

Beijing + 25 National Review

Accelerating Feminist Movement towards Generation Equality:  
Plea and Plans of CSOs in Nepal



BEYOND BEIJING COMMITTEE NEPAL

# National Parallel Report 2019



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# Acknowledgement



This National Parallel Report 2019 on Beijing +25 Review is an outcome of the review process led by Beyond Beijing Committee (BBC) Nepal. In the process, a steering committee was formed and a series of consultations were held. Two Provincial Reviews were held in all seven provinces, first in June-July 2019 and then in September and October 2019. Finally, a National Review was organized for validation and collection of additional data on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2019 at the Nepal Administrative Staff College, Jawalakhel, Lalitpur. Over 1,100 participants from across the country contributed to the review process. BBC would like to thank all the participants of the Provincial and National Review for providing us valuable feedback and information for this report.

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## Beyond Beijing Committee (BBC) Nepal



## Preface

I have great pleasure in writing the preface of this historical "Beijing +25: National Parallel Report 2019" by Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), entitled "Accelerating Feminist Movement towards Generation Equality: Plea and Plans of CSOs in Nepal."

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights - proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948 – articulates a self-evident truth: “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.” However, due to patriarchal and feudal mentalities, gender-based discrimination, violence against women, girls and SOGIs (different sexual orientations and gender identities) still persist at all levels - in our homes, our communities and in public life - despite the gains made in various fields for women due to the untiring efforts of human rights defenders.



As we all know, the women’s rights movement is gaining momentum globally to transform the generations-old patriarchal propensity and practices. It is engaged in the development of a new feminist action plan to achieve generation equality for peace and sustainable development. Global consensus on a new Feminist Action Plan will be achieved at the CSW 64 session, scheduled from 9-20 March 2020, which will be debated at the Generation Equality Forums in Mexico (7–8 May 2020) and in Paris (7–10 July 2020), with a mission of securing strong commitments from governments, private sectors, all stakeholders as well as the UN member states at the 75<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in September 2020, when the United Nations will officially commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action ( Beijing +25), and beyond.

Beyond Beijing Committee (BBC) Nepal took leadership in initiating the Beijing+25 review process in Nepal and organizing reviews in all the seven provinces twice and a national review to glean the gains and pains from the grass-roots and take these findings to the global level through the National Parallel report from Civil Society Organizations, in order to incorporate them into the new global action plan for generation equality to be adopted at the UNGA in September 2020.

This report is the product of the inclusive participation of over 1,100 people from all over the country with the support of the government, non-government organizations, and UN agencies, particularly UN Women. It gathers feminist perspectives, adopting the NGO CSW/NY Guideline for Beijing +25 review. It consists of eight chapters, including separate chapters on ‘The Girl Child’, ‘The Youth’s SRHR & She Decides’ and ‘A Feminist Position Paper’.

This report attempts to acknowledge the efforts made towards achieving Gender Equality, Empowerment of Women and Girls (GEEWG) in the last five years and highlights desired actions under every theme of the Beijing +25 review through the “**Kathmandu Call for Action**”, in order to fulfil the task of GEEWG as set by the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and as obligated by the CEDAW and CRC for achieving **Generation Equality**. It is a means to advocate for the achievement of generation equality in all levels of the government in Nepal.

Let us make plans for accelerating the implementation of Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls (GEEWG) further by putting it at the centre of our every effort, and by addressing intersecting issues from intersectional feminist perspectives to “Leave No One Behind”, in order to “Transform our Motherland” and make it a place for peace, prosperity and pleasure for everyone!

**Shanta Laxmi Shrestha**

**Chairperson, Beyond Beijing Committee (BBC) Nepal**

## Abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AEPC	Alternative Energy Promotion Centre
AFIC	Adolescent Friendly Information Corner
AFS	Adolescent Friendly Services
AHS	Annual Household Survey
ASRH	Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health
BBC	Beyond Beijing Committee
BCC	Behavior Change and Communication
BPfA	Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
CAWG	Conflict-Affected Women and Girl
CBO	Community Based Organization
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
CCWB	Central Child Welfare Board
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CERID	Research Centre for Educational Innovation and Development+-
CGD	Citizen Generated Data
CO	Community Organization
CPA	Comprehensive Peace Accord
CPR	Contraceptive Prevalence Rate
CQC	Continuum of Quality Care
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of People with Disability
CSC	Community Score Card
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
CWIN	Child Workers in Nepal
DDR	Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration
DWC	Department of Women and Children
DRR	Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation
DRRM	Disaster Risk Reduction and Management
DWCO	District level Women and Children Office
ECD	Early Childhood Development
EIIP	Employment-Intensive Investment Programme
ERPD	Emission Reduction Program Document
ESC	Employment Service Center
EVENT	Enhanced Vocational Education and Training
FCHV	Female Community Health Volunteers Workers
FF	Freedom Forum
FNJ	Federation of Nepali Journalists
FPP	Feminist Position Paper
FY	Fiscal Year
GDI	Gender Development Index
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEEWG	Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion



GFP	Gender Focal Person
GGGR	Global Gender Gap Report
GII	Gender Inequality Index
GMMP	Global Media Monitoring Project
GoN	Government of Nepal
GPI	Gender Parity Index
GPEDC	Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation
GRB	Gender Responsive Budget
GRIG	Gender Responsive and Inclusive Governance
GBV	Gender Based Violence
HDI	Human Development Index
HRTMCC	Human Rights Treaty Monitoring Coordination Committee
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IEC	Information Education and Communication
INC	Indigenous Nationalities Commission
INGO	International Non-Government Organization
INSEC	Informal Sector Service Centre
KEP	Karnali Employment Programme
LAPA	Local Adaptation Plans of Action
LGBT	Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender
LGU	Local Government Units
LPC	Local Peace Committees
MEDEP	Micro-Enterprise Development Programme
MEDPA	Micro-Enterprise Development Programme for Poverty Alleviation
MGOS	Major Groups and Other Stakeholders
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MIS	Management Information System
MMR	Maternal Mortality Rate
MoEST	Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoHP	Ministry of Health and population
MoSD	Ministry for Social Development
MoWCSC	Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen
MPI	Multidimensional Poverty Index
NAP	National Action Plan
NAPA	National Adaptation Plan of Action
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NDC	National Dalit Commission
NDHS	National Demographic Health Survey
NDRRPA	National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Action Plan
NEFIN	Nepal Federation Indigenous Nationalities
NFN	NGO Federation of Nepal
NFP	National Forest Policy
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NGOCSW/NY	NGO Committee on the Status of Women, New York
NHRC	National Human Rights Commission
NIC	National Inclusion Commission
NLFS	Nepal Labor Force Survey

NLSS	Nepal Living Standards Survey
NNAGT	National Network Against Girls Trafficking
NPA	National Plan of Action
NPC	National Planning Commission
NRA	National Reconstruction Authority
NRREP	National Rural and Renewable Energy Programme
NSAP	National Strategy and Action Plan
NSS	National Statistical System
NTA	Nepal Telecommunication Authority
NWC	National Women Commission
OCMC	One-Stop-Crisis-Management-Centre
OOPs	Out-of-Pocket Payments
OPMCM	Office of Prime Minister and Council of Ministers
PMEP	Prime Minister Employment Programme
PMNCH	Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health
PMT	Proxy Means Test
PWD	Person with Disability
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SGIB	SAARC Gender Info Base
SIGI	Social Institutions and Gender Index
SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
SMRHR	Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Rights
SOGI	Sexual Orientation and Gender Identities
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
SSDP	School Sector Development Plan
SSRP	School Sector Reform Plan
SWC	Social Welfare Council
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
TWL	Thought Workshop Leader
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UHC	Universal Health Coverage
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolutions
VAWG	Violence against Women and Girls
VDCs	Village Development Committees
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
WCSC	Women, Children and Senior Citizen Service Center
WCSOs'	Women Civil Society Organizations
WDP	Women Development Programs
WFDM	Women Friendly Disaster Management
WHO	World Health Organization
WMG-SDN	Women Major Group for Sustainable Development in Nepal
WOREC	Women's Rehabilitation Centre
WPS	Women, Peace and Security
WWJ	Working Women Journalists



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## Accelerating Feminist Movement towards Generation Equality by 2030!

# Kathmandu Call for Action

## Beijing+25 review

We call upon the head of state, the head of the government, the United Nations system, international agencies, and all sectors of civil society, including non-government organizations and the private sector, to heed this “Kathmandu Call for Action” and extend support in accelerating the Feminist Movement towards Generation Equality: Plea and Plans of CSOs in Nepal.

### Inclusive Development, Shared Prosperity and Decent Work

- Adopt a gender-equitable macroeconomic policy, create a supportive environment for women to achieve gender-equitable livelihoods and gender equality outcomes that are required to achieve sustainable development goals.
- Enhance feminist consciousness and human rights amongst all people to generate a sense of urgency towards addressing intersecting discrimination against women, SOGI and marginalized people, and creating the spirit of work required to achieve generation equality.
- Implement labour laws and formulate more effective social security policies and schemes, targeting working women in both formal and informal sectors for their social protection, ensuring equal pay for equal work and stringently monitoring the informal sector, including the entertainment sector, in order to promote decent work environments while ensuring women’s right to work and their rights at work.
- Direct public investment towards the reduction of unpaid care and domestic work carried out by women and the enhancement of a sense of obligation to share care work among the state and all male and female family members.

### Poverty Eradication, Social Protection and Social Services

- Focus further on alleviating poverty based on sustainable economic growth, social development, environmental protection and social justice, and the equal participation of women in all aspects of economic, social and cultural development, ensuring food security to women deprived of rights, including indigenous women and women from Dalit, Muslim, Sikh and Madhesi communities, while taking into consideration the negative impact of neoliberal economic policies worldwide
- Devise social protection schemes to reach out to subalterns, especially indigent citizens, incapacitated and helpless citizens, single women, citizens with disabilities, children, and citizens belonging to tribes on the verge of extinction.
- Ensure citizen’s right to health by ending the commercialization of public health service, strengthening basic health facilities, allocating sufficient budget for health care facilities, providing free health care services to poor and marginalized women and adolescent girls, and giving a lifetime priority to women’s mental health, reproductive health, and their special health needs.
- Prioritize the health needs of the most marginalized women, girls, and SOGI in the UHC design and delivery, taking intersectional, rights-based and life cycle approaches to leaving no one behind (including youth, ethnicity, caste and class, disability, elderly and any other marginalized identities according to the social context) to ensure a lifetime continuum of quality care (CQC).
- Promote quality and equality in public education by discouraging the privatization of public education and ensuring compulsory and free education up to high school. Create a school environment for girls



from marginalized and SOGI communities that are conducive to the continuation of their education. Broaden traditional knowledge and provide vocational training and technical education to women, creating access to the market for women and adolescent girls to establish themselves as self-reliant entrepreneurs.

- Revise the conventional perception of development, mainly the investment in physical infrastructure to focus on human dignity by prioritizing human development and building physical infrastructure that is friendly to children, disabled persons, senior citizens, and women. Interject gender discourse into higher studies and achieve gender parity in decision-making positions in all academic and public institutions to create a congenial environment for girls and provide in-depth knowledge on SRHR.
- Create massive awareness among the men, women, LGBT Community, adolescent girls and youths on sexual and reproductive health and build gender sensitivity amongst law enforcement agencies, government attorneys, judicial court officials and local governments.
- Ensure women's right to information by disseminating education and awareness on the provisions of the new Constitution, national laws and international human rights instruments, women's rights and gender-based violence in simple language, including different mother tongues targeting different communities.
- Prohibit the negative portrayal of women in media, including online and social media, commercial advertisements and other communication means by launching digital literacy to create awareness about its negative effects, enhancing women journalists' capacity to report on these emerging issues and effective implementation of laws.

## **Freedom from Violence, Stigma and Stereotypes**

- Ascertain fundamental gender equality by immediately amending existing discriminatory laws and provisions in the Constitution to ensure women's right to identity, right to acquire, provide, hold on to or give up their citizenship in an independent manner, minimizing discriminatory situations for women.
- Enact new laws and amend existing laws meeting the international standards against violence, stigma and stereotypes. Ensure effective implementation of laws to establish state proactive investigation and take stringent legal action against perpetrators; to ensure victim/survivor friendly protection services and to guarantee the safety of victims; to prevent violence based on gender, identity, caste, and sexual orientation; to prevent domestic violence against women, adolescent girls and children, human trafficking, sexual harassment at the workplace and cybercrimes, including social malpractices like allegations of witchcraft, Chhaupadi, dowry, and child marriage; to punish sexual abuse and exploitation experienced by women workers in the informal entertainment sector; to guarantee the safety and protection of women and girls and to end impunity by bringing the perpetrators to justice.
- Ratify Palermo Protocol (Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime) and devise strong national laws in line with the protocol to control human trafficking and crime.
- Practise early intervention through state policing to strengthen family and community safety nets and protection systems for children, senior citizens and people with disabilities to counter weakening family and community safety nets in the country.
- Develop and implement gender-responsive, non-discriminatory, non-stigmatizing and non-stereotyping curricula at all level of schooling to produce a non-discriminatory, non-sexist, and non-stereotypical generation of people. Achieve generation equality by increasing gender responsiveness in academia to produce non-sexist human resources required for prosperity, peace and pleasure at home, in the community and the country.

## Participation, Accountability and Gender-Responsive Institutions

- Formulate policies and strategic programs by all stakeholders and invest in empowerment, leadership development and capacity enhancement of women and girls from all walks of life, addressing the diversity among women to attain 50:50 representation in political, economic and public life by 2030, taking into account the provisions enshrined in the Constitution of Nepal for inclusive and proportionate participation in decision-making at all levels. Further, capacitate elected women leaders to strengthen leadership skills.
- Adopt a gender-responsive governance system by gender mainstreaming in all tiers of political, social and economic sectors to ensure gender equality along with the implementation of federalism in the country. Further strengthen the Gender-Responsive Budgeting (GRB) system by integrating it into the regular annual financial audit system at all levels and developing a tool to track financing at the output, outcome and impact levels of public financing on gender equality. Create a gender equality fund to finance generation equality.
- Implement gender equality mechanisms at the district level to promote gender-responsive governance through effective operation of the district-level government mechanisms, ensuring specialization, sufficient resources and the capacity to attain a gender-responsive governance system and equity-based inclusive and sustainable development in the federal system including effective monitoring and proper implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA) and Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) by all three tiers of the government.
- Appoint a chairperson and members at the National Women Commission (NWC) and equip the commission with necessary laws and policies as well as human and financial resources required for effective functioning.
- Enhance and equip the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens (MoWCSC) as well as the Department of Women and Children (DWC) with technical and financial resources to facilitate their functioning as “centres of excellence” in gender mainstreaming, gender equality and empowerment of girls and women in all sectors of development.
- Ensure Gender-Transformative Financing for Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) by allocating sufficient resources for women’s rights groups and Women Civil Society Organizations (WCSOs) who work for the prevention of gender discrimination and gender inequality to reach and boost the agency of marginalized girls and women, and to enhance WCSOs’ capacity and visibility as actors. Develop transparent systems to track public allocations made for gender equality and women’s empowerment and to track progress made (SDG 5c and Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC) 8 indicators).
- Create gender equality fund and mandate a GRB system at all levels and in all sectors, including CSOs. Make a certain percentage of fund allocation mandatory for women CSOs’ work.
- Increase public, private and other stakeholders’ investment in gender equality by creating gender equality funds and mandating a GRB system at all levels and in all sectors, including CSOs, as well as a minimum of 10% increase in fund allocation for the work of women CSOs, feminist organizations, and institutions working for women’s rights and gender equality to achieve generation equality.

## Peaceful and Inclusive Societies

- Implement the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820. Ensure meaningful participation and partnership of women in all processes of the transitional justice system. Ensure justice and reparation for the dignity of the survivors of armed violence. Re-activate the Truth and



Reconciliation Commission and the Commission of Investigation on Enforced Disappeared Persons. Put an end to the culture of impunity and strengthen the capacity of constitutional human rights institutions to fully defend human rights.

- Build awareness among local authorities to ensure meaningful participation of women during disasters and emergencies. Integrate gender perspectives in the peace process and conflict settlement involving women, strengthen women units in security forces, and increase the number of women in the hiring process.

## **Environmental Conservation, Protection and Rehabilitation**

- Acknowledge the contribution, knowledge, skills and good practices, and paid and unpaid work of indigenous women and other women as caretakers and ensure their participation, position, and benefits in climate and de-desertification action.
- Develop and implement gender-responsive, climate-resilient, desertification prevention, disaster prevention and mitigation policies and programs with inclusive participation of women throughout the process in compliance with the Sendai framework.
- Ensure women's access and control over natural resources (i.e., water, land and forest) and the benefits derived from the use of these resources in a protective, promotive and sustainable manner.
- Be serious about the climate crisis and address disaster management with gender sensitivity as agreed in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

## **Data and statistics**

- Establish a gender-responsive information management system by using gender statistics comprising of age (life cycle) and sex-disaggregated data in every category (caste, class, creed, ethnicity, geography, disability, etc.) collected from the local, provincial and federal levels in order to “get everyone in the picture”, in line with the principle of “leaving no one behind”.
- Recognize the importance of citizen-generated data as alternative data sources to address gender data gaps, qualitative monitoring, and evaluation of SDGs implementation.
- Collect data on women's domestic and unpaid care work in the upcoming census so as to recognize the economic value of their work.
- Ensure a gender-responsive digital national statistical system to ensure inclusion of data regarding women from marginalized communities, indigenous communities, sexual minorities and populations with physical disabilities.

## **National Institutions and Processes**

- Form inclusive SDGs implementation mechanisms and platforms securing meaningful and equal participation of Women Major Groups and all other Major Groups, including youth and girl children, at all levels by following the multi-stakeholder approach of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.
- Build capacity of all, including the private sector, on GESI-responsive implementation of the program, in line with Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, to leave no girl and woman behind.
- Acknowledge the importance of Major Groups and Other Stakeholders (MGOS) under Agenda 2030 and establish formal mechanisms at all levels for different stakeholders to participate inclusively and actively in the implementation and monitoring of the BPfA, CEDAW, Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

- Establish a Gender Centre to provide technical support in gender-responsive policies, plans and programs to build competencies in gender-responsive governance, budgeting, gender mainstreaming, and equality in academia and to produce a new generation of human resources for all sectors of society.
- Amend the Constitution in order to explicitly recognize the rights of indigenous women, in particular, their right to self-determination, inline with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) as recommended at the 71st session of CEDAW.

### **The Girl Child**

- End stereotypes, negative beliefs and attitudes reinforced by media and entertainment, textbooks, advertising, video games, and in all forms of communication
- Build capacities and mobilize young girls as agents of change for the new generation of gender-equal society and ensure women's active participation at all levels within every sector in the immediate future.

### **Youth, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and She Decides**

- Prioritize the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights of youth, the most marginalized women, girls and SOGI in Universal Health Coverage (UHC) design and delivery, taking an intersectional, rights-based and life cycle-based approaches to leaving no one behind (including youth, ethnicity, caste and class, disabilities, older women and any other marginalized identity according to the social context) to ensure a continuum of quality care (CQC) throughout their lifetime.
- Endorse the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH) Call for Action, "Sexual and reproductive health and rights: An essential element in achieving universal health coverage".

### **Feminist Position Paper**

- Promote feminist consciousness among youth and adolescents to advance the feminist movement towards achieving generation equality.



## Highlights of the Beijing + 25 National Review



### Inaugural Session

Beyond Beijing Committee (BBC), Nepal organized Beijing+25 National Review program with the theme, “Accelerating Feminist Movement towards Generation Equality by 2030”, at the Nepal Administrative Staff College, Jawalakhel, Lalitpur on October 22, 2019 (Kartik 5, 2076). The program had three major sessions: (a) Inaugural Session; (b) Parallel Sessions; and (c) Plenary Session.

### Inaugural Session’s Program

The session was chaired by Ms. Shanta Laxmi Shrestha, Chairperson of BBC. Hon. Minister for Women, Children and Senior Citizen Ms. Tham Maya Thapa was the Chief Guest, who inaugurated the Review by lighting an aesthetic lamp (Panas). Women representatives in their traditional attire from all seven provinces watered the BPfA Plant and 25 youths lit 25 candles commemorating the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Beijing Conference (Annex 4).

Chief Guest Hon. Minister Ms. Thapa mentioned that the new Constitution of Nepal covers all 12 critical areas of BPfA. The Government of Nepal is considering declaring May 30 (16 Jestha) as National Women Rights Day. Though women’s participation has increased in politics, there exists discrimination and differences in the socialization of girls and boys. Our society needs changes in thought and behaviour. Domestic violence is still rampant all over the country. The control of gender-based violence is possible if all three levels of the government work honestly with strong commitment. The Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens is planning to reach all 753 local government units (LGU) in the days to come. There is a necessity to design programs covering all the areas of BPfA and within emerging issues concerning women, girls and other marginalized communities.



Chief Guest Hon. Minister Ms. Thapa

Special guests at the inauguration were Hon. Member of the National Assembly, Dr. Bimala Rai Poudel, and member of the National Human Rights Commission, Ms. Mohana Ansari, both of whom made valuable remarks. Other guests speakers were members of the Inclusion Commission, Ms. Bishnu Ojha; Secretary of National Women Commission, Mr. Deependra Kafle; Joint Secretary of Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens, Ms. Rudra Devi Sharma; Deputy Representative of UN Women Nepal County Office, Ms. Gitanjali Singh; Intergenerational Feminist Forum’s Representative, Ms. Bharati Silwal Giri; and Chairperson of Integrated National Adolescent Forum, Ms. Menuka Thapa.



Dr. Bimala Rai Poudel

Dr. Rai Poudel started her speech by singing an inspiring song that gave meaning to the intergenerational dialogue. There is a need for new practices developed on the basis of existing work. She said that we are still a long way from gender equality and must walk continuously towards this goal.

Ms. Mohana Ansari emphasized the implementation of national commitments made to the local and federal levels and the importance of intersectionality. She also mentioned that demoralization is a big challenge.



Ms. Mohana Ansari

Mr. Deependra Kafle, Secretary of the National Women Commission said that the National Women Commission is



Mr. Deependra Kafle

currently without a Chairperson or members, a call-out is required to fulfil the intended function of the commission. Both the new and the old generations need to be educated on the issue of gender equality. Along with operating the helpline for VAW, Secretary Kafle stated that the monitoring of the process of meeting international commitments made is also one of NWC's mandates.

Ms. Rudra Devi Sharma, Joint Secretary of MoWCSC, expressed that the ministry has been in the review process since last year and has participated in the preparation meeting in Bangkok. She also emphasized on the need to reflect the work of the government in the CSO report.



