

4TH ANNUAL AWARD CEREMONY

OCTOBER 10, 2020



MARTHA
FARRELL
AWARD

FOR EXCELLENCE IN WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT
AND GENDER EQUALITY



DR. MARTHA FARRELL
1959-2015

Dr. Martha Farrell (1959-2015) was a passionate civil society leader, renowned and respected in India and around the world for her work on women's rights, gender equality and adult education. She devoted her life to promoting gender equality, women's empowerment and feminism in everyday life. On 13 May, 2015, Martha Farrell was killed, along with 14 others, in a terrorist attack on a guest house in Kabul, Afghanistan. She was there to conduct a gender training workshop with the Aga Khan Foundation.

Daughter of Iona and Noel Farrell, Martha was born in Delhi into an Anglo-Indian family. She studied English literature at Delhi University, and did a Master's in social work at the Delhi School of Social Work. She began her career in 1981 as a literacy worker at Ankur, an NGO working for women's literacy and empowerment in Delhi. She broadened her focus into adult education, where she began her lifelong practice of participatory learning methodology.

In 1991, she co-founded Creative Learning for Change, an NGO consisting of development professionals involved in research, training and documentation of learning materials for students, teachers and facilitators in non-formal settings. She remained connected to this initiative throughout her career.

Martha formally joined Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA) in 1996, working alongside her husband and founder of PRIA, Dr. Rajesh Tandon. As Director of PRIA's program on Gender Mainstreaming in Institutions, she trained thousands of grassroots women leaders and professionals from different walks of life on issues related to citizen engagement in local governance, gender mainstreaming and sexual harassment. From 2005 onwards, she led PRIA's work on distance education, founding and developing PRIA International Academy, the academic wing of the organization. She also taught part-time at the University of Victoria and Royal Roads University in Canada.

Martha's crusade for gender mainstreaming in organizations began in 1998 when the Vishakha Guidelines for the prevention of sexual harassment at workplaces were formulated by the Supreme Court of India. She undertook pioneering work on sexual harassment in the workplace in India, completing her PhD on the subject from Jamia Millia Islamia University, Delhi. In 2014,

she published "Engendering the Workplace: Gender Discrimination & Prevention of Sexual Harassment in Organizations." This book is an important part of her work in PRIA, and a milestone for those wishing to pursue further work on the issue of sexual harassment at the workplace.

Alongside her professional contributions, she supported PRIA to become a place of warm welcome and comfort for all staff and visitors, so that learning could take place in a caring and safe environment. Martha was fiercely loyal to PRIA, its values and resources. She reminded her colleagues to 'walk the talk' and practice these values in everyday life.

Amongst Martha's great personal characteristics was her ability to seamlessly integrate with everyone from all walks of life. Martha was a thoughtful friend, a great support to others, and a generous giver of gifts, great food and warm hospitality. The Tandon/Farrell household was always full of guests, laughter, and more food than one could finish. A dedicated professional, compassionate colleague, beloved mother, loving spouse and avid cook – Martha was many things to many people and she is dearly missed.





The Martha Farrell Award for Excellence in Women's Empowerment has been instituted to honour Dr. Farrell and her ideals. It is a first-of-its-kind initiative to discover, recognize and honour mid-career individuals and committed institutions, which have made valuable contributions in areas of work related to women's empowerment and gender equality.

These individuals and institutions can come from all sectors – government, business, industry or civil society. The annual Award, jointly instituted by Rural Development Trust (RDT) and Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA), is given in two categories with a prize money of INR 1,50,000 each.

In light of the Award's growing geographical and sectoral reach, two Special Jury Awards were also given in each category, this year.

