



APWLD

Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development

NGO on the Roster in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

Announcement

APWLD's South Asia
Feminist Legal Theory and Practice Training
In Colombo, Sri Lanka
14-18 May, 2004

Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD) is an independent, non-government, non-profit organisation committed to enabling women to use law as an instrument of social change and to promote women's human rights. APWLD is the only regional network addressing the issue of women, law and development in the Asia-Pacific and has an outreach with a wide network of women's and human rights NGOs and individuals in the region.

The Feminist Legal Theory and Practice (FLTP) training has been a significant activity of APWLD. The training has grown into a dynamic program that offers a unique model in the region in so far as it attempts to bring feminist insights and perspectives into legal practice. The training seeks to challenge the traditional notion that law is neutral, objective, a rational set of rules, unaffected by the perspective of those who possess the power inherent in the legal institutions. It seeks to address the social, cultural and political contexts that shape the legal system. Given that law (as a culture, system and as an institution) is a reality that women face and engage with, it is essential for women's rights activists to explore how it can be utilised to transform women's situations. Partners throughout the region have perceived feminist legal theory and practice as an important area of work.

APWLD will conduct an FLTP training for South Asia in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 14-18 May, 2004.

The specific objectives of the training are:

- To serve as a venue for participants to share experiences in using law in advocacy on women's concerns;
- To develop greater understanding of gender, discrimination, equality, law and human rights;
- To identify and discuss issues and dilemmas encountered by women's rights advocates in their use of legal strategies to address women's concerns;
- To enhance the capability of participants to effectively challenge discriminatory laws and practices in their countries by feminist, rights-based legal practice and by applying international conventions and precedents for advancement of women's rights.

APWLD invites women and men from South Asia, engaging with or using law for social justice issues, to participate in this five-day training. We hope to have around 25 participants from the region. The training will be in English language. We regret to inform that due to limited resources, simultaneous translation facilities will not be available.

Participants will be selected based on the following considerations:

- a. Balance in regional representation.
- b. Preference will be given to individuals with institutional affiliations (from either NGOs or government organisations or attorney general/public prosecutor's office etc.).
- c. Priority will be given to those working on issues relevant to marginalized sections of the population.

APWLD Sponsorship

APWLD will cover costs of boarding and lodging for the five-day training period. Due to limited funds, participants are encouraged to cover their travel costs (to Colombo and back) either fully or partially. However, for those who cannot cover their costs, sponsorship for limited number of candidates is available. Please indicate the requirement of financial assistance in the form below.

Please fill in the form and email/post/fax it to APWLD at:

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(If you send the form by email, please indicate clearly in the subject line "Application for FLTP training")

The last date for receiving applications will be April 19, 2004.

APPLICATION FORM

(Please complete all questions fully and use additional sheets if necessary. Please submit the completed form with a copy of your curriculum vitae (CV) no later than April 19, 2004.)

- I. Personal Information:
 1. Name:
 2. Organization Affiliation:
 3. Mailing Address:
 4. Country and state/province:
 5. Telephone:
 6. Fax:
 7. E-mail Address:

- II. Background on the Applicant & the Organisation (please be brief):
 - a) What are the main activities and programs of your organization?
 - b) How long have you been involved with this organization and what is your position/role in your organization?
 - c) Have you ever been a past participant in any Feminist Legal Theory and Practice Training session (FLTP) conducted by APWLD? If so, when and where?
 - d) Have you attended any other international, regional or national training in FLTP?
 - e) Have you or your organisation addressed challenges that women face with respect to the law? If not, do you think it is important to do so and why?
 - f) Do you have any specific background knowledge in human rights work?
 - g) What understanding do you have of development issues affecting women in your country and sub-region?
 - h) Why do you want to participate in this training?

- III. Commitment of the NGO (to be answered by the NGO endorsing your participation):
 - a) How will the attendance of your endorsee to the FLTP Training benefit your organization?

- IV. Financial Assistance:
 - a) Would you be able to cover your travel costs for this training (i.e., round trip to Colombo and back) either fully or partially?
 - b) Would you require financial assistance to cover your travel costs? If yes, please give us an estimate of the cost from your place of stay to Colombo and back (most direct and cheapest route in local currency and US Dollars)?