Ms. Rudra Devi Sharma

Ms. Gitanjali Singh, Deputy Representative and Officer-in-Charge of UN Women Nepal Country Office, expressed that UN Women is committed to working together and supporting women's rights, gender equality activists and movements in



Ms. Gitanjali Singh

Nepal to achieve substantive equality. If we all work together, we can make 2020 a historic year for repositioning gender equality and promoting Nepal's inter-generational and diverse feminist movement as a global example for change. She stressed that the next generation of women and girls cannot wait. The time for action is now.

Bharati Silwal Giri, Intergenerational Feminist Forum's Representative, stressed that in spite of the strong women's rights movements that have been ongoing for decades, Nepali women have yet to enjoy equal rights on par with men. Thus, the Inter-Generational Women's/Feminist Movement is gathering further momentum to ensure women's human rights by embracing diversity,



Ms. Bharati Silwal Giri

intersectionality and inclusive democracy to redress the unjust discriminatory structures and practices perpetuated by patriarchal institutions and the environment that supports such injustices



Ms. Menuka Thapa

Ms. Menuka Thapa, Chairperson of Integrated National Adolescent Forum, outlined various forms of violence against adolescent girls, for example, abuse in public vehicles, online sexual exploitation, trafficking, rape, child marriage, exploitation of under-aged girls



by concealing their real age, acid attacks, etc. She demanded formation and implementation of programs and policies to address the exploitation of and violence against girls, efforts to stop online sexual exploitation, protection from coercion, threat, etc., where perpetrators are not protected by political power play. She stressed on the fact that, “Children are not only future, but also the present.”

From the chair, Ms. Shanta Laxmi Shrestha delivered her keynote speech. She highlighted the process of, participation in and the purpose of the Beijing +25 review process and its plans for achieving generation equality. She highlighted further and said “the commemoration of Beijing +25, and the Generation Equality Forum to be organized by UN Women in 2020, will be a diverse and intergenerational convening.” She also urged the acceleration of the feminist movement by responsibly implementing gender quality to achieve SDGs, financing GEEWG and reaching the furthest behind first in order to ‘Leave no Person Behind’ and achieve substantive equality.



Ms. Anjana Shakya, Founder of BBC recalled the first BPfA Conference, where about 150 women had inclusively participated. The women who had participated in that conference have been empowered to take on leadership roles and key positions in many fields at present.

At the close of Inaugural Session, Ms. Sushila Shrestha, Vice-Chair of BBC, gave Vote of Thanks to all participants and demanded the establishment of Women Ministry in all 7 provinces to promote gender equality and address women’s rights issues.



After the launch all participants participated in the eleven parallel thematic sessions, namely: 1) Priorities, achievements, challenges and setbacks, 2) Inclusive development, shared prosperity and decent work, 3) Poverty eradication, social protection and social services, 4) Freedom from violence, stigma and stereotypes, 5) Participation, accountability and gender-responsive institutions, 6) Peaceful and inclusive societies, 7) Environmental conservation, protection and rehabilitation, 8) National institutions and processes, 9) Data and statistics, 10) Young people’s SRHR and “she decides” and 11) Emerging issues.

The outcomes of the discussion that arose in the parallel sessions were presented at the plenary and declared the Kathmandu Call for Action.



## Chapter 1: Overview

This national parallel report is prepared from feminist perspectives adopting the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, New York (NGO CSW/NY) Guideline of working in the country's context, set by a collection of data from various sources, including the two-time provincial level Beijing +25 reviews and one national-level review, ensuring inclusive participation as shown in table 1. Altogether one thousand, one hundred and thirty-two people have participated. Presentations, group work, gallery walks, discussions and marking the responses using Tika (Colourful Round Dots) were the methods used in the reviews.

**Table 1: Number of participants by Sex, Age, Caste/Ethnicity and Person with Disability**

B+25 Review	By Sex				By Age						By Caste/Ethnicity						
	F	M	O <sub>a</sub>	T	-19	20-	36-	60+	ND	T	B/C	D	E	M <sub>a</sub>	O	ND	T
1st Provincial	225	37	4	266	25	68	163	10	0	266	137	27	70	12	13	7	266
2nd Provincial	339	94	10	443	6	201	218	10	8	443	214	49	121	40	19	0	443
National	340	79	4	423	28	144	187	25	39	423	157	25	220	11	10	0	423
<b>Total</b>	<b>904</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1132</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>568</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>1132</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1132</b>

Note: F=Female, M=Male, O<sub>a</sub>=LGBT, ND=Not Disclosed, B/C=Brahman/Chhetri, D=Dalit, E=Ethnic, M<sub>a</sub>=Madhesi, O=Others, T=Total

PWD Participation: There were Seven-participants (three in the National, one in the first provincial and three in the second provincial) with disability (PWD) in the Beijing + 25 reviews.

During the second provincial review, participants were asked to read the questions (2, 3, 5, 6, 12, 13 and 35 of NGO CSW/NY guideline) and the responses written in the flexes and then to mark putting 'Tika' (colourful round dot) in the best five responses (in their own opinion) given in the lists. The outcomes of this marking exercise are presented in tabular form in the relevant chapters ( Note: p =No. of participants and k= No. of Tika/ mark by the participants).



### Please provide an overview of your country's situation. Use data as well as case examples.

Nepal ranks 149<sup>th</sup> out of 189 countries on the 2018 Human Development Index (HDI), with the value 0.574 (2017 figure) – 0.552 for female and 0.598 for male – making the category of Medium Human Development Group.<sup>1</sup> The 2018 Gender Inequality Index (GII) places the country at the 118<sup>th</sup> position, with the value 0.480 on the index.<sup>2</sup> The Global Gender Gap Report (GGGR) 2018 ranks the country at the 105<sup>th</sup> position among 149 countries, with the score 0.671 (2017 figure).<sup>3</sup> The Gender Development Index, (GDI) calculated for 164 countries, scores Nepal at 0.925 (2017 figure).<sup>4</sup>

There is an overall improvement in poverty alleviation. The percentage of population under the absolute poverty line has decreased to 18.7 in comparison to 25.16, according to NLSS as of 2010/11. The population under the multidimensional poverty index has decreased from 35.3% to 28.6% in 2016.<sup>5</sup> The country has ratified almost all of the International Human Rights instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The New Constitution (2015) has enshrined fundamental rights for women in line with CEDAW and BPfA. Since 2015, the Legislature-Parliament has passed 141 new acts and amended 432 exiting laws. The Ministry of

1 <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/NPL> (accessed 31/10/2019)

2 <http://hdr.undp.org/en/composite/GII> (accessed 31/10/2019)

3 [http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_GGGR\\_2018.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2018.pdf) (accessed 31/10/2019)

4 <http://hdr.undp.org/en/composite/GDI> visited 31/10/2019; GoN, National Planning Commission, Fifteenth Plan (Fiscal Year 2019/20-2013/24) Approach Paper, Singh Durbar, Kathmandu, p. 206.

5 GoN, Ministry of Finance, Economic Survey (2019-2020); and UNDP, Human Development Report, 2018. <http://hdr.undp.org/en/indicators/38606> (accessed 01/11/2019)



Women, Children and Senior Citizens (MoWCSC) has been entrusted with the responsibility of functioning as the national gender machinery for gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women and girls.

The Ministry has prepared a draft of the National Gender Equality Policy, reviewed both the NPAs pertaining to BPfA and CEDAW, and prepared a draft of combined NPAs to promote Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women in 2017. Aiming to end child marriage by 2030, the National Strategy for Ending Child Marriages has been adopted in line with Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The development partners and civil society organizations (CSOs) are collaborating with the government to accomplish the goals, objectives and targets set in those policy documents.

The National Planning Commission (NPC) has prepared Sustainable Development Goals Status and Roadmap: 2016-2030, with details of national targets and indicators pertaining to all 17 Goals with intermediate milestones for 2019, i.e. the end of the 14th periodic plan; for 2022, i.e. the anticipated date of graduation from the LDC status; for 2025, i.e. the vantage point for an accelerated development phase; and lastly for 2030, i.e. achieving the spirit of ‘No One Left Behind.’<sup>6</sup>

The NPC has also finalized the approach paper on the Fifteenth Plan (FY 2019/20-2023/24) with a vision for ‘Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepalis’. The Plan incorporates ‘Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment’ into the goal of achieving substantive equality, including equal and meaningful participation of women. It intends to increase the promotion of gender-responsive budget at all three levels of the government. It expresses commitments to enforce a ‘zero tolerance’ policy against all forms of gender-based violence, discrimination, abuse, exploitation and neglect.

## Some Major Facts and Figures on the Status of Progress on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls

There is an overall improvement in socio-economic areas. Nepal has been successful in moving from High to Medium SIGI, as indicated by the Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) below. The SIGI measures five dimensions of discriminatory social institutions that span the major socio-economic areas affecting women’s lives: discriminatory family codes, restricted physical integrity, preference for sons, restricted resources and assets, and restricted civil liberties.

Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI)		
<i>Indicators</i>	<i>2014</i> <sup>a</sup>	<i>2019</i> <sup>b</sup>
<b>SIGI Value</b>	<b>0.3222</b>	<b>36%</b>
<b>SIGI Category</b>	High	Medium
<p><sup>a</sup>. Qualitative and quantitative data on discriminatory social institutions for 160 countries <a href="https://www.genderindex.org/country/nepal-2014-results/">https://www.genderindex.org/country/nepal-2014-results/</a></p> <p><sup>b</sup>. Qualitative and quantitative data on discriminatory social institutions for 180 countries. <a href="https://www.genderindex.org/wp-content/uploads/files/datasheets/2019/NP.pdf">https://www.genderindex.org/wp-content/uploads/files/datasheets/2019/NP.pdf</a></p>		

### A. Women and Poverty

<b>Relevant CEDAW Article: Article 13.</b> Women have a right to family benefits, bank loans, mortgages, and other forms of financial credit.		
<b>Relevant SDGs: Goal 1.</b> End poverty in all its forms everywhere. <b>Goal 10.</b> Reduce inequality within and among countries.		
<i>Indicators</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2019</i>
People living below the absolute poverty line (%) <sup>a</sup>	23.8	18.7

<sup>6</sup> <http://sdg.npc.gov.np/resource/2659/>

Total # of cooperatives (thousand) <sup>b</sup>	30	35
Total # of cooperative members (million)	4.4	6.0
Women cooperative members (%)	44	51
Estimated gross national income per capita, female (2011 PPP \$) <sup>c</sup>	2057	2219
Total unemployment rate (female to male ratio) <sup>c</sup>	0.74	0.72
<b>Source</b>		
a. GoN, National Planning Commission, Fifteenth Plan Approach Paper		
b. GoN, Ministry of Finance, Economic Survey		
c. United Nations Development Programme, Human Development Report (2017 figure) (www.hdr.undp.org/en/indicators/101706)		

## B. Education and training of women

**Relevant CEDAW Article: Article 10.** Women and girls should receive career and vocational guidance and have access to educational opportunities on par with men or boys.

**Relevant SDGs: Goal 4.** Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. **Goal 2.** End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2019<sup>i</sup></i>
The ratio of girls' enrolment in technical and vocational education	0.53	0.66
Ratio of girls' enrolment in tertiary education (graduate level)	0.88	0.91
Gender Parity Index (GPI) (secondary school)	1	1
Numeracy of females (reading and writing numeric terms) of 15 years and older (%)	51.9	63.4
Literacy rate of 15-24 years old (women) (%)	87.4	90.5
<b>Source</b>		
<a href="http://sdg.npc.gov.np/resource/2659/">http://sdg.npc.gov.np/resource/2659/</a>		

## C. Women and health

**Relevant CEDAW Article: Article 12.** Women have the right to family planning services.

**Relevant SDGs: Goal 3.** Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. **Goal 2.** End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2019</i>
Mortality rate, infant (per 1,000 live births) <sup>a</sup>	31	21
Mortality rate, under-five (per 1,000 live births) <sup>a</sup>	38	23
Maternal mortality ratio (deaths per 100,000 live births) <sup>a</sup>	275	239
Healthy life expectancy (rank) <sup>b</sup>	97	124
Healthy life expectancy (score) <sup>c</sup>	1.03	1.026

**Source**

- a. GoN, NPC, Fifteenth Plan (FY 2076/77-2080/81) Approach paper p.p190-191
- b. Out of 142 Countries, World Economic Forum, Global Gender Gap Report, 2014
- c. Out of 149 countries, World Economic Forum, Global Gender Gap Report, 2018

**D. Violence against women**

**Relevant CEDAW Article: Article 5.** Modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women, with goals to eliminate prejudices, customary discrimination and all other discriminatory practices. **Article 6.** Governments shall take all measures to stop the trafficking and exploitation of women for prostitution.

**Relevant SDGs: Goal 16.** Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2019<sup>2</sup></b>
Total VAWG cases reported to Nepal Police (#) <sup>a</sup>	11,503	19,462
Safe Shelter initiated by Government (# of the district) <sup>b</sup>	23	46
Hospital-based One-Stop-Crisis-Management-Centre (# district) <sup>c</sup>	15	44
Judicial Committee under Local Government Unit <sup>d</sup>	-	753
Women and Children Service Centre, Nepal Police <sup>e</sup>	N/A	240

**Source**

- a. Nepal Police Information Technology Directorate, Naxal, Kathmandu
- b. This number includes the number of Service Centers and Rehabilitation Centers the MoWCSC has established. Department of Women and Children, Annual Progress Report FY 2074/75 (2017/18)
- c. [http://www.fhd.gov.np/images/notice/OCMC\\_Program\\_Implementation.pdf](http://www.fhd.gov.np/images/notice/OCMC_Program_Implementation.pdf)
- d. Local Government Operation Act (2017)
- e. <https://cid.nepalpolice.gov.np/index.php/cid-wings/women-children-service-directorate>

**E. Women and armed conflict**

**General Recommendation 30.** Women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations.

**Relevant SDGs: Goal 16.** Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2019</b>
Local Peace Committees in all districts <sup>a</sup>	2,900	-
Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Commission of Investigation of Enforced Disappeared Persons	Commissioners appointed	Commissioners Vacant

**Source**

- a. Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction, Review of the National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1325 and 1820.

## F. Women and the economy

**Relevant CEDAW Article: Article 14.** Governments should undertake the elimination of discrimination against women in rural areas so that they may participate in and benefit from rural development. **Article 11.** Women have equal rights to work with men, which includes pay, promotions, training, health and safety.

**Relevant SDGs: Goal 8.** Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. **Goal 9.** Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation. **Goal 10.** Reduce income inequality within and among countries. **Goal 12.** Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

<i>Indicators</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2018b</i>
Economic Participation and opportunity (rank)	112 <sup>a</sup>	110 <sup>b</sup>
Economic Participation and opportunity (score)	0.547 <sup>a</sup>	0.608 <sup>b</sup>
Women's ownership of land and property ownership <sup>c</sup>	20	26

### *Source*

a. Out of 142 Countries, World Economic Forum, Global Gender Gap Report, 2014

b. Out of 149 countries, World Economic Forum, Global Gender Gap Report, 2018

c. [https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CEDAW/Shared%20Documents/NPL/INT\\_CEDAW\\_STA\\_NPL\\_32836\\_E.pdf](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CEDAW/Shared%20Documents/NPL/INT_CEDAW_STA_NPL_32836_E.pdf)

## G. Women in power and decision-making

**Relevant CEDAW Article: Article 16.** Women have the same rights as their husbands in marriage, childcare and family life. **Article 7.** The rights of women to vote, to participate in forming and implementing government policies and to join public and political organizations. **Article 9.** Equal rights with men to keep and change their nationality and to grant their nationality to their children.

**Relevant SDGs: Goal 17.** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2019</i>
The proportion of seats held by women		
(a) National parliament (%)	29.5	33
(b) Provincial parliament (%)	-	33
(c) Local government bodies (%)	-	40.5
Women's participation in decision-making in the private sector (%)	25	30.3
Women in decision making positions in public service (% of total employees)	11	17
The ratio of women to men in professional and technical work	24	28

### *Source*

<http://sdg.npc.gov.np/resource/2659/>

## H. Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women

**Relevant CEDAW Article: Article 10.** Women are to be equal before the law.

**Relevant SDGs: Goal 17.** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

<i>Indicators</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2019</i>
National Women Commission	Established under Act	Constitutional Commission
Provincial level	None	Women and Children Section under 7 Provincial Government Social Development Ministry.
District level	Women and Children Office in 75 districts	None
Local-level	None	Women and Children Section under 753 local government units



## I. Human rights of women

**Relevant CEDAW Article: Article 3.** Governments shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that women can enjoy basic human rights and fundamental freedoms. **Article 4.** Governments can adopt temporary special measures to accelerate equality for women, i.e., affirmative action. **Article 2.** Governments shall take concrete steps to eliminate discrimination against women.

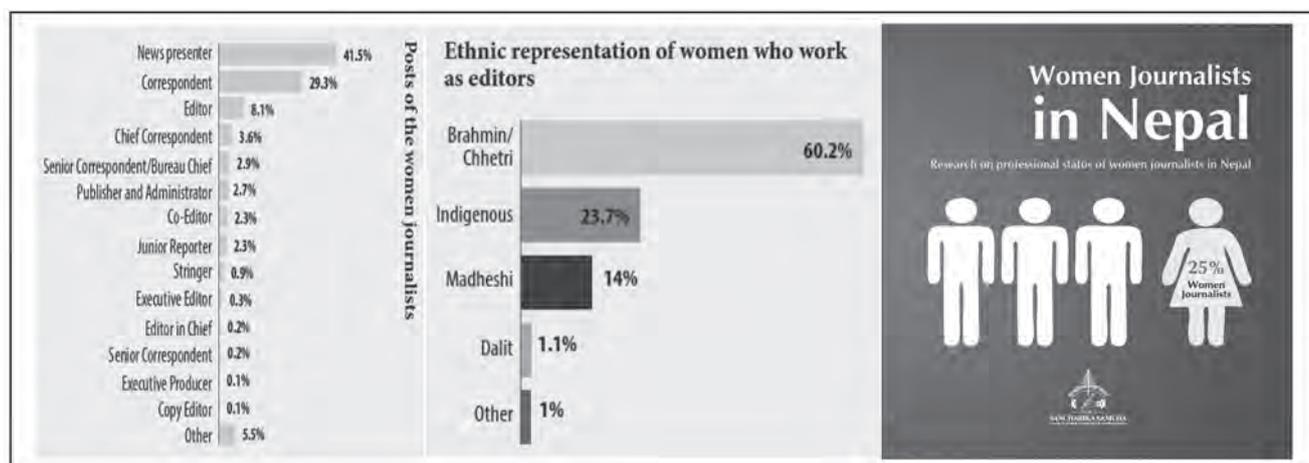
<i>Progress:</i>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2019</b>
Women's rights violation cases (#) <sup>a</sup>	N/A	3,546
Women's right to confer nationality to their children by decent <sup>b</sup>	No	Yes
Reproductive Health Right law <sup>c</sup>	No	Yes

**Source**

- a. INSEC, Human Rights Year Book, 2018
- b. The Constitution of Nepal, 2015
- c. Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Right Act, 2018

## J. Women and the media

**Relevant CEDAW Article: Article 5.** Governments shall take appropriate measures to eliminate sexist stereotyping.



**Source:** Sancharika Samuha, Research on the Professional Status of Women Journalists in Nepal, 2072 (2015)

## K. Women and the environment

**General Recommendation 37.** Gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change.

**Relevant SDGs: Goal 6.** Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. **Goal 7.** Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all. **Goal 11.** Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. **Goal 13.** Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. **Goal 14.** Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. **Goal 15.** Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, and the loss of halt biodiversity.

<i>Indicators</i>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2019</b>
Women Involvement in Community Forest User's Group <sup>a</sup>	N/A	50
Gender Priority in Disaster Risk Reduction <sup>b</sup>	No	Yes

**Source**

- a. National Forest Policy (2019)
- b. NPC, Post-Disaster Need Assessment (2015)

## L. The Girl-Child

**Relevant CEDAW Article: Article 10.** Reduction of female student drop-out rates and the organization of programmes for girls and women who have left school prematurely. **Article 12.** Eliminate discrimination against women in the field of health care.

**Relevant SDGs: Goal 4.** Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. **Goal 3.** Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. **Goal 6.** Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

<i>Indicators</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2019</i>
The legal age of marriage for girls/boys <sup>a</sup>	18/20	20
Definition of children by age <sup>b</sup>	16	18
The ratio of girls enrolled in grade one who reached grade twelve <sup>c</sup>	1.1	1.04

### *Source*

a. National Criminal Code Act (2017)

b. Children's Act (2018)

c. <http://sdg.npc.gov.np/resource/2659/>

## Targets under SDG 5: Gender Equality

- 5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.
- 5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls.
- 5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices.
- 5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work.
- 5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels.
- 5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights.
- 5a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources.
- 5b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology.
- 5c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality.

National Planning Commission has prepared Sustainable Development Goals: Status and Roadmap: 2016-2030. For the progress on **SDG 5: Gender Equality** please link to <http://sdg.npc.gov.np/data/?request&secid=19,subsecid=73,indid=270,subindid=1974>



## Chapter 2: Priorities, Achievements, Challenges and Setbacks



### 1. What have been the most important achievements, challenges and setbacks in progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of women over the past 5 years?

In the last five years, Nepal has made important progress in achieving gender equality and empowerment of women and girls (GEEWG) as guided by BPfA, CEDAW and SDGs, reforming laws and policies, restructuring governance systems and increasing gender-responsive budget allocation. But Nepal is still far from substantiating de jure and de facto gender equality in all aspects of public and private life. This section highlights the most important achievements, challenges and setbacks Nepal has faced over the past five years (2014-2019) while progressing towards gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

#### a) What are the general achievements in the implementation of the BPfA, CEDAW and SDGs?

**Transformation of the government system from unitary to federal ensuring a minimum of 33% women's participation:** After a long political transition, Nepal has become a Federal Democratic Republic state. The new Constitution declared on 20 September 2015 has envisioned Gender Responsive and Inclusive Governance (GRIG), restructuring the country into three levels of governance – Federal, 7 Provinces and 753 Local Government Units – guaranteeing a minimum of 33% women's participation in the state structure, in line with the CEDAW and BPfA. As a result of a mandatory provision in the present Constitution, the President, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Vice-Chair of the National Assembly are women. Out of the 59 members of the National Assembly, 22 are women (at least 3 representatives from each of the 7 provinces). The House of Representatives is comprised of 33% women members. Similarly, the Province Assembly and Local Governments are comprised of almost 34% and 41% women representatives respectively.

