

2024



# Annual Report

CENTRE FOR GENDER AND POLITICS



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# A Message From Us



*We are delighted to present our Annual Report 2024. Firstly, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to our community of volunteers and partners for bringing their expertise across sectors and regions in our efforts to promote gender-inclusive politics in South Asia. Volunteerism, like always, was at the heart of everything we did throughout the year*

*Our Beyond Victims series continued into 2024, highlighting the significant contributions of women leaders in South Asia. We published 37 stories, many of which had never been featured in any publication. This year, we launched our Worth Asking series as a podcast, debuting the first season with 10 episodes focusing on parliamentarians and grassroots leaders from India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and the Maldives. We celebrated the accomplishments of our interviewees, particularly Dr. Harini Amarasuriya, who was elected as the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka. Additionally, we nominated one of our Worth Asking interviewees and an MP from Nepal, Sobita Gautam, to the prestigious UNITE Parliamentarians Network for Global Health Summit 2024 where she represented Nepal and South Asia.*

*Earlier this year, our collaboration with JP Morgan & Chase culminated in the launch of the “Gender and Politics Repository,” a platform designed to provide carefully curated resources for young women aspiring to enter politics. With 2024 being a significant election year globally, featuring elections in over 60 countries, we released an open-source guide for researchers to analyze India’s General Elections from a gender perspective.*

*As of 2024, we have engaged with over 140 dedicated volunteers across 14 countries. We expanded our core team, welcoming two incredibly committed and experienced members, one of whom has been a long-term volunteer for many of our projects. We express our gratitude to every collaborator for another outstanding year of learning, and we eagerly anticipate continuing our efforts toward gender equality in South Asian politics in 2025 alongside all of you. Lastly, we extend our heartfelt thanks to our ~5000 email subscribers and over 10,000 social media followers for their trust and encouragement in helping us remain dedicated to our mission.*

