



**Annual  
Report  
2014-15**

Dear friends,

There is a phoenix on this Annual Report cover because 2014-15 was for us a year of almost shutting down and then deciding to stay alive. Everytime we debated the question or agonised, Prajnya died a little.

We opened the year seriously asking whether it was worthwhile for us to continue as we were—a great, committed volunteer community in spirit but really hardly anyone to stick around and do the work that was growing without regard to our resource realities. We ended the year on a high, but let me tell this story the slow and long-winded way so you can walk with us.

Our challenges are not new to you, our long-term supporters. We have no money for salaries. This means we have no full-time staff. This means in turn we cannot undertake follow-up on requests and promises nor initiate projects for our many exciting ideas. During campaign season, we have one full-time position and we rally but the rest of the year has a microscopically small number of us struggling in isolated pockets as we try to fit Prajnya into the rest of our lives (and in my case, the rest of my life within Prajnya's needs). It has been difficult, depressing, dispiriting and it has felt futile. So last year, we opened the year by posing to our core community of volunteers—should we shut down? Was there any point in continuing? There were many points where the answer to that felt like it should be 'no.'



Nevertheless, when we were generously offered a space by one of our Trustees in her hospital, we took her up on it and moved our administrative base there, along with all our 'stuff'—files, papers, the remains of past programmes and campaigns. This was on May 2, 2014. We now had an office to which we could invite people for meetings!

June brought a further change—this time a change of guard as our long-time administrator left for a better job.

Our new administrator has borne the brunt of our double transition—to a new space and to a new life-stage. Her own entry has been the third transition.

With every change, the question hung heavy over my head—mine, more than anyone else's at Prajnya. I have been talking about planning a succession but that has seemed empty when we have not even moved out of the founding phase to a more professional one. Finally, in September, the extended team sat together—along with two Trustees, an Advisor and a facilitator—and faced up to the questions we had all discussed but in small private conversations.



At the end of an emotional day, the volunteers had to admit that while they were doing their best, neither could they give Prajnya more time nor was the present situation satisfactory. They left it up to the Board of Trustees, and primarily me, as founder and Managing Trustee, to decide Prajnya's future. At the Board meeting the next day, we decided that I would take six months to decide. If it looked like we had a reasonable shot at raising the funds we needed, we would stay open. If not, we would shut down.

For the next six months, the burden of making this decision sat within me like a ticking bomb. I want to tell you what it was like—it was like having to choose the fate of a child you cannot manage to raise on your own. Every available option was hard for me personally. I would also have to make the decision more or less by myself, keeping in mind that really, it would be up to me to make any decision work.

When you have only six months to live, you can either die each day in anticipation or you can live each minute to the fullest. The Prajnaya team made the latter choice and even in the shadow of this terribly difficult decision, has had one of its best years yet. We pulled out our wishlist of ideas and put most of them to work.

We found a way to adapt the peace education work we wanted to do and to just get started. We tried not to think of 'next year' but just stay in the moment and work. We used the tsunami anniversary as an occasion to start conversations about gender issues in times of disaster. We went back to every campaign notebook and 'post mortem' discussion and found ways to make our favourite campaign ideas work. Just once. Just in case it was for the last time.

From where I sat, I could see another shift. Both locally and nationally, it was an easier year to reach out to people. Although we have worked primarily in Chennai, our efforts over the years have now made it possible for us to credibly reach out to partners across India. People were also reaching out to us to work with them in a variety of ways.

In 2014, Prajnaya more or less "returned" the 16 Days Campaign to the community by inviting 17 Gender Equality Mobilisers to lead the campaign with activities that would be a part of their regular life and work, but that to us represented new audiences, new formats and new conversations. At the end of each campaign programme, it was hard to think we might never do this again. Each roomful of new people brought new invitations which we would accept, with me wondering whether we would be around to deliver.

You get the idea. This was a really hard and a really wonderful year.

Finally, in February, I made my decision, and you can guess what it was. We're going nowhere. Staying put.

