



WOMEN'S REGIONAL NETWORK

AFGHANISTAN • PAKISTAN • INDIA

Statement

We are deeply concerned at the crisis which looms today over Pakistan and India. Spiraling tensions threaten to engulf the region in an all-out war.

The dastardly attack in Pulwama (Jammu and Kashmir), which killed 43 men of the Central Reserve Police Force (India) and the ensuing chain of events namely India's surgical strike in Balakot (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) and Pakistan's retaliatory measures have the potential of unleashing the worst human disaster which will destroy millions and leave millions homeless.

We women and men of South Asia and South East Asia, who are meeting here in Kuala Lumpur on Forced Displacement, urge the two nations to immediately withdraw from this war jingoism and hyper-nationalism which could destroy a region and have the potential for destruction of the entire globe. Our Summit on Forced Displacement is being held at a critical moment when South Asia may become the epicenter for even greater displacement if this confrontation escalates to war.

We condemn all hate speech on the current crisis by extremist leaders and by sections of the public on both sides and the media, including the social media.

We call upon both countries to stop fueling violence which threatens to become an unending vicious cycle. Our appeal also is directed to civil society on both sides to rise above differences and rally for an abiding peace.

Therefore, we urge the nation states as well as the international community to address the issue of conflict and insecurity and its inevitable consequences- loss of life and displacement. We appeal to both sides to respect International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law to which they are bound.

We appeal to India and Pakistan to immediately de-escalate, cease hostilities and return to the negotiating table to politically resolve all outstanding issues. We appeal to nation states of our region to address these critical issues of peace, security and displacement by involving women at each and every stage of decision making.

28 February 2019



WOMEN'S REGIONAL NETWORK

AFGHANISTAN • PAKISTAN • INDIA

Signed by:

1. Bushra Gohar
 2. Sunzida Sultana
 3. Priyanthi Fernando
 4. Abdul Kalam Azad
 5. Jane Aileen Tedjaseputra
 6. Anjuman Ara Begum
 7. Priyandini Deekshya Illangasinghe
 8. Rita Manchanda
 9. Rukhshanda Naz
 10. Neelam Hussain
 11. Mary Shanthi Dairiam
 12. Saima Jasam Saleem
 13. Farzana Ali
 14. Evan Jones
 15. Sahana Basavapatna
 16. Patricia Cooper
 17. Priyanca Mathur
 18. Manoj Mathew
 19. Abha Bhaiya
 20. Syeda Hameed
-