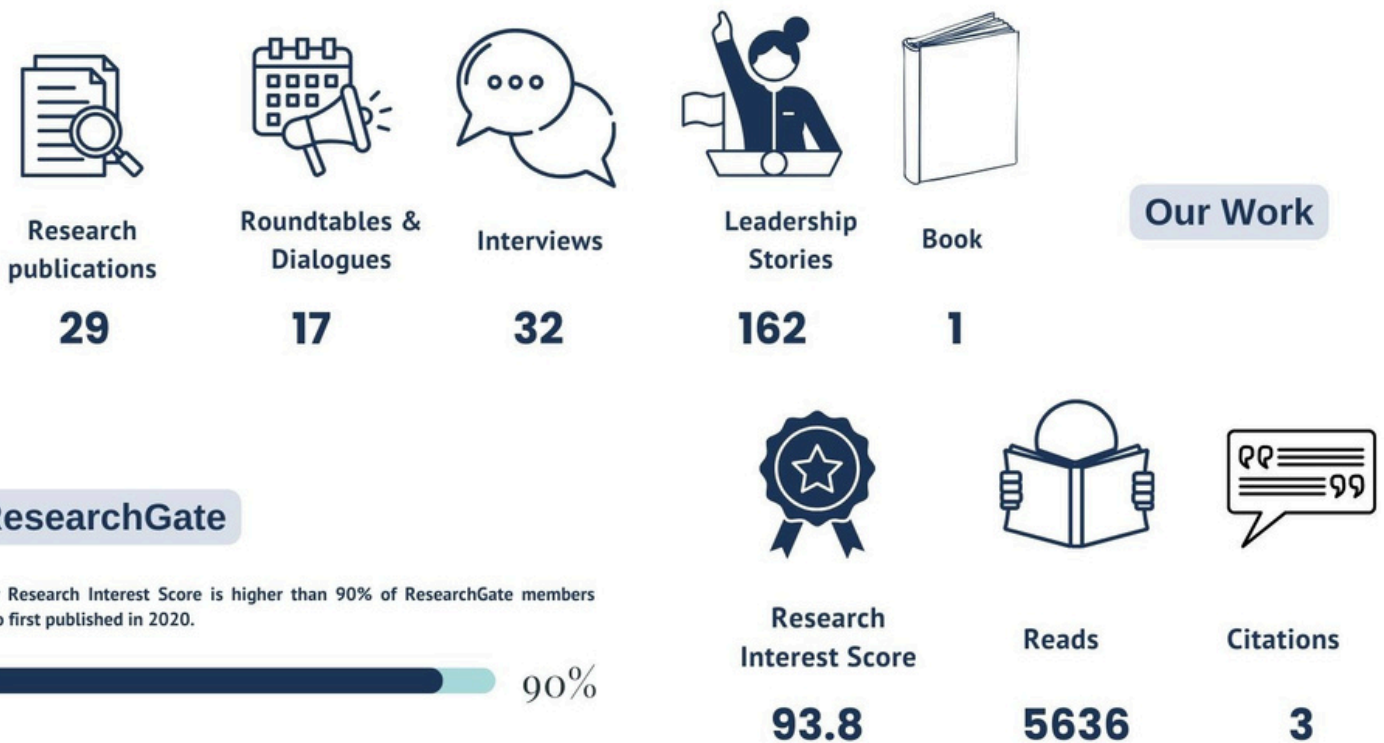
*Best regards  
Sugandha & Akhil*

# About CGAP



We are a volunteer led think tank based in India that contributes to a high-quality scholarship at the intersection of gender, politics and South Asia. We work with researchers, policymakers and the public to engage in a positive discourse on furthering gender diversity in politics with contextual nuances of South Asia as a focus. At CGAP, we strongly believe in promoting gender inclusion and diversity in politics as a means to achieve a more gender-inclusive society.

As of 2024, we have completed 4 years in operation, a significant milestone for us. During this time, we collaborated with more than 140 volunteers from around the world, including India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Maldives, USA, Denmark, and Nepal. We strive to make our resources accessible by translating them into local South Asian languages, ensuring no paywall, and uploading them on open platforms such as ResearchGate.



• as on 1st Jan 2025



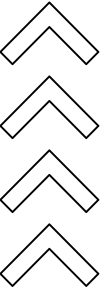
# OUR JOURNEY



Before registering CGAP as a nonprofit in December, *Women for Politics* was built by two policy professionals with an aim to promote greater political participation of women.

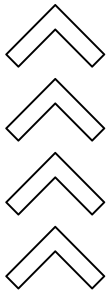
It featured two key series: 'Beyond Victims' and 'Worth Asking'. The project also established a blog, published 10 articles, organized research writing sessions, and hosted dialogues focused on women's leadership and gender-positive politics.

2020



Expanded our research initiatives and volunteer base across South Asia. We published articles and studies, released second editions of 'Beyond Victims' and 'Worth Asking', and developed a research guide to empower our volunteers. We also presented our first research on the role of women in Nepal's peacebuilding efforts and continued our dialogues in collaboration with other organizations

2021



Building on previous work, this year marked a key milestone with the publication of our first peer-reviewed research study on women's self-help groups in India, alongside a report on gender observation during Nepal's local elections. We also released the third edition of *Beyond Victims*.

2022

Additionally, we were invited to present our findings in the local language at an event in Kathmandu, Nepal. We hosted our inaugural roundtable with South Asian experts and researchers, which garnered significant readership and expanded our global reach.



# OUR JOURNEY



We published our first book, WA Interviews, and released the fourth edition of Beyond Victims. We also published a series of articles and studies ahead of elections to raise awareness and encourage further research on women's political participation.

## 2023

In addition to hosting a series of panel discussions and a roundtable focusing on South Asia, we successfully raised over 700,000 INR through crowdfunding to launch the Worth Asking podcast.

Furthermore, we were selected for the JP Morgan & Chase Force for Good program to develop an online repository for women and gender minorities aspiring to enter politics.



## 2024

We kicked off the year by transforming our Worth Asking series into an audio podcast, significantly expanding its reach. We partnered with several organizations and were invited to share our experiences and resources at local and global gender equality initiatives.

For Beyond Victims, we focused on the stories of grassroots women and trans leaders in South Asia. We also launched the CGAP Repository, an open-source platform designed to centralize and share resources on gender and politics in the region.

# Highlights of 2024



## 1. Worth Asking, our new podcast

We launched our first podcast season with 10 episodes featuring leaders from 7 South Asian countries. Interviewees include electoral candidates, governance officials, and political party members. The final episode highlights practitioners discussing the influence of women leaders as role models in inspiring women's participation in politics.



## 2. The GAP Repository is now live



We launched an online repository for aspiring women leaders in South Asia by carefully curating 100+ resources including research insights, inspiring stories, legal and compliance procedures, resources on training and leadership development, and practical how-to guides.

