



crea

Annual Report

2012/2013



Annual Report 2012/2013



VISION

CREA envisions a more just and peaceful world, where everyone lives with dignity, respect, and equality.

MISSION

CREA builds feminist leadership, advances women's human rights, and expands sexual and reproductive freedoms.

THEORY OF CHANGE

CREA believes that building the self-confidence, leadership, and knowledge of women and girls about their sexuality and human rights, and creating feminist platforms to challenge oppressive norms and power structures will enable women and girls to make their own decisions, exert control over their bodies, and demand their rights.

ORGANISATIONAL OUTCOMES

- Women and girls are able to make informed decisions about their bodies and sexuality, and challenge power structures that silence and oppress them.
- A greater number of activists/women leaders, who can advance women's human and sexual rights from a feminist perspective.
- Change in the perceptions, attitudes, and practices of organisations and movements working on gender and sexuality to become more rights affirming.



Dear friends and supporters of CREA,

For CREA, the year 2012/13 brought in its stride new and innovative programmes, significant partnerships, and expansion of our networks. We developed diverse and stronger connections with women and girls, practitioners, activists, policymakers, and organisations around the world. We reached out to a larger group of people, through our latest publications, blog posts, opinion pieces, articles, and our new quarterly e-newsletter. We also conducted several public events in India and in other parts of the world. All this was very dynamic and promising, to say the least.

The year, however, ended on a grim note. On 16 December 2012, a 23-year-old woman was brutally gang-raped in a bus in Delhi, India. She died from her injuries 13 days later. The incident sparked massive public outrage and protest. People came out in big numbers, demanding justice and affirming women's human rights. The issue of violence against women was placed squarely on the national agenda, in ways unprecedented in the recent past.

On the one hand, CREA was actively participating in all the protests and demonstrations, adding our voice to the demands for "freedom, not protection". On the other, we were working towards the revision of sexual assault laws in the country, through our recommendations to the Justice Verma Committee, formed by the Indian government after the incident for legal reform.

Amidst all this, we increasingly realised the imperativeness to continue to frame violence against women and girls within the context of sexuality, gender, and rights. We felt that there is an urgent need to reclaim spaces—both physical and discursive—and make them feminist and rights affirming. We must expand the scope of the conversation on violence against women to include all women. We must create a cohort of feminist activists and leaders to engage more meaningfully on issues of gender, sexuality, and rights.

It is, thus, necessary to continue our Institutes and programmes like Ibtida and Count Me IN! It's My Body with greater vigour. We must also reflect on the ways we can extend this beyond organisations and movements to encompass the public at large. We need to come together in ways that are inclusive and strategic. And, we are fully committed to finding innovative ways to take this forward in the new year!

Geetanjali Misra

Co-Founder and Executive Director, CREA

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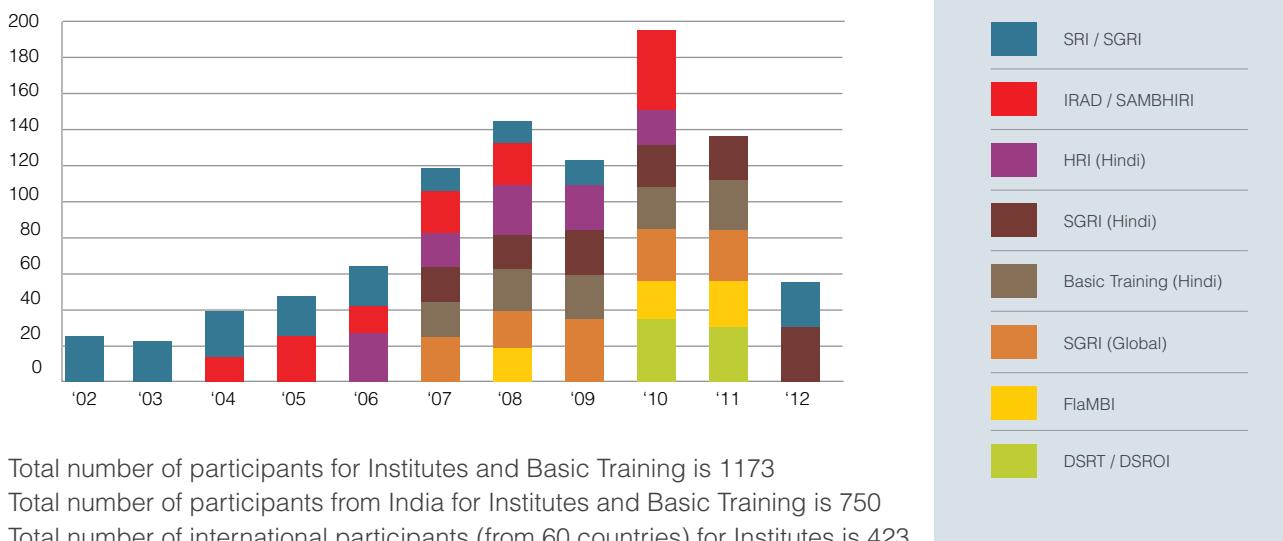
OUR IMPACT

CREA works to build the self-confidence, leadership, and knowledge of women and girls about their sexuality and human rights, and creates feminist platforms to challenge oppressive norms and power structures. Our Institutes (short-term courses) and training programmes help us to achieve these goals and have become well known in India and throughout progressive, feminist spaces globally. They are truly cutting-edge, exciting, intellectual, and fizzing with ideas and connections. They bring together some of the best minds in the world to talk about issues related to sexuality, gender, rights, feminist leadership, movement building, and sexual and reproductive health and rights, using creative teaching and learning methodologies. This section captures the overall reach and impact of these programmes to date.

Total number of participants who attended CREA's Institutes from 2002 to June 2013

	Basic Training (Hindi)	DSRT/DSROI	FlaMBI/FLMBaRI	HRI (Hindi)	IRAD/ SAMBHARI	SRI/SGRI	SRI/(Global)	SGRI (Hindi)	Total
2002						25			25
2003						22			22
2004					12	25			37
2005					24	22			64
2006				25	17	22			64
2007	19			19	23	13	25	19	118
2008	23		17	27	24	12	21	20	144
2009	25			25		14	32	25	121
2010	23	33	22	19	45		30	23	195
2011	28	28	26				29	24	135
2012	30		29			25	25	30	139
2013	27		28			22	32	18	127
Total	148	61	122	115	145	202	194	159	1173

CREA's Institutes and Basic Training from 2002 to June 2013



Basic Training (Hindi): Basic Training on Gender, Sexuality, and Sexual and Reproductive Health in Hindi

A five-day training programme, which builds a ‘basic’ or preliminary understanding of issues related to sexuality, sexual rights, gender, and human rights, and their interconnections.

DSRT/DSROI: Disability, Sexuality, and Rights Online Institute

(previously called *Disability, Sexuality, and Rights Training*)

The Online Institute aims to develop awareness on issues related to disability and sexuality, and a political perspective on disabled people’s sexual and human rights.

FLaMBI/FLMBaRI: Feminist Leadership, Movement Building, and Rights Institute—East Africa

(previously called *Feminist Leadership and Movement Building Institute*)

A week-long course on feminist leadership and movement building for representatives of women-led organisations and women activists in East Africa.

HRI (Hindi): Human Rights Institute (discontinued)

SRI/SGRI: Sexuality, Gender, and Rights Institute—India (English)

(previously called *Sexuality and Rights Institute*)

An annual, week-long residential course that focuses on a conceptual study of sexuality. It examines the links between sexuality, rights, gender, and health and their interface with socio-cultural and legal issues.

