IGNITING CHANGE
RISING FLAME
FOUR YEAR REPORT
2017 - 2021
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Be An Ally in Our Next Chapter!
Welcome to the work of Rising Flame where we ignite change.

We are committed to building an inclusive world where diverse bodies and voices thrive with dignity and live free from discrimination, abuse and violence, with equal opportunities and access for all.

Our mission: to recognise, protect and promote the human rights of people with disabilities, especially women and youth. We do this by building the capacity of people with disabilities, as well as their organisations, allies and service providers, to catalyse transformative change.

We intervene in the political arena, as well as in social and cultural spaces, to challenge narratives that entrench stigma and discrimination against people, especially women and girls, with disabilities. Our programmes capture the imagination and break stereotypes to build a more inclusive social and political culture.

IGNITING CHANGE
We have been widely covered in the media, with our work featured in publications like BBC Hindi, the Times of India, Mid-Day, the Quint and DNA. Our website received a National Award for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities ‘Best Accessible Website’ in 2019.

Committed to the principle “Nothing About Us Without Us,” we have built a small but remarkably effective team. As a self-led organisation, the entire core team and three-fourths of all programme staff and consultants live with disabilities, mental health conditions and chronic illnesses. We model the potential of people with disabilities to transform the world.

This brief narrative features Rising Flame’s strategic approaches, programmes, and significant achievements in its first four years (September 2017 – September 2021). We present supporters and allies with the flavour, scope and range of our work, and the important social, cultural and political challenges we address through our interventions and engagements.
Impact & Reach

Trainings conducted: 87
Reach: 1721

Speaking engagements: 90
Reach: 12,000

Events organised: 20
Reach: 2221

We work across India, and work on connecting local to global and vice versa. In this short span, our trainings, events and speaking engagements have covered a huge number of locations in India and the globe.

- Maharashtra
- Madhya Pradesh
- Chhattisgarh
- Uttar Pradesh
- Bihar
- Uttarakhand
- Jharkhand
- Punjab
- Himachal Pradesh
- Karnataka
- New Delhi
- Tamil Nadu
- Telangana
- Haryana
- United Kingdom
- Kenya
- Belgium
- Sri Lanka
- USA
- Canada
- Nepal
- Thailand
- Netherlands
- Switzerland

With the world going digital, our influence has magnified to reach people from all corners of the country and the world. Our events, speaking engagements have participation from civil society, human rights advocates, feminists, activists, researchers, academics, practitioners both disabled and non disabled.
Rising Flame has identified forms of inaccessibility, isolation and invisibility that are intricately tied to and compound one another. Together they function to exclude the perspectives and needs of people with disabilities from social, cultural and political discourses. The absence of perspectives and meaningful representation of people with disabilities creates a lacuna where stigma flourishes, perpetuating discriminatory and exclusionary practices that contribute to isolation and invisibility.

Without urgent intervention, the marginalisation of people with disabilities is a self-renewing circuit.

We designed our programmes to disrupt this circuit, addressing invisibility, isolation and discrimination through cultural, social, political and policy interventions. This multi-pronged and synergistic strategy identifies, challenges and disrupts isolation and invisibility while smashing stereotypes in our quest for systemic change. We support individual persons with disabilities to break patterns of systemic isolation and exclusion.

We work to extend the rights of people with disabilities through knowledge sharing and trainings. For instance, our flagship programme launched in 2019, I Can Lead - National leadership programme for women with disabilities built the capacities of 18 women with disabilities over the course of two intensive, year-long training and mentoring programmes, empowering them to leverage their personal resources to enact transformative change.
In August 2021, we launched the **Swarna Jyoti - Feminist leadership programme** for 25 grassroots activists who are disabled women from across the country bringing a gender sensitive community change and inclusive justice.

We expand access to information and opportunities for social, political and cultural engagement. Our **Empower to Rise Fellowship** invests in youth to enable them to create an inclusive academic and professional space for themselves through full and meaningful participation.

