

Research Assistant – Women, Peace and Security/ Inclusive Foreign and Security Policy

Organisation: Council for Strategic and Defense Research (CSDR)

Location: New Delhi, India (hybrid)

Duration: June 2026 – December 2026

Overview: CSDR is undertaking research for the project, 'Women, Peace and Security in India: An Inclusive Agenda'. It seeks to identify stakeholder priorities with respect to WPS and explore multi-stakeholder collaboration opportunities on the same. CSDR seeks the services of a Research Assistant to undertake research and knowledge management on WPS for this project.

Role Summary: The Research Assistant will support research, stakeholder engagement, interviews, workshop coordination, and drafting various knowledge products including the project report over the project duration. The role is suited for an early-career researcher with strong analytical and writing skills and an interest in gender, peace and security issues.

Key Responsibilities

- Conduct desk research and literature reviews on WPS, feminist foreign policy, peacekeeping, gender and security, and related themes.
- Assist in developing interview questionnaires, stakeholder mapping, and outputs documents.
- Coordinate, conduct and document Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with experts from government, armed forces, civil society, academia, and international organizations.
- Support qualitative analysis of interview and workshop findings.
- Support drafting of early output documents, workshop reports, and final project report.
- Support planning and coordination of the Expert Workshop and Report Launch Event in New Delhi.
- Maintain organized project records, databases, and documentation.
- Support project monitoring, reporting, and dissemination activities.

Qualifications

- Master's degree (completed or ongoing) in International Relations, Political Science, Gender Studies, Security Studies, Peace and Conflict Studies, Public Policy, or related fields.
- Demonstrated interest and expertise in Women, Peace and Security (WPS), gender and security, peacebuilding, or feminist foreign policy.

- Demonstrated experience in undertaking research, analysis, and writing on WPS, FFP and related themes.
- Excellent written and spoken English.
- Strong organizational and coordination abilities.

Preferred

- Prior experience in policy research, think tanks, academia, NGOs, or international organizations.
- Familiarity with the Indian foreign policy and security landscape.
- Experience organizing academic or policy events.

Compensation: Compensation will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Application Process

1. CV and Analytical Assignment
2. Interview

Assignment Question:

Choose any two stakeholder groups (civil society, academia, government, armed forces, media, research and policy think tanks) working on any aspect of WPS in India and explain how their perspectives or approaches differ. Where do you see opportunities for collaboration or partnership between them on WPS? (400-500 words)

Interested candidates should submit a CV and assignment to the email office@csdronline.com with the Subject line: <Application – Research Assistant (WPS Project)> before 17th June 2026.