**Election Commissions' three years strategic-plan and electoral reform with a GESI perspective:** The Election Commission, a Constitutional body, has developed a three-year Strategic Plan (2016/17-2018/19) with the aim of mainstreaming GESI into institutions. Important bills have been passed for electoral reform. The Local Bodies' Election (Procedure) Act (2016) ensures 40% women representatives from each political party in local government bodies, the Election Commission Act (2017), the Political Parties Registration Act (2017) and the Electoral Rolls Act (2017) ensure 33% of seats are reserved for women. As a result, a total of 14,352 (40.96%) women representatives were elected across 753 local government units (LGUs), which is a historic breakthrough towards advancing gender equality and social inclusion in the governance system. Due to reservation of seats for Dalit women, a total of 6,567 (47%) Dalit women have been elected as Ward Members. At present, women occupy almost 97% of deputy positions in the LGUs.

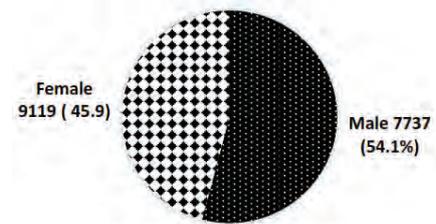
**Legal reform for ensuring fundamental human rights, gender-responsive and inclusive governance (GRIG):** After the declaration of the new Constitution, 141 new acts have been passed and 432 existing laws amended by the Legislature-Parliament.<sup>1</sup> Five new Codes, namely National Civil Code (2017), National Civil Procedure Code (2017), National Penal Code (2017), National Penal Procedure Code (2017) and Criminal Offences (Sentencing and Execution) Act (2017), have been promulgated, repealing the old National Code (1963). Thus, legal reform is paving the way for fundamental human rights towards gender-responsive and inclusive governance (GRIG).

**Gender parity in education:** Efforts have been made by governmental and non-governmental organizations to achieve gender parity at all levels of education by developing the School Sector Development Plan (SSDP 2016-2023) and Consolidated Equity Strategy (2014). Under SSDP, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST) has piloted the Pro-Poor and Pro-Science Targeted Scholarship (PPTS) in 25 districts

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.parliament.gov.np/>

to cover the lowest quintile groups in the poverty pocket areas, providing more incentives for girls.<sup>2</sup> It is estimated that 54.9% of girls received the benefits of this programme. Similarly, the MoEST initiated vocational skill-based training through Enhanced Vocational Education and Training (EVENT) (2011-2017), engaging 30% women and girl participants in different skill-based training.<sup>3</sup> The Gender Parity Index (GPI) of higher education has reached 1.09 in 2015/16. GPI across the three ecological belts are 1.06 in the hilly region, 1.35 in the mountainous region, and 1.14 in the Terai. The GPI in the bachelor level is 1.12 and at the master level is 0.96. By faculty, medicine has 1.58 GPIs, education has 1.75, management has 1.12, humanities and social sciences have 1.15, science and technology has 0.58, and engineering has 0.16.<sup>4</sup> In terms of profession, the gender gap in the teaching profession is also narrowing, as shown by the report. However, male dominance still persists in one way or another, in study and research. One example is the “Independent Verification Survey of Integrated Educational Management Information System”, submitted by Tribhuvan University, Research Centre for Educational Innovation and Development (CERID), Balkhu, Kathmandu, July 2019. The survey team consisted entirely of 27 males.

Characterization of teachers by sex



Source : <https://www.doe.gov.np/article/936/dli-verification-report-on-iemis.html>

**Advancement in Health:** In the field of women and health, the Legislature-Parliament endorsed the historic Health Insurance Bill, announcing Universal Health Coverage (UHC) for Nepali people, including mandatory enrolment of all Nepali households in the universal healthcare programme for preventive, promotional, curative and rehabilitative support.<sup>5</sup> The government launched the public health insurance plan during the fiscal year (FY) 2016-17 from the districts Kailali, Baglung and Ilam. Up to now, 48 districts have been covered. Under the programme, a family of five members can sign up by paying NRs 2,500 in advance annually and can claim up to NRs 50,000 worth of medical treatment per year.<sup>6</sup> The Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Right Act (2018) have been enacted to guarantee the health rights of women, girls, adolescents and new-borns. The law ensures access to quality reproductive healthcare services. It decriminalizes abortion up to 12 weeks of gestation, if the pregnancy poses a danger to the woman’s life, physical or mental health, or in case of foetal abnormality, and up to 28 weeks gestation in cases of rape or incest.<sup>7</sup> Safe motherhood programmes have been implemented ensuring prenatal check-ups, nutrition of both mother and child, transportation costs for those seeking pregnancy examination services and delivering babies at health institutions.

**Decent work and social protection:** The New Labour Act (2017) has been passed for provisions for rights, interests, facilities and safety of workers and employees working in enterprises within various sectors and to promote decent work environments.<sup>8</sup> The Contribution Based Social Security Act (2017) provides social security for all paid labourers.<sup>9</sup> The Children Act (2018) prohibits discrimination between sons and daughters in the matter of nourishment, education and healthcare.<sup>10</sup> The Victims of Crimes Protection Act (2018) ensures the right to justice for the victims of crime throughout the process of a criminal investigation, adjudication of cases, compensation and social rehabilitation. It reaffirms non-discrimination during criminal justice proceedings and provides special arrangements for cases related to rape and sexual violence.<sup>11</sup>

2 A study on the Effectiveness of the Scholarship provided at School Level and Identification of Measures for its Improvement (Final Report), 2074/2075. <http://www.doe.gov.np/article/643/a-study-on-the-effectiveness-of-the-scholarship-provided-at-school-level-and-identification-of-measures-for-its-improvement-074-75.html>

3 TVET Annual Report, 2075. [http://moe.gov.np/assets/uploads/files/TVET\\_report\\_final\\_feb\\_5\\_2019.pdf](http://moe.gov.np/assets/uploads/files/TVET_report_final_feb_5_2019.pdf)

4 <http://www.ugcnepal.edu.np/reports/EMIS%20071.pdf>

5 [https://hib.gov.np/public/uploads/shares/notice\\_hib/health-insurance-act-2074.pdf](https://hib.gov.np/public/uploads/shares/notice_hib/health-insurance-act-2074.pdf)

6 <https://hib.gov.np/np/detail/health-insurance-board-regulation>

7 <https://www.publichealthupdate.com/safe-motherhood-reproductive-health-right-act-2075/>

8 <https://www.nbsm.com.np/detail/122/nepal-labour-act-2074-2017-highlights-of-changes-brought-by-new-labour-law>

9 <http://www.pioneerlaw.com/news/social-security-system-in-nepal>

10 <http://www.lawcommission.gov.np/en/archives/14005>

11 <http://www.lawcommission.gov.np/en/archives/category/documents/prevaling-law/statutes-acts/the-crime-victim-protection-act-2075-2018>



**Draft Gender Equality Policy:** In 2016 the Government of Nepal, Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens (MoWCSC) prepared a draft of overarching National Gender Equality Policy to achieve substantive gender equality at all levels of the three-tiered government, i.e., federal, provincial and local. It is now in the finalization process. The draft policy substantiates the principles and approaches enshrined in the BPfA, CEDAW and SDGs. In 2017, the MoWCSC had also reviewed both the National Plans of Action (NPA) pertaining to BPfA and CEDAW. The ministry now is implementing the President Women Upliftment Programme.

**CSO Activism:** Not only the Government Sector but Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are also continuously striving towards gender equality and empowerment of women and girls. Similarly, women's rights organizations, gender advocates and women's organizations affiliated to political parties have continuously lobbied for the amendment of discriminatory laws and the enhancement of legal, economic and social rights for women.

**Meeting the SDG targets:** The 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development Goals, Status and Roadmap: 2016-2030, details the national targets and indicators in all 17 Goals, with intermediate milestones for 2019 i.e., the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> periodic plan; 2022 i.e., the anticipated date for graduation from LDC status; 2025 i.e., the vantage point for an accelerated development phase; and lastly 2030 i.e., achieving the spirit of "No One Left Behind". (See Chapter 5: Data and Gender Statistic). Under the overall coordination of the NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN), the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) founded Nepal SDGs Forum to mobilize all NGOs towards the realization of SDGs. Beyond Beijing Committee (BBC), as the convener of the women and girls constituency and the theme of gender justice, has founded a Women Major Group for Sustainable Development in Nepal (WMG-SDN), to mobilize CSOs for gender-responsive SDG implementation, and advocate for the financing of Gender Equality and rightful space of women as one of the Major Groups and Other Stakeholders (MGOS) of Agenda 2030 and its mechanism in Nepal. From the onset of the agenda, the organization is building the capacity of the government as well as non-government organizations.

**Ending VAWG and Child Marriage:** The Legislature -Parliament in 2017 enacted various laws to end violence against women and girls and protect survivors. In 2016, the GoN adopted a National Strategy to End Child Marriages, which aims to end child marriage by 2030. The GoN has named this year "Year against Gender-Based Violence" and also declared 30<sup>th</sup> May (16<sup>th</sup> Jestha) to mark as the day of "National Women's Human Rights Day" every year.<sup>12</sup>

**Gender Responsive Budget:** Realizing the importance of a Gender-Responsive Budget (GRB) and inclusive governance within the economy, Nepal started the process of gender mainstreaming in macro-policies during the 8<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan (1992-1997). GRB was introduced officially by the Ministry of Finance (MoF) in the FY 2007-08. Currently, the gender-responsive budget has reached 38.17 percent in the FY 2019/2020.

## b) What have been the violations of rights?

Due to pervasively inherent patriarchal norms and values, despite various efforts of government as well as non-government organizations, women in Nepal still face discrimination, inequality, and violence at home, in the community and in public life. Major human rights issues include arbitrary arrest and detention, beatings and torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, caste-based discrimination, arbitrary killings, interference with the rights of peaceful assembly and freedom of association, women rights violation such as discrimination, rape, sexual abuses, trafficking, acid attacks, harmful traditional practices (Chhaupadi, child marriage, forced marriage, etc.).<sup>13</sup> INSEC reports a total number of 5,110 victims of such human rights violation cases during the year 2018. Among them, 6.3% were victimized by the state, 93.7% by others, and more than four-fifth (84.2%) of the victims are women.

<sup>12</sup> <https://mowcsc.gov.np/press-release>.

<sup>13</sup> INSEC, Nepal Human Rights Year Book 2019, and US Department of State, Nepal 2018 Human Rights Report Country Report On Human Rights Practices for 2018.

### c) What work or other activities have been prohibited or criminalized for women and girls?

The followings are some of the work, roles or activities which have been prohibited or criminalized for women and girls by customary laws:

- Chhaupadi, which is the seclusion of women based on Hindu beliefs in ritual purity and impurity still continues in many parts of the country, although the Legislature Parliament in August 2017 enacted a law criminalizing this centuries-old custom.
- Children are not allowed citizenship by descent from their mothers, though the constitution guarantees equal rights to citizenship.
- The Foreign Employment Act prohibits women from seeking foreign employment and foreign domestic work without the permission of their guardian/spouse and the Government of Nepal. It is a restriction to their right to employment and their independent status is not recognized. Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Act criminalizes prostitution. The law punishes women in prostitution rather than the exploiters.

### d) What are the obstacles to enjoy rights?

**Many obstacles prevent women from fully enjoying the rights they are entitled to. Some of them are as follows:**

**Socio-cultural and structural barriers:** When economic activities and social responsibilities are defined along the lines of gender, women's rights are often influenced by patriarchal social norms, cultures and attitudes. Patriarchy and conservative social setups persist everywhere, limiting women's mobility and status in society. This is often related to the absence of support for women in recognizing their rights and fighting against discrimination for their access to and control over resources and opportunities. There is strong male resistance to women's decision-making and property ownership. It is usually the men who have the decision-making power as well as access to outside information, which means that women's priorities are often overlooked.

**Long-distance travel and mobility constraints:** The mobility of women, particularly in rural areas, is severely constrained because of geographical remoteness. They have to travel to service providers, municipality offices, ward offices and district headquarters on foot or by cycle for any kind of administrative matter. Moreover, the distance and limited mode of transportation, coupled with the burden of household work, hinder women's mobility. Women have to spare time, not just for travel between their villages and service providing offices, but also for the lengthy and bureaucratic processes to obtain services. This is not always possible for women, since they are expected to handle the responsibilities of children, senior citizens, household chores, as well as agriculture and livestock.

**Administrative and institutional barriers:** At the institutional level, women are bound to face several administrative and legal difficulties while claiming their rights, may it be for land registration/ownership transfer and certificates, citizenship certificates, or legal cases at the court. Most of the institutional barriers are related to slow service, high administrative costs, and ignorance about the documents required for completing the processes. Additionally, women also reported facing harassment when seeking services from private companies or public offices with personal questions about their families, husbands, children, and so on, which are not asked to males.

### e) Does the government have gaps in data? If so, what are these?

Yes, the government has huge gaps in data. The MoWCSC does not have an MIS as other ministries do. However, other sectoral ministries do keep sex disaggregate data to a limited extent to report annually as per their plan of action, for example, the ministry of Education produces EMIS by disaggregating students by sex. Similarly, the Ministry of Health and Population maintains a disaggregated record of patients.



**f) Is there an adequate allocation of resources for training, institutional coordination, monitoring and evaluation?**

**No.**

The Department of Women and Children was previously investing through the district level Women and Children Offices (DWCOs) to train members of Women Groups, Women's Committees and Women's Cooperatives from all 75 districts in promoting Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls (GEEWG). But after the implementation of the new federal structure in 2017, the DWCOs, which were the main gender machinery in the district, have been wiped out. The services of the DWCOs have been integrated into the local governments (i.e., Municipalities and Rural Municipalities). Their previous roles as master trainers, supervisors and mentors of GEEWG have been restrained.

Previously, local bodies were also bound to allocate at least 10% of their annual budget to women empowerment. But with the new arrangement, the local governments have become more powerful in deciding the budget allocation themselves, and now they are investing more in infrastructure (mainly roads and buildings) than in human capital, and the least amount of budget is allocated for training, coordination, evaluation and monitoring.

There are a few project-based gender studies carried out by development partners, which are erratic. There is a lack of comprehensive studies and evaluation to depict the advancement of GEEWG at the national level.

**g) What laws need to be changed?**

To fully comply with the CEDAW, CRC, SDGs and many other international instruments, in which Nepal is a party, many laws need to be changed. However, the most important ones are the Citizenship Act for equality in conferring citizenship, National Criminal Code to de-criminalize abortion, and other laws against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) to ensure victims' rights and protection.

**h) Are there public awareness programmes about women's legal rights?**

There are some public awareness programmes organized by the government. However, this is done mainly by the CSOs. There are over 50 thousand non-government organizations (NGOs) and Community Based Organizations (CBOs),<sup>14</sup> as well as 254 international NGOs<sup>15</sup> working in various awareness-raising programs including women's legal rights.

**2. Which of the following has been important for accelerating progress for women and girls in your country? (Check below)**

As stated afore in the overview chapter, participants were requested to mark the first five most important areas by putting Tika. In total, 171 participants participated in the exercise. The result is presented in Table 2.

**Table 2: Important Areas for Accelerating Progress for Women and Girls by Province**

Priority	Important Areas / Provinces	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	k	P
I	Quality education, training and life-long learning for women and girls	17	14	31	15	16	18	9	120	24
II	Eliminating violence against women and girls	6	11	25	11	13	18	16	100	20
III	Access to health care, including sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights	8	17	16	4	10	13	10	78	16
IV	Political participation and representation	8	11	20	7	9	14	8	77	15
V	Women's entrepreneurship and women's enterprises	6	7	25	7	11	9	7	72	14

<sup>14</sup> <http://swc.org.np/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/NGOs-affiliated-to-SWC.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> [http://www.swc.org.np/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/INGOs-detail-information-2072\\_073-Falgun-Masant.pdf](http://www.swc.org.np/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/INGOs-detail-information-2072_073-Falgun-Masant.pdf)

VI	Equality and non-discrimination under the law and access to justice	14	1	26	7	7	11	1	67	13
VII	Poverty eradication, agricultural productivity and food security	9	9	9	4	9	2	15	57	11
VIII	Changing negative social norms and gender stereotypes	8	9	14	3	9	6	7	56	11
IX	Gender-responsive social protection (e.g. universal health coverage, cash transfers, pensions)	4	0	14	5	8	8	7	46	9
X	Gender-responsive budgeting	10	0	14	2	3	6	10	45	9
XI	Unpaid care and domestic work/work-family conciliation (e.g. paid maternity or parental leave, care services)	6	1	10	5	5	5	0	32	6
XII	Gender-responsive disaster risk reduction and resilience building	5	5	4	0	0	4	8	26	5
XIII	Strengthening women's participation in ensuring environmental sustainability	6	0	6	2	2	4	0	20	4
XIV	Digital and financial inclusion for women	1	0	6	5	1	5	1	19	4
XV	Basic services and infrastructure (water, sanitation, energy, transport etc.)	0	0	3	0	5	3	5	16	3
<b>k = 856/5; p = 171 Participants</b>									<b>856</b>	<b>171</b>

As indicated in the table above, quality education, eliminating violence against women and girls, access to SRHR, political participation, and women's entrepreneurship have been the most important factors in the acceleration of progress for women.

### **3. Over the past five years, has the state acted to prevent discrimination and promote the rights of women and girls who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination? (Check below)**

Yes,

The state has acted prevent discrimination and promote the rights of women and girls who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. A total of 126 participants participated in the exercise. The result is presented below in Table 3

Priority	Group Community / Provinces	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	K	P
I	Racial, ethnic or religious minority women	6	13	32	13	15	14	7	100	20
II	Older women	12	7	32	10	11	8	10	90	18
III	Women living with HIV/AIDS	6	13	27	11	11	13	9	90	18
IV	Women living in remote and rural areas	8	3	30	13	3	15	12	84	17
V	Women living with disabilities	5	11	31	11	14	8	4	84	17
VI	Indigenous women	6	11	30	8	9	5	3	72	14
VII	Younger women	4	11	17	9	8	10	1	60	12
VIII	Women with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities	3	8	7	0	2	8	4	32	6
IX	Women in humanitarian settings	1	12	4	3	3	5	0	28	6
X	Migrant women	3	1	10	6	1	0	3	24	5
XI	Refugee and internally displaced women	5	2	6	7	3	1	2	26	5
XII	Other	12	1	2	0	1	5	1	22	4
<b>k = 712/5; p = 126 Participants</b>									<b>712</b>	<b>126</b>



As shown in table 3 racial, ethnic or religious minorities, older women, women living with HIV/AIDS, women living in remote and rural areas, and women living with disabilities have been the groups for whom the state has acted to prevent discrimination and promote rights.

#### 4. Have conflicts, climate-induced other disasters, or other events affected the implementation of the BPfA/CEDAW in your country?

Not really.

Nepal is a disaster-prone country. Landslide, flood, fire, drought etc. are regular phenomena. Though the 2015 earthquake and its many aftershocks affected a lot of lives, it didn't affect the implementation of BPfA and CEDAW, but rather gave birth to the forum, "Women Friendly Disaster Management (WFDM)", a Core Group comprised of a total of 8 women organizations (Beyond Beijing Committee, Feminist Dalit Organization, Forum for Women, Law and Development, Home Net South Asia, Jagaran Nepal, Media Advocacy Group, SAATHI, and Women for Human Rights), facilitated at the onset by the UN Women in Nepal. These organizations published the Women's Charter of Demand and lobbied extensively for gender-responsive Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation (DRR). BBC functioned as the secretariat to produce the charter of demand and coordinate and mobilize core members to form WFDM as an outcome of the strategic planning exercise.



## Chapter 3: Progress across the 12 Critical Areas of Concern

### 3.1 Inclusive Development, Shared Prosperity and Decent Work

#### CRITICAL AREAS OF CONCERN

A. Women and poverty F. Women and the economy I. Human rights of women L. The girl child

#### 5. What actions has your country taken to advance gender equality in relation to women's role in paid work and employment?<sup>1</sup>

As marked by a total of 141 participants, the actions taken by the country to advance gender equality in relation to women's role in paid work and employment are as follows:

Priority	Action Taken	P
I	Strengthened/enforced laws and workplace policies and practices that prohibit discrimination, including on the grounds of marriage, pregnancy or maternity in recruitment, retention and promotion of women in the public and private sectors, and equal pay legislation	30
II	Ensured the same employment opportunities for women as men, including the application of the same criteria for selection in matters of employment	20
III	Took measures to provide vocational training and retraining for women, including apprenticeships, advanced vocational training and recurrent training	18
IV	Took measures to prevent sexual harassment, including in the workplace	17
V	Provided social security for women, particularly in cases of retirement, unemployment, sickness, invalidity and old age and other incapacities to work, as well as the right to paid leave	17
VI	Strengthened land rights and tenure security	14
VII	Improved financial inclusion and access to credit, including for self-employed women	12
VIII	Improved access to modern technologies (incl. climate-smart technologies), infrastructure and services (incl. agricultural extension)	5
IX	Supported the transition from informal to formal work, including legal and policy measures that benefit women in informal employment	4
X	Devised mechanisms for women's equal participation in economic decision-making bodies (e.g. in ministries of trade and finance, central banks, national economic commissions)	4
Participants Total		141

As shown in the table above, the top four actions that were taken are: (a) Strengthened/enforced laws; (b) Ensured the same employment opportunities for women as men; (c) Took measures to provide vocational training and retraining for women; and (d) Took measures to prevent sexual harassment, including in the workplace, each of which are briefly discussed below.

**Strengthened/enforced laws:** The Constitution of Nepal guarantees the right to employment and the right to practice appropriate labour with apposite remuneration and contributory social security as fundamental rights. Accordingly, the Labour Act (2017) and other laws relating to civil service and government corporations, industrial establishments and financial institutions on personnel management ensure equal opportunity for employment, promotion, career development and training, including equal pay for equal work.

**Ensured the same employment opportunities:** Nepal has followed the affirmative action policy and established

<sup>1</sup> **Relevant CEDAW articles:** Article 11 Women have an equal right to work with men, which includes pay, promotions, training, health and safety; Article 13 Woman have a right to family benefits, bank loans, mortgages, and other forms of financial credit; **General Recommendation No. 26** on women migrant workers.

**Relevant SDGs:** 1 No Poverty; 4 Quality Education; 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth; 9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; 10 Reduce Inequalities; 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions



the “Reservation System” in public services. The Civil Service Act (1993) has made a provision to recruit 45% of the employees on an inclusive basis. Of the total inclusive quota, 33% is reserved for women. The Nepal Army Act, Nepal Police Act and Armed Police Force Act also have made a provision to reserve a 20% quota for women out of the 45% reserved positions. As a result, the current participation rate of women in Nepal Civil Service, Nepal Police, Armed Police Force and Nepal Army has increased to 24%, 9%, 7% and 5% respectively.

