

Art and Social Change: A project for women's rights in Pakistan

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Introduction

The project which I have undertaken is a multi-disciplinary endeavor that attempts to combine research and praxis in an exploration of the relationship between art and social change in the context of human rights. The project was conducted in Pakistan and its main theme was women's rights. It aimed at shedding light on the serious crisis of the oppression and abuse of women in Pakistan.

The violence, oppression and discrimination faced by women is among the most serious human rights crises in the world. The most prevalent forms of abuse of women in Pakistan include but are not limited to widespread honor killings, rape and gang rape, acid burnings, mutilations, forced marriage, forced conversions, child marriage, domestic violence, human trafficking, forced prostitution, infanticide, assault, and sexual harassment. Therefore, I found this to be a suitable theme to explore in my project work.

The project consisted of two components. On one hand it consisted of an art project which was aimed at bringing about social change, and on the other hand it consisted of a primary research study that aimed at investigating the efficacy of the art project.