

# Women, Peace and Security in India

## Informal Citizen's Consultation

On Formulation of National Action Plan  
on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and  
Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)



**Date**

13 May 2015

**Venue**

Seminar Hall No 1  
India International Centre  
40, Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi

Report on  
Informal Citizen's Consultation on Formulation of National Action Plan

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> May 2015, Time: 11 am to 1 pm  
Venue: Conference Hall, India International Centre, New Delhi

Organized by:

Control Arms Foundation of India (CAFI), Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network (MWGSN) in collaboration with Northeast India Women Initiative for Peace (NEIWIP)



From Right- Ms. Rashmi Singh, Lt. Gen (Retd.) Dr. BS Malik, Mr. Ravinder Pal Singh

An Informal Citizen's Consultation on Formulation of National Action Plan in alignment with United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 and Convention on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) to discuss on issues of Women, Peace and Security in India was held on 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2015 at India International Centre, 40, Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi, Delhi 110003. The event was hosted by Control Arms Foundation of India (CAFI), northeast India Women Initiative for Peace (NEIWIP) and Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network (MWGSN) in collaboration with National Forum for Action on Convergence (NFAC).

The objective of the meeting was for the engagement of experts, academicians, lawyers and civil society for strategic planning and formulation of National Action Plan (NAP) with reference to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and CEDAW

as per India's current conflict situation. The United Nations Security Council now recognizes that women's exclusion from peace processes contravenes their rights, and that including women and gender perspectives in decision-making can strengthen prospects for sustainable peace. This recognition was formalized in October 2000 with the unanimous adoption of United Nations Security Council, Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325) on women, peace and security. However in India, work on UNSCR 1325 leaves much to be desired.

As per the present context, India needs to come up with a National Action Plan on United Nations Security Council 1325 as its implementation on issues concerning Women Peace and Security will help in the increase of absolute participation of women in decision making forums and space, the inclusion of women as peace agents and socio-economic empowerment of women of the region which will help in consolidating peace and help women and girls affected by patriarchal norms and violence.

Rashmi Singh, Former Executive Director, National Mission for Empowerment of Women (NMEW) and Convenor, National Forum for Action on Convergence(NFAC) also discussed on the need for accountability mechanisms which are required to be added in the institutions for the formulation and implementation of a National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 & CEDAW. Strategizing on the formulation of a National Action Plan she stressed on the importance of measurement of outcomes as under NAP.

Lt Gen (Retd.) Dr BS Malik, PVSM, AVSM and President, CAFI stressed on the need for better understanding of gender centric issues and problems and the problems of inclusion in daily life. He cited the examples of NCERT now including equal number of girls and boys in their illustrations and examples which help to create a better understanding of equality in young impressionable minds which would further the cause of inclusion of women as equal participants in decision making forum and not just typecast them in stereotypical gender roles.

Binalakshmi Nepam, founder of Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network and Secretary General of CAFI highlighted that the gender budget has indicated a downward trend in the current session even though disparities in gender equality are persistent. She emphasized on the need for inclusion of women's security as a part of a national security problem and not an isolated issue. She mentioned that Nepal and Philippines are the only countries in Asia to have enacted a National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 and it is important for the Government of India to engage with civil society for the formulation of a National Action Plan envisioning issues of women, peace & security.

Seema Mustafa, eminent journalist and Editor-in-Chief of The Citizen, mentioned about her experiences of working with victims of sexual violence in conflict situations in certain districts of Jammu & Kashmir and Assam and the routine stigmatization and trauma that is attached in such circumstances. The implementation of a National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 would be able to address these problems as they relate to

gender sensitivity of security personnel and also lays down guidelines for responding to such situations as well as for rehabilitation.

Ravinder Pal Singh, Defence Analyst and formerly associated with Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) commented on the lack of women representation and since they are the ones who are more affected by violence and conflict situations, their representation should outnumber men. He also talked about the importance of building public opinion and understanding on UNSCR 1325 and CEDAW.

Anju Talukdar, Executive Director, MARG, who works for legal empowerment and awareness, also included in her observations that awareness of women's rights as under the Constitution, CEDAW and other mechanisms needs to be improved. She discussed on the inclusion of state legal mechanisms in such processes for the implementation of NAP and as a monitoring body for evaluation of outcomes.

### **Recommendations**

Based on discussion at a round table, the conference participants made the following recommendations for a National Action Plan (NAP), as follows:

- The need for accountability mechanisms which are required to be added in the institutions for the formulation and implementation of a National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 & CEDAW
- The importance of measurement of outcomes as under NAP
- The need for better understanding of gender centric issues and problems and the problems of inclusion in daily life
- The need for inclusion of women's security as a part of a national security problem and not an isolated issue
- The Government of India to engage with civil society for the formulation of a National Action Plan envisioning issues of women, peace & security
- The importance of building public opinion and understanding on UNSCR 1325 and CEDAW
- Awareness of women's rights as under the Constitution, CEDAW and other mechanisms needs to be improved
- The inclusion of state legal mechanisms in such processes for the implementation of NAP and as a monitoring body for evaluation of outcomes

The consultation revolved around the formulation of a strategy for drafting a National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 and CEDAW and the barriers, limitations, opportunities, etc. that are to be taken into account for the herculean task ahead. It was consensually agreed that the engagement of the National and State Commissions for Women, other government bodies has to be engaged in the process for a fruitful outcome. The informal consultation was attended by other prominent experts on peace and conflict which included Wing Cdr. (Retd.) Praful Bakshi, ICRC consultant, Dr.

Kaushikee, Associate Professor, Jamia Millia Islamia, Mr. Ajay Mahajan, National Forum for Action on Convergence, Mr. MV Rappai, Institute of Chinese Studies and Dr. Shaily Bhashanjaly, NFAC amongst others.

-----

**For more information, please contact:**

**Manipur Office:** Manipur Women Gun Survivor Network and Control Arms foundation of India  
Langthabal, Mantrikhong, Thong Ahanbi, Behind Manipur University Campus, Imphal West,  
Manipur-795003, India. Website: [www.womensurvivorsnetwork.org](http://www.womensurvivorsnetwork.org), [www.neiwip.blogspot.com](http://www.neiwip.blogspot.com),  
Email: [Binalakshmi@gmail.com](mailto:Binalakshmi@gmail.com), [sujata.cafi@gmail.com](mailto:sujata.cafi@gmail.com)

**Delhi Office:** Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network and Control Arms Foundation of India  
B 5 / 146, First Floor, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi - 110 029, India Website: [www.cafi-online.org](http://www.cafi-online.org),  
Phone: +91-11-46018541, Fax +91-11-26166234