

Executive Director  
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IT for Change  
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## EXPERIENCE SUMMARY

Anita Gurumurthy is a founding member and executive director of [IT for Change](#) (ITfC). Through her work, Anita has attempted to promote conversations between theory and practice. At IT for Change, Anita leads research on information society studies with a focus on governance, democracy and gender justice. She also directs ITfC's [field resource centre](#) that works with grassroots communities on 'technology for social change' models.

Anita currently provides leadership to a multi-country research project [examining the conditions under which ICT-enabled citizen engagement can produce transformatory outcomes for democracy](#), with support from the Making All Voices Count programme. She also leads a [policy advocacy project](#) on techno-mediated violence against women and its implications for legal frameworks, bringing together legal experts, women's rights advocates, digital rights and free speech groups, and policy makers. From April 2017, she will coordinate, as principal researcher, a cutting edge policy research project on platform governance – exploring legal-institutional mechanisms for regulating emerging players in the digital economy, in 8 countries of the global south.

Anita recently completed a [multi-country research project on e-government and gender equality in the Asia-Pacific](#), in collaboration with United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) with whom she is currently building training modules on e-government and gender, for policy makers and government officials. She has coordinated and led comparative, multi-country research studies in the past that have explored the connection between women's rights and ICTs from a policy perspective. She set up the [CITIGEN research network](#) in Asia in 2010, which made pioneering contributions to building concepts on gender and citizenship in the information society. In 2015, Anita mobilised practitioners, activists and scholars to debate the idea of [Inclusion in the Network Society](#).

Anita is a founding member of the [Just Net Coalition](#), initiated by IT for Change, along with other key global NGOs and research scholars for global policy advocacy on Internet and development. She has been actively involved in the SDGs related discussions globally and regionally in the Asia Pacific. She is an active member of the Science and Technology Constituency of the Asia Pacific Regional CSO Mechanism. At the national level, Anita has forged connections with key actors in the policy arena to build a strong social justice oriented agenda on digital rights and democratic governance. A [coalition](#) set up in 2016, with her leadership is now working towards a national policy advocacy strategy, based on empirical research to trace connections between digitalised welfare systems and data governance.

## CURRENT POSITIONS

Anita currently serves on a number of advisory groups:

- Member, Committee constituted by the state government of Karnataka to address violence against women
- Advisor to [SciDev.net](#)

- Advocacy group of the [Post-2015 Women's Coalition](#) – a coalition of feminist, women's rights and grassroots and social justice organisations working towards the SDGs agenda.
- ITU-UNESCO [Broadband Commission's Working Group on Broadband and Gender](#)
- International Steering Committee of [Global Alliance on Media and Gender](#), UNESCO
- Expert Advisory Group for the project, Evaluating Communication for Development: a project of RMIT University, The UNESCO Chair on Community Media at the University of Hyderabad, and UNICEF C4D and the Eidos Institute.

Anita has brought perspectives of the global South into several critical global forums.

- She was the civil society [speaker at the opening session of the Internet Governance Forum](#) in December 2016, where she also addressed the [main session on human rights](#) and the Internet.
- She delivered the keynote at the COHERE conference on e-learning, Yukon, Canada, in October 2016
- She was a plenary speaker at the [International Association for Media and Communications Research 2016 conference](#) (IAMCR) at Leicester, UK.
- She was a Keynote Speaker at the 7<sup>th</sup> [International Conference on Communities and Technologies](#) held in Limerick, Ireland, 27-30 June 2015
- In March 2015, she was invited by UNESCO to be a speaker at the international multistakeholder conference [CONNECTING the Dots: Options for Future Action](#) , which aimed at identifying recommendations for responses to Internet-related issues in UNESCO's fields of competence.
- She was a discussant at the [UNPGA's High Level Event](#) on the "Contributions of the North-South, South-South, Triangular Cooperation and ICT for Development to the implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda" held in New York in May 2014.
- In March 2013, she was invited by the Swedish Government as civil society speaker on [a panel discussion](#) to follow up on the Human Rights Council (HRC) Resolution on Human Rights and the Internet, at UNHRC.
- She was a participant of the [Second Harvard Forum on ICTs and Development](#), hosted by Prof. Amartya Sen, Berkman Centre for Internet and Society and IDRC, in September 2009

