

War Enters Kitchens: Hyderabad Seminar Calls for Global Citizen Action Against Rising Conflicts

Hyderabad, April 27, 2026: In a powerful and timely seminar titled *“Humanity on the Brink through Wars and Sectarian Violence: Responsibility and Role for Citizens and Global Civil Society,”* prominent voices from across the country and beyond came together in Hyderabad to raise urgent concerns over escalating global conflicts and their far-reaching consequences. The seminar was jointly organised by the COVA Peace Network, Amoomat Society, and PUCAAR as part of the nationwide campaign **“Women Against War”** led by the Peace Builders Forum India.



The event brought together noted speakers including Prof. Haragopal, Lalita Ramdas, Sandhya, Venkat Reddy, Sarah Mathews, Evita Fernandes, Ignatious Xavier, Moor Jahan Siddiqui, Tajamul Ali Mirza, Madhu and Mohammed Afzal. Renowned activists Ram Punyani, Jill Carr Harris, and Deben Bachuspatimayum from Manipur joined virtually, while the session was moderated by Mazher Hussain, Executive Director of COVA.

SEMINAR CALLS FOR CITIZEN AGAINST WAR

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 28

A seminar on peace and public responsibility was organised on Monday by the Confederation of Voluntary Associations (COVA), Amoomat Society and PUCAAR, bringing together activists, academics and civil society leaders to discuss rising wars and sectarian violence across the world.

The seminar featured speakers including Prof. Haragopal, Lalita Ramdas, Sandhya, Venkat Reddy, Sarah Mathews, Evita Fernandes, Mohammed Afzal and others.

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Civil society urged to denounce global sectarian violence at Hyderabad seminar

A seminar in Hyderabad organised by COVA, in collaboration with Amoomat Society and PUCAAR, brought together intellectuals and activists to discuss the urgent role of civil society in denouncing wars and sectarian violence.

Hyderabad: A seminar on ‘Humanity on the Brink through Wars and Sectarian Violence: Responsibility and Role for Citizens and Global Civil Society’ was organised in Hyderabad by Confederation of Voluntary Associations (COVA). The seminar was conducted in collaboration with Amoomat Society and PUCAAR.

Intellectuals from various walks of life including Prof. Haragopal, Lalita Ramdas, Sandhya, Venkat Reddy, Sarah Mathews, Evita Fernandes, Mohammed Afzal among others underscored the urgent need for civil society organisations and citizens to actively denounce violence and wars everywhere.

Ram Punyani, Jill Carr Harris and Deben Bachuspatimayum of Manipur, joined the seminar virtually, and experts in the seminar, which was moderated by Mazher Hussain, Executive Director, COVA Peace Network, said that the closure of the Strait of Hormuz not only caused severe shortage of cooking gas but also showed a clear indication of how the war entered the kitchens.

War's Ripple Effect: From Conflict Zones to Kitchens

Speakers highlighted a stark and unsettling reality - that wars and violence, once perceived as distant crises, are now directly affecting everyday life.

Referring to the disruption of global energy supplies, particularly the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, speakers noted that shortages of essential resources like cooking gas have made the consequences of war tangible for ordinary households.

“War has now entered our kitchens,” was a recurring sentiment, symbolising how global conflicts are no longer confined to



Sarah Mathews

battlefields but are impacting basic human needs worldwide.

Global Indifference Under Scrutiny

The seminar also addressed what speakers described as a troubling global indifference toward prolonged violence and humanitarian crises in regions such as Africa, Ukraine, Gaza, and Manipur.

Despite ongoing conflicts affecting over 130 countries, widespread public engagement has remained limited — until the economic and social consequences began affecting daily life globally.

Participants emphasized that this delayed realization underscores the urgent need for proactive and sustained civic engagement.



Mohammed Afzal

Civil Society's Crucial Role

A key message that emerged from the discussions was the growing responsibility of civil society and citizens in countering violence.

Speakers warned that many conflicts are being fueled or perpetuated by governments themselves, and without sustained public pressure, the situation

could lead to catastrophic consequences for humanity.

They called for collective efforts to influence decision-makers — from local authorities to international bodies such as the United Nations — to prioritize peace over conflict.

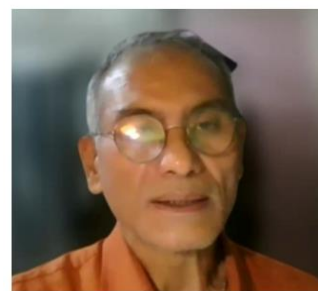
Six Key Action Points for Peace

The seminar outlined a clear roadmap for citizen-driven peace initiatives:

- Integrating discussions on war and violence into school and college programs, including summer camps
- Promoting compassion and non-violence as core educational values
- Making peace-building a regular agenda in community meetings
- Organising door-to-door campaigns to raise awareness



Venkat Reddy



Deben Bachuspatimayum



Jill Carr Harris



Dr. Evita Fernandez

- Conducting sustained campaigns on socially significant days
- Engaging elected representatives at all levels to advocate for peace

Additionally, efforts are underway to form a global collaborative initiative — “P7 Countries for Peace” — aimed at fostering cross-border cooperation for harmony and security.

A Growing National Movement

The Hyderabad seminar forms part of a broader national initiative under the “Women Against War” campaign, which is organizing 15 events across 13 states to mobilize citizens and amplify the call for peace.

Conclusion

As conflicts intensify across the globe, the message from Hyderabad is clear: peace is no longer a distant ideal but an urgent necessity.

The seminar served as a reminder that the responsibility to end violence does not rest solely with governments, but equally with informed, active, and united citizens.

The Challenge for Global Civil Society now is to Motivate and provide opportunities and platforms to facilitate people and communities who have realised the costs and dangers to assert themselves and collectively compel governments to put a stop to violence and Wars.

A Booklet of Presentations by speakers at the Seminar is available:

<https://www.covanetwork.org/portfolio/peace-initiatives/#hyderabad-seminar>

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