

# PATHWAYS TO PEACE



1993 - 2018

SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS





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TO  
PEACE

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Pathways to Peace – Twenty-Five Years of Peace-building in South Asia  
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The Kashmir Institute of International Relations is a non-profit, non-partisan; non-governmental organization established in 1993. With the motto of "Peace through Dialogue", KIIR is working for a peaceful South Asia, with special emphasis on Kashmir to reduce human sufferings by resolving the conflict. Extracts from this book can be reproduced with prior written approval of the publisher.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

KIIR	Kashmir Institute of International Relations, Islamabad
USIP	United States Institute for Peace, Washington DC
APHC	All Parties Hurriyat Conference, Jammu and Kashmir
ICRD	International Centre for Religion and Diplomacy, Washington DC
MJCSCA	Muslim Judicial Council South Africa
HLSC	Henry L Stemsol Centre, Washington DC
ICLV	Institute of Culture and Language, Vienna
IMTD	Institute of Multi-track Diplomacy
ISSI	Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad
CR	Conciliation Resources, London
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Geneva
OIC	Organization of Islamic Cooperation
IPHRC	Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission
JKCCS	Jammu & Kashmir Coalition of Civil Societies
AKNS	All Kashmir Newspaper Society
LOC	Line of Control
SERRA	State Earthquake Reconstruction & Rehabilitation Agency, AJK
IOK	Indian Occupied Kashmir
AJK	Azad Jammu & Kashmir
NGO	Non Governmental Organization



## Chairman's Message

The idea of 'Kashmir Institute of International Relations' (KIIIR) was born after my interactions with the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) and its activities towards the pursuit of its mission objectives. After having attended the International Seminar and a subsequent Kashmir dialogue, organized by USIP in July 1992 and January 1993 respectively, I was inspired to initiate measures towards finding a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir conflict keeping in view the aspirations and wishes of the Kashmiri people. Hence, KIIIR was launched on 24 July 1993.

Being a Kashmiri myself, I have experienced first-hand the inherent difficulties of pursuing peace while being confronted with conflict and its ramifications on a daily basis. However, my staunch belief in the KIIIR motto of "Peace through Dialogue" has enabled me to keep my spirits buoyant and continue relentlessly with my work. This is also because in conflict areas like Kashmir, where people are suffering, it becomes imperative to provide practical assistance in making peace.

Although it is very difficult to comment on the success and failure of any organization after a decade, I would certainly make an exception in the case of KIIIR. The organization has enabled people from various sections of political life to provide sustenance to conflict resolution initiatives.

When Sardar Amjad Yousaf Khan joined KIIIR in 1996, it enabled us to work even more actively towards the pursuit of new avenues for building peace. Our efforts

have been successful because we were able to direct the attention of thousands of people in both parts of Kashmir and hundreds around the world towards the necessity of peace building through dialogue. We discussed our views and thoughts with different think tanks and international NGOs that have been working in the field of peace and conflict resolution; shared the approach of Intra-Kashmir dialogues to find common ground between the different schools of thought in search for peace in Kashmir and worked to get Kashmiri politicians, members of parliament, lawyers, journalists and people from different walks of life trained in conflict resolution and negotiating skills.

Now, after twenty-five years of strengthening peace initiatives, I feel glad to witness the same approaches being adopted by different international organizations working towards peace building in Kashmir.

I also want to thank all our members and Kashmiri expatriates for their moral and financial support over the years. And I look forward to our members' continued support in meeting the challenges we might face as we move into the third decade of our existence.

Shah Ghulam Qadir



## Message from the Executive Director

The principles and purposes of KIIR attracted me to join the organization as Executive Director in 1996.

It was first civil society group consisting of political activists from various political parties and ideologies but our shared goal was to create a space where political activists could share their concerns and contribute in highlighting Kashmir Cause at international level and create greater awareness and understanding at home.

KIIR agreed on the need for building negotiation skills of Kashmiri leaders and creating linkages with international organisations and think tanks that affect decision-making in the international arena.

KIIR became the torch bearer of a new approach in Azad Kashmiri politics in which political party loyalties became secondary to working towards the resolution of the Kashmir issue. Thus, KIIR activities changed the dynamics of local politics in Azad Kashmir and introduced ideas of peace amongst local political activists.

This is an approach that makes KIIR's work extremely challenging since we believe in involving civil society members in every part of the peace process. We believe sustainable peace must be generated from the people and only then, it can be sustained.

While I have learnt a lot during my tenure as Executive Director of KIIR, the experience has been most fulfilling because it allowed me to promote the Kashmiri voice on international forums. There is a saying "There is no shortcut for experience".

