

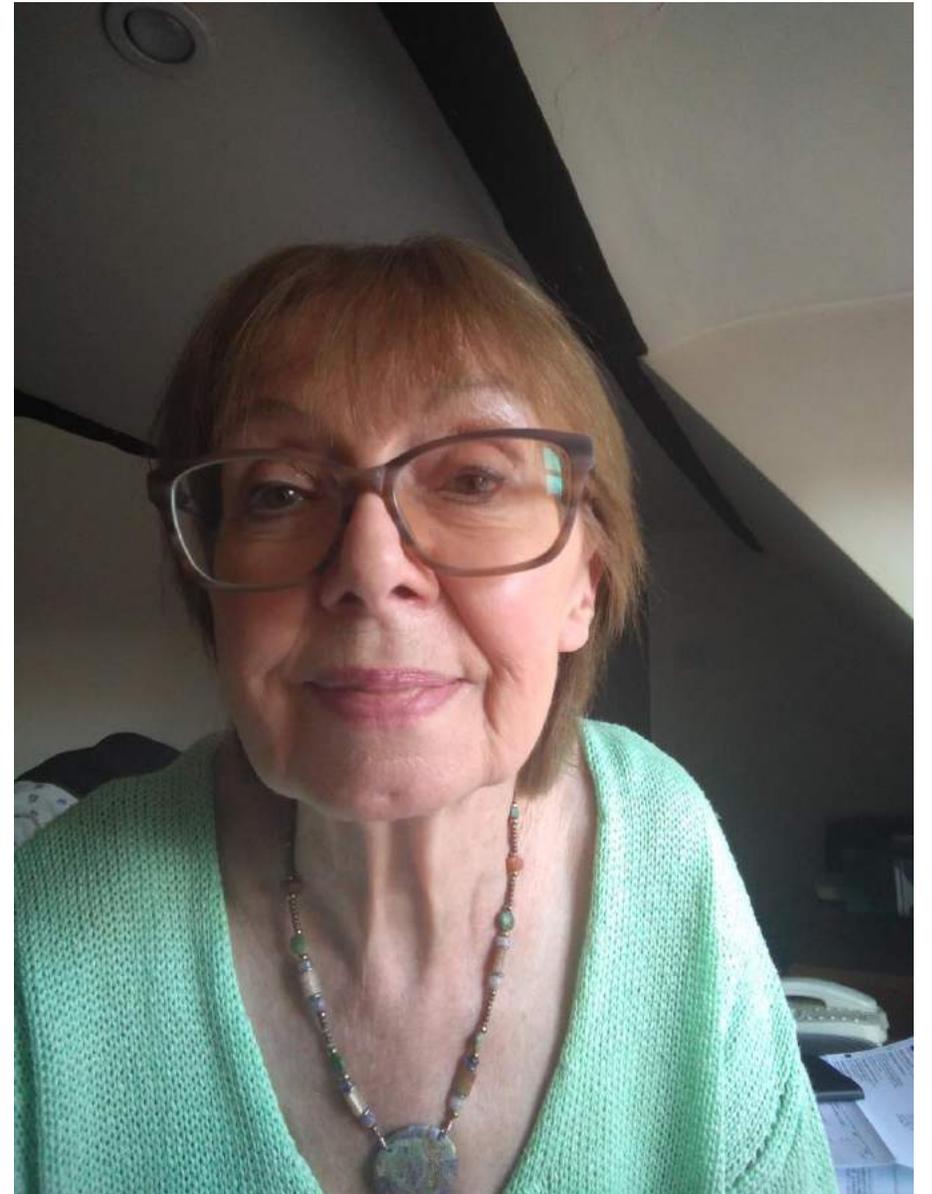
The **NWMI** network of women in media, India Turns 20!

Messages of Solidarity,
Support and Love



Twenty years! The excitement that surrounded the Delhi launch meeting in 2002 was immense, though at the time one can never be sure if such ambitious initiatives will survive. That it has not only survived, but expanded and prospered, is testament to the vision of its founders and to the commitment of those who have followed on. Happy 20th Birthday NWMI – and many more to come!

Margaret Gallagher, pioneering researcher and writer specialising in gender and media





I have been in awe of the solidarity that you extend to women within and outside your workspace and the timely interventions that has had immense effect on the most important changes happening in India today. I salute the energy and time you all put in. Am the happiest to be alive to see all of this unfold in our times.

Forward it is!

Rima Kallingal, Actor & Activist

At a time when trust in media has fallen precipitously all over the world, the challenge in India is even more profound. And women journalists there are specific and particular targets on every platform where they choose to practice their journalism and show up to present and discuss their work. It has been encouraging to see NWMI grow, as it moves beyond its teenage years and into its third decade of providing women in India's media an independent platform as well as tools and resources. While it can seem uphill and arduous and sometimes disheartening, having collectives such as NWMI that provide useful and also safe spaces for women journalists, who have to play a vital role in covering India, is critical to restoring trust in media. Happy 20th anniversary, NWMI, and here is looking to your next decade and beyond.



