



20th and 21st June 2016

WOMAN ACTIVISM AND POLITICS IN SWEDEN AND INDIA

Sweden is well recognized as a frontrunner in mainstreaming gender in politics. It presents an instructive example of effective participation of women in political processes ranging from their higher voting percentage to their election in crucial positions in party and government. Similar patterns are discerned in industry and corporations. Sweden invariably figures among the top five positions in varied global parameters of gender equality and human security. Unsurprisingly many countries including India have looked at Sweden with admiration and inspiration.

India too has made significant strides in enhancing women participation and inclusion in political processes. While women have served in uppermost positions like the President, Prime Minister and Chief Ministers of the country; at the grass roots level over a million women serve as elected representatives. The sway of women could be judged from their large scale participation in the 2014 general elections of India wherein over 260.2 million women voted and their turnout was higher than men in 16 out of 29 states.

While both the countries acknowledge the need for enhancing women participation and empowerment; their immediate concerns and priorities have been diverse. For instance there is an emerging concern in Sweden about the declining participation of women in electoral politics and how it relates to the growing sway of neo-

liberalism. Also there are concerns about the proportionately low participation of women from the community of immigrants, diasporas and the minorities. On the other hand, India pins great importance to empowerment of women in the context of feminization of poverty, illiteracy, hunger and GBV. Notwithstanding their diverse priorities, the two countries have a range of convergent concerns, including women's role in peace, environment protection, justice and fairness. Both countries reckon that the gender equality is a continual process, necessitating constant introspection and retrospection and learning from each other's experience.

Addressing these and allied concerns, the forthcoming conference in Karlstad *marks the beginning of a mutually rewarding interaction between scholars, activists and politicians from Sweden and India*. We will take this interaction to India soon, where similar deliberations will be held. We hope the conference deliberations in Sweden will raise fresh issues and agenda to be addressed in the follow up conference in India. This forthcoming conference in Karlstad in June 2016 is thus a curtain raiser and sets in motion a series of conferences in India and Sweden, as a part of our collaboration between the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of Karlstad University and the UNESCO Chair for Peace and Intercultural Understanding at Malaviya Centre for Peace Research, Banaras Hindu University.



ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Papers are invited for a Conference on 'Women Activism and Politics in Sweden and India' to be held on 20th & 21st June, 2016 at Karlstad University, Sweden. Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Karlstad University, in collaboration with the Malaviya Centre for Peace Research, Banaras Hindu University, as a part of a series of conferences to be held in Sweden and India. We welcome 200 words abstracts for a 20-minute presentation on the intersecting relationship between Gender, Activism and Politics in Sweden and India. Papers are welcome on either country's experience. Comparative papers between the two countries or in one country and another country are welcome too.

Topics may include but are not limited to the following: Peace, Development, Health, Environment, Inclusion, Equality and Social movements.

Please submit abstracts and a 50 words self introduction to Patrik Larsson, Anjoo Sharan Upadhyaya, anjoo.sharan.upadhyaya@kau.se, and Per-Olof Fjällsby, per-olof.fjallsby@kau.se by 5th May 2016. The decision of acceptance will be made by the 15th May 2016.

Papers selected for the conference will be published in a book form, from a publisher of repute, subject to peer review.

WHEN? 20th and 21st June 2016

WHERE? Karlstad university

READ MORE: www.kau.se/woman-activism-and-politics-in-sweden-and-india

WELCOME!