KIIR has helped the Kashmiri people to gain experience in the direction of attaining a peaceful and prosperous future.

We believe that this is the destination of the Kashmiri people.

Sardar Amjad Yousaf Khan





## Message from the Director Programmes

I am privileged to be part of this wonderful organization that brings together people, who agree upon its common mission while holding their diverse political beliefs. Many academicians, researchers, and volunteers have been associated with this organization, who willingly share their time, resources and advice to make it an unusual place to work with. There are also donors and supporters who are our partners in the truest sense of the word. These amazing people and partnering organizations are generously offering the best of their abilities, judgment, guidance, and connections to achieve shared goals. We are enormously grateful for their generosity and deeply moved by their confidence in our initiatives. It is through their trust that we were able to surpass obstacles and achieve all that was possible in the past twenty-five years.

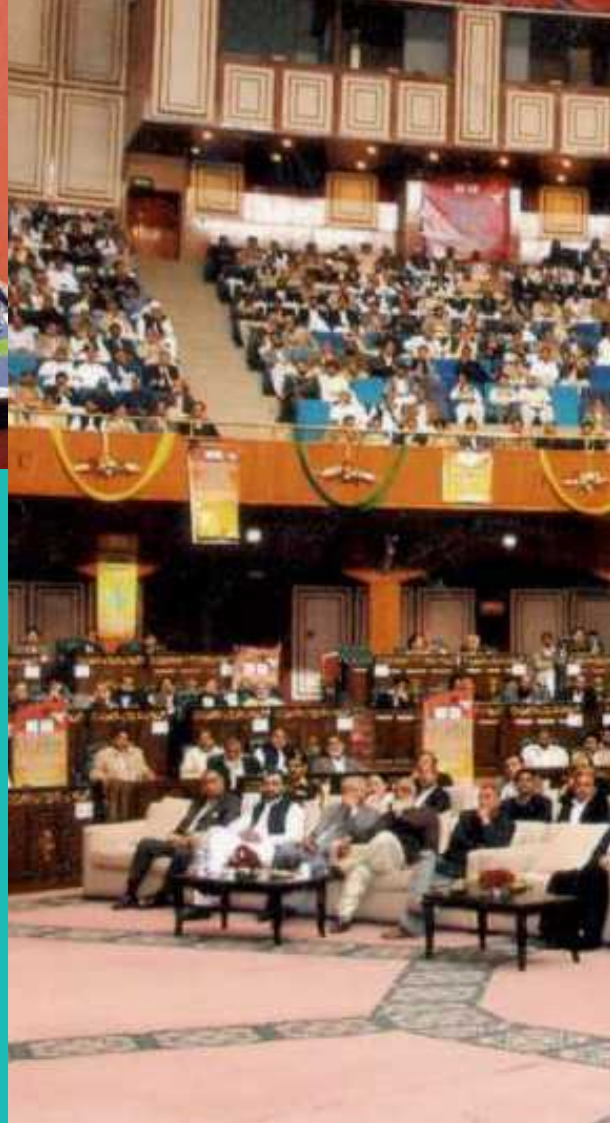
I feel satisfied that the organization has introduced a number of strands by using creative approaches in peace-building and human rights advocacy, which has been instrumental in building awareness, shifting attitudes, influencing policies and transforming practices.

Our team took rights-based advocacy to new heights by passionately producing reports of human rights violations in Indian occupied Kashmir. Due to their credibility, these reports are adopted by local institutions and appreciated by international institutions including the United Nations and global human rights watchdogs. We are thankful to those human rights defenders who risk their lives while collecting information for these reports in Indian occupied Kashmir. We always appreciate Jammu Kashmir Coalition

of Civil Society (JKCCS) for their unconditional support.

I believe KIIR will carry on its mission to empower communities with knowledge and skills to understand the value of rights and peace until the people of Jammu and Kashmir attain their fundamental right to decide their political future and live in an environment of sustained peace. Insha Allah

Altaf Hussain Wani



## KIIR-An Introduction

The Kashmir Institute of International Relations is a non-profit, non-partisan, non-governmental organization established in 1993 in Muzaffarabad, Azad Kashmir. With the motto of 'Peace through Dialogue', KIIR is working for a peaceful South Asia. KIIR believes peace can only be achieved by the resolution of the Kashmir dispute through substantive dialogue between India, Pakistan and Kashmiris.

To achieve this goal, KIIR has engaged policymakers and policy implementers: Members of Parliament, Political Activists, Lawyers, Journalists, Academics and Social Activists. KIIR is working to enhance the capacity of Kashmiri civil society actors in the areas of reconciliation, negotiation skills and conflict resolution. The objective of these initiatives is to facilitate dialogue that is conducive to reconciliation and peace in the region.