**Raju Narisetti, leader, McKinsey Global Publishing
and founder, Mint/Livemint.com**



I am soo soo grateful to the NWMI colleagues! In the dire situation that my family and I live in, NWMI lends a hand of love, kindness, help and rescue to us, I am really happy that humanity is still alive. As I fought the Taliban's inhumane acts through my pen and journalistic activities and kept humanity alive, you also shouldered my goal and tried to save humanity as well as save me. Thanks to all the colleagues for the helped of my problems and don't left me alone. Long live humanity and be alive. Thanks a million all of kindest!

Amina, journalist, Afghanistan



My congratulations to this very important initiative. In order to shift the patriarchal entitlements in our society, women's voices and perspectives need shouting out. This initiative has been doing just this.

May NWMI go from strength to strength!

**Mallika Sarabhai, dancer and activist,
Ahmedabad**

**(Keynote speaker at the 6th National Meeting
of the NWMI, Pune)**





The NWMI are trailblazers who demonstrate their values and solidarity to the cause, every day through their work and their activism. There are so many challenges of working as a voluntary collective, but NWMI shows us that it is possible with great effectiveness and impact. Their firm faith and support to contemporary organisations goes a long way in building the sisterhood we need, to surmount the challenges we have. I wish them the best ahead and hope their work will continue to inspire generations of women in media for years to come.

Anjali Menon, award-winning filmmaker and screenwriter, co-founder of the Women in Cinema Collective



We appreciate NWTMI for supporting women journalists in Afghanistan we want you women not to forget Afghan journalists. I'm so glad to say congratulations, stay strong and be successful.

Congratulations on the success of your 20 years ! 🎂 🙌 🤝 🤝 🤝

Sadiqa Sherzai, director, Radio Roshani, Kunduz, Afghanistan.

Currently a refugee in the US



Sampada Grameen Mahila Sanstha, Veshya Anyay Mukti Parishad and Vidhrohi Mahila Manch congratulate the NWMI on completing 20 years of functioning without succumbing to the pressures of institutionalisation. You are truly a free media collective. Kudos to the leadership that has not got engulfed in petty insecurities that does not allow a group to function as efficiently as you all have.

We write this in solidarity as women who understand how easy it is to get co opted into the rat race of hierarchical systems that destroy democratic networking. As a group of sex workers and rural women we have greatly benefited by your work and your interest in our work! Salaam Zindabad to all your members and wishing the NWMI continues to do its best to fight for a just world.

Meena Seshu and Aarthi Pai, SANGRAM, Sangli, Maharashtra



I wanted to tell NWMI first when I reached safety after I had to leave Afghanistan. Because you were the ones that were with me during my hard days. I will never forget it. You did all things for me and other Afghan women journalists when we faced financial problems and you helped. I wish NWMI all the best on her 20th anniversary.

**Makia Monir, Women Journalist
Coordination Centre, Afghanistan
(Currently a refugee in Canada)**



Women have always been the greatest source of strength, solidarity and support for other women. I remember witnessing my Nani, Rama, and her best friend Kumud in their late fifties and sixties lending a shoulder to each other's domestic complaints, children-related crises, gossip about husbands, party planning and occasional monetary issues while we grandkids basked in the warmth and culinary delights that resulted from this female bonding.

It is wonderful to see how NWMI has institutionalised and organised this age-old bond of women into a structured network of solidarity between women who work in the media. I began to follow NWMI's work when I read their commendable statement in the aftermath of the ghastly Rhea Chakraborty media trial. At a time when no institution really was questioning the media-generated hysteria and criminal targeting of Rhea Chakraborty, it was heartening to see NWMI raise justifiable questions around the blatant sexism that drove the victimisation of Rhea. During the re-capture of Afghanistan by the Taliban, NWMI's fundraiser for Afghan women journalists was yet another uplifting reminder of the power of women's solidarity. It has also been both humbling and inspiring to note that NWMI is entirely voluntary, that members run training workshops for freshers in the field of journalism and update each other about job opportunities.

I congratulate NWMI on its 20th anniversary and I want to thank them for the work they do, the voice they raise, the interventions they make in the public discourse. Your good works benefit not just women media professionals, but by intervening in the public discourse you affect the lives of all Indian women. More power to your voice.

Swara Bhasker, actor





Congratulations on this milestone, NWMI! You may not know it, but you have inspired media women across the globe, and certainly in Africa where I come from. Yours is a case of vision first, structure second. You have built a powerful movement built of the vision of gender equality in and through the media. It may take generations, but just look at where we are today, and where we were twenty years ago when you began your journey! Step back, take a bow ! Gender Links turned twenty last year! Welcome to the club! And wishing you many more years of progress!