**Measures to provide vocational training:** The government as well CSOs are making efforts to provide skills, entrepreneurship development trainings, and microcredit to rural women. The Micro-Enterprise Development Programme under the Poverty Alleviation Programme (MEDPA) is contributing to mobilizing small credits, with special preference to rural women entrepreneurs in all 753 municipalities. Earlier Micro-Enterprise Development Programme (MEDEP) created over 130,000 micro-entrepreneurs generating over 342,000 direct and indirect jobs.<sup>2</sup> Currently, there are around 35,000 cooperatives spread all over the country with a reported 6.3 million members, 51% of whom are women.<sup>3</sup> The percentage of women holding accounts in financial institutions or with mobile money-service providers has increased from 31.3% in 2014 to 41.6% in 2017.<sup>4</sup>

**Prevent sexual harassment:** Sexual Harassment at the Workplace (Prevention) Act (2014) ensures a safe working environment for all women employees, workers and owners across public, private and non-government sectors.

**What are the issues faced by marginalized groups of women whose work or identity are criminalized or discriminated against in your country? Are domestic workers and migrant workers covered in the domestic labour laws?**

Despite the Labour Act (2017) recognizing domestic workers by providing its definition and provisioning a minimum wage, working hours, weekly and public holidays, and other benefits for the first time, there are gaps in the employment of women in the private sector. Women employees are receiving smaller wages than their male colleagues in the labour market. The Labour Force Survey Report (NLFS 2017/18) pointed out that female workers are receiving only 62% of the salary received by male employees.

The number of women employees in the informal entertainment sector is increasing day by day. It is reported that there are 13,000 women and adolescents involved in the entertainment sector in Kathmandu, of whom more than 50% are below the age of 18 years.<sup>5</sup> The women workers in that sector are deprived of job contracts and appointment letters, basic minimum salary, weekly holidays and other benefits as stipulated in the labour law. Government monitoring is very weak.

**6. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to recognize, reduce and/or redistribute unpaid care and domestic work and promote work-family conciliation? (Check below)<sup>6</sup>**

The action taken in the country as checked by a total of 156 participants is shown in Table 5.

2 <https://www.np.undp.org/content/nepal/en/home/presscenter/articles/2018/MEDPA-to-be-rolled-out-in-all-753-subnational-bodies.html> (accessed 01/11/2019)

3 Department of Cooperatives, Cooperative Statistics, <http://www.deoc.gov.np/content.php?id=296> (accessed 15/08/2019)

4 UNDP, Human Development Report, 2018. <http://hdr.undp.org/en/indicators/175706> (accessed 01/11/2019)

5 Central Nepal Hotspot, Annual Report 2017

6 **Relevant CEDAW articles:** **Article 13** Women have a right to family benefits, bank loans, mortgages, and other forms of financial credit; **Article 14** Governments should undertake to eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas so that they may participate in and benefit from rural development; **General Recommendation No. 16** on unpaid women workers in rural and urban family enterprises; **General Recommendation No. 17 (1991)** on the measurement and quantification of the unremunerated domestic activities of women and their recognition in the GNP; **General Recommendation No. 34 (2016)** on the rights of rural women. **Relevant SDGs:** **1** No Poverty; **3** Good Health and Wellbeing; **5** Gender Equality; **8** Decent Work and Economic Growth.

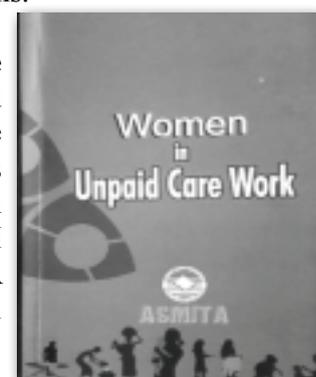
Priority	Action Taken / Provinces	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	k	P
I	Introduced or strengthened maternity/paternity/ parental leave or other types of family leave	14	20	40	16	14	18	20	142	28
II	Promoted decent work for paid care workers, including migrant workers and domestic workers	10	16	23	17	10	23	6	105	21
III	Ensured that women engaged in unpaid work or in the informal sector have access to non-contributory social protection	9	19	24	13	14	14	5	96	20
IV	Expanded support for frail elderly persons and others needing intense forms of care	10	14	20	12	4	16	19	95	19
VII	Expanded childcare services or made existing services more affordable	14	14	21	7	5	8	3	72	14
VIII	Conducted campaigns or awareness-raising activities to encourage the participation of men and boys in unpaid care and domestic work	6	12	12	5	3	6	2	46	9
IX	Introduced legal changes regarding the division of marital assets or pension entitlements after divorce that acknowledge women's unpaid contribution to the family during the marriage	6	4	14	6	2	3	2	37	8
X	Invested in time- and labour-saving infrastructure, such as public transport, electricity, water and sanitation, to reduce the burden of unpaid care and domestic work on women	7	4	8	10	1	2	4	36	7
XI	Introduced/ strengthened programmes that address the particular problems faced by rural women, including their work in the non-monetized sectors of the economy	0	0	6	4	1	10	4	25	5
XII	Adopted gender-responsive social protection floors to ensure that all women have access to essential health care, childcare facilities and income security	0	1	6	9	1	0	2	19	45
<b>k = 679/5 p = 136 Participants</b>									<b>679</b>	<b>136</b>

As shown in the table above, the top four actions taken are (a) Introduced or strengthened maternity/paternity/ parental leave or other types of family leave; (b) Promoted decent work for paid care workers, including migrant workers and domestic workers; (c) Ensured that women engaged in unpaid work or in the informal sector have access to non-contributory social protection; and (d) Expanded support for frail, elderly persons and others needing intense forms of care, all of which are briefly discussed below.

**Introduced or strengthened maternity/paternity/ parental leave or other types of family leave:** The Civil Service Act and Labour Act ensure 98 days maternity leave and 15 days paternity leave, including breastfeeding rooms and childcare facilities for lactating mothers. The Labour Act also introduced childcare provisions, including breastfeeding rooms for lactating women, restrooms for pregnant women and changing rooms for menstruating women.

**Promoted decent work for paid care workers, including migrant workers and domestic workers:** The Labour Act (2017) and Contribution Based Social Security Act (2018) are important acts that have established provisions for decent work environments for the labourers at their workplace, including domestic workers. But the legal provisions are yet to materialize through effective monitoring and regulations.

**Ensured that women engaged in unpaid work or in the informal sector have access to non-contributory social protection:** CSOs are continuously advocating and lobbying to ensure the social protection of women involved in informal care work. The Social Security Act (2018) has yet to cover non-contributory social protection benefits for women engaged in unpaid work. The national and international organizations such as Home-Nepal, SABHA, Biswas -Nepal, Plan International, Oxfam, Action Aid, IM Swedish, etc., have been contributing to advocacy and awareness activities. ASMITA has published the book “Women in Unpaid Care Work” in both English and Nepali languages.





**Expanded support for frail elderly persons and others who need intense forms of care:** The government as well as CSOs are making contributions to establish day-care homes, elderly homes, and orphanages for elderly persons, heirless persons, orphans, street children and mentally disturbed persons. The Pashupati Briddhashram (the only old-age home run by the government),<sup>7</sup> Aamaghar<sup>8</sup> for senior abandoned women, Manavsewa Aasharam<sup>9</sup> for abandoned/unclaimed homeless people, are some examples. There are hundreds of old age homes and orphanages spread all over the country. Almost all of them are run by charity organizations.

**Please explain issues faced by women living in poverty, in rural and urban settings, ethnic minorities, indigenous women, refugees, and other marginalized groups of women and girls (2-3 pages).**

Although the Constitution grants the adoption of special measures, provisioning by law for the empowerment of women living in poverty, in rural and urban settings, ethnic minorities, indigenous women, refugees, and other marginalized groups of women and girls, they still face multiple discrimination in their daily public and private life as the government as well as non-government organizations have yet to develop the capacity to address intersecting issues in line with the aspiration of Agenda 2030 to 'Leave No One Behind'.

Government data shows a 28% increase in land and house ownership by women, owing to the registration fee exemption policy. But this has been practiced only for the sake of benefiting from the exemption. In reality, exclusive property rights of women are denied by the family as well as by the court. In many instances, women in political positions, government posts or engaged in other economic activities face additional problems because their burden of domestic work has not substantially decreased.

**7. Has your country introduced austerity/fiscal consolidation measures, such as cuts in public expenditure or public-sector downsizing, over the past five years?**

In recent years, the country has seen a gradual increment in the allocation of resources to social welfare, health and sanitation, nutrition, education, scholarship for girls, social security allowances for senior citizens and widows, expansion of emergency services, and supply of essential goods and services to remote areas. However, the increase in public expenditure has not reached all marginalized women and SOGIs, and a comprehensive study on the impact of public expenditure on gender-sensitive social protection is yet to be carried out.

### 3.2 Poverty Eradication, Social Protection and Social Services

#### CRITICAL AREAS OF CONCERN

A. Women and poverty B. Education and training of Women C. Women and health I. Human rights of women L. The girl child

**8. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to reduce/eradicate poverty among women and girls?**

Promoted poor women's access to decent work through active labour market policies (e.g. job training, skills, employment subsidies, etc.) and targeted measures: Poor Household Identification Program has been completed in 26 selected districts, covering 1,224,416 households, of which 356,418 had initially been identified as multi-dimensionally poor.

The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) has also been prepared by NPC, showing 28.6% of the population under multi-dimensional poverty. The Nepal MPI is also disaggregated by the newly formed seven provinces.

7 <http://www.himalayancarehandsnepal.org/briddhashram-elderly-home/>

8 <http://bossnepal.com/dil-shova-shresthas-aama-ko-ghar/>

9 <https://www.manavsewaashram.org/>

The rural-urban divide is evident, with 7% of the urban population and 33% of the rural population being multi-dimensionally poor. This data is helpful in designing pro-poor interventions. The NLFS 2017/18 depicts 65.7% of Nepali women are engaged in subsistence farming and household works. The involvement of girls accounts for 47.5%. From the report, it is also evident that there is a change in women's occupation. They are now increasingly entering the formal labour market. While males are engaged in construction, manufacturing and transport industries, females are more involved in agro products, forestry and fisheries (33%), wholesale and retail trade (20.6%), education services (9.6%), human health and social activities (3.5%), home-stay and food services (6.3%), and financial and insurance activities (2.1%). The promotion of women technicians, professionals and managers have also increased over the years (13%). The government has implemented the President Women's Upliftment Programme, Prime Minister Employment, PAF, and MEDPA. These programmes have become crucial in involving rural women and adolescents in the value chains, providing technical and vocational training for cottage industry, handicraft, agro-business, livestock development, food processing, and computer and new technology. CSOs and community organizations are also contributing to implementing income-generating activities and entrepreneurship development.

**Supported women's entrepreneurship and business development activities:** MEDEP and MEDPA programs have created 73,995 Micro-Entrepreneurs (MEs). Among them, 23,680 were graduates, 17,815 became resilient and 1,211 upgraded their enterprises to Small and Medium Enterprises (SME). Between the periods of 2010 to 2018, they created 54,286 micro-entrepreneurs, out of which 43,459 (80%) are women (12,562 Dalit women, 16,885 Janajati women, and 9,053 Madhesi women).

Cooperatives are also strengthening the micro-entrepreneurship of rural women. Currently, there are around 35,000 cooperatives spread all over the country, with a reported 6.3 million members, over half of whom (51%) are women.

Out of the total cooperatives, there are 1,924 Women's Cooperatives initiated by Women and Children Department under Women Development Programme, spread over all 77 districts and 752 municipalities. All 1,189,000 members are women. Among them 15% belong to the Dalit community, 35% indigenous/ethnic community, and 50% to others.

**Introduced or strengthened social protection programmes for women and girls (e.g. cash transfers for women with children, public works/employment guarantee schemes for women of working-age, pensions for older women):** The Social Security Act (2018) classifies eight different groups, who are entitled to social security benefits. They are senior citizens, economically deprived communities, incapable and helpless persons, helpless single women, PWD, children, and others incapable of taking care of themselves. Nevertheless, elderly people, especially women, do not have money at their disposal. Likewise, the intersectionality of women with disabilities and Dalit women has not been sufficiently addressed when providing social benefits. Please describe how poverty among women and girls in your country is linked to socio-cultural traditional gender roles, gender stereotypes, and how their access to education, health and other social services affects their poverty.

The data mentioned above demonstrates that despite all efforts, women from the economically poor and socially disadvantaged groups, including women with disabilities, old aged women, women affected by HIV/AIDS and SOGI are not able to receive expected benefits from the poverty alleviation and income-generating programmes. Subaltern women are left out in the government or non-government interventions. Adolescent girls who have received vocational education and technical training are facing problems in getting support from their family for capital investments and loans. Women and girls have to stay within the boundaries of wife, sister, daughter or daughter-in-law; and cannot enjoy independent lives because of family restriction and control. They have to face social stigma if they wish to travel far from home and run their own business. The majority of Nepali women and girls are compelled to indulge in traditional gender roles. Women are lagging behind in respect to new and non-traditional businesses. Skills, investment and participation of women are dominated by gender stereotypes. As a result, they are losing the competency demanded by the new business market trend. In addition, girls and young women face numerous challenges in their everyday lives, ranging from the ill-effects of early marriage to psychological and sexual violence, fewer opportunities in the workspace owing to superstitions and societal traditions that always seem to place women and girls in lower strata.



## 9. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to improve access to social protection for women and girls?

### **Introduced and strengthened social protection for unemployed women (e.g. unemployment benefits, public works programmes, social assistance):**

The government has commenced the Prime Minister Employment Programme (PMEP) in 2018 to cover unemployed people between 18 to 59 years of age. The programme is being implemented by federal, provincial, and local governments, establishing an Employment Service Centre (ESC) in each local government unit to improve the living standards of women and men living below the poverty line. Targeting poverty-stricken rural populations in remote districts, the Karnali Employment Programme (KEP) and Employment-Intensive Investment Programme (EIIP) are other initiatives jointly undertaken by the government and development partners for public works, combined with the objectives of providing social protection through short term payments through the involvement of the private sector and strengthening local government bodies. In terms of employment creation, especially for women, the quality of output and the level and regularity of payments made to employees in the public work programmes often underperform, with limited achievements. They also lack gender-specific impact studies and audits.

### **Reformed contributory social protection schemes to strengthen women's access and benefit levels:**

The Contribution Based Social Security program is in operation as per the Contributions Based Social Security Act (2017). It has provisioned the establishment of a Social Security Fund, with various welfare schemes. Since majority of the women and girls are involved in informal domestic work, care economy and entertainment/hospitality sector, they are far from getting benefits that the Contribution Based Social Security Act has provisioned. They are unaware of their legal rights.

## 10. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to improve health outcomes for women and girls in your country?

### **Promoted women's access to health services through expansion of universal health coverage or public health services:**

The Government of Nepal (GoN) has made efforts to promote women's access to health services through the expansion of universal health coverage or public health services. The Nepal Health Sector Strategy (2015-2020) that articulates the nation's commitment towards achieving universal health coverage identifies equity and quality of care gaps as areas of concern in achieving the maternal health sustainable development goal (SDG) and gives guidance for improving quality of care, equitable distribution of health services and utilization and universal health coverage with better financing mechanisms to reduce financial hardship and out-of-pocket expenditure for ill health. As of June 2019, the Public Health Insurance Plan has been rolled out to 42 out of 77 districts in the country. The plan is expected to cover all the districts by the current fiscal year 2019/20.

### **Situation of Reproductive Health among the Majhi and Musharhar of Mahottari**

The majority of the women in these communities give birth at home. Lately, only a few pregnant women have started going to the health post. As many are married at the age of 13-14, the problem of excessive bleeding during childbirth is frequent. But locals are not aware of any government body and organization hosting a programme on reproductive health in the locality. According to records of the District Hospital, Jaleswar, of the 777 women who gave birth at the hospital in the past six months, only 18 were Musahar women.

### **Health Situation of the Majhi Community in Panchthar District**

Lifestyle, food habits, treatment methods etc. leave the Majhi community in poor health conditions. Due to a lack of clean drinking water, the Majhi people suffer from various diseases. Also, as there is no separate kitchen in their homes, smoke and dust have adverse impacts, especially on the health of women. If anyone falls sick in their community, they prefer to visit a shaman/faith healer instead of going for modern medical treatment. Likewise, only a few married women and men in the community use family planning methods. As a result, Majhi women's health condition is poor, and the majority of them live in joint families.

*Source: [https://www.insec.org.np/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/RS54479\\_RS54479\\_nepal-Human-Rights-yearbook-2018-eng.pdf](https://www.insec.org.np/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/RS54479_RS54479_nepal-Human-Rights-yearbook-2018-eng.pdf)*

Currently, 1.65 million people are enrolled in the scheme, out of which 53% are women. Out of 500,000 users of the scheme so far, 58% are women. Primary health care outreach clinics are organized every month at fixed locations to extend basic healthcare services to communities and remote areas, basically to cover marginalized people. More than 50,000 female community health volunteers all over the country, especially in rural areas, facilitate safe motherhood for pregnant women, vaccinations, and community-based health promotion. As the Sustainable Development Goal's target 3.8 calls for universal health coverage, consisting of both access to good-quality health-care services and financial risk protection, Nepal's health system is geared up to achieve SDG 3 targets. Despite the efforts made both by the government and the non-government organizations, the situation of reproductive health is still grim for disadvantaged communities like Majhi, Mushahar, and many others.

**Expanded specific health services for women and adolescent girls, including sexual and reproductive health services, mental, maternal health, and HIV services:** GoN implemented the HIV Investment Plan

“We are responsible for lawmaking. Federalism is an opportunity for us to enact Province-specific laws. The time has come to integrate the major principles of the Programme of Action agreed at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in relevant provincial laws to ensure access of women living in the eight districts of our Province to reproductive health and rights, promote their empowerment, and educate girls” said Parliamentarian Manju Yadav.



She further added, “If you look at indicators, Province 2 is faring poorly. This calls for tough laws and their effective implementation as well as good investments.” Nearly one in three women experience physical or sexual violence in her lifetime in Province 2. Unmet need for family planning among currently married women age 15-49 in the province is 20.6% and less than half of the deliveries are conducted by skilled health providers. She further emphasized that Nepal is a signatory to many international instruments and conventions such as the Sustainable Development Goals, the ICPD Programme of Action, and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and that now is the opportunity to demonstrate accountability in their implementation.

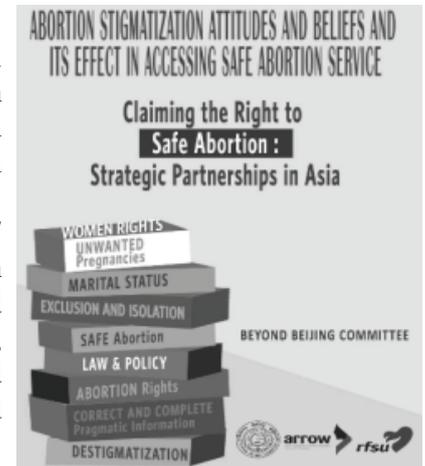
*Source: <https://nepal.unfpa.org/en/news/province-2-lawmakers-pledge-work-reproductive-health-and-rights>*

2014-2016 to address sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS and sexual and reproductive health issues. Reducing unmet need for contraceptives, the National Family Planning Costed Implementation Plan (2015-2020) has been developed. Similarly, the GoN endorsed the country's Every New-born Action Plan (2016-2035), setting a vision for the country “in which there are no preventable deaths of new-borns or stillbirths, where every pregnancy is wanted, every birth celebrated, and women, babies and children survive, thrive and reach their full potential.” The ground breaking Safe motherhood and Reproductive Health Right Act 2018 upholds and explicitly protects the health rights of women, girls, adolescents and new-borns and ensures access to quality reproductive healthcare services. The Public Health Act (2018) has also been enacted, focusing on integrated service provision for reproductive, child and maternal health, with an emphasis on the quality of care and the strengthening of referral mechanisms. The Multi-Sector Nutritional Plan II, 2018-22 targets children, teenaged girls, pregnant women and breast-feeding mothers in low-income groups. The new Nepal's Safe Motherhood and New-born Health Programme Road Map 2030 focuses on ending preventable maternal and new-born deaths by building on the successes of the safe motherhood and new-born health programmes, and addressing the remaining challenges, especially around strengthening community health system platforms and improving institutional quality of care in an equitable manner. The revised National Adolescent and Development Strategy 2019 focus on addressing the needs of emerging issues faced by adolescents in the changing context that aims to promote sexual and reproductive health of adolescents and end child marriage.



**Undertaken gender-specific public awareness/health promotion campaigns:** The government and CSOs are investing in launching women's health campaigns and gender-based awareness programmes and providing training on gender-sensitive services for health workers. Sexual and reproductive health education is being provided in communities and schools through various government and non-government programmes. Despite the fact that many actions have been taken, there are many challenges that hinder women's access to health. Lack of access to basic maternal healthcare, difficult geographical terrain, poorly developed transportation and communication systems, poverty, illiteracy, women's low status in the society, political conflict, shortage of health care professionals, and underutilization of currently available services are major challenges to improving women's health in Nepal.

**Strengthened comprehensive sexuality education in schools or through community programmes:** The GoN's School Sector Development Plan (2017-2022) has included the importance of comprehensive sexual education in their strategy and adolescent-friendly service (AFS) scaling up to all health facilities. For example, it has scaled up to 75 of the 77 districts, covering 1,331 health facilities till the end of the current fiscal year 2017/2018. A total of 297 Adolescent Friendly Information Corners (AFICs) have been established in schools in order to link AFS to health facilities and AFICs in schools equipped with ASRH related IEC/BCC materials. A total of 2,822 teachers, parents, students and Health Service Providers were sensitized on ASRH, AFIC, and CSE, contributing to an open and enabling environment in the community and promoting the utilization of AFS.



**Provided post-abortion care services and decriminalized abortion:** The Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Rights Act (2018) decriminalized abortion if done with the consent of the pregnant women within the permitted conditions. But the new National Criminal Code of 2017 still incorporates abortion as a crime with exception to the conditions as stated in the National Safe Abortion Policy 2003. Therefore, many women are convicted of abortion and infanticide and kept behind bars. Similarly, the Nepal Health Sector Strategy (2015-2020) has not included safe abortion service as a basic health service package, although the Nepal Health Sector Program-II (2010-2015) mentioned it as part of the Essential Health Care Service Package. Denial of abortion services has been evident due to a lack of medical supplies and skilled providers at the primary level health centres. The regulation and directives according to the new SMRHR act is yet to be developed, which has hindered the implementation of legal provisions and effected service delivery.

## 11. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to improve education outcomes and skills for women and girls?

**Undertaken constitutional amendments and/or other appropriate legislative action to ensure the protection and enforcement of the rights of girls and women to, within and through education and throughout the life cycle:** The new Constitution guarantees the right to free and compulsory basic education and free secondary education to all citizens as a fundamental right, which is also reinforced by the Compulsory and Free Education Act (2018). The School Sector Development Plan (SSDP 2016-2023), Consolidated Equity Strategy (2014), Inclusive Education Policy for Disabled Children (2016), Higher Education Policy (2017), Pro-poor targeted Scholarship Procedures (2017), Comprehensive School Safety implementation Procedures (2018), Comprehensive School Safety Communication (2018), Compulsory and Free Education Act (2018), Social Media and Mobile Phone Using Procedure (2018), and Policy Paper on Literate Nepal (2019) are major policy reforms undertaken in the education sector by the government during the last 5 years.

