

Foreword

This Special Issue of *Peace Prints* is an attempt to generate a conversation between the domains of Peacebuilding and Disability. It seeks to turn the searchlight on an area that is often neglected in mainstream writing on Peace and Security. The structural causes of conflict, both personal and societal, that sustain practices of overt and covert violence against marginalized individuals and groups is squarely within the domain of Peace and Conflict Studies. This issue seeks to open up new vistas and attempts to address the marginalization experienced by persons with disabilities. It provides a context to explore articulations of individual conflict that emerge out of exclusions in the public sphere, to deepen our understanding of social marginalization, oppression and the perception of difference.

While a linear causal relationship between violent conflict and disability is difficult to establish, there is no doubt that conflict penetrates in insidious and inscrutable ways the lives of the marginalized. Both gender and disabilities studies have established that the experience of gendered violence exacerbates when combined with disability. Relationships of power in society, within the private and public realm, assume a different dynamic in the context of disability. The papers in this issue unpack the psychological impact on citizens of what stays largely latent in public discourse.

Anita Ghai, Guest Editor of the volume is a disability rights activist and an expert on issues of disability. She has spent over three decades to draw public attention to bear on dignity of individuals with disability. She suggest that a new lexicon needs to develop for this field in South Asia rather than simply drawing upon the experiences of the Global North. The papers in this issue are a tribute to the relentless efforts of scholars and activists to find voice and to engender the issue of disability.

Questions remain on how the seemingly disparate universes of Peace Building and Disability Studies can begin a conversation that looks at state responsibility in this often neglected area. This special volume is an attempt to explore that trajectory.

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