### OBJECTIVES

KIIR has been working on various levels, which include organizing conflict analysis workshops capacity building training, and leadership level dialogues. Drawing upon various faith-based traditions to promote consensus with regards to peace-building at the grass root level, KIIR works to:

- Develop a cadre of next-generation Kashmiri leaders who are committed to transforming the political, social and spiritual dynamics of the region through faith-based reconciliation;
- Build momentum for peace on an incremental basis; first by working with the individual parties to the conflict and, later by working with them collectively after establishing a corporative attitude.
- Impart moral vision and promote forgiveness

### PRINCIPLES:

- Conflict Resolution – Creative approaches to analyze and identify methods in resolving conflicts
- Reconciliation – Preparing ground for political, ethnic, religious and different identity based groups to find the common grounds

- Human Rights – Monitoring the violation of civil liberties, fundamental democratic and human rights in Kashmir
- Sustained engagement – Engaging regional and international institutions to support the sustenance of the peace process
- Collaboration – Cultivating strategic partnerships with local and international interest groups in finding solutions to the disputes
- Facilitation – Supporting Kashmiri stakeholders in capacity building efforts
- Research advocacy – Creating knowledge and sharing research findings with partners and the wider public
- Transformation – Facilitating behavioral and institutional changes in the approaches to conflict resolution
- Bridge-building – Allowing policy-makers and civil society leaders regardless of their political allegiances, to jointly participate in developing the peace process



*International Kashmir Conference Organized by Institute of Strategic Studies & KIIR, March 16-17, 2007*

## ACTIVITIES

During the past twenty-five years, KIIR has initiated several international and Kashmir- based activities in collaboration with various funding partners, think tanks and non-governmental organizations for promoting peace in Kashmir. These activities comprised of seminars, workshops and training programs, and sought to build and strengthen conflict-resolution capacity of civil society members in AJK. Moreover, KIIR delegations visited different countries and held meaningful talks with government officials, think tanks and NGOs in order to develop linkages and exchange information.

During these years, KIIR has been involved in different activities with several organizations of international repute, including the Institute for Multi- Track Diplomacy-

Washington DC, International Centre for Religion and Diplomacy, Washington, DC, United States Institute for Peace, Centre for Strategic and International Studies- Washington DC, Henry L Stimson Centre- Washington, DC, Muslim Judicial Council- South Africa, Human Rights Foundation- South Africa, and the Institute of Culture and Languages- Vienna.



*KIIR Delegation Visit to Northern Ireland 2004*

## ORGANIZATIONAL COMPONENTS

Following its gradual transformation from a small, local non-profit, organization to an institution of global repute, KIIR has emerged, in terms of its influence and outreach, as one of the leading research and advocacy organization in Pakistan and Azad Kashmir. The organization has particularly focused upon young men and women, leaders in the socio-political sphere, marginalized communities affected by longstanding conflict, and the media. To achieve its mission, KIIR has implemented a wide array of small-, mid- and long-term projects in all parts of Azad Kashmir with a focus on Democratic Governance, Peace and Harmony, Disaster Response and Institutional Strengthening. KIIR's biggest strength lies in its well-trained team and partner entities that include youth, women and community groups, organizations and networks, think tanks, and religious and political leadership at local, district and state levels.



1993-2018

## POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

KIIR provides space to all political parties, and religious and ethnic groups to discuss and agree upon common grounds. Activities are aimed towards the inclusion of Kashmiris in the resolution of Kashmir dispute and peace building.

Over the years, KIIR has arranged several training programs for political leaders and parliamentarian of Azad Jammu and Kashmir in Washington DC engaging different think tanks and experts. KIIR arranged study tours of AJK civil society to Northern Ireland and South Africa to study the reconciliation processes there. In 2007 KIIR organised a two days conference in collaboration with Institute of strategic studies Islamabad (ISSI) which was attended by the representatives of world renowned think tanks and institutions. In order to bridge the gap between political leaders of Azad Kashmir and Indian occupied Kashmir, KIIR also arranged the first Kashmir Leadership Conference in 2008.

For greater awareness, KIIR organized workshops and training programs for young political leaders in AJK. Efforts were made to create consensus on issues of significance, with reference to the Kashmir conflict. A landmark conference was organized in Dubai in 2017 that brought together all political parties in pursuit of finding viable solutions to the simmering conflict and express their feeling on the human rights situation of Indian occupied Kashmir.



All Parties Conference 22nd May, 2014



AJK Elections 2016 Round table interactive dialogue 5 June 2016



AJK Leadership Conference 13 March 2005 Islamabad

# HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY



**Human Rights Council Geneva**

At home, KIIR organizes conferences, seminars, and workshops to educate local communities and highlight the plight of people of Kashmir. The organization provides means of peaceful expression to political activists, scholars, and students on the Kashmir cause.