**Colleen Lowe Morna, Special Advisor,
Sustainability Hub, Gender Links, Johannesburg,
South Africa**



I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations and sincere gratitude to NWMI for their 20 years of vibrant activism, solidarity and strengthening of women in the Indian media. During this time, you have constructed a truly innovative model of the kind of space that is so essential to media-based women - and the larger movement for women's rights! I greatly admire the consistent way in which you have raised your voices on every critical issue in a clear and analytical way, educating and informing all of us. May you grow from strength to strength in the next decades!

Srilatha Batliwala, Senior Advisor, Knowledge Building, CREA; Senior Associate, Gender at Work; and Hon. Prof. of Practice, SOAS, University of London





On behalf of the Global Media Monitoring Project Network in more than 100 countries, **CONGRATULATIONS** on your 20th anniversary!

NWMI is an integral member of the GMMP network, leading the media monitoring effort in the India sub-continent and Asia region since 2010. The GMMP is extremely proud to be associated with NWMI. One thing we have learnt as a global network is that making change is not easy. Gender equality struggles especially in the media industry are fraught with tensions and progress comes from very small, incremental steps forward. The GMMP results since 1995 are a testament to this.

The GMMP Network stands in solidarity with NWMI and looks forward to working together in the years to come.

**Dr. Sarah Macharia, GMMP Global Coordinator,
Toronto, Canada**

In the two decades of its existence, the Network of Women in Media, India, has been a remarkable and impressive beacon of hope for many people, even beyond the confines of the media profession. At a time when opportunism and subordination to power have become so pervasive in the Indian media, this network stands out because of its emphasis on strongly ethical and honest journalism and its solidarity with oppressed and marginalised people, particularly women, in society and within its own ranks.

The network is more important than ever today, not only to combat sexual harassment and gender discrimination within media and society, but to shine a light on other injustice and generally show how journalists can play a positive role on society. Congratulations on everything you have done so far, against all odds, and many wishes for very productive, effective and transformative decades ahead.



Jayati Ghosh, professor of economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst, formerly of JNU

Congratulations NWMI, on your 20 years of fearless solidarity in support of the rights of all women and all media workers. Your work has made a difference across India to the real lives of women, providing power to make change.

It's been a pleasure to watch the network go from strength to strength over these years and to have it times been involved in small ways.

Jacqui Park, Head, Network Strategy and Innovation, International Press Institute



Warmest greetings on turning 20, dear NWMI friends! What a journey of hope! When a large part of the mainstream media turned into a story of surrender and despair displaying worst kind of servility, the NWMI statements, reports, and initiatives, spoken with candour, brought hope. Against the crude profanity of mainstream media in reporting rape, sexual harassment, and indulging in public trials of the victims, NWMI remains a precious ally in feminist struggles against sexual harassment and violence in media houses and outside.

Be it the piercingly insightful reports in solidarity with journalists reporting from behind the barbed wires in Kashmir, and women journalist after the Taliban takeover, or the statements against the aggressive masculinity in news channels and the hostile courts which put on trial the victims of sexual violence, NWMI remains a valuable collective asset of feminist struggle.

Salaam to NWMI sisters who remain tireless and resolute champions of press freedom and right to report without intimidation, harassment, and violence. I wish you strength in the battles lying ahead. In solidarity!



Navsharan Singh, author and activist



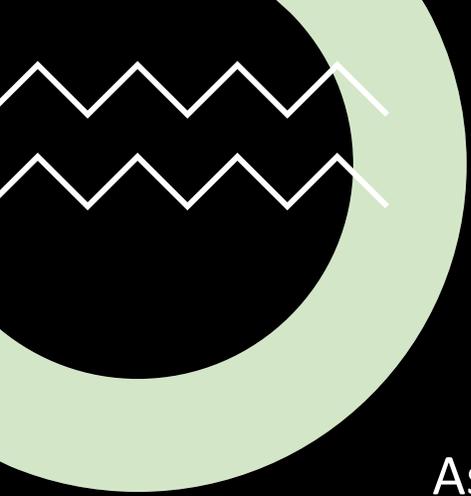
As someone who has followed and cheered the work of NWMI these last 20 years, I am delighted to offer a statement of solidarity to celebrate your first two decades. NWMI members have been bold in challenging sexism and discrimination in newsrooms across India in these years so that female reporters could do their work. That the organization has done this on a volunteer basis is even more noteworthy. I believe the group's approach of dealing with some problems on a regional basis, others nationally, as the individual problems demanded, has been an effective strategy. The guiding ethical principles of gender equality and justice are shared by feminists and women journalists across the world, but the NWMI has been exemplary in showing how to achieve it. I had the opportunity to attend a national NWMI meeting in 2004, observe the group's dynamics and talk with a number of members. It remains a great personal highlight for this former reporter and (for many years since) an academic researcher. I thank Ammu Joseph, Laxmi Murthy, Sonal Kellogg and all the other women at that meeting for their hospitality and collegiality. This is to wish NWMI members continued success in your frontline work as feminists in reporting, editing and otherwise producing the compelling stories we need to know. What you do matters to all of us.