**Taken measures to increase girls' access to, retention in and completion of education, technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and skills development programmes:** Various policies and programmes are implemented to increase women's and girls' access to general education, as well as technical/vocational education. In order to enhance gender parity in education, gender-responsive tools such as school outreach programmes, flexible schooling programmes, non-formal sessions, scholarships and incentives, gender-friendly infrastructure, the appointment of more numbers of female teachers, and community learning centres

have been adopted. Soft skills have been integrated into the school curriculum. Teacher training courses have been revisited to incorporate gender equality, human rights, and the use of ICT components. School Management Committees are upholding Child-Friendly school environments in community schools to promote learning without fear and to safeguard girls and boys from sexual harassment, abuse and exploitation. School health and nutrition programme has been implemented under the School Sector Reform Programme (SSRP) for increased access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities. Separate toilets have been constructed in many community schools for girls and women teachers. The federal government has rolled out many kinds of scholarship programmes (i.e. Beit Padhau Beti Bachau program in province 2), especially focusing on girl students and enhancing their quality of education, with 100% girls scholarships, Dalit scholarships, scholarships for the poor, scholarships for PWDs, scholarships for the excluded, scholarship for the Karnali area etc. Provincial governments are also implementing various schemes to promote education for girls and retain their attendance in school.

#### An incentive introduced towards achieving gender parity in education in Province 2

The provincial Government supported 14,000 bicycles to girl students from grade 8 to make it easier for girl students to attend school in the Terai. The program will have a long-term impact on their life through the right to identity, mobility and education.

- Reference: Mr. Jitendra Kumar Yadab, Personal Secretary, Office of the Chief Minister & The Council of Ministers, Province-2

**Strengthened educational curricula to increase gender-responsiveness and eliminate bias at all levels of education:** The component of sexual and reproductive health has been included in the school curricula. In order to abate the drop-out rate of adolescent girls in schools, provision for menstrual hygiene management has been made. It has been estimated that there are 1.5 million girl students studying in grades 6-12 at all community schools in over 753 municipalities, who will be provided with free sanitary pads. Along with this provision, girl students are provided with free day meals, textbooks, and school uniforms to retain them in school.

**Increased access to skills and training in new and emerging fields, especially STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) and digital fluency and literacy:** Skill-based training through Enhanced Vocational Education and Training (EVENT II) project had been started in 2018, inclusively targeting 115,000 disadvantaged youth, especially poor, living in lagging regions, female, Dalit, marginalized Janajatis and people with disabilities. It is the continuations of EVENT (2011-2017) initiated in 2011. Female participation is remarkable under project activities.

#### Interjection of gender discourse in Nepali academia

Prof. Dr. Mira Mishra said "Women's Studies as an academic program is gradually gaining a foothold in Nepali academia. In 2009, Gender Studies was introduced as formal two-year Master's program for the first time in the country. Additionally, many departments at both Tribhuvan and other universities have either incorporated or added gender components to their curricula, including Sociology, Anthropology, and Geography. Now WS has spread to other disciplines as well, including English, Economics and History. What is inspiring is that the new scholarship on women and gender has trickled down to pre-college levels as well - Five years ago, Gender Studies was added as an optional course in the national curriculum for 12<sup>th</sup> grade. These are all huge achievements (Mishra, 2017, in Kathmandu Post). The Central Department of Home Science that was introduced in the early 1970s is a pioneer department to interject gender discourse in Nepali academia."

- Prof. Mira Mishra, Master in Gender Studies program, Orchid International College, Bijayachowk, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University, Nepal

For example, the project provided short-term training for a total of 15,781 trainees across 39 occupational categories in 2017/18, out of which 8,476 (53.71%) were female. In the EVENT supported institutions, the percentage of girls' enrolment has increased from 26.4 % to 40.8 % against the project target 33 % from March 2014 to June 2017.

**Ensured access to safe water and sanitation services and facilitated menstrual hygiene management, especially in schools and other educational/training settings:** Water sanitation and health programs have been implemented throughout the country to improve the hygiene and sanitation status of girls and women, particularly focusing on menstrual health and hygiene management. Separate girls' toilets are constructed with running water in all schools,

and in many cases, sanitary pads are also distributed. Hygiene and sanitation have been incorporated into the school curriculum. Chhaupadi is criminalized and intensive awareness programs are being launched for menstrual health and against the extreme form of menstrual seclusion known as Chhaupadi.

Despite all those efforts, the high drop-out rates among the girls because of socio-economic reasons such



poverty, earning a livelihood for their parents, the burden of caring for younger siblings and elderly members of the family, farm support, movement restrictions and physical conditions are persistent. Early/child marriage is one of the critical hindering factors. Girls from poor families, Dalit communities, Muslim communities and girls with disabilities face severe constraints in their formal education. Education on sexual and reproductive health is not sufficiently provided in the schools. Many students, especially adolescents face sexual abuse and psychosocial problems in the school environment. Most of the schools don't have a gender-friendly infrastructure. The education system as a whole is yet to address systemic gender discrimination effectively by gender mainstreaming in academic institutions, which produces human resources for all sectors, including education. Gender studies are still limited. Education is yet to reach to communities like Musahar and Majhi.

### Status of Right to Education in Musahar Community, Mahottari District

Apart from Lokendra Sada, none has completed School Leaving Certificate (SLC) from this community. There are around 300 school-going children but hardly 30 to 40 attend school. Though more than 150 students have been enrolled in the local school there are very few who are regular to school, said the school teacher Ramyad Raut. Majority of the children accompany their parents to herd cattle, goat and pigs. Education is also disturbed as there is a practice of child marriage in the community. [https://www.insec.org.np/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/RS54479\\_RS54479\\_nepal-Human-Rights-yearbook-2018-eng.pdf](https://www.insec.org.np/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/RS54479_RS54479_nepal-Human-Rights-yearbook-2018-eng.pdf)

## 3.3 Freedom from Violence, Stigma and Stereotypes<sup>10</sup>

### CRITICAL AREAS OF CONCERN

D. Violence against women I. Human rights of women J. Women and the media L. The girl child

### 12. In the last five years, which forms of violence against women and girls has your country prioritized for action?

The opinion of the Beijing +25 review participants is demonstrated below. They mentioned that the following forms of violence have been prioritized for action:

**Table 6: Forms of Violence Against Women and Girls Prioritized for Action**

Priority	Forms of violence / Provinces	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	k	P
I	Intimate partner violence/domestic violence, including sexual violence and marital rape	14	20	36	18	18	23	22	151	30
II	Trafficking women and girls	27	15	31	14	10	15	15	127	25
III	Child, early and forced marriages	9	22	29	10	12	15	18	115	23
IV	Sexual harassment and violence in public places, educational settings and in employment	10	15	34	13	12	16	12	112	22
VII	Violence against women and girls facilitated by technology (e.g. cyber violence, online stalking)	13	15	27	13	11	14	17	110	22
VIII	Femicide	8	20	19	13	14	13	12	99	20
IX	Violence against women in politics	5	13	22	7	6	10	11	74	15
X	Female genital mutilation	2	7	2	3	2	8	0	24	5
XI	Other harmful practices	2	7	9	3	1	10	15	47	9
XII	Violence perpetrated by state actors	6	12	16	5	3	8	4	55	11
<b>k = 914/5, p = 182 Participants</b>									<b>914</b>	<b>182</b>

<sup>10</sup> **Relevant CEDAW articles: Article 2.** Governments shall take concrete steps to eliminate discrimination against women; **General Recommendation No. 35** on gender-based violence against women, updating general recommendation No. 19; **General Recommendation No. 31** on harmful practices.

**Relevant SDGs: 5** Gender Equality; **11** Sustainable Cities and Communities; **16** Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

**Intimate partner violence/domestic violence, including sexual violence and marital rape:** The Constitution of Nepal (Article 38) guarantees justice against all forms of violence as women's fundamental rights. The National Civil Code and National Penal Code criminalize all forms of discrimination based on caste, gender, religion, disability, ideology, among others. Harmful social practices such as forced labour, bonded labour and enslavement, witch-hunting, exclusionary practices, the seclusion of girls and women during the menstrual period, child marriage, and dowry are liable to punishments of imprisonment and fines. The National Criminal Procedure has increased the limit of filing rape cases up to one year. However, intimate partner violence is most prominent among the violence women face, existing across all castes, ethnicities, classes, and socioeconomic groups.<sup>11</sup> A survey conducted by Women's Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC) reported that about 73% of women suffer from different types of domestic violence and GBV.<sup>12</sup> The Nepal Police data also proves that domestic violence has alarmingly increased in the country during the five years period from fiscal year 2013/14 to 2017/18.

#### Violence against Women and Girls in Nepal

- 22% of girls aged 15 years experienced psychical violence;
- 7% women continuously experienced sexual violence;
- 26% women have continuously experienced physical, mental and emotional violence from their life partner;
- 22% of women are raising voices and asking for assistance regarding the physical and sexual violence they are facing;
- 66% of women are not in a position to disclose the violence they are facing, nor could they ask for any support;
- 65% women are affected by domestic violence;
- every day 4 women/girls are being raped; among them 63% girls are below the age of 16 years;
- 37% of women/girls aged 17-25 years are most vulnerable to violence;
- 38% of women are found to be killed by their own husband/intimate male partners;
- 52% of the women do not complain regarding the violence they face;
- 46% of women/girls are found to be raped by their neighbours.
- 15% of women victims of violence are found to be affected by mental torture.
- 70% women/girls are unsafe in their own family.

**Child, early and forced marriages:** The legal age of marriage has been set as 20 years and child marriage has been criminalized. A national strategy has been developed to end child marriage in the country by 2030. The Province 3 government has announced plans to make a Child Marriage Free Province by 2020. But the child marriage rate is very high in the country, ranking third in South Asia after India and Bangladesh.<sup>13</sup>

**Sexual harassment and violence in public places, educational settings and in employment:** Sexual Harassment at Work Place (Prevention) Act (2015) is in place. Many NGOs and schools are adopting a Code of Conduct against sexual abuse and exploitation. But there are some reported cases of sexual harassment in public places, transportations and schools.

**Violence against women and girls facilitated by technology (e.g. cyber violence, online stalking):** Electronic Transaction Act (2007), which has a provision to deal with a wide range of crimes including GBV on the internet. Section 224 (2) of the new National Penal Code (2017) prohibits VAWG, including sexual harassment through electronic media.

Apart from the government, thousands of women Human Rights organizations such as WOREC, Human Rights Defender, SATHI, CHHORI, AATWIN, ABC-Nepal, WHR, Maiti-Nepal, NNAGT etc. have prioritized the elimination of violence against women and girls by raising awareness and providing shelters and psycho-social counselling. The most common and crucial challenge is the societal values and norms governed by high patriarchal mind-sets that can be noticed in every sector at all levels of policy and decision making, law enforcement and other programme implementation. The impact of such mind-sets is reflected in denial of registering the GBV cases by the police and local authorities, delay in investigation of VAWG cases, low quality of services and assistance provided to the victims, and delay/denial in providing compensation to the victims of VAWG cases, which is promoting impunity.

11 Nepal Demographic and Health Survey, 2016 pg. 337-347

12 WOREC Database

13 <https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/child-marriage/nepal/>



### 13. What actions has your country prioritized in the last five years to address violence against women and girls?

The five most prioritized actions are numbers. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 as indicated in table 7.

<b>Table 7. Prioritized Actions to Address Violence Against Women and Girls</b>			
<b>N0</b>	<b>Priority action /Provinces</b>	<b>K</b>	<b>P</b>
1	Introduced or strengthened laws against violence against women, and their enforcement and implementation	132	26.4
2	Monitored violence against particular groups by ethnicity/race, indigenous or minority status, colour, socioeconomic status and/or caste, language, religion or belief, political opinion, national origin, marital status, maternity, parental status, age, urban or rural location, health status, disability, property ownership, being lesbian, bisexual, transgender or intersex, illiteracy	118	23.6
4	Introduced, updated or expanded national action plans on ending violence against women and girls	115	23
9	Introduced or strengthened measures to improve the understanding of causes and consequences of violence against women among those responsible for implementing measures on ending violence against women and girls	92	20
7	Introduced or strengthened strategies to prevent violence against women and girls (e.g. in the education sector, in the media, community mobilization, work with men and boys)	99	19.8
5	Introduced or strengthened measures to increase women's access to justice (e.g. establishment of specialist courts, training for the judiciary and police, protection orders, redress and reparations, including for femicide cases, enforcement and combating impunity, improving criminal evidence system to enhance prosecution quality and integrity of eventual judicial decisions, possibility of ex officio/victimless prosecution, clarity on jurisdictions in countries with pluralistic legal systems)	88	17.6
6	Introduced or strengthened free and quality services for survivors of violence (e.g. shelters, helplines, dedicated health services, legal, justice service, counselling, housing)	76	15.2
8	Monitoring and evaluation of impact, including evidence generation and data collection, including regarding particular groups of women and girls	75	15
3	Monitored violence against women seeking asylum, being a refugee, internally displaced or stateless, widowhood, migration status, heading households, living with HIV/AIDS, being deprived of liberty, and being trafficked or in prostitution, women in situations of armed conflict, geographical remoteness and human rights defenders.	51	10.2
	<b>Total Tika 846/5 = 169 Participants</b>	<b>846</b>	<b>169</b>

As mentioned earlier, in the last five years, the government focused on promulgating Acts in line with the Constitution of 2015. The domestic law specifically mentions the prioritization of the VAWG cases through fast track and continuous hearing. The National Women Commission (NWC) and law enforcement agencies set priorities to deal with domestic violence and other VAWG cases. The NWC established a national level 24-hour helpline to deal with the complaints against domestic violence and other cases of Gender-Based Violence.

Women, Children and Senior Citizen Service Centre (WCSC) (formerly known as Women Cell) have been expanded to all 77 districts, including 3 Ranges, 9 Circles and 3 Sectors under the Metropolitan Police Office in the Kathmandu Valley and 122 area police offices, seven Provinces and Federal Police offices, totalling 240 units across the nation at present. Under the direct supervision of Women, Children and Senior Citizen Service Directorate (WCSCSD) of Crime Investigation Department (CID) under Nepal Police, the WCSC has been active in dealing with cases of sexual offence (rape, attempt to rape, sexual abuse and exploitation of children and marital rape); domestic violence (physical, sexual, mental and economic violence); offenses related to marriage (polygamy, child marriage); offenses related to harmful traditional practices (allegation of witchcraft, untouchability, Chhaupadi-menstrual taboo); offenses related to reproductive rights (Illegal Abortion); human trafficking and transportation; offenses related to physical abuse and torture (use of Tejab - Sulphuric Acid); other associated offenses against women and children; offenses related to senior citizens.

Judicial Committees have been formed in all 753 Local Government Units as per the Local Government Operation Act (2017). The Judicial Committees are mandated to deal with VAWG cases. Despite the legal provisions, the law enforcement agencies do not act on their own initiative in VAW, GVB and human trafficking cases. Instead, delay, resistance and no-response by the law enforcement agencies are common phenomena, even if the complaint has been lodged. The transitional justice for women relating to sexual abuse and violence during the decade-long insurgency was very weak.

Although the government has established “Service Centres” in 36 districts to provide care and support to victims of domestic violence, and “Rehabilitation Centres” in 10 districts to provide care and support to women victims of human trafficking, the centres are not in a sound position to provide quality services due to the lack of budget, trained human resources, physical facilities and effective monitoring systems.

Up to now, hospital-based One-Stop-Crisis-Management-Centres (OCMCs) have been expanded to 48 districts. But they are also not in sound positions due to a lack of funds, trained human resources and coordination among all stakeholders. Similarly, the OCMCs are not accessible to women survivors who are in remote locations.

WCSC recorded the highest number of domestic violence cases within the past five years. More than 12,000 domestic violence cases were filed during the single fiscal year of 2017-18. According to Nepal Police data, the filing of VAWG cases including domestic violence, rape and attempt to rape, trafficking, abortion, polygamy, child marriage, and allegation of witchcraft is on the rise during five years period of 2013/14-2017/18 (Please refer to table below)

Fiscal Year	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Rape	981	1089	1131	1480	2230
Attempt to Rape	562	452	536	727	786
Trafficking	181	12	227	305	258
Abortion	17	22	22	18	27
Polygamy	518	463	464	602	1001
Child Marriage	23	20	26	59	86
Domestic Violence	8268	9398	11629	12225	14774
Witch Craft	43	28	24	48	46
Untouchability	10	19	17	18	43
Child Sexual Abuse	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	211

Source: Nepal Police Information Technology Directorate, Naxal, Kathmandu

## 14. What strategies has your country used in the last five years to prevent violence against women and girls?

**Public awareness-raising and changing of attitudes and behaviours:** During the last 5 years, awareness programmes against VAWG have been organized in government and CSO partnership. Intensive outreach campaigns against harmful social practices and behaviours; National and International Days, such as National Day against Human Trafficking, International Women’s Day, Children’s Day, 16-Day Campaign against VAWG are observed on a countrywide scale. VAWG, GBV and human trafficking issues have been incorporated in school curricula. Media is mobilized to raise awareness against VAWG. Mothers’ groups and women’s groups have been formed and mobilized. Local community groups have been formed for surveillance and monitoring of GBV and human trafficking. The President Women Upliftment Programme also supports GBV victims.

**Grassroots and community-level mobilization:** The Local Government Operation Act (2017) has entrusted many responsibilities to the Local Municipalities and the Ward Offices of the Municipalities to initiate local level plans and programmes to

- 1) *Rehabilitation Centres in 10 districts for the survivors of Human Trafficking:* Jhapa, Sindhupalchowk, Kathmandu, Parsa, Chitwan, Kaski, Rupandehi, Banke, Surkhet and Kailali.
- 2) *District level Service Centres (17) and Community level Service Centres (115) in 17 districts for the survivors of domestic violence under Women Development Programme :* Panchthar, Sunsari, Solukhumbu, Saptari, Siraha, Sarlahi, Kavrepalanchowk, Makwanpur, Tanahu, Nawalparasi, Baglung, Pyuthan, Dang, Jumla, Bardiya, Doti and Kanchanpur;
- 3) *District level Service Centres in 19 districts under President Women’s Upliftment Programme:* Dhankuta, Dhading, Ramechhap, Rasuwa, Dolakha, Nuwakot, Gorkha, Parbat, Lamjung, Gulmi, Rolpa, Kapilbastu, Palpa, Rukum, Arghakhanchi, Salyan, Baitadi, Achham and Bajura.
- 4) *Hospital based One Stop Crisis Management Centres (OCMCs) in 29 districts:* Panchthar, Sunsari, Udayapur, Okhaldhunga, Solukhumbu, Saptari, Sarlahi, Dolakha, Sindhuli, Ramechhap, Sindhupalchowk, Kavrepalanchowk, Dhading, Rautahat, Chitwan, Makwanpur, Kaski, Tanahu, Baglung, Nawalparasi, Rupandehi, Pyuthan, Dang, Banke, Bardiya, Jumla, Doti, Kanchanpur, and Kathmandu (Maternity Hospital).

Source: Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen



control VAW, GBV and trafficking in persons. Accordingly, some of the municipalities in partnership with local NGOs have taken initiatives to develop a local level plan of action to eliminate GBV and child marriage.

**Working with men and boys:** The MoWCSC has developed and implemented the Men Engagement Strategy to End Violence against Women and Girls (2018) and the Procedural Guideline for Mobilization of Male Leader Network to End Gender-Based Violence (2018). CSOs are launching programmes to comply with government strategies to engage men and boys in addressing VAWG. However, more focus has to be given to reach out to the grassroots for raising awareness and legal empowerment.

## **15. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls due to online sexual harassment, online stalking, and non-consensual sharing of intimate images?**

**Introduced or strengthened legislation and regulatory provisions:** There is no specific law and regulatory provision to deal with online harassment and stalking in Nepal. Such crimes are investigated by Nepal Police under the Electronic Transaction Act (2007), which has a provision to deal with a wide range of crimes including GBV on the internet. Section 224 (2) of the new National Criminal Code (2017) prohibits VAWG, including sexual harassment through electronic media, on a wholesale basis. However, the Act's vagueness and incompatibility with other freedom of expression laws make it prone to misapplication.<sup>14</sup> Very few cases of online violence have been prosecuted in the court, limiting their numbers to the Kathmandu Valley, since such cases are entertained only in Kathmandu District Courts. Most of the cases are settled out of court, and the perpetrators are rarely punished.

**Implemented awareness-raising initiatives targeting the general public and young women and men in educational settings:** There are a few examples of Nepal Police organizing awareness programmes in schools and colleges regarding safe internet use as well as the consequences of online violence directed towards women and children, which is not sufficient. It has not been given much priority in the country - neither by the government nor by the civil society or private organizations.

## **16. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to address the portrayal of women and girls, discrimination and/or gender bias in the media?**

**Provided training to media professionals to encourage the creation and use of non-stereotypical, balanced and diverse images of women and girls in the media:** Nepal is focusing on the promotion of gender sensitivity in media, positive images of women, participation of women in decision making structures in media, and alternative media structures.

The government brought out many plans to promote women's issues and participation in the media world. Gender sensitization training was provided to media persons and media contents were reviewed under the lens of gender. TV and Radio talk programmes focusing on women's rights issues have increased in numbers. 'Samakon', 'Mahila Adhikar', 'Nariko Awaj' are some examples.

**Supported the media industry to develop voluntary codes of conduct:** The Press Council of Nepal developed a 'Code of Conduct' for journalists, refraining from producing any reports, ideas, and pictures that are discriminatory towards women or any other communities. The Code of Conduct directs journalists to be sensitive to the rights of victims of sexual violence and other forms of violence while reporting events or making stories. The Press Council is undertaking media monitoring to the compliance of this Code of Conduct. There are other civil society organizations such as Women's Publishing House, Media and Resource Organization (ASMITA), Sancharika Samuha, Working Women Journalists (WWJ), Freedom Forum (FF) and others that

<sup>14</sup> National Alliance of Women Human Rights Defenders, Nepal CEDAW Shadow Report, September 2018, pp. 13-17 [https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CEDAW/Shared%20Documents/NPL/INT\\_CEDAW\\_CSS\\_NPL\\_32584\\_E.pdf](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CEDAW/Shared%20Documents/NPL/INT_CEDAW_CSS_NPL_32584_E.pdf) (accessed 01/11/2019) <https://kathmandupost.com/national/2019/04/17/nepals-government-is-aggressively-pursuing-journalists-and-it-could-get-worse-under-a-new-legislation>

are continuing their activism for women's rights and empowerment along with increasing gender sensitivity and maintaining a right to privacy in contemporary contexts. Human rights organizations are also actively engaged with media persons to promote compliance with the Code of Conduct. These efforts have contributed to reducing the negative portrayals of women in the media.