Another tool for ending the invisibility has been influencing the related stakeholders. Our **Spotlight Media Fellowship** builds the capacities of and awareness amongst journalists and media professionals to change media representations of people with disabilities.

We come together as a community of people with disabilities to bring our concerns forward and place them on national and global agendas to ensure our needs are visible and our voices heard.
We use arts and technology platforms to extend our outreach. We bring the perspectives and voices of people with disabilities to national and international institutions, as well as social, cultural and policy arenas. Our interpolation in critical spaces has impacted public discourse and policy relating to people with disabilities in India and abroad.

We have invested in deepening our links and engagements with social movements and allies, especially the women’s, human rights and disability justice movements. Our participation in broader movement campaigns has given our issues far greater visibility and traction.

Covid 19 has been a time of intense isolation, economic deprivation, and vulnerability especially for people with disabilities. We intervened at the national level to address and include people with disabilities in the context of disaster relief and human rights, and our recommendations are being used internationally.

Our award-winning website, accessible across disabilities, provides a platform for inclusive information sharing.

Rising Flame’s website, launched in 2018, centres the principles of universal design and accessibility. We invested time and resources to build a fully accessible and aesthetically pleasing website. This entailed choosing colours, fonts and design elements not just for ease of navigation but also to ensure that persons with dyslexia and other conditions and disabilities have easy access. Additionally, our site features accessibility enhancing tools, enabling users to change fonts and colour schemes and read everything with their screen readers.

To improve access for a wide range of disabled people, every image and graphic has descriptions and/or alt text, and every video is subtitled. We received the prestigious ‘National Award for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities’ 2019 for the ‘Best Accessible Website’ by the Vice President of India (2019).
We work at multiple levels to catalyse change, so our programmes do not fall into tidy buckets. For ease of reading and organisational purposes, we present our interventions under six broad headings.
Partnering with Women and Youth with Disabilities to Ignite Individual Transformation

I Can Lead

“I Can Lead,” our intensive year long national leadership programme, was launched in 2019. This unique programme, the first ever in India, had six Fellows in the first year and 12 in the second. The Fellows represent a diverse range of women with disabilities selected from across the country.

Our commitment to each participant has been to work together to challenge the social, physical, and cultural barriers they face – including in the intimate spaces of their families and communities. Through deeply personalised engagement, our I Can Lead Fellows are encouraged to live and realise their dreams and become fierce advocates for themselves, their families and their communities.

The I Can Lead programme reaffirms value and importance to the everyday lives of women with disabilities through one-on-one mentoring support; informational, educational inputs on disability, gender, negotiation, communication and more; and life coaching to strengthen emotional resilience.

We develop understanding and empathy across disabilities and demonstrate how intersectional discrimination and violence and privilege functions through intensive mentoring and training by the Rising Flame team, as well as by activists and other women leaders.

I Can Lead Training
Through offline and in-person training, public events, writing and other online opportunities, the Fellows develop a range of skills to become self-advocates and embody the change they want to see. This select cohort also forms a learning and peer support community.

The Fellows increase their visibility by publishing their writing, participating in social media campaigns, and articulating their positions on feminism and disability justice. In the process they explore stereotypes and contribute to transforming public engagement on disability rights. I Can Lead Fellows develop media content for disability rights issues, extend the reach of other programme initiatives and broaden the discourse on disability rights. Several of the Fellows have taken political action on issues that impact them and other women with disabilities.

So far, 18 women have participated in this boutique programme. Furthermore, over the course of this intensive programme, we have mainstreamed women with disabilities narratives that showcase their lived experiences, their many transformations to extend the reach and impact of their voices.

“At Rising Flame I learned that we as women with disabilities can stand as leaders - as a voice for the system, for other women. We must focus on our individual change as well as changes in the system.”

- Asha Rani, I Can Lead Fellow, Finance Executive, Ola cabs
Empower to Rise

‘Empower to Rise’ is an annual fellowship for youth with disabilities within the age of 16 to 25, who are currently pursuing education. Through this fellowship, we hope to change the environment and foster learning and growth, participation and progress for young people with disabilities who are struggling to realise their dreams.

