

## LATEST NEWS

### National Seminar: The Role of Women in Peace Processes



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**National** (*/taxonomy/term/1874*) **Seminar** (*/taxonomy/term/43*): **The Role of Women in Peace Processes**

**North Eastern Social** (*/taxonomy/term/1938*) **Research Centre, Guwahati**

**November 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018**

**Venue: Jagriti 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, GMCH Road, Christian Basti, Guwahati  
(Next to St. John's Hospital)**

**North Eastern Social** (/taxonomy/term/1938) **Research Centre, Guwahati is organising a two-day National** (/taxonomy/term/1874) **Seminar** (/taxonomy/term/43) **on “The Role of Women in Peace Processes.” The focus of the seminar** (/taxonomy/term/43) **is Northeast India** (/taxonomy/term/2367) **but there will be a few presentations from the rest of the country.**

*Ms Teesta* (/taxonomy/term/2316) *Setalvad, Secretary, Centre for Justice and Peace, Mumbai will give the keynote address. Prof* (/taxonomy/term/2077). *Ritu Dewan, former Director of the Department of Economics, Bombay University and former President* (/taxonomy/term/2432), *Indian Association of Women’s Studies will speak on the impact of the Kashmir Conflict on women. Neha Dixit, freelance journalist, New Delhi* (/taxonomy/term/1868) *will speak on women and communal conflicts. Ms Amrita Gogoi of Dibrugarh University will speak on women’s role in the Nepal Maoist struggle.*

*Speakers from the Northeast include Dr. Anjali Daimari of Barama College and President* (/taxonomy/term/2432), *Bodo Women’s Justice Forum, Dr. Monisha Behal of North East* (/taxonomy/term/2485) *Network (NEN), Guwahati, Dr. N. Vijaylaxmi Brara of Manipur* (/taxonomy/term/64) *University, Dr. Veronica Pala of Economics Department, NEHU, Shillong and others.*

*The seminar attempts to analyse conflicts and peace processes in Northeast India* (/taxonomy/term/2367) *(NEI). According to official sources NEI records the highest number of ethnic conflicts in South Asia. Recurrent efforts have been made to open a space for dialogue between the State and the militant groups or between the communities in conflict. The dialogue between the State and the militants has mostly resulted in partial and temporary respite. They have failed to address the structural dimensions of the conflict and to involve people from all social intersections. That has turned the dialogue into a discussion moving more towards power sharing and ceasefire than a lasting solution. Genuine peace should ideally be seen as a new society based on justice, not merely as absence of armed conflict. Peace to be real cannot be limited to power sharing between the State and the Militants but should result in a new space that includes the civil society, particularly women in the process. Women are by and large excluded from the dialogue with the State because it is limited to the militant groups, both of which are dominated by men.*

*While the official dialogue is mainly between men, the Northeast has many instances of women taking an active part in peace building as demonstrated, among others, by the Meira Paibis of Manipur (/taxonomy/term/64) through their protests near Kangla Fort against the Indian Army and State to revoke the draconian AFSPA (/taxonomy/term/1620) in 2004. It is seen also in the social roots of the politics of Naga Mothers' Association (NMA) derived from the role women played as 'demi' (mediators) in various Naga tribal traditions. One (/taxonomy/term/2177) can add other traditions that entail a gender mainstreaming in conflict structures by recognising the positive agency of women that takes them beyond their cultural roles.*

*This conference will probe into the dual themes of the impact of conflicts on women, their roles, forms of intervention and capacities and limitations in peace building. By sharing the local experiences and traditional knowledge of communities appropriated by women to organise peace strategies, the participants will look into the processes of conflicts and peace in which they get involved. Studies indicate that women suffer more in times of conflict but they are excluded from the peace processes. A better understanding of this situation can assist men to become allies in the 'gender sensitive interventions' for peace building.*

Dr Walter Fernandes  
Senior Fellow and Seminar (/taxonomy/term/43) Coordinator

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## **National (/taxonomy/term/1874) seminar on the Role of Women in Peace Processes**

