

# Lesson Plan Outline: **Conflict & Women's Rights**

Created South Asian Feminist Activism Archive Project group  
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## **Learning Objectives**

- To develop sensitivity to micro-level (relationships, domestic, family, tribe) and macro level (state, nation, communal) conflicts and their impact on women's lives.
- To acknowledge grassroots efforts by women's organizations in conflict resolution at all levels.

## **Activity Outline**

- Provide students with general facts about women's issues in times of conflict.
- Small group discussions in-class will provide students with the opportunity to make connections between personal experience and class material.

## **Prerequisites**

- This lesson will be conducted with the assumption that the learners do not have any background knowledge about women's rights or conflict resolution.

## **Material**

- PowerPoint presentation
- Access to SAFAA archive material

## **Lesson Description**

- Utilizes primary source material from the South Asian Feminist Activism Archive.
- Aims to connect the content and usage of archive material to the general knowledge of women's rights issues and conflict resolution.
- Provide students with a general understanding of women's rights issues and conflict resolution.
- Primary focus is for students to connect personal experience with women's rights issues in times of conflict.

## **Facilitation Guide**

- Provide students with background information around the issue of women's struggles in times of conflict.
- Provide students with in-class time to ask questions.

## **Content**

- Conflict (of varying types and at different levels) negatively affects women's lives globally.
- In some conflicts, women are personally and directly involved (for example, conflicts with parents, spouses, in-laws or community leaders). In some cases, women are the indirect vic-

tims of violence (for example, when there are conflicts between religious groups, nations, or political factions).

- Some conflicts occur at the micro-level (e.g. in a woman's immediate surroundings, like domestic conflicts).
- Other conflicts occur at a macro-level (e.g. at a larger level, for example political conflicts or wars).
- In many instances, especially at the macro level, women are used as "weapons" to take revenge on the opposite group. This can happen during civil wars, religious conflicts, and political conflicts.
- Sexual assault is used as a demonstration of power during times of conflict, with severe consequences to women's health, well-being and social acceptance.
- Women suffer when the men of the family are involved in conflict and they cannot bring home any income. They also suffer when jobs are lost, there are extended curfews when they cannot work, or they face added risks in taking up work.
- Conflict may cause severe mental and physical health issues for women (for example bodily injuries, psychological trauma, depression, or anxiety disorders).

### **Women's role in conflict resolution**

- In traditional societies of Africa and Asia, older women have played a prominent cultural role in resolving conflict at both the domestic and community level. However their roles are sometimes diminished in formal settings of conflict resolution.
- Many women-led movements around the world have contributed to peace efforts, conflict resolution and helping women survivors of conflict and their families.

### **Resources**

- <http://www.insightonconflict.org/2013/09/local-peacebuilders-in-kashmir-demand-an-end-to-conflict/>
- UNDP Women in Conflict prevention, Peacebuilding and recovery  
[http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/crisispreventionandrecovery/focus\\_areas/gender\\_equality\\_andwomensempowerment/](http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/crisispreventionandrecovery/focus_areas/gender_equality_andwomensempowerment/)
- Peace and Collaborative Development Network (PCDN)  
<http://www.internationalpeaceandconflict.org/>
- How women can help build a culture of peace  
<http://www.usip.org/olivebranch/how-women-can-help-build-culture-of-peace>