



IAWS

Indian Association for Women's Studies

Reg. No.:S/12936

IAWS Secretariat
C/o Department of Women's
Studies,
University of Calicut
Kerala 673 635
Ph: +91-0494-2407366/2407339
E.mail: iaws.secretariat@gmail.com
Website <http://www.iaws.co.in>

Dr. Ishita Mukhopadhyay
President

Ms. Mini Sukumar
General Secretary

Homage to Feisty Feminist, Kamala Bhasin

In passing of Kamala Bhasin IAWS has lost a valuable life member who actively strived to strengthen the women's studies movement. Kamaladi, as she was popularly known, took part in all IAWS national conferences and energised all delegates with her speeches, slogans and songs. In the IAWS Conference she was always armed with her bagful of songbooks, posters, booklets on *Understanding Gender, What is Patriarchy and Exploring Masculinity* in English, Hindi, Urdu and several regional languages. Several of her lectures in English & Hindi are in social media platforms with lucid and simple illustrations, provide a source of reference to listen to, and understand the concepts of gender with clarity.

Kamala was elected as the EC member of IAWS for Jaipur Conference and General Secretary of IAWS for Lucknow Conference. She proactively supported IAWS in fundraising for over 3 decades. Kamala also organised pre-conference workshops of SANGAT: A South Asia Feminist Network before the IAWS National Conference in Chandigarh, Goa, Pune, Jaipur, and Bhubaneswar. Her booklets, pamphlets, posters, songs and slogans regarding invisibility of women's work, violence against girls and women, collective strength and solidarity of women, education of girl child, women's quest for freedom and justice conveyed the power of feminist politics and were picked up from the book-stalls at the IAWS Conferences. Her exuberance in singing and raising slogans with powerful use of Hindi and Urdu made her adorable in the South Asian progressive circles.

Kamala played pivotal role in making South Asian feminists from Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan 'friends of IAWS' and also helped in sponsoring and facilitating their travel. Kamala was committed to the core to the ethos of secular humanism and was dedicated to the mission of challenging the communal forces. Each year she organised theoretically rigorous workshops to mentor young feminists from the South Asian countries. Her crusade against gender based violence against women and girls epitomised in One Billion Rising Campaign in the Asian Countries. Kamala was gifted with unlimited creative power which she used for building highly successful organisations, networks and campaigns with a dream of peace-building in South Asia.

IAWS pays homage to Kamala Bhasin, a powerhouse of feminist gusto, conveys heartfelt condolences to her son, family members and friends and solidarity to the members of SANGAT South Asia, Jagori and One Billion Rising Campaign.

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Registered Office: C/o Centre for Women's Development Studies, 25 Bhai Vir Singh Marg, New Delhi - 110 001 Ph: 91 -Fax: 91-11-23346044