

Resource Group Members (RGM)

List in Alphabetical Order

Arthur van Diesen



Arthur van Diesen, Senior Social Development Adviser, coordinating social development advice to Department for International Development (DFID) India and its key counterparts; has been involved in policy-focused social research and analysis, as well as technical advice on social policy; poverty reduction strategies; civil society; voice and accountability; research, monitoring and evaluation.

Flavia Agnes



Flavia Agnes, feminist scholar, women's rights lawyer; involved actively in the women's movement for the last two decades. She has written and worked extensively on issues of domestic violence, Muslim women's issues, religion-based personal laws in India and minority rights. She is the Co-founder of Majlis, a legal advocacy programme for women, based in Mumbai.

Jarjum Ete



Jarjum Ete, Chairperson, Panchayat Mahila Shakti Abhiyan, Arunachal Pradesh; former President & former Spokesperson, Arunachal Pradesh Women's Welfare Society (APWWS); former Chairperson, State Commission of Women, Arunachal Pradesh. Member of several state and national level advisory committees; Advocates for/Works on issues related to women's participation in panchayats, customary laws, need for active state women's commission and pro-women laws and policies.

Jasodhara Bagchi



Jasodhara Bagchi, feminist critic and activist. Former Chairperson, West Bengal Commission for Women; Founder-Director, School of Women's Studies, Jadavpur University; founder member, Sachetana, a feminist organization in Kolkata. Focus areas of research include women's studies, 'gender and partition in Eastern India', women's writings; initiated and spearheaded the pioneering Bengali Women Writers Reprint Series.

Jayati Ghosh



Jayati Ghosh, economist; Professor, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Executive Secretary, International Development Economics Associates (www.networkideas.org). Areas of interest include globalization, international finance, employment patterns in developing countries, macroeconomic policy, and issues related to gender and development.

Jyotsna Chatterji



Jyotsna Chatterji, Director, Joint Women's Programme. Former Vice President, YWCA of India. Member of many human rights groups in India and Asia; enabled the formation of several women's rights forums. Addresses and advocates for issues related to women, property & housing rights, equal pay for equal work, changes in personal laws, dowry, bonded labor, trafficking, etc.

Kiran Bedi



Kiran Bedi, Indian Police Service (IPS) officer (retd.), recipient of the [Ramon Magsaysay Award](#) for her reforms in Police & Prison (see www.kiranbedi.com). Represented India at the United Nations; contributes in various forums on crime prevention, drug abuse, police and prison reforms, child welfare, and women's issues. She is the founder of two NGOs, [Navjyoti](#) and [India Vision Foundation](#).

Madhu Pillai



Madhu Pillai, Director, Development Initiatives, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Delhi; previously served as the Regional Director, Northern Region. A gender specialist with interests to work on multilateral policy issues pertaining to different sectors, promoting models of public-private partnership. Currently handles CSR and Community Development within the Development Initiatives with a focus on Industry-NGO Partnerships, Women Empowerment, Special Ability, and Primary Education.

Manohar Elavarthi



Manohar Elavarthi, activist, defending the rights of sexworkers, sexual minorities, PLHIV and dalit women for past several years; served as Executive Director, Suraksha & Founder Director, Sangama. Has led campaigns to change laws (Section 377 of IPC and the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act), that discriminate against sexual minorities and sexworkers. Has built mass-based community organizations; committed to fighting corruption and is part of other movements (dalit, workers, women, environment, communal harmony, etc).

Meera Chatterjee



Meera Chatterjee, Senior Social Development Specialist, The World Bank. Concerned broadly with social development across a range of sectors including - poverty reduction, rural and urban development, environment, education, population, nutrition and health. She has researched and written widely to identify and address the challenges in these sectors with a strong focus on gender and the poor.

Monisha Behal



Dr. Monisha Behal, social activist working for over 25 years to build greater understanding of issues of northeast India. Recipient of Ananya award 2007, she has inspired setting up several pioneering initiatives with focus on training of NGOs, women's health, livelihood initiatives and policy advocacy. She is the Chairperson, Northeast Network (NEN), a women's rights organization.

Nalina Jiwnani



Nalina Jiwnani, Director for the Baha'i Office for the Advancement of Women. Committed to working for the development of women through economic, political and spiritual empowerment and capacity building programs at national and local levels. Active in promoting Bahai principals of unity, harmony and justice for which gender equality is a prerequisite. The Baha'i office is also a key advocate of child rights with special focus on girl child.

Navsharan Singh



Dr. Navsharan Singh, Senior Programme Specialist, Women's Rights and Citizenship programme, International Development Research Centre (IDRC), South Asia Regional Office. Worked extensively on women's economic rights, health and reproductive rights; working on multi-country collaborative projects sharing her extensive knowledge of feminist methodologies and analyses and experience of working with participatory and grassroots methods.

Nirmala Buch



Dr. Nirmala Buch, IAS (retd.), Former Chief Secretary, Government of Madhya Pradesh; Secretary Rural Dev Ministry, GOI; Honorary chairperson, Mahila Chetna Manch, Bhopal and CWDS, New Delhi. Advocates for women's issues, democratic decentralization and child rights; has special interest in mobilization of women's groups, income generation, micro finance, training, and childcare.

Pam Rajput



Dr. Pam Rajput, Director, Women's Resource and Advocacy Centre, Chandigarh; former Director, Centre for Women's Studies, Punjab University; Convener, India Women's Watch; Vice President, National Alliance of Women; Member, Expert Committee, National Commission for Women; has raised women's issues at national and International forums including the Nairobi and Beijing Conferences on Women.