Carolyn M. Byerly, Professor Emerita, Howard University, Washington

The Human Rights Law Network (HRLN) stands solidly with NWTMI particularly at this time, when attacks on women and on journalists are increasing every day.

**Colin Gonsalves, Advocate,
founder, Human Rights Law
Network, recipient of the 2017
Right Livelihood Award.**





As an activist in the women's movement in India, I deeply appreciate NWMI's long struggle to preserve the highest standards in journalism, particularly in our dark times.

I express my solidarity with their work on the occasion of their twentieth anniversary.

Professor Malini Bhattacharya, former MP, CPM



Two decades in which the NWMI NETWORK has been:

- a NET of safety and solidarity for women in media;
- a NET to catch the errant and offending men in media;
- a NET to gather the news and stories omitted by mainstream media;
- a NET to trap abuse and misuse of power.

NWMI ko khoob badhai!

NWMI celebrate with pride,
Cast your NET far and wide!

Vrinda Grover, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India



Congratulations on your 20th anniversary! As a woman journalist I know very well how important it is to have a common platform for women in the media. In these years I have had many occasions to see and admire your struggle for gender equality and justice, to make women's voices heard both within the media and the wider society.

And women's voices need to be heard if we want to build open media in democratic, open and just societies, be it in India or in Europe.

So let me express my solidarity: long live to the Network of Women in Media!

Marina Forti, journalist, Italy





That is great news about NWTM! It is good to know that in some parts of the world feminists continue to speak (shout?) truth to power!

Love and hugs to you!

Naila Kabeer, London School of Economics





NWMI - celebrating feminist expression, for truth and justice. We, as women continue to sing, speak and write against inequality and injustice. Our lives are revolutions.

The NWMI has amplified these voices enabling them to reach far and wide. Their reportage on demands for justice through the courage of the written word has proven invaluable. NWMI members have been a hard rock of support for campaigns for equality and justice and for women's rights. As human beings concerned about injustice, our activism is that of a feminist placed in the middle of inter-sections of multiple concerns and inequalities. As a woman activist I have sought solidarity with this group of extraordinary women - the Network of Women in Media - whom I claim as friends and comrades.

Meeting the NWMI in January 2002 for the first time was just the beginning of a long and creative relationship. Their journalism was critical to the campaigns that I was involved with at that time - information, work and food. We collectively addressed the quirks and distortions to our polity. It has been a great solace to meet NWMI members in the context of the increasingly despotic and communal context of public action.

The struggles for equality often tend to get vivisected by immediate concerns, and involvement with specialised groups. It has been very important for activists who work with the voiceless, to join hands with those who communicate with a larger audience.

Living with the economically marginalised and promoting greater recognition of their condition have been important concerns in my life. The poor have been denied the freedom of expression for millennia. It is but natural that their battles align with those whose commitment is to broadcast information. Together we confront patriarchy not merely in social mores, but in the attitude of those who "man" the state.

In contemporary India, freedom of expression and writing has become a target of oppression and incarceration by the state. Many women journalists in English and the vernacular press have been targeted for the articulation for equality and justice against violence of the state. Their accurate reporting and views, regardless of threats of incarceration by the State has strengthened Indian constitutional democracy. The steadfast support of organisations' like the NWMI have contributed by providing platforms for expressions of journalistic freedom.

I feel a sense of empowerment, a connect, when I am with NWIM. The second meeting I had with you all in Cochin was an unforgettable one. I stand with NWIM to question inequality and oppression, and speak truth to power, and to define an ethical society. in solidarity and with deep affection,

Aruna Roy Member MKSS, SFD, NCPRI & President, NFIW

A hearty congratulations to NWMI on your 20th anniversary! Your courage in defending and advancing women's journalism on critical gender, social and political issues is an inspiration, not just in India but around the world. Whether it be sexual harassment on the job or threats of violence and retribution, women journalists working in hostile climates need the ongoing solidarity and support of colleagues near and far. The longevity and strength of your network attests to your impressive success in transforming Indian media. Thank you so much for the risks you take and the brave work you do.

Dr. Betsy Hartmann, professor emerita of Development Studies at Hampshire College, USA, activist in the international women's health movement





Congratulations to the NWMI for 20 years of making a difference! It is so inspiring to follow your work and that you are keeping up the important task to achieve gender equality in the media. There is still so much work to do to expand freedom of expression to include women's voices and experiences. Good luck in the future!

Namaste & Best wishes from Sweden!

**Maria Edström, Associate professor in journalism,
media & communication at the University of
Gothenburg**

Stay Strong NWMI!

The Delhi Union of Journalists congratulates the Network of Women in Media, India on its 20th anniversary. A huge achievement indeed for a voluntary network! NWMI has established itself as the unique, outspoken voice of India's women journalists. The network provides a space for women journalists from both the metros and the small towns who work in multiple regional languages and different media. Many women who are struggling to enter and establish themselves in the media, battling the hazards of entering male dominated public spaces, facing opposition from patriarchal families and communities, surviving difficult and insecure working conditions, find support through the NWMI. Kudos to the network for the strong, fearless stands it takes on issues of democracy, media freedom, gender equality and justice. May NWMI and its feisty members go from strength to strength in the years ahead! In Solidarity!