## 3. Core Team expansion and CGAP meetup in New Delhi!

We welcomed two exceptionally talented individuals, Ragini and Escandita, to our core team. They organized a meetup in Lodhi Gardens, bringing together volunteers from Delhi.



# Beyond Victims Series



Let's shift the spotlight from South Asian women in politics as mere victims to the powerful agents of change and leadership they truly are!

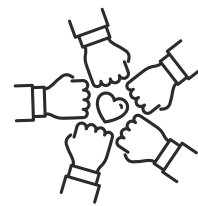
Continuing our annual series that highlights the leadership of women political leaders across South Asia, our team worked on publishing 7 editions under Beyond Victims 2024, covering the stories of 37 women leaders. A total of 6 volunteers contributed to this series.



37 women leaders

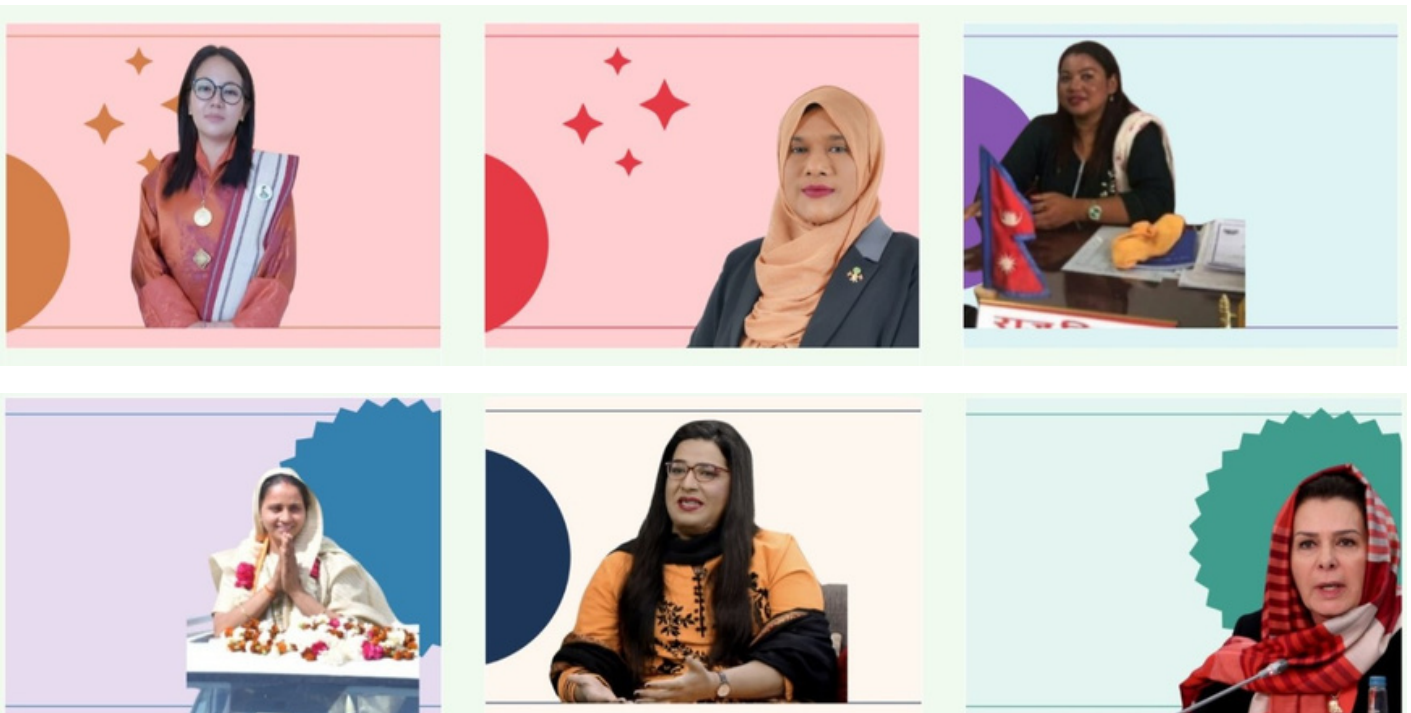


8 countries



6 volunteers

[Check it out](#)



# Worth Asking Podcast



Worth Asking is our annual series of interviews with political leaders, designed to inform and engage people about the gendered nature of politics, its challenges, and its opportunities. These interviews provide an alternative to the misogynistic descriptions in sensationalized interviews on women in politics. They are crafted carefully to bring out the leadership that the political leaders have demonstrated, be it challenging gender stereotypes or standing up for what's unjust.