Poonam Kathuria



Poonam Kathuria, founder-director, SWATI; works for women's empowerment and leadership, Gujarat. Specializes in organization development - capacity, perspective building trainings in NGOs, women's groups; gender related issues - health, gender based violence. Advocates at state and national levels for effective implementation of laws and policies related to Violence Against Women.

Rahul Banerjee



Rahul Banerjee, activist and researcher; Ashoka Fellow; founder Aarohini Trust, Madhya Pradesh. Works among Bhil adivasis (tribals, indigenous people) to help them synthesise their traditional qualities with modern skills and contribute to equitable and sustainable development as architects of their own future; devoted to preserving and promoting indigenous knowledge, livelihoods and culture of the Bhil community and countering its internal patriarchy; published articles and books.

Rahul Bose



Rahul Bose, actor and social activist; founder, NGO - The Foundation (www.thefoundation.co.in). Its work focuses on schooling six children from the Andamans in Rishi Valley School and running a counseling centre for victims of sexual abuse during childhood. He is the first Oxfam Global Ambassador from the Asia-Pacific region; Ambassador, Planet Alert for climate change; on the board of Citizens for Justice and Peace, and Breakthrough; works with Akshara (Mumbai), counselling, helping girls from conservative families to address gender discriminatory practices.

Rahul Roy



Rahul Roy, founder trustee, Aakar; independent documentary filmmaker; documentaries include The City Beautiful, Majma (Performance), When Four Friends Meet, Red Earth. Besides making films, has been working on the issue of masculinities with national and international non-governmental groups; written extensively, which include the published work, 'Little book on Men'. Focus areas include labour, masculinities and communalism.

Raaj Mangal Prasad



Raaj Mangal Prasad, Chairman, Child Welfare Committee, Delhi (Statutory Body under The Juvenile Justice Act 2000); Vice-President, Pratidhi, a Delhi-Police affiliated NGO for victims of crime; Convener, Campaign against Child Trafficking (CACT) Delhi. Focuses on women/ child victims of abuse; has used RTI Act successfully to address issues related to Juvenile Justice System; works closely with Criminal and Juvenile Justice System for the Rights of Women and Children, in need of care & protection.

Rajesh Tandon



Dr. Rajesh Tandon, internationally acclaimed practitioner of participatory research and development. Founder, Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA); serves on Board of several national and international organizations; nominated member, Civil Society Advisory Committee, Commonwealth Foundation, UK. Focus areas include conducting research, training, educational work to strengthen the capacities, institutional mechanisms of development organizations.

Ramesh Awasthi



Dr. Ramesh Awasthi, social activist; believes in Gandhian principles of honesty, transparency and involvement of people in their development. Co-founder, Masum, Pune based NGO; advocates for women's rights, rights of the marginalised groups and tribals. Focus areas include health, domestic violence, women's resource development, self-employment of rural and tribal population.

Reny Jacob



Dr. Reny Jacob, Member, Delhi Commission for Women (DCW). Member, State Supervisory Board (Delhi) of the PCPNDT (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act 1994; Director, Vikasini-Centre for Women's Development; Advocates and writes for rights of women and children; undertakes advocacy, networking with police, judiciary, NGOs, other national and International agencies.

Roop Sen



Roop Sen, Regional Director - South Asia, Groupe Developpement; experienced in civil society efforts on child protection. Specific domains being rural-urban migration in children and adolescents, cross border movement (India-Bangladesh), sexual abuse and exploitation, gender and masculinities, social communication, partnership management between donors and implementing organizations, and between civil society organizations.

Ruth Manorama



Dr. Ruth Manorama, women's rights activist associated with issues of *dalits'* rights, empowerment of marginalized women, rights of slum dwellers, domestic workers, unorganized labor. Right Livelihood Award recipient, she is President of National Alliance of Women (NAWO), National Convenor of National Federation of Dalit Women (NFDW); former member, State Commission for Women, Karnataka; Task Force on Women's Empowerment, Government of India (GOI).

Smita Premchander



Smita Premchander, PhD, Founder-Director, Sampark, Bangalore based NGO. Specializes in rural development with focus on gender, microfinance, micro enterprise, social protection, social inclusion. Voices issues for empowering women; undertakes evaluations, impact assessment, project and policy advice for NGOs, government, research and funding agencies in India and many other countries.

Syeda Saiyidain Hameed



Dr. Syeda Saiyidain Hameed, Padmashree; advocates for human and women rights. Member, Planning Commission, Government of India; Founder, Muslim Women's Forum; Founder Trustee, Women's Initiative for Peace in South Asia; Serves on Boards of national and international organizations. Focus areas include women, children, minorities, health, government-NGO interface, handloom and handicrafts.

Tarun Vij



Tarun Vij, Country Director, American India Foundation heads AIF's India programs which focus on education for migrants, computer aided learning, urban livelihoods, women's empowerment and maternal and child health. Tarun was previously the Project Director of TCI Foundation, implementing an HIV/AIDS prevention program funded by Avahan, the India AIDS Initiative of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Urvashi Butalia



Urvashi Butalia, writer, publisher, feminist, historian. Director and Co-founder of [Kali for Women](#); Recipient, Oral History Book Association Award, the Nikkei Asia Award for Culture for her book, 'The Other Side of Silence: Voices from the Partition of India'. The book, globally acclaimed, is widely taught in history courses, in anthropology, South Asian literature and Women's Studies classes.

Vinod Raina



Dr. Vinod Raina, rights activist, expert on education, involved with the Right to Education Bill Task Force. Founding Member, Eklavya; General Secretary, Bharat Gyan Vighyan Samiti; Member, Central Advisory Board for Education. Developed alternative school curriculum for rural areas; evolved the People's Science Movement, enabling people to plan and implement their developmental ideas and needs.