

Women Founders Collective meets West Bengal NGOs

March 23, 2018



On March 23, 2018 Stree Shakti (Rekha Mody) hosted a meeting at ICCR Kolkata of NGOs that work with adolescent girls and young women. The objective of the meeting was to introduce representatives of these NGOs to Women Founders Collective and provide an opportunity for them to share their experiences, successes, and challenges and pave the way for collaboration and resource sharing.

The meeting began with Rekha Mody welcoming the guests and explaining the purpose of the meeting. Geraldine Forbes who discussed WFC's desire to facilitate networking between organizations. Baitali Ganguly, the founder of Jabala Action Research Organization spoke about the need to move from dreams to a concrete vision of what needs to be done that is simple, direct, futuristic, inclusive, and easy to communicate.

C. S. Lakshmi, the founder of SPARROW [Sound & Picture Archives for Research for Women] reviewed SPARROW's work documenting and archiving work the work of female social workers, feminists, and activists and urged the preservation of organizational records. Professor Paula Banerjee, representing Krishna Trust, stressed the importance of research as foundational for productive work. The last speaker, Dr. Surekha Kishore, Dean AIIMS, spoke about women's health issues.

Representatives of the following organizations spoke about their work, with special attention to their successes and areas where they would appreciate help.

- All Bengal Women's Union
- Banglanatakdotcom
- Bansra Birangana Seva Samity
- Harijan Sebak Sangha
- Hijli Inspiration
- Hridaypur SRIJA
- Institute of Social Work
- Jabala Action Research
- Khanpur Gana Unnayan Kendra
- Kolkata Sanved
- Krishna Trust
- Lake Gardens Women and Child Development Center
- Nari O Shishu Kalyan Kendra
- National Bureau of Human Rights and Legal Research [Flight of Hope]
- Path Welfare Society
- Rajabazar Roshni/ Roshni Youth Group
- Rupantaran Foundation
- South Kolkata Hamari Muskan
- SPARROW
- Stree Shakti
- Swarupnagar Nari Kalyan Samity
- Towards Future

During the session, eleven broad areas were identified for collaboration and sharing expertise: financial, skill Development, documentation (Archiving, Case Studies, History), research, community mobilization, resource mobilization, legal empowerment, counseling, cultural intervention (Dance, Music, Art), health, and visibility.

Following the meeting, WFC prepared a document listing the organizations; their main work, especially their strengths and what they would be willing to share; and those issues and topics where they would like help that was shared with the participants.