Some reasons for that decision: The introspection I did all year made me realise how far we'd come since 2007; surely we could stay the course? This was a moment at which people were looking for resources on women's rights and gender violence. Having worked so hard, we really could not say, we will no longer be available. The peace education work is more relevant and urgent each day. Staying open is an act of faith.

(If you like you can read more about this year in this blogpost: <https://prajnaya.wordpress.com/2015/04/01/roller-coaster/>)

If this decision is to work, we will have to use this campaign sabbatical year to ensure that we raise the resources we need for at least a couple of full-time, professional staff. Staying open expresses our faith that we will be able to do so.

We really need your support—moral, financial, professional, networking—this year as we make this big transition to a different kind of Prajnaya, doing the same work but more systematically and intensively. We have always been able to count on you, and I know we will be able to continue to do so.

Thank you! And wish us luck!

*SwarnaRajagopalan*

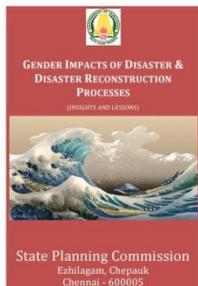
## Prajnya's Women's Rights and Gender Equality Initiative

### Prajnya Resource Centre on Women in Politics and Policy

*Women, gender and disasters* For the Prajnya Resource Centre, this year witnessed movement in a new direction. The book on women and disasters in South Asia, co-edited by Saakshi Fellow Linda Racioppi and SwarnaRajagopalan, approached completion, and our major activities were around this issue.



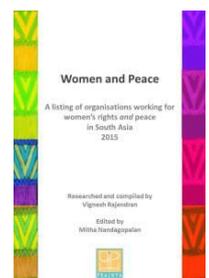
On November 14-15, 2014, in partnership with Oxfam India and the All India Disaster Mitigation Institute, Prajnya organised a training programme for mediapersons on gender sensitive reporting of disasters. Ammu Joseph, VandanaChauhan and SwarnaRajagopalan briefed participants on media practices, disasters and disaster risk reduction and an engendered approach respectively. The workshop also featured a panel of senior Chennai journalists (Ramyakannan and G.C.Shekhar) who had reported the 2004 tsunami. Participants were drawn from mainstream and digital publications based in Chennai, Mumbai and New Delhi. The workshop was organised in the hope that participants would then choose to write their tsunami tenth anniversary stories from a gender-sensitive perspective. The Prajnya report on the training is available here: <https://keepingcount.wordpress.com/2014/12/26/media-training-on-gender-and-disasters-november-14-15-2014/>



We followed this up with a half-day workshop held at the Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission on December 22, 2015 on the *Gender Impacts of Disaster & Disaster Reconstruction Processes (Insights and lessons)*. Mihir R. Bhatt and VandanaChauhan from the All India Disaster Mitigation Institute, PremaGopalan from SwayamShikshanPrayog, SwarnaRajagopalan from Prajnya and a representative of the Tamil Nadu State Disaster Management Agency made short presentations. The workshop resulted in a small resource published by the State Planning Commission in April 2015, which is available online ([http://www.spc.tn.gov.in/reports/Gender\\_Disaster.pdf](http://www.spc.tn.gov.in/reports/Gender_Disaster.pdf))

The Prajnya report on the workshop is available here: <https://keepingcount.wordpress.com/2014/12/26/notes-from-a-roundtable-on-gender-and-disasters-december-23-2014/>

*Women and Peace* Network-building is a Prajnya mandate and directories are one method whereby we hope to facilitate networks. In January, Prajnya published a directory of South Asian organisations working on both peace and women's rights. The directory is available online as a consolidated listing as well as separate country listings for the eight South Asian states: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The directory has been shared widely, including at the centenary gathering of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. Research for the directory was undertaken by VigneshRajendran and it was edited by MithaNandagopalan, both on a voluntary basis. Download the directory here:



<http://prajnya.in/wp2015>

### Prajnya Archives

In March, the Prajnya Archives put out a call for images and stories of women's leadership across South Asia. The response to "We Make It Happen" was limited but interesting nonetheless and the photos are now finding their way online. The experience of doing this call has made us reflect on the idea of leadership itself. Do visit the contributions here:

<https://prajnyaarchives.wordpress.com/category/leaders/>



As part of our outreach in this area, SwarnaRajagopalan visited and spoke to students at SDNB Vaishnav College for Women on the importance of women's stories to ensuring women's rights.

