

## A Brief History of the Alliance of Feminist Collectives

Federations have traditionally been dependent on government programmes Mahila Samakhya and agencies like NACO for resources, guidance and functioning. With the withdrawal of government support, the institutional building and strengthening processes tend to get stalled, affecting the ability of CBOs to operate.

In January, 2016, alliance partners from Bihar, Telangana, Karnataka and Assam met in Bangalore, for a workshop funded by Action Aid, to discuss the status of the MS programme and the federations with regards to state funding, strategies for federations and the importance of having a national presence. This was followed by many consultations between alliance partners, and finally culminated in a three year project funded by American Jewish World Service (AJWS), to strengthen grassroots women's collectives and work on adolescent issues, across Assam, Bihar, Telangana and Karnataka. Towards getting a bottom up perspective, Northern and Southern Regional Federation Dialogues Workshops were held in 2017. A meeting was held in Bangalore where the findings from these dialogues were presented to AJWS. From these dialogues, a White Paper along with critical core concepts for the alliance emerged. Further meetings were held in New Delhi to plan and strategize on the way forward.

Ford Foundation invited the alliance partners to New Delhi, to better understand the alliance and discuss strengthening women's and girl's collectives to address issues related to GBV, discrimination and marginalisation. This meeting resulted in them funding the alliance to write up a proposal on the issue of violence and addressing new types of violence that are emerging. At this point Solidarity Foundation also joined hands with the Alliance bringing its strength upto 20 CBOs and NGOs including those representing sex workers and gender/sexual minorities.

The Alliance undertook a qualitative study in four states, namely Assam, Bihar, Karnataka, and Telangana with Focus group discussions (FGDs) conducted with 765 participants, including federation and sangha women, adolescent girls, trans women (only in Karnataka), and female sex worker collectives. These insights have shaped our thinking on the way forward by bringing out clear similarities and differences on both sites and forms of VAWG and GBV across identities and geographies.

The alliance is presently in discussions with multiple donors to support the work in four states and at the national level on violence in public spaces.

Date	Location	Particulars
2016 Jan	Bangalore	Status of MS - Kick off meeting funded by Action Aid
2017 Jan	Vidyadeep College, Bangalore	National Consultation on Mahila Samakhya
2017 Sept	Jharkhand	Jharkhand Dialogues
2017 November	Patna, Bihar	Northern Regional Federation Dialogues Workshop
2018 February	Bangalore	Southern Regional Federation Dialogues Workshop
2018 March	Delhi	AJWS Federation Dialogues - Planning Way Forward
2018 March	Telangana	Telangana Dialogues
2018 April	Assam	Assam Dialogues
2018 May	Bangalore	First Planning Meeting on Preparatory work of

		the Project
2018 May	Bangalore	White paper on federations
2018 Dec	Ashirwad, Bangalore	Agenda for Dialogue with BPF, MSKn, Bhumika and AJWS
2019 March	Delhi	AJWS Project Planning & Review Team Meet
2019 March	Delhi	Review meeting with AJWS and partners
2020 June	Bangalore	Ford work and FGDs
2019 August	Delhi	The Alliance of Feminist Collectives & ways forward
2019 Sept	Delhi	Discussion on Alliance
2019 Sept	Bangalore	Expansion to include sexual minority CBOs
2020	Bangalore	Dialogues with Ford, APPI and Edelgive