

Women and Gender Rights Committee's Monthly Report

January 2025

This month, the committee focused on strengthening connections with community members through outreach and relationship-building. We reached out to members, in particular Iranian members through one-on-one conversations as well as small group meetings, creating space for individuals to share concerns, experiences, and ideas in ways that felt safer and more accessible. These conversations highlighted the importance of trust, care, and confidentiality, particularly given the sensitive circumstances many community members are navigating.

Through this outreach, recurring themes emerged, including increasing disconnection from families, concerns about safety and surveillance, and the emotional toll of isolation. Members shared fears about families becoming unreachable or disappearing, as well as worries about phones being monitored, tracked, or tapped. These challenges were identified as having a disproportionate impact on women and gender-diverse people, who face heightened vulnerability and restrictions. The outreach process itself became an important act of solidarity, affirming that community members are not alone and that their experiences are heard and valued.

Building on insights gathered from these one-on-one and group conversations, the committee organized a solidarity and awareness gathering on **January 20 from 3:00–5:00 PM in MUC 313**. The event brought community members together to reflect collectively on shared concerns, strengthen mutual support, and foster a sense of connection. The gathering provided a supportive space for dialogue, listening, and affirmation, reinforcing the importance of community care and safety-conscious organizing.

The January 20 event also incorporated creative and awareness-focused elements, including documentation and visual storytelling, to help reflect community voices and lived experiences. These materials will inform future workshops and awareness efforts, ensuring that upcoming programming continues to be grounded in the realities and priorities shared by community members.

This month's efforts will continue to emphasize outreach, listening, and solidarity, culminating in a gathering that strengthened community bonds and laid the groundwork for collective support and engagement.

Kusum Bhatta
Chair