S.K. Pande, President, Sujata Madhok, General Secretary





The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) is really pleased to see the NWMI celebrating its 20th birthday. On this occasion, we congratulate the NWMI for the strength of its collective to serve as an important voice and advocate for women in the media – to campaign, to share ideas and experiences, to lobby and to monitor critical developments.

As IFJ's director here in the Asia and Pacific Region, we particularly acknowledge the great work of the NWMI in the protection and defence of women journalists. Recently, IFJ and NWMI collaboratively worked to document the plight of Afghan women journalists following Taliban's takeover in mid-August 2021. NWMI's campaign to raise much-needed funds for Afghanistan's women in media was incredible – raising a phenomenal amount of needed funds in a short space of time. The subsequent joint report of that collaboration "In Their Own Words: Afghan Women Journalists Speak" documented the women's struggle for their rights and to do their jobs.

My best wishes to the NWMI for its success towards its mission of safety and protection of women journalists and may they keep up the good fight for women's rights and equality. In solidarity!

Jane Worthington, Director, Asia and Pacific, International Federation of Journalists



The Global Alliance on Media and Gender (GAMAG) EUROPA congratulates our colleagues from NWMI, for their 20 years of networking and fighting for gender equality and against physical violence, sexual harassment and online abuse. Two decades of progress towards decent working conditions and towards respect for the rights of journalists in the media.

The colleagues of **GAMAG EUROPA** feel honored to be able to share with journalists, communicators and media workers in India the ethics of a profession that helps the world to move towards a fairer society. Where politics does not reach, communication and investigative journalism arrive to denounce the barbarity of patriarchy, militarism and the violence that our profession also suffers. That is why we have to learn from our colleagues in India to protect our rights as journalists and to defend journalism and truth.

Teresa Carreras, GAMAG EUROPE Coordinator



I send my warm felicitations and greetings on your coming of age! Women journalists have been doing outstanding work in bringing to us stories and narratives of what is happening in our country, from the portals of power to the grassroots of our villages and cities. Many have shown great courage in unearthing the truth and bringing it to light despite all kinds of pressure. Yet others have shone a light on issues which affect the everyday lives of our people, from the environment to education. These often tend to get ignored as politics sucks out all the oxygen.

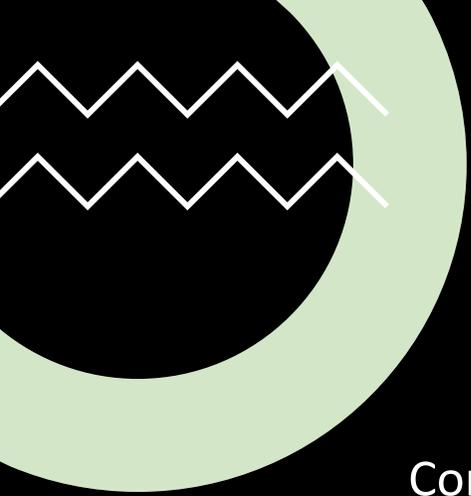
The Network of Women In Media has been a pillar of support for the cause of press freedom which is essential to the functioning of a healthy democracy. Without an informed public our democratic institutions become frail. Thank you for doing what you do. Keep the flag of media freedom flying.

Meera Shankar, former Indian Ambassador to the USA and Germany



It is worth celebrating the fact that the NWMI is completing 20 years of its significant existence. It has been a valuable support to the women's movement, promoting media coverage of struggles from a gender perspective. It is common knowledge that the founders had to overcome various biases to establish the collective. The vital significance of this network to struggles for women's rights cannot be overstated. Women who were active 20 years ago know what a relief it was to have a media women's network that was politically sensitive and sympathetic. We congratulate all the women who worked to build this network that has helped provide visibility and legitimacy to both women victimised in society and journalists discriminated against within the media. . Over the past two decades it has definitely proved its worth. I expect the NWMI to become stronger and wish its members many more decades of bold and relevant struggle and achievement.

Vasanth Kannabiran, feminist activist and writer, founder member of Asmita Resource Centre for Women, Hyderabad



Congratulations on the 20th anniversary of NWMI!

