

**Annual Report
2015-16**

Letter from the Managing Trustee

2015-16 was a landmark year for us for two related reasons. First, we were able to hire a full-time Programme Officer for the first time. Ragamalika Karthikeyan, who was the Media Coordinator for the 2013 Prajnaya 16 Days Campaign against Gender Violence and who continued to volunteer with us thereafter, came on board to run the programmes of the Gender Violence Research and Information Taskforce (GRIT). This expanded our capabilities manifold. Second, what enabled and supported the new full-time position was a special circle of donors--our Vasundhara donors--who had the vision and the heart to understand that social change needs human resources. Fundraising for salaries is a challenge for all NGOs, and we have been no exception. Four donors made a three-year commitment to donate Rs. 100,000/- per year, which allowed us to offer a modest salary for a single full-time position. I cannot say enough in praise of these four individuals. In a philanthropic culture that favours traditional forms of charity, and to which corporates have added the language of deliverables, we have been fortunate to find four people who had the imagination, sensitivity and of course, generosity to make this commitment to support a salary. We have more to show for it than event branding, merchandise and press clippings; we have a year of consistent and committed full-time work on the cause of eliminating gender violence.

Ragamalika joined us in September 2015. The first six months of the fiscal year were spent in fundraising and in strategizing exactly how we would manage our growing workload with a shrinking human resource base. Despite now having a full-time person, that challenge remains. Perhaps it is a permanent condition.

Having a second person for whom Prajnaya could be a first priority meant that we could now try out new programme ideas as well as new fundraising routes. We moved our classic Poetry Reading out of the campaign calendar and into our regular year-round work, holding a reading in January 2016 and an open-mic poetry slam in March 2016. Working with another long-time volunteer, Hemant Shivakumar, Raga did the paperwork that allowed us to be a part of the Airtel Delhi Half-Marathon last year. Raga's presence has also meant that for the first time ever, Prajnaya's web team has two people. We found a wonderful volunteer teacher and designer last year who redesigned our site, sat patiently and taught us how to use it.

For me, a growing concern about Prajnaya has also been that at the end of almost ten years, I continue to play a very large part in day-to-day matters. This last year, with Raga around, for the first time, I have been able to glimpse what it is like to have a team that carries on the work. This is very important not just to me as an individual, but also to the organisation if it is to survive the founder at all. I have always feared a co-dependent relationship with Prajnaya. This year, I went away several times, and thanks to Raga, work continued anyway. She has compiled this year's Annual Report and you will see that the longest, fullest part, is the section devoted to her 'department': gender violence awareness.

We will be ten in 2017. In January 2016, it was ten years since our founding deed was executed but we waited for our Section 12(A) registration to start functioning, so by that count, we will be

ten in 2017. As we approach the ten-year mark, I must confess I still wonder about shutting Prajnya down. The fundraising is too hard, I am still too involved with everyday work and a single Programme Officer is not enough. We have had trouble meeting even our very small establishment costs. How much longer, I think? And then, I see what we have managed to do with so little. I see that those who support us do not wait for us to ask, but consistently send in their donations. I see that people trust in our sincerity. I see that we have started something we cannot back away from. And I wonder if I should shut the door on the shutting-down question, once and for all.

We need to change the way we think about ourselves, perhaps. This was something that was reinforced by the person who reviewed six years of our 16 Days Campaign in December 2015-January 2016. We have seen ourselves as small, weak, trying our best. But we are more than that. We have been creative, innovative, consistent and persistent, and through our perseverance, we have survived our limitations. There is no reason for us to be diffident or modest in our aspiration--or in our ask. That has been a lesson we have taken time to learn.

As we eye new areas for our work--bolder policy engagement, more training, more outreach to special groups and finally, putting a research team in place--we also need to restructure Prajnya and to raise the funds for a fuller, larger team.