- Dr. Sudarshini Fernandopulle - MP, Sri Lanka
- Dr. Fauzia Khan - MP, India
- Sobita Gautam- MP, Nepal
- Nafisa Shah - MP, Pakistan
- Sneha Padayan - Communist Party of India (M)
- Dorji Wangmo - MP, Bhutan
- Jothimani - MP, India
- Dr. Manisha Chakraborty - Socialist Party of Bangladesh
- Srividya Reddy, Educationist and businesswoman based in Hyderabad, India
- Amna Syed, Project Coordinator at International IDEA for iKNOW Politics

## Tune in on your favourite platform



Spotify



Apple Podcasts



YouTube



Our website



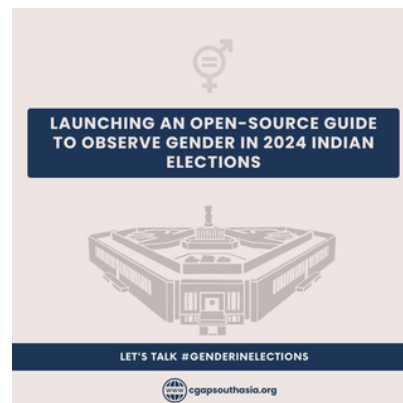
# Gender Observation Guide for elections



*An open-source guide, providing guidance and resources for observing the elections with a gender lens.*

*Who is this Guide for?*

- *Journalists covering the Indian elections*
- *Researchers analysing the elections*
- *Civil society organisations and election monitoring groups*
- *Public policy professionals and students interested in gender and politics*



*Gender Observation Guide for Indian Elections 2024*

[Download Now](#)

## Gender and Politics (GaP) Repository

*A one-stop platform for accessing a catalogue of latest and specialised resources for aspiring young women political leaders in South Asia.*

Our extensive resource pool is meticulously curated to include research insights, inspiring stories, legal and compliance procedures, resources on training and leadership development and practical how-to guides.

We are proud to have been part of the 'Force For Good' program by JP Morgan & Chase (JPMC). A dedicated team of technologists at JPMC made significant contributions to the development of the project.

[Access the GaP Repository](#)

# Research articles



## Breaking Barriers and Redefining Leadership: Women as Decision-Makers

This article by **Ragini Puri** explores the complex landscape of women's political leadership in South Asia, highlighting both systemic barriers and potential solutions.

Analysing CGAP's Worth Asking interviews, the piece examines how supportive private networks and mentorship play crucial roles in empowering women politicians. It analyzes significant themes emerging from interviews with leaders across India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, and Maldives, while also discussing the importance and limitations of reservation policies. Read the article [here](#).



## Beijing+30 Youth Blog: Safeguarding digital spaces in Indian/South Asian politics

This article by **Akhil Neelam** examines the critical intersection of technology and women's political participation in South Asia, focusing on the unique digital challenges facing women politicians. It highlights how online harassment and AI-generated threats are creating new barriers to women's political participation and outlines concrete actions for both male allies and youth advocates to create safer digital spaces, emphasizing the need for better digital literacy, protective legislation, and improved content moderation tools. Read more [here](#).



UN Women Asia-Pacific

# Recognition



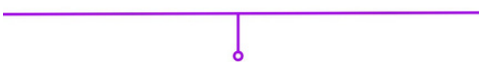
## Our interviews with Dr. Harini Amarasuriya caught the media attention as she got elected as the Sri Lanka's Prime Minister

We had the chance to interview Dr. Harini twice – first before she became an MP and then a year after her tenure as an MP.

Our interviews were among the few conversations where she opened up about her transition from academia to politics, along with her priorities for Sri Lanka.

Check out her interviews with over 10k reads [here](#) and [here](#).

They were quoted in The Indian Express, The Diplomat, Nepal Press, Harbingers' Magazine, Adadaa News, Tamil Guardian, Groundviews and more.



### Worth Asking: Gender, Politics and South Asia



Interviews on getting political aspirants to draw inspiration from the political careers of women and reflect upon allyship .

#LabLoves

## Our Podcast got featured by Godrej DEi Lab

Our podcast, Worth Asking was featured by **Godrej DEi Lab** in their newsletter “Lab Loves”.

