

HIMALAYAN DECLARATION ON BEIJING +10
BEIJING +10
Lalitpur, Nepal

Alarmed that rampant globalization, neo-liberalism and unregulated privatization have contributed towards the intensification of poverty, social injustice, illiteracy, structural violence, resulting in extreme forms of discrimination and exploitation of women in the region;

Concerned that the adverse policies of the international financial institutions and the developed countries have devastating impact for the exercise of human rights of women and have jeopardized the quality of life and equitable employment opportunity for women,

Recalling the provisions enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Beijing Platform for Action, the Outcome Document; the Convention on the Rights of the Child; the SAARC Convention on Trafficking and other regional and international instruments relating to women's rights;

Reiterating the fact that militarization of the region has escalated violence against women and children with grave risk of displacement, unsafe migration and exploitation thereby increasing extreme vulnerability of women;

Understanding that the women in the region have largely been disenfranchised from the mainstream political processes and marginalized from the power structures;

Realizing that sustainable human development incorporates substantive equality between women and men, respect for human, economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights, the elimination of poverty and the preservation of the environment is possible only through an equitable distribution of the world's resources between south and north, poor and rich, women and men.

*We the 160+ delegates from South Asian countries assembled in the South Asia Beijing+10 NGO Consultation held in Kathmandu, Nepal on June 19-20, 2004, from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, representing various women's organizations, NGOs and civil society organized by South Asia Women's Watch and hosted by Beyond Beijing Committee have unanimously adopted the following "**Himalayan Declaration.**"*

Our Mission Statement

1. We, the representatives from South Asia are all bound together by a common identity which expresses itself both in our linkages and the struggles for the empowerment of women in our respective countries.
2. These links have strengthened us individually and have led to a growing regional solidarity. Today, in the context of the contemporary socio-political environment, we feel it is imperative to develop and further strengthen a South Asian perspective for women's empowerment in the region.
3. As women our lives are subject to control through predominantly patriarchal structures and discriminatory laws and institutions, often justified on the basis of religion, customs and cultures which has led to increasing restrictions on our space and access to resources.
4. Increasing incidence of rape, dowry deaths, honor killings, acid attacks, women's humiliation in public, and the violence perpetrated by castism and religious fundamentalism leave us vulnerable both in the private and public sphere.

