations with Internally Displaced Women from North and South Waziristan, Pakistan, by Rukhshanda Naz
- Afghan Internally Displaced Women: Complex Realities, by Palwasha Hassan
- Nobody People: The Internally Displaced in India’s North East, by Rita Manchanda

Community Conversations

WRN’s key programmatic activity is to demonstrate that documenting violations and realities of marginalized women help them have a 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.

- India: IDP women from the North East state of Assam
- Pakistan: IDP women from North and South Waziristan
- Afghanistan: IDP women from protracted conflicts in the South, North and Eastern provinces

These stand-alone country reports will be released in early January 2016 along with a Regional Overview identifying the interlinked issues facing women in each of the three countries.

WRN’s South Asia Women’s Emergency Protection Fund

Launched a human rights defenders fund with evacuation and 2 rapid response grants for women human rights defenders fleeing the siege of Kunduz City, Afghanistan by the Taliban. 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.

WRN as a Model for Latin America

Women are leading movements to create autonomous forms of security, from the bottom up, based on rebuilding community ties. The Center for International Policy based in Mexico City is modeling WRN for 9 Latin American countries with a meeting in Havana, Cuba in March of 2016. Representatives from WRN will be in attendance to share information on our “community conversations” and advocacy for marginalized women in the most conflicted regions of the 3 countries of our network.

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 on Women’s Peace-building Networks: Uniting for Peace
- 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
- AWID Forum 2016: Brazil, WRN workshop: Our Fears, Our Courage, Our Priorities, Our Solutions (selected as one of 150 from over a thousand proposals submitted)