

Akanksha Khullar

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Result focused and execution-driven professional with over five years of experience in communications, advocacy, research and analysis, stakeholder relationship building and project management that has majorly revolved around intersectional feminist issues. My diverse involvement with Private Sector Organisations, Government Organisations and International Organisations in India as well as in Australia has strengthened my critical thinking, problem solving frameworks and sound judgement capabilities.

CAREER PROGRESSION

Observer Research Foundation

Visiting Fellow

New Delhi, India

February 2023 – Present

- Focusing on the intersection of policy advice and academic research, I write about gender security issues, particularly in terms of understanding the Women, Peace and Security agenda, and identifying how women in different conflict contexts are being impacted.

Assistant Manager, Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) Desk

Invest India

New Delhi, India

June 2022 – Present

- Managing, designing and strategizing the Ministry's project on the development of a gender data resource board that aims to provide women and child specific data (national) under one online portal
- Providing direct assistant to MoWCD's Statistical Advisor to manage and analyse gender data from national as well as international indices
- Preparing communication and information material to connect gender related data with advocacy and action for diverse audience
- Writing and editing talking points, reports, policy briefs and answers to parliamentary questions as required by the Ministry
- Stakeholder Management—public, private as well as international organisations—on behalf of the Ministry for on-going projects

FORUM—ASIA

Consultant

New Delhi, India

April 2022 – June 2022

- Reviewed, edited and provided feedback for seven countries reports received from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Pakistan
- Prepared a South Asian overview on the implication of repressive measures related to COVID-19 on human rights and civic space in

Fearless Collective

Consultant

New Delhi, India

April 2022 – June 2022

- Crafted and edited several articles highlighting the organisation's work and achievements
- Designed and developed advocacy content for the website and social media platforms
- Prepared drafts for various grant proposals and established contacts with organisations that do not accept unsolicited applications
- Reached out to and engaged with diverse stakeholders to seek project collaborations and enhance community engagement
- Provided in-depth background research on COP27 with a vision for the collective to participate in the forum

Women's Regional Network (WRN)

Country Coordinator, India (Consultant)

New Delhi, India

November 2021 – March 2022

- Coordinated between the WRN India Core group members and the Global Secretariat ensuring information is streamlined
- Assisted in research and conducting field studies as a continuation of WRN's community conversations
- Prepared and edited research reports, organisational statements, letters for diverse stakeholders and opinionated pieces
- Compiled and edited financial reports and documentation for the fiscal agent, donors as well as core group members
- Identified opportunities for raising funds and prepare grant proposals for local level initiatives
- Took charge of the social media and devised monthly themes—related to ongoing gender issues—to be focused upon

Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies (IPCS)

Researcher at Centre for Internal and Regional Security

New Delhi, India

March 2019 – October 2021

- Built the institution's gender profile by independently spearheading research projects on analysing India's engagement with the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda and mapping the gendered impact of the COVID19 pandemic in the Indian society
- Responsible for designing survey, data collection and analysis, and articulation of results of the projects in diverse formats
- Regularly monitored and analysed gender mainstreaming efforts in response to various security concerns in the Asia Pacific region
- Assisted in outreach and operational activities: maintained the social media handles of the organisation (increasing the engagement rate by 40% in a year), designed the monthly newsletter, and prepared monthly team reports

Office of Gai Brodtmann, Shadow Minister for Cyber Security and Defence

Intern

Canberra, Australia

June 2017 – October 2017

- Performed an evaluative study of the Australian National Action Plan on Resolution 1325 and analysed the country's engagements

- Provided recommendations for systematic policy reform to improve Australia's WPS standing by undertaking a comparative analysis of WPS initiatives that were being implemented by other countries (the US, France, UK, etc.)

Australian High Commission

Intern

New Delhi, India

August 2015 – December 2015

- Developed a policy brief examining the 'Status of human rights in India' and collated articles on Indo-China strategic relationship
- Suggested recommendations for the advancements of projects under the ambit of Australian Government's overseas aid program, evaluated and tracked the progress of projects, and prepared regular reports for submission to the Direct Aid Program Manager
- Represented the Commission on various high-level diplomatic meetings

PUBLICATIONS (detailed list can be found at www.akankshakhullar.com)

- **Research Paper:**

- Khullar, A. (2022). War's Gendered Costs: The Story of Ukraine's Women. New Delhi: ORF.
- Khullar, A. (2022). Taliban's Return Threatens Past Gains for Afghanistan's Women and Girls. New Delhi: ORF.

- **Book Chapters:**

- Khullar, A. (2021) A Case for Feminist Foreign Policy in South Asia. In South Asian Women and/in International Relations. Kathmandu, Nepal: NIICE Nepal– ***Under Editing***
- Khullar, A. (2020). Women and Conflict: Comparative Case studies from Kashmir and North East India. In Navigating India's Internal Security Threats. Singapore: S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies – ***Under Editing***

- **Newspaper Articles:**

- Khullar, A. (2023). India's Gender Budget 2023-24: Moving Towards Women-Led Development. *ORF*
- Khullar, A. (2023). Union Budget 2023: How Centre Seeks to Empower Women. *Firstpost*.
- Khullar, A. (2023). Investing more in Women and Girls can ensure a sound economic recovery in 2023. *SCMP*.
- Khullar, A. (2022). At G20, India Should lead the way on gender equity. *Hindustan Times*.

ADDITIONAL AFFILIATIONS

The Fempower

Founder & CEO

New Delhi, India

March 2021 – Present

The Fempower is a creative communications studio that foregrounds storytelling for social change and provides services such as campaign strategy, podcast production, workshop facilitation, research and data analysis.

STRI Foundation

Trustee

New Delhi, India

September 2016 – September 2017

The STRI Foundation provides free counselling services to the victims and/or survivors of gender based violence.

ORGANISATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

GLOBAL YOUTH (*Forum for dialogue on international affairs*)

Executive Director

New Delhi, India

July 2013 – Present

Developed and evolved the organisation's visions as a founder member, and established International Youth Forums in 14 countries by officially engaging with diplomatic missions. Directly led a team of 40 members each year and executed over 50 interactive sessions with diplomats, academicians and scholars from around the globe

Women in Leadership, ANU

Vice President

Canberra, Australia

September 2016 – September 2017

Coordinated with different divisions and provided leadership training to the members. Also, developed advocacy and campaigning strategies for women empowerment

EDUCATION

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Masters of International Relations (Advanced)

Canberra, Australia

2016 – 2017

Honors and Awards: Graduated with an Honors degree and published a thesis on *The Problems of NATO's R2P Implementation in Libya: Has the international Community Learnt its Lesson?*

JESUS AND MARY COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

Bachelor of Political Science (Honors)

New Delhi, India

2012 – 2015

Honors and Awards: First Class Honors; Excellence in Academics Award

SKILLS

Languages: English and Hindi (native proficiency); Spanish (basic proficiency); Punjabi (speaking proficiency)

Professional Skills: Communication; Research; Data Collection; Analysis; Writing; Editing; Publishing; Report Writing; Podcast

Computer Skills: Microsoft Office; Photoshop; Canva; Adobe; Video Editing Software; Social Media