

CALL FOR PAPERS

*Mediation through a Gender Lens:
Perspectives from the Community to the International level*

Guest Editor: Sumona DasGupta

The United Nations guidelines define mediation “as a form of good offices whereby a third party upon request, seeks to assist parties to a dispute to reach an agreement voluntarily through a formal dialogue process.” In 2012, taking cognizance of both the possibilities and challenges of mediation processes Ban Ki Moon, former Secretary General of the United Nations had pointed out “mediation is one of the most effective methods of preventing, managing and resolving conflicts. To be effective however, a mediation process requires more than the appointment of a high profile individual to act as third party. Antagonists often need to be persuaded of the merits of mediation, and peace processes must be well supported politically, technically and financially. Ad hoc and poorly coordinated mediation efforts – even when launched with the best of intentions - do not advance the goal of achieving durable peace.” Overlaid with this is the fact that despite many calls to include women in peacebuilding there have been limited examples of women actually leading mediation processes.

In recent years the scope and possibilities of mediation has grown significantly with its application in diverse fields ranging from commercial disputes, public policy disputes, environmental disputes, inter and intra state disputes. Mediation is no longer confined within the realms of international diplomacy. With peacebuilding becoming more people centric the scope of mediation has also expanded to embrace reconciliation between victims and offenders, groups and communities, state and non state actors. At the same time resolution 1325 calling for the more active participation of women in peacebuilding continues to be referenced leading to myriad discussions around women in peace mediation. The forthcoming issue of **Peace Prints** will engage with the possibilities and challenges of women as they enter the field of mediation across sectors and a range of disputes.

Titled *Mediation through a Gender Lens: Perspectives from the Community to the International level* this edition of **Peace Prints** will examine the theory and practice of mediation from a gender perspective. The articles in this collection will examine the literature around mediation as a mechanism for the peaceful settlement of disputes both conceptually and operationally, draw on field experiences and case studies of mediation, engage with specific themes around which women have mediated and reflect on some of the following questions/issues:

- How practitioners (specially women) understand and define the process of mediation in contexts characterised by multiple conflict sites and across cultural constituencies that cut across national borders
- The opportunities and challenges for women dialogue facilitators and mediators
- The role of women's mediation networks such as Women Mediators across the Commonwealth (WMC) and other regional networks in building a community of practice and mutual learning on mediation across contexts
- How mediation can work in contexts of forced migration and violent extremism
- The challenges of applying a climate lens to mediation practice

Geographically this collection will look at conflict sites across the world where mediation has been attempted with women in the lead.

This edition will consist of academic essays, research articles of 5000 – 6000 words each, reflection pieces that bring forward perspectives from the field of 3000 – 5000 words and book discussions on women in mediation. We specially encourage articles co-authored by scholars and practitioners across conflict zones.

Email Abstracts to: sumona.dasgupta@gmail.com

Deadline for Submitting Abstracts: 25th October 2023

Deadline for Full Papers: 15 December 2023