MOST PROMISING INDIVIDUAL

- Any professional of any gender, between 25 and 40 years of age, who is working in government, business, industry or civil society organizations in India
- The person has worked consistently for at least past five years to promote women's empowerment or gender equality within the workplace, at home, in communities, in educational institutions, in society etc.
- Innovative, practical and comprehensive approaches to social change promoting women's empowerment or gender equality
- Personal example and role model who practices values of feminism in everyday life

BEST ORGANIZATION FOR GENDER EQUALITY

- Any organization, including government, business, industry, educational, health, media, unions, federations or civil society, registered in India or which is a department/center/campaign under a registered organization in India
- The organization has been actively implementing systems/procedures/ practices which create a gender sensitive and gender equal environment within their own workplace
- Such efforts have been consistent for at least past five years
- Innovative, practical and comprehensive approaches to cultural and political change within the organization towards women's empowerment or gender equality

The nominations for Martha Farrell Awards 2020 closed on December 15, 2019. A total of 149 nominations (89 nominations in the individual category and 60 nominations in the organization category) from 20 states of India were received, comprising a wide variety of individuals (social activists, professionals, educators, media-persons, government officials, entrepreneurs) and organizations (grassroots, non-profits, academic, media and social enterprise).

The nominations were shortlisted based on Dr. Martha Farrell's values and life goals. The final selection of the two awardees, one in each category, was made by an eminent eight-member jury.

AWARD JURY MEMBERS



DR. RAJESH TANDON

A pioneer of participatory research, Dr Rajesh Tandon is Chairperson of Martha Farrell Foundation and founder-president of Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA), besides the UNESCO Co-Chair on Community Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education.



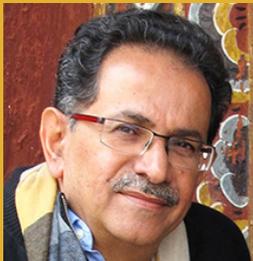
DR. PANKAJ MITTAL

Dr. Mittal is the Secretary General of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), the second woman in the institution's history to hold the position. She is widely recognized for her wide ranging experience in Policy Planning and Management of Higher Education.



NAMITA BHANDARE

Namita Bhandare is a journalist with close to 30 years of reporting, editorial and analytical experience for publications such as Sunday magazine, India Today magazine, Mint, India Spend, Foreign Policy and The Hindustan Times.



FEISAL ALKAZI

Renowned documentary filmmaker and theatre director Feisal Alkazi led several NGOs before co-founding Creative Learning for Change with Dr. Martha Farrell. He has extensive experience in working with children with special needs and in conflict zones.

“These unique awards recognize the continuing passion and contributions of those individuals and organizations which have made women’s empowerment and gender equality integral to their everyday work.”

“A woman can, and she will. The Martha Farrell Award recognizes this essential truth, in a bid to empower men and women working to create a gender-equal world, so they can drive greater impact.”

“Since 2016, the Martha Farrell Foundation through its award recognized organizations and individuals working to bring about real change and gender empowerment. I am proud to be a member of the jury this year and look forward to hearing inspiring stories.”

“I knew Martha for over 30 years and she embodied the values of fearless courage, independent views and absolute gender equality. I am sure the awards instituted in her name will honour and celebrate these very values in individuals and organizations.”

AWARD JURY MEMBERS



MONCHO FERRER

Moncho Ferrer carries forward his parents Vincente and Anne's legacy as the program director at Rural Development Trust, Anantapur, spearheading initiatives against poverty, leading humanitarian aid operations and launching inclusive sports programs for disadvantaged communities.



NANDITA TRIPATHI

With over 17 years of experience in multiple MNCs, Nandita Tripathi is a Partner at KPMG India and a regular media spokesperson on industry-related matters. Passionate about inclusion, Nandita is also part of KPMG's initiatives to drive diversity at a firm-wide level.



DEEPTHI BOPAIAH

As Executive Director of GoSports Foundation, Deepthi Bopaiiah has been supporting junior, emerging, and elite athletes in Olympic and Paralympic disciplines since 2012. A sportswoman herself, Deepthi has also represented Karnataka in basketball and tennis.

