

## **An Exploration of the Interfaces between Faith, Development and Gender**

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### **Key research questions, hypotheses and methods**

My dissertation research was largely based on sustained periods of ethnographic research conducted in Hindu and Muslim communities in rural Rajasthan. My focus was an assessment of the nature and effectiveness of dialogues between various grass-root and donor faith based organisations and the communities they directed their aid interventions towards. I will initially begin with two questions, which are then related to one domain of evidence. A final methodological question will aim to draw together and develop my analytical framework. Each element has direct relevance to this call and will form the content of four peer reviewed articles.

- a. How effective is multi-faith dialogue in delivering development initiatives?
- b. How do faith-based organisations understand and respond to issues of violence against women?
- c. Formal case studies of Gandhian Faith-based NGOs.
- d. Methodological considerations centred on key question. How can gender be mainstreamed as an analytical approach to researching issues of faith, development and non-governmental public action?

### **Relation to the programme**

My research links into the call focusing on Religion and NGPA / Impacts and Conceptions of Different Faith-Based NGPA (Strand C).

### **Relevance of this research to user groups**

I have identified beneficiaries of my work including: University of Birmingham's Dfid funded Religion and Development Research Programme, The Centre for Research into Gender and Religion, SOAS, Child and Women Abuse Studies Unit, London Metropolitan University Human Rights and Social Justice Institute, London Metropolitan University Southall Black Sisters, Newham Asian Women's Project, IDS Jaipur, FBOs . I will also engage my research within two inter faith networks: The World's Faith Development Dialogue, and The Cambridge Interfaith Programme. Both these networks hold regular seminars and debates. Further dissemination will occur through a workshop being planned by the International Gender Studies Centre, Queen Elizabeth House, Oxford on 'Women and Faith Based Development' for September 2007.

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