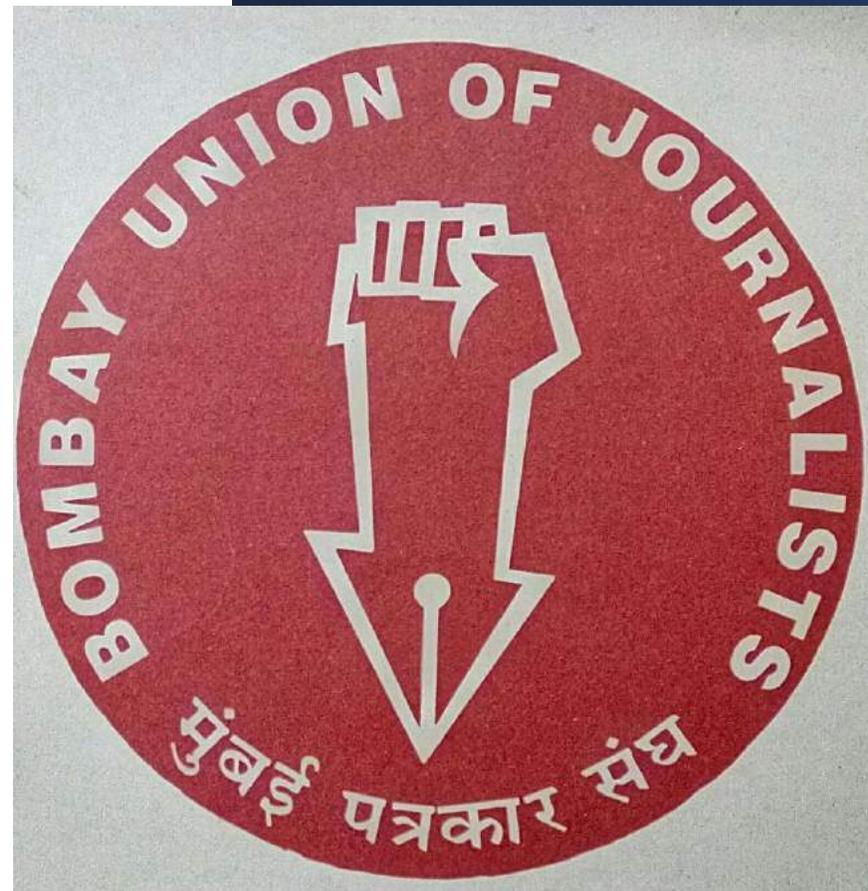
I so value the women reporters, writers, documentarians, who bring the complexities of the local and the global to a broader public awareness. Thank you all for your work!

**Helen Longino, C.I. Lewis Professor,
emerita, Department of Philosophy,
Stanford University**



On the occasion of its 20th Anniversary, the Brihanmumbai Union of Journalists (BUJ) congratulates the NWMI for consolidating a formidable network of women mediapersons. Notably, NWMI was one of the few organisations that responded to the massive loss of jobs of journalists in the wake of the COVID-19 lockdowns. Further, in the current asphyxiatingly majoritarian environment, dominated by the post-truth politics of a distinctly surveillance state and the vigilantism of right-wing forces, the NWMI has been an important voice on the rights of mediapersons and freedom of speech and expression in general. The BUJ expresses its solidarity with the NWMI for its untiring efforts so far and wishes it all the best in the days to come.

Indra Kumar Jain, General Secretary, BUJ





Dear NWMI Team,

You have been working hard building alliances, giving support to women who are struggling with difficult situations, bravely taking strong positions regarding media ethics in today's scenario where fake news is rampant. For a voluntary organization that has no political or institutional affiliation, but simply functions as a participatory collective of women in media professions, all on its own steam, this is highly creditable. Many congratulations on turning 20! The world is a better place because of your efforts. I stand with you in solidarity!

Sara Rai, Independent Writer





A network to connect the women who tell India's stories was a brilliant idea 20 years ago, when the numbers of women in media were smaller. In these two decades, the numbers of women working in every media role and across levels have risen. In the last five years, the importance of professional solidarity during the #MeToo moment and the utility of peer networks during the pandemic downturn in the industry have brought a new generation of working media professionals into the network. Their energy has expanded the presence of NWMI.

I am proud to lay claim to being one of the network's earliest cheerleaders and to have witnessed this journey at close quarters. For Prajnya, NWMI has been a cherished partner from the very beginning. Most of our media-related work has been in partnership with NWMI. Our partnerships are marked by friendship and mutual trust and minimal fuss, always focused on better reported news and more equal newsrooms.

Happy 20th, NWMI Akka, from a 15-year-old Prajnya! You are still a brilliant idea. May we grow and grow redundant together!

Swarna Rajagopalan, political scientist, writer, teacher, consultant and founding trustee of The Prajnya Trust, Chennai



Dear friends, comrades, and colleagues in NWMI, I am thrilled to extend my congratulations for your anniversary. Has it really been 20 years? Your vision, commitment, consistency, hard work and leadership are inspiring, not just to those in the field in India but across borders, in the region and beyond. My heartfelt congratulations to all those involved, particularly the younger generation coming into the fold and taking this important work forward.

Those of us working for peace in the region particularly value your dedication to media ethics and responsibility, given the power of the media in shaping perceptions and building narratives. Sadly we are all too aware of the negative role played by some in the media whose distortions and sensationalising of news contribute to false perceptions that feed into belligerence and deterioration of democratic norms.

