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N-PEACE AWARDS 2016

AWARDS WEEK
PROGRAMME
BANGKOK

NAI LERT PARK
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www.n-peace.net



About the Initiative

N-Peace, or Engage for Equality, Access, Community and Empowerment is a UNDP flagship initiative founded in 2010 in commemoration of a decade's implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS). Currently unique to the Asia-Pacific region, N-Peace operates in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Philippines and Nepal with the goal of implementing UNSCR 1325 and enhancing the role of women in conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

N-Peace is built on the premise that if targeted women and men are supported with increased investments in capacity and skills, then they will be able to create institutional and social shifts to prioritize the inclusion and empowerment of women and girls, and ultimately change discourse on the roles of women in peacebuilding.

N-Peace therefore serves four primary goals: first, to conduct dialogue among communities, governments and other groups related to WPS; second, to build the capacity of women peace activist; third, to expand and strengthen the network of peacebuilding activists to best implement UNSCR 1325; and finally, to support women's participation in peace and security through the sharing and mobilization of their stories.

Through its yearly N-Peace Awards, the initiative aims to recognize the powerful stories of peacebuilders and activists in the region who embody the WPS agenda. Former N-Peace awardees have gone on to report increased access to the decision-making arena and other partnerships, an impact which N-Peace hopes to support further with the introduction of the N-Peace Fund for the financial support of grassroots peacebuilders and activists in conflict-affected communities.



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INTRODUCTION

The nominations for the 2016 N-Peace Awards were opened for Afghanistan, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, and Sri Lanka under three categories, for a total of 9 awards in June 2016. This year we received over 100 initial nominations for all three categories. During the period, we received nearly 290,000 engagements on our social media sites throughout the nomination and voting process (June to September), and a total of 33,876 votes.

Winners were chosen through online voting followed by a rigorous Selection Panel process. We are honored to be in a position to recognize these peace champions and celebrate their contributions to Women, Peace and Security.

We would further like to thank all those who have supported our candidates and the participating process, as well as the 2016 Selection Panel for their invaluable contributions to our process.

It is our pleasure to introduce the winners of the 2016 N-Peace Awards. Please join us in celebrating their tireless achievements alongside our partners, supporters and sponsors. These are their stories.



AWARDS WEEK TIMELINE

6 - 10 FEB

**Capacity-Building
Workshop on Women,
Peace and Security**

In partnership with the Institute of Inclusive Security, this 4.5-day workshop will be conducted with N-Peace Awards winners on developing leadership capacity and furthering the Women, Peace and Security agenda in local communities and worldwide.

6 - 8 FEB

**Exhibition on Women,
Peace and Security**

The exhibition is open to the public and aims to spread awareness of the work of the winners of the 2016 N-Peace Awards and take the message further on Women, Peace and Security.

7 FEB

**Sharing Untold Stories
Media Event**

This evening event at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand will provide an opportunity for the media to engage with the N-Peace Awards winners and hear their untold stories first-hand.

9 FEB

N-Peace Awards Gala

This gala dinner for the awardees will be celebrated with government and UN officials, the diplomatic community, celebrities, supporters and civil society organizations. Tickets sold to the gala will serve to roll out the N-Peace Fund to support the Women, Peace and Security agenda.



GALA PROGRAMME

19.00 - 19.20 Registration

19.20 - 19.30 Seating, first harp performance by Tong Juan Wang

19.20 - 19.30 Opening remarks

*Ms. Caitlin Wiesen - Chief, Regional Policy and Programmes,
UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub*