## Gender Violence Research and Information Taskforce

The first part of 2014-15 were very quiet on the GRIT front, setting the tone for Prajnaya's farthest reaching 16 Days Campaign yet.

From the 2014 campaign report(<http://prajnya.in/16d14report.pdf>)

Every year, the Prajnaya 16 Days Campaign against Gender Violence brings together a mix of public events, workshops, seminars and other activities that take place across towns and even, media. This year, in the 6th Edition of the Campaign, we wanted to make a shift away from the notion that the impetus for social change must come mainly from organisations like ours. We wanted to return ownership of campaigns like this to all citizens, to each of us, as individuals. We wanted to say, "No matter what you do, where you are, what your life is like, there is something you can do. And even if it is small, the small things add up!"

We invited 17 individuals to take the lead on this year's campaign by initiating activities and taking action within their immediate spheres. They were our Gender Equality Mobilisers, or as we like to call them, G.E.M.s. The G.E.M.s were from different walks of life; some more famous than others. Each of them has found a way to show support for this cause--eliminating gender violence--in some way that was meaningful to them and that fit in with their everyday life.

In addition, this year, we placed a spotlight on gender violence and public health with a series of programmes and conversations that made the case for getting gender and sexual violence onto the public health agenda as an urgent and legitimate issue.

Programmes in the Spotlight section of the 2014 Campaign focused on the following key questions:

- How can we build the capacity of health care professionals to respond to violence?
- What are some best practices of health care system responses to gender and sexual violence?
- How can we help establish a sustainable mechanism within the health system to respond to violence?

Resource creation has been one of the most important aspects of the Prajnaya 16 Days Campaign against Gender Violence. Since 2012, the blog symposium has been an important part of this work. This year's blog symposium served as a companion to the Spotlight segment. It framed gender-based violence in all its forms as a public health issue that affects all sections of the population and analyses its health impact from a physical, reproductive and psychological viewpoint. In addition, the symposium also critically examined the emergency health care responses and protocols that exist to combat gender and sexual violence including the attitudes of health care professionals with a gaze that moved from "what is" to "what should be" and located this discussion within a framework that is firmly survivor-centric and rights-based. The posts were featured on the GRIT blog, and can be accessed here:

<https://gritprajnya.wordpress.com/2014/12/10/gender-violence-the-health-impact-blog-symposium-index-of-links/>. We also generated audio resources on gender-based violence and produced 'How To' documents that outline first aid facts for acid and burn attacks as well as shedding light on accessing medical care after sexual assault.

Finally, we made a concerted effort to reach out and invite the larger community, both online and offline, to be a part of the solution, to take responsibility and action in any way that they can to further our common goal – to end all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, no matter whom it targets. We put out an individual call for action as well as a call for 'Men say No' videos to provide people with a variety of options to contribute to the campaign and emphasise our firm belief that small individual actions can have a large collective impact.

**2014 G.E.M.s**  
 Devasena E.S.  
 PreetiAghalayam  
 PravinShekar  
 Sudha Raja  
 PadminiSubramaniam  
 SudhaUmashanker  
 NandithaPrabhu  
 KhushbuSundar  
 KavithaMuralidharan  
 RamyaKannan  
 Zubeda Hamid  
 Dhamayanthi  
 Sriram Ayer  
 N. Shekar  
 JayanthiKarthikeyan  
 InduBalachandran  
 RinkuSuriMecheri



As we usually do, we ran awareness sessions on gender violence at MOP Vaishnav College for Women as part of their finishing school course in January-February. Follow-up to the campaign also took us to DG Vaishnav College where we did a gender sensitisation and gender violence awareness session for students and to Chevalier T.Thomas Elizabeth College for Women where we did a gender violence awareness session for non-teaching staff.