**Sit-in on International Torture Day 1999 at Muzaffarabad**

Human rights advocacy is the cornerstone of KIIR's work for peace building and giving voice to the voiceless. The Human Rights Desk at KIIR regularly monitors, documents and disseminates information about incidents of human rights violation in Indian occupied Kashmir to the United Nations Special Rapporteur, United Nations Human Rights Council, and Office of the High commissioner on Human Rights, global think tanks, human rights watchdogs and other stakeholders. Since 2005, KIIR has been regularly publishing yearly and quarterly reports, pamphlets, and handbills on human rights violations which are widely circulated and appreciated at national and International level. KIIR delegation regularly attends sessions of Human Rights Council in Geneva and has developed a close liaison with UN agencies.



**Protest outside UN Geneva 2010**

At the International level, Kashmir Institute facilitates seminars and conference in Geneva and other places on different subjects of human rights, inviting leaders of International stature and International human rights experts to express their feeling on the human rights situation of Indian occupied Kashmir.



**Kashmiri Delegation with Commissioners of OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission at Geneva 2017**



**UN Human Rights Council, Geneva 2011**



**Kashmiri Delegation members addressing Press Conference in Geneva Press Club, Sep, 2014**



**Report Launch at UN Geneva on 18th Sep, 2012**



**Seminar at Islamabad Hotel on 13 Dec, 2017**



**Report Launching Program at Regency Hotel, Islamabad**

# MEDIA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

An efficient, well-resourced media is crucial for safeguarding of peace. While there is increasing recognition of media and its positive and negative potential in relation to Kashmir conflict, there is relatively little accessible evidence on what works, guidance for journalists, or attention from policy makers.



**Kashmiri Journalist Meeting 2016, Islamabad.**



**Media conference 26 -27 March, 2017 at Falaties Hotel, Lahore**

Keeping in view these challenges and needs, KIIR has been regularly contributing towards creating an environment of learning, professional growth and setting of standards to enhance quality of journalism in the region. Through dialogues, workshops, conferences and trainings - the

environment. For instance, in 2015, a landmark initiative was undertaken by KIIR when journalists from both sides of the divide met in Islamabad to move forward on the concept of introducing a joint mechanism of sharing news and conflict reporting. Journalists from IoK visited AJK and met different stakeholders including civil society to explore opportunities of developing a credible media environment.

Building upon this success, a major development was formation of joint platforms for journalists in the Kashmir region. The objective was to share news, conflict-related reports and concerns about journalist's safety. Creation of 'Jammu and Kashmir Joint Media Forum' in 2018 opened doors for greater interaction between journalists working in all parts of Kashmir.



**Media conference 26 -27 March, 2017 at Falaties Hotel, Lahore**

organization is empowering journalists to present the true picture of ground realities Likewise, KIIR is facilitating media to disseminate reliable information about Kashmir conflict; and represent a range of views sufficient for communities in this region to make well-informed choices.



**Journalist Workshop at Regency Hotel, 2018**



**Journalist Workshop at Muzaffarabad, April, 2018**

With support from KIIR, journalists in AJK had the opportunity to interact with senior journalists of Pakistan in Lahore. We also facilitated many journalists to get membership of 'All Kashmir Newspaper Society' (AKNS). In the last quarter of year 2017, KIIR launched a new set of training program for young journalists of AJK who never had an opportunity to learn and lead in their field. This initiative was highly appreciated by the journalist community and the various government departments who are linked to this area of interest. The feedback of these trainings has been very positive. Based on the positive feedback, KIIR is planning to further extend its outreach to those media actors that need capacity-building support for improved performance.

The multi-pronged support provided by KIIR, led to important developments in the overall journalistic

# GENDER PROGRAM

KIIR is committed to empower women in the AJK region. The gender component, which was considered as a crosscutting theme, has emerged as a direct focus area. It is now working as a full-fledged component having multiple prongs of grassroots interventions designed to enhance women's social, economic and political participation in Kashmir. The organization had undertaken several activities over the years to create an enabling environment for



**Cross LOC Women Meeting, 2014**

women, particularly in the social, economic and political sectors. The program has successfully mobilized and developed a new generation of women

leaders from all parts of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir region. So far more than three hundred young women, social and political leaders, and academics have received training, advice and linkages development support from KIIR. These women are now coming up with new social campaigns, entrepreneurial initiatives and political actions to identify common challenges and develop shared solutions. Particularly in the past five years, KIIR has undertaken following activities for emerging women leaders in AJK to polish their leadership skills and enhance linkages.

