

Media Report
IIHSG International Conference
on
Gender Security and Global Politics
25th & 26th February 2021
Organized by
Indian Institute of Human Security & Governance, Delhi
in collaboration with
Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy,
School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London
&
Department of International Relations, University of Chittagong,
Bangladesh

On 25th and 26th February 2021, the IIHSG International Conference on Gender Security and Global Politics was organised by Indian Institute of Human Security & Governance, Delhi in collaboration with the Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London & Department of International Relations, University of Chittagong, Bangladesh. The thematic concerns of the two-day Conference were to establish solutions on the problem of Security with respect to Gender and Politics related to it at global level.

The recent pandemic has worsened this conflict dynamics also. The gravity can be understood by the global ceasefire appeal and resolution S/RES/2532 (2020) of UN Security Council, demanding a “general and immediate cessation of hostilities in all situations” in which 172 UN Member States and Observers signed on 25 June 2020. It also resulted in unprecedented expansion of government power. Approximately 84 countries have declared a state of emergency and at least 38 countries have restricted freedom of the press during pandemic. Therefore, we can underline a paradigm shift in security concept where thrust has been shifted from ‘external’ to ‘internal’ security. There is a myth that men fight wars to protect the ‘vulnerable people’ in society. In this new ‘war against virus and vulnerability’, the role of women came in forefront. Although they are ‘backward’ community and ‘weaker’ section of the society in most of the famous gender development indicators - like Gender Development Index, Gender Empowerment Measure, Gender Equity Index, Gender Gap Index, Social Institutions and Gender Index, Gender Inequality Index, and Gender Parity Index - but they strongly managed to survive through many traditional as well as modern crisis – management techniques. In fact, with many traditional ‘knowledge’ or skills of ‘Home Management’, women are not only self-reliant, but can be backbone of the society where ‘conventional economy and security system’ shutters and whole world engulfed into a dark depressed situation. That time women become ‘stronger’ section of the society on the shoulders of whom world

can rely. To discuss this aspect many people from around the globe had agreed to put up their point of view on the issue.

In the first day of the Conference, many distinguished speakers delivered their speech at the inaugural session. We had with us honourable Nishtha Satyam, Deputy Representative of UN Women India; Dr. Juliet Colman, Director, SecurityWomen, United Kingdom; Dr. Chantal de Jonge, President, Women in International Security, Washington DC, USA; Prof. Anne Sisson Runyan, Department of Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies, University of Cincinnati, USA; Prof. Laura Sjoberg, British Academy Global Professor of Politics and International Relations, Royal Holloway, University of London; Prof. Sylvia Bashevkin, Department of Political Science, University of Toronto, Canada; Honourable Prof. Shireen Akhter, Vice-Chancellor, University of Chittagong, Winner of Begum Rokeya Award (2020); Honourable Prof. Chandrakala Padia, Former Vice-Chancellor, MGS University, Bikaner, Rajasthan, the First Woman Chairperson of Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Rashtrapati Bhavan, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh & Professor and Former Head, Dept. of Political Science, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India; Honourable Prof. Paula Banerjee, Vice-Chancellor, Sanskrit College and University, Kolkata, Winner of WISCOMP (Women in Security, Conflict Management and Peace) Award; Prof. Sanjay K. Bhardwaj, Former Chairperson, Centre for South Asian Studies & Former Director, Energy Studies Programme, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University & Joint Secretary, Association of Asia Scholars; Prof. Rajpal Budania, HoD, Department of Political Science, University of Allahabad, India; Prof. Meghna Guhathakurta, Dept. of International Relations (Retd.), University of Dhaka, Bangladesh & Executive Director, Research Initiatives, Bangladesh; Prof. Dr. Yeliena Prokhorova, Kyiv National Economic University named after Vadym Hetman, Kyiv, Ukraine; Dr. Tiina Seppälä, Senior Researcher, University of Lapland, Finland; Dr. Aurora Martin, President of Romania-India Business Council; and Dr. Sujit Kumar Datta, Associate Professor, Department of International Relations, University of Chittagong, Bangladesh. Whole Conference was moderated by Dr. Nandini Basistha, Executive Director, Indian Institute of Human Security & Governance, Delhi & Assistant Professor, Amity Institute of Liberal Arts, Amity University Mumbai, India. Rapporteur was Romy Tuli, Assistant Professor, S.S.D Girls' College, Bathinda, Punjabi University Patiala, Punjab, India.

Following the inaugural address by all such distinguished speakers we had Seven panel discussions planned for the first day. The first panel was based on "Gender Security & Politics". The paper presenters critically analysed the situations where Political issues meet with Gender security and threats.

The Second Panel was based on "Transgender Issues: Recent Trends". Transgender society is considered to be suppressed in the world. From all over the world, the scholars shared their findings about the ground position of

security threats faced by the transgender and also measures were suggested for a bright future.

The third panel was based on “History of Women Empowerment & Gender Security”. Historically, the socially weaker Gender section of the world has been facing a lot of safety issues. This thought provoking panel enlightened the listeners.

The fourth panel was “Gender Security and Pandemic: Recent Trends”. Paper presenters of this panel threw light on the current scenario of the world with respect to Gender Security.

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, a lot of Gender roles has been challenged. This can be seen in multiple nations. The fifth panel was “Gender Security in Domestic Sphere” which discussed the issues that various Genders are facing inside the four walls of the home.

The last panel of the day, “Gender Security and Governance” was about the various governmental agendas adding something for the uplifting of the weaker sections of the Global Village.

On the second and the final day of the Conference, the final six panels were planned. The eighth panel was on “Hindi Panelists on Gender Security”. In this enlightening session, various Indian and Diasporic communities were discussed on the basis of Gender issues.

When we talk about security, the concept of Law and Order can never be ignored. The ninth panel was on “Gender Security & Law”.

Earnings for life, especially earning for bread, has been one of the most important part of the lives of humans. The tenth panel was on “Gender Security & Economy”. In this panel, the scholars highlight the role of money and market with respect to Gender Security.

The eleventh panel was on “Child Security Threats: Recent Trends” discussing the safety concerns regarding children across the globe.

Drawing closer to the end of the conference, we had our twelfth panel “Gender Security & Sustainable Development” describing the sustainable measures that can be used for the betterment of the society and various genders.

The conference ends with the last panel “Non-Governmental Gender Security Measures” describing what can be done by the individuals and communities as a ray of hope towards Gender security even without Governmental funds and supports.

Around 450 gender security experts joined this virtual event from 20 countries. Total 367 Indian panelists joined from 291 academic institutes/ colleges/universities of India and 48 joined from 31 academic institutes/ colleges/universities of 20 countries, which are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, Fiji, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan, Romania, Ukraine, Toronto, Cincinnati, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Nepal and United Kingdom.