

Overview | 3rd World Conference of Women's Shelters | 3 – 6 November 2015 | Conference Center World Forum | The Hague (Den Haag) | The Netherlands

On request of the Global Network of Women's Shelters (GNWS), the Dutch Foundation of Women's Shelters and its partners organized the 3rd World Conference of Women's Shelters (3WCWS) from 3-6 November 2015 in Conference Center World Forum, The Hague (De Haag) in The Netherlands.

CTS team members, who work closely with women and provide shelter to young girls and women in Pakistan, attended this worldwide event. Through this platform, CTS acquired a prolific opportunity to share/exchange knowledge and experience with different individuals around the globe. CTS is optimistically looking forward to work with international organizations working for the common cause of ending violence against the women and children. Likewise, in the course of the conference, CTS staff met with German women shelter workers and planned and then visited one women's shelter home situated in Hamburg, Germany.

This conference 3rd world conference of Women's Shelters was attended by over 1000 advocates and activists representing 115 countries, call upon Governments, UN Agencies, International Organizations, non – profitable organizations, the Private Sector and Civil Society to take urgent and effective action to prevent and end violence against women and children over the globe.

The theme of the conference mainly focused on **Connect & Act, to end violence against women** as violence against women and girls is a human rights violation. One in every three women worldwide experience physical and/or sexual violence at least once in their lives, usually by an intimate partner. During 3WCWS, United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has proclaimed the elimination of violence against women as a top priority of the UN's work. Achieving "gender equality and empowering women and girls" is one of the Goals of *Agenda*



2030 for Sustainable Development, adopted by the 193 member states of the UN during the annual General Assembly (25 September 2015). One of the important targets of the goal is the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls. UN representatives emphasize on commit to contributing to the realization of this Goal, which will transform the lives of women and girls.

Official opening programme commenced with deliberate speech of Hina Jilani – Pakistani women’s rights activist & lawyer and the member of elders. She emphasized that over the last decades many countries have made considerable progress in introducing legislation and institutionalizing policy frameworks. However, implementation, monitoring and accountability are weak, slow or lacking.

A special guest speaker HER ROYAL HIGHNESS Crown Princess Mary of Denmark underlined the need of strengthening global and regional networks to eliminate the root causes of all forms of violence.



Consequently, as members of the Global Network of Women’s Shelters and participants of the 3rd World Conference of Women’s Shelters, (all participants together) bear witness to the imperative global work of shelters in mitigating and preventing violence. Women’s shelters are critical partners not only in providing safety to women and children, but also in the overall prevention of violence against women and girls.

The 2015 Data Count of the Global Network of Women’s Shelters, in which 2497 shelters and agencies in 46 countries took part, states that on one day, 53,230 women and 34,794 children sought and acquired shelter services. However, 7,337 women and 4,410 children were turned away due to limited resources and capacity. This validates the need for increased resources and capacity for existing shelters, as well as the need for more shelters.

Therefore, 3WCWS call upon all key stakeholders to considerably strengthen efforts to prevent violence and to effectively protect women and girls. Particularly, we demand that states and all other relevant stakeholders:

- **Sign, ratify and effectively implement relevant conventions and agendas, including:**

- optional protocol;*
- *The Beijing Platform for Action;*
 - *The International Convention on Population and Development (ICPD) and it's Program of Action;*
 - *All other relevant documents and regional policies and instruments;*
 - *Provide adequate funding for women's shelters, including by considerably increasing the capacity of women's shelters;*
 - *Redirect military spending towards funding for social and economic development, including shelter spaces to save women and children fleeing violence, as outlined in Beijing Platform for Action strategic objective E.2.;*
 - *Implement a standalone Convention on Violence Against Women which is internationally binding;*
 - *Hold perpetrators to account and to provide services to assist perpetrators to transform their behavior and become peer educators.*

The following are the main burning issues developed in the regional networks meeting at the 3rdWorld Conference of Women's Shelters in The Hague. 3WCWS fully support these regional recommendations.

<p>Inter-America Region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide sustainable funding for women's support services; ● Work with women and girls during and after armed conflict; ● Create special international measures for exceptional violence against women in organized crime territories; ● Strengthen international cooperation; 	<p>Asia Region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ensure economic empowerment through well-funded employment, housing and community programs that help women after they leave the shelter to become independent; ● Give women equal property rights, rights to inheritance, affordable housing for survivors of domestic violence, and guarantee the property rights of widows; ● Ensure sufficient funding for shelters;
<p>Europe Region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ratify and implement the Istanbul Convention in all countries and implement the CEDAW; ● Focus on CEDAW Article 6 on Trafficking and Prostitution, which reads "States shall take all measures to stop all forms of trafficking and the exploitation of prostitution of women;" 	<p>Africa Region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Enact and implement policies and legislation to establish and support shelters and space spaces for women and girls in Africa; ● Strengthen political will and invest/allocate funds for survivors of violence to guarantee service provision and access to safe space;