Three youth with disabilities were selected for this fellowship in the inaugural year 2021. Each of them received a financial award of Rs 50,000, along with access to a six-month individual mentoring programme that supports their academic and professional goals.

Empower to Rise 2021 Fellows!

Shireen Sultana

Mansi Tyagi

Ar An Ya

The monetary support is meant to be used to set up their digital and technology requirements, improve accessibility of their physical and educational infrastructure, upgrade or buy assistive devices and software, pay for sign language interpreters and avail of other support for inclusive participation and to gain further skills.
Know Your Rights

People with disabilities are often unaware of their rights, making accessing justice difficult. Our Know Your Rights Series – My Rights, My Safety, was a set of three-day workshops - one set in English and the other in Hindi - conducted in 2021. **This series creates awareness and builds capacities on laws and justice mechanisms pertaining to violence against women and children with disabilities.** The series was spearheaded by experienced disability rights lawyers and targeted at women and other people with disabilities; caregivers; activists working in child rights, gender rights, or disability rights; law students; and anyone seeking to understand the scope and limitations of these laws.

Na Mein Na Hain

Na Mein Na Hain was launched to spark conversations on love, romance, and the complexities around consent for women and youth with disabilities. **Four workshops across three states were conducted to build an understanding on the complexities of consent particularly with the lines blurred around disabilities.**
Due to their isolation, disabled women and youth may not have the same access to social situations and contexts as their non-disabled peers - complicating consent for them.

The Na Mein Na Hain workshop held on May 25, 2019 really impacted me in couple of ways. Consent isn’t just about intimate relationships. It could even be how one conducts oneself in public. For instance, as I am blind I sometimes require help from people around me and it’s just not about their consenting to help me. Rather, I need to give my consent on how I should be helped and to what extent.

- Amit Pahuja, Assistant Manager, Public Sector Bank

Swarna Jyoti

Building Feminist Disability Rights Leaders

Swarna Jyoti, an annual programme, launched in 2021, is the first of its kind feminist leadership programme for women activists with disabilities from across India to deepen conceptual, legal and practical knowledge of disability justice and feminist principles. The programme is designed for grassroots activists and is conceptualised with Hindi as its core language. This year in its 3 month long virtual avatar, the program comprised a nine day training conducted over three weeks followed by a field project undertaken over a period of 2 months in the location of the participant.

This feminist training provides space and support for disabled women activists to address local issues pertaining to women with disabilities through a critical lens that looks at the layered impact of gender and disability.

In our first year, we had 25 participants from 10 states across the country, bringing diverse contexts, experiences, and knowledge to the cohort.
While strengthening understanding about disability justice, participants learnt and unlearnt about patriarchy, gender marginalisation, power and hierarchical social structures of oppression and control. They unpacked their own lived realities and located women with disabilities and their issues at the intersections of rights movements and overall contexts. Armed with new knowledge, they were assisted to conceptualise and execute field projects to lead the work and bring the desired social and structural changes for women with disabilities. They received intensive mentoring, resources and monetary support to independently design and lead field projects geared to inclusion and change. As part of these projects, they organised workshops, research, campaigns etc for social change. Swarna Jyoti aims to create waves of change, and in this first year we with our 25 young leaders succeeded in reaching 339 people out of which 223 were women and girls with disabilities, 73 were men with disabilities, 11 were boys with disabilities, and 31 parents and caregivers. From lack of information to learning about feminist ideas to further imparting these ideas has led to significant change in the individuals themselves. This has created ripples in the kinds of conversations we can have when women with disabilities lead the dialogue. This program will year on year continue infusing grassroots disability rights movements with feminist principles so that we truly leave no one behind.

*Translated from Hindi*
Reclaiming Digital Spaces

We tackle multiple issues to ensure that digital spaces belong to persons with disabilities as much as they belong to others. The aim is to alter the digital ecosystem so that inclusion is not an afterthought but becomes an integral part of the digital fabric enabling active participation of persons with disabilities in these spaces.