*H.E. Ms. Doinica Pottie - Ambassador of Canada to the
Kingdom of Thailand*

*Ms. Naphaporn (Lek) Bodiratnangkura- Nai Lert Park
Heritage Home*

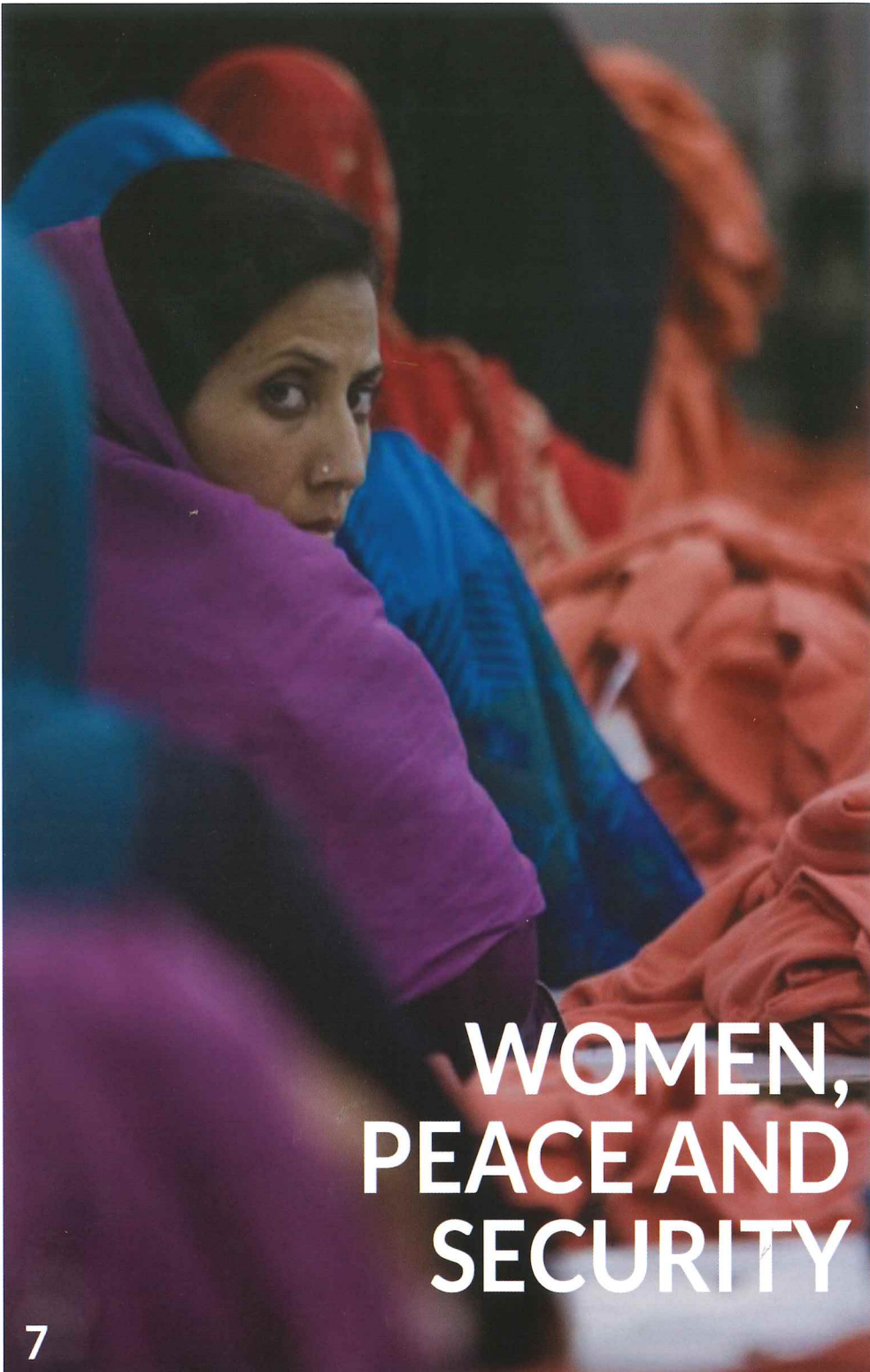
20.00 - 22.50 Dinner service by Chef ThiTid Tassanakajohn begins

20.00 - 21:50 Awards ceremony announced by Ms. Cindy Bishop

21:50 - 21:55 Closing remarks

*Mr. Phil Matsheza, Regional Cluster Leader, Governance
and Peacebuilding, UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub*

22:00 Parting harp performance by Tong Juan Wang

A photograph of a woman wearing a purple headscarf, looking over her shoulder towards the camera. She is surrounded by other people wearing similar headscarves in various colors like blue and red, though they are out of focus. The background is dark and indistinct.

WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

Bringing women to the peace table

Over the past sixty years, the Asia-Pacific region has experienced more conflicts than any other in the world, and over 130 million of Asia's citizens live in conflict-impacted areas today. Often marginalized into passive, care-based private sectors of society, women tend to suffer disproportionately in times of conflict. Moreover, despite their presence at the forefront of peacebuilding efforts, women tend to be perceived exhaustively as "victims" of conflict and their contributions to peace greatly undervalued. From 1992 to 2011 only 9% of negotiators at peace talks were women - making up only 4% of peace signatories.

Despite the challenges they face, women must be seen as more than just victims, and must be recognized for their deep insights into sources of conflict and the roles they play in maintaining social cohesion and peace.

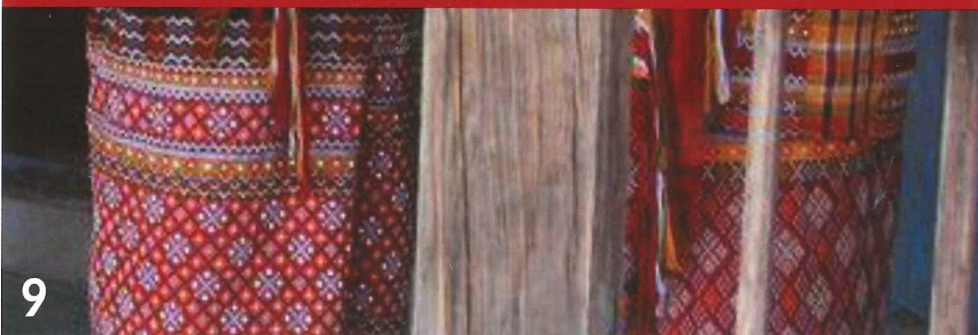
In 2000 the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325) was developed to help promote gender equality and to advance peace and development. UNSCR 1325 was the first formal and legal document by the Security Council requiring parties in conflict to prevent violations of women's rights, to protect women and girls against sexual and gender-based violence, and also to include women in peace negotiations and post-conflict reconstruction. To help realize the goals of UNSCR 1325, a workforce was established in 2010 to focus on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) in vulnerable countries, through supporting their voices and by promoting their participation and representation in peace processes.

MEET OUR WINNERS



UNTOLD STORIES

Women fighting for peace in their communities at the grassroots level



Habiba Sarabi fled to Pakistan in 1996 during the height of the violence in Afghanistan with her children, where her passion for girls' education grew. She conducted classes for teachers in refugee camps. "They went back to refugee camps and taught children who couldn't go to school and set up schools. I also intervened to bring Afghan refugee children back to the country."

After her return in 2005, Habiba was made provincial governor of Bamyán Province, the first woman governor in the country. She recounts: "I worked hard to ensure the enrollment of girls in schooling. As a result, Bamyán ranked first in girls' enrollment."

Habiba has since held the positions of Minister of Women's Affairs, Minister of Culture and Education and advisor to the Minister of Women's affairs and Youth to the Chief Executive Officer. Today Habiba is one of seven women deputies leading the 50-member High Peace Council in Afghanistan. Habiba uses her Council position to advocate for the inclusion of all rights and entitlements that women should enjoy as envisioned by the UNSCR 1325.

Habiba Sarabi, Afghanistan



Since getting involved in women's rights activism at university, Ruby Khalifah has been looked up to as a trailblazer by her community. Ruby's increased understanding of the systemic and structural issues faced by rape victims and women affected by abuse and violence motivated her to be a voice to the voiceless.

After graduation, Ruby began working with AMAN (the Asian Muslim Action Network), an organization working for the leadership development of women, organizing communities and advocacy, and campaigning for improved rights for minority groups. AMAN's flagship programme is a community-based women's school for peace, in which "women will gain knowledge and skills in gender perspectives, peacebuilding, conflict analysis, the role of women in peace through global experiences, inter-faith perspectives on peace, community organizing, and advocacy."