SGRI (Global): Sexuality, Gender, and Rights Institute—Global

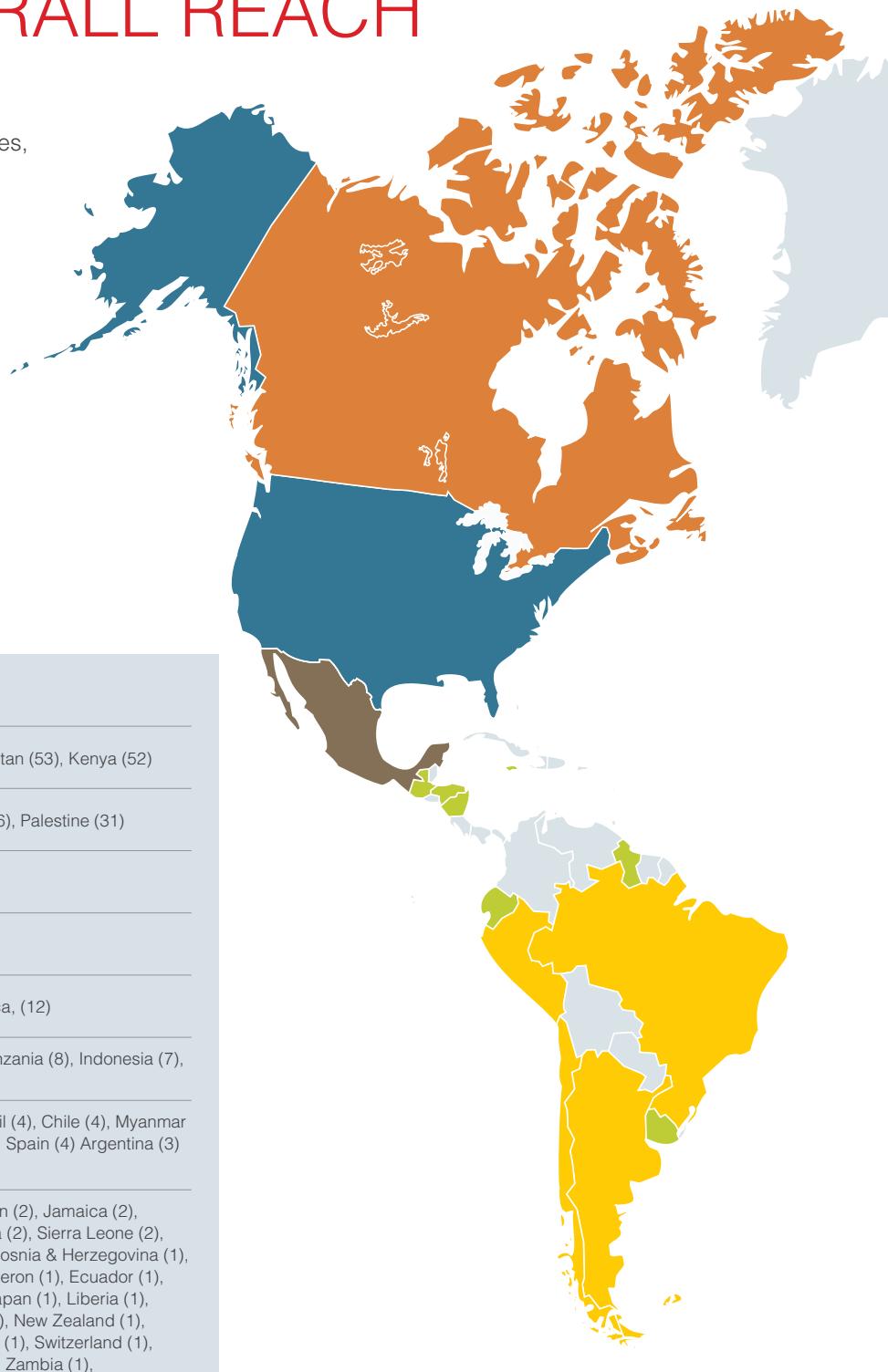
An annual week-long residential programme, which helps the participants examine and better understand the interface between sexuality, gender, and human rights, and their links with the related fields of development and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

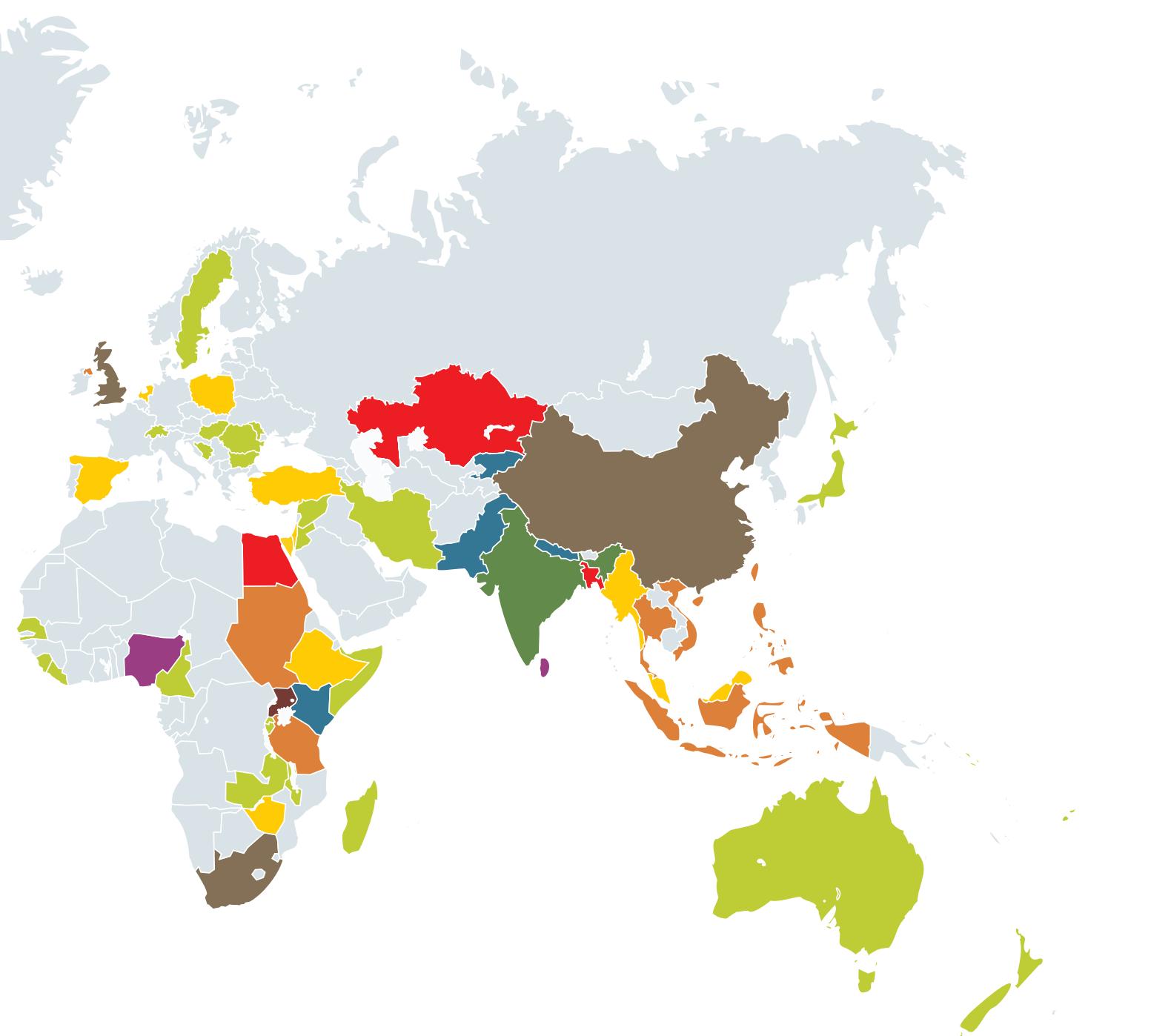
SGRI (Hindi): Sexuality, Gender, and Rights Institute—India (Hindi)

Also called ‘Yaunikta, Gender aur Adhikar—Ek Adhyayan’, it is an annual week-long Institute in Hindi on sexuality, gender, and rights, designed for women development workers from community-based organisations in India.

CREA'S OVERALL REACH

Over 1800 people from more than 75 countries have participated in CREA's Institutes, trainings, exchange programmes, and conferences (2002 to March 2013).

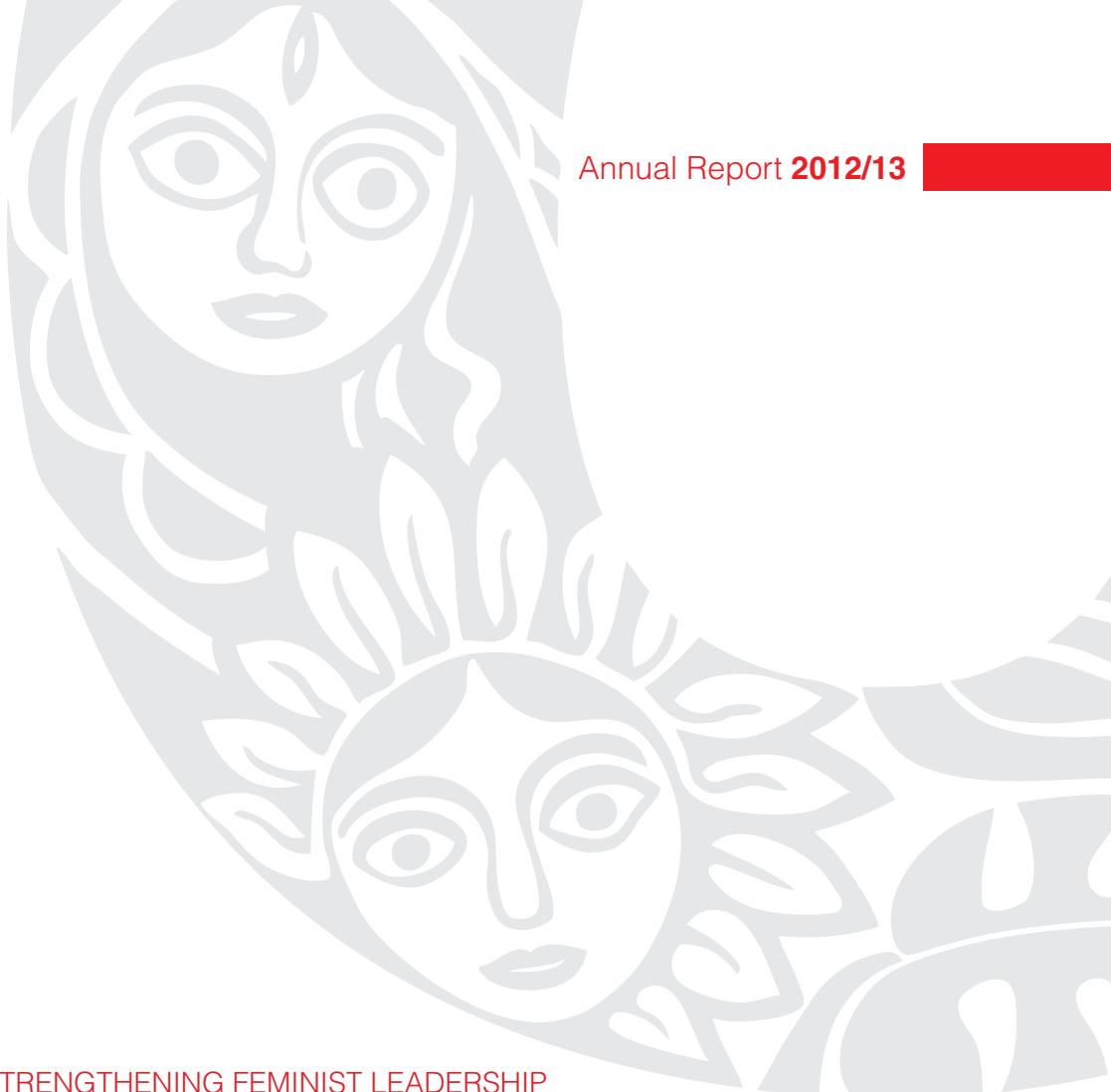






HIGHLIGHTS OF 2012/13

2012/13 was the year of the new—new initiatives, new programmes, and new partners! Here is a snapshot of some of the year's highlights, divided into CREA's six strategic initiatives:



1 2 3 4 5 6

STRENGTHENING FEMINIST LEADERSHIP



ADVANCING THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF SEXUALITY,
GENDER, AND RIGHTS



IMPROVING SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS



ADDRESSING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND ADVANCING
WOMEN'S SECURITY



CREATING GLOBAL SOUTH KNOWLEDGE RESOURCES



STRENGTHENING THE VISIBILITY, VOICE, AND PARTICIPATION
OF MARGINALISED WOMEN

1



STRENGTHENING FEMINIST LEADERSHIP

To strengthen feminist leadership, strategies, and collective power for social transformation, particularly in East Africa, South Asia, and the Middle East.

Feminist Leadership, Movement Building, and Rights Institute—East Africa

5–9 November 2012 | Nairobi, Kenya

Twenty-eight people from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Somalia, Malawi, Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, and the United States attended the Institute to enhance their leadership capacities and share feminist perspectives and strategies for change. CREA co-organised the Institute with Grassroots Organizations Operating Together in Sisterhood (GROOTS) Kenya and Akili Dada.

Feminist Leadership, Movement Building, and Rights Institute—South Asia

28 January–1 February 2013 | Kathmandu, Nepal

Twenty-five participants from Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and the Philippines came together to apply their experience of feminist activism to new frameworks of movement building and leadership in the South Asian context. They also participated in 'My Peace, My Security: New Meanings from Women's Perspectives—An Open Forum', organised by CREA.

“

I am honored to belong to this Institute. On my part, my eyes have been opened wider and my brain, brainstormed. I now believe I can form a movement and achieve the highest goals that I have been keeping inside myself.

- Participant

”

“

The course was not just theories, concept, ideology, but deliberately invoked and appealed to action—change both at individual and organizational levels.

- Participant

”

Ibtida

- With the aim of building the leadership capacity of women-led community-based organisations (CBOs) and elected women representatives (EWRs), CREA forged partnerships with eight more CBOs in four districts of Jharkhand: Gramodya Chetna Kendra, Charra • Mahila Uthan, Hazaribagh • Mahila Mukti Sanstha, Hazaribagh • Samadhan Sanstha, Hazaribagh • Kirti Sanstha, Deoghar • Prabha Bharti, Deoghar • Asha Sansthan, East Singhbhum • Nurture, East Singhbhum.

Other partners:

Lok Prerna Kendra, Hazaribagh • Mahila Mandal, Chatra • Prerna Bharti, Deoghar • Singhbhum Gramin Unnayan Mahila Samiti, West Singhbhum

- Ibtida partners participated in CREA's Sexuality, Gender, and Rights Institute—India (Hindi) and Basic Training on Gender and Sexuality. In December 2012, they attended a training session on violence against women (VAW) and sexuality, organised by Nirantar.
- CREA field staff members visited the Hunger Project in Bihar and Mahila Samiti in Madhya Pradesh to learn more about their work with EWRs.
- During a needs assessment, CREA found that 92% of the 426 EWRs surveyed had been elected for the first time. Half of the EWRs reported being either uneducated or with non-formal education. Also, 60% of the EWRs reported relying on their husbands and/or other male members in the community to perform their duties, and 69% expressed a need for additional training on their role, responsibilities, and functions as EWRs, on human rights principles, and on leadership.
- In December 2012, CREA conducted its first Training on Leadership Skills, Roles, and Responsibilities of EWRs, with 29 participants, including Ibtida members and EWRs. The training provided the knowledge crucial for them to be effective in bringing focus on women's issues and concerns within Panchayat meetings. The EWRs trained by CREA shared their new knowledge by training other EWRs and women in their villages.

All the participating EWRs have reported greater confidence and self-esteem after the training. This has been a combined result of the trainings and their first experience of travelling from their villages to Ranchi without being accompanied by any male family members.



2



ADVANCING THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF SEXUALITY, GENDER, AND RIGHTS

To enable people to apply the conceptual understanding of the interface between sexuality, gender, and rights to their work. To influence, monitor, and help implement laws, policies, and practices that affirm women's human rights and the sexual rights of all people.

Sexuality, Gender, and Rights Institute—Global

7–15 July 2012 | Istanbul, Turkey

Twenty-five people from China, Egypt, India, Iran, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, South Africa, Turkey, the United States, and Zimbabwe attended the Institute to better understand the links between sexuality, rights, gender, and health, and their interface with socio-cultural and legal issues.

“

It has been an amazing experience for me, and I consider CREA as a turning point in my work on gender and sexuality issues. It was the beginning of a journey of deeper understanding, exploration, and study of these subject matters. I am grateful to all the great people I met—organisers, faculty, and participants.

- Participant

”

“

Although I had some knowledge about sexuality, this course changed my assumptions and short visions about it. And, gave me powerful concepts and tools to improve my work.

- Participant

”

Sexuality, Gender, and Rights Institute—India (English)

16–22 March 2013 | Khandala, Maharashtra

Twenty-four people from across India came together to explore issues like sexuality and gender, rights, health, law, representation, dis/ability, and culture, and the inter-linkages between them.

“

I expected to be stimulated, learn new concepts, engage with ideas and issues I did not know about, read, learn—all of which happened. The films were a bonus!

- Participant

”

“

It was beyond my expectations, as the diversity and quality of the course are admirable. It has helped me think about concepts and introduced me to new subjects in this field.

- Participant

”

Sexuality, Gender, and Rights Institute—India (Hindi)

18–23 March 2013 | Gurgaon, Haryana

Eighteen women and trans women activists from Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand, India, and Kathmandu, Nepal, examined the principles of sexuality and the inter-linkages between sexuality, gender, and reproductive health and rights.

“ Before attending this Institute, I used to think that I have a ‘good’ understanding of some of these issues. But, during the Institute, I realised that I had a ‘narrow’ understanding. This Institute forced us to look at various dimensions of these issues.

- Participant

”

“ I had not engaged as deeply on issues of ART and surrogacy before this Institute. This was very helpful, as, though we do work on reproductive health, the work is sometimes not informed of all the politics around reproductive rights. Also, linking of reproductive health with consent and choice was a fresh perspective in our work.

- Participant

”

Sexual Rights Initiative at the United Nations Human Rights Council

As part of its ongoing work to bring sexual rights into the mainstream of global development and policy dialogues, CREA attended the 20th, 21st, and 22nd regular sessions of the United National Human Rights Council (UNHRC). As part of the Sexual Rights Initiative (SRI), CREA:

- Drafted and delivered statements on key sexual rights issues at the UNHRC, including criminalisation of sex work, contemporary forms of slavery on early and forced marriages, and sexual rights violation in health sector.
- Worked jointly with partners to co-sponsor a side event on criminalisation of SRH and organised a meeting for NGOs on next steps and follow up after the first ever resolution on SOGI and the panel at the UNHRC.
- Organised ‘NGO Discussion Meeting on ICPD Beyond 2014: Sharing ideas on using the ICPD review process to challenge restrictive laws and policies relating to sexuality and reproduction’.
- Worked to include sexual rights language in key resolutions at each session, including resolution on ‘Accelerating Efforts to Eliminate All Forms of Violence Against Women: Remedies for Women Who Have Been Subjected to Violence’ and ‘Rights of Children to Health’.
- Part of the network of organisations that worked with delegates to oppose/stall the resolution on traditional values, which, however, was still passed. CREA and other SRI partners worked with delegates for the adoption of ‘Technical Guidance on a Human Rights Based Approach to Reducing Maternal Mortality and Morbidity’.
- Worked with partners to submit joint UPR reports/submissions for Bangladesh and Uzbekistan.
- Attended the Asia Pacific Regional Seminar on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in Kathmandu, Nepal.



3



IMPROVING SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

To empower women and girls to make informed decisions about their bodies, and advance their sexual and reproductive health and rights from a feminist perspective.

Count Me IN! It's My Body: Advancing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights of Girls and Women

- SRHR Training Sessions with Adolescent Girls Using Sports

July 2012–March 2013 | Jharkhand, India

CREA and its four partner organisations in Jharkhand use sports to reach out to and mobilise adolescent girls into village-level kishori manch (groups). These girls participate in SRHR trainings, where they learn about growing up and bodily changes, health and hygiene, menstruation, self-esteem and self-confidence, sex and gender, sexuality, love, sex and relationships, decision-making, body language and image, violence, discrimination and human rights, pregnancy, contraception, and available health services in the community. A total of 500 girls were included in the programme this year.

“ Earlier, my parents used to treat me like an animal and keep me inside the home. Since I joined this programme, I have started coming out for these meetings, making new friends, and demanding my rights from my family. I have been with this programme since 2009, when we all campaigned against son preference. Since then, I feel, I have changed a lot. Now, if a collective member tells me that she cannot come for a meeting, I talk to her parents and convince them to send her. This collective gives us a lot of strength and confidence to demand our rights. Now, I feel like a free bird.

—Neelam, Itkhor, Jharkhand **”**

- Learning Visits for Partners and Adolescent Girls to Other Programs on Sports with Young People on Issues of Health, Life Skills, and Rights

September–November 2012 | Jharkhand, India

- In September 2012, six members of partner community-based organisations (CBOs) Lok Prerna Kendra, Mahila Mandal, and Prerna Bharati visited YUWA, an organisation that works with adolescent girls on increasing their participation in sports.
- On 21 October 2012, a match was held between the all-girl football teams of Lok Prerna Kendra and YUWA. Ninety girls from Lok Prerna Kendra visited YUWA to learn about their game techniques and rules.
- CREA and its partner CBOs from Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh participated in the Maidan Summit 2012 to share resources and publications on issues of gender, sexuality, violence against women, and women's human rights.

- Community-level Sports Events

June 2012–March 2013 | Bihar, Jharkhand, and Uttar Pradesh, India

CREA and its partner CBOs organised 14 public sports events with adolescent girls at the village, block, and district levels in the three states. These events reached out to over 5000 people, highlighting issues of sexual violence, physical abuse, eve teasing, and harassment through sports matches, poster exhibitions, debates, and musical and theatrical performances.

Basic Training on Gender, Sexuality, and Sexual and Reproductive Health in Hindi

9–11 July 2012 | Jharkhand, India

Thirty women from nine states of India built their preliminary understanding on issues of gender, sexuality, and sexual and reproductive health and rights. They discussed issues like violence against women, counselling services, and policies around reproductive rights, gender, and sexuality.

“ I have attended many trainings on gender, laws, and human rights...But, I was not able to use the learning in my work or connect with my personal life. During these three days, I was able to connect all discussions with my personal life. Now, I can also see the change in my work.

- Participant

”

Feasibility Study to Assess the Use of ICT to Deliver Sexual and Reproductive Health Information to Adolescent Girls in Uttar Pradesh

CREA has launched a new programme to explore the feasibility of using Information Communication Technology (ICT) to share information on sexual and reproductive health (SRH) with adolescent girls in Uttar Pradesh, India.

- First-of-its-kind dialogue-based, interactive, and participatory mobile phone platform in Hindi, covering a broad range of basic SRH issues.
- Provide adolescent girls the freedom to get the information they need and in their own language.
- Test the concept in rural, peri-urban, and urban districts of Uttar Pradesh, where mobile phone use is increasing day-by-day, particularly among the youth.

According Census 2011, 67% households in Uttar Pradesh use mobile phones and landlines (India 63%), of which 61% use only mobile phones (India 59%).

National Youth Coalition on SRHR Advocacy and to Strengthen Capacity of Youth Activists on SRHR Issues

CREA and other like-minded individuals and organisations working on issues of SRHR with young people in India came together to form a coalition on SRHR advocacy and to strengthen the capacity of youth activists on these issues. The Coalition aims to bring people together on a neutral platform to discuss, debate, and decide upon a way forward that is youth led.

- The first workshop was held in New Delhi in November 2012. It brought together young activists to assess the need for a cohesive youth SRHR movement.

Developing TVET, HE, and Training on SRHR in the Health and Population Sector in Bangladesh

CREA joined a consortium to work on a project to introduce effective technical and vocational education and training (TVET), and higher education (HE) in the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) sector in Bangladesh. The aim is to create a better understanding and recognition of SRHR, to build capacity among stakeholders working in the field, and to encourage an integrated and rights-based approach.

- MDF Training and Consultancy BV is the lead agency in the consortium.
- Other partners are Rutgers WPF and Radboud University, the Netherlands.





4



ADDRESSING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND ADVANCING WOMEN'S SECURITY

To build women's capacities to challenge patriarchal power structures, combat violence against women, and advance democratic values and processes.

New Voices/New Leaders: Women Building Peace and Reshaping Democracy

- Feminist Leadership, Movement Building, and Rights Institute—East Africa

5–9 November 2012 | Nairobi, Kenya

Twenty-eight people from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Somalia, Malawi, Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, and the United States attended the Institute to enhance their leadership capacities and share feminist perspectives and strategies for change. CREA co-organised the Institute with Grassroots Organizations Operating Together in Sisterhood (GROOTS) Kenya and Akili Dada.

- Feminist Leadership, Movement Building, and Rights Institute—South Asia

28 January–1 February 2013 | Kathmandu, Nepal

Twenty-five participants from Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and the Philippines came together to apply their experience of feminist activism to new frameworks of movement building and leadership in the South Asian context. They also participated in 'My Peace, My Security: New Meanings from Women's Perspectives—An Open Forum', organised by CREA.

- My Peace, My Security: New Meanings from Women's Perspectives—An Open Forum

2 February 2013 | Kathmandu, Nepal

The Open Forum, organised in collaboration with Nagarik Aawaz, Nepal, engaged with issues of integrated peace and security, and placed the voices of diverse women, including disabled, transgender, displaced, and war-affected women, at the centre of this conversation. It also examined issues related to freedom of speech, especially on the Internet, given that content censorship and other such regulations are being used as a new means of exerting control. It was attended by people from over 50 organisations from South Asia working on issues related to human rights, women's rights, and gender.

Women's Leadership Institute on Peace and Security

CREA launched a brand new Institute in partnership with Cordaid, one of the largest development organisations in The Netherlands. The Women's Leadership Institute on Peace and Security will provide training to women human rights defenders and representatives of organisations working on women's peace and security to use feminist leadership principles in their work. Currently under development, the first Institute will be held in 2014. It aims to

create a cadre of leaders who can integrate women's rights, feminist leadership, and movement building into their ongoing work on peace building and security.

Building Feminist Discourse and Facilitate Perspective Building for Young People on Sexual Assault and Violence Against Women

- Free and Equal—A Conversation on Women's Human Rights and Gender-based Violence
1 and 6 March | Delhi, India

CREA brings feminist discourse on women's human rights and gender-based violence to colleges in Delhi through panel discussions on these issues. The aim is to influence a critical population of young people on sexuality, gender, rights, and other issues. This year, CREA organised two panel discussions in Gargi College, Delhi University, and Jamia Millia Islamia University. The issues discussed included the relationship between development and human rights, gender as a system of power inequality between men and women, myriad forms of violence against women (including communalism), Justice Verma Committee recommendations, and the recently amended sexual assault laws. Over 500 students and faculty members attended the panels.



5



CREATING GLOBAL SOUTH KNOWLEDGE RESOURCES

To develop publications and knowledge resources, in English and Hindi, in the fields of sexuality, reproductive health, gender, and human rights to foreground global South perspectives.

Reproductive Health Matters journal

CREA published the sixth edition of *Reproductive Health Matters–Hindi* on ‘abortion and rights’. The 11 articles in this edition examine issues such as criminalisation of abortion, impact of religion and cultural norms on women’s bodies and rights, sex selection, quality of and access to health services, and public health policy related to women’s rights to bodily autonomy. The edition consists of case studies, research studies, and strategic discussions from India and other countries in Asia, Europe, and South America.

Publications

- Hindi Primers

CREA produced a set of five short primers in Hindi, aimed at adolescent girls, which covers: Sexuality • SRHR of young girls • Reproductive health and rights • HIV/AIDS • Criminalisation. The primers focus on these issues through the concepts of consent, choice, and agency, and provide information in clear, easy-to-understand language.

Resources

- Blog Series at Ultraviolet.in

CREA is writing a series of blog posts at Ultraviolet.in, a ‘place for Indian feminists’. The three posts published this year are:

- Making Choices: The Rhetoric and The Reality
- Ta(l)king Sex Beyond English
- Yes, No, and Maybe: Reflections on ‘Practicing Consent’

To read the blog posts by CREA, visit <http://ultraviolet.in/tag/crea/>

- Rape: the stereotyping of Indian culture and moving from ‘protection’ to ‘freedom’—RHM blog post by CREA In the light of the 16 December 2012 gang rape and murder of a 23-year-old girl in Delhi, India, CREA shared its views on the case, sexual violence, and the responses to it on the blog of Reproductive Health Matters (RHM). CREA’s blog post analyses the situation and the responses to the incident through a feminist lens.

To read the blog post by CREA, visit <http://rhmatters.wordpress.com/2013/01/28/rape-the-stereotyping-of-indian-culture-and-moving-from-protection-to-freedom/>

- Interviews with Geetanjali Misra, co-Founder and Executive Director, CREA

In addition to the RHM blog, Geetanjali Misra was interviewed by several organisations and media houses, including Mama Cash and Youphil.com, about the December rape case.

To read “Indian women demand freedom, not ‘protection’”, visit www.mamacash.org/page.php?id=3179

To read “Women are wounded, not their honour”, visit www.youphil.com/en/article/06142-geetanjali-misra-women-are-wounded-not-their-honour.

- Free and Equal—CREA’s quarterly e-newsletter

In 2013, CREA launched its e-newsletter—‘Free and Equal’. Every quarter, through the newsletter, we share our news and views, recount our endeavours and successes, and inform you about things to look forward to.

To join our mailing list, write to us at crea@creaworld.org.



6



STRENGTHENING THE VISIBILITY, VOICE, AND PARTICIPATION OF MARGINALISED WOMEN

To support, strengthen, and advance the voices and participation of marginalised women, including lesbian, sex-working, and disabled women, in processes of positive social change.

Interactive Online Resource Guide on Disability and Sexuality

www.sexualityanddisability.org, a website that starts with the premise that women who are disabled are sexual beings—just like any other woman, is a joint effort of Point of View and CREA. It has been receiving tremendous response since its launch in 2012.

- Between April 2012 and March 2013, the website received about 43,000 visitors and 69,000 page views.

Dignity for All: LGBTI Assistance Fund

CREA joined as the Asia Consortium partner for ‘Dignity for All: LGBTI Assistance Program’, launched by Freedom House, an independent watchdog organisation dedicated to the expansion of freedom. The programme has three components—emergency funds, advocacy support, and security assistance. CREA will provide support to civil society organisations in Asia for short-term advocacy initiatives to counteract urgent threats, such as proposed or recently passed legislation, sudden government crackdowns, and increased levels of violence. CREA will also provide preventive security training to help LGBTI organisations and human rights defenders to develop security plans and help prevent future threats and attacks from disrupting LGBTI human rights work.

- Consortium partners include Akahatá-Equipo de Trabajo en Sexualidades y Géneros; the Arab Foundation for Freedoms and Equality (AFE); the European Region of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, and Intersex Association (ILGA-Europe); Freedom House; Heartland Alliance (HA); and the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC).

Coalition Building on Disability, Sexuality and Rights

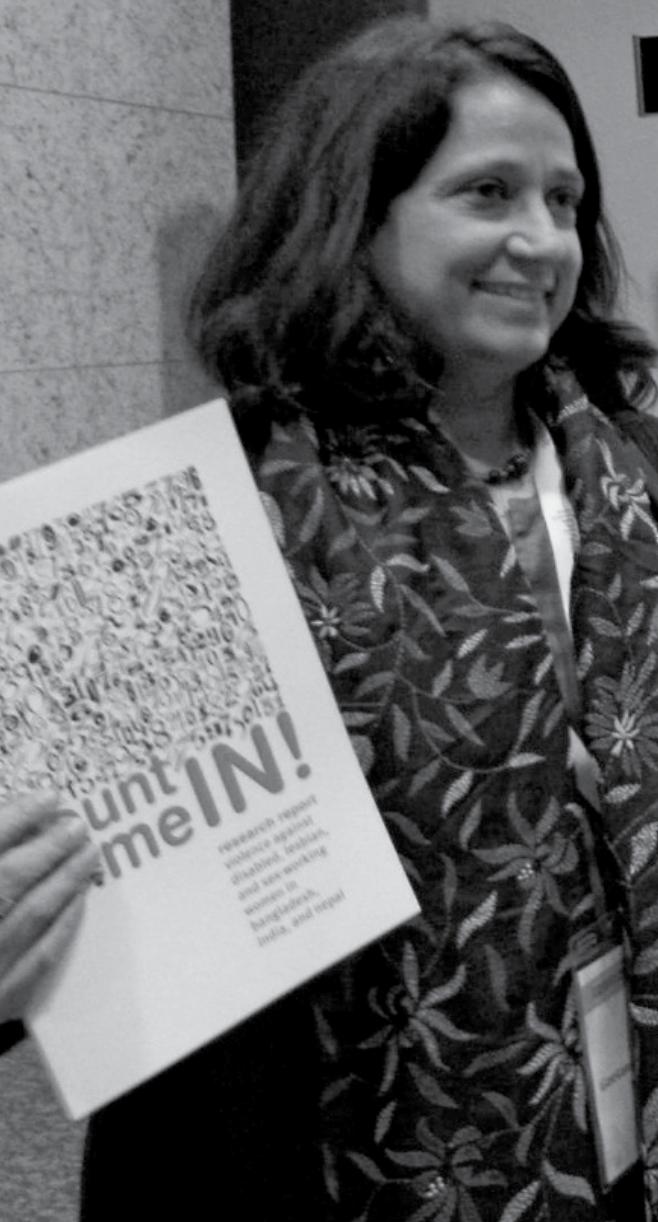
CREA has joined a web-resourced coalition that works on disability and sexuality, and queer/crip issues from a justice, equality, and feminist perspective. It follows on from the work that has been done over the last 10 years by several disability and sexuality rights groups to bring these two issues together. The coalition aims to develop new ideas and share skills, mentor and support disabled people to run face-to-face trainings and web-based courses, ensure that gender/sexuality trainings are fully accessible to disabled people, undertake research, work out ways of challenging the law to include disabled people and to address their sexual concerns, and address various other issues.

CREA joined a web-resourced coalition that works on disability and sexuality, and queer/crip issues from a justice, equality, and feminist perspective.



Look at *me*

Compiled by Marlene le Roux
Photographs by Lucie Pavlovich



PUTTING SEX ON THE TABLE AT THE AWID INTERNATIONAL FORUM

CREA participated in the 12th AWID International Forum, organised by the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) from 19–22 April 2012 in Istanbul, Turkey. It was based on the theme of 'Transforming Economic Power to Advance Women's Rights and Justice'. Over 2200 women's rights leaders, activists, and organisations from around the world participated in the Forum.

CREA's activities at the Forum focussed upon the deep interconnections between sexuality and economic power. CREA highlighted the various ways in which the freedom and power of women and girls to make their own decisions, exert control over their bodies, and demand their rights are intrinsically linked to their economic power.

Here is a snapshot of the various activities that we were involved in:

CREA Book Launches

CREA launched two new publications:

- Free and Equal—photo book by renowned artist and photographer Rebecca Swan, capturing experiences of women who resist oppression, marginalisation, and everyday inequality.
- Count Me IN! Research Report on Violence Against Disabled, Lesbian, and Sex-working Women in Bangladesh, India, and Nepal

CREA Panel

The interactive panel, entitled 'Connecting Contours: Sexuality, Economic Power, and Development', looked



at how the lack of sexual rights for certain groups of women—lesbian and bisexual, trans, disabled, and sex-working women—impacts their economic rights. The 50 participants shared and discussed their experiences, perspectives, and strategies on these issues.

CREA Exhibition and Stall

CREA set up an eye-catching exhibition booth at the Forum, based on the theme of 'Free and Equal'. It offered CREA publications and other knowledge resources, systems on which people could browse the first ever Interactive Online Resource Guide on Disability and Sexuality, and much more.

CREA also hosted a shopping stall at the Forum's Market Place, which offered attractive jewellery, bags, handicrafts, and shawls/stoles, handmade by Indian women. The products were a huge hit among the Forum participants.

Besides these, CREA staff members also participated in various sessions and caucuses, such as the Feminist Tech eXchange (FTX) workshop, 'Can Monitoring and Evaluation be Feminist?' session, 'Ingredients for Successful Sustainable Fundraising' fundraising clinic, and sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) caucus.



NEW PEOPLE @ CREA

Ishita Chaudhry—CREA India’s New Member of Board of Directors

Ishita Chaudhry is an Ashoka Fellow, Founder and CEO of The YP Foundation (YPF), and member of the High Level Task Force on ICPD till 2015.

Please see Page 32 to know more about her.

Anuradha Chatterji is Manager, Resource Development. She contributes to CREA’s resource development and donor management efforts through preparation of concept notes, proposals, and reports. Anuradha has more than 18 years of work experience, 14 of which involved resource mobilisation, donor relations, and project management.

Bhupendra Singh Bisht, as Accounts Officer, assists with CREA’s finance and related operations. This involves payments to staff members and vendors, settlement of advances, preparing monthly expenses and variance statements, timely payment of taxes, and supporting the work of the finance team. He also maintains and files accounts and finance-related documents.

Pooja Badarinath is Programme Coordinator, Advocacy and Research. She has been working in the women’s rights sector for the past three years, specifically on violence against women and gender discrimination, focusing on the implementation of laws relating to women and on law reform. She has briefly worked on sexuality, specifically LGBTI rights, while being associated with a coalition for the decriminalisation of private consensual sexual acts between same-sex couples.

Vrinda Marwah is Program Coordinator, Global South Knowledge Resources. She is responsible for the coordination and content management of some of CREA’s publications and global dialogue series. She also assists with CREA’s Sexuality, Gender, and Rights Institutes; Disability, Sexuality, and Rights Online Institute; and the sexuality and disability website (www.sexualityanddisability.org).

Rupsa Mallik is Director, Programs and Innovation. She is responsible for developing and implementing CREA’s strategic initiatives and programmes in India and South Asia region, and at the global level.

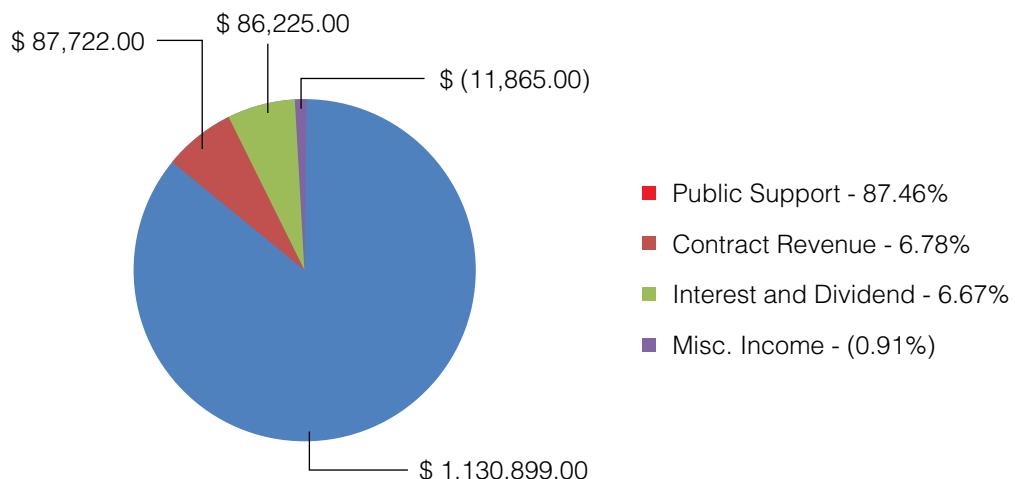
Jagriti Arya is the Secretary and Administration Assistant. She assists Director, Finance and Administration, in managing staff evaluation, implementing organisational policies, and managing the overall administration and operation of CREA. She also helps the Senior Executive Assistant in managing travel arrangements, schedules and calendar, database of contacts, and files for Executive Director, CREA. She also provides logistical and administrative support.



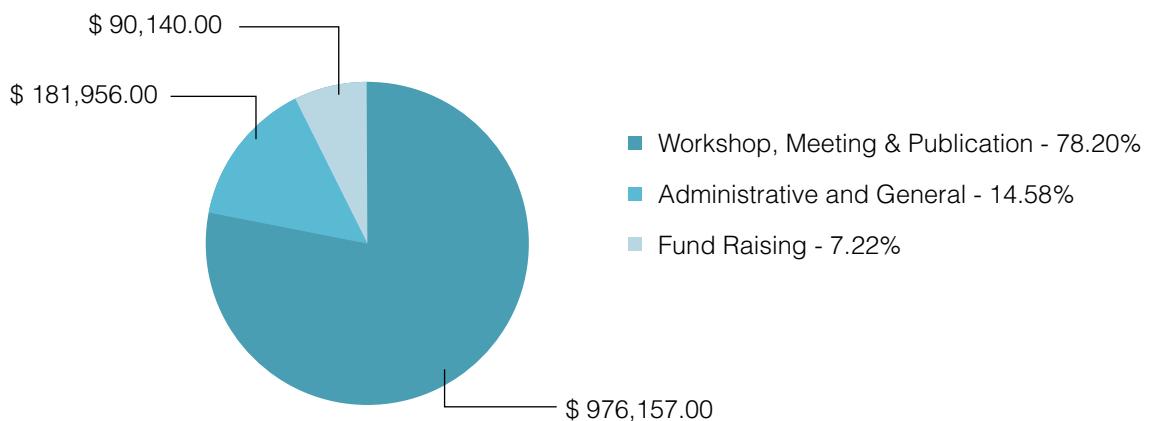
FINANCIAL REPORT

FINANCIAL YEAR 2012/13*

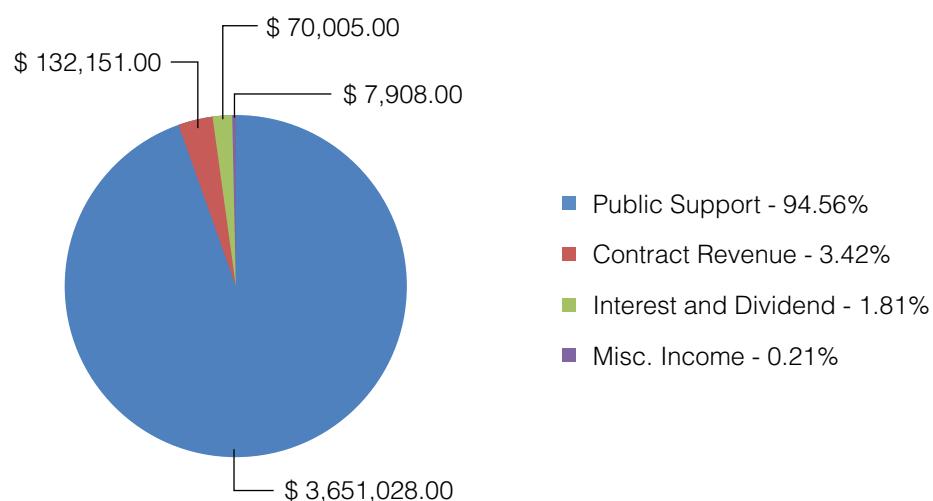
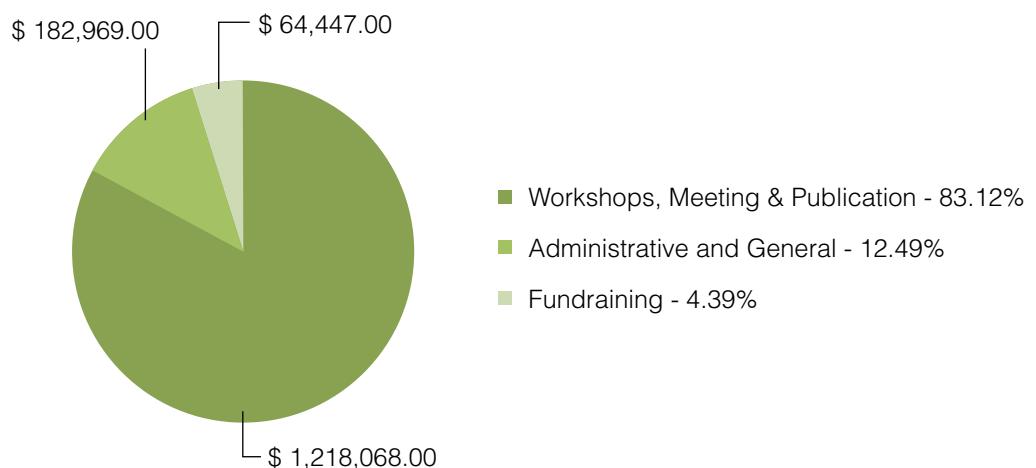
Revenue



Expenses



*CREA financial year begins on 1 April and ends on 31 March

FINANCIAL YEAR 2011/12***Revenue****Expenses**

*CREA financial year begins on 1 April and ends on 31 March



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CREA INDIA

Bishakha Datta is a non-fiction writer and filmmaker, with an abiding interest in representing invisible points of view and people, especially people who are marginalised because of their genders or sexualities, or points of views that are unheard, “illegitimate”, or silenced. Her most recent published work is *9 Degrees of Justice*, a collection of essays on struggles against violence on women in India. Her most recent films include documentaries such as *In The Flesh: Three Lives In Prostitution* and *Taza Khabar: Hot Off The Press*, and shorts such as *Zinda Laash: Bollywood's Norms for Dhandewalis* and *Out Of The Closet*. Bishakha is the Executive Director of Point of View, a non-profit based in Mumbai, India, which promotes the points of view of women through media, art, and culture. She is on the Boards of non-profits such as Breakthrough, Dreamcatchers, Majlis, and the Wikimedia Foundation. An avid traveller, Bishakha dreams of walking the mountains for months on end.

Geetanjali Misra is the Co-Founder and Executive Director of CREA. Geeta has worked at the activist, grant-making, and policy levels on issues of sexuality, reproductive health, gender, human rights, and violence against women. Before joining CREA, she was Program Officer Sexuality and Reproductive Health for the Ford Foundation in New Delhi and supported non-governmental organisations in India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka working on sexual and reproductive health and rights. She also co-founded SAKHI for South Asian Women in New York in 1989, a non-profit organisation in New York, committed to ending violence against women of South Asian origin. Geeta is the Co-Chair of the Board of Directors of Mama Cash (The Netherlands); Board Member of Reproductive Health Matters (UK) and Women’s Initiatives for Gender Justice (The Netherlands); and Member of the Expert Advisory Group of Cordaid (The Netherlands) and of the Advisory Board of FHI360 (US). She was President of the Board of the Association for Women’s Rights in Development (AWID) from 2006–2008. She writes on issues of sexuality, gender, and rights, and has co-edited *Sexuality, Gender, and Rights: Exploring Theory and Practice in South and Southeast Asia*. Geeta holds Master’s degrees in International Affairs from Columbia University, US, and in Economics from Syracuse University, US. Geeta is a film buff and plans her entire year around finding the time to attend a film festival in Colorado every September, where she sees 21 films over a long weekend. She loves trekking, reading, and visiting new places.

Ishita Chaudhry is an Ashoka Fellow, Founder and CEO of The YP Foundation (TYPF), and member of the High Level Task Force on ICPD till 2015. A feminist social entrepreneur and passionate advocate for young people’s leadership and human rights, Ishita has been a consultant with UNAIDS Geneva, UNODC India, The Ford Foundation, and the Government of Nagaland. A founding member of the international alliance RESURJ (Realizing Sexual and Reproductive Justice), she serves on UNESCO’s Global Advisory Group for Sexuality Education and the Advisory Board for Jagori’s Safe Delhi initiative. Ishita is an INK Fellow (with TED), recipient of the Change Looms Award for Social Entrepreneurship (The Ashoka Foundation), Seen and Heard Award (British Telecom, UK Youth Parliament), Karamveer Puruskaar - National Award for Social Justice and Action, and Young Achiever’s Award, President of Nepal. Ishita holds an Honours Degree in English Literature from Delhi University.



Kanchan Pamnani is a visually impaired lawyer, who has successfully fought for the sight impaired to have the right to open and operate bank accounts. She looks at the existing laws dealing with disability and others, such as labour laws, to see if they address issues of disability. She has won several awards, including the National Award for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, awarded by the President of India for Outstanding Performance as a Role Model of the year in 2009. She is the Co-founder of the Beyond Sight Foundation.

Sabeena Gadihoke is an Associate Professor, Video and TV Production, at the AJK Mass Communication Research Centre at Jamia Millia Islamia University, India. She is also an independent documentary filmmaker and cameraperson, and works on the history and culture of Indian photography.

Sashwati Banerjee is the Managing Director of Sesame Workshop in India, leading the organisation in its mission to create innovative, engaging content that maximises the educational power of all media to help children reach their highest potential. She successfully designed and led the 'Goli ke Hamjoli', 'Bindaas Bol', and the 'DIMPA' campaigns on behalf of Abt Associates' USAID-funded PSP One Project. Prior to being involved in social development communications, Sashwati worked across various organisations in the private sector handling communications, public relations, and marketing. She also serves on the Board of Point of View, a non-profit organisation based in Mumbai, India, which promotes the points of view of women and other marginalised groups through the creative use of media, arts, and culture. When she is not working (which these days seems to be a rare occasion), she enjoys travelling, reading, theatre, and music.

Shilpa Phadke is Assistant Professor at the School of Media and Cultural Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, India. She has taught undergraduate sociology and anthropology at St Xavier's College, Mumbai. As a pedagogue, she has designed and coordinated several discussion groups, a lecture series, and workshops. Shilpa has published academically in journals and edited book volumes, as well as in newspapers and popular magazines. Her co-authored book Why Loiter? Women and Risk on Mumbai Streets was published by Penguin (2011). Her areas of concern include gender and the politics of space, the middle classes, sexuality and the body, feminist politics among young women, reproductive subjectivities, feminist mothering, and pedagogic practices. She loves the chaotic city of Mumbai and fantasises that it will one day have a very large park.

Shohini Ghosh is Sajjad Zaheer Professor at the AJK Mass Communication Centre at Jamia Millia Islamia University, India. Ghosh directed Tales of the Nightfairies (2002), a film about the sex workers' struggle for rights in Kolkata, India. She is author of the volume on Deepa Mehta's Fire for the Queer Classics Series published by Arsenal Pulp Press, Vancouver, Canada. Currently, she is editing an anthology on documentary films.

Sohini Bhattacharya is an intrepid intrapreneur and social change enthusiast, with over 20 years of experience in the social sector. Currently, she is helping Breakthrough, an international human rights organisation working in US and India, establish a strong resource base and scale-up their activities in Asia. She is also involved as the India Strategy Consultant in a start-up—Asian Venture Philanthropy Network (AVPN), a unique platform for and by people interested in Venture Philanthropy, across India, Japan, and Greater China. Sohini has helped found two organisations working with women, worked directly with grassroots communities on livelihoods projects, and built market–artisan interfaces. From 2000 to 2010, she first led Venture and, then, Institution Building for Ashoka



Innovators for the Public in India and South Asia. Sohini is a Trustee for Read India, an innovative social change organisation creating enterprising communities around rural libraries. She is a Member of the Board of Kolkata-Sanved, an organisation using dance movement therapy (DMT) to empower, socially and economically, survivors of violence. Sohini loves to travel, cook, and use her camera to tell stories about people.

CREA NEW YORK

Geetanjali Misra is the co-Founder and Executive Director of CREA. Geeta has worked at the activist, grant-making, and policy levels on issues of sexuality, reproductive health, gender, human rights, and violence against women. Before joining CREA, she was Program Officer Sexuality and Reproductive Health for the Ford Foundation in New Delhi and supported non-governmental organisations in India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka working on sexual and reproductive health and rights. She also co-founded SAKHI for South Asian Women in New York in 1989, a non-profit organisation in New York, committed to ending violence against women of South Asian origin. Geeta is the Co-Chair of the Board of Directors of Mama Cash (The Netherlands); Board Member of Reproductive Health Matters (UK) and Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice (The Netherlands); and Member of the Expert Advisory Group of Cordaid (The Netherlands) and of the Advisory Board of FHI360 (US). She was President of the Board of the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) from 2006–2008. She writes on issues of sexuality, gender, and rights, and has co-edited Sexuality, Gender, and Rights: Exploring Theory and Practice in South and Southeast Asia. Geeta holds Master's degrees in International Affairs from Columbia University, US, and in Economics from Syracuse University, US. Geeta is a film buff and plans her entire year around finding the time to attend a film festival in Colorado every September, where she sees 21 films over a long weekend. She loves trekking, reading, and visiting new places.

Iris Derbsch is a Director at Deutsche Bank, currently as Risk Manager for Asset Management in Frankfurt, Germany. She has been with Deutsche Bank since 1997 in several positions in New York, US, and holds a Masters Degree in Economics. Iris started her career as Junior Professional Officer for UNDP in the Fiji Islands. She remains interested in and committed to development efforts, and continues to support non-governmental organisations and charities. Iris enjoys travelling around the world and experiencing different cultures.

Jac Sm Kee is Women's Rights Policy Coordinator for the Association of Progressive Communications, Women's Networking Support Programme, Malaysia. She leads the Take Back The Tech! campaign, a global campaign that connects violence against women and technology, and coordinates the cross-country EROTICS research project that examines the relationship between sexuality and the Internet. She is also the Director of Centre for Independent Journalism, Malaysia, and Co-founder of Knowledge and Rights with Young People through Safer Spaces. Jac writes poetry and has recently begun to find immense happiness in baking.

Manal Saleh is Senior Program Specialist at the Center for Development Services in Egypt. She has been working in the community development field since 2001, through a number of local and international non-governmental organisations, including The Center for Development Services, Pathfinder International, The Social Fund for



Development, and The Association for Development and Enhancement of Women. During 2005–08, Manal was a consultant with CREA on the India–Palestine and Egypt Exchange Programme. Manal is also a Board member at Benaa Association for Development, a grassroots-based civil society organisation, which works on education, women and youth empowerment, and media development in Upper Egypt. Manal is a mother of two gorgeous little ones that keep her running around in circles night and day.

Nancy Ali is Regional Team Leader, West and Central Africa, Jhpiego, an affiliate of Johns Hopkins University, US. Her responsibilities include providing strategic oversight and engagement of Jhpiego country offices and managing country programmes in 12 countries in West and Central Africa. Nancy has been working in the field of international health and development for the past 20 years, primarily focusing on enhancing the health and saving the lives of women and families in limited-resource settings. She has worked extensively in Africa, US, and the Middle East, providing technical assistance on maternal, neonatal, and child health, reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, and malaria and cervical cancer prevention initiatives and interventions at both regional and country levels. She has held several positions at various international health and research organisations, including FHI 360, PATH, EngenderHealth, and the Population Council. She also helped coordinate, monitor, and facilitate all project-related activities for CREA's India–Palestine and Egypt Exchange Programme. Nancy enjoys travelling and exploring new cultures and people.

Nandini Oomman is an independent global health and development consultant, based in Hanoi, Vietnam. Until recently, she was the Director of the HIV/AIDS Monitor and a Senior Associate at the Center for Global Development (CGD), Washington, D.C. Her work focussed on global health and development: policy, financing, aid design and delivery, and impact. She has worked in India, South and Southeast Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa on issues of HIV/AIDS, population and reproductive health, women's health, social science methods, and public health research. She joined CGD in March 2006 as the Director of the HIV/AIDS Monitor. Prior to joining CGD, Nandini worked with the Rockefeller Foundation, the World Bank's Population, and Health and Nutrition Group, and consulted with the Packard Foundation as an independent researcher. She has published widely on HIV/AIDS, population, and women's health and development issues, including 'Achieving the Millennium Development Goal of Improving Maternal Health: Determinants, Interventions and Challenges' and 'A Review of Population, Reproductive Health, and Adolescent Health and Development in Poverty Reduction Strategies', both for the World Bank.

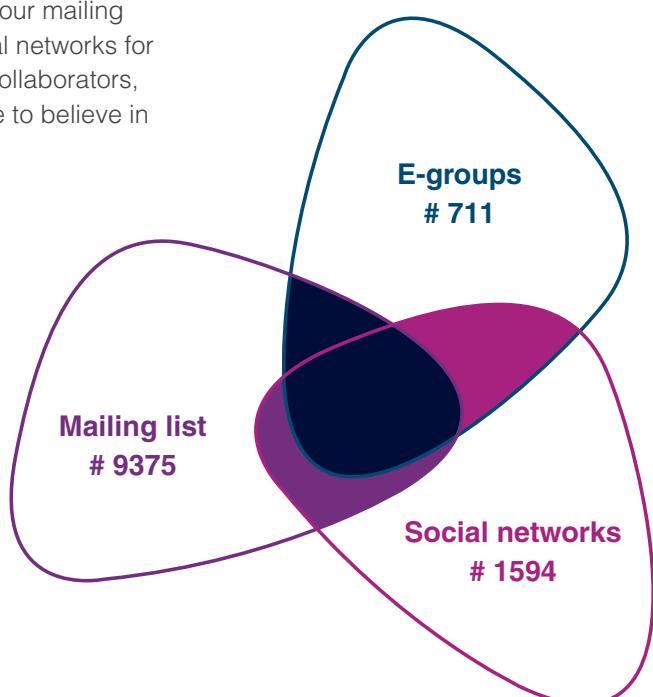
Romita Shetty is President of DA Capital Asia, an investment management company, and is based in Singapore. She has a long career in finance and investing, having worked at Lehman Brothers, JP Morgan, Standard and Poor's, and RBS Greenwich Capital. Romita has had a long involvement with women's rights and human rights, and is a co-founder of SAKHI for South Asian Women, a New York-based non-profit organisation committed to ending violence against women of South Asian origin. She is also on the Advisory Board of Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs and on the Executive Committee of South Asian American Forum (SAAF), a political action committee focused on policy issues of importance to South Asian Americans. Romita has a degree in International Affairs, with a specialisation in International Finance from Columbia University, and a Bachelors degree in History from St. Stephen's College, Delhi University.

OUR SUPPORTERS

(1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013)

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- Norad
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- Reproductive Health Matters
- The Ford Foundation, India
- The Ford Foundation, New York
- Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights

We would also like to thank our individual donors for believing in us—thank you! And, thanks to our friends and supporters on our mailing lists, e-groups, social media networks, and organisational networks for encouraging and guiding us in all our endeavours. It is collaborators, partners, and mentors like you who inspire us to continue to believe in the shared vision of a more just and peaceful world.





crea

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