

# South Asia Movement Building and Human Rights Institute

1 - 5 November 2010

Kathmandu, Nepal

The South Asia Movement Building and Human Rights Institute is an annual five-day residential training program designed by CREA. This Institute is designed for women working in NGOs in South Asia in mid-level leadership positions, and aims to build the conceptual clarity of participants on gender, feminism and movement building and their link to human rights in the South Asian context. The Institute also aims to build the skills of participants for mobilizing oppressed / marginalized women to claim their rights.

## Course Content

This Institute offers mid-level leaders in NGOs an opportunity to enhance their conceptual understanding as well as build their skills to do effective activism and advocacy on human rights. The Institute will build:

- i. Conceptual understanding of participants on gender, feminism and movement building and their link to human rights.
- ii. Strategic skills by looking at and analyzing some social movements and successful advocacy campaigns in South Asia.
- iii. Communication skills that will enable participants to prepare effective written communication material, social messaging in videos and documentaries and use ICTs for human rights work.

Activists and academics from the global South will teach the course using classroom instruction, group work, case studies, simulation exercises and films.

## Organizer

CREA is a feminist human rights organization based in New Delhi, India, and led by women from the global South. CREA promotes, protects, and advances women's human rights and the sexual rights of all people by building leadership capacities; strengthening organizations and social movements; increasing access to new information, knowledge, and resources; and creating enabling social and policy environments.

## Participants

Women working in NGOs in South Asia, in mid-level leadership positions, and committed to human rights work are eligible. Twenty five participants will be selected based on their application form. Participants are required to stay for the duration of the course.

## Costs

The Institute is supported by the Ford Foundation, allowing CREA to cover tuition, boarding and lodging costs for all participants. Participants must cover their own travel expenses. Travel scholarships are available for a few participants.

## Venue and Dates

The South Asia Movement Building and Human Rights Institute will be held in Kathmandu, Nepal, from 1 - 5 November 2010.



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# Faculty

## Core Faculty

**Srilatha Batliwala** is an India-based Scholar Associate with the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID). Her current work focuses on building women's movements and organizations, feminist leadership concepts and practices, and feminist monitoring and evaluation. She is Co-Chair of the Board of Just Associates, and a member of the Board of Gender at Work, PUKAR (Partnership for Urban Knowledge and Research), and IT for Change. She has over 35 years experience as a grassroots activist, gender equality advocate, and women's studies teacher and researcher in India and internationally. Srilatha has published extensively on a range of women's issues. Her most recent publications are *Changing Their World: Concepts and Practices of Women's Movements*, and an edited volume, *Transnational Civil Society: An Introduction* (Kumarian Press, August 2006).

**Sunita Kujur** is a Program Manager at CREA. She has worked for fourteen years on issues of sexuality, gender, health and women's and human rights. At CREA, her work involves strengthening feminist leadership, organizations and movements in South and Central Asia and East Africa; national advocacy on Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code; and advocacy on sexual rights at the Human Rights Council. Her other work has involved telephone counseling on sexuality issues, bringing out publications on sexuality for young people, sexuality training and, developing and implementing community based sexual and reproductive health projects for women and adolescent girls. Sunita is a part of the women's and sexual rights movements in India.

## Participating Faculty

**Ayesha Khan\*** is a Senior Researcher at the Collective for Social Science Research in Karachi. Her work covers a range of issues, in particular gender and development, reproductive health, social policy and conflict/refugee issues in the region. She has extensive experience in qualitative research design. Currently, she is studying the effects of paid work on women's empowerment in Pakistan as part of a multi-country consortium, *Pathways to Women's Empowerment*. She is also working on a study to measure the costs of unsafe abortion related morbidity and mortality in Pakistan, funded by the Packard Foundation. She has an MA South Asian Studies from School of Oriental and African Studies, UK, and a BA Philosophy from Yale University. \*To be confirmed

**Bishakha Datta** is a non-fiction writer and filmmaker. Her first book, *And Who Will Make the Chapatis?* focused on rural women's participation in politics and she is currently writing *Selling Sex*, a full-length book on the struggle for sex workers' rights in India. Her two most recent films include *In The Flesh*, which explores the lives of three people in sex work and *Taza Khabar*, which explores a rural community newspaper run by eight women. Bishakha is the founder and executive director of *Point of View*, a Mumbai-based not-for-profit organization that promotes the points of view of women through media, art and culture. She is on the boards of several non-profits, including CREA, Breakthrough, and the Wikimedia Foundation.

**Kaushalya Perera** is a sexual rights activist working with the Women's Support Group, a support and advocacy group for lesbians, bisexual women and transgendered persons in Sri Lanka. She is a resource person on gender and sexuality for the WSG in its advocacy work in rural areas, where the Group works extensively with women community leaders to change attitudes towards women's sexuality. At present, Kaushalya is engaged in the WSG's efforts to build an oral history archive of Sri Lankan queer women's life histories. In her other life, she is a linguist.

**Maheen Sultan\*** is Coordinator of the Research Programme on Pathways of Women's Empowerment, South Asia Hub which is part of the Development Studies Programme of BRAC University, on a part-time basis. She has been doing freelance consultancies on social development and gender issues for several years and earlier has worked in various multilateral/bilateral development agencies such as UNDP, UNICEF and the Swiss Development Cooperation. She has been working with programme appraisal, annual reviews and formulation missions. She is a member of Naripokkho, a Bangladeshi women's activist organisation. She has worked closely with the Government in the post-Beijing conference period on gender mainstreaming and CEDAW reporting. Her research interests include women's mobilisation and organisation. She lives and works in Bangladesh and has a family with two young children. \*To be confirmed

**Rita Thapa** is widely recognized for her groundbreaking work in founding Tewa. Rita has over twenty-five years experience as a feminist educator and community activist, initiating and supporting institutions for women's empowerment and for peace in Nepal and Asia as well as internationally. She is currently involved with *Nagarik Aawaz*, an initiative for conflict transformation and peace-building in Nepal, and *Dhaka Weaves*. She is known and appreciated around the world as an inspiring resource person on feminist leadership, and peace and development and has extensive experience in building links among community, non-governmental, governmental, and academic institutions. She has served on the International Committee of the Regional Center for Strategic Studies, Sri Lanka, is a past Board Member and Chair of the Global Fund for Women and the International Board of Urgent Action Fund. Rita is an Ashoka fellow and one of the 1000 peace women around the globe.

Applications are due on or before 10 September 2010. Application received after the due date will not be considered. Please send your application to Suhsma Luthra at [sluthra@creaworld.org](mailto:sluthra@creaworld.org).



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