



Program Director:  
Radha Kumar

## DELHI POLICY GROUP

*Program on Peace and Conflict*

### *Afghanistan-India-Pakistan Women's Triologue*

## COMMON PRINCIPLES, UNCOMMON ACTION

Kabul, October 2-3, 2009

Central Hotel - Shahr e Nau, Kabul

### Agenda

#### Friday, October 2, 2009:

9.30-10.00am Opening Concert by Mr. Ghazal Srinivas who will be singing songs of peace

10-11.00 am. Opening Session: *Welcome Remarks: Professor Radha Kumar, Delhi Policy Group, Shinkai Karokhel, Member National Assembly of Afghanistan*

**Keynote:** *Husn Bano Ghazanfar, Minister for Women's Affairs, Afghanistan*

**Chairs:** *Shukria Barakzai, MNA, Najia Zawari, UNIFEM*

11.30 am-1pm. Session I: *Building on our Common Principles*

In the first Women's Triologue, held in March 2009, we decided on the following common principles: (a) we would oppose any peace agreement which violated women's rights or human rights; (b) we would seek to stop carryover of strategic rivalries to each other's terrain; and (c) we would support each other's campaigns in peacemaking.

How and in which ways can we translate these principles into action on the ground?

**Speakers (7-10 minutes each):** *Bushra Gohar, MNA Pakistan, Mahbooba Sarraj, Equal Access, Jyoti Malhotra, journalist*

**Chairs:** *Radha Kumar, Delhi Policy Group, Rida Azimi, Afghanistan Senate*

12 noon-1 pm: Round table discussion



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1-2 pm.

Lunch

2-4 pm

Session II: *Peacemaking initiatives and the role of women*

In all three of our countries women have been engaged in peacemaking on the ground, yet few are able to influence the shape of the peace table let alone be present at it. While all three of our governments have made and are making attempts to ensure better participation of women in government and politics, especially at local and parliament levels, in which ways can we help improve and strengthen these efforts?

Is there a regional role in this process? Should we, as women, take the initiative in pushing the SAARC Social Charter to take on programs that impact on the ground?

**Speakers** (7-10 minutes each): *Susani Wardak, Kabul University, Renuka Misra, Sadbhavana Trust, Beena Sarwar, journalist*

**Chairs:** *Dr Nadera Hayat, Deputy Minister for Education, Rahela Hasheem Siddiqui, Advisor Civil Service Commission*

2.30-4 pm: Round table discussion

### Saturday, October 3, 2009:

10 am- 1 pm. Session III: *Common problems and challenges/concerns*

One issue that is common to all three countries is skewed personal laws (applying to the duties of a wife and her rights to divorce/maintenance and property) that render women more rather than less vulnerable. In India and Afghanistan the problem is especially acute for women in minority communities. In Pakistan and Afghanistan, moreover, there is a disturbing trend against girl's education, and frequent attacks on girls' schools.

What can we do redress these imbalances? Should the community or government step in to look after ill-treated or abandoned women? Or should there be an "opt out" clause in all personal laws to permit women living under personal law to seek redress through civil law? What about affirmative action for girls' education?

**Speakers** (7-10 minutes each): *Professor Zoya Hasan, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Baela Raza Jamil, Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi, Nargis Nihan, Ministry of Education*

**Chairs:** *Sara Amiryar, Minister Advisor, Ministry of Education, Safia Siddiqi, MNA*

10.30-1 pm: Round table discussion



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1-2 pm. Lunch

2-4 pm. Session IV: *Possibilities for common plan of action*

Summary of key points, identifying recommendations, agreeing short conference statement

***Closing Remarks:*** *Fatima Gaillani, Red Cross*  
*Nafeesa Shah, PPP*  
*Bharati Ray, ICCR*

***Official Conclusion and Vote of Thanks:*** *Masooda Jalal,*  
*Former Minister of Women's Affairs, Afghanistan*

***Chairs:*** *K Lalita, Yugantar, Orzala Ashraf ICCO*

4-5.30 pm *Press conference*

*Please note that this Trialogue is organized as a Round Table discussion. Chairs are requested to put the key session points before participants, taking no more than 3-5 minutes, and Speakers are requested to give key ideas, taking no more than 7-10 minutes, so as to maximize productivity. Chairs are also requested to summarize the suggestions made during discussion at the end of each session.*

*The focus of the Trialogue is on the participants, who are expected to offer their views in all the sessions.*

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