May NWMI grow from strength to strength. In solidarity,

Beena Sarwar, Journalist, filmmaker, journalism teacher, Karachi/Boston



It is a significant landmark event that the Network of Women in Media, India (NWMI) has turned 20, with hundreds of strong women members across 16 chapters in India. Increasingly, when there is pressure on independent groupings of concerned citizens of all types and shades of opinion, the fact that the NWMI has survived, and grown is testimony to the strong commitment and shared values of its members, the independence of which is commendable. Increasingly, the marginalisation of those who speak and work for neglected sectors, including minority voices, women, and all those who somehow are unable to “fit” into the increasingly majoritarian discourse in our nation are at peril, financially, socially and politically. More than ever, the lone brave voices that are capable of speaking truths to power must be lauded, strengthened and supported. I am increasingly humbled by the sheer bravery and courage of so many of our feisty women journalists who brave critical threats in support of their journalistic ethics and ideals! More power to you and I reiterate my congratulations to the NWMI as it enters its Roaring 20s.

Aditi Mehta, IAS from Rajasthan cadre interested in social sector issues and marginalised castes and tribes and finalising an ethnographic and performative analysis of a votive dance form.

Hearty Congratulations to NWMI for two decades of incredible work. Seekers of truth, especially those who make the powerful uncomfortable, lead dangerous lives. And in a world that marginalises voices and presence of women deliberately, vigorously and regularly - women journalists undertake even more perilous and precarious journeys.

A platform like the NWMI is what gives support and solidarity to their struggles. Whether it is job security or gender justice, harassment or exploitation, rights and benefits or advocating for an equitable media space – NWMI has been there as a close friend and ally for women journalists. Kudos to you and more power to make a difference.

Arundhati Ghosh, executive director, India Foundation for the Arts

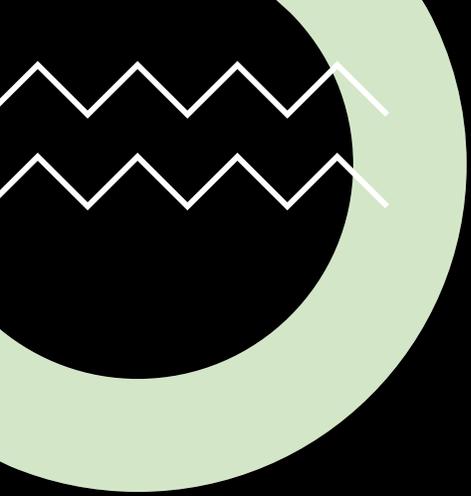




Congratulations to NWMI
on your 20th anniversary.

Wishing you many more
years of success and
solidarity.

**P. Sainath, founding
editor, PARI Network**



Dear saathis at NWMI,

In times when speaking truth to power invites intimidation, violence and wrath on the street, in the digital world, as well as through institutions of the state, it's been immensely heartening to see NWMI stand strong for the last two decades. Your efforts to challenge false narratives, and extend solidarity with survivors when they have been let down by families, colleagues, workplaces and even the judiciary has given hope to many women, both within media spaces and elsewhere. Twenty years of NWMI are certainly not enough.

In solidarity,
All of us at Saheli





Having watched NWMI grow over the years, I have been struck by the solidarity and support, both personal and professional, that the network extends to its members. It is especially commendable that the collective has maintained a voluntary, non-hierarchical mode of functioning for twenty years! It can't have been easy to obtain consensus every time but what is truly admirable is the commitment to insist on democratic functioning.

Many of the network's public interventions are impressive. In particular, by taking a consistent public stand on cases of sexual harassment in media workplaces, as well as on the online abuse of women journalists, they have contributed not just to changing media ethics but changing the public conversation on these issues as well. In the existing media ecosystem this is so rare. I wish NWMI the very best going forward and have no doubt that they will continue to go from strength to strength.

Deepa Dhanraj, award-winning documentary filmmaker

Congratulations and best wishes to The Network of Women in Media !

The basic condition for structural change in society is that the line of advocates of change should be continuously getting longer. The Network of Women in Media has been fulfilling this condition for the past twenty years. I believe that when the conceptual framework for change is strong, it does not require any formal framework, resources, and political or institutional affiliation. Trust is the only word that keeps itself strong and the unity among the queue for change.

In Indian society, women have been outside the ranks of human beings in the same way as Shudras and untouchable castes have been. If we look at the day-to-day life of a common Indian woman, she is treated as untouchable in human form and Shudra for labor and object for enjoyment. That is why in the sense of modern politics philosophies , women have been considered to be of the Maha Dalit class.

The Network of Women in Media has the same objectives as the Media Studies Group and is continuously active. Consider us your companions in your journey after twenty years. We get energy from people like you. In future, we will be active in fulfilling our objectives with each other's cooperation. With the same hope and best wishes,

Anil Chamadia, Editor, Mass Media(English)/Jan Media (Hindi), New Delhi





It is a great honour and an undisguised pleasure for RSF to be able to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Network of Women in Media, India with all its members. Through you, RSF has found an invaluable way to dialogue with Indian society in all its diversity, and to find concrete answers to the difficulties affecting Indian women journalists, whose conditions are too often forgotten.

NWMI members will always find loyal allies at RSF. Happy Birthday!

**Daniel Bastard, Asia-Pacific Director,
Reporters Without Borders**



Dear friends and sisters at NWMI

Congratulations and many greetings on turning 20 and here is to many more decades of strength and solidarity.

Check out the video where Urvashi Butalia reads out the poem we wrote for you. It's called 'The Girls are Coming Out of the Pages' (with a nod to Tishani Doshi).

This comes with love to you from all the Zubaanis



This is a message in solidarity with all of you at NWMI on your twentieth anniversary. We all appreciate greatly your honest and fearless reporting, your independent perspective and feminist commitment. At a time when crises abound and media plays such a crucial role, NWMI has been an anchor. As the media landscape shifts and changes rapidly, it is a great comfort to have your support.

We shall remain together in our common struggles, especially in the cause of women. More power to all of you, friends, in our efforts at building a better tomorrow.

Professor Samita Sen, Faculty of History, Cambridge University



Wishing NWMI more power!

South Asian Women in Media Sri Lanka Chapter (SAWM-SL) takes pleasure in congratulating the Network of Women in Media, India (NWMI) on the occasion of its 20th anniversary.

Milestones provide us with an opportunity to reflect on the journey, draw strength from both triumphs and success and to plan a better future for the causes we support.

The NWMI, a pioneering network of women media professionals in India, marks this important milestone at a time when women media professionals, the community of journalists and the society as a whole are facing many challenges, both old and new. The challenging times call for our renewal of faith, courage and commitment and to making strategic interventions.

NWMI is a unique network offering a platforms for women media professionals across India. It counts, not years but two decades of substantial contributions made towards the advancement of women in the Indian media and continues to inspire and influence women media professionals, nurturing a culture of solidarity whilst promoting the highest ideals in media practice. SAWM Sri Lanka wishes NWMI every success with its future endeavours. In solidarity ,

Hana Ibrahim and Dilrukshi Handunnetti – Co-Convenors, SAWM –Sri Lanka Chapter



नेटवर्क ऑफ वीमेन इन मीडिया, इंडिया महिलाओं विशेष रूप से महिला पत्रकारों की सशक्त आवाज है। यह जानकर बेहद खुशी होती है कि यह संस्था पिछले 20 सालों से महिला पत्रकारों की सहभागिता और स्वैच्छिक योगदान से चल रहा है।

इसकी खूबसूरती देश के कई राज्यों में इसकी पहुंच और मजबूत नेटवर्क है। संस्था द्वारा गरीब और वंचित वर्ग की महिला पत्रकारों की सहायता बेहद सराहनीय व प्रशंसनीय कार्य है।

नेटवर्क की 20वीं वर्षगांठ पर असीम बधाई व शुभकामनाएं!

श्री विनोद बंधु, संपादक (बिहार), हिंदुस्तान
[Vinod Bandhu, editor (Bihar), Hindustan]



Solidarity Messages from feminist friends

Dear NWMI friends,

Congratulations for completing 20 years of dedicated collective efforts to promote women's agency in the media and fighting misogyny. With warm regards and best wishes, In solidarity,

Vibhuti Patel, economist and professor, at the Advanced Centre for Women's Studies, TISS.

Indeed a great achievement. You have done it. More strength to your team. Warmly,

Aruna Burte , feminist activist

Wonderful achievement! Onward !

Devaki Jain, feminist economist





Congrats NWMI - for reaching this significant milestone and for everything you did to get to it.

Kalyani Menon-Sen, Gender at Work

Congratulations, and Wish NWMI the best!

**Dr.Indira Hirway, Director and Professor of Economics,
Centre For Development Alternatives, Ahmedabad**

Dear NWMI - Many congratulations to your amazing collective. Wish you many more decades ahead. Solidarity!

Suneeta Dhar, senior adviser, Jagori

Twenty years! Wow, congratulations for independent and noteworthy existence!

Vineeta Bal, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune

Wishing NWMI all the very best! Your presence has meant a lot to many. In solidarity and with love,

Bela Bhatia, researcher and activist, Bastar





On behalf of the Taasir group of Newspapers, I am extremely delighted to extend my warm greetings to the entire team of Network of Women in Media, India (NWMI) which has turned 20. I highly appreciate NWMI's long struggle to preserve the highest media standards. My heartiest congratulations to NWIMI and its team which has left not even a single stone unturned for creating one of the best Networks of Women in Media, India.

**Dr.Mohammad Gauhar, publisher & chief editor,
National Urdu Daily Newspaper "Taasir"**



network of women in media, India

Thank you !

18 March 2022

www.nwmindia.org