Through this letter, which has always been written as a means of candidly sharing our experiences in a year, I reach out and ask you for your help. Help us raise the resources we need to hire more people. Help raise our profile so we can reach new donors, new volunteers and new partners. Help us reach new audiences. Our ability to continue this work depends on you. With each act of support--giving, volunteering, connecting--you do not help us as individuals, but you help society move towards a more equitable, compassionate and just future.

Thank you!

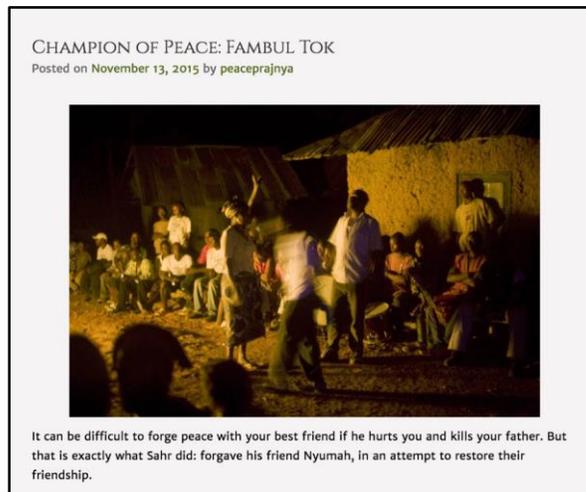
Swarna Rajagopalan

Education for Peace

While our gender violence work took up a huge chunk of our time and resources this year, our peace education programme managed to continue some of the work that we started last year, and also test some new waters, thanks to a few new volunteers.

Prajnya's Peace Club, an initiative begun in 2015, continued its activities this year. At the PSBB Millennium School in Gerugambakkam, the Prajnya peace team introduced teachers to the goals of the club, and worked with students to create Peace Ambassadors. Activities including poster making, story telling etc. helped communicate peace goals to the students.

In partnership with Parent Circle, we created a blog series aimed at introducing children to people and organisations who strove for peace. The series is called Champions of Peace, and features Indian and international peacemakers. Written by our volunteer Meera Rajagopalan, the series has so far profiled individuals like Nelson Mandela, Florence Nightingale, Bertha von Suttner etc, and also organisations like Fambul Tok in Africa, which aims to help heal scars of



civil war through traditional methods of simple conversation.

Clockwise from top left:
Meeting with teachers at PSBB Millenium School; Peace Club in action; Peace Club students imagine 'peace'; Screenshot from the Champions of Peace series.

GRIT @ Prajnya

The Gender Violence Research and Information Taskforce (GRIT) at Prajnya had a full time programme position starting September 2015, and this has enabled us to focus a good part of our resources and time on issues around gender based violence. We have had activities online and offline through the year, to further our goals of research, public education and network building.

Research

In November 2014, during the Prajnya 16 Days Campaign Against Gender Violence, we hosted a roundtable of civil society organisations, medical professionals and other stakeholders working on issues of violence against women. Following up on questions raised during this discussion, Prajnya commissioned a study of distress services available to women in Chennai. Swetha Shankar, who was also the Campaign Coordinator in 2014, did a gendered analysis of NGO and state-run services available for women in distress, between **February and June of 2015**. The findings from the study were shared with the service providers who are featured in the study, and Mr PWC Davidar, I.A.S. (Personnel and Public Grievances Department) in a closed door discussion in **November 2015**.

Public education

Trainings

In June, we conducted a training of trainers (ToT), for prospective new volunteers who wanted to help us with our public education programme. Held over 2 days, the ToT took participants through a gender sensitisation and gender violence awareness module, followed by demos of different kinds of trainings that Prajnya does and a practicum where the participants could demonstrate what they learned.

In August, we conducted a training on workplace sexual harassment for the employees at Lister Metropolis. The training covered the basics of what sexual harassment means, to giving an understanding of the law against workplace sexual harassment, and talking about why both employers and employees need to be sensitive to the issue.



Between December and February, we went back to MOP Vaishnav College for Women for our annual training programme on 'Dealing with Sexual Harassment'. This year, we trained 8 undergraduate and 5 post graduate batches at the college, as part of the institute's "finishing school" programme.

