



# Women and Peace

A listing of organizations  
working for  
women's rights *and* peace  
in Bhutan  
2015

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## **WOMEN AND PEACE: AN INCOMPLETE SOUTH ASIAN DIRECTORY**

This project originated in a quest to identify potential partners for peace-related projects. That quest shifted shape, but we kept the kernel of the work and expanded its scope to include all SAARC member countries.

We started with the question, “Which women’s organizations work on peace?” But given that feminists define peace as far more than the cessation of conflict and hostilities, the term was hardly a filter. After all, peace is also empowerment, engaged citizenship, good governance, sustainable development and a free flow of information and expression. As we identified organizations across a spectrum of activities, we began to tag them with ‘keywords’:

- Peace and conflict transformation
- Women’s rights and empowerment
- Capacity building and community mobilization
- Governance and policy advocacy
- Gender, welfare, relief and sustainable development
- Information and communication

The keywords are simply intended to help in our search to identify resources and partners, not to narrowly define an organization’s work in any way.

The directory is the product of a desk-based Internet search. We invite you to email us with names and website addresses for organizations you think should be included. Email us at [prajnyatrust@gmail.com](mailto:prajnyatrust@gmail.com).

Profound thanks are due to Vignesh Rajendran, Research Intern at Chaitanya-The Policy Consultancy; it is his diligent research that made this project possible. Thanks are also due to Mitha Nandagopalan whose meticulous editing has refined these documents immensely.

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### **About Prajnya**

The Prajnya Trust is a Chennai-based non-profit engaged in research, public education and network-building in areas related to peace, justice and security. This project is located at the intersection of its two initiatives—Politics, Security and Women and Education for Peace. Prajnya’s online coordinates:

Email: [prajnyatrust@gmail.com](mailto:prajnyatrust@gmail.com)

Web: <http://www.prajnya.in>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/prajnyatrust>

Twitter: [@prajnya](https://twitter.com/prajnya)

NAME	LOCATION	KEYWORDS	CONTACT PERSON/EMAIL	PAGE
BHUTAN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FUND (BYDF)	Thimphu	Women's rights and empowerment; Capacity building and community mobilization; Gender, welfare, relief and sustainable development	info@bhutanyouth.org	4
RENEW – RESPECT, EDUCATE, NURTURE AND EMPOWER WOMEN	Thimphu	Women's rights and empowerment; Capacity building and community mobilization; Gender, welfare, relief and sustainable development	enquiry@renewbhutan.org	5
TARAYANA FOUNDATION	Thimphu	Women's rights and empowerment; Capacity building and community mobilization; Gender, welfare, relief and sustainable development	tarayana2003@gmail.com, tarayana2003@tarayanafoundation.org	6

## **BHUTAN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FUND (BYDF)**

<http://bhutanyouth.org/>

**Keywords: Women's rights and empowerment; Capacity building and community mobilization; Gender, welfare, relief and sustainable development**

Post Box 255  
Thimphu, Bhutan

Telephone: +975 2 327483, 329135

Fax: +975 2 326730

Email: [info@bhutanyouth.org](mailto:info@bhutanyouth.org)

### **Factfile**

- BYDF, established in 1996 by Queen Mother Ashi Tshering Pem Wangchuck, focuses on leadership training for youth, especially girls.
- Deputy Executive Director: Ms. Dorji Ohm

### **Areas of Activity**

BYDF's activities on women's empowerment and youth leadership include:

- Vocational training workshops;
- Nazhoen Pelri Skills Training Centre, providing short term skill training especially for girls;
- Simply Bhutan Project, empower young entrepreneurs, especially women, through micro-credit;
- Educational scholarships for Bhutanese girls for both elementary and higher education;
- Rehabilitation, training and workshops to aid drug-addicted youth.

## **RENEW – RESPECT, EDUCATE, NURTURE AND EMPOWER WOMEN**

<http://www.renewbhutan.org/>

**Keywords: Women’s rights and empowerment; Capacity building and community mobilization; Gender, welfare, relief and sustainable development**

Phenday Gatshel  
Lower Motithang  
P.O. Box 1404  
Thimphu, Bhutan

Telephone: +975 2 332159, 334751

Fax: +975 2 332411

Email: [enquiry@renewbhutan.org](mailto:enquiry@renewbhutan.org)

### **Factfile**

- RENEW, established in 2004 by Queen Ashi Sangay Choden Wangchuck, is dedicated to empowering women and girls in Bhutan and eradicating gender violence.
- Executive Body members: Ms. Chimi Wangmo and Mr. Pema Gyalshen

### **Areas of Activity**

RENEW activities to combat violence against women include:

- Shelter home and medical care for women who have been victims of violence;
- Free psychological counseling for victims;
- Community Based Support System (CBSS ), partnering with community members to ensure the safety and security of victims and survivors of domestic violence;
- Free consultations with RENEW lawyers for victims of violence;
- Capacity-building vocational skills workshops for women;
- Educational scholarships for children affected by gender-based violence;
- Micro-loans at minimum interest to help survivors of gender-based violence become economically independent.

## **TARAYANA FOUNDATION**

<http://www.tarayanafoundation.org/>

**Keywords: Women's rights and empowerment; Capacity building and community mobilization; Gender, welfare, relief and sustainable development**

P.O. Box 2003  
Thimphu, Bhutan

Telephone: +975 2 329333

Fax: +975 2 331433

Email: [tarayana2003@gmail.com](mailto:tarayana2003@gmail.com), [tarayana2003@tarayanafoundation.org](mailto:tarayana2003@tarayanafoundation.org)

### **Factfile**

- Tarayana, launched in May 2003 by then Crown Prince Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, works empower vulnerable individuals and communities in Bhutan, including women.
- Founder and President: Queen Mother Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck
- Secretary General: Ms. Chime P. Wangdi
- Director of Programs: Ms. Sonam Pem

### **Areas of Activity**

Tarayana's projects on women's empowerment and sustainable development include:

- Micro-credit and training for small scale women entrepreneurs;
- Tarayana Scholarship and educational support for selected students;
- Publication of online reports and monthly journals to disseminate information on community development activities;
- Housing Improvement and Solar Electrification Program, training communities in South Western Bhutan in housing construction and solar panels installation;
- Organic farming and carbon-footprint reduction initiatives through the promotion of green technologies.