Justice, Security, and Vulnerable Populations of South Asia
2025

Calcutta Research Group

The Calcutta Research Group (CRG) in collaboration with the Fund for Global Human Rights has been working on the two-year research programme "Justice, Security, and Vulnerable Populations of South Asia" in 2024-2025. CRG, while hosting the programme, engaged with project related activities such as mobilisation of networks, policy studies, workshops, dialogues, consultative meetings, webinars, public lectures, conferences, translations of relevant texts in non-English South Asian languages such as Bengali, Meiteilon, Hmar and Assamese, and publications. Engaging with practitioners from multiple backgrounds, ground level dialogues, dissemination, and in particular network building have been some of the adopted approaches. The focus has been around intersectionality of issues with security positioned at the crossroads of food, water, gender, land, other dimensions of security of life, climate security, digital security, public health and biosecurity, borders, borderlands, displacement, and marginalities, and conversely the militarization of society that causes insecurities all around, with the approach directed at the central theme of decolonizing the security question in South Asia. For details of the research programme see: http://www.mcrg.ac.in/Security_Studies/Security_Studies_Home.asp
For the segments and activities of the research programme last year see the full report here: http://www.mcrg.ac.in/Security_Studies/Annual%20Report%202024-Justice,%20Security.pdf

1. This year we are aiming to work on:

    (i) Research papers addressing the broad themes of – urban security, caste and security, and neighbourhood policy and security.
    (ii) A workshop on the theme, "Cities, Migrants and Insecurities" - for researchers, academics, urban studies experts, legal activists, policy analysts, teachers in security and peace studies, economists, and other social activists like media activists working on issues of non-traditional security, digital democracy, and histories of peace accords and dialogues.
    (iii) Policy-briefs including legal briefs as campaign material on food security and water security.
    (iv) Publications (including edited volume, policy briefs, research papers, reports) – online and in print.

    (v) Policy dialogue, peace dialogue, local level public discussion, and public lecture by jurists/non-traditional security specialists on climate security, food security, etc. (one web-discussion and one lecture).
    (vi) Translations of relevant research output and policy briefs in some of the South Asian languages.

    (vii) A South Asian conference of legal experts and social leaders on security, protection, and justice.

    (viii) Creating a network of specialists and public activists on non-traditional security issues.
    (ix) Web-based activities, publicity, and resource material for public access.
    (x) Building up library resources for open use by scholar-activists on security and justice studies.
    (xi) Web-based publicity and resource material for public access.

2. One advisory meeting on 9 July 2025 for planning research activities for the year and the need for innovation in the work.

3. There will be an annual report at the end of the year.

Through the events, activities, and dialogues organised under the programme, CRG aims to bring the issue of security among rights activists, jurists, young representatives, and women activists in the conflict areas, encouraging and addressing the debate on "Whose Security?" The task is to work with a new understanding of security based on people's understanding of the issues as distinct from a top-down approach, its attainment and popularisation. CRG looks ahead to decolonise the traditional approaches to the security question and weave the question with interrogations on life, peace, justice, and security of food, water, land, and other resources.