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of women’s shelters and specialist women’s services and implement sustainable funding for women’s and children support services, with commitments from Governments to finance specific support services for victims; 	
<p>MENA Region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlight the impact of violence on women as individuals, acknowledging their humanity and shedding light on them as well as the family and society; • Recognize female victims of harmful cultural practices, such as honor killings and Female Genital Mutilation; • Ensure that women’s rights to privacy are not violated in the name of security measures; • Draw attention to the role of media, which portrays a stereotyped image of women and enhances violence; 	<p>Indigenous Network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call for an international strategy to prevent murdered and missing Indigenous women and children worldwide; • Demand that all states recognize and apply the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; • Ensure sufficient support for the Indigenous Women’s Shelters Network;
<p>Oceania Region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure proper resourcing to redress violence against women that is exempt from political cycles, including increased ongoing resourcing for specialist women’s domestic and family violence services for women and their children; • Provide consistent criminal justice responses that hold perpetrators to account and enable opportunities for change; • Make Governments accountable for transformative change which focuses on gender, social, political and economic inequalities and Indigenous rights, with a focus on gender and intersectionality, 	

<p>including women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, women with disabilities, LGBTQIA+ women, and honoring Indigenous rights.</p>	
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Church Presentation | Christians in Pakistan & Introduction of Christian’s True Spirit | The Sunday Holy Mass in Pentecostal Church | 8 November 2015 | Hannover | Germany

The CTS Staff was invited by the Pentecostal Church of Hannover, capital of the federal state of Lower Saxony Germany. CTS Staff members 1) Asher Sarfraz, 2) Katherine Sapna and 3) Sunita Javed warmly welcomed by the church pastors and all present-day members during the Sunday’s holy mass service. Since few church members were incapable to fully understand English language, therefore, an interpreter was arranged to translate orally from English language into German language.

CTS Staff shared a brief overview of the situation of Christians in Pakistan regarding how the Christian community is subjected to physical, political, social, economic and cultural oppression in their home country. They also shared the Christian’s role in nation building and constitution /legislation rights to the minorities in the Pakistan and subsequently, political and constitutional prejudice in the current phenomena. The educational status, employment opportunities, political participation, legal protection and miseries of Christian’s women in Pakistan were also highlighted in the discussion.

Besides this, CTS Staff shared the Christians’ True Spirit vision/mission, objectives, motivation (reasons and need for setting up CTS), Areas of work and CTS network.

All present-day participants in the church, prayed for a CTS prosperity in the Pakistan and especially they prayed for the Pakistan’s Christians who have lost their loved ones in the past-present riots. After the Holy Mass church members personally met with CTS staff and showed their moral and spiritual support for the well- being and betterment of CTS work.





Visit to Women Shelter Home - Hamburg | 8 November 2015 | Hamburg | Germany

CTS Staff, Katherine Sapna Karamat and Sunita Javed visited Women's Shelter Homes in Hamburg Germany. It is well designed/organized, peaceful, secure and a huge place to accommodate about 200 women at a time who are emotional, financial, spiritual, sexual or physical abused, forced to get married and faced domestic violence. This women shelter is functional according to the Standardized rules and regulations cited by the government. CTS met with the staff and also visited women at their places but due to security and confidentiality concerns, CTS staff could not get the pictures inside the shelter houses. The main purpose of visit is that CTS is now in partnership with this Shelter and look forward to work together in the networking of foreign shelters in the future reference.



Visit to Refugee Camp | 11 November 2015 | Freidland | Germany

CTS Director Katherine Sapna visited refugee camp in Freidland along with the members of CTS Germany and saw the situation of refugees in the camps. In spite of a rising number of violent incidents in German refugee shelters and various difficulties from officials, Alyssum seekers are finding creative ways to make life more tolerable in the asylum homes. After hearing and understanding the problems of confronting refugees in camps CTS Germany initiate a thinking of the possibilities and the appropriate ways that how CTS can assist the deserving helpless refugees in the refugee camps.



Meeting with Theological Seminary Students and Pastors | 10 November 2015 | Hodenhagen | Germany

CTS staff were invited by the Theological Seminary Students and Pastors. CTS Director, Deputy Director and Chief Executive shared the work of CTS among Theological Seminary Students and Pastors to give the awareness and mobilize the situation of Christians in Pakistan. CTS shared the situation of Christians, including social and government attitudes towards the minority groups in Pakistan. CTS also conducted a small activity for the students. In point of fact, this activity passed a deep impact on all participants regarding a current scenario of challenges faced by minorities groups in their home country. The purpose of this meeting was to create a wakefulness on situation of Christian in Pakistan and appeal for the prayers for all minorities groups especially persecuted Christian in Pakistan, also all students were requested to create a lobbying groups among different NGOs, as well as raise their voice among government official regarding the rights of protection for the Pakistani Christians on the international level.