Edit-a-thon

Rising Flame has flagged the absence of people with disabilities and information related to them in the digital world. Responding to this lacuna, we identify key themes around which content is developed through Edit-a-thons bringing visibility to specific issues of disability and spotlighting women with disabilities achievers. For example, on the Wikipedia pages 'Violence against people with disabilities' and 'Violence against women', there were no references to violence faced by women with disabilities. Together we changed this. We facilitated four Edit-a-Thons three of which were done in collaboration with Point of View. 28 youth across disabilities and 25 non disabled youth participated in creating Wikipedia pages of 3 important women with disabilities and filling the gaps in information on Wikipedia pages as mentioned earlier.

Advocacy in technology spaces

Rising Flame conducts global and regional advocacy at strategic forums such as the Internet Governance Forum Asia-Pacific event (2020) for disability inclusion.
Bridging digital access and speaking about how imperative this is has been an integral aspect of all our work. Rising Flame also advocated with private sector players and businesses to make their mobile phone applications accessible and recognise people with disabilities as customers and users.

**Using the Arts and Media to Centre Voices of People with Disabilities and Challenge Stereotypes**

**My Tale Too**

Rising Flame offers a curated space to retell narratives that explode multiple myths about disabled women, such as they being solely recipients of care, helpless and victims. “My Tale too,” a four-month writing programme held in 2020, brought 19 disabled women from across South-Asia to reflect, build community, and improve their story-telling skills.

The workshops were conducted by an award-winning writer, and fairy tales were rewritten, peer reviewed and discussed to extricate themselves from the internalised stigma and act as a process of healing. The participants were at once narrators and part of the stories – an ugly duckling as socially awkward, or a Snow White who is deaf. Age-old stories were retold – stories disabled women have been wanting to hear and tell; ones that featured characters both relatable and lovable.
These empowering and healing interventions enabled participants to disentangle themselves from internalised stigma. Publishing of the stories brings their voices and perspectives to a wider public, shifting prevailing discourses, practices and social norms pertaining to disabled women.

"The journey has also been extremely personal. More personal than I imagined it would be. Writing a disabled character has brought forth a lot of emotions and memories (the not-so-nice ones) that I tried to hide up, safely locked in a metaphorical box. Writing this story has helped me deal with some of my issues."

"This has been an enriching experience for me. While I have never been hesitant to share my life story/experience with others, saying it through a fairy tale was a creative experience for me. More and more, I read my own writings, more and more, I can see why those words appeared in my mind to describe the scenes and characters. The whole process helped me to know myself again."

Dil Vil Pyaar Vyaar, Ask Me Don’t Assume, and Vella Panti

Dil Vil Pyaar Vyaar – loosely translated to love, relationships, etc - was a pioneering media effort that centred the voices of disabled women and romantic narratives rarely heard in mainstream discussions. Contributors, who were women with disabilities including our I Can Lead fellows, penned poignant essays on dating, crushes, romance and pleasure in two editions, 2019 and 2020. The stories were published in collaboration with mainstream publications including Quint and Love Matters.
**Ask Me Don’t Assume** is a series of personal, interactive and intimate events that creates safe and open spaces for people to engage with disabilities and other diversities without fear and inhibition. We collaborated with First Post for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities to develop a digital version of this offline series through a video that tackles the ignorance around disability with non-judgmental conversations and humour. The offline conversations engaged 105 people whereas the video on Facebook alone had 60,000 views!

Four themed, virtual **Vella Panti** (hangout sessions) were held in April 2020 and three more in September and October 2020 to reduce the compounded isolation faced by people with disabilities during COVID. Narratives were developed around the themes of love and relationships, consent, body image and psychosocial disabilities to underline the specific barriers persons with disabilities are facing in the context of social distancing, individualistic self-care and fear induced by the Covid pandemic.

