

Cross-LoC Women's Dialogue

Women's participation in intra-Kashmir gatherings has not been adequate. This Cross-LoC Women's Dialogue seeks to address this absence by bringing women to the dialogue table. One of the objectives of the dialogue is to strengthen the work of women's organizations and other civil society women stakeholders on both sides of the Jammu and Kashmir state for Cross-LoC peacebuilding. The discussions in this dialogue are meant to help build a wider peace constituency on both sides of the LoC. The dialogue is also meant to develop ideas for interventions that local actors, women's organizations, and government agencies can use to contain recurring problems in the divided state of Jammu & Kashmir.

The Centre for Dialogue and Reconciliation is the first organization that brought women from both sides of the LoC at the "Cross-LoC Women's Conference" at Srinagar in 2009. This was the first gathering of women from the divided state of Jammu and Kashmir to come together in such a large number to discuss and share their pain of separation, the impact of the 20 year old armed conflict on women, social and economic fabric of their society, and explore ways to play their role in peacebuilding processes.

The second cross-LoC women's dialogue was held at Gulmarg in 2011. The women took forward the discussions from the Srinagar dialogue. One of the outcomes of this work has been the formation of the "AJK Women for Peace Organisation" (AJKPO).

The third Cross-LoC Women's Dialogue was held at Muzaffarabad in November 2012, organized by AJKPO. The women's delegation from Jammu and Kashmir, went to Muzaffarabad crossing the LoC to participate in the conference there. This was a historic event as this was the first women's delegation to cross the LoC. This and the Muzaffarabad conference had very wide media coverage on both sides of the LoC.

In 2014, CDR will continue with this initiative to strengthen the women's networks across the LOC.