"It is interesting and inspiring to see so many people and communities working at the grassroots level to make the world a better place. As a jury member, the diversity of individuals nominated this year, who are trying to make an impact in our society, ignites a hope that the award inspires other people to uphold these values of gender equality."

"I feel great to be part of the jury for acknowledging and appreciating the efforts of individuals and institutions who have made a difference towards the cause of empowerment of women and promoting equality! I look forward to interacting with the nominees and being part of this journey."

"It was an incredible experience to be a part of such a diverse jury and get acquainted with the inspiring work done by this year's nominees. I believe that the work that some of the individuals and organizations are doing for the cause of women's empowerment and gender equality will go on to make a real difference."

2020 AWARD WINNERS

MOST PROMISING INDIVIDUAL

MAMTA SINGH



“I live and work in a state where the idea of womanhood is gravely endangered. In the sixteen years of my work with various organizations, I have witnessed the power and limits of the law in preserving gender and social justice. It is my wish to continue fighting for the rights of all marginalized communities, especially survivors of gender-based violence, by offering them the space and opportunity to feel empowered.”

– *Mamta Singh*

An exemplar of true grit and determination, Mamta Singh has been an unwavering support system to the women who have sought her help in times of grave danger and hardship. True to her name, she has empowered vulnerable women across Uttar Pradesh to play to their strengths, not their weaknesses, with a kindness that is the hallmark of impactful leadership.

Over the past ten years, she has worked with reputed organizations in Lucknow where she is based, including the likes of Humsafar Foundation, Sahayog and AALI, to develop and lead initiatives capacitating at-risk women through vocational education, creating safe spaces for survivors, besides helping them acquire justice.

On numerous occasions, she has been known to take great personal risks in pursuit of justice, persistently negotiating with the police or going up against fierce mobs to ensure that the path of due process remains unimpeded. Mamta is also a vocal activist for social justice, taking care to base her work firmly on an intersectional bedrock and keen on linking her gender-based advocacy with issues surrounding caste and religion-based discrimination.

The communities she has worked with in Hardoi and Unnao as well the informal settlements in Lucknow are brimming with youth and women leaders whom she has taken under her wing and who share her zeal for rights-based community action.

With a background in Gender Studies, Mamta is now earning her law degree to effectively fight gender-based violence and end the lacunae in justice delivery systems which lead to high impunity and feeds into the vicious cycle of injustice.

Like Martha, Mamta has shown indomitable courage and commitment to work for women's empowerment and gender equality. Her work and fearlessness will ease the path for the coming generation of strong and independent women in Uttar Pradesh.

2020 AWARD WINNERS

BEST ORGANIZATION FOR GENDER EQUALITY

RURAL AND ENVIRONMENT DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY (REDS)



"Amidst raging farmers' issues in the country, the voices of women farmers are instrumental but often lost. REDS began with a sustainable approach to rural development and a mission to foster an ecosystem that supports survivors of gender-based violence. We offer women who join our solidarity network the opportunity to earn a dignified livelihood, attain economic autonomy, and even lead our various grassroots initiatives."

– *Rural and Environment Development Society (REDS)*

A gender-rights organization with a green conscience, Rural and Environment Development Society (REDS) capacitates and collectivizes women farmers of rural Andhra Pradesh and supports survivors in their midst.

Established in 1996, the organization works in villages in and around Anantapur, providing psycho-social, economic and legal support to survivors of human trafficking and domestic violence. Its initiatives intersect with climate justice and women agricultural workers' rights, as a means to achieve sustainable rural development.

At the heart of its work, REDS reminds every man, woman, and child who is a part of its network, that everyone is equal and deserves the same respect as the next person. Women are encouraged to take on leadership roles within the organization, which mandates that women constitute 50% of its staff. REDS doesn't stop at advocating for women's representation at public forums, farmers' meetings and in village committees; women are empowered to participate actively and assume decision-making roles in these spaces. Spreading awareness on land rights, REDS also leads critical campaigns in asserting community ownership of natural resources.