Ruby was also a drafter of the National Action Plan on 1325, a key instrument in working with conflict-affected women and victims of violence who have been denied access to justice.

Ruby Khalifah, Indonesia



Though bonded labour has been banned in Nepal since 2006, many of its problems remain unresolved. Basanti Chaudhary was born into a family of Kamaiyas herself, learning about the entrenched problems of bonded labour in Nepal from a very young age. Basanti's education was disrupted after she was handed over to a landlord by her parents. Basanti later learned about human rights on the Empowerment Education Program for Kamaiyas, which motivated her to champion the rights of Kamaiyas. Today, Basanti is the Chair of Kamaiya Pratha Unmulan Samaj (KAPUS), an organization of former-Kamaiyas for Kamaiyas.

Under Basanti's guidance and leadership, KAPUS has assisted over 200 violence-affected women to improve their economic circumstances. She believes that more

has to be done to ensure that women are empowered and are closely involved in Nepal's development and sustained peace.

Basanti Chaudhary, Nepal



Rizwana Shah is from Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa, one of the most conservative areas of Pakistan. Her parents got her married once she completed the 12th grade, and she was quickly forced to find a job to support the family income.

Rizwana set up a sewing business with a micro-credit loan and was able to expand her business activities. Her improved economic circumstances motivated Rizwana to help other poor women in her region, where patriarchy and traditional beliefs have kept women confined to their homes.

"Women in our society are seen as a source of burden instead of peace," Rizwana argues. "Men assume the most powerful positions in their households and are the sole decision-makers. With their skewed financial

power, men believe they have a right to abuse women."

In the wake of this reflection, Rizwana advocates for peace as a source of inclusion: "We need a form of peace that necessitates equality between all genders, castes, age groups, religious groups and political groups, and the threshold to accept inherent differences."

Rizwana Shah, Pakistan



As a Muslim in the conflict-ridden Mindanao region, Mariam has faced discrimination in every realm of society. Even after graduating from university as a civil engineer, Mariam was denied job opportunities in state institutions where Christians are favoured.

Thus, in 2004 Mariam left her full-time job (which was out of her field) to set up an organization to help young Muslim graduates facing discrimination. As she explains: "I witnessed young Muslim graduates languishing in disappointment, unable to find jobs that matched their qualifications due to discrimination. Their experiences were very similar to mine. I wanted to help them. I set up Kapamagogopa Inc. (KI) with another colleague of mine"

KI provides skills training and then places participants in volunteer positions. While volunteering, young Muslims serve members from Christian communities to help dispel negative perceptions and prejudices between communities. KI also works to help women volunteers, particularly former women combatants, expand their economic opportunities and exercise their role in building peace.

Mariam Barandia, The Philippines



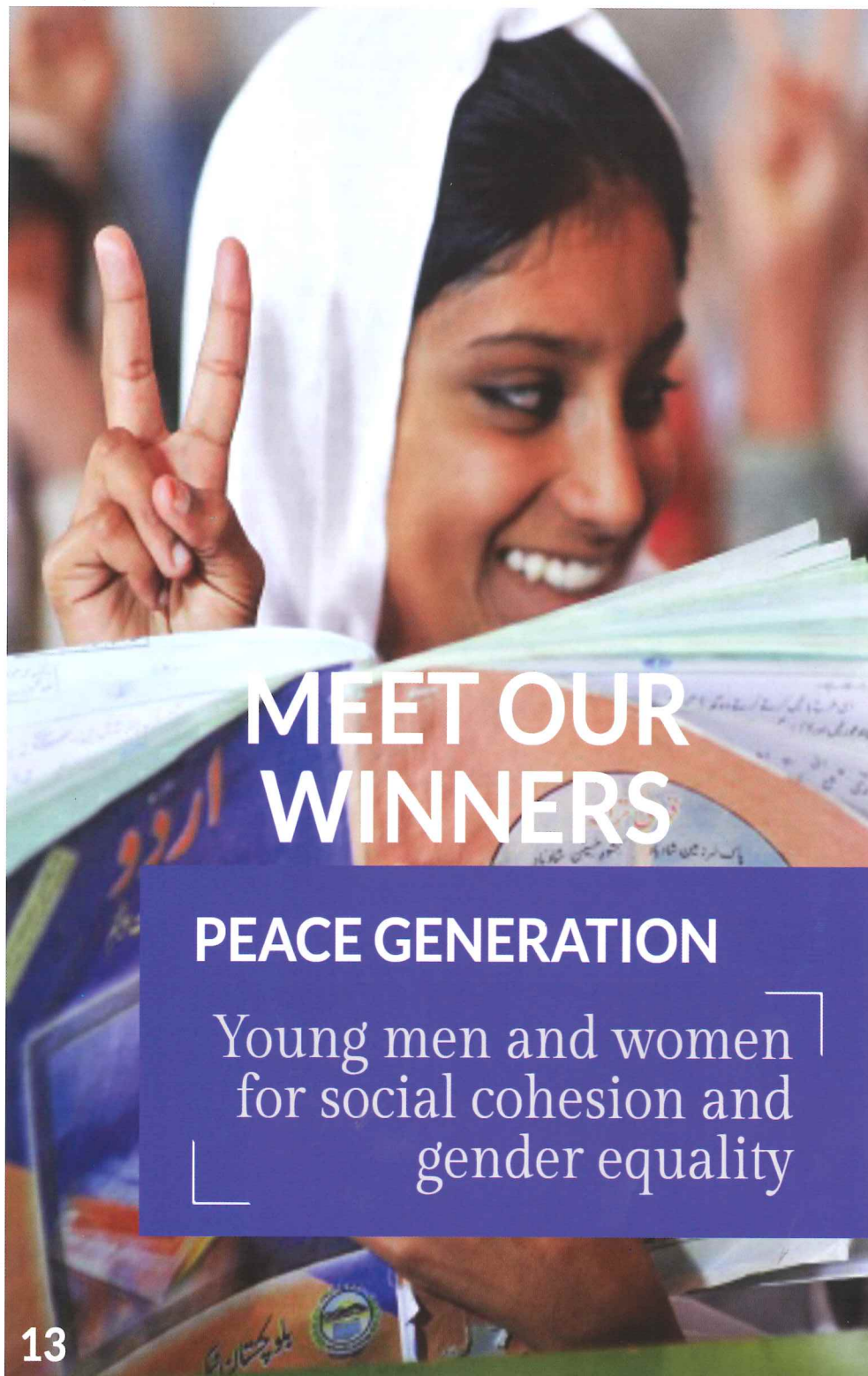
As a poor child from a large family, Sumika witnessed the rich-poor gap among her classmates and began to write poems about it to newspapers and magazines. By the time she was out of school, Sumika was taking part in protest rallies in support of farmers, students and marginalized groups in their pursuit to rights and entitlements. Since then Sumika has taken on an activist life, throughout which she has spoken on behalf of victims of domestic abuse and conflict-affected women.

"In 2005, I joined the Coalition for Assisting Tsunami Affected Women. We provided self-employment and development assistance to tsunami and conflict-affected women. To date, women find themselves in situations where they are treated as second-class citizens. There's so much that we need to

do at policy, education and attitudinal levels to make positive changes in the lives of women."

Sumika believes that, without improving the lives of conflict-affected communities, Sri Lanka will not achieve sustained peace and inter-ethnic reconciliation.

Sumika Perera, Sri Lanka



MEET OUR WINNERS

PEACE GENERATION

Young men and women
for social cohesion and
gender equality



Rizky Ashar Murdiono grew up on the streets of Surabaya, Indonesia. He did many odd jobs to survive and also to get a decent education, which he believed was the stepping stone to a bright future.

Rizky's familiarity with the constraints facing the poor and marginalized youth in his community drove him to community service at a very young age. "My biggest motivation to help the poor and marginalized youth and others", he says, "was my father's advice. He said 'Even if you don't have money and you are poor yourself, you still can help people'. I really want to help others. We live to help others."

Since 2012, Rizky has been part of the Youth Diversity Alliance, working toward sexual and reproductive rights awareness for people with disabilities, counseling, peer-educator, youth media literacy, self-employment support for poor women, and gender socialization learning.

Rizky is also part of Pelangi Nusantara Social Enterprise, which supports young women's skills development and self-employment assistance to turn rag waste into value-added products.

Rizky Murdiono, Indonesia



Aliya grew up in the remote Chitral province of Pakistan facing persecution and discrimination both as part of the Ismaili minority and as a woman. She was accustomed to the dominant narrative that there is no greater enemy to Pakistan than India. As she explains, "My definition of loving Pakistan meant hating 'the enemy': India."

While studying abroad, Aliya was inspired to actively promote peace between the two countries. Upon Aliya's return to Pakistan, Aliya co-founded the Indo-Pak friendship initiative, Aaghaz-e-Dosti, which stands for "Beginning of Friendship". Aaghaz-e-Dosti works primarily through "peace education, countering stereotypes and negative images of the other, and developing critical thinking and faith in dialogue and peacebuilding for conflict resolution". By now they have trained more than 5000 young people in schools and colleges across India and Pakistan.

Aliya Harir, Pakistan

CAMPAIGNING FOR ACTION

Men and
women
advocating
for Women,
Peace and
Security

MEET OUR
WINNERS



As a Political Science professor in the University of Peshawar, Mossarat Qadeem taught Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding in South Asia. But in 2008, the increased violence activities carried out by extremists in her region drove her to become a full-time peace activist. Mossarat established PAIMAN Trust, which has pioneered in countering violent extremism research and activism.

PAIMAN specifically engages with both perpetrators and the affected communities through TOLANAS made up of mothers and youth. As she explains: "It is important to work with the mothers of radicalized youth in order to find out the root causes of their radicalization and address them. We need to make mothers aware that they have a role to play. Initially mothers would pretend not to know anything about their sons' involvement in extremist activities, but with our skills-building work and getting them to understand that the Qur'an prohibits homicide and suicide, they open up and join our initiatives to stop the youth's involvement in violent activities."

Mossarat Qadeem, Pakistan

Special thanks

This year the N-Peace Awards were able to recognise the 9 incredible winners you all see here. Still, there were many other noteworthy applicants and peacebuilders who could not join us today. We would like to dedicate this year's N-Peace Awards to all those who are fighting for an inclusive peace despite the many obstacles in their way. We would also like to thank all of you who have joined us and participated in making this cause possible and furthering the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

OUR SUPPORTERS



Cindy Bishop
Model and Actress



Naphaporn (Lek)
Bodiratnangkura

This year the N-Peace Awards were made possible with the generous support from a number of passionate and talented artists and personalities. The Awards Gala has been graciously hosted by Naphaporn Bodiratnangkura at the Nai Lert Park Heritage Home at the heart of Bangkok.

To help celebrate the N-Peace Awards winners, we have the Mistress of Ceremonies Cynthia Sirinya Bishop. Further music and entertainment is provided by harpist Tong Juan Wang. Dinner is provided by Nai Lert Park Heritage Home and celebrated chef ThiTid Tassanakajohn from Bangkok restaurants Baan and Le Du.



Tong Juan Wang
Solo Harpist



Pinaree Sanpitak
International Artist



ThiTid Tassanakajohn
Star Chef



THE AWARDS

By Pinaree Sanpitak

The N-Peace Awards for 2016 were designed by world-famous Thai artist, Pinaree Sanpitak, in collaboration with Mali Chulakiet of be>our>friend. Pinaree has been called a "champion of feminist causes and visions," by the Wall Street Journal.

Curators label her work as groundbreaking, and she has exhibited in various countries including Japan, the United States, Australia, the Netherlands, Germany, the Philippines, and Singapore.

This year's award is a personalized version of her 'Ma-Lai' collection, as described by The New York Times "floral garlands made for Thai ceremonial occasions, from weddings to funerals, transforming them into origami-like cloth wall hangings and minimalist paintings accented with dried blossoms".

Sanpitak will present her fourth solo exhibition at Tyler Rollins Fine Art in New York City from 13 April to 20 May 2017.