



Women, Conflict and Peace Processes in South Asia

21- 22 November, 2018

Call for Papers

For International conference organized by UNESCO Chair and Malaviya Center for Peace Research, Banaras Hindu University

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South Asia has been the site of severe violence for the past several decades. Worst affected in these violent conflict situations have been women of the subcontinent. According to estimates, more than half of the total casualties that happened in these violent conflicts were those of women. Additionally women have been sufferers of cultural and structural imbalances and violence, all through in recent times (Asia Foundation Report, 2017 and WHO, 2005). This phenomenon of violence against women is both, visible and unknown (Butalia, 2013). Violence against women is rampant in all the states of South Asia, be it Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, or Sri Lanka. In India too, the scale of crimes committed against women has been on the upswing (National Crime Bureau Report 2013-17). In South Asia, eliminating gender discrimination in political and public life, control over women's body, access to justice, violence against women and culture has been regarded as key issues by various organizations. In this part of world, culture is arguably most widely used and readily accepted justification for discriminatory laws and practices against women. As data shows that women are more prone to become victims in conflicts (armed and unarmed) there is also participation of women in armed struggle and peacebuilding (Bannerji, 2008 & Manchanda, 2001). From the standpoint of international efforts, the UNSC adopted resolution 1325 (October 2000) to address the issue of women, peace and security (WPS). This has been described as a major breakthrough in the nature of conducting peace processes (Anderlini, 2000; Porter, 2003) and a milestone in the struggle for making women visible in peace initiatives (Enloe 89, 2014 & Tickner, 1992). There are a series of resolutions that echo that international peace and security is inextricably linked with the advancement of women inclusion (Kirby & Shepherd, 2016). However, the lived experiences of women do not always confirm women's meaningful involvement in peace processes in South Asia (Yadav, 2018; Upadhyaya, 2015; Singh, 2017). Nonetheless, efforts of women to fight violence continues and establish peace go unabated and therefore calls for analyses and epistemic celebration. These challenges need to be addressed from a newer frame of reference to contextualize a discourse on security, peace and conflict from women specific lens.

This conference aims to offer newer insights into women's narratives of peace, conflict and security in South Asia. It also aims to map the role of women's agency as well as their language of resistance and empowerment expressed through various creative forms of art, cinema and literature in South Asia.

The present conference is an invitation to participate in this discourse on diverse platforms.

Research based papers are invited on the following sub-themes:

1. Women in war: South Asian context in History
2. Women in conflict zones: Sites of violence, Agencyhood and Autonomy
3. Women at crossroads: Development, Citizenship and Justice
4. Internal conflicts and women: South Asian experience
5. Absence of women in South Asian peace process: Roots and Routes
6. Individual v/s group rights: Women in cultural, ethnic and religious imagination in South Asia
7. Women (in) at war: Depiction in Literature, Art and Cinema
8. Women as peacemaker: Narratives, Experiences and Activism
9. Peace in South Asia: Mapping the Gendered Future
10. Any other pertinent topic which is related to the theme.

Please send your abstracts (*Font-Times New Roman, 12*) of about 300 words to (wecop.conference@gmail.com) on or before **30th October 2018**. Last date for the submission of full research paper is **10th of November, 2018**.

Registration Fee- Rs. **800/-** for Researchers/Students and Rs. **1000/-** for teachers.

The conference is looking forward to a rewarding discourse on a very significant area of Peace Research