

Sangat



A South Asian Feminist Network

## **19<sup>th</sup> Feminist Capacity Building Course on Gender, Sustainable Livelihoods, Human Rights and Peace**

**14 September to 14 October, 2014, TEWA Center,  
Kathmandu, Nepal**

### **BACKGROUND**

The Sangat Month Long Courses are designed to provide clarity, dialogue and shared understanding on concepts and issues related to gender, justice, poverty, sustainable development, peace, democracy and human rights. Started in the year 1984, this South Asian course has run 18 editions through which over 650 women activists and gender trainers, women's studies teachers, journalists, media women etc. have improved their conceptual capacities and sharpened/developed feminist perspectives. Many of these women are now in senior positions in different organizations and many are conducting similar gender workshops, women's studies courses, in their own countries.

These courses have also led to effective networking between participants and their organizations at the South Asian level.

Seeing that there is still a dearth of effective gender and human rights trainers/facilitators of collective learning processes, Sangat has decided to turn the 19<sup>th</sup> Course into a Training of Trainers. We will focus much more on discussing training methodology, presentations by participants, training materials etc.

***In this Course we will be happy to have women who have already attended this course, who are doing trainings or wish to do them and who are willing to participate once again. Of course, in addition to Sangat Alumna we will take new participants who wish to build their training capacities. Thus we will develop a pool of good gender trainers in South Asia and other participating countries.***

### **OBJECTIVES**

The main objectives of the next course are:

- To create a pool of skilled, effective and feminist trainers on Gender, Human Rights and Development who are capable of training different constituencies
- To facilitate an intensive dialogue and sharing of experiences amongst women development practitioners and trainers.
- To develop skills, in feminist training methodology, to share training tools and create a network of trainers to support the learning process
- To provide participants with an opportunity to increase their understanding, awareness and sensitivity to a range of issues related to gender, peace, development, justice and human rights.
- To share information and build a feminist perspective on ongoing processes of liberalization, globalization, militarization, identity politics, conflict transformation and peace building.
- To help participants increase their self awareness and self confidence and enhance their analytical, communication and training capacities.
- To strengthen networking and co-operation for advocacy and action for sustainable development, gender equality, human rights, peace and holistic health in South Asia and elsewhere.

## PARTICIPANTS

The attempt is to source participants from a diverse but specific pool of workers, professionals, researchers and so on. Applicants must be professionally or academically engaged with or as:

- Trainers/facilitators of capacity building processes/programmes on gender, peace, development, rights and so on.
- The applicant must have a minimum of five years' work experience and some experience as trainers or facilitators
- The applicant MUST have a good working knowledge of spoken and written English.
- Must have a background working on women's empowerment, human rights, agriculture, sustainable livelihoods, labour, holistic health, peace, democracy, secularism and so on;

A steadily increasing demand for the course has forced Sangat to increase its seat capacity from 30 to a maximum of 40 women.

## DURATION, DATES, VENUE AND LANGUAGE

The course will be **residential**. The **dates** are **14 September - 14 October 2014**.

The **venue** will be the **TEWA Centre** on the **outskirts of Kathmandu, Nepal**.

The working language of the course will be **English**. Therefore a good knowledge of written and spoken English is necessary.

## CONTENT

The course will cover the following subjects although the exact topics will be decided on the basis of the needs and interests of the participants, and through discussions with the resource persons.

- Patriarchy, gender, masculinity, femininity, feminism, women's movement and so on
- Neo-liberal paradigm of development and its impact on poverty and gender; livelihoods and alternative models
- Climate Change and implications on South Asia
- Violence and violence against women, VAW and the legal framework
- Gender and human rights, CEDAW and other UN Conventions Religion, secularism , communalism and spirituality
- Caste, untouchability, Dalits and their rights in South Asia
- Militarization, identity politics, conflict transformation and peace
- Self-awareness and self-growth
- Leadership and confidence building
- Mental and emotional health; reproductive health; sexuality and politics of the body
- Feminist training methodologies

## METHODOLOGY

The methodology of the course will be **participatory and experiential**.

The course will also provide opportunities for participants to acquire and develop training skills, through 'learning by doing'. Participants will be involved in deciding the daily schedules, planning and coordinating specific sessions, making presentations on issues, preparing learning materials and documenting the sessions. Attempts will be made to minimize the formal divisions between 'organizers' and 'participants'. The emphasis will be on group discussions and case presentations.

Relevant **reading materials** will be identified and provided and **films** on specific issues will be screened as part of the sessions.

In order to make the process more lively and effective **songs, dance, music, plays, posters** and **films** will be used throughout the course.

We will also make an effort to organize visits to local NGOs/women's organizations and encourage participation in public events.

**Yoga** and other **physical exercises** will be part of the daily schedule.

## RESOURCE PERSONS

Resource persons will be knowledgeable feminist activists/scholars who are part of South Asian women's movements and are committed to supporting processes of women's empowerment and solidarity. In the past, the following have acted as resource persons.

- **Bangladesh:** Farida Akhtar, Khushi Kabir, Sultana Kamal, Sara Hossain, Rizwana Hassan, Amena Mohsin, Lubna Marium
- **India:** Kamla Bhasin, Abha Bhaiya, Martin Macwan, V.Rukmini Rao, Manisha Gupte, Nandita Shah, Nandita Gandhi, Deepa Dhanraj, Amrita Chhachhi, Lata Mani
- **Nepal:** Mina Acharya, Durga Ghimire, Sapana Pradhan-Malla, Saloni Singh, Mira Mishra, Renu Rajbhandari, Hisila Yami, Indira Shrestha
- **Pakistan:** Rubina Saigol, Ambreen Ahmad, Nighat Said Khan, Maria Rashid, Azra Talat Sayeed
- **Sri Lanka:** Kumari Jayawardena

## **COSTS**

Participants or their organizations are expected to pay for their travel and \$1400 to cover costs of food and lodging. Please note that Sangat does not charge any fee at all for the course.

Sangat will provide **some fellowships** for those who are not able to pay for their participation. Please note that fellowships are limited and will be on first come first served basis.

## **HOW TO APPLY**

Applications/nominations should be accompanied by:

1. Personal information sheet (attached along with) and application form
  2. Detailed CV of the applicant/nominee with details of trainings conducted.
  3. An 800-1000 words write up on why the applicant/nominee would like to attend this course.
- In case the applicant/nominee is not able to pay, a fellowship application will have to be sent to Sangat.
  - Please ensure that you have a passport with at least one year validity before you apply for this course.

Applications/nominations should reach Sangat on email latest by **30<sup>th</sup> June, 2014.**

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