The organization has also rescued and rehabilitated women and underage labourers from being trafficked abroad, besides working on other youth-based issues such as high drop-out rates at public schools.

REDS and its founder-president Ms. Bhanuja Cheruvu have braved numerous obstacles to ensure gender justice and gender equity in the communities, as a means to bring holistic development and sustainable agriculture in the region. Ms. Cheruvu was recognized as "brave lady" by the Asmitha Network in 2002, which is testament to her role in the Anantapurian women's relentless and resilient struggle for self-determination.

SPECIAL JURY AWARDS

In February 2020, while deliberating on the finalists, the Martha Farrell Awards jury identified the wealth and diversity of nominations that were received this year, and noted the limitations in awarding only one promising individual and one organization every year.

The Special Jury Awards were thus instituted under the aegis of honorable jury member Feisal Alkazi.

The Special Jury Award will recognize from 2020 onward, a second winner in both the individual and institutional categories, with a reward of Rs. 75,000 each.

“There are always times when sitting on a jury it is difficult to decide who should get the only award. Often the difference is a hair’s breadth.

Recognizing this very real dilemma we have created a Jury Award. Why should it always be ‘let the best wo/man win?’ Why can’t it be ‘let the best wo/men win?’”

- Feisal Alkazi

MOST PROMISING INDIVIDUAL SPECIAL JURY AWARD

VAISHALI JETHAVA



Vaishali Jethava is a 25-year-old gender activist who works with youth from vulnerable communities in Mumbai, to ensure that they complete their studies in schools that are gender-sensitive. Overcoming personal hurdles along the way, she went on to lead The Gender Lab's Blue Ribbon Movement besides founding the Avanti Young Leadership programme which trains Fellows to become agents of literacy in their community. This Award recognizes her passion to mainstream gender and create safe spaces for youth.

BEST ORGANIZATION FOR GENDER EQUALITY SPECIAL JURY AWARD

ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL AND HUMAN AWARENESS (ASHA)



Besides its notable commitment to eliminate witch-hunting in rural Jharkhand, Ranchi-based NGO Association for Social and Human Awareness (ASHA) empowers indigenous girls and women with awareness, education, vocation skills, livelihood opportunities, as well as rehabilitation and safe shelters for survivors of practices such as polygamy, dowry, domestic abuse and trafficking.

MARTHA FARRELL AWARD WINNERS 2017-2019

INDIVIDUAL

ORGANIZATION

2017



Rakhi Gope

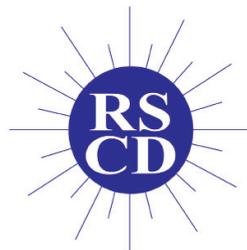


Majlis Legal Centre

2018



Nadiya Shafi



Resource and Support
Centre for Development

2019



Manu Gulati



महिला जन अधिकार समिति
MAHILA JAN ADHIKAR SAMITI

Mahila Jan Adhikar Samiti

To read about the past winners and their works in greater detail,
please visit www.marthafarrellfoundation.org



The Martha Farrell Foundation (MFF) has been set up to carry forward Martha's spirit and legacy by advancing her pioneering work on gender mainstreaming and adult education, with the overall goal of achieving gender equality in India and around the world.

Martha was highly pragmatic in her approach, and believed that for gender equality to be achieved, it must be observed and practiced by everyone in their daily life, starting among family, friends and at the workplace. It was her conviction that the attitude and behaviour of men and boys must change if gender equality is to be secured over the long-term. She believed that learning is empowering, and that creating spaces for this learning to occur is an important mechanism for gender mainstreaming. In the same spirit, the Foundation supports targeted and practical interventions in areas relevant to Martha's work. This includes gender mainstreaming, gender equality, preventing sexual harassment and violence against women, and continuing education.