**Promoted the participation and leadership of women in the media:** The government has implemented Mass Media Policy, 2017. One of the objectives is to mainstream women in mass media through enhanced participation and capacity building. Nepal Television, Radio Nepal, and National News Agency are frequently reporting on women's issues. Training is being provided in collaboration with the government and non-government sectors to media people from different media houses to improve gender sensitivity in media reporting. The government is also providing scholarships for girl students studying journalism.

The spread of digital literacy has opened up new avenues for empowering women and girls. Women, particularly young women and adolescent girls, are accessing the ever-expanding digital spaces. Digital literacy has made them aware of its resources and potentials, and has enabled them to understand and use information in multiple formats from a wide range of sources. 90% of the country's population has access to mobile phones. As advantages, women and girls are also using online spaces and social media platforms, involving themselves in social dialogues/debates, expressing views, sharing thoughts, contesting perspectives, challenging gender stereotypes, and forging alliances of like-minded communities. However, digital literacy has also exposed them to pornography, online abuse and harassment, requiring more effort to fight against the menace of 'New Drugs' among the modern ICT generation.

### **17. Has your country taken any action in the last five years to address violence against specific groups of women facing multiple forms of discrimination?**

**YES**

**If YES, have assessments on their impact on women and men, respectively, been conducted?**

The National Human Rights Action Plan also focuses on addressing violence against specific groups belonging to SOGI, PWD, Dalit, Muslim and other minorities. Many CSOs working for the interest of different groups have been involved in analysing the impact of such programmes on women and men.

## **3.4 Participation, Accountability and Gender-Responsive Institutions<sup>15</sup>**

### **CRITICAL AREAS OF CONCERN**

G. Women in power and decision-making H. Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women  
I. Human rights of women J. Women and the media L. The girl child

### **18. What actions and measures has your country taken in the last five years to promote women's participation in public life and decision making?**

**Promulgated a new Constitution:** The Constitution of Nepal included many progressive provisions to ensure women's participation in all government structures and bodies on the principle of proportional inclusion. It ensured mandatory representation of women in at least one-third of total members elected from each political party in Federal Parliament, and minimum of a total of 40% women representatives from each political party at

<sup>15</sup> **Relevant CEDAW articles:** **Article 7** The right to participate in the formulation of government policy and perform all public functions; **Article 8** Ensure women the opportunity to represent their Governments at the international level and participate in the work of international organizations; **General Recommendation No. 23** Political and Public Life.  
**Relevant SDGs:** **5** Gender Equality; **10** Reduce Inequalities; **11** Sustainable Cities and Communities; **13** Climate Action; **16** Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.



the local level government bodies. Election Commission Act (2017), the Political Parties Registration Act (2017), and the Electoral Rolls Act (2017) also included a reservation for women. Based on these legal frameworks, the 2017 elections produced a result of 33%, 34%- and 42%-women's representation in the federal, provincial and local government respectively.

**Adoption of temporary special measures, such as quotas, reserved seats:** The President, Vice Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Vice-Chair of National Assembly are women. There are three women judges in the Supreme Court and one-woman member in the National Planning Commission. There is at least one-woman representative in the constitutional bodies, such as the Public Service Commission, Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority, National Human Rights Commission, and other Constitutional Commissions. The Nepal Civil Service Act has ensured 33% of women's inclusion among the 45% reservation for various social groups. As a result, the number of women in the Civil Service is increasing day by day and there is a 24% women representation in various positions. There are now three women secretaries, 38 women joint secretaries in the government civil service, and six women ambassadors. All over the country, there are about 38% women teachers in community schools.

The Nepal Army Act, Nepal Police Act and Armed Police Act included 20% reservations for women, 32% for Janajati, 28% for Madheshi, 15% for Dalit and 5% for remote regions out of the total 45% reservation. As of February 2019, there is a total of 4,530 women staff in the Nepal Army. Among the officers of the Army, there are 173 female officers in the general service, while the technical officers count to 203. Junior Commission, Non-Commission Female Officers and other ranks include 3,217 in general service and 937 in technical service. The existing highest rank for women officers has been T/Brigadier General (3) in the technical service and Major (61) in the general service. In Nepal Police there are 5,145 (8%) women out of 64,323 personnel as of August 2019. Most of the women police personnel are assigned administrative work. Women represent a total of 5% in the Armed Police Force. The representation of women is also increasing in CSOs, cooperatives and COs

**Implemented capacity building, skills development and other measures:** The Nepal Administrative Staff College and other public training institutions are providing training in the field of leadership development and professional management with special priority to women officials employed in public services.

Despite the numerical representation of women in political power and decision-making positions, Nepali women are left behind when it comes to leadership and decision-making roles. Women are facing a range of challenges with patriarchal leadership values. The structure is predominantly male-dominated, which consciously or unconsciously legitimizes and naturalizes male authority both within and outside the family set up – whether in a political and social domain or community affairs. These issues are preventing many women from achieving their goals of becoming leaders within municipalities, provinces and the federal level, and diminishing their ability to get ahead in power and politics.

The Government's policy to nominate or appoint women in 33% of the state structure and mechanisms is in limbo. The government has failed to comply with its own policy of fulfilling 33% of government positions by women. The dominance of Khas/Arya men everywhere in the political and administrative structure remains unchallenged as they record the highest representation in key decision-making positions. Women's representation is also following the same pattern. The private sector companies, industrial establishments and financial institutions are also following the same conservative path while appointing women as bosses. The acceptance of women as bosses in all sectors is far from reality; sexism, discrimination, harassment and security concerns are the emerging issues in the case of women representatives either in politics, in administration, in social services or in private sector.

The Government has not yet fulfilled the members of the National Women Commission despite the implementation of the Constitution. This is an example of paying so little attention to GEEWG that the promise has remained merely rhetorical.

## 19. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to increase women's access to expression and participation in decision-making in the media, including through information and communication technologies (ICT)?

**Introduced regulations to advance equal pay, retention and career advancement of women within the media and ICT field:** Affirmative action policy has been introduced. As a result, more numbers of women have joined the media profession and are working in both print and electronic media. The working environment for female journalists in newsrooms is improving. However, compared to male presence, women's presence is fewer in media. Currently, there are 13,050 members in the Federation of Nepali Journalists, 2,354 (18.03%) of whom are women. Only 14.6% women represent the FNJ Executive Board and 14.8% the Association of Community Radio Broadcasters.

**Taken measures to enhance access, affordability and use of ICTs for women and girls (e.g. free Wi-Fi hubs, community technology centres, destigmatizing use of internet and mobile phones by women and girls):** Realizing the importance of ICT in modern education, the government has incorporated ICT and mass communication component in the Education Master Plan 2013-2017. Nepal is targeting to turn into a digital economy by 2022. The Nepal Telecommunication Authority (NTA) is expanding broadband facilities in all municipalities, covering health and educational institutions and government offices. Private sector media have also multiplied the facilities over the years. Ministry of Information Technology and Communication has established 527 community information centres throughout the country. The NTA has established 792 computer labs in community schools. These information centres have increased rural communities' including women and girls' access to modern ICT.

**The Council of Ministers:** Total Number of Ministers are 25, among them 22 (88%) are male and only 3 (12%) are female. Of the total 25, 13 (52%) belong to Khas/Arya, 7 (28%) Madhesi, Tharu and Muslim, 5 (20%) Janajati and only 1 (4%) Dalit.

**Secretaries of the Government Ministries:** Total number of special class secretaries are 67, among them only 3 (4.5%) are women. By cast and ethnicity 61 (91%) are Khas/Arya. Janajati and other groups (Madhesi and Tharu) count only 4.5% each. Two out of the three women secretaries also belong to Khas/Arya, and only one belongs to other community.

**Mayor of Municipalities and Chairperson of Rural Municipalities:** The dominance of Khas/Arya men remains unchallenged as they record the highest representation in key decision-making positions as 48% mayors, 44% chairpersons and also 44% ward chairs. In almost all of the 753 Municipalities/Rural Municipalities the Deputy Mayors and Vice Chairs are women, 91% of them are Khas/Arya women. In key positions as Mayor/Chair and Ward Chair, only 2% women are represented. More than 90% elected Deputy Chair/Mayors belong are Khas/Arya.

**Constitutional Commissions:** There is only one women representation in each of the Constitutional Commissions such as the Public Service Commission, the Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority, the National Human Rights Commission, the Election Commission and others.

**Supreme Court:** Total number of Justice is 21, among them only 3 (21%) are women, and 71.4% are Khas/Arya, while only 23.8% are Janajati and the remaining one justice is from Madhesi community.

**The National Planning Commission:** Total number of members is 10. Out of them only one is the woman member.

**Strengthened the provision for formal and technical vocational education and training (TVET) in media and ICTs, including in areas of management and leadership:** There are other hosts of CTEVT-affiliated technical training centres scattered around major urban cities, which are run by private organizations. But there is a lack of comprehensive data on participating women and girls. No substantial studies have been carried out so far to establish a link between the training and job placement, as well as demonstrate the impact of such training on the socio-economic life of the trained women and girls and their families.



**20. Do you or the state track the proportion of the national budget that is invested in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women (gender-responsive budgeting)?**

**YES**

**If YES, what is the approximate proportion of the national budget that is invested in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women? Please provide information on how this was done and the impact.**

Realizing the importance of a Gender-Responsive Budget (GRB) and inclusive governance within the economy, GRB was introduced officially by the Ministry of Finance (MoF) in the FY 2007-08. In FY 2015/16, the percentage of directly responsive GRB was 22.27, which has now reached 38.17 in this FY 2019/2020.

Financial Year	Directly Responsive		Indirectly Responsive		Neutral	
	NPR (in Billion)	%	NPR (in Billion)	%	NPR (in Billion)	%
2015-2016	182.52	22.27	393.16	47.98	243.79	29.75
2016-2017	242.3	23.1	508.2	48.45	298.41	28.45
2017-2018	478.5	37.42	417.6	32.66	382.7	29.92
2018-2019	508.3	38.65	450.8	34.28	355.9	27.07
2019-2020	585.2	38.17	545	35.56	402.7	26.27

Despite the momentum around GRB in recent years, there is a need for concerted efforts to broaden its scope and overcome weaknesses in addressing the gaps in its design and implementation. One of the serious drawbacks is the lack of tools to track GRB at the output, outcome and impact level. GRB is not integrated into the regular financial audit system, both internal (aa. le. pa) and external (ma.le.pa). Similarly, no attention has been paid to intersectionality and inclusion of the most marginalized women in planning and budgeting. The federal structure has pushed back the previously established pattern of allocating budget to targeted population, now requiring localization and institutionalization of GRB in all municipalities. Proper monitoring of expenditures with improved sex-disaggregated data is also essential to ensure the adequacy of gender-responsive allocations and to assess the budgetary impact on the most excluded groups.

**21. As a donor country, does your country track the proportion of official development assistance (ODA) that is invested in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women (gender-responsive budgeting)?**

**NO**

**22. Does your country have a valid national strategy or action plan for gender equality?**

**YES**

**If YES, please list the name of the plan and the period it covers, its priorities, funding and alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the targets under SDG NAP 5.**

**If YES, has the national action plan been costed and have sufficient resources been allocated to its achievement in the current budget?**

Following are the 'National Plans' developed by the government to promote gender equality and empowerment of women:

**The National Plan of Action (NPA) for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and the National Plan of Action (NPA) for the implementation of CEDAW:** In 2017, the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens (MoWCSC) prepared a draft of the National Gender Equality Policy, reviewed the both NPAs pertaining to BPfA and CEDAW, and prepared a combined NPA to promote Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women in the country. All of the Action Plans and strategic documents, however, lack resource commitment for effective implementation.

**Sustainable Development Goals Status and Roadmap:** The National Planning Commission has prepared Sustainable Development Goals Status and Roadmap: 2016-2030, with details of targets and indicators in all 17 Goals and intermediate milestones in 2019 (end of the 14th periodic plan), 2022 (participated date for graduation from LDC status), 2025 (vantage point for an accelerated development phase, and lastly, 2030 (achieving the spirit of ‘No One Left Behind’). However, no national strategy or action plan for gender equality has been developed yet.

**23. Does your country have an action plan and timeline for implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (if a State party), or of the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review or other United Nations human rights mechanisms that address gender inequality/ discrimination against women?**

**NO.** There is no specific action plan for the implementation of the recommendation of the CEDAW Committee. However, the sectoral ministries have incorporated the recommendations in their respective strategies and action plans.

**24. Is there a national human rights institution in your country?**

**YES**

The Constitution of Nepal has established the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), National Women’s Commission, National Dalit Commission, National Inclusion Commission, Indigenous Nationalities Commission, Madhesi Commission, Tharu Commission, and Muslim Commission as National Human Rights Institutions.

**If YES, does it have a specific mandate to focus on gender equality or discrimination based on sex/gender?**

The Commissions have the broad mandate to protect human rights, including civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights, and rights of women and different marginalized groups and communities. Among them, the National Women Commission (NWC) has a specific mandate for gender equality and the fight against gender-based discrimination and violence.

**If YES, please provide up to three examples of how the NHRI has promoted gender equality.**

The National Women Commission has been promoting gender equality and fighting against GBV as per its mandate provided by the Constitution. They are:

Formulate policies and programs regarding women’s rights and gender equality and recommend them to the government for implementation. Carry out reviews to ascertain whether or not laws related to women’s rights and gender equality have been implemented, whether the international conventions have been implemented and whether the government has complied with recommended policies.

Monitor and evaluate policies and programs for the mainstreaming of national development such as proportionate representation in all state agencies, and recommend policies and programs to the government for effective implementation. Carry out research and studies regarding gender equality, women empowerment, and other legal provisions recommended for necessary amendment.



Monitor and investigate VAW/ GBV incidents, forward reports and recommendations for necessary legal action, and collaborate and coordinate with government bodies and CSOs for referral services, including free legal aid services, psycho-social counselling, health care and shelter. In addition, NWC supports victims in lodging petitions. It has established a 24-hours Hotline Service to provide necessary legal counselling and services.

### 3.5 Peaceful and Inclusive Societies<sup>16</sup>

#### CRITICAL AREAS OF CONCERN

E. Women and armed conflict I. Human rights of women L. The girl child

#### 25. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to build and sustain peace, promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development and implement the women, peace and security agenda?

**Adopted and/or implemented a National Action Plan for women, peace and security:** In 2017, the government reviewed the National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1325 and 1820. The review found that NAP was instrumental in sensitizing local political leaders, all local government agencies, and in building the capacity of all village level social mobilizers to identify and support conflict-affected women and GBV survivors. Now the government is in the process of drafting the second phase of NAP to address specific needs of conflict-affected people with special consideration for women victims of sexual violence and other implementation gaps, which have been realized through review.

"I found psychosocial issues of conflict-affected people especially women had not become an agenda in conflict reconciliation process based on my one of my research interviews with conflict-affected women in Surkhet and Bardiya, who are still suffering from psychosocial trauma and are scared to share their experience. Government should balance both compensation and socio psychological counselling (and empowerment) in the reconciliation process."



- Pushpa Pahadi, Participant, Provincial Review, Province-6.

**Integrated women, peace and security commitments into key national and inter-ministerial policies, planning and monitoring frameworks:** Sectoral ministries prioritized their work on reforming policy and strategies to focus on gender equality and social inclusion. Security forces, including Nepal Army, Nepal Police and Armed Police Force amended their laws for the increased intake of women cadets in the respective forces. They reformed training courses, incorporating a WPS component and imparted training on gender equality, peace and security to more numbers of officers and other staffs.

**Used communication strategies, including social media, to increase awareness of the women, peace and security agenda:** Women's voices have been raised for more inclusion in key governance structures and committees. Women's Rights Organizations and their alliances, including BBC, created pressure at the national level through advocacy, lobby, peace rallies, signature campaigns, radio/TV talk shows, roundtable discussions and IEC materials. As a result, the country has seen more than 33% inclusion of women in the political hot seats at all levels of the government during the 2017 election.

As expressed in the Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA), the government formed the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Commission of Investigation of Enforced Disappeared Persons on 10th February, 2015. The Commissioners appointed in both the commissions completed their terms and the government has not fulfilled the vacant post of commissioner to this date.

<sup>16</sup> **Relevant CEDAW articles:** Article 2 Governments shall take concrete steps to eliminate discrimination against women; **General Recommendation No. 30 (2013)** on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations; **General Recommendation No. 35** on gender-based violence against women.

**UN Security Council Resolution No. 1325** on women and peace and security

**Relevant SDGs:** 4 Quality Education; 5 Gender Equality; 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

## **26. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to increase the leadership, representation and participation of women in conflict prevention, resolution, peacebuilding, humanitarian action and crisis response, at decision-making levels in situations of armed and other conflicts, and in fragile or crisis settings?**

Promoted and supported the meaningful participation of women in the peace processes and the implementation of peace agreements: The implementation of NAP (2011/12-2015/16) and its Localization Guidelines (2013) oversaw proportional and meaningful participation of women at all levels of conflict transformation, peace building processes and the protection of the rights of women and girls. As ensured by NAP, the Local Peace Committees (LPCs) that were formed in all districts included 33% women from different communities. The LPCs have become avenues to enhance women's empowerment throughout their life-cycle, and now women have been in key positions within various government structures, including political nominations and appointments. Although the women's contribution to the political movement, conflict situation and peace building has been highly hailed, except a few, women did not get opportunities to occupy key decision-making positions during conflict resolution.

Local Government Operational Act (2017) has assigned the role of co-ordination of the "Judicial Committee" to the Deputy Mayor and Deputy Chief of the Local Government Bodies (Municipalities). In almost all municipalities 97% of women hold the Deputy Mayor/Chief Posts. They are assigned to deal with the VAWG cases for mediation and reconciliation. The Judicial Committee comprises of other women members too.

**Integrated a gender perspective in humanitarian action and crisis response:** The Disasters Management Act (2017) includes mandatory provision to ensure the participation of women at all levels of institutional mechanisms. It also requires taking care of special and differentiated needs of women and girls during emergency periods. Nepal assessed and responded to the impact of the devastating earthquake of 2015 under the lens of gender. Various thematic teams for post-disaster needs assessment was constituted, including gender and social inclusion and gender mainstreaming assessment of all sectors as cross-cutting themes. The focus is continued in the post-earthquake reconstruction, establishing a separate section of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in the National Reconstruction Authority (NRA). A separate committee is formed under the Joint Secretary of NRA to design, implement and monitor all GESI related work. It is compulsory that at least 20% women should be included in all skill and entrepreneurship development trainings. Single women, poor Dalits, senior citizens' families with members (only) above 75 years, and extremely marginalized families are provided with additional NRs. 50,000 on top of the NRs. 300,000 made available for reconstruction work.

## **27. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to enhance judicial and non-judicial accountability for violations of international humanitarian law and violations of the human rights of women and girls in situations of armed and other conflicts or humanitarian action and crisis response?**

**Implemented legal and policy reform to redress and prevent violations of the rights of women and girls:** Despite having various laws, judicial activism, and recommendations of NHRI, it is very difficult to establish the number and magnitude of rape and sexual abuse cases that took place during the conflict situation. Owing to being ostracized by families, social stigma and lack of legal actions, the rate of reporting of such cases is very low. Legal action taken against perpetrators in such cases is negligible. It is also difficult to collect evidence against the perpetrators, and in most cases, the perpetrators have been excused. In many cases women and girls are becoming victims of discriminatory customary laws and are deprived of justice.

**Taken measures to combat trafficking in women and children:** The Human Trafficking and Transportation Control Act (2007) provides stringent legal measures against human trafficking. A fund for rehabilitation of survivors has been established in each district, and rehabilitation centres have been established in 10 districts. CSOs are collaborating with the government to combat trafficking and protect the survivors. Investigation procedures for human trafficking have been incorporated in the training curricula of Nepal Police and National Judicial Academy. More numbers of police personnel, government attorneys and judges have been receiving



regular training. National Minimum Standards for Victim Protection and SOPs for Shelter Homes are in place for ensuring adequate protection, service provisions and the rehabilitation of survivors. However, human trafficking has remained a serious problem in the country. The law enforcement agencies often fail to book the traffickers who perpetuate internal trafficking in the entertainment/hospitality sector and trafficking in the guise of foreign labour migration.

## **28. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to eliminate discrimination against and violations of the rights of the girl child?**

As the Constitution (Article 39) guarantees Children's Rights as a fundamental right for the first time in Nepal, the government has promulgated new Children's Act (2018), incorporating the basic principles of UNCRC on child rights and child protection. The following measures have been taken during the last five years to eliminate discrimination against girls and the violation of their rights:

- a) Framed national strategy to end child marriage by 2030, in line with SDG and criminalized child marriage;
- b) Criminalized discriminatory practice during menstruation period;
- c) Increased the limitations for filing rape cases up to one year;
- d) Free and compulsory education with more incentives for schools to retain attendance by girls;
- e) Criminalized sex-selective abortion;
- f) Life skill training programmes are provided, targeting the adolescent girls;
- g) 100% scholarship has been provided focusing on girls' education;
- h) Incentives to girls for science, mathematics, engineering education;
- i) Introduced free sanitary pad distribution in community schools;
- j) Multi-sector nutrition programme focusing on children and women;
- k) Introduced WASH programme focusing on menstruation hygiene;
- l) Top priority to immunize mothers and children;
- m) Operation of Child Helpline 1098 for children in different districts.

The provincial governments and local governments have introduced numbers of attractive schemes as well as policies, strategies and action plans against GBV and child marriage. For example, In Province 2: Beti Padhau Beti Bachau by the Government, bicycles to school-going girls; Pradesh 3: Child marriage and Child Labour Free Pradesh by 2020; Pradesh 5: NRs 2000 benefit to mothers who gives birth to daughters, NRs 1000 for girls who study science in higher education; Udayapur district: Beti Sammelan, and so on.

## **3.6 Environmental Conservation, Protection and Rehabilitation<sup>17</sup>**

### **CRITICAL AREAS OF CONCERN**

I. Human rights of women K. Women and the environment L. The girl child

## **29. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to integrate gender perspectives and concerns into environmental policies?**

Nepal has been making efforts to take active measures and seeking out women's expertise and leadership in making key environmental decisions. All agencies responsible for the environment have recognized gender

<sup>17</sup> **Relevant CEDAW articles:** Article 7 The right to participate in the formulation of government policy and perform all public functions; Article 14 Governments should undertake to eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas so that they may participate in and benefit from rural development; **General Recommendation No. 24 (2016)** on the rights of rural women; **General Recommendation No. 37 (2017)** on the gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change  
**Relevant SDGs:** 1 No Poverty; 2 End Hunger; 5 Gender Equality; 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities; 12 Sustainable Consumption; 13 Climate Action; 14 Life Below Water; 15 Life on Land

as a cross-cutting priority and have tried to place women at the forefront in all environmental protection and sustainable development activities. Earlier in 2005, the government had developed a manual to address gender issues in the Environmental Impact Assessment. The Agro-biodiversity Policy (2014), Agriculture Mechanization Promotion Policy (2014), and Agriculture Development Strategy (2015-2035) emphasize adaptation of pro-women knowledge, technology, and resource management in agriculture. They also pledge to encourage farmers' organizations, cooperative organizations, and private sector organizations to have women representatives participating in the coordination, monitoring, and decision making bodies related to the forests and environment.

