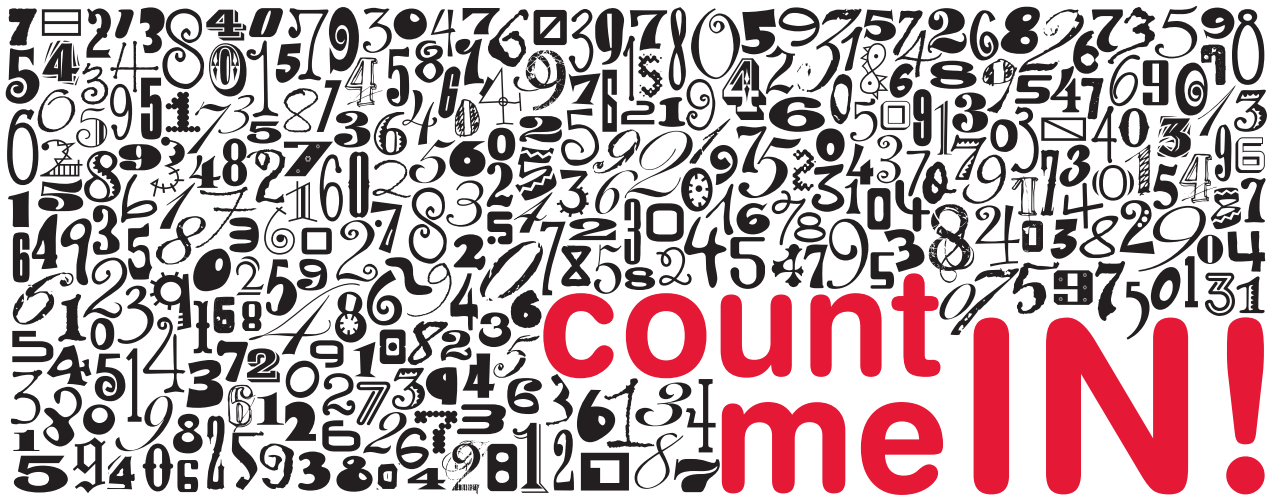


count me IN! conference 16-18 APRIL 2011, KATHMANDU, NEPAL



The **count me IN! conference** brings together for the first time marginalised women in South Asia – sex workers, disabled, single, young, lesbian, HIV-positive women, and trans people from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka to discuss violence against women and strategies of resistance. The conference is a celebratory space for indigenous forms of feminism where resistance to violence faced by women at the grassroots is not imported from strategies defined by the women’s movement, but rather born out of ordinary women’s courage and abilities to fight for their rights and justice.

The **count me IN! initiative** is a CREA programme, which arose from the realisation that the movements, feminist spaces, programs and policies created should include all women, but they don’t! CREA’s vision is a world in which all women, particularly those who are marginalised due to their gender or sexual expression, ability, profession, or marital status, are included, counted in and given equal recognition and respect.

Over three days a range of activists, lawyers, policy makers, artists, media persons, filmmakers, writers and performers will address an array of issues and themes. We will celebrate different forms of resistance that have worked to reduce violence against marginalised women, through plenaries, conversations, film screenings, panels, outstanding theatre, art, dance and stand-up comedy performances.

At the close of the conference participants will have:

Learned about innovative models of resistance from sex workers, lesbians, disabled women and trans people. **Engaged** with the women’s movement, and located ways in which to address violence against marginalised women. **Built** knowledge and scholarship on violence against South Asian sex workers, lesbians, disabled women and trans people. **Strategised** on ways to influence policy-makers to prioritise ending violence against sex workers, lesbians, disabled and single women, and trans people.



CREA INDIA 7 Mathura Road, Jangpura B, New Delhi 110014, India
t 91-11-2437-7707 f 91-11-2437-7708

CREA NEW YORK 116 East 16th Street, 7th FL, New York, NY 10003, USA
t 1-212-599-1071 f 1-212-599-1075

e crea@creaworld.org www.creaworld.org

YOU count

Violence. Marginalisation. Resistance.

You've read the theories; interacted with the activists, writers, donors, journalists; watched the performances and seen the exhibitions; and now you're determined to 'do something.' Here's your chance.

Read your daily newspaper, and look at the ways in which narratives around sex work, disability, same-sex love and trans persons are framed.

Go to your university, and think about accessibility, about pejorative expressions used to describe same sex love, about forms of violence that had never crossed your mind.

Go to your office, and look at policies and benefits for married heterosexual couples, about the forms and boxes that need to know your gender, about the elevator that doesn't exist and the staircase that is the only bridge between the ground and the top floor.

Pause the next time you hear the word 'whore'; every time someone says 'poor thing' in reference to a trans person, a sex worker, a lesbian or a disabled woman; when someone you know says, "that's so gay!"

Speak up the next time you hear a joke about disabled people: you can change the way your friends and family think about ability.

Engage your organisation in discussions about sex work: you can expand support for sex workers' rights.

Send your children to schools that affirm multiple genders and multiple sexualities.

Go to hospitals that do not discriminate against trans people or sex workers.

Give that ten, hundred, or thousand rupee note to an organisation or movement that is working towards your vision of social change.

Protest police violence against sex workers, lesbians, and trans people.

Reject local, state and national governments that propagate unequal policies.

Vote in representatives who stand up for what you believe in.

Here's your chance. **Act. Resist. Count yourself in.**

GET counting!

CREA's Seed Grant Initiative invites Count Me In! participants to design their own projects, in South Asia, which address social exclusion and promote positive social change. We encourage applicants to use their creativity to design projects and employ innovative techniques that focus on ending stigma, violence and discrimination against marginalised women. Proposals for research on topics related to social exclusion, ideas for art exhibits, activists writing articles for a local newspaper: projects can vary in the ways they address violence and marginalisation. Ten projects will be selected for funding at \$1,000 each.

Individuals, groups or organisations must prepare a written statement (not to exceed 1000 words) which describes the project (who, what, where, how) including expected outcomes and prospects for future impact. Proposals should include the pre-approval of all involved parties and organisations involved in the project. Proposals should be submitted electronically to crea@creaworld.org on or before the 15th of May 2011. Applicants must be from and based in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal or Bangladesh. For more information, please log on to www.countmeinconference.org.