

### **Short bio-note of plenary speakers:**

**Sandro Mezzadra:** He is an Associate Professor of “History of Political Thought” at the Department of Politics, Institutions, History, the University of Bologna. He has published widely on the areas of migration, postcolonial theory, contemporary capitalism, Italian *operaismo* and autonomist Marxism. In recent years his focus has been the relations between globalization, migration and citizenship.

**Anisuzzaman:** He is an eminent academic of Bengali literature. He was a Professor of Bengali at the University of Dhaka and is Professor Emeritus in the same department. He has received the Bangla Academy Award, the Ananda Purashkar and the Pandit Iswarchandra Vidyasagar Gold Plaque from the Asiatic Society of Kolkata.

**Ibn Abdur Rehman:** He is a Pakistani peace and human-rights advocate and a veteran communist. He is the founding chair of the Pakistan-India Peoples’ Forum for Peace and Democracy and also the director of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan and plays a crucial role in promoting peace between India and Pakistan.

**Ritu Menon:** She is a publisher, writer, independent scholar and activist. She is the cofounder of Kali for Women, India's first and oldest feminist press and is active in the women's and women's studies movements in India and South Asia. She has co-edited several anthologies of stories by Indian women.

**Walter Fernandez:** He is the Director of North Eastern Social Research Centre, Guwahati, India. He has a long list of publications to his name like, *Climate Change and Tribal Sustainable Living: Responses from the Northeast, Modernisation and Women’s Status in North Eastern India: A Comparative Study of Six Tribes etc.*

**Anuradha Talwar:** She is President of Paschim Banga Khet Majoor Samity, an independent trade union in West Bengal. In 2001, People’s Union of Civil Liberties (Rajasthan) filed a case in the Supreme Court of India (Writ Petition 196/2001) and she was appointed as the West Bengal Advisor to the Commissioners of the Supreme Court for this case.

**Vijaylakshmi Brara:** She is an Associate Professor, Manipur Studies, Manipur University, India. She has written extensively on gender issues, She has many published and unpublished works to her name and her book, *Politics, society, and cosmology in India's North East*, stands out.

**Rakhee Kalita:** She is a social activist and a Professor at the Department of English, Cotton College, Assam. Her interest is in English Literature, Gender Studies, Peace & Conflict Studies, Postcolonial theory (Cultural Theory) and North East India Studies. She has published several papers in national and international publications and journals.

**Khesheli Chishi:** Former President, Naga Mothers’ Association, Nagaland, India. She has been actively working for the building peace, reconciliation and unity in the region. She was also a delegate at the **5th Naga Consultative Meeting**, held in Bangkok. She is actively fighting against the plight of women in Nagaland.

**Gina Shangkhram:** She is the Secretary General, Naga Peoples Movement for Human Rights. She is a prominent face of Naga activism in Manipur Hills.