



**The Feminist Leadership, Movement Building and Rights Institute – South
Asia**

Kathmandu, Nepal

4 – 10 December, 2022

Last Date to apply: 23 October, 2022

The Institute

CREA's Feminist leadership, movement Building, and Rights Institute– South Asia is a residential program, designed to strengthen feminist solidarity, leadership, advocacy, and strategies for building collective power for social transformation. The Institute engages feminists from across the region to build a substantive understanding of our present with all its challenges and possibilities. It interrogates concepts and structures that have a bearing on our strategies through embedding patriarchy and gender in concepts of nation, identity, religion, polity and development. To make meaning of what feminist struggles have transformed, and how new forms of patriarchy are part of existing inequalities.

The Institute is designed on the premise that feminist leadership can be strengthened and have greater impact when women's rights activists and advocates have greater conceptual clarity and strategic approaches that go to the roots of inequality rather than dealing with its symptoms alone. The Institute aims to encourage and enable participants to:

Interrogate

Concepts such as nation, identity, power and development that affect our struggles and strategies by reshaping the discourse and practices of patriarchy and gender.

Explore

Different forms of leadership through feminist journeys, histories and standpoints across generations.

Build

New and collaborative modes of resistance in the face of emerging configurations of power. A team of feminist activists from the global South will teach at the Institute using classroom instruction, group work, theatre, simulation exercises, films, music and case studies. The process of learning is based on four core pedagogic principles.

Locate

Locate our everyday, 'micro' individual and organisational practices in the macro context of the larger women's movement and of other struggles for gender equality and justice.

Reflect

Deepen curiosity and self-reflexiveness among participants by facilitating conversations that traverse geographies, generations and diversity of concerns and political standpoints.

Expand

Build solidarity across borders by bringing into focus the shared sense of being South Asian. This including a deeper understanding of our common heritage, historical interlinkages as well as ruptures and differences. The idea is to explore together what constitutes South Asian Feminist practice -- both as an assumption and an aspiration.

From this, participants will be able to critically assess women's movements in South Asia and explore concrete strategies to strengthen links between women's movements and other social justice movements to advance women's human rights more collectively.

Institute Pedagogy

Activists, practitioners and academicians will teach the course using classroom instruction, group work, case studies, fiction, and films.

- The Institute emphasizes linking theory to practice;
- The participants will learn to critically analyze policy, research, and their own program interventions, using a rights-based approach;
- The Institute is not a training or workshop, and attempts to recast the idea of collective and experiential ways of learning;
- The Institute emphasizes learning led by world-class faculty.

Logistics

The Institute will be held from 4th December to 10th December, in Kathmandu, Nepal. Participants will be expected to arrive on 3rd December, and depart on 11th December and are expected to be present throughout the entire duration of 8 nights, and 7 days.

Institute Costs

- CREA will cover tuition, accommodation and meals for all participants during the course. Accommodation will be on a twin-sharing basis.
- A limited number of travel scholarships are available (visa fees and travel insurance are not included).
- Those not receiving a travel scholarship are responsible for making their own arrangements for travel, visa and insurance.

Faculty

Core Faculty:

Dipta Bhog is a creative facilitator, who has over three decades of experience of working on issues of gender and education, women's rights and development. She is a founder member of "Nirantar, a Centre for Gender and education in New Delhi". Identity and caste are new areas of interest, while in the past she has worked with rural women and grassroots women

leaders -building on their leadership and organisational strength. She was part of the setting up of Khabar Lahariya, the first rural and Dalit women led newspaper in 2002.

She conceptualized and coordinated a study titled, ***Textbook Regimes: A Feminist Analysis of Nation and Identity***, in partnership with four leading Women's Studies Departments in four Indian state universities, that analysed language and social science textbooks from elementary and secondary schools. She has developed curriculum, textbooks, creative reading material, comic-books and digital installations to communicate feminist ideas and insights. Recently, she conceptualized **The Third Eye**, a feminist learning portal, working on the intersections of gender, sexuality and technology.

Paromita Chakravarti is professor, department of English, Jadavpur university (Ju) and has been director, School of Women's Studies, and a convenor of the Cell against Sexual harassment at Ju. She teaches drama, women's writing, queer and film studies and has worked on gender representation in school textbooks, sexuality education, women's higher education, women and HIV and AIDS. Closely associated with the women's movement in Kolkata, she is active in the queer, sex worker, homeless and single women's movements. She has introduced one of the first postgraduate courses in Queer Studies in the department of English at Ju. Her book, *Women Contesting Culture*, co-edited with Prof. Kavita Panjabi was published in 2012. Dr. Chakravarti is also the founder member of the NGO "ebong alaap" which works on critical pedagogies and serves as board member of "anjali" a NGO which works on mental health.

Visiting Faculty

The course will also be taught by other activists, academicians, practitioners and researchers from South Asia.

Application Criteria

FLMBaRI South Asia is for activists, service-providers, community organizers, researchers and human rights practitioners, working on issues of sexuality, sexual and gender diversity and diversity of sex characteristics / LGBTIQ rights, sexual rights, sexual and reproductive health and rights, rights of persons with disabilities, HIV/AIDS, public health, violence against women / gender-based violence, health, and/or gender, nationally, regionally. 30 participants will be selected to attend. Participants should be embedded in human rights and/or feminist movements or civil society, or be working closely with them. **Full-time students are not eligible. All applicants must be fully vaccinated against COVID and willing and able to undertake travel to Kathmandu.** We invite members of structurally excluded groups from South Asia to apply.

Application Deadline and Selection Process

Applications are due on or before 23 October 2022. Each application will be carefully reviewed by the selection committee. We will only contact applicants who have been selected to attend.

Note: The process of selection will begin with the application of participants. You are requested to send the filled-in application form as early as possible.

[Click here](#) to download the application form.
[Click here](#) for PDF version of the application form,
Send your applications to flmbari-sa@creaworld.org