In April 2014, we partnered with Point of View, Mumbai, to organise “Connect your rights,” a meeting on gender, sexuality and the Internet. Partnering with Safetipin, a mobile app that has safety audit features, was a highlight of our activities through the year. We organised pilot audits around Chennai and contributed to the Safetipin report. Prajnya also commissioned a review of distress services available in Chennai whose findings will be shared at the end of 2015.

In the coming year, we hope to have our first full-time person to run GRIT programmes, a pool of trained volunteers to handle workshops and in a campaign sabbatical year, to systematically plan and follow up on projects initiated in the last campaign cycle from 2012-2014.

The Education for Peace Initiative's survival struggles have been well-documented in previous reports. Implicit in that documentation has been our refusal to give up on this work, which to our mind, lies at the heart of Prajnaya's vision and mission. Faced possibly with one last year to try and make our peace work in schools happen, we approached PSBB Millennium School in Gerukambakkam for permission to start a Peace Club for their seventh standard students.

After an introductory session with the entire class—all seven sections—we invited children to consider joining the Peace Club. Thirty-five students became Peace Ambassadors, and participated in Peace Club sessions and activities. These activities included maintaining a news board which identifies one item of news that promotes peace, one that points to factors inimical to peace and one creative intervention by the students.



At the end of the school year, we took stock of the Peace Club pilot and decided to continue by expanding and deepening our engagement.

This experience has been immensely gratifying to us because after a promising start, peace education has taken a backseat for lack of resources. Our small effort in the last year gives us hope that we can turn this story around and begin to do the work we dreamed of, someday in the way we dreamt of doing it. We are very grateful to and appreciative of PSBBMS Gerukambakkam for their openness and enthusiasm for this work.



## FUNDRAISING FOR PRAJNYA



Prajnya cannot continue on the basis of volunteer work any more. If our decision to persist with our efforts is to have any meaning, we need to transition to a more professional human resource base.

We are now inviting support on three levels.

1. Support for activities and small expenses: The support we have been getting all along remains essential to our ability to pay for activities—to take us places, to copy handouts and other materials, to rent a venue or a projector. Last year, a summer intern came up with a set of five fun fundraising ideas for our supporters that include a collection jar for change and a movie night.  
See more here: <http://prajnya.in/frfun.htm>
2. Support for the office space and administration: The first step in our transition to a more professional phase has been to move to a separate office space and administration. We are seeking donations specifically for this. If you would like to contribute, please get in touch with us (<mailto:prajnyatrust@gmail.com>).
3. Support for programme staff: We are inviting donors to join a special giving circle called Vasundhara, which will lay the foundation for our future work by supporting what we most urgently require—human resources. To learn more about joining this elect circle of donors, read more here: <https://prajnya.wordpress.com/2015/05/19/invitation-to-vasundhara-a-special-circle-of-prajnya-supporters/>

Prajnya still depends exclusively on donations from Indian citizens, Indian companies and Indian foundations. However, Indian passport holders living abroad can donate to us after providing us with a copy of their passport, (only) through proper banking channels.

### PRAJNYA DONORS 2014-15

AnupamaSrinivasan  
AnuradhaVenkatesh  
Ashwin Krishnan  
D.Jayashree  
Dr.Srinivasan  
Hamsini Ravi  
HemantShivakumar  
InduBalachandar  
Latika Saran  
MalatiJaikumar  
Mohua Mukherjee  
N.Shekar  
Sweta Narayanan

NandhiniShanmugham  
NithilaKanagasabai  
P.V.Krishnamurthy  
PattammalRajagopaul  
PrakashRajagopalan  
Priya R  
R.Jaikumar  
Ranjitha Mary Gunasekaran