VISION

To sustain Martha Farrell's ideals, values and principles, by progressing her pioneering work on women empowerment, gender equality and adult education, with long-term commitment and excellence.

MISSION

The Martha Farrell Foundation supports practical interventions which are committed to achieving a gender-just society and promoting life-long learning. These interventions include:

- Youth-led campaigns engaging young people on gender issues
- Training and development programs to facilitate understanding of gender mainstreaming in organizations and communities, and raise awareness on the issue of sexual harassment
- Scholarships and fellowships to develop new knowledge and the professional practice of promoting gender equality, leadership of women and prevention of sexual harassment at the workplace.

If you are interested in knowing more about the Foundation, its current interventions and how you can support the Foundation, please visit www.marthafarrellfoundation.org



KADAM BADHATE CHALO

A youth-led programme, which calls on young boys and girls to identify issues of VAWG in their communities and to collectively find solutions to them. In doing so, these young boys and girls turn into leaders, who influence their homes, communities, government, police, judiciary and other institutions to join them to bring about a change.

2016-20 HIGHLIGHTS:

- 27 locations in India
- 12 states within the country
- 2.98 million people reached
- 500 events held
- 32,000 youth mobilized
- 3921 (1870 boys and 1934 girls) youth leaders directly engaged



MAKING WORKPLACES SAFE

Making Workplaces Safe helps individuals and organizations become safe workplaces by ensuring meaningful compliance of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, Redressal) Act, 2013.

2016-20 HIGHLIGHTS:

- 30,000 people oriented on prevention of sexual harassment at workplace
- 28 Internal Complaints Committees and 5 Local Complaints Committees formed
- 50 institutions and 125 trainers trained



SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

The foundation gives scholarships, fellowships and awards to develop new knowledge and professional practice of promoting gender equality, women's leadership and prevention of sexual harassment at the workplace.

- MFF Scholarship with National Association of Professional Social Workers in India (NAPSWI)
- Martha Farrell Memorial Fellowship in collaboration with The Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU)
- Martha Farrell Award for Excellence in Women's Empowerment with Rural Development Trust (RDT) and Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA)
- Dr Martha Farrell International Scholarship for Global Leaders with Royal Roads University (RRU), Canada



PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH IN ASIA (PRIA)

Established in 1982, PRIA is a global centre for participatory research and training, with a mission to build capacities of citizens, communities and institutions to enable vibrant, gender-equal societies. Headquartered in New Delhi, PRIA has linkages with over 3000 NGOs to deliver its programmes on the ground.

PRIA has supported the empowerment of women since its inception. In earlier phases, participation of marginalized rural women was promoted through literacy projects and learning savings and credit skills for livelihood improvement. In recent years, PRIA has supported leadership of young women and men to work together to bring about changes in attitudes of their families and in the responsiveness of government to help eliminate violence against women. PRIA is registered under the Societies Registration Act, XXI 1860.

For more information, please visit
www.pria.org



RURAL DEVELOPMENT TRUST (RDT)

With a mission to empower rural communities in India and support them in their struggle to eradicate poverty, suffering and injustice, Vicente Ferrer along with Anne Perry co-founded the Rural Development Trust (RDT) in 1969 in Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh.

RDT continues to pursue its founders' belief that everyone is entitled to a life of dignity and equality. Today, the organization works on poverty alleviation in 3662 villages across 9 districts of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, with a mission to alleviate human suffering by promoting harmony between individuals and land through eco-efficient agriculture, providing sustainable livelihoods, and improving access to job opportunities for marginalized youth, including persons with disabilities.

For more information, please log on to www.rdtvfvf.org

Martha Farrell Foundation

42, Tughlakabad Institutional Area, New Delhi – 110062

Phone: 91-11-29960931-33 | Fax: 91-11-29955183 | Email: info@marthafarrellfoundation.org

