



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

25th January – 1st February, 2024

Last Date to Apply: 15th October, 2023

The Institute

CREA's Feminist Leadership, Movement Building, and Rights Institute (FLMBaRI) – 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.

About the Institute

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.

Location

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.

Reflection

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

Expansion

Build solidarity across borders by bringing into focus the shared sense of being South Asian. This includes 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.

With 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.

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 founding member of "Nirantar", a Centre for Gender and Education, based in New Delhi. Her new areas of interests are identity and caste, while in the past she has worked with rural women and grassroots women leaders, building on their leadership and organisational strength. She was also 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 analyzed language and social science textbooks from elementary and secondary schools. Dipta 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, which focuses on the intersections of gender, sexuality and technology.

Paromita Chakravarti is Professor, Department of English, at Jadavpur University (JU) and former Director, School of Women's Studies. She has also been the 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/AIDS. Closely associated with the women's movement in Kolkata, Paromita is active in the queer, sex worker, homeless and single women's movements. She 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 founding member of "Ebong Alap", an NGO which works on critical pedagogies and serves as board member of "Anjali", an NGO working on mental health.

Visiting Faculty

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

Who We Are

Founded in 2000, CREA is an international, feminist human rights organization based in New Delhi, India. CREA works at community, national, regional, and global levels and is one of the few international feminist organizations based in the global South. CREA focuses on building feminist leadership, strengthening movements, expanding sexual and reproductive freedoms, promoting rights-based approaches to reducing gender-based violence, and advancing the human rights of structurally excluded¹ people.

Application Criteria

FLMBA RI 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 or globally.

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. **We invite applications from academics, artists, activists, and media practitioners etc., particularly those from structurally excluded groups based in South Asia. Full-time students are NOT eligible.**

All applicants should be fully vaccinated and have copies of their vaccination certificates to enable travel to Sri Lanka.

Application Deadline and Selection Process

You can **apply online** or send us a **completed application form** (Docx/PDF) to flmbari-sa@creaworld.org. **Applications are due on or before 15 October 2023.** We will review each

¹CREA uses the term 'structurally excluded' to draw attention to the ways in which societal architecture prevents certain people from enjoying the full spectrum of rights and from meaningfully and effectively participating in their communities and decision-making spaces. Our work focuses on preventing individual harms, dismantling the structures that construct and sustain those harms, and creating pathways to justice for persons excluded because of their real or perceived genders, sexualities, identities, or chosen forms of labor. At present, CREA works with structurally excluded women and girls, persons of diverse sexualities, genders and sex characteristics, persons with disabilities, and sex workers. CREA will continue to practice and advocate for broader inclusion and solidarity.

application carefully. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. **Early applications are given priority.**

Logistics

The Institute will be held from **24th January – 1st February, 2024** in Sri Lanka. Participants will be expected to arrive on 24th January and are expected to be present throughout the entire duration of the Institute, i.e., for 7 nights, and 8 days.

Travel & Accommodation

CREA will cover boarding, lodging and participants' local travel expenses. Accommodation is on a twin-sharing basis. All your local travel fees and visa fees where applicable will be reimbursed on the submission of the receipts. We will also have travel grants for some applicants travelling internationally to Sri Lanka.

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