

JOINT PRESS STATEMENT

We women of Afghanistan, India and Pakistan came together for the first time in a new initiative, in the form of a Women's Trialogue entitled "common principles, uncommon action", held on 2 – 3 October 2009 in Kabul, and organized by the Delhi Policy Group's Peace and Conflict Program with the participation of representatives from all three countries.

The aim of this initiative was to talk about how we can work together for peace between our three countries and at the regional level.

While we recognize that peace is not merely the absence of war, the first priority is to ensure an end to war, so that our people can be provided a secure environment to live in. We believe that war will end only if we can create a better understanding between our three countries, and for our part we will work to build trust and take on board each other's concerns.

Terrorism is a scourge that affects all three of our countries, though to different degrees and scales. We ask our governments to work together to ensure that terrorism finds no sanctuary or support in our territories.

As women, we pledge to help each other build democratic and pluralist institutions on ground, especially in the areas of peacemaking, justice, human rights and girls' education.

Keeping UNSCR 1325 and CEDAW in mind, we call for better representation of women in all official peacemaking forums especially in reconstruction and rehabilitation programs. This Trialogue will be followed up by the subsequent actions:

1. We will work towards Women's Peace Commission comprising 15 women from the region.
2. The next Trialogue will be hosted by the Pakistani delegation.