

## meet the Senior Officials:



**Dr. Meenakshi Gopinath**, Founder and Director, Women in Security, Conflict Management and Peace (India)

Dr. Meenakshi Gopinath is Founder and current Director of WISCOMP (Women in Security, Conflict Management and Peace), an initiative that seeks to promote the leadership of South Asian women in the areas of peace, security and regional cooperation. She is also Chair, Board of Governors, Centre for Policy Research (CPR) and Principal Emerita of Lady Shri Ram College, New Delhi, where she served as Principal for 26 years from 1988-2014. She has been a member of the University Grants Commission (UGC), India.

Dr. Gopinath was the first woman to be nominated to the National Security Advisory Board (NSAB) of India. She is a member of multi-track peace initiatives and people-to-people dialogues in South Asia. She has authored among others Pakistan in Transition, and co-authored Conflict Resolution – Trends and Prospects, Transcending Conflict: A Resource book on Conflict Transformation and Dialogic Engagement and has contributed chapters and articles in several books and journals on Gandhi, the politics of Pakistan, Conflict Resolution, Gender and Peace Building et al. Her interests include issues of human rights and gender, conflict transformation and Buddhist and Gandhian philosophy and the performing Arts. She also headed the Task Force of the SAKSHAM Report of the University Grants Commission that initiated several policy reforms on Gender Equity in Higher Education Institutes in India.

In recognition of her contribution to the field of women's education and empowerment, she has received several awards including the Padma Shri Award, Indira Priyadarshini Gandhi Award, the Rajiv Gandhi Award for Excellence in Education and the Mahila Shiromani Award and the Delhi Citizen Forum Award and Qimpro Platinum Standard Award for Education and Celebrating Womanhood South Asian Recognition Award for Social Harmony and International Lifetime Achievement Award – 2009 for outstanding work in the field of justice, Equity, Peace and Progress and the L.M. Singhvi fellowship Award at the David Davies Memorial Institute of International Studies (DDMI), University of Wales, Aberystwyth, Award of the Honorary Doctorate Degree of Letters (Honoris Causa) for significant contribution to the education of women and the commitment to fostering global peace through Conflict Resolution, La Trobe University, Australia, Distinguished Alumna Award, by Lady Shri Ram College for Women, University of Delhi for meritorious contribution in the field of Education and Nirbhaya Puraskar 2017, by OYSS Women for exemplary courage and accomplishment in the field of Education. She was Distinguished Visiting Scholar, School of Social Sciences, Monash University (2015).

Dr. Gopinath serves on the Governing Boards of research institutes, NGOs, educational institutions and corporate bodies. She also is a member of the Nonviolent Peaceforce - International, on the Council of UPEACE- a UN Mandated University, Asian University for Women, Shri Ram Foundation, Track Two initiatives in the South Asian region, Editor in Chief, Peace Prints- A South Asian Journal of Peacebuilding, New Delhi, and others. She has been a Fulbright scholar and has received several fellowships.



**Dr. Sakhawat Hussain**, Author, speaker, and security analyst. Former Election Commissioner and Brigadier General (Bangladesh)

Dr. Muhammad Sakhawat Hussain was born on February 1, 1948, Barisal, Bangladesh. He was commissioned in the Bangladesh Army in 1966 till retirement in 1995. While in the Army he graduated from Defence and Staff College (Bangladesh) and Command and General Staff College (USA). He completed National Defence College in Pakistan and obtained a Master's degree from Qaid I Azam University Pakistan. Dr. Sakhawat Hussain did his Mphil under National university Bangladesh and PhD from Bangladesh University of Professionals.

Since his retirement he has remained connected with civil society, in column writing at home and abroad.

He was appointed an Election Commissioner of Bangladesh in 2007 and successfully completed a tenure of 5 years. Conducted National and local elections with success. He was in the team to introduce the National Identity Card and Photo Voter list.

A regular commentator in TV and Radio both at home and abroad and authored over 32 books on multiple subjects and over 300 articles. He is married with two sons, his spouse is a child specialist. Currently he is Senior Fellow in SIPG, NSU.



**Ms. Lailuma Nasiri, Co-founder and President, Afghanistan Justice Organization (Afghanistan)**

Ms. Lailuma Nasiri has more than 18 years of gender justice, human rights, governance, counter corruption, counter and prevent violent extremism experience, working with national and international organizations. She is leading Afghanistan Justice Organization (AJO), an Afghan NGO co-founded in 2011 with the aims to continue the international efforts on legal reform, capacity building, legal awareness, and to advance free markets and individual liberty through rule of law and an informed and competent citizenry.

She is an active member of the Afghan Civil Society and has co-chaired Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE) working group focused on CVE and PVE topics relevant to South Asian countries and women, peace and security working group focusing on women, peace and security issues in Afghanistan and is also member of the Afghanistan Peace and Conflict Studies Group with focus on countering violent extremism in Afghanistan. She is also chairwoman of the Steering Committee of the Afghanistan Mechanism for Inclusive Peace.

Ms. Nasiri has a Bachelor's degree in Public Administration from Bircham International University. She has conducted, organized and/or presented in various seminars and conference including women, peace and security, Women's Rights and Freedom in Afghanistan, Afghan Women Participation in Justice Sector, Role of Afghan Women in Peace building, Human Rights, Governance, Elections and has been featured in several media outlets and prominent websites discussing and analyzing the situation on these topics.



**Mr. Subramaniampillai Muralitharan, Director of Education, Peace Education and Reconciliation Unit / Tamil Schools Development, Ministry of Education (Sri Lanka)**

Mr. Subramaniampillai Muralitharan is currently serving as Director of Education (Tamil schools Development/ Peace Education and Reconciliation Unit) in the Ministry of Education, Sri Lanka. Formerly he was very much associated with teacher training and teacher education being Principal of Teachers' College, President of National College of Education and Director of Teacher Education Administration.

He holds B.Sc (Hons) Peradeniya, M.Ed from York University- Canada, and earned Postgraduate Diplomas from University of Jayawardenepura, University of Peradeniya and University of Colombo. The vast literary scope he has acquired through studies and international forums in many countries such as Thailand, Malaysia, Germany, Korea and India, has made an expertise in his area.

Some of his contributions to Sri Lankan literature include three anthologies of poems, four collections of literary and folklore related essays, two biographies and two research publications. Further, well-known as a critic of contemporary Tamil literature. He is one of the longest-serving members in the literary panel of the Art Council and fluent in three languages.