

The Jammu Dialogue

18-19 March, 2012

Jammu and Kashmir Women's Concern

Consensus Statement

We, the women from different regions of Jammu and Kashmir, and having different political views, held 2-days long deliberations on conflict and gender from 18-19th March, 2012. The meeting was facilitated by Centre for Dialogue and Reconciliation (CDR). We agreed on the following consensus statement:

We express concern over the growing violence against women and children, due to increased militarization of society which simultaneously results in increased levels of domestic violence.

We express equal concern over the status of half-widows, enforced disappearances, killings, and cases of rape.

We want that the questions pertaining to the legal and social status of half-widows be addressed. We seek the help of civil society in this endeavour.

We reiterate our demand for the beginning of a process for demilitarization, revocation of draconian laws like AFSPA and PSA.

We call upon the government to ensure legal justice in all cases of human rights violations, including cases of molestations and rapes.

We also recommend psychological counselling for victim-survivors.

We call upon the government to make the Police Reforms Bill draft public and initiate debate, ensuring participation of women before the final draft is ready so that it is suitably humane and gender sensitive.

We also call for similar participation of women on debates on the Domestic Violence Act.

Expressing concern over the non-effectiveness of the panchayats, we call upon the government to hold regular elections, empower the panchayats and follow it up with sustained training programs for the panches and the sarpanches.

Thirty three percent reservations for women are demanded for all levels of governance, starting from halka panchayats to the legislative assemblies.

We demand adequate representation of women, based on merit, in all statutory bodies, where all appointments should be depoliticized.