In February, we conducted a few training sessions for working nurses at the Kilpauk Medical College hospital, on identifying and responding to domestic violence survivors. While we were able to hold training for around 60 nurses, the programme had to be discontinued since the busy schedules and staffing issues meant the nurses couldn't take time off from work to attend the training.

Tweetchats

This year, we conducted several 'Tweetchats' to reach out to audiences online on one specific issue at a time. In each chat, we experimented a little with format, and tried to get a balance between starting a conversation, and bringing expert opinion on various issues to be available as a free resource for anyone who is interested.

Our first tweetchat was conducted in October, on the subject of female foeticide. In November, on human rights defenders day (November 29), we conducted a twitter 'teach-in' on women human rights defenders and resolution 1325. In December, in a tie-up with Why Loiter?, we hosted a chat on "ABCs of #Oorusuthifying" in Chennai, to talk about public spaces, street sexual harassment, and the freedom to loiter in our cities. In February, Anagha Sarpotdar, a consultant on workplace sexual harassment, joined us for a Twitter Q&A on legal and social aspects of workplace sexual harassment.

Other GRIT activities



In October and November 2015, Prajnya shot, produced and released a film on street sexual harassment on YouTube, titled "Caution! Stop. Resist. Go." Written and narrated by storyteller Sudha Umashanker, this film was the second part of a storytelling project started during the 2014 Prajnya 16 Days Campaign Against Gender Violence.

Prajnya 16 Days Campaign Against Gender Violence: A Review

In December, we commissioned a review of the Prajnya 16 Days Campaign Against Gender Violence. Since this was a break year in our campaign calendar, we decided to dedicate campaign time to get an independent reviewer to study what has worked in our campaigns so far, and what hasn't, and whether we should continue doing the campaign in future. Our reviewer, Radhika Desai, interviewed campaign managers, Prajnya team members and partners to give us a comprehensive report on how to make the campaign better, along with a definite go-ahead for the next campaign.

Public events

This year, we revived our poetry reading sessions that have proved to be a fun way to create awareness and start conversations on gender and violence.

In January 2016, Prajnya conducted a poetry reading with 6 women poets at Odyssey, Adyar, on the theme of 'Zero Apologies'. The poets, Kutti Revathy, Sukirtharani, Manushi Bharathi (Tamil), K Srilata, Sharanya Manivannan, and Smruthi Bala Kannan (English), shared their work with an engaged audience, and stayed back to



encourage participants at an open mic session after the formal reading.



Noting the interest in the open mic session, we conducted another reading - open to all poets - on the theme 'Still I Rise', in March. The poetry slam had a smaller attendance compared to our reading in March, but introduced us to people who went on to intern and volunteer with us eventually.

On March 11, we hosted "Short Takes", a series of talks by women in media at the Asian College of Journalism.

Journalists Kavitha Muralidharan and Kavin Malar, and filmmaker Uma Vangal, shared their experiences as women working in media, the nature of newsrooms, and the harassment women face just by being in the public eye.

Internships

In June and July 2015, our summer intern, Nikhilesh Prakash, worked with us on a various projects. A student at Ashoka University, Nikhilesh helped us with organising the ToT, identifying stakeholders to present the findings of our study of distress services, and wrote a paper on the state of domestic workers in urban India.

Fundraising activities

Prajnya volunteer Hemant Shivakumar ran the Airtel Delhi Half Marathon (ADHM) to raise awareness about gender violence, and also to raise funds for Prajnya. Hemant ran 21km on November 29, 2015, and between September and November, he managed to raise Rs 17,100 through an online campaign supported by India Cares Foundation.

As we registered as a beneficiary with the India Cares Foundation for ADHM, Prajnya was also invited to present proposals for two projects at a 'CSR Mela' conducted in Delhi. Although our projects were not picked for funding by any of the participating companies, it was an opportunity for us to network with organisations and individuals who might be interested in working with us in future.

