

Conference Report

International Conference on

Feminist Activism and Human Rights – Rethinking Violence Against Women through Global and Local Lenses

Dates: 27 February – 2 March 2026

Organized by: Asha Paras for Peace and Harmony Foundation, SNTD Women's University, and partner institutions

Introduction

The four-day International Conference on *Feminist Activism and Human Rights – Rethinking Violence Against Women through Global and Local Lenses* brought together scholars, activists, and practitioners from India, Africa, and Europe. The deliberations focused on structural, intersectional, ecological, institutional, and digital dimensions of violence against women, highlighting feminist activism as a transformative practice that bridges global frameworks with local realities.



Day One Highlights

- **Prof. V K. Malhotra** emphasized India's progress in literacy and labor participation, while raising concerns about constitutional amendments and corporate leadership gaps. **Prof. Parveen Akhter Pandit** discussed systemic barriers such as implicit bias and underrepresentation. **Prof. Tinuade Ojo** stressed that violence is structural and political, requiring intersectional and transnational solidarity. **Clementina Furtado (CV)** shared progress in legal frameworks and women's representation. **Ruby Ojha and Annapurna Nautiyal** highlighted cybercrime and intangible violence as urgent global-local challenges.

Day Two Highlights

- **Dr. Kamlaveni** addressed the paradox of "zero reporting" under the POSH Act. **Dr. Seema Alawa** reflected on women in policing and workplace harassment. **Dr. N. Murugeswari** asserted that domestic violence is political, not private. **Dr. Ayo Ayoola-Amale** contrasted Nigeria's patriarchal challenges with Ghana's progressive legal reforms. **Prof. Sabiha Hussain** emphasized digital spaces as both sites of violence and resistance. **Prof. Asha Shukla** proposed mandatory gender sensitization courses in universities.

Day Three Highlights

- **Ashima K** presented eco-feminist practices in Kashmir, linking crafts to ecological knowledge. **Sri Rajkumar Ghosh** described the “Himalayan dilemma” and urged ecocentric approaches. **Dr. Ulrich Berk** introduced *Agnihotra* as an eco-feminist practice for environmental purification. **Prof. VK Goswami** suggested AI and remote sensing for POSH prevention. **Dr. S. S. Hasani** discussed tribal women’s challenges in Maharashtra. **Prof. Sanjay Bhutani** critiqued mainstream feminism’s neglect of intersectionality.

Day Four Highlights

- Paper presentations included: **Aiman Khan** – harms of generative AI. **Mahendra Singh Ahirwar** – protest theater (*Listen Shefali*). **Amara Qureshi** – comparative digital feminism. **Nishtha Agrawal** – feminist economics and care work.
- **Prof. Pam Rajput** affirmed violence against women as a human rights violation and urged strong policy advocacy. **Prof. Parveen Akhter Pandit** presented local research on domestic violence in Kashmir. **Prof. Asha Shukla** emphasized strengthening Women’s Studies Centres at grassroots levels.

Key Conclusions

1. Violence against women is structural and systemic.
2. Intersectionality and transnational solidarity are essential.
3. Digital age challenges (AI harms, cybercrime) require new legal frameworks.
4. Eco-feminism links environmental justice with gender justice.
5. Legal frameworks must be supported by attitudinal change and institutional accountability.

Recommendations

- Introduce gender sensitization courses in universities.
- Strengthen policy advocacy and grassroots awareness.
- Develop legal frameworks for digital and AI-related violence.
- Recognize and value the care economy in national policy.
- Center women’s voices in climate and environmental governance.

Conclusion

The International Conference reaffirmed that feminist activism is indispensable for advancing human rights and gender justice. By integrating global frameworks with local realities, activism can dismantle patriarchal structures, address ecological and digital challenges, and ensure that women’s voices shape the future of justice and equality.