



## The Structure of the Centre:

The Centre functions under the auspices of Keshav Gore Smarak Trust (founded in 1958), situated in Goregaon, Mumbai.

It has a Director, Jayant Dharmadhikari and a Coordinator, Varsha Rajan Berry.

The Centre has a Core Committee comprising of Pushpa Bhave, Gajanan Khatu, Jatin Desai, Surekha Dalvi Yuvraj Mohite, Pramod Nigudkar, Amarendra Dhaneshwar and Nasreen Contractor.

There is an Advisory and Consultative Committee which includes Admiral (retired) L Ramdas, Aruna Roy, Medha Patkar, Yogendra Yadav, Kamla Bhasin, Datta Iswalkar, Vibhuti Patel, Meena Menon (India), Sherry Rehman, Karamat Ali (Pakistan), Dr. Sima Samar (Afghanistan), Nimalka Fernando (Sri Lanka) and Khushi Kabir

(Bangladesh).

The Centre was successfully launched with a South Asian Conference held in collaboration with the **Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS)** on **“Violence: A Human and Political Predicament”** in December 2014. It was attended by over 300 people and the deliberations were recorded in a comprehensive report, which was widely circulated. This inaugural conference marked the beginning of a long-term collaboration between TISS and the Centre.

The Centre, as planned during the Conference, holds a series of workshops in different regions of India and South Asia on the theme of **“South Asian Masculinity.”**

The 1st workshop was held in June, 2015 on **“Crimes in the Name of Honour”** in Pune. The workshop explored & made connections between the issues of violence, patriarchy & masculinity, globalisation and fractured modernity.

The 2nd workshop in the

series was held in Nov/Dec, 2015 in Jaipur, covering Western & North Western India. A group of over 100 people including survivors & activists deliberated on **“Emerging Identities, Increasing Controls and Violence Against Women.”**

## Yes, you can make it possible!

This ambitious project in the memory of Mrinal Gore, is possible only with the unstinted support and whole-hearted contribution from people like you, who believe that a ‘Just and Peaceful society is possible.’

An on-going project of this nature and magnitude requires a corpus fund of a minimum amount of **Rs. 4 Crores**, which needs to be collected over a period of 3 years.

We believe that socially involved and committed people like ‘us’, owe it to her and to ourselves to find ways to perpetuate all the ideals that Mrinaltai stood for.

We appeal to you to generously contribute towards

this corpus fund and help spread Mrinaltai’s ideology.

Your cheques and drafts should be drawn in favour of **“Keshav Gore Smarak Trust”** which has **80 G** certification under the Income Tax Act 1961. The Trust also has an FCRA registration.

For any queries please contact:

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## Mrinal Gore Interactive Centre for Social Justice and Peace in South Asia



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**“Every female foetus has a right to be born. Female infanticide is a crime.”**

**Mrinal Gore.**

Mrinal Gore (1928 to 2012) hardly needs an introduction. She was a firebrand socialist, Mumbai’s **Paniwalibai**. She was one of the most ardent crusaders of human rights and stood for the rights of the economically and socially under-privileged in society.

She was elected several times to the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly and was also a very effective Leader of the Opposition. She even became a Member of Parliament in the year 1977.

She was among the women who took to the streets to articulate the pain as well as the demands of all those on the margins of Mumbai. She always focused on building self-respect and independence in women in order to emancipate them from the many fetters around.

She did not limit her vision and work to the city only, but expanded it to the country and built bridges beyond it.

It is ironic that the issues Mrinaltai crusaded and campaigned for still persist in our society and call for urgent action.

She fought for good education, access to health care, rightful place for the oppressed in the socio-economic order and to end forced or willing migration to urban areas, trafficking, and various forms of violence.

Some of these issues have mutated and taken other forms. For example, while it’s true that South Asian countries have seen women rise on the political terrain, it is difficult to assess if this points to the progressive nature of their public life or do they still remain in the shadow of patriarchy?

Thus there is reason to carry forward Mrinaltai’s work and enlarge its scope in a rapidly globalizing world.

Some of us from various social movements and associated with Mrinaltai in most of her activities established the **‘Mrinal Gore Interactive Centre for Social Justice and Peace in South Asia,’** which is a fitting tribute to her memory.

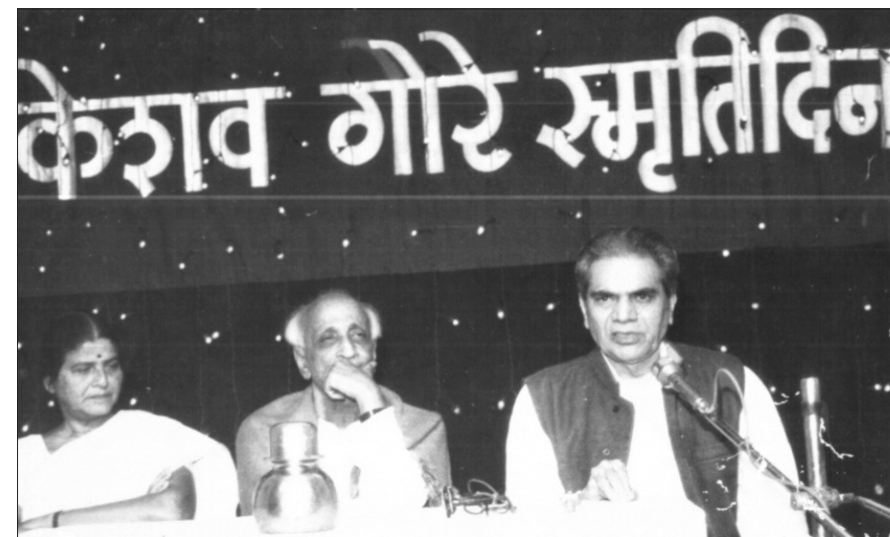
## Aims

The aims of this Centre are manifold: it provides a platform for people, groups, communities etc. to interact, deliberate on issues of socio-economic and political importance as well as undertake studies and campaigns.

In keeping with Mrinaltai’s ideologies and concerns that took root in Mumbai but went far beyond, the Mrinal Gore

Centre started its activities with a dialogue on outstanding South Asian issues.

It was in the fitness of things to launch the Centre in her memory by reaching out to people, initially in India and later in South Asia.



## About the Centre

The Centre primarily focuses on the following:

- 1) Take up the theme of South Asian Masculinity and within that debate and discuss issues like ‘crimes in the name of honour’, ‘migration’, ‘caste and community violence’, ‘fractured modernity’ etc. and its impact on society and women in particular.
- 2) Develop our own South Asian perspective on the above issues pertaining to our region and not blindly follow the western perspective.
- 3) Actively engage in monitoring the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and 1820 on Women, Peace & Security, since the responsibility does not lie with the government alone but also with civil society.
- 4) To document examples of good governance in the region and engage in capacity building to enhance participation of communities in the same.

**The Methodology:**

- Primary and Secondary research
- National and regional workshops
- Networking and interaction
- Advocacy to influence change at multiple levels
- Reaching out to vulnerable communities