SEWA Director Reema Nanavaty receives the 2026 Hillary Rodham Clinton Award

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News

Reema Nanavaty, Director of the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), received the 'Hillary Rodham Clinton Award' of the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security (GIWPS) on 15 Oct 2026 at Gaston Hall, Georgetown University, Washington; Hillary Clinton presented it. It honours her work for the economic empowerment, livelihoods and resilience of informal women workers. 2026 theme: 'Women's Economic Empowerment: A Key for Peace and Security'. Tory Burch and Muhammad Yunus were the other 2026 awardees.

Key facts

Award	Hillary Rodham Clinton Award 2026 – GIWPS, Georgetown University
Date/venue	15 Oct 2026 – Gaston Hall, Washington
Theme	Women's Economic Empowerment: A Key for Peace and Security
Co-awardees	Tory Burch (Tory Burch Foundation); Muhammad Yunus (Grameen Bank founder)
Reema Nanavaty	Born 1964, Ahmedabad; joined SEWA in 1985; Padma Shri 2013
SEWA	1972, Ahmedabad – founder Ela Bhatt

Background

- Reema Nanavaty: postgraduate in microbiology. She led SEWA's food security programme (one million households), the 'Hariyali' green energy and livelihoods initiative, and Gujarat earthquake rehabilitation. When FAO's Jacques Diouf Award (2013) was given to SEWA, she received it on the organisation's behalf.
- SEWA: a trade union of informal women workers founded in 1972 in Ahmedabad by Ela Bhatt (1933–2022). Ela Bhatt – Ramon Magsaysay Award (1977), Padma Shri (1985), Padma Bhushan (1986).
- Economy: most Indian women workers are in the informal sector; self-help groups (SHGs), microcredit and cooperatives drive their empowerment – SDG 5 (gender equality).
- GIWPS: research institute on women, peace and security. The 2025 awards honoured 'Women Safeguarding Democracy'.

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu pioneered the women's SHG movement – the SHG approach began in 1989 in Dharmapuri district with IFAD support; after its success, 'Mahalir Thittam' was extended to all districts with State funding from 1997-98. It is implemented by the Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women (TNCDW, 1983).

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