Organised by

**North Eastern Social (/taxonomy/term/1938) Research Centre (NESRC),  
Guwahati**

Venue: Seminar (/taxonomy/term/43) Hall, Jagriti, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2018





Day 1: Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2018

9:30-  
10:00

Registration

**Inaugural Session**

Chairperson: **Dr. Rakhee Kalita Moral**, Associate Professor,  
Cotton University

10:00-  
10:05

A Word of Welcome: **Dr. Melvil Pereira**, Director, NESRC

10:05-  
10:10

Introduction to the Seminar ([/taxonomy/term/43](#)): **Ms. Kusumika Ghosh**, Research Associate, NESRC

10:10 –  
10:40

Keynote Speaker: **Ms. Teesta** ([/taxonomy/term/2316](#)) **Setalvad**, Human Rights Activist, CJP, Mumbai

*Theme: Women, Conflicts and Peace: Do they only Suffer or Participate in the Process and Decisions?*

10:40  
-11:00

Chairperson Speaks

11:00 -  
11.15

Tea Break

11:15

**Session I: Women's Role in Conflicts & Peace**

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13:00

Chairperson: **Ms Teesta** (/taxonomy/term/2316) **Setalvad**, Human Rights Activist, CJP, Mumbai

Themes and Speakers:

1. *Negotiating the Peaceful Way: Female Guerrillas from the PW of Nepal*

**Ms. Amrita P. Gogoi**, Assistant Professor, Political (/taxonomy/term/1692) Science, Dibrugarh University.

2. *Re-Framing the Gender Question in the Conflict-Peace Paradigm:*

*The Kashmir Context*

**Prof** (/taxonomy/term/2077). **Ritu Dewan**, Former chairperson, IAWS (2014-17)

3. *Impact of Communal Conflicts on Women and Their Role in Communal Peace.*

**Ms. Neha Dixit**, Freelance journalist, New Delhi ([/taxonomy/term/1868](#))

13:00 -  
14:00

Lunch Break

14:00

**Session II: Nagaland** ([/taxonomy/term/1597](#)) **and Sikkim**

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15:30

Chairperson: **Dr. Samhita Barooah**, Freelance Journalist  
([/taxonomy/term/2160](#)) & Independent Researcher

Themes and Speakers:

1. *Women, the NMA and Peace Processes in Nagaland*  
([/taxonomy/term/1597](#))

**Ms. Vizokhole Ltu**, Research Associate, NESRC

2. *The Customary Law and Women's Struggles for Property and Political* ([/taxonomy/term/1692](#)) *Rights*

**Dr. Sumi Daa-Dhora**, HoD, English & **Dr. Medonuo Pienyu**,  
HoD, Sociology [St Joseph's College, Jakhama, Nagaland  
([/taxonomy/term/1597](#))]

3. *Contextualising Conflicts and the Role of Women in Peace Processes in Sikkim: An Overview*

**Dr Garima Thakuria**, Asst. Professor, Anthropology & **Mr Shankar Narayan Bagh**, Asst. Professor, Dept. of Sociology [Sikkim University]

15:30 –  
15:45

Tea Break

15:45

**Session III: Manipur** (/taxonomy/term/64)

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17:15

Chairperson: **Dr. Yengkhom Jilangamba**, Chairperson, Centre for Peace & Conflict Studies, TISS, Guwahati

Themes and Speakers:

1. *Meira Paibi: A Great legacy*

**Dr. N. Vijaylaxmi Brara**, Associate Professor, Sociology, Manipur (/taxonomy/term/64) University

2. *The Role of Women in the Kuki-Naga Conflict and Peace Process*

**Dr. S. Manikho Kohusii**, Dept. of Sociology, Asst. Professor & **Mr. Athili Hopeson Kayina**, Asst. Professor, Dept. of Political (/taxonomy/term/1692) Science, Japfi Christian College, Kigwema, Nagaland (/taxonomy/term/1597)