The National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA) (2010) recognized the importance of women's engagement in climate-sensitive sectors since any adverse climate effects might make them vulnerable. So, it included gender as a cross-cutting theme. Gender analysis was carried out across all thematic groups during the preparation of NAPA. This participatory process was further strengthened during the preparation of Local Adaptation Plans of Action (LAPAs), which were to be the basis of the National Plan.<sup>18</sup>

GESI mainstreaming was also considered in the National Rural and Renewable Energy Programme (NRREP 2012-2017). It was a five years initiative implemented by Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPCC) that aimed to improve the living standard of rural women and men, increase employment of women and men as well as increase productivity, reduce dependency on traditional energy, and attain sustainable development by integrating alternative energy with socioeconomic activities of women and men in rural communities.

The Forest Sector Strategy (2016-2025) and the National Forest Policy (NFP 2019) targets the proportionate representation of a marginalized section of the society in forestry sector institutions. These policy frameworks include proportional representation of women, Dalits, ethnic and indigenous people in leadership positions and key decision-making bodies and strategize to eliminate discrimination against women in all government, community, cooperatives and private institutions in the forestry sector. The NFP specifically mentions ensuring 50% women with decision-making responsibilities.

### **30. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to integrate gender perspectives into policies and programmes for disaster risk reduction, climate resilience and mitigation?**

**Introduced or strengthened and implemented gender-responsive laws and policies related to disaster risk reduction, climate resilience and mitigation (e.g. disaster laws addressing vulnerability of women in disaster) :** The legislature-parliament enacted a new Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Act (2017), with comprehensive provisions recognizing both risk reduction and management as integral aspects of the planning task. Similarly, instead of the committee-based coordination mechanism, the Act has proposed a clear, multi-tiered institutional structure of DRM (at the national, provincial, district, local/municipal, and the community level). It provides a Disaster Management Fund at the federal, provincial and local levels. Consistent with the new federal structure of the country, the Act provides a multi-tiered DRRM structure, comprising of the NRA on top, followed by provincial, district-wide, local and community-based preparedness and response committees. However, efforts have to be made to sensitize the local government bodies and the community.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has initiated the process of formulating a National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Action Plan (NDRRPA). It is expected that NDRRPAP will follow the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction with gender priorities. The NDRRPAP envisions making Nepal a safer and more resilient nation by 2030, firmly aligned with the global SFDRR and SDGs targets.

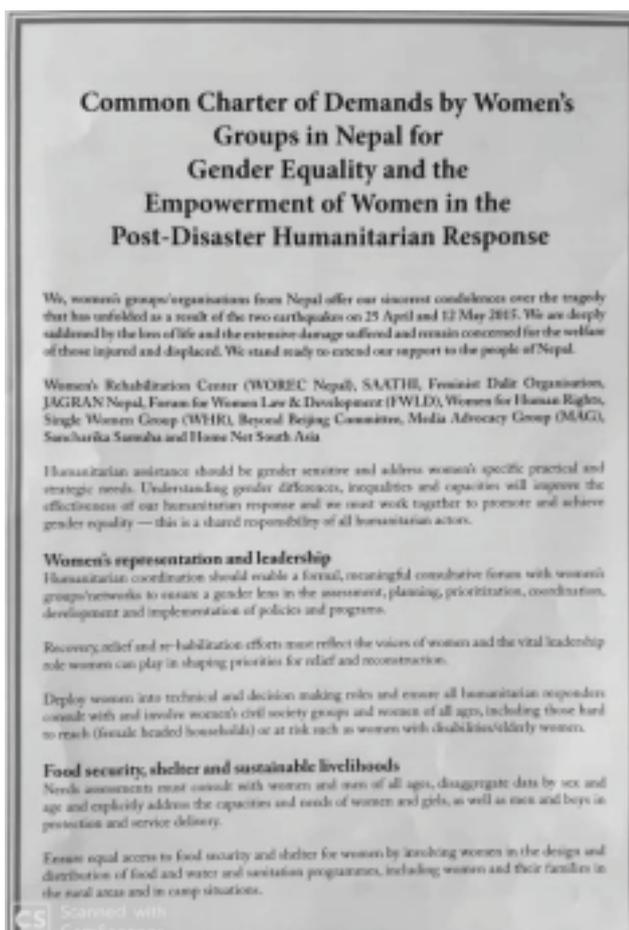
**Provided training, sensitization and awareness-raising for the authorities, emergency services Workers and other groups on the various forms of gender-based violence that are prevalent in situations of disaster and how to prevent and address them:**

18 Jony Mainlay and Su Fei Tan, Mainstreaming gender and climate change in Nepal in Climate Change WORKING PAPER NO. 2: NOVEMBER 2012, IIED



Substantial efforts have also been made to incorporate disaster risk reduction components in the school curriculum as well as in education/training materials. Nepal has also developed university level disaster management courses, which have been integrated into various university programs, such as engineering, geology, glaciology, and public health. It has also incorporated DRM into training courses offered by Local Development Training Academy, Nepal Administrative Staff College, Nepal Army, Armed Police and Nepal Police. The MoEST has been implementing a school disaster preparedness program at schools, along with establishing school disaster libraries and disaster committees. School-level disaster preparedness plans specific to Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) have been developed and DRR/WASH training have been provided. Many government agencies and CSOs/CBOs are collaborating to educate the community on DRM.

Nepal has ratified the Paris Agreement and has subsequently submitted a Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 2017) to UNFCCC. The NDC proposes key interventions in climate change mitigation through community forestry, electric vehicles and green growth. These climate mitigation targets include gender components. Nepal also endorsed the National REDD+ Strategy in 2018, a key document that aims to achieve climate mitigation through the forestry sector. It mainly relies on community-based forestry, which targets the inclusion of 50% women in leadership positions in local institutions, such as Community Forestry User Groups. Nepal's Emission Reduction Program Document (ERPD), accepted by Carbon Fund of the World Bank, aims to reduce emission from deforestation and forest degradation and promote sustainable forest management. The ERPD also focuses on the gender component in each of them. Overall, these interventions target to enhance women's leadership, participation in decision making, and sharing REDD+ benefits.



## Chapter 4: National Institutions and Process

### 31. What is your country's current national machinery for gender equality and the empowerment of women? Please name it and describe its location within Government.

**National Women Commission (NWC):** Constitutionally, NWC is the highest national machinery with the mandate to protect and promote women's human rights. It is governed by the National Women Commission Act (2017). However, the President of Nepal has yet to appoint a chairperson and other four members, as recommended by the Constitutional Council. Due to the delay in these appointments and a lack of adequate knowledge and resources, the NWC is yet to function fully as the constitutional body to protect, promote and fulfil the human rights of women and promote gender equality in the country. The NWC has to report to the Head of the State annually, which is uploaded on the website and published annually for public consumption. Please refer to the NWC link.<sup>1</sup>

**The Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens:** MoWCSC is another national machinery for gender equality and the empowerment of women placed within the federal government structure. It is the focal ministry accountable for policy decisions, preparing legal frameworks, and developing plans and programmes for GEEWG, including gender mainstreaming strategies. As the name implies, it is responsible for women, children, senior citizens, and PWD. It is mandatory that the ministry reports to the Prime Minister and to the Legislature-Parliament. The Ministry publishes various reports on its roles and functions and progress achieved. The Ministry has its own website to disseminate the reports and make them accessible to the public. Please refer to the link for more information.<sup>2</sup> The MOWCSC is constrained with limited budgetary allocations and knowledgeable human resources for promoting gender equality, gender mainstreaming, gender analysis, and gender auditing. The Ministry does not have its own cadre, except very few staff at 'Women Development'. The transfer/turnover of the staff is very high. Therefore, the Ministry is weak in technical capacity and institutional memory.

**The Department of Women and Children:** This is an extended arm of the MoWCSC, placed under the federal government structure and entrusted with the responsibilities of implementing approved programmes regarding women's development, assisting the Ministry in formulating policies and legislations on women's development, monitoring and evaluating programmes on women's development, imparting the necessary skill-based trainings to women, carrying out functions related to women's empowerment, carrying out functions related to controlling girl trafficking, prostitution, domestic violence, and other offences against women, carrying out functions related to national or international seminars, symposia and conferences on women, and collecting and publishing information on women's development. The Department also publishes an annual progress report which is made public with printed copies and uploaded to its website.<sup>3</sup> The Department had a cadre to implement 'Women Development Programs' (WDP) at the community level in all 77 districts. But in the federal system, WDPs have been stopped and the cadres have been readjusted in the 753 local government units.

**Women, Children and Senior Citizen Section:** At the provincial level, the Ministry of Social Development has been placed as the focal agency for promoting GEEWG. The Women, Children and Senior Citizens Section under the Ministry's Social Development Division has been made responsible for GEEWG, albeit with a weak mandate, insufficient budgetary allocation and inadequate human resources.

**No gender machinery at the district level:** Previously, the District level Women and Children Office (DWCO) used to serve as gender machinery in implementing, coordinating and monitoring WDP as well as gender mainstreaming at the community level through women's organizations such as Women's Groups, Women's Committees and Women's Cooperatives.

1 <http://nwc.gov.np/en/home-page/>

2 <https://mowcsc.gov.np/>

3 <http://dwd.gov.np/>



**Women, Children and Senior Citizens Units:** Women, Children and Senior Citizens Units have been placed as focal points working for GEEWG under the Social Development Section/Division of Municipalities. The WDP staffs have been adjusted into these units of the municipalities, and it is likely that the theme of gender equality has been localized with this new arrangement. But there is a growing dissatisfaction among the WDP staff and women organizations that except for a few municipalities, the GEEWG issue has been pushed back in majority of the municipalities since the elected officials are not prioritizing GEEWG.

Besides Hello Chief Minister programmes, hotline services have been set up in all Seven Provinces. Women and Children Service Centres have been established in 240 Nepal Police Units, including the District Police Office and Area/Ward Police Offices.

With the new arrangement in the federal structure, the functions of MoWCSC and DWC to design, promote, execute, implement, monitor, evaluate, advocate and mobilize support for policies that promote the leadership role of women have been pushed back. They have been marginalized in the national government structures. They are frequently hampered by unclear mandates, inadequate staff, lack of training, data, sufficient resources and weak political support.

### **32. Is the head of the national machinery a member of the institutional process for SDG implementation (e.g. inter-ministerial coordinating office, commission or committees)?**

YES. The Minister for the MOCSW is the focal minister for the implementation of SDG 5 and gender mainstreaming through the designated Gender Focal Persons in different sectorial ministries. The MOCSW's Gender Mainstreaming Section's Chief participates in the thematic committees of the SDGs constituted by the National Planning Commission.

### **33. Are there formal mechanisms in place for different stakeholders to participate in the implementation and monitoring of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, CEDAW and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?**

No formal mechanism is in place. However, there is a 'Think Tank' that consists of professionals from different castes and creeds at the MoWCSC. The ministry organizes meetings and consultations regularly with the Think Tank and other CSOs. The MoWCSC also organizes consultations with CSOs, women's rights organizations, academia, faith-based organizations, parliaments/parliamentary committees, private sectors and UN Women for CEDAW and BPfA reports. For SDGs, the National Planning Commission organizes meetings and consultations. However, there are no such formal mechanisms in place to ensure participation from marginalized groups and all genders to express their concerns. CSOs and their network organizations like BBC, AATWIN, NIWF, MITINI, NEMAF, AYON, NDWA, SANKALPA, WIPA, and etc. organize meetings in their respective constituencies for advocacy and lobbying.

The CSO-based Human Rights Treaty Monitoring Coordination Committee (HRTMCC) at the Informal Service Centre (INSEC) office also acts as a convener. The HRTMCC coordinates with other NGOs to prepare the CEDAW alternative report. BBC, along with other organizations, organizes meetings/consultations annually to garner grassroots voices on BPfA, thereby developing call for actions for lobbying at the UN CSW, and report back to the grass-root by disseminating agreed-upon conclusions in the Nepali language (see Box below).

For SDGs, the National Planning Commission organizes meetings and consultations. For detail please visit <http://sdg.npc.gov.np/>

#### **a) Which of the following stakeholders participate formally in national coordination mechanism established to contribute to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration, CEDAW and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?**

In SDG processes, the following organizations participate formally: Civil Society Organizations, Women's

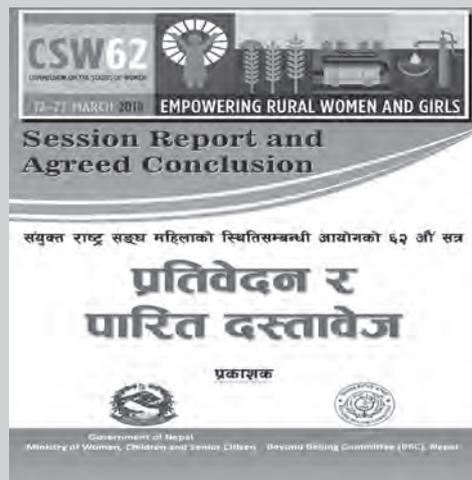
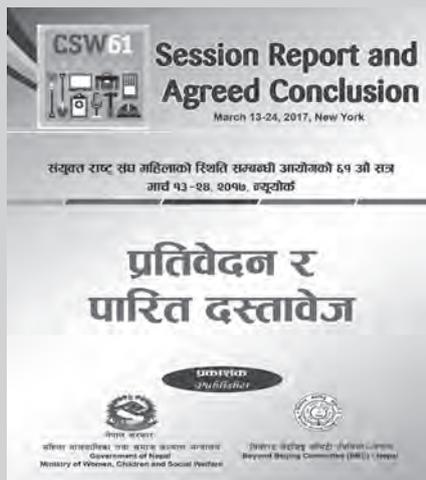
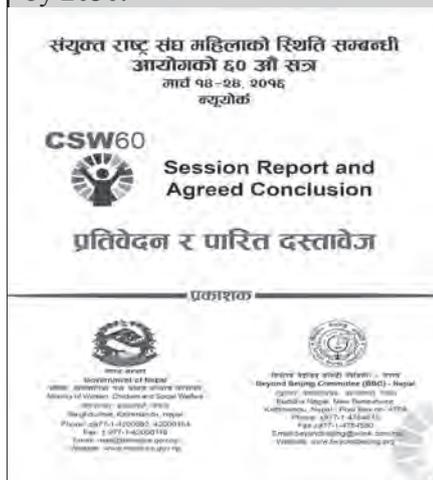
Rights Organizations, academia and think tanks, parliaments/parliamentary committees, the private sector and the United Nations system.

**b) Do you have mechanisms in place to ensure that women and girls from marginalized groups and all genders can participate and that their concerns are reflected in these processes?**

There are no such formal mechanisms in place to ensure the participation of marginalized groups and all genders in expressing their concerns. CSOs’ network organizations like BBC, AATWIN, NIWF, MITINI, NEMAF, AYON, NDWA, SANKALPA, WIPA etc. organize meetings in their respective constituencies to lobby to the government. The MoWCSW organizes consultations with civil society organizations, women’s rights organizations, academia and thinks tanks, faith-based organizations, parliaments/parliamentary committees, the private sector and UN women for CEDAW and BPfA reports.

**CSOs’ National Mechanism for BPfA: Beyond Beijing Committee (BBC) Nepal**

BBC, as a national network of women CSOs, has been playing a key role in ensuring the participation of different stakeholders. As its name implies, BBC is continuously striving to substantiate the FWCW message ‘Take Beijing Home with You’ from the very beginning. In 1997, it organized the Mini-Beijing National Conference in Kathmandu. Since then, BBC has been advocating for the implementation of BPfA, and annually monitoring the implementation status by organizing review meetings/consultations and taking forward the ground-level voices to the global (UN CSW) forum and vice-versa. It is disseminating the session outcomes in the Nepali language through report publication, which is also used as advocacy and monitoring tools. It has been reviewing the progress on BPfA implementation periodically and producing the CSOs review reports by organizing Beijing +5, +10, +15 and +20 consultations at the local and national levels. It is also involved in organizing parallel events during CSW sessions. BBC is a member of the NGOCSW/ NY and ECOSOC. BBC is highly committed to accelerating the feminist movement towards generational equality by 2030.



**c) Please describe how stakeholders have contributed to the preparation of the present national report.**

BBC took the lead in the Beijing + Review. At the outset, an inclusive Steering Committee (Annex 1: Steering Committee Members’ names and organizations) was formed, comprising of 23 professional women for coordinating, designing, executing and implementing the Beijing +25 Review process. As described afore,



four hundred and twenty-three (423) participants participated in the Beijing +25 National Review (Table 1: participants by sex, ethnicity, caste and disabilities) and Annex 2: Beijing + 25 National Review Participants). Women and men from different fields have contributed to this report by participating in the review held in all provinces (Annex 3: Glimpses of Beijing + 25 Provincial Reviews) and at the national level (Annex 4: Glimpses of Beijing + 25 National Reviews) and providing the required data, stories and cases. Provincial reviews were organized jointly with the BBC's provincial focal organizations based in respective provincial headquarters (Annex 5: Provincial Focal Person's Name and Organizations). Adolescent girls and youth contributed in a special way by participating in the 6<sup>th</sup> National Adolescent Girls' Conference from 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019 in Kathmandu to mark the International Day of Girl Child (IDGC), organized by the National Network of Adolescent Girls in coordination with Child Workers in Nepal Concerned Centre (CWIN-Nepal), and producing their call for action (see chapter on the Girl Child). Similarly, the youth also contributed by raising their specific issues relating to SRHR, by participating in the parallel session dedicated to them and producing a report (Ref. chapter youth, SRHR and SheDecides). Thematic writers, rapporteurs and facilitators have participated in the reviews and have also prepared reports, which were used as one of the major sources for writing this report (Annex 6: A List of Rapporteurs Facilitators and Chairperson).

The Core Members of the Thought Workshop Leaders (Annex 7: Intergenerational Feminist Forum's Core Group Members) also contributed in designing the programmes and implementing the second provincial consultations. Women leaders contributed to preparing and sharing the Feminist Position Paper. Rapporteurs and focal person/organizations also facilitated the discussions, taking interviews and collecting cases during the Provincial Reviews

During the National Review, government officials from different ministries, members from different commissions, parliamentarians, UN agencies, NGOs, Trade Unions, Private Organizations, and media people participated in the inaugural session with enthusiasm. The press meet was also organized on 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct. 2019. A list of Media coverage and there link is annexed. (Annex 8. Beijing + 25 National Review media coverage links and clips)

### **34. Is gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls included as a key priority in the national plan/strategy for SDG implementation?**

**Yes**

The NPC finalized the Fifteenth Plan (FY 2019/20-2023/24) approach paper, which incorporated 'Gender Equality and Women Empowerment', with a goal to achieve substantial equality, including equal and meaningful participation of women. It intended to increase the promotion of gender-responsive budgets at all three levels of the government. It expressed commitments to enforce 'zero tolerance' policy against all forms of gender-based violence, discrimination, abuse, exploitation and neglect. The Government acknowledged the importance of women and girls' empowerment to achieve a vision of building 'Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali'.

#### **Initiative towards gender equality**

"Chief Minister Beti Padhau, Beti Bachau" programme have been launched in all 8 districts of Province 2 since January 2019. A total 4,373 newborn baby girls have been registered for insurance and bank account purposes after getting birth registration certificates from their respective Municipalities. The Province Government already provided 14,000 free bicycles to the girl students from grade 8 and onward for their easy access to schools. This programme is making long-term impact on girls' life through right to identity, right to mobility and right to education, including the legal identity of the mothers.

*Source: Jitendra Kumar Yadab, Personal Secretary to the Chief Minister, Office of the Chief Minister & The Council of Ministers, Province 2*

#### **Chief Minister's Rural Development Program in province 5**

Province's Policy Programmes announced this year under the Chief Minister's Rural Development Program are 'Youth Skill Bank', 'Exemplary Agriculture Programme', 'One Village, One Product Programme', and 'One Rural Municipality, One Cold Storage Programme' to increase access of women and girls to agriculture product and employment .

*Information provided by the participants of Provincial Review, Province 5*

## Beijing+25 Review: National Parallel Report

The National Planning Commission (NPC) has prepared Sustainable Development Goals Status and Roadmap: 2016-2030 with details of national targets and indicators within all 17 Goals with intermediate milestones for 2019 i.e., end of the 14th periodic plan; for 2022 i.e., anticipated date for graduation from LDC status; for 2025 i.e., vantage point for an accelerated development phase; and lastly for 2030 i.e., achieving the spirit of ‘No One Left Behind.’ The roadmap includes Goal 5 and Gender Mainstreaming.<sup>4</sup>

Some provinces are initiating exemplary programs, such as Chief Minister’s Beti Padhau, Beti Bachau” in Province 2 and Chief Minister’s Rural Development Program in Province 5.

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

*Connecting People For Development Justice*

**Nepal SDGs Forum**  
Brief Introduction

*Leaving no one behind*

**CSOs Forum on Sustainable Development in Nepal**

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8. Campaign for Human Rights and Social Transformation Nepal (CAHR/RAST)
9. Citizen Campaign for Right to Information (CCRI)
10. Climate Change Network Nepal (CCNN)
11. Collective Campaign for Peace (CCAP)
12. Community School Management Committee Federation of Nepal (SMC Federation)
13. Consortium of Organizations Working for Child Participation (Consortium Nepal)
14. Dalit NGO Federation (DNF)
15. Federation of Community Forest Users Nepal (FCOFUN)
16. Federation of Drinking Water and Sanitation Users Nepal (FDWASUN)
17. Good Governance Foundation
18. Jeebhya Youth
19. Intercity Youth Alliance
20. Joint Trade Unions Coordination Committee (JTUC)
21. Junkin Nepal
22. Municipal Association of Nepal (MUAAN)
23. National Alliance for Human Rights and Social Justice Human Rights Alliance Nepal
24. National Association of Community Electricity Users Nepal (NACEUN)
25. National Association of PLHA in Nepal
26. National Association of VDCs in Nepal (NAVIN)
27. National Campaign for Education Nepal (NCE)
28. National Cooperative Federation of Nepal (NCF)
29. National Disaster Management Network of Nepal (DiMAN)
30. National Farmers Group Federation Nepal (NFGF)
31. National Federation of Disabled Nepal (NFDN)
32. National Federation of Irrigational Water Users Association Nepal (NIWUAN)
33. National Forum for Advocacy Nepal (NAFAN)
34. National Micro-Entrepreneurs Federation Nepal (NMEFEN)
35. National Network for Safe Migration
36. National Network on Right to Food, Nepal (NRFN)
37. National Senior Citizens Federation Nepal (NSCFN)
38. Nepal Disabled Women Association (NDWA)
39. NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN)
40. NGO Federation of Nepalese Indigenous Nationalities (NGO FENIN)
41. Open Nepal
42. Resonance Centre of Primary Health Care (RECPH/C)
43. Transparency International Nepal
44. Women in Policy Advocacy Alliance (WIPAAA)

**5 GENDER EQUALITY**

**Country Report Status of Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals in Nepal: Women CSOs Perspectives**

Beyond Beijing Committee - Nepal  
Women Major Group for Sustainable Development  
in Nepal

<sup>4</sup> <http://sdg.npc.gov.np/resource/2659/>



## Chapter 5: Data and Statistics



### 35. Out of the following, which are your priorities for strengthening national gender statistics over the next five years?