**2013:** 4 capacity building workshops on Conflict Analysis (Rawlakot, Muzaffarabad, Mirpur, Islamabad)

**2014:** Organized cross-LoC women dialogue in Philippines

**2015:** First ever research study analyzing the impact of conflict on women living along LOC titled: *Voices Unheard Stories Untold: The Plight of Women in Neelum Valley*.

**2016:** •Gender Sensitive Legislation Workshop (Islamabad) •Policy dialogue on Enhancing Spaces for Political Participation of Women (Islamabad) •Round table on women as agents of change (Kotli)

**2017:** Four Leadership-Training Workshops (Rawlakot, Mirpur, Muzaffarabad) Islamabad.

**2017-18:** 4 Leadership and conflict Resolution trainings, for young women (Islamabad, Rawlakot, Muzaffarabad, Mirpur)



**Report Launch "Voices Unheard, Stories Untold: The Plight of Women in Neelum Valley - AJK, May, 2017 at Mirpur**



**Celebrating 5-Years of Women Empowerment Initiatives by KIIR", 22 December, 2017 at IslamabadClub-Islamabad**

Since 2013, KIIR has been engaging and bringing together women from across all divisions of AJK (Mirpur, Muzaffarabad, Rawalakot). Through various capacity building workshops, leadership and conflict resolution trainings, and policy dialogues, KIIR has supported a large constituency of AJK women in articulating their voices and claiming spaces for themselves in the existing civic platforms. KIIR has enabled them to think creatively and claim their lost spaces and see their larger role in resolution of the conflict, of which they are the biggest victim. This is done through creating an environment for collaborative learning by setting a tradition of reaching out to communities which are voiceless or unheard in the Kashmir conflict including women suffering directly from shelling at the Line of Control (LoC), and women who want their narratives to be heard and feed into policy making processes relating to the conflict.

Our gender program also focuses on identifying and building the capacities of women who are willing to contribute in the political processes over the Kashmir conflict, and see their leadership role in resolving this conflict. We work with a huge constituency of aware and motivated women who are seeking their spaces in political processes to make their voices heard and see their leadership role.

With these and multitude of other interventions, KIIR has strengthened women's voices, and provided a platform to harness enhanced recognition and receptivity for women's participation in social, economic and political affairs, equally, freely and meaningfully.



**Women Workshop held in Islamabad Hotel on 27th May, 2016**

**5-Years of Women Empowerment Initiatives by KIIR", 22 Dec, 2017 at Islamabad Club**



**"Gender Sensitive Legislation in AJK" workshop, 27th May, 2016 at Islamabad**

## CAPACITY BUILDING OF IDPS

KIIR believes that young people, as members of a dynamic group, can play a crucial role in positively transforming conflict situations and in building the foundations of democratic and peaceful society. Displacements across the Line of Control (LoC) have been a permanent issue since 1947. There were several waves of migrations in 1947, 1965 and then after 1989 which is continuing until today. According to AJK government figures, there are around 15,000 families (45000+ people) of migrants, majority of which are living in camps established by the government of AJK in Muzaffarabad, Poonch and Mirpur divisions. Government of Pakistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir are taking care of these camps. Governments of AJK and Pakistan and some non-governmental organisations are contributing to their wellbeing.



*Capacity Building Workshop of Refugees on 27 August, 2016*

A large population of these migrants are young people. Scars of a troubled past are visible on those young men and women who migrated from Indian-held Kashmir after 1989 or were born in families who migrated in that period. Since they are recently divided from their families, the sense of deprivation and grief is more intense within them. Human rights abuses in Indian-occupied Kashmir and denial to a way forward for a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir issue has aggravated their frustration. Young women and men from migrated communities are particularly affected by multiple challenges at all levels. In order to mitigate the challenges KIIR has been working with young women and men who grew up in refugee camps for many years. The series of consultative workshops in previous years provided spaces for dialogue on ways for peaceful conflict resolution, peace building, human rights and advocacy. The major focus was skill building of potential youth and their involvement in advocacy of human right abuses with



*Oneday Workshop with Kashmiri Youth on 21 Nov, 2015*



*Oneday Workshop with Kashmiri Youth on 21 Nov, 2015*

the Kashmiris by the authorities especially in IoK. This methodology mobilized the youth towards peaceful means rather than adopting violent behaviours. Now there are many youth in AJK who are pro-active agents of peace in their communities, in their schools and work places.