3. *Blockades and the Three Bills in Manipur (/taxonomy/term/64): Role of Women in the ILPS Demand and the Anti-Three Bill Campaign*

**Dr. Ruth Nengneihing**, University of Delhi & **Dr. Hoineihing Sitlhou**, University of Hyderabad

**Day 2: Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2018**

09:30

**Session IV: Tripura (/taxonomy/term/1738) & Mizoram**

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11:00

Chairperson: **Dr. Polly Vauquiline**, HoD, Women's Studies, Gauhati University

Themes and Speakers:

1. *The Role of Women in the Bru-Mizo (/taxonomy/term/1770) Conflict*

**Ms. Ratna Reang**, PhD Scholar, Agartala

2. *Women in Conflict and Peace in Tripura (/taxonomy/term/1738): A Review*

**Dr. Pankaj Chakraborty**, Dean of Social Sciences, Holy Cross College, Agartala (/taxonomy/term/1938)

3. *The Role of Women in the Mizo Nationalist Struggle and in the Peace Process* (/taxonomy/term/1770)

**Dr. Hminthangzuali Chhakchhuak**, Department of History (/taxonomy/term/2024), Mizoram University

11:00 -  
11:15

Tea Break

11:15

### Session V: Assam

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12:45

Chairperson: **Dr. Pahi Saikia**, Associate Professor, Political Science, Department of Humanities & Social Sciences, IIT, Guwahati (/taxonomy/term/1692) (/taxonomy/term/1938)

Themes and Speakers:

1. *The Impact on Women of the BTAD Conflicts and their involvement in the peace process*

**Dr. Anjali Daimari**, Founder & President (/taxonomy/term/2432), Bodo Women's Justice Forum (India (/taxonomy/term/2367))

2. *Women and Conflicts: A Study in Karbi Anglong District*

**Ms. Jyotikona Chetia**, Research Associate, NESRC, &

**Ms. Bhaswati Borgohain** (/taxonomy/term/1667), PhD Scholar,  
Tezpur University

3. *The Role of Women in the Assam Movement and its Aftermath*

**Dr. Monisha Behal**, CEO, North East (/taxonomy/term/2419) Network,  
Guwahati

12:45 -  
13:45

Lunch

13:45

**Session VI: Arunachal** (/taxonomy/term/2194) **Pradesh and  
Meghalaya** (/taxonomy/term/2343)

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15:15

Chairperson: **Prof** (/taxonomy/term/2077). **Kalyan Das**  
(/taxonomy/term/1926), OKDISCD, Guwahati

Themes and Speakers:

1. *Role of Khasi - Pnar Women as Community Builders and Peace  
Makers*

**Dr. Veronica Pala**, Faculty, Dept. of Economics, NEHU, Shillong

2. *The Chakma (/taxonomy/term/2481)-Hajong Resettlement Controversy and its Impact on Women*

**Dr. Jumyir Basar**, Faculty, Rajiv Gandhi (/taxonomy/term/1710) University, Itanagar (/taxonomy/term/2394)

3. *The Role of Women through the Lens of the Print Media in the Nationalist Struggle and Peace Processes in Mizoram*

**Ms. L. V. Lalrintluangi & Dr. C. Zonunmowia**; Asst. Professors, St Xavier's College, Lengpui, Aizawl, Mizoram

15:15-  
15.30

Tea

### **Session VII: Valedictory Session**

Chairperson: **Dr. Asha Kothari Choudhury**, Associate Professor, Dept. of English, Gauhati University

15:30

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17:00

1. Summary of the Seminar *(/taxonomy/term/43)* Discussion: **Dr. Walter Fernandes**, Senior Fellow, NESRC
2. Valedictory Address: **Ms. Parismita Singh**, Freelance Writer, Guwahati
3. Chairperson Speaks
4. Vote of Thanks: **Dr. Meenal Tula**, Senior Research Associate, NESRC



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