## Shortlisted for iVolunteer Awards

We were shortlisted for the iVolunteer Awards in the “Leader in Volunteer Engagement” category. This award recognises nonprofits that harness the power of volunteers to advance their mission, and we couldn't be more proud.



# Recognition



## Our interviewees got visibility on global platforms

Our interviewee, Sobita Gautam, Nepal's youngest member of parliament participated in the prestigious Unite Network's Parliamentarians Network for Global Health Summit in Berlin.

After listening to her interview and learning more about her impactful work, UNITE has reached out to us. We endorsed her leadership and facilitated her attendance.

Similarly, UNITE also extended invitations to our interviewees from Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Maldives.



## CGAP represented at the National Youth Consultation by UN Women India & Gender at Work

The National Youth Consultation on Feminist Youth Leadership brought together young activists, leaders, and advocates for two dynamic days of dialogue and strategic planning. The consultation culminated in the development of a Feminist Youth Charter, establishing a roadmap for advancing feminist agendas across local, national, and global levels. Akhil represented CGAP at this consultation and shared insights from our work.



## Invited to share insights at UN Women meetings

We presented our work and shared our insights at various global and national events convened by UN Women as part of the Commission on Status of Women (CSW) and in the run up to Beijing+30 review, due to be held in 2025.



68TH COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN  
Pre-CSW Consultation with Civil Society Partners, India

26th February 2024, 4:30pm-6:00pm,  
Hybrid Meeting, New Delhi

RSVP - [abhishek.mishra@unwomen.org](mailto:abhishek.mishra@unwomen.org)



# Dialogues, Events and Collabs



Our focus remained on developing a regional platform for researchers and academics specializing in gender and politics in South Asia. Additionally, we took part in numerous dialogues and events to advance our mission.



## Dialogue: “Politics as a Career: Women Leaders Speak”

A part of Women's Leadership Conclave marking International Women's Day, this dialogue provided young women with a comprehensive understanding of what a career in politics entails.

It offered a platform for aspiring women leaders to gain insights into the realities of political life, straight from women who have navigated this path.

## Panel Discussion: Youth Voting Perspectives

In the run up to India's parliamentary elections, the Young India Foundation organized a panel discussion focused on youth voting trends and perspectives in the country. Akhil presented CGAP's research regarding young women and their voting preferences, alongside additional trends derived from our initiatives.

You can watch the discussion [here](#).



## CGAP joins ACTS (Alliance For Cyber Trust And Safety)

We are proud to be part of ACTS – India's first civil society-led alliance dedicated to online safety and wellbeing. With a mission to bridge the gap in digital trust and safety, where CGAP would share its experience and knowledge with others to collaborate on issues specific to the region. Learn more about the alliance [here](#).



# Dialogues, Events and Collabs



## UN Women and Dasra: Youth Bole: Ab Meri Baari

During a discussion hosted by UN Women India and Dasra, Akhil represented CGAP to explore the 'youth way' of tackling the gender and digital divide while considering various intersectionalities and marginalities.

## At the High Commission of Canada to India, New Delhi

CGAP Team received an invitation to participate in the discussion titled "Advancing Women's Political Empowerment," which was organized by the High Commission of Canada in India in partnership with the Centre for Women's Development Studies (CWDS) to honor International Women's Day.

Featuring experts from India, Nepal, and Bhutan, the event included interactive discussions and enlightening presentations.



Eeshna, our team member

# Onwards and Upwards



In 2025, we are looking forward to bringing you some of our exciting new projects as we mark 30 years to the landmark Beijing Platform for Action declaration. We hope to mobilise more volunteers and strengthen our community to contribute to making this world a better place.

At CGAP, we are actively exploring ways to raise monetary resources in the form of donations to sustain and scale our work. We acquired relevant income tax approvals to receive donations that are exempted from tax under Indian law. Indian citizens can now donate and support our work and claim tax exemption on their charity.

To donate online, click below

## **Registration and Tax Compliances:**

Centre for Gender And Politics (CGAP) is registered as CGAP Foundation, a non-profit company registered under Indian Companies Act.

More details are [here](#).



**Email: [contact@cgapsouthasia.org](mailto:contact@cgapsouthasia.org) for any queries**

Join our community of 5000+ gender and politics enthusiasts



Report compiled by Akhil and Sugandha

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