These Vella Panti gatherings provided respite from the gloom and doom induced by the pandemic and alleviated some of the distress disabled persons experienced during the COVID-19 crisis lockdown while working on emotional well being through community connections, and of course developing learning and empathy.
Influencing Organisations, Institutions and Diverse Stakeholders for Systemic Transformation

One of the aspects that has led to us having phenomenal impact in our early years has been our leadership. Being a self-led organisation with our founder, Nidhi Goyal being a global leader who is recognised for her important contributions to the human rights, disability rights and women’s movements has been a huge boost.

To generate systemic change and to build a more inclusive society, Rising Flame therefore amplifies these connections and works with authorities, institutions, and allies to develop their perspectives and practices on disability rights. The webinars and public events Rising Flame designs or collaborates in provide important spaces to centre the voices of people with disabilities. Additionally, webinars provide a broad community of people with disabilities and their advocates with new sources of information to better navigate their lives and to participate more fully in all spheres.

National and Local Authorities

We have conducted events for national and local authorities, including training chairpersons of all State Commissions for Women and the team of National Commission for Women, the Delhi Police on access to justice in cases of sexual violence for women, and also trained the Bombay Municipal Corporation’s (BMC) hospitals’ nursing staff in 2019 on healthcare, sexual and reproductive rights and social autonomy of women and girls with disabilities.
Educational Institutions

We have regularly collaborated with leading institutes like ILS Law College (Pune), Jesus and Mary College (Delhi), Wilson College (Mumbai), KC College (Mumbai) to name a few. These trainings address subjects such as gender disability and the law, gender disability access and inclusion, gender disability and advocacy, gender disability and representation, gender disability and sexuality and so on.

Corporate Bodies

We have conducted trainings on disability and inclusion for leading corporates like Hindustan Unilever Limited, Godrej, Ola and media houses such as Sony.

Media

To influence media representation of people with disabilities, we launched Spotlight – media fellowship in collaboration with Behanbox in 2021.
Within this annual programme, we offer five Media Fellowships to women and other marginalised gender journalists to investigate and produce original reportage on several themes, including violence against women and trans persons with disabilities, violence related laws for women and protections for disabled women, violations of sexual and reproductive health rights experienced by women and trans persons with disabilities and discrimination faced by gender marginalised disabled persons during the COVID-19 crisis.

Partnering with Consulates

In this vein we have worked with consulate offices in India and abroad to make disability part of our collective agenda. In collaboration with the U.S. Consulate General, Mumbai, we hosted two events, VOICES to mark International Human Rights Day in 2018 and to honour Helen Keller during women’s history month in 2021. These collaborations were to highlight and visibilise that globally women with disabilities and queer persons continue to face discrimination and violence.

We have also been invited to conduct sessions at the British Council's global Women of the World conferences held at Nepal and Sri Lanka.
Building Solidarity Across Social Movements and Cross Movement Activism to Foster Inclusion and Equality of Women and Youth with Disabilities

Rising Flame is firmly rooted in the disability rights movement, where we work with partners and networks to make them more gender inclusive and encourage them to adopt a gendered human rights lens. We partner and collaborate with networks and disability rights organisations including Sightsavers, Women with Disabilities India network, Shanta Memorial Rehabilitation Centre etc. We engage grassroots networks through Viklang Manch, a nation-wide network of grassroots organisations of persons with disabilities. We support and develop disabled feminist activists, advocate with the government and international agencies, and participate in national and international policy spaces to bring a gendered disability rights perspective to these varied bodies.

In conversations and meetings about funding feminist movements we have brought attention to the need for resourcing marginalised movements within the women’s rights movement, such as the women with disabilities movement, and called for their full participation and inclusion.

We have developed strong partnerships with the women’s rights, human rights, the health rights movements and developing our partnerships with LGBTQIA+ and trans rights movements. We infuse a disability rights perspective in the human rights and women’s movement and a gender perspective in the disability rights movement. We participate in women’s rights global movement events and campaigns, especially the Sixteen Days of Activism, #MeToo and One Billion Rising. Through our engagement we enhance and widen the message and reach of women and girls with disabilities.

