

Call for Papers

Peace Prints: A South Asian Journal of Peacebuilding

Special Issue: Re-scripting ‘Progressive’ Gender Sensitive Foreign Policy: Indian and South Asian Perspectives

Guest Editor: Rita Manchanda

Peace Prints: A South Asian Journal of Peacebuilding invites proposals for a special issue that critically examines emerging debates on **Gender Sensitive Foreign Policy (GSFP) and Feminist Foreign Policy (FFP)** from Indian and South Asian perspectives.

In recent years, feminist and gender-sensitive approaches to foreign policy have gained visibility globally. However, these frameworks often emerge from **Western liberal traditions** and may not fully capture the complex historical, political, and security contexts of South Asia. This special issue seeks to explore whether a distinct **South Asian footprint** exists in theorizing and practicing gender-sensitive diplomacy and foreign policy.

The issue aims to bring together scholars, practitioners, and policy analysts to interrogate how gender intersects with diplomacy, international relations, and peacebuilding in the region. It also seeks to uncover overlooked histories, institutional practices, and contemporary policy debates shaping the gendered dimensions of foreign policy in South Asia.

Suggested Themes and Topics

Contributions may address, but are not limited to, the following themes:

1. Theorising South Asian Perspectives on Gender Sensitive Foreign Policy

- Can we identify a distinct **South Asian scholarship or intellectual tradition** on Gender Sensitive or Feminist Foreign Policy?
- Tensions between the **Western liberal roots of Feminist Foreign Policy** and South Asia’s postcolonial and security-driven geopolitical context.
- Conceptual frameworks for understanding GSFP within South Asian international relations.

2. Genealogies of Gender-Sensitive Diplomacy

- Historical explorations of **gender-sensitive diplomacy in South Asia**.
- Recovering hidden histories of women in diplomacy.
- Studies of pioneering women diplomats such as **Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit**.
- Cultural and historical representations of women’s political agency, including works such as *Begums of the Sun*, *Framing Feminist Strategic Discourse Jahanara Begum*.

3. Non-Alignment, Multilateralism, and Gendered Diplomacy

- Intersections between **Non-Aligned foreign policy traditions** and contemporary GSFP.
- India and South Asia in global and multilateral forums such as the UN, BRICS, and the G20.
- Gendered diplomacy in international conferences on women, development, human rights, health, education, climate change, disarmament, migration, and humanitarian crises.

4. Humanitarianism, Ethics, and Foreign Policy

- India's emphasis on **depoliticising humanitarian assistance** and continuing aid regardless of political conditions.
- The principle of "**Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**" as a moral foundation for humanitarian foreign policy.
- Refugees, migrants, and humanitarian diplomacy.
- Contradictions in policies such as the treatment of **Rohingya refugees**.
- Foreign policy engagement with the Indian diaspora, including migrant workers in the Gulf and gendered restrictions on mobility.

5. Gender in International Relations and Policy Structures

- Does Indian foreign policy recognize gender as integral to its institutional and analytical frameworks?
- Gendered impacts of conflict, disasters, climate change, and humanitarian crises.
- Gender-sensitive approaches in **health diplomacy, climate diplomacy, and development assistance**.
- The relationship between **gender justice at home and credibility abroad**.

6. Institutional Cultures and Women in Diplomacy

- Diplomacy as a **masculinised institutional culture**.
- Experiences of women diplomats navigating postings, promotions, and conflict environments.
- Gendered notions of vulnerability and institutional bias.
- The role of courts, activism, and global norms such as the **Women, Peace and Security (WPS)** agenda.

7. Rethinking Representation in Foreign Policy

- Beyond elite inclusion: redefining what **gender inclusion in diplomacy** means.
- Tensions between outward promotion of gender norms and domestic resistance to gender-sensitive policy frameworks.
- Critical perspectives on India's engagement with global WPS and FFP norms.

8. Women Diplomats and Diplomatic Practice

- Case studies of women diplomats' roles in negotiations, crisis management, and bridge-building.
- Collaborative and inclusive diplomatic practices.
- Expanding representation, rights, and resources through gender-aware diplomacy.
- Balancing ministry directives with gender-sensitive diplomatic approaches.

9. Rethinking the “Softness” Myth

- Challenging stereotypes that associate women with “soft diplomacy”.
- Dialogue, power, and negotiation in conflict settings.
- Regional diplomacy in South Asia and approaches to neighbourhood relations.
- Civil society engagement and cross-border activism in diplomacy.

Types of Contributions

- **Research Articles:** up to 5,000 words
- **Policy Blogs / Commentaries:** up to 2,000 words
- **Book Reviews / Review Essays:** up to 2,500 words

Submission Process

Scholars and practitioners are invited to submit **proposals/abstracts** outlining their intended contribution to the special issue. Selected authors will be invited to submit full manuscripts.

Abstract length: 150-250 words

Deadline for submission of abstracts: 31st March 2026

Submission email: ritamanchanda2003@yahoo.co.in

Deadline for submission of full manuscript : 7th June 2026

Citation Style: Chicago Manual of Style (Author-Date format), 17TH Edition

Review Process: Abstracts will be reviewed on a rolling basis and responses returned within three weeks

About the Journal

Peace Prints: A South Asian Journal of Peacebuilding is an interdisciplinary journal that explores issues of peace, conflict, justice, and social transformation in South Asia. The journal seeks to foster critical dialogue between scholars, practitioners, and policy communities engaged in peacebuilding globally.