Prajnya Donors 2015-16

Abhishek Bhattacharya
Aparna Gupta
Archana Venkatesh
Ashwin Krishnan
Geetima Krishna
Hemnath Kumar
Janaki Ranganathan
Jasmine Luthra

L Ramakrishnan
Malathi Jaikumar
Monika Mehta
Nandhini Shanmugam
Om Naulakha
Paavani Sachdeva
Priya Rajagopalan

Shekar N
Sherina Lalit Advani
Sreenivasan P N
Srikanth S
Sudha Rajagopalan
Swaminathan
Swarna Rajagopalan
Swetha Shankar
Yashita Jhurani

Vasundhara **A special donors' circle**

S. Sivakumar
Ramesh Narayan
Ingrid Srinath
Vanitha Ramani Manickavasagam

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

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.3.2016

Receipts	Cash Rs.	Bank Rs.	Payments	Cash Rs.	Bank Rs.
To Opening balance	13268.00	155086.73	By cash withdrawn	0.00	165000.00
To Donations received: Towards Corpus	0.00	100000.00	By Cash deposited	0.00	0.00
Towards Revenue	500.00	900961.82	By Printing & Stationery	15244.00	0.00
Towards Peace education	0.00	0.00	By Postage & Courier	2196.00	0.00
Towards GRIT Workshop	0.00	0.00	By Travelling & Conveyance	31607.00	8936.00
Towards PSW Projects	0.00	0.00	By Training exp	4450.00	4000.00
To amount recd.towards EPI Workshop		47000.00	By Registration Fees	0.00	0.00
To cash withdrawn	165000.00		By Web renewals	0.00	4169.00
To cash deposited			By Internet and Telephone Expenses	12,749.00	18,539.00
To IT Refund	0.00	3200.00			
			By Project expenses	19077.00	76620.00
			By printer purchased	0.00	9700.00
			By Review projects	12275.00	41702.00
			By Bank Charges	0.00	114.50
			By Repairs and maintenance	7419.00	27442.80
			By Office expenses	6096.00	0.00
			By Establishment charges	61673.00	56338.00
			By Salary		2,52,000.00
			By Fixed Deposit		100000.00
			By Accounting charges		11,000.00
			By Balance c/d	5982.00	456865.25
Total	178768.00	1236248.55	Total	178768.00	1236248.55



FOR THE PRAJNYA TRUST
31.03.2016

Prajnya Accounts 2015-16

What we received in 2014-15

Receipts	Amount
Endowment Donation	-
General Donation	301461.82
IT Refund	3200
Politics, Security, Women Initiative	-
(a) Prajnya Resource Centre on Women in Politics & Policy	
(b) Gender Violence Research and Information Taskforce (GRIT)	47000
Education for Peace Initiative	-
Vasundhara	600000
Total Income	951661.82

What we spent in 2014-15

Expenses	Amount
Administration	340139.8
Politics, Security, Women Initiative:	
(a) Prajnya Resource Centre on Women in Politics & Policy	48000
(b) Gender Violence Research and Information Taskforce (GRIT)	114203
Vasundhara	180000
Education for Peace Initiative	5006
Total Expenditure	687348.8

What we held in 2015-16

	Bank	Cash	FD
What we held on April 1, 2015	185086.73	13268	176061.93
What we held on March 31, 2016	456685.25	5982	288618.73

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

[Swarna Rajagopalan](#), Ph.D., political analyst and consultant, Managing Trustee.

[Shilpa Anand](#), businesswoman.

D. Jayashree, Ayurvedic physician.

[Anuradha Venkatesh](#), management professional.

Advisory Panel

Stephen P. Cohen, [Rajmohan Gandhi](#), [Ingrid Srinath](#), Ammu Joseph, [N.Shekar](#)

Prajnya Coordinates

Registered Office B-402 Prince Villa, 7 Rajamannar Street, Chennai 600 017.

E-mail: 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.Swarna Rajagopalan, Managing Trustee
91-98400-79133, swr.prajnya@gmail.com