M. (Kamaljit Bhani Malhi) (1978-2006) was a scholar, activist, and dancer. She intended her first profit month when she was one and a half years old. She started studying Bharatnatyam with Leela Samson when she was about five years old. She studied at Saint Patrick’s College, New Delhi, and Gulbarga University in Andhra Pradesh.

She graduated with first-class honors in History from St Stephen’s College. She was the Radhakrishna Mahida Visiting Student at All Souls College in Oxford University and graduated from there also with first-class honors.

Between 2001 and 2004, Meeto researched and wrote on projects ranging from the religio-political to post-Prieston Pamda to the role of parliamentarians in Indian democracy and the role of the colonial context in creating a strong identity in Sri Lanka (research that led her to spend three months with the International Centre for Ethnic Studies, Colombo). She was the first primary coordinator of SMIR (South Asians for Human Rights) and helped organize the first general convention of SMIR in New York, Rajastan in 2002, and Delhi the year after. Between 2000 and mid-2004, she worked as a programme assistant at the Ford Foundation in Delhi working on human rights and development issues.

As a dancer, Meeto performed with Leela Samson’s dance production, Arsula across India and in Bangladesh. She helped Leela Samson organize the Nari Sikkhe conference in Chelsea in December 2002. She also worked as a production assistant for a film made by Eva Weigand and Naureen Malik from the Knowledge Institute, Sweden, documenting the World Conference on Women held in Vigo in 1995.

In 2004 Meeto won the Commonwealth Fellowship and returned to Oxford University. Her pre-doctoral research, tragically interrupted by her passing away in 2006, is published under the title *The Making of Identity Formation in South Asia: the Three Essays Collectors*. As a scholar, Meeto was instrumental in the construction of identity in South Asia. Although the criteria for selection of the subject matter has often been told as a story of conflict between community, Meeto’s work demonstrated an equally strong desire to preserve the three identities as one coherent and peaceful interface. The research.

To commemorate her brief but brilliant life, Meeto’s mother, Kamaljit Bhani, has decided to institute an award in her memory, to honour young South Asians whose works demonstrate a commitment to communal harmony, peace, justice and human rights.

The Award is of India Rupees one lakh and a citation. If more than one person is selected, the money will be shared. The recipients will be invited to present their work at the award ceremony.

The Award will be announced annually in October.

The recipients of the Award will be chosen annually by a selection committee. Memorabilia and awards presentations will be appropriately published before the date each year.

To be eligible, nominees must be

- Under the age of 40
- Citizens of a South Asian country (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka)
- Working on issues of communal peace, harmony, justice and/or human rights.