In addition to continued engagement with the UNHRC, CEDAW and CSW, Anita has been contributing to the [UN processes](#) relating to the Technology Facilitation Mechanism of the SDGs. On behalf of the Post-2015 Women's Coalition, she was discussant at the [UNPGA's High Level Event](#) on the "Contributions of the North-South, South-South, Triangular Cooperation and ICT for Development to the implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda" held in New York in May 2014. She represented civil society at the UN [Internet Governance Forum's closing session](#) in 2008, and at the [WSIS plus 10 review at UNESCO](#) (Paris) in February 2013. She was part of an [UNESCAP Expert Group Meeting](#) in its [Beijing+15 process](#). She has been actively supporting the work of the [UN Rapporteur on Cultural Rights](#), and contributed to [the UN Working Group on Discrimination Against Women](#).

## PUBLICATIONS

- Gurumurthy, A., Chami, N. and Thomas, S. (2016) Digital India: Whose India? Whose Agenda?, *Journal of Information Policy*, Vol 6 (2016), pp 371-402, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.5325/jinfopoli.6.2016.0371>
- Gurumurthy, A and Chami, N. (2016) Internet governance as 'ideology in practice': India's 'Free Basics' controversy, *Internet Policy Review*, DOI: 10.14763/2016.3.431
- Gurumurthy, A. and Chami, N. (2016), E-government for women's empowerment in Asia and the Pacific, UNESCAP, <http://egov4women.unescapsdd.org/report/acknowledgements>
- Gurumurthy, A. and Chami, N. (2014) *Gender Equality in the Information Society*, London, UK: DFID

- Gurumurthy, A. and Singh, P.J. (2013) Establishing publicness in the network: new moorings for development. In: Matthew L. Smith and Katherine M. A. Reilly (eds) *Open Development: Networked Innovations in International Development* Cambridge, MA: MIT Press
- Gurumurthy, A. (2013) [Tracing the impact of ICTs on the social and political participation of women](#), *Global Information Society Watch*.
- Gurumurthy, A., Chami, N. and Saloranta, E. (2013) '[Through the Information Society Prism: Scoping Gender Equality for the Post-2015 Agenda](#)', *WICTAD Conference organised by UN Women and US Secretary of State's Office of Global Women's Issues*, Bengaluru: IT for Change.
- Gurumurthy, A. (2012) '[The big deal about the network age: Political economy conversations from the CITIGEN network](#)', think piece, Bengaluru: IT for Change.
- Gurumurthy, A. (2010) [Understanding Gender in a Digitally Transformed World](#), think piece, Bengaluru: IT for Change
- Gurumurthy, A. (2010) '[From Social Enterprises to Mobiles – Seeking a Peg to Hang a Premeditated ICTD Theory](#)', *Information Technology and International Development Vol 6 (SE)*
- Gurumurthy, A. (2008) '[Gender Equality through ICT Access and Appropriation: Taking a Rights-Based Approach](#)', occasional paper, Bengaluru: IT for Change

#### JOURNAL – SPECIAL ISSUE EDITOR

- Gurumurthy, A. (ed) (2010) [Special double issue of the Journal of Community Informatics on Gender](#) 5.3 & 6.1

#### BOOK

- Gurumurthy, A., et al. (eds) (2006) *Gender in the Information Society: Emerging Issues*, Asia-Pacific Development Information Programme, Bangkok: UNDP-APDIP and Elsevier Publications

#### RECENT MEDIA ARTICLES

- [Beyond the offline-online binary – why women need a new global social contract](#), GenderIT.org, December 2016
- [Internet governance as seen from the Right to Development](#), Open Democracy, June 2016
- [Data – The New Four Letter Word for Feminism](#), GenderIT.org, May 2016