



February 20, 2024

International Alliance of Women, Equal Rights – Equal Responsibilities is honored and pleased to extend congratulations to the Saroj Nalini Dutt Memorial Association of India on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of its founding.

The Saroj Nalini Dutt Memorial Association (SNDMA) joined International Alliance of Women in 1986 at the 27th Congress in Mauritius. IAW appreciated its work from the Mirpur Rural Headquarters, which served 100 villages in south 24 Parganas with an integrated programme of literacy, health, nutrition, child care, family planning, clean water, and income generation. With it came Aroti Dutt, who was elected to the IAW Board and then appointed Vice-President in 1989. She nurtured the Association which has National and International reach. During her time, the Association grew from three to 22 sections. She worked incessantly to improve the quality of life in the community. She felt that women have to be empowered, that they should be literate and aware of their situation and they should have a vocation which will make them self sufficient. These ideas spread through 77 Mahila Samities which work following this objective.

The seniors among us gladly remember IAW's XXX Congress, held in Kolkata in 1996 under the theme: „Equal Rights – Equal Responsibilities Beyond the Year 2000“, with a special focus on the tragedy of the girl child and the need to protect her rights and freedoms. Unforgettable days in the "City of Joy" included the magnificent inauguration at the Durbar Hall of the Victoria Memorial, shows with fascinating cultural dancing, a dinner hosted by Aroti Dutt, organiser of the Congress and a dinner hosted by the Maharaja and the Maharani of Tripura. An invitation to the Saroj Nalini Dutt Memorial Association headquarters and a boat trip on the river Ganges concluded this remarkable meeting.

The Saroj Nalini Dutt Memorial Association is currently mourning one of Aroti Dutt's successors, Sumita Sanyal who helped carry on on the great tradition of SNDMA, but unfortunately did not live to see it achieve its centennial. IAW joins you in mourning your great sister in the struggle for the empowerment of women and assures you that we look forward to another hundred years of fruitful activism. Under the leadership of its current President, Aditi Choudhury, may the SNDMA continue to grow beyond its current 24 sections with the combined efforts of all its members and support from the community at large.

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