



Gita Sen

Gita Sen has over thirty years of experience working for gender equality and women's human rights as a respected scholar, a skilled negotiator, and a powerful advocate.

A citizen of India, Gita holds a PhD in Economics from Stanford University. She is a professor of public policy at the Indian Institute of Management in Bangalore, India, and also adjunct professor of population and international health at Harvard University. She is on the Governing Body of the Institute of Development Studies in Sussex.

As a scholar, her book, *Development, Crises, and Alternative Visions: Third World Women's Perspectives*, written as a contribution to the UN women's conference in Nairobi is a classic that helped transform thinking on gender and development. She has published extensively, and her recent work includes research and policy advocacy on the political economy of globalisation and economic liberalisation, the gender dimensions of population policies, and gender equity in health. Her co-edited book *Population Policies Reconsidered: Health, Empowerment and Rights* has been highly influential in reshaping the population field.

Gita's knowledge of and experience with intergovernmental processes and UN agencies has both depth and range. She has participated, as an NGO representative and official government delegate, in the series of UN conferences in the 1990s including the Beijing and Cairo conferences and their five- and ten-year reviews. In these she developed a reputation for strategic vision and skilled negotiation for women's human rights. She was thereafter invited to be on the governing board of UNRISD, on high level advisory committees for WHO, on UNDP's CSO committee, and has worked closely with UNFPA at both national and global levels. She was the first chairperson of the External Gender Consultative Group set up at the World Bank after the Beijing conference. She is on the Governing Council of the UN University in Tokyo. She is presently the Special Advisor on Economic Security and Rights to the Executive Director of UNIFEM. Her approach embodies a strong belief in the importance of the different parts of the UN system working together to protect and promote gender equality and women's human rights.

She is a founder member of DAWN (Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era), a network of women scholars and activists from the economic South, and is their research coordinator on the Political Economy of Globalisation. She also provides advice and support to many civil society organizations and networks in both the South and North. She is a powerful speaker and advocate for gender equality and in her capacity as a voice for women's human rights, she has addressed the UN General Assembly and the Swedish Parliament among a number of influential sites.

Among a number of awards and honours, Gita received the Volvo Environment Prize in 1994, an honorary doctorate from the University of East Anglia in the UK in 1998, and an honorary doctorate in medicine from the Karolinska Institute in Sweden in 2003.