The participants of the 2<sup>nd</sup> provincial consultations have set the following as priorities for the next five years:

S.N.	Descriptions	Priority
1	Promote new laws, regulations, or statistical programmes/strategies to develop gender statistics	1 <sup>st</sup>
2	Greater utilization and/or improvement of administrative-based or alternative data sources to address gender data gaps	2 <sup>nd</sup>
3	Production of knowledge products on gender statistics (e.g., user-friendly reports, policy briefs, research papers)	3 <sup>rd</sup>
4	Statistical capacity building of users to increase statistical appreciation on and use of gender statistics (e.g., training, statistical appreciation seminars)	4 <sup>th</sup>
5	Conduct new surveys to produce national baseline information on specialized topics (e.g., time use, gender-based violence, asset ownership, poverty, disability)	5 <sup>th</sup>
6	Use more gender-sensitive data in the formulation of policy and implementation of programmes and projects	5 <sup>th</sup>
7	Institutionalization of users-producers' dialogues mechanisms	6 <sup>th</sup>
8	Establishment of an inter-agency coordination mechanism on gender statistics (e.g., technical working group, inter-agency committee)	7 <sup>th</sup>

**The Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) urged the Governments:** The history of collecting sex-disaggregated data (gender statistics) in Nepal is not that long. Nepali women's first statistical profile was published in 1979, titled, 'Status of women in Nepal' by CEDA. The Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) urged the government to regularly collect gender statistics related to its twelve critical areas to serve as a basis for monitoring progress and evaluating the impact of policies and programs. The Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), the central agency responsible for the collection, consolidation, processing, analysis, publication and dissemination of data-initiated gender mainstreaming in Nepal Population censuses 2001 and has continued in later censuses and surveys. Official statistics such as GBVIMS, HMIS, EMIS, PMIS, and etc. have been updated and enhanced. In order to register vital events, the Department of Civil Registration was established in 2015 and it strengthened its MIS with a mission to "Get Everyone in the Picture", in line with the principle of 'Leaving No One Behind'. The National Strategy for the Development of Statistics was developed. However, it does not specifically mention gender statistics, despite the political will to monitor gender equality.

**Promoted new laws, regulations, or statistical programs/strategies to develop gender statistics:** The Constitution of Nepal 2072 explicitly stipulates the statistical rights and responsibilities of the Central, Federal, Provincial and Local governments. Establishment of the federal system truly demands shaping gender-responsive National Statistical Systems (NSS) down to the local bodies. However, existing statistics relating to laws and regulations have not been updated or amended. Legal instruments are in place. The National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) must be amended to address the need for gender statistics. Therefore, advocacy and action from CSOs will continue to establish a gender-responsive statistical system so that the government need not spend scarce resources to conduct new census and surveys, but could rather systematically use data generated from the ground (local).

**Production of knowledge products on gender statistics (e.g., user-friendly reports, policy briefs, research papers):** The Beyond Beijing Committee (Women CSOs) will produce a report titled, 'Plea and plan for

accelerating feminist movement towards generation equality in the provinces by 2030', based on the outcomes of the provincial reviews in all seven provinces. As an outcome, an advocacy brief for each province will be published to advocate the need for 'developing a gender statistic system in a life-cycle approach,' commensurate with 'Leaving No One Behind' and establishing a gender-responsive mechanism to manage data at the local (municipalities) and provincial levels. In addition, training will be organized on doing studies and writing reports in a gender-responsive manner without perpetuating sex-stereotyping and sexism.

**Greater utilization and/or improvement of administrative-based or alternative data sources to address gender data gaps:** The government has a Management Information System (MIS) in all sectors, such as GBVIMS, HMIS, EMIS, VERSP MIS, etc. The government has planned to enhance its capacity to update official statistics progressively to meet SDGs' requirements. The government has also established the Department of Civil Registration in 2015. The department is strengthening its system. However, the CBS and sectoral ministries/departments are not getting sufficient budget for statistical activities needed to fulfil all requirements. Therefore, Citizen Generated Data (CGD) is the alternative data sources addressing gender data gaps. To complement the government's mission of "Getting Everyone in the Picture" and "Leaving No One Behind", the Data Shift Gender Thematic Forum will cooperate in building the capacity and competence required to manage CGD.

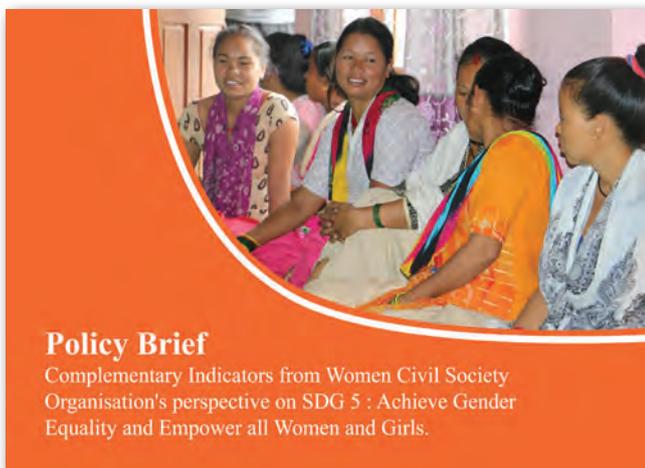
**Statistical capacity building in users to increase statistical appreciation of and the use of gender statistics (e.g., pieces of training, statistical appreciation seminars):** Under UN women's flagship program, 'Counting Every Woman and Girl', the Time-Use Survey and other surveys are going to be conducted by the CBS. Therefore, targeted CSOs capacity development training will be organized at the local and provincial levels in order to enable them to demand data-based policy, programme formulation and the use of data and gender statistics.

### **36. Has your country defined a national set of indicators for monitoring progress on the SDGs? If YES, how many indicators does it include and how many of those are gender-specific<sup>16</sup>?**

The nodal agency for SDGs is the National Planning Commission (NPC), which has set 489 indicators (for 169 SDG targets) for monitoring SDGs.

#### **If YES, how many of the gender-specific indicators are additional country indicators (i.e., not part of the global SDG monitoring and indicator framework)?**

SDG 5 has 9 targets and 14 global indicators. Nepal has added 22 additional indicators. In total there are 36 indicators within goal 5 alone. According to the Gender Equality and the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia, the Pacific Baseline and Pathways for Transformative Change by 2030, (UN Women & ADB), there are 85 gender-relevant indicators for SDGs. The additional country indicators on genders within SDGs are more than 135, including the indicators for goal 5 (SDG Roadmap, 2016-2030, NPC).



BBC and Women Major Group for Sustainable Development in Nepal developed complementary indicators to monitor at national and global levels, and indicators for SDG 5 to monitor progress at the local, provincial and national levels in the form of policy briefs, with support from ARROW.

### **37. Has data collection and compilation on SDG 5 indicators and on gender-specific indicators under other SDGs begun?**

**Yes**



Wenny Kusuma, Country Representative, UN Women, Nepal, while delivering her keynote speech, highlighted the power of Citizen Generated Data (CGD) that people themselves count and provide, illustrating the reality of the experiences of women and men to those who need to take this into account to make decisions that affect our lives.



During the presentation on the status of gender data in Nepal, Ms. Shanta Laxmi Shrestha, Chairperson of BBC said, “Nepal has a lot of data through different national-level surveys and administrative reports, and from CSOs across different districts, but there is no gender statistics in the life cycle approach and system in national account.” She added, “CGD is needed to reach the ones who are furthest behind because of socio-cultural, economic, geographical and other situations.” (BBC 2016 Data Shift Gender Thematic Forum: Exploring civil society data and citizen-generated data on gender issues in Nepal, Kathmandu, Nepal).

Exploring civil society data and citizen-generated data on gender issues in Nepal, Kathmandu, Nepal).

BBC, as the coordinator of the forum, had also organized a gender data stakeholders mapping workshop on 20th January, 2017 to identify and map the major stakeholders involved in the generation of data useful for SDGs, and are generating data related to their realities.

With the support of VSO Nepal, BBC has conducted citizen-led monitoring in 9 selected Municipality Wards of Baglung, Parsa and Surkhet Districts (2018-2019) using the community scorecard (CSC) through Local Women Major Groups formed at the ward-level. During the process, local governments and the community sat together to monitor the issues on Gender Equality, Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI), Gender-Based Violence (GBV), etc., using the indicators of SDG 5.

### **If YES, please describe which indicators have been prioritized**

There are multiple sources of data collection as shown in the box above. An online SDGs portal on the NPC website, which is open to the public, does not indicate any prioritization of indicators. However, only 15% (57) indicators are currently available publicly; 28% (106) indicators shall be estimated by using existing data and 17% (63) indicators can be obtained in future surveys. NPC is working on organizing these data sources. Insufficient physical, statistical infrastructure, human capability to enhance production, quality, dissemination and use of data, limited data availability, and the absence of a data consolidation platform are major challenges in collecting and compiling data.

### **38. Which of the following disaggregation is routinely provided by major surveys in your country?**

The Annual Household Survey (AHS) is one of the major surveys conducted annually for national accounts. Besides this, Nepal Labour Force Surveys (NLFS), Nepal Living Standards Surveys (NLSS), National Demographic Health Survey (NDHS) and Household Budget Survey are the regular surveys. All these surveys provide disaggregation by geography, income, sex, age, education, marital status, caste/ethnicity, and disabilities to a certain extent. Migratory status and (by gender) SOGI are yet to be incorporated in the disaggregated form to mainstream these issues in the surveys.

## Chapter 6: The Girl Child

### Introduction

The International Community will be celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference of women in 2020. ‘The Girl Child’ has been identified as one of the 12 critical areas of concerns to achieve gender equality, peace and development in the conference, resulting in the setting of nine strategic objectives, including the eradication of ‘All forms of discrimination against girls’. Similarly, Nepal has ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children, due to which the state has the obligation to protect, promote and fulfil the rights of the girl child.

The nurturing, development and empowerment of the girl child result in empowered women. Hence, this chapter highlights the issues raised by girl children, requiring special attention to be paid to these concerns by the government and other stakeholders, prioritizing them through the government, policy, plans and programmes.

The National Network of Adolescent Girls in coordination with the Child Workers in Nepal Concerned Centre (CWIN-Nepal) - a pioneer organization on child rights - convened the 6<sup>th</sup> National Adolescent Girls’ conference from 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019 in Kathmandu to mark the International Day of the Girl Child (IDGC), as well as to commemorate National Children’s Day and the Beijing +25 review on ‘the Girl Child’, a critical area of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA).



Adolescent girls representing 23 districts of all the seven provinces participated in the conference. The conference had inclusive participation of 45 girls belonging to different socially and geographically marginalized communities, girls with physical disabilities, sexual minorities, and the survivors of sexual abuse and exploitation. They received a day-long orientation and participated in discussions on the government and CSO initiatives on the Beijing +25 Review process and on the critical areas of action from the Immediate Past President and a Steering Committee Member of BBC. They assessed the BPfA, ‘the Girl Child’ status and gleaned major achievements, challenges, issues and concerns. They also intensively discussed the impact of online abuse on adolescent girls, which they identified as one of the emerging issues.

In conclusion, they prepared a ‘Call for Action’ and presented it to the Hon. Minister for Women, Children, and Senior Citizens, Ms. Tham Maya Thapa; Member of National Planning Commission, Mr. Min Bahadur Shahi; and other visiting the dignitaries.

### Achievements:

- Child Rights Organizations have rescued and rehabilitated thousands of girls at risk.
- Provision of education and skill-based programmes for children with special needs was made.
- Various awareness programmes to empower girl children were organized.
- Child Helpline 1098 was put in place, covering different districts of all seven provinces.
- Reporting of cases of violence against girls including sexual abuse has increased.
- The MoWCSC ‘s initiation to involve adolescents in the policy dialogues is encouraging.
- Integrated National Adolescent Girls Forum has been strengthened with representation from 25 districts.



## Challenges:

- Low-income status of families and growing economic disparity in the society.
- Gender discrimination, lack of awareness and patriarchal values in the societies resulting in the stigmatization and discrimination and prevalence of violence against girls.
- Unregulated border with India resulting in trafficking of girls.
- Lack of knowledge among facilitators in providing information and awareness campaigns on the rights of adolescent girls, especially for the awareness of sex education and sexuality in the rural parts of Nepal.
- Policies and laws developed for women and girl child are not practiced.
- Misuse of social media resulting in online sexual harassment and exploitation of girls.
- High incidences of abuse and exploitation of girls in public transport and the tourism sector.
- Unsafe migration of girls from rural to urban areas and to the foreign countries for employment has increased their vulnerability to human trafficking and human smuggling.

## Recommendations

- Empower girls through life skills, education and participation.
- Increase access to information and communication in rural areas.
- Provide self-defence training to adolescent girls.
- Form more numbers of adolescent-girls committees at local levels to ensure their active and meaningful participation.
- Provide effective need-based vocational trainings and apprenticeships to build self-reliance in young girls.
- Strengthen the rule of law, implement existing laws and policies and take immediate, stringent actions against perpetrators indulging in violence, exploitation and discrimination in order to protect the adolescents.
- Ensure protection to victims and their families to empower them to fight legal battles against perpetrators.
- Put a bar on sex-selective abortion to avoid the preference for sons.

## Issues of and Concerns across the Themes

### 1. Inclusive development, shared prosperity and decent work

- Women and girls receive lower wages for the same service as men and boys. The women workforce is actively working everywhere. However, women and girls are not allowed to work far away from home.
- Women and girls need safety in the workplace. They need support from their family even if the society regards them negatively. So, there is a need for advocacy starting from the family to the community, reaching the National level.
- Adolescents are not fully aware of their labour rights and learn about unions and get organized to claim their rights

### 2. Poverty eradication, social protection and social services

- People have a negative perception towards women's capabilities and women and girls do not have the confidence to demand the same amount of salary due to the prevailing patriarchy in society.
- Even if an educated woman wants to start a business, the society does not trust her, instead makes her feel like a criminal
- The immediate ending of child and adolescent trafficking for labour exploitation and sex trafficking is necessary. The perpetrators involved in such acts should be prosecuted and regulation of open borders must be in place.

- Many children are still out of school due to disabilities and other reasons. Therefore, plans should be implemented to provide quality education and vocational training to out-of-school children. In addition, hostels should be arranged as per the requirement for the education of children in special circumstances.

### 3. Freedom from violence, stigma and stereotypes

- Ending social and legal discrimination imposed on members of the LGBT community is crucial. It has been a burning issue, as children and adolescents from such groups have been going through constant discrimination at every step of their lives, such as issuing citizenships, admissions in schools/colleges, surgeries of the sex organs, and so on.
- The practice of discrimination during menstruation, ‘Chaupadi Pratha’, should be put to an end. Although the law has prohibited such harmful practices, it is still practiced in society. It is impacting the lives of adolescents. Therefore, awareness-raising and effective implementation of the existing law is necessary to end the harmful tradition.
- Girls continue to suffer because of the widespread dowry practices in society. Stringent legal action should be taken to eradicate such wrong customs, mostly in the rural parts of Nepal where such trends are sternly practiced in the name of culture and tradition.

### 4. Participation, accountability and gender-responsive institutions

- Ensure opportunities for girls from all over the country to participate in programmes like the Integrated National Adolescent Girls’ Forum, as participation in such meetings brings positive changes within the girls and in the society.
- Muslim girls are not allowed to study in the same school as the boys in various parts of Nepal. However, the provision of a separate school for girls has made them feel happy.
- A separate mechanism should be in place for inclusive participation of girls from all seven provinces and for the opportunity to engage in the process of making decisions for the girls at all levels. This will be an effective medium for addressing the issues in accordance with the issues faced by girls from the respective provinces.

### 5. Peaceful and Inclusive Societies

- The prevention of the growing sexual exploitation on the internet should be stopped by taking the necessary steps to protect girls against online child sexual abuse.
- The survivors of the rape cases are re-victimized as many of them don’t get justice in time. The survivors should be reintegrated into society with full respect and dignity.
- Strong mechanisms from the government and law enforcement agencies must be in place to protect adolescent girls from acid attacks, physical and mental violence and sexual abuse.
- Young girls who suffered sexual abuse during the period of armed conflict and are having mental problems must be supported in dealing with trauma and healing.

### 6. Environmental Conservation, Protection and Rehabilitation

- During natural and humanitarian calamities, adolescents are at high risk of trafficking, abuse and sexual violence. So necessary measures should be taken to protect them.
- More awareness programmes on global warming, climate change and wildlife conservation should be made available in schools and communities. Young people should be allowed to voice their concerns and make the government accountable for the impacts of climate change.

### Institutional Mechanism and Processes

- There is no formal mechanism, neither at the provincial level, nor at the national level, to ensure the participation of adolescent girls in the planning and implementation processes.



- There are child clubs and networks formed, functioning with the help of non-government organizations. However, there are no mechanisms to link them to the federal government, particularly due to the lack of women and children affairs offices at the local levels linking to the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens.
- To ensure girls' right to participate in planning and implementation, there is a need for a formal mechanism.
- The government at all levels should recognize children as one of the major groups for Sustainable Development and ensure their participation to learn and influence the decision-making process.

## Data and Statistics

- Make new laws at the local government level to develop gender disintegrated statistics at the local government units so that we can contribute to collecting data.
- We are the sources of data. Thus, engage us in generating our data required to address our issues and concerns.

## Call for Action

1. Take necessary action against people who discriminate on the basis of gender. There is a growing trend of sex-selective abortion and discrimination against infant girls. Ensure legal measures to stop this.
2. Adopt necessary measures to ensure no child remains stateless since many of the girls living in childcare homes are deprived of citizenships due to various reasons, including family identification and lack of family contacts.
3. Develop a new National Action Plan on the Development of the Adolescents and ensure our meaningful participation in its formulation, implementation and monitoring process.
4. Espouse strict measures to prevent the tendency of misguiding girls into falsifying their dates of birth to increase their age in identity and citizenship certificates, mainly for migrating abroad in search of work.
5. Implement effective measures to combat the trafficking of children and adolescents for labour exploitation and sexual exploitation. Take stern legal action against the perpetrators involved. Provide protection and reintegration services to survivors.
6. Establish a regular monitoring system to end abuse and discrimination against adopted children.
7. Take stringent action to protect girls from harassment in public places and public transportation, ensuring their safety and right to mobility.
8. Adopt measures to take stringent action against perpetrators of rape cases to ensure quick justice to the victims as well as protecting them from societal stigma.
9. End the social and legal discrimination imposed on members of the LGBTQIA, especially against the adolescents belonging to this community.
10. Take the necessary steps to protect girls from online sexual abuse and exploitation.
11. Include legal aspects such as the Constitution and the new Children's Act in the school textbook in simple language.
12. Implement an effective plan to provide the opportunity of quality education to out-of-school children, including children with disabilities. Establish girls' hostels as per the need of girls in special circumstances for the completion of their education.

13. Provide opportunities for creative development such as art, dance and sports, including creative development for deprived children.
14. Develop and impart comprehensive sex and reproductive health education. Distribute free sanitary pads to all adolescents so that we do not miss school days during menstruation.
15. Monitor to ensure the implementation of laws prohibiting harmful social practices like 'Chhaupadi' and dowry, which are still prevalent in society.
16. Create a safe environment inside the school and within the community so that adolescent girls will not suffer from acid attacks, physical and mental violence and sexual abuse.
17. Give priority to the protection of girls in the event of natural and humanitarian calamities for averting the increased risk of trafficking and sexual violence.
18. Implement programmes to rehabilitate the street children as they are at increased risk of sexual abuse and drug use.
19. Ensure child and disabled-friendly physical infrastructure in all schools, including the institutions where children and PWD have regular contact.
20. Protect children from the use of tobacco, alcohol and drugs. Allow us to live in a society free of such substances.
21. Take necessary measures to end child marriages including the trend of 'child love' marriages.
22. Deploy psychosocial counsellors in schools and communities for regular counselling.
23. Adopt measures to protect the younger generation from the harmful effects of climate crisis due to climate change.
24. Provide us with an enabling environment for our participation in campaigns such as birth registration, welcome to school, child-friendly schools, open-defecation free area, as well as against child marriage and human trafficking. Accept us as the agents of change in society, and
25. Make child participation in the decision-making process relevant and meaningful to the children in the local, provincial and federal government structures to hear our voices.



## Chapter 7: Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and She Decides

### Introduction

Nepal is one of the richest countries in the world in terms of young human resources (of age 10-24) for the development of the country (see Table 6.1). Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) are a crucial part in the lives of young people – whether or not they are sexually active. Hence, the Government has an obligation to respect their SRHR. Nepal is one of the most progressive countries in the Asian Region with regard to the SRHR policy provision. The youths still lag behind in enjoying SRHR as a fundamental right even after 25 years of ICPD & BPfA implementation (See Table 6.2: The Trend of SRHR).

Age	Population	Percentage
10-14	3,475,424	13.12
15-19	2,931,980	11.07
20-24	2,358,071	8.90

Source: CBS, 2011

BBC regards the BPfA as a key tool for accountability on women's rights issues. Thus, a full session was dedicated for the “Youth SRHR and She Decides” during the Beijing +25 National Review. Over 50 youth from different walks of life discussed the state of SRHR and She Decides, then derived achievements, challenges and actions.

### State of SRHR and She Decides in Nepal

Nepal has the third-highest child marriage prevalence in South Asia, with 41% of women aged 20 to 24 married before the age of 18.<sup>1</sup> Chhaupadi (menstrual seclusion) is still in practice in rural as well as urban areas and women and girls are compelled to stay outside the home in a shed during menstruation. It has increased their vulnerability to the violence of rape, attacks from wild animals, and snakebites.<sup>2</sