

The Institute for Rights, Activism and Development

March 2008, Nepal

The Institute for Rights, Activism and Development (IRAD) is an annual weeklong residential training program designed by Creating Resources for Empowerment in Action (CREA). This Institute is designed for women working in the development sector in South Asia to examine the human rights system and its approaches. The Institute focuses on the links between theory and practice, with an emphasis on social movements, development practices and the application of rights, in the South Asian context.



Course Content

Rights based approaches to development have gained broad credence among social activists and development practitioners throughout South Asia. However, there still remains a need to articulate and critically analyze the meaning and usefulness of rights based approaches. This course seeks to examine internationally recognized rights and its practical application. Through case studies of various social movements in South Asia, participants will evaluate how the rights based approach has been effective in the region. National and international resource persons will conduct sessions using a variety of teaching methods including lectures, discussions, readings, case studies, films, and group exercises. The medium of instruction and discussion will be English.

The course content includes:

- Rights and the history of global activism
- Rights in the context of South Asia
- The intersections of rights, gender and health
- Dalit rights
- Rights and sexuality
- HIV/AIDS and rights issues
- Tools for rights, activism and development

Organizers

Creating Resources for Empowerment in Action (CREA) is a non-profit organization based in New Delhi, India. CREA empowers women to articulate, demand and access their human rights by enhancing women's leadership and focusing on issues of sexuality, sexual and reproductive rights, violence against women and women's rights.

Participants

Women who are development practitioners working in South Asia committed to learning about human rights systems and approaches and its applications are eligible to apply. Twenty-five participants will be selected. Selected participants will be expected to stay for the whole duration of the course.

Costs and Venue

The Institute for Rights, Activism and Development will be held in Nepal. Tuition, boarding and lodging costs will be covered for all participants. Participants are expected to contribute \$60 towards the course and cover their own travel expenses. The Ford Foundation supports the Institute.

Core Faculty

Joy Liddicoat is a human rights lawyer and Commissioner with the New Zealand Human Rights Commission. Her work at the Commission has involved general governance responsibilities, development of the New Zealand Action Plan for Human Rights and work on issues of discrimination, harassment, violence, and women's human rights.

Pramada Menon is Co-Founder and Director Programs, CREA. She has worked in the development sector in India and internationally for over two decades as a women's rights activist. Her work has focused on issues of sexuality and sexual rights, livelihoods, gender and development, violence against women and organizational development. She is on the Board of Directors of several non-profit organizations in India and is on the Advisory Council of the Global Fund for Women.

For application forms and other details, please contact

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