

# **National Alliance of Women**

## **Organizes**

### **National Conference of Women's Leaders from marginalized communities**

**(Dalit, Tribal & Muslim communities)**

**On 4th, 5th & 6th Aug 2010.**

*Venue:* Constitutional Club of India, Vithal Bhai Patel House, Rafi Marg,

New Delhi-110001, Ph: 011-23711849/23327337/23765846

#### **Brief Introduction of NAWO:**

National Alliance of Women (NAWO) is a National network of women's organizations working at the local, state, national & international levels to further the cause of Social Justice & Gender Equality, with special focus on the marginalized Sections of society namely the Dalits, Tribal & Muslim community who constitute the urban & rural poor in India. NAWO over the last 15 years has worked for the social inclusion of these excluded communities in policies & program's at National and Regional levels within the country and advocated their rights internationally.

Over the years NAWO's articulation & advocacy for rights & inclusion of women from marginalized communities has gained movement & drawn attention of Governmental & Non Governmental opinion & policy making bodies to recognize the needs of enabling milieu, schemes and other affirmative action in the framework of CEDAW & citizenship rights available within the constitution of India for inclusive growth and equality in the country.

We have watched the growing axis of caste, communalism & gender inequality that have deprived equal opportunities to Dalits, Muslims & Tribal communities as a whole & Women in particular.

Through our work in influencing 5 year plans to engender, we have been able to see our demands to translate into policies that recognize the need for women's leadership in decision- making bodies from these communities.

To further the scope of recognition & participation of women from Dalits, Muslims & tribal communities, NAWO yet again plans to hold a National Conference to provide a platform for women leaders from marginalized communities to come together to reflect, dialogue & envision the future growth of their communities through social inclusion, Gender Justice & other constitutional rights available within their own country.

Through a preparatory meeting held in Bangalore on Aug 17th, 18th, 19th 2009 with women leaders from the three representative communities issues that emerged for discussions at the National level were:

- Security and Protection of Life
- Citizenship Entitlements (Civil and Political)
- Right to Livelihood, Food Security and Land Rights (Economic)
- Access to Equal Opportunities for basic & higher education, employment, health & other social security benefits
- Issues of Gender Justice & Equality
- Internal displacement, Migration
- Religion & Caste based violence.

NAWO has felt the need for interconnectedness and building alliance on common ground on issues and strategies. NAWO by bringing a cross section of 150 leaders / delegates (120 women–30 men) to create a common platform for women from all these communities to articulate their concerns, commonalities and differences. Thus, through the National Convention, NAWO wants to promote a dialogue between these three communities and build alliances. NAWO is working with other major networks like National Federation of Dalit Women (NFDW), Muslim Women's Network and Tribal Women's Network in the country for the success and meaningful deliberations.

The National Conference has been designed in such a way that it begins with the inaugural function between 5.00pm to 8.00pm on the 4th of August 2010 at New Delhi. A large gathering of leaders from Social Movements, Political Parties, Academics, Scholars, Activists, Feminists who are concerned about the marginalized sections have been invited with the objective of Perspective Building for the Conference and Intersecting with the Cultural Presentation from these three communities.

The meeting will commence at 5 p.m. on the 4th Aug 2010 and conclude at 5 p.m. on the 6th Aug 2010 evening. NAWO has invited eminent Political Leaders, Academics, Activists, Advocates from India. South Asian women leaders from these communities will participate as delegates.

We would be happy to receive message of solidarity from your organizations and yourself.

In solidarity,

**Ruth Manorama**

**Ms. Sheba George**

**President, NAWO**

**Jt. Secretary, NAWO**

Conveners of the National Conference,

**Core group members**

**Ms. Pramila Swain- Orissa, Ms. Jarjum Ete- Arunachal Pradesh, Ms. Sharifa Khanam- Tamil Nadu and Ms. Vasavi Kairo- Jharkhand**