## DISASTER MANAGEMENT

KIIR believes that it is essential to equip local communities with knowledge and skills, to handle conflict-based crises and natural disasters. During the past twenty-five years, this component of KIIR's program has initiated a wide spectrum of activities starting with disaster preparedness and mitigation, and moving on to response in disaster-



*Disaster Management Training, 24 March, 2017, University of Kotli AJK.*

hit communities. KIIR is primarily focusing on building capacity, implementing best practices, and generating knowledge regarding disaster management in disaster-prone areas of AJK.



*Disaster Management Training 15 June, 2017, Muzaffarabad AJK*





**Disaster Management Training Islamabad, 19 & 20th August, 2017**

The primary beneficiaries of this program are youth of AJK, particularly those studying in universities. It has been observed that youth in AJK lack knowledge, skills and platforms to act as first response in any type of disaster. Therefore, KIIR is making efforts to develop a cadre of equipped and motivated men and women that can quickly join hands with local disaster response mechanisms as



**Disaster Management Training, 9 December, 2017, Bagh AJK**

volunteers, when a crisis hits. Availability of trained youth in disaster response techniques have enhances resilience among communities for disaster response. It has created safer neighbourhoods and increased sense of ownership among members of the community by generating discourse on local vulnerable groups and structures.



**Disaster Management Training, 3 March, 2018, Bagh AJK**

The component has particularly benefited education institutions in AJK where youth-groups have been mobilized to vigilantly look at local demographic, political and environmental conditions; and prepare plans for disaster response. Such initiatives have promoted an atmosphere of healthy activities in education institutions by providing the students with opportunities to learn and employ new skills.



**Disaster Management Training, 11 March, 2018, Mirpur AJK**

KIIR is working with local disaster management institutions (SERRA and others) and education institutions by establishing partnerships and engaging youth groups. The program has enhanced transfer of DRR knowledge among professionals and academics. Such collaborations have enhanced exchange of knowledge, resources and ideas. Because of KIIR efforts, many partnerships have been formed between academic institutions, government departments and communities, thus creating new and successful models of Public-Private-Partnerships in the discipline of DRR.



**Disaster Management Training 2ndDecember 2017, Mirpur AJK**

# KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF KIIR

KIIR's success over the past quarter of a century depicts the ever-increasing translation of its mission, values and goals into reality. Since its beginning, KIIR believes in peaceful resolution of the longstanding conflict in Kashmir. Therefore, we strived for strengthening intra-Kashmir linkages at all levels to make this dream come true. Although, the road to peace was treacherous from the outset, and we often found ourselves walking alone due to security challenges. However, that did not deter us from raising voice against oppression and injustices in Kashmir. Through advocacy, we provided voice to the unheard. And through our publications, we highlighted cases of tyranny to let the world conscience know that people in Kashmir are suffering in the hands of brutality and marginalization.

On the other hand, we endeavoured to develop platforms for capacity building of civil society and local communities. We engaged international institutions in dialogue processes to exchange views about lasting peace and prosperity. It was only because of our efforts during past twenty-five years that many international organizations, human rights groups, advocacy associations and activists had been mobilized to play an effective role in resolution of the Kashmir conflict. Here is a glimpse of the achievements that we have made in the past twenty-five years.



*Intra Kashmir Media Conference 23-24 Jan, 2018*



*Intra Kashmir Media Conference 23-24 Jan, 2018*



*1st Intra Kashmir Leadership Conference on Aug, 2008*



*Chairman APHC Mir Waiz Umar Farooq a KIIR, Jan 2007*



*Kashmiri Delegation meeting Foreign Minister, 8 August, 2008*

## STRENGTHENING VOICES FOR PEACE

Over the years, KIIR has strengthened and expanded voices for peace by increasing support for civil society's participation. Through dialogues, collaborations and awareness raising initiatives - men and women have been involved in peace building work. For greater representation,



*Group photo with foreign delegation hosted by KIIR*

KIIR has strengthened youth groups, promoted women's dialogue processes, increased skills of media professionals, deepened ties between business groups as well as new target groups, particularly those involved in rehabilitation of displaced families and communities affected by various forms of crisis.



*Kashmiri delegation with I.W. Jones, Wales Assembly, 3 January, 2005*

Over the years, KIIR has mobilized hundreds of leaders and thousands of peace activists by providing them training, information and linkages. This has enhanced the prospects for lasting peace in Kashmir through inclusion of Kashmiri voices in the peace process as well as transforming relationships across various communities. Initiatives like 'Kashmir Conflict Transformation Workshops' were



*Foreign diplomats hosted by KIIR*



*Meeting with diplomats after earthquake 2005*

successful in providing spaces to participants for sharing of ideas and experiences. KIIR believes that such interactions are needed in order to build an environment of sustainable dialogue among Kashmiri people for strengthening the ongoing efforts for peace in South Asia. It is important to remind ourselves that the Kashmir dispute should be resolved in-line with the aspirations of Kashmiri people by extending their right to self-determination.

## ENHANCING OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTRA KASHMIR DIALOGUE

During the past twenty-five years, KIIR endeavoured to bring on board, Kashmiris of all identities and ideals from both sides of the line of control, and around the world, in order to build bridges to explore possibilities of peace.



*Intra Kashmir Leadership Conference on 7th Aug, 2008*

From facilitating dialogues on educational curriculum to generating platforms for a stronger Kashmiri voice, KIIR brought diverse opinions forward to influence perspectives.



*Hurriyat Leaders visit to KIIR on 19 Jan, 2007*



***Intra Kashmir Media Conference 22-23 March, 2018***

KIIR has built upon various social and cultural traditions to promote harmony at the grassroots level. In this way, KIIR laid the foundation for creating a more diverse, more sustainable culture of dialogue. KIIR's approach was to develop a cadre of next-generation Kashmiri leaders who are committed to transform the political, social and spiritual dynamics of the region and build momentum for peace on an incremental basis.

## IMPROVED APPRECIATION OF KASHMIRI PERSPECTIVE

In the past twenty-five years, KIIR made conscious efforts to improve appreciation of Kashmiri perspectives and enhance understandings among various actors. By



***Conflict Prevention Meeting in Katmandu 2003***

informing policy-makers about perspectives of Kashmiri communities, KIIR tried to address a key gap. This has resulted in greater openness of decision-makers, socio-political leaders and academics for engagement with indigenous Kashmiri perspectives. KIIR reached out to almost every tier of political and social spectrum in Azad



***KIIR Delegation to Srilanka, 8-9 Nov, 2003***



***KIIR Delegation to South Africa 2003***

Kashmir in the past twenty-five years including political parties, think tanks, universities, human rights activists and



***Kashmir Conference Vienna 2003***



***Kashmir Conference Vienna 2003***

institutions, government departments, NGOs and cultural groups. The trust and confidence of local communities and institutions is a precious asset for KIIR that it had earned through sheer commitment and focus on peace objectives.



***Workshop on Humanitarian Crisis & International Response on 27th Oct, 2016 at Islamabad Hotel***

## CAPACITY BUILDING TO PROMOTE PEACE VOICES

KIIR understands the importance of individuals, systems and initiatives that are empowered enough to tackle complex peace-related issues. That is why it has taken pioneering initiatives to build capacities of political leaders, business



*Institute of Multi-Track Diplomacy (IMTD) Washington*

people, journalists, human rights activists, lawyers and other professionals, particularly in the field of leadership, peace building and negotiation skills. Through training workshops and exposure visits to various individuals, institutions and organizations, KIIR has broadened the scale of trained leaders in Kashmir that are more aware in different styles of interest-based negotiation, as well as general rules of diplomatic protocol, and multilateral



*International Center for Religion and Diplomacy (ICRD), Bhurban*

negotiations. Greater grasp of these skills would allow peace activists and academics to work actively and successfully negotiate their interests with governments, inter-governmental organizations and non-governmental agencies.

## LEARNING AND IMPROVING ORGANIZATIONAL SYSTEMS

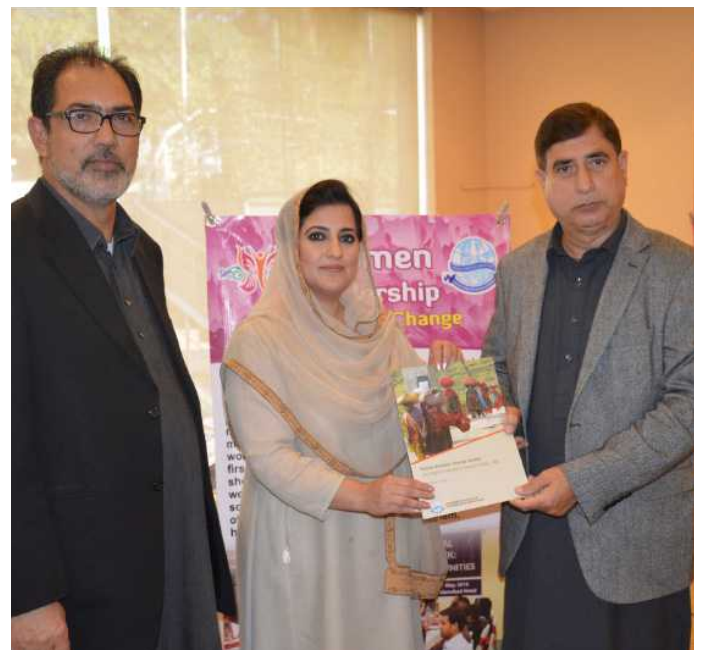
KIIR believes itself to be a learning organization; and therefore has invested a lot of effort in the past twenty-five years in sharpening its research, project design, development, management, monitoring and reporting, and human resource management capacities, in a bid to achieve excellence. KIIR intends to further invest its energies at the grassroots for promoting peace, resolving conflicts, cultivating democratic and gender just values, and strengthening citizens and government institutions to work together for a desired change in the society.



