

**REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP ON WOMEN AND PEACE:
MOVING TOWARDS UNSCR (1325)
AND NATIONAL ACTION PLAN (INDIA)**

Organized by
Sansristi and PIPFPD (Odhisra)
13th-14th March 2011

A workshop held in Bhubaneswar on women and peace which focused on the United Nation Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) and National Action plan (India).on March 13th & 14th 2011 .It was organized by Sansristi and PIPFPD (Odhisra Chapter).

Day – 1

In the inaugural session, Asha Hans, member of CRG and the director of Sansristi, spoke about the background of the workshop. Professor Manoranjan Mohanty as spoke person of PIPFPD told about the interest of PIPFPD on this subject. The keynote address was given by Betty A. Reardon, emeritus professor of Teacher College of Columbia University, USA.

Betty Reardon marked UNSCR (1325) as a tool for demilitarizing security. In her address, she said UNSCR (1325) was a call for all women to participate equally in peace keeping missions and security talks by the state. According to her, women civil society organizations should analyse patriarchal mechanisms that serve to maintain the militarized state security system through a gender hierarchy.

Pushpa Bhawe spoke about *SCR 1325 and its understanding in a changing world*. She said sexual violence in conflict situations is a historical experience across cultural and geographical specifications. Historically, ‘Women’s honour’ was supposed to be market of patriarchal power. Women or weak men were taken as slaves by the victorious side in ancient history. 1325 promotes the participation of women in all aspects of peace and security. However, the problem starts in implementation of the resolution. The US conception of unipolar world after the cold war has given birth to this problem of non-implementation.

Rita Manchanda’s paper *High hopes for ‘Making Women Count in Peace Making’ but disappointing results : UN resolution 1325 in South Asia* posed questions on UNSCR 1325 regarding women participation in high or low profile peace processes in South Asia. According to her, examples of high profile peace processes were Nepal, Afghanistan, Kashmir etc. Low profile peace processes include regional conflicts e.g. Naga peace talk, CHT problems etc. She stated that without a participatory democracy, one cannot have an enduring and sustainable peace.

Swarna Rajagopalan in her presentation said since 1980 the sub field of feminist international relations had offered a range of critiques and challenges to both mainstream academics and policy makers in the areas of foreign policy, security and international relations. This has coincided with a period in which various agencies of the United Nations have been a laboratory for new ideas on governance development and security. The passage of UNSCR was the product of these developments.

Sama Shrestha of the UN Women (Kathmandu, Nepal), supported the execution and implementation of Gender sensitive transitional justice mechanism in Nepal. Her research looked at the implementation of resolution 1325 in the context of the Nepal conflict and peace building strategies.

Anuradha Chenoy in her presentation questioned the way in which security is imagined in the Indian security discourse. Her case studies included the Khap panchayats, Kashmir and Bodoland. She showed how the concept of security and political ideology were constructed by patriarchal notions. Albie Sharp spoke about the possibilities of using the social determinants of health and health security as a means of reducing violence. Public health approaches, based not just on protection but on human rights, empowerment, sustainability and redistribution of resources and power offers a way of challenging state's monopoly of security.

Day -2

Ritu Dewan presented a paper titled *Patriarchy and Militarization in Jammu and Kashmir* to draw attention to some crucial issues. The women in Kashmir valley and the Hindu women of the refugee colonies in Jammu are still facing the worst forms of state violence. The condition of the women in the resettlement camps has never been discussed. Forced migration, sub-human conditions of existence, collapse of the livelihood security and several other inter linked factors have led to a dramatic increase in the level of oppression and exploitation of Kashmiri Hindu women. As in the case of the valley, issues related to migrant women have not been discussed either by political or apolitical groups or organizations.

Rekha Chowdhary spoke on *Conflict, Gender and Agency in J&K: Challenges for Gender Perspectives in peace building*. She urged to integrate a gender perspective in peace building and to evolve gender context of conflict and to see how women are placed vis-à-vis conflict situation. She said women in Jammu and Kashmir are victimized both socially as well as politically. Social structure of J&K is patriarchal and it consciously subordinates gender identity to Kashmiri identity. According to her, in J&K efforts were made to deny equal citizenship rights to women by mainstream as well as the separatist political groups as late as 2010.

Achan Munglen spoke about the struggle of the Burmese women. Khesheli Chishi, of Naga Mothers' Association (NMA) spoke about NMA's struggle against alcoholism among men and their role in Northeast India. She discussed the strategies of NMA to consolidate the position of women who have to struggle hard to feed their families.

Armene Modi spoke about the possibilities of implementing SCR 1325 at the micro level. She shared her experience on working among rural women and their concept of human security.

Sally Maclean read a paper on *Gender, Peace building and Conflict: Why media matters*. She said media plays a central role in the construction and representation of gender. Her presentation considered connections between UNSCR 1325 and the media, and highlighted why media literacy is essential to strengthen both human rights and communication rights. She concluded with an analysis of the implications of media in terms of gender peace building and conflict.

Ammu Joseph said the mass media today was omnipotent and omnipresent. Therefore, media has a role in reporting and analysing conflict and its impact and also in the peace building process.

The workshop ended with a round table discussion on NAP for India and South Asia. This was a decision making session. It was decided the responsibility would be taken for NAP and it would be carried away through communication and circulation.