SarojiniRajaram  
ShakthiManickavasagam  
ShakunthalaVedachalam  
SherinaAdvani  
ShilpaAnand  
SoumitaBasu  
SubhashiniSelvanathan  
SudhaRajagopalan  
SujataPilinjaRao  
SwarnaRajagopalan  
TharaRangasamy  
V. Subramaniam

## PRAJNYA ACCOUNTS 2014-15

### What we received in 2014-15

<i>Receipts</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Endowment Donation	-
General Donation	352405.00
IT Refund	1450.00
Politics, Security, Women Initiative	
(a) Prajnaya Resource Centre on Women in Politics & Policy	126000.00
(b) Gender Violence Research and Information Taskforce (GRIT)	257800.00
Education for Peace Initiative	-
Other Receipts	2750.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>740405.00</b>

### What we spent in 2014-15

Administrative Expenses	338866.58
Politics, Security, Women Initiative	
(a) Prajnaya Resource Centre on Women in Politics & Policy	137013
(b) Gender Violence Research and Information Taskforce (GRIT)	156051
Education for Peace Initiative	11370
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>643300.58</b>

### What we held in 2012-2013

	Bank	Cash	FD
What we held April 1, 2014 (opening balance)	94,366.31	1,884.00	1,59,130.73
What we held March 31, 2015 (closing balance)	1,85,086.00	13,268.00	1,76,061.93

**THE PRAJNYA TRUST**  
**B-402, PRINCE VILLA, NO.7, RAJAMANNAR STREET**  
**T.NAGAR, CHENNAI 600017**

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2015**

EXPENDITURE	Rs.P.	INCOME	Rs.P.
To Printing & Stationery	47676.00	By Donations	
To Postage and courier	2124.00	- General	398155.00
To Travelling and Conveyance	22440.00		
To Advertisement exp	2000.00	By Workshop receipts	356000.00
To internet and telephone expenses	27295.00		
To Bank charges	133.58	By Project Receipts	0.00
To Establishment expenses	99861.00		
To Salaries	63000.00		
To Web renewals	1600.00	By Interest	12234.00
To Depreciation	15918.00		
To Project exp.	311368.00		
To Computer peripherals	4713.00		
To General exp	250.00		
To Excess of Income over Exp	168010.42		
<b>Total</b>	<b>766389.00</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>766389.00</b>

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31.03.2015**

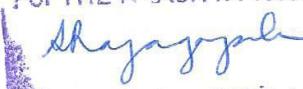
LIABILITIES	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	ASSETS	Rs. P.	Rs. P.
<b>CORPUS FUND</b>					
Balance as on 1.4.2014	118004.00		Cash on Hand		13268.00
Add: Corpus Donation	0.00	118004.00	Cash at HDFC Bank		185086.73
Loan from Ms.Swarna Rajagopalan	28186.00		FDs with Hdfc Bank		
Add: Recd. during the year	0.00				
	28186.00				
Less: Repaid during the year	0.00	28186.00	-A/c.No.26814	38743.80	
			-A/c.No.46285	93314.31	
			-A/c.No.50521	11864.59	
			-A/c.No.52526	14468.15	
			-A/c.No.54020	7277.15	165668.00
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>					
Balance as on 1.4.2014	131753.01		Int. accrued on above		2556.00
Add: IT Refund	1450.00				
	133203.01				
Less: Donation to Marappachi trust			TDS		37687.00
Excess of Income over Exp.	<u>168010.42</u>	301213.43			
			Fixed Asset:		
			Recorder	4170.00	
			Camera	4953.00	
				<u>9123.00</u>	
			Less: Depreciation at 15%	1368.00	7755.00
			Computer accessories	9093	
			Add: Additions	25050	
				34143	
			Less: Depreciation	12971	21172.00
			Furniture and Fittings	15790	
			Less: Depreciation	1579	14211.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>447403.43</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>447403.73</b>

