



Local Futures' Statement on Travel in Ladakh and the Political Situation in Kashmir

August 19th 2019

Following the news of recent turmoil in Kashmir related to major political changes in the region, there have been questions about whether and to what extent this is affecting Ladakh, and in turn, whether or not our conference is going forward and whether it is safe to travel to Ladakh.

While the political changes are significant, our Local Futures Ladakh Project Coordinators have been in Ladakh since May and report that the situation is not affecting Leh and the situation in Ladakh is normal and calm. We therefore see no reason to warn against traveling to the region, or to change our plans for the conference. Should the situation change, we will let you know immediately.

Some foreign governments have issued a blanket-warning against traveling to Kashmir, and include Ladakh in these advisories. This is nothing new. This usually happens when there is trouble in Kashmir, even when it doesn't apply to Ladakh. Of course government travel advisories should not be disregarded, but one should be cognizant of this important distinction between situations in Kashmir and Ladakh.

We do recommend that you travel directly to Ladakh by air. Travel overland in or through Kashmir is in any case at the present time not permitted. Overland travel from Manali to Leh is still open, but we nevertheless do recommend air travel if you are able.

We will keep you posted on any changes that can affect the conference and the safety of travelers from outside.

If you have any questions feel free to contact us on info@localfutures.org.