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Me Too

Rising Flame’s 16 Days of Activism campaigns over the last few years has expanded awareness about disability rights in the women’s movement while building agency among women and girls living with disabilities. Through our first webinar Sexual Harassment and the #MeToo Movement: Women with Disabilities End the Silence, we highlighted narratives of women with disabilities.

We made and screened the film, Ending the Silence, featuring stories of violence women with disabilities face, and underlined the barriers we face in reporting abuse. In 2020, we launched a campaign From Shadows to the Centre: Women with Disabilities Speak up about Violence. The campaign brought attention to our experiences using a layered approach.

Our social media accounts through the 16 Days of Activism create awareness on different forms of violence we face, which is an important step in addressing this issue. Due to our advocacy, national conversations have included our voices and perspectives, and girls with disabilities have participated in campaigns on Violence Against Women.

As part of the women’s movement campaign, we developed a series of articles where 6 women with disabilities from five countries stated: Me Too! They reflected about their experiences of violence, the reactions they witnessed when they stepped forward, and they discussed the long-term effects of sexual harassment. We invited eminent legal experts, including Vrinda Grover, to speak about how we can build safeguards to ensure safety and dignity for everyone.
Health, Reproductive Justice and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

We have been a consistent and persistent voice advocating access for and inclusive services to disabled women in reproductive health and justice forums.

For example, at the 14th World Conference of Bioethics (2018) we spoke at a plenary on what universal and inclusive health care would entail for people with disabilities, particularly women, and their sexual and reproductive health access.

**We have been a voice for people with disabilities in discussions of the proposed abortion law reforms through the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Amendment Bill (2020) and demanded inclusion in the consultation processes.**

As a panelist on Menstrual Health Management hosted by the United Nations Population Fund, India, in 2020, Rising Flame underlined how issues around access and stigma need to be addressed for women and girls with disabilities. We highlighted the importance of campaigns and outreach programmes being designed in accessible formats and easy to understand language to expand access to information. The lack of access to information poses as significant barriers as does inaccessible infrastructure.

We have advocated for safe abortion access, underscoring the physical access barriers that women with disabilities face and how lack of accessible information and social stigma impact our constituency. Exclusionary language and clauses of various laws, including the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, undermine the rights of women with disabilities. We have also delivered trainings as part of youth forums organised by the Asia Safe Abortion Partnership.

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National and Global Advocacy using UN instruments

We have been active members of several networks and coalitions that worked towards advocating for rights of persons with disabilities under diverse global frameworks and instruments.

For two years we were working closely with the United National Coalition and the Women with Disabilities India Network to submit shadow reports and engage in evidence based advocacy during the process of India reporting to the United Nations Committee on Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities. We were invited to present issues of women with disabilities, including on violence and access to justice, health and participation, at the UN headquarters in Geneva in 2019.

In 2020 we participated in an advocacy initiative around disability inclusion in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) spearheaded by international disability organisations and national disability networks. The report to which we contributed was presented to the Niti Ayog and to a team from the UN. We made a case for gender equality of persons with disabilities in SDG goals 5, 6 and 7 particularly, while ensuring that women with disabilities were not left behind.
In 2019, we made inputs into the national and regional Beijing + 25 reports through the data gathered in the national consultation organised by us.

We participated and presented at the Asia Pacific regional civil society forum organised by UNESCAP and UN Women Asia Pacific around issues at the intersection of gender and disability with reference to the rights enshrined in the Beijing declaration and platform for action. Our engagement contributed to the submission of a strong statement for the rights of girls and women with disabilities to the BPFA+25.

We placed our recommendations in the national level consultations for the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) + 25 organised by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). We continued to bring our expertise to bear at this civil society space at Nairobi where the ICPD was held. The annual global forum, Commission on Status of Women, organised at the UN headquarters in New York, is a focussed space to engage and advocate for empowerment of women and girls. We have been participating and advocating for inclusion of issues of women and girls with disabilities since 2018 through different panels.
Covid research and evidence-based advocacy

National

Rising Flame responded to the Covid crisis guidelines released by the Government of India’s Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities to ensure support for disabled people across the country. The guidelines lacked gender sensitivity and mechanisms to ensure accountability. To address the data gaps concerning Covid and women with disabilities, we conducted research - **Neglected and Forgotten** - with 94 participants, of which 82 were women with disabilities. This focused research documented the ways in which the Covid-19 crisis was affecting their lives.