FOR THE PRAJNYA TRUST

*Shajagan*  
 Membering Trustee

S. BHATT, B.Com.  
 MEM. NO.  
 13814  
 S. Bhagan Trust  
 Chartered Accountant

THE PRAJNYA TRUST			
B-402, 'Prince Villa', No.7, Rajamannar St.,			
T.Nagar, Chennai-600 017.			PAN:AABTT4334M
<b>STATEMENT OF INCOME FOR INCOME-TAX PURPOSES</b>			
<b>FOR THE ASST.YEAR 2015/16</b>			
		Rs.	Rs.
<b>INCOME FROM OTHER SOURCES</b>			
Voluntary Contributions			398155
Interest			12234
Others			356000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>766389</b>
<b>APPLICATION OF INCOME</b>			
Amount applied for charitable purposes incl.			
administrative exp.		598379	
Add:	Amount deemed to have been applied to charitable purposes during the year 2015/2016 under Cl.(2) of the Explanation to Sec.11(1)		
		53052	
Income accumulated for application to charitable purposes to the extent it does not exceed 15% of the income		<u>114958</u>	<u>766389</u>
Surplus/Deficit			<u>Nil</u>
<b>Encls.to the Return:</b>			
Audited Income and Expenditure Account, Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31/03/2015			
Audited Balance Sheet as at 31/03/2015			
Application exercising option U/s 11(1)			
Audit Report in Form 10B & Annexure			
List of Trustees			

FOR THE PRAJNYA TRUST  
  
 Managing Trustee

## PRAJNYA FACTFILE

- Prajnya was established as a public charitable trust in January 2006. It was registered under section 12AA of the Income Tax Act 1961 (695/06-07). (PAN: AABTT4334M)
- The Trust launched Prajnya Initiatives for Peace, Justice and Security in September 2007.
- Prajnya's work is organized into thematic initiatives each of which addresses a cluster of issues and is anchored by a cornerstone project that will form its core agenda.
  - I. Politics, Security and Women
  - II. Education for Peace
- Donations to Prajnya from 01-04-2008 to 31-03-2011 qualify for deduction under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961 as per I.T. Dept. Notification DIT (E) No. 2(573)2006-07 dated 26-09-2008.
- At this stage, we are not eligible to receive donations either from any non-Indian individual or other entity. If you hold an Indian passport, however, you can donate no matter where you live, PROVIDED you also scan and send a copy of the first page of your passport. The Home Ministry clarifies this: "*Contributions made by a citizen of India living in another country (i.e., Non-Resident Indian), from his personal savings, through the normal banking channels, is not treated as foreign contribution. However, while accepting any donations from such NRI, it is advisable to obtain his passport details to ascertain that he/she is an Indian passport holder.*"

### Board of Trustees 2014-15

- SwarnaRajagopalan, political analyst and writer, Managing Trustee.
- ShilpaAnand, businesswoman
- D. Jayashree, Ayurvedic physician
- AnjaleStephanos, management professional
- Saundarya Rajesh, founder-President, AVTAR Career Creators.

### Advisory Panel

Stephen P. Cohen, Rajmohan Gandhi, Ingrid Srinath, Ammu Joseph.

### Prajnya Coordinates

Registered Office: B-402 Prince Villa, 7 Rajamannar Street, Chennai 600 017.  
E-mail: [prajnyatrust@gmail.com](mailto:prajnyatrust@gmail.com)  
Web: <http://www.prajnya.in>  
Blogs: <http://prajnya.wordpress.com>  
<http://keepingcount.wordpress.com>  
<http://gritprajnya.wordpress.com>  
<http://prajnyaforpeace.wordpress.com>  
<http://prajnya16days.blogspot.com>  
<http://pencilblue.wordpress.com>  
Twitter: @prajnya  
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/prajnyatrust>  
Contact person: Dr.SwarnaRajagopalan, Managing Trustee  
91-98400-79133, [swr.prajnya@gmail.com](mailto:swr.prajnya@gmail.com)