Suicide Prevention Action for Communities

Mariwala Health Initiative (MHI) invites community-based organisations (social workers, project leads, field workers, outreach staff, and community organisers) to join Suicide Prevention Action for Communities (SPAC), an online training aimed at building long-term individual and organisational responses. Designed for 6-10 members from each community-based organisation, SPAC empowers teams to move beyond the clinical and individual lens and build a structured suicide prevention approach grounded in lived realities and structural understanding. SPAC enables organisations to form dedicated Suicide Prevention Teams equipped to support their communities through perspective-building, practical tools, collaborative learning, and rights-based support to those at risk.

Objectives:

The training will focus on building perspective, understanding social contexts, engaging in structured application practice with members, and responding at the individual and organisational levels.

The participants will engage with the following themes:

1. Understanding what suicide and suicidality are, and the connection between the personal and social.
2. Identify/Recognise risk, warning, and protective factors and prevention
3. Responding at an individual and organisational level, and connecting with family.

Eligibility:

This training is open to:

- Community-based organisations from the social sector in India.
- Staff members of community-based organisations: Social workers, project leads, outreach workers, field staff, and community liaisons of NGOs.
- Teams (6–10 members) from each community-based organisation who are committed to building suicide prevention practices with and for their communities.

Medium of Instruction: English (28th November 2026) and Hindi (29th November 2026)

Timings: 09:00 AM to 3:30 PM on both days

Dates: 28th November 2026 (Saturday) – English | 29th November 2026 (Sunday) – Hindi

Mode: Online via Zoom platform

Fees: INR 5000 per organisation (introductory price)

The English SPAC Training batch is scheduled for 28th November 2026, followed by the Hindi SPAC Training batch on 29th November 2026.

Please note:

- The training is **not** open to individual mental health practitioners in private practice or employees of for-profit organisations
- This training **does not** focus on crisis intervention or emergency response, but instead supports participants in building structured, long-term approaches to suicide prevention

Registration Link: Please click here to register!

Last date to register: 15th November 2026

Faculty:

Pooja Nair (She/her) has been part of the non-profit sector for 15 years. She has an MPhil from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences and has worked in the areas of life-skills training, curriculum development, gender, sexuality, mental health, violence and child sexual abuse. Pooja has an independent counselling practice and is a consultant therapist with Mariwala Health Initiative. She is a faculty member at their flagship Queer Affirmative Counselling Practice Course and co-author of the QACP Resource Book for mental health practitioners in India. Pooja is also the MHI Project Lead on the Queer Inclusive Health Systems Initiative, an MHI collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Government of Kerala. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Psychology of Genders, Sexualities, and Relationships at IIT Palakkad.

Smriti Mishra (She/her) is a Trainer and Training Associate at Mariwala Health Initiative, where she contributes to the coordination and implementation of training programmes focused

on queer-trans affirmative mental health and marginalisation. She is also involved in grant-making for a suicide prevention initiative for LGBTQ communities and was a member of the Paper and Poster Selection Committee for the MHI Conference. She holds a Bachelor's degree and a Postgraduate Diploma in Psychology from Krea University, where she also worked as a Teaching Assistant in Psychology. Her work is grounded in a commitment to addressing the intersections of mental health, gender, sexuality, and structural injustice.

For queries or clarifications, please reach out to: training@mariwalahealthinitiative.org