*Bangkok, 2009*

## SHARING OF KNOWLEDGE-BASED INSIGHTS

It is a challenge to find objective, fresh, and research-based knowledge resources and insights about impact of conflict on the lives of people living in Kashmir, particularly women. KIIR is filling this need with new data and analysis to highlight aspects of situation that are often overlooked. Over the years, KIIR has produced several publications and



*Report launch Impact of Conflict on women living on LOC, Dec 2017*

research-based analytical reports to highlight challenges and opportunities for lasting peace in the region. These research studies have been communicated with audiences around the world through print and electronic media, website and social media platforms.

## NETWORKING AND PARTNERSHIPS

As premier advocacy organization, KIIR is always prepared to build linkages with like-minded organizations contributing towards the realization of its mission. Networking plays a pivotal role for KIIR to draw upon its strengths and pursue shared objectives. Over the years, KIIR has successfully established many collaborations and alliances to undertake informed and purposeful human-rights-based

advocacy and mobilization campaigns involving citizens, civil society, government departments, and research and policy circles. KIIR's network of partners is now stretched from local communities in Azad Kashmir to multi-lateral organizations in Geneva and around the world. With support from KIIR, journalists in AJK had the opportunity to interact with senior journalists of Pakistan in Lahore. We also facilitated many journalists to get membership of 'All Kashmir Newspaper Society' (AKNS). In the last quarter of year 2017, KIIR launched a new set of training program for young journalists of AJK who never had an opportunity to learn and lead in their field. This initiative was highly appreciated by the journalist community and the various government departments who are linked to this area of interest. The feedback of these trainings has been very positive. Based on the positive feedback, KIIR is planning to further extend its outreach to those media actors that need capacity-building support for improved performance.

## FUTURE INITIATIVES

In future, KIIR intends to continue its role in promoting dialogue and peace initiatives as it has done so in the past through its partnerships. Moreover, KIIR plans to expand its sphere of activities by involving civil society members in the dialogue process. KIIR also intends to encourage in-depth studies; research projects, conferences and seminars that will help generate a more informed understanding of how to move forward in the peace process.

## COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

Over the years, KIIR has published a wide variety of publications to highlight human rights situation in Kashmir. Many research-based publications were also developed to offer much-needed insights about local socio-economic conditions. We are well connected with our partners and communities via email, Facebook and Twitter. The Institute uses its electronic media and print media to publish reports, newsletters, research papers and conference reports. KIIR quarterly publishes its newsletter. Here is a glimpse of publications produced in the past twenty-five years.



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Kiran Faiz	Research Officer

## WHO WORKED WITH KIIR

Faisal Yousaf	Research Officer
Faisal Amin	Assistant Research Officer
Dr. Waleed Rasool	Incharge Publications
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Akhter Rasool	Office Boy
Miss Kanwal Firdous	Research Officer
Miss Shazia Rasool	Research Officer
Muhammad Ismael Hani	Research Officer
Shumaila Tahir	Assistant Research Officer
Muhammad Hamza	Office Boy
Mehdi Raza	Assistant Research Officer
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Uzaira Shah	Director Human Rights Desk
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Zartasha Niazi	Research Officer
Miss Makiko Yamasaki	Assistant Research Officer
Beenish Saeed	Assistant Research Officer
Miss Nadia Mehr	Assistant Research Officer
Miss Sadia Niazi	Assistant Research Officer
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# KIIR PHOTO GALLERY





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The Kashmir Institute of International Relations is a non-profit, non-partisan, non-governmental organization established in 1993 in Muzaffarabad, Azad Kashmir. With the motto of 'Peace through Dialogue', KIIR is working for a peaceful South Asia. KIIR believes peace can only be achieved by the resolution of the Kashmir dispute through substantive dialogue between India, Pakistan and Kashmiris. To achieve this goal, KIIR has engaged policymakers and policy implementers: Members of Parliament, Political Activists, Lawyers, Journalists, Academics and Social Activists. KIIR is working to enhance the capacity of Kashmiri civil society actors in the areas of reconciliation, negotiation skills and conflict resolution. The objective of these initiatives is to facilitate dialogue that is conducive to reconciliation and peace in the region.



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