We gathered recommendations and suggestions from the participants to outline ways forward, and developed a report outlining how to improve access to necessary services during disasters. We used the report extensively to advocate for the rights of women with disabilities.

We submitted our findings to the National Commission for Women in Delhi, the Ministry for Women and Child Development, and the National Human Rights Commission. A Public Interest litigation has drawn upon our report as evidence, and the National Human Rights Commission has adopted several of our recommendations in the disability and covid advisory issued by them.
Regional and Global Advocacy

Our report on the ways in which Covid 19 specifically impacts women with disabilities is used globally to advocate how women with disabilities can be discriminated against in these times of disaster relief.

The platform by International Disability Alliance has listed our report as a key resource and it has been cited by Prof Gerard Quinn, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, at the opening of the Civil Society Forum at the Conference of State Parties to the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities.

At the Asia-Pacific level a report was prepared by Sightsavers and UN Women, where our findings raised awareness on how the COVID crisis affects women with disabilities. Rising Flame was invited to facilitate a South Asia conversation by Sightsavers to build an Asia-Pacific level report on women with disabilities and the COVID crisis. Insights from our research were also incorporated into a global report being prepared by Women Enabled International on this situation.

We also organised a webinar during 16 Days of Activism to End Gender Based Violence: The Shadow Pandemic: Women with Disabilities and Domestic Violence.

This global panel brought together a specific perspective of the ways in which the COVID 19 pandemic has increased the incidence of domestic violence, and how women with disabilities, despite being the most vulnerable, are the least heard from on the matter. The importance of raising voices against this violence from within the movement and the community was emphasised.
In the next five years, we will forge ahead with our agenda to ignite individual transformation and community change, and influence shifts in the ecosystem to create an inclusive, integrated, safe, and hence more sustainable world for persons with disabilities. We will foster deeper collaborations and partnerships to achieve our goals. Having worked with over ten organisations and several networks and activists across movements as partners to magnify our voice, we will join with many more, strengthening and deepening our strategic interventions. We will develop feminist leaders of tomorrow, empower youth with disabilities, and catalyse a large cohort of self-advocates and allies who are committed to advancing disability rights, gender equality, and inclusion. Through each of our programmes, activities, and interventions, we will ensure that persons with disabilities rise, are heard, are seen and become leaders who dispel the darkness of stigma and exclusion. We, as persons with disabilities, will shine in our efforts to reclaim and expand our role as we create a more just, equal and inclusive world.
Annexure

Team: Behind the Scenes
Over these four years, our self-lead team has consisted of a consistent core team of 3 members, joined by 19 project consultants, subject experts and staff for varying durations. In addition we have extended need-based invitations to short-term trainers, mentors, sign language interpreters, captioners, designers, interns and volunteers to join us and make our work inclusive and holistic.

Partnerships: Joining Hands to Ignite Change!
We believe in collaboration, we believe in joining hands. We have worked with a range of disability rights, gender rights, and other organisations and networks. For a one time event, to an important training, to building and executing a campaign or program, to taking national and global advocacy ahead – acknowledging the partnerships here.

- Point Of View
- Sightsavers
- US Consulate General Mumbai
- Women With Disabilities India Network (WWDIN)
- Behan Box
- The Quint
- Love Matters
- Feminism In India
- Open Spaces Consulting
- JJ college of architecture
- Blue Ribbon Movement
- Shanta Memorial Rehabilitation Centre
- Enable India
- Tanya Computer Centre
- CREA
- Blind Graduates Forum of India
- Yes We Can
- Mahila Swarazgar Samiti
- Helm
- United National Coalition
- Asia Pacific Women with disabilities United

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