



KAMLA BHASIN AWARD

for DRIVING GENDER EQUALITY ACROSS SOUTH ASIA

The award recognises two individuals from South Asia every year with:

- An award to celebrate women in non-traditional livelihoods across South Asia and
- An award to recognise men working towards gender equality

Both award categories include cis and trans men & women.

The award comprises:

Prize money of INR 100,000 along with a trophy

It is a great opportunity for the awardees for co-learning and to connect and network with change agents, organisations, donors working across South Asia.

Who Can Apply?

We invite entries from South Asian citizens of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka who are residing and working in any country of South Asia.

Applications will be accepted in all official languages of the eight countries.

Award Categories

1. A woman (cis/trans) practitioner of Non-Traditional Livelihood (NTL)
2. A male (cis/trans) who has worked towards enabling a gender-just ecosystem by working with boys/men.

Selection Criterion

Category 1

- Practicing a non-traditional livelihood in her/their context for the last 3 years
- Empowered herself/themselves to gain control over not just her/their earnings, but also her/their life
- Is a change agent and created opportunities for others

Non-traditional livelihoods are those which break the glass or rather a concrete ceiling and walls put around the women by virtue of belonging to a certain caste, community, religious group, or because of their sexual orientation, their gender identity, disability, their habitat, and this list can be long, and varied depending upon the discrimination structures that exist in any society. Gender norms around unpaid work and mobility for example have been one of the reasons for women not being allowed to take on occupations such as driving or masonry which requires them to be away from home for a large part of the day and also night.

You can read more about non-traditional livelihoods and some examples from around the region by clicking [here](#).

Category 2

- Working with men/boys towards a gender-just world in the last 5 years
- Countering harmful masculinity in personal and work life by contributing in care work, accepting women's leadership, combating all forms of gender-based violence and gendered socio-cultural norms
- Is a change agent and influenced other men to enable gender-just world

Engaging boys and men in promoting gender equality is a growing movement. Kamla's slogan, "Men of Quality are not afraid of Equality," highlights the importance of men challenging patriarchal norms. This category aims to recognize such men who have examined patriarchal practices in their lives, acknowledge their privileges, and recognize the constraints of patriarchy. We seek men who actively work with other males to confront harmful practices, oppose violence against women and sexual minorities, share responsibility for domestic care work, and support women and transgender individuals in claiming their rights. Our goal is to cultivate supportive environments for these change agents to learn from each other and inspire others to advocate for gender equality.

Timeline

March 8, 2026: Opening of application process

June 7, 2026: Closing of application process

July-September, 2026: Shortlisting and interview of candidates

October 2026: Announcement of the Winners

30 November, 2026: Award Ceremony in Tewa, Lalitpur, Nepal

About the Award

The award is in memory of Kamla Bhasin, an icon of feminist movements in South Asia. She was a strong supporter of women engaging in non-traditional sources of livelihood. Kamla also advocated the need of engaging with men towards gender equality and came up with the popular slogan "Men of quality are not afraid of equality".

The Jury

Anu Aga (India), Binda Pandey (Nepal), Khushi Kabir (Bangladesh), Munizae Jahangir (Pakistan) Namita Bhandare (India), Radhika Coomaraswamy- Chair (Sri Lanka)

Award Partners

Azad Foundation, National Foundation for India

For further details about the award, please visit www.kamlabhasinawards.org