

About the Resource Persons

Deepika Udagama (Sri Lanka) is presently with the Department of Law, University of Peradeniya. Her specialization is in the field of international human rights law and is also currently serving as the member of the Board of Trustees of the UN Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights. Her former positions within the UN human rights system include serving as Sri Lanka's former alternate member to the then United Nations (UN) Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, and the UN Sub-Commission's Special Rapporteur on Globalization and its Impact on Human Rights. At the national level, she was the former Head of the Faculty of Law, University of Colombo. She has also served as a member of Sri Lanka Human Rights Commission, and as the founding director of the Centre for the Study of Human Rights in the Faculty of Law, University of Colombo. She is also the former Chairperson of the Sri Lanka Foundation's Commission on Democracy and Human Rights. She has been a resource person for numerous OHCHR workshops.

Mary Shanthi Dairiam's (Malaysia) contribution to the field of women's rights spans over twenty-seven years. She is the founder member of International Women's Rights Action Watch – Asia Pacific, an international organization that works for the realisation of the human rights of women through the UN treaty system, with a specific focus on CEDAW. She has served a member of the expert Committee/ the treaty body monitoring CEDAW from 2005-2008; and in her capacity as Director of IWRAW AP, has input into CEDAW review processes consistently since the mid 1990s. She has served as an advisor and consultant to several UN agencies, Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights; has served as the Personal Consultant to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights for East Timor [October 2000-January 2001], and to the Governments of Malaysia and Bangladesh. She is a widely known trainer in Asia and the Pacific region who has contributed towards building capacities of NGOs and governments in the region on CEDAW, and has published in relation to the same.

Madhu Mehra (India) is a feminist lawyer, a founding member and Executive Director of Partners for Law in Development (PLD), a legal resource group working in the fields of social justice and women's rights in India. PLD is a leading resource group on CEDAW with its resource book 'Restoring Rights on Women: CEDAW' widely used by NGOs and governments in South Asia, that is now available in four languages. She has worked at the Asia Pacific level since 1996 as a member of Asia Pacific Forum for Women, Law and Development (APWLD) and International Women's Rights Action Watch (IWRAW-AP). Her research papers and publications are on women's human rights, in particular on CEDAW, women's rights in the context of culture, family, sexuality and she undertook the review of 15 years of the mandate of the of the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women. As a trainer on CEDAW, she has worked extensively in designing and conducting trainings for governmental and non-governmental institutions in India, South and South East Asia.

Zainah Anwar (Malaysia) is a founding member of Sisters in Islam, a women's group in Malaysia and is currently the director of a global project of Sisters in Islam on equality and justice in the Muslim family called, Musawah. During her career of 20 years, she has also served as a (former) member of the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia, a Chief Programme Officer for the Political Division at the Commonwealth Secretariat in London, and a Senior Analyst at the Institute of Strategic and International Studies. She was a prominent political journalist before the organizations she founded, writing for *The New Straits Times* in Kuala Lumpur. Her book *Islamic Revivalism in Malaysia: Dakwah Among the Students* is a standard reference in the study of Islam in Malaysia. She is an internationally respected voice of Islamic feminism, and is part of several policy discussions, think tanks globally.