



To,
H.E. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India
Prime Minister's Office
South Block, Raisina Hill
New Delhi – 110011
India

The Hague, 31th October 2019

Subject: Request to facilitate a visit of an International Independent Women's Observation Delegation to meet the women in Indian Administered Kashmir (IJK)

H.E. Prime Minister Modi,

Herewith, on behalf of Gender Concerns International and its international women's network, I wish to draw your attention to an ongoing violation of basic Human Rights of women in Indian Administered Kashmir (IJK) following the escalation of tensions due to the abrogation of Article 370.

It is of paramount importance that the plight of women in IAK is observed with the utmost urgency, as they are suffering from **disproportionate levels of violence, intimidation and various forms of abuse**. Despite a lack of direct flow of information from women in Kashmir, the recent reports by Indian women and civil society organisations raise international concerns over the militarization and its **appalling impact on women and girls in Kashmir**.

The current reception of EU Parliamentarians delegation by the Indian administration is a welcoming response to the mounting pressure of the international community that demands transparency on the security situation in IJK. The International Community is obliged to protect women in conflict zones against violence, intimidation and various forms of abuse, a demanded by the UNSCR 1325.

In the light of recent EU-parliamentary visit, Gender Concerns International cordially urges the Prime Minister to allow an International Independent Women's Observation Delegation to visit the women in Kashmir. There is an urgent need **for other International and European** experts to assess the situation in IAK. The political affiliation of the parliamentarians in the EU Parliamentary observation group casts shadow on the reliability of reported statements. The integrity of the information can be insured through a visit of an Independent Women's Observation Delegation.

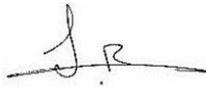
As an admirer of **Indian democracy and its thriving women's movement**, I recently had a cordial meeting with the Indian Embassy in The Hague highlighting the concerning situation of women's Human Rights violation in Kashmir.

The Young Women`s Initiative team at Gender Concerns has recently launched a campaign “*Silence is No Option*” to steer attention towards the situation of women in Kashmir. The campaign urges the cooperation of the government of India in facilitating a visit of an **Independent International Women Observers Delegation to meet women in IAK and assess their situation on the ground**. The visit of such a delegation to be welcomed in Indian Administered Kashmir would not only help international solidarity amongst women but also highlights the efforts of the Indian government to protect women from atrocities.

Given the complex nature of this cross-boundary conflict, I hope that our efforts are appreciated by your esteemed office and that this request to observe the situation will be honoured by the Indian Government.

I thank you for your attention and look forward to your kind reaction.

With kind regards,



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Director,

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Gender Concerns International is a signatory to the Dutch National Action Plan on **UNSCR 1325** and is committed to supporting women in conflict zones, working in countries such as Afghanistan, Myanmar, Libya, Sierra Leone, Tunisia and Morocco.