

## Examining Gendered Violence in India

The three-day virtual conference held from 24 to 26 February 2021 was organised to examine questions around gendered violence in India both at the domestic and the more public sites. In India violence is in fact constitutive of gendered relations of institutional patriarchy naturalizing assumptions of toxic masculinity, women as property of men, division of labour naturalizing and invisibilizing women's unpaid work and the inequality between men and women within such settings. Figures on violence against women in India, both in the domestic and the non-domestic spaces have not moved in tandem with other indicators of gender parity, such as female literacy and maternal mortality in India. The conference began with a keynote address by Prof Tanika Sarkar who speak on the practice of *sati* and the role of laws, conventions and public opinion around this practice illustrating the structurally embedded nature of violence within Indian society and polity. The special lecture by Prof Ashwini Deshpande highlighted how the pandemic had impacted a variety of spheres including not just questions of violence but also paid and unpaid work. The third special lecture by Professor Padmini Swaminathan revisited violence in questions of development from a gender lens. The other presentations ranged over a variety of aspects of violence from violence and trauma of partition to crimes against women based on NCRB data. There were discussions around intersectionality in questions of domestic violence too both in its understanding by survivors of violence and of its absence in the law which then left out marginalized communities from its field. The conference ended with a panel discussion on examining gendered violence in public spaces which covered issues of trafficking, social bias in India's response to rape as well as forms of gendered violence in the North-East). The virtual conference was coordinated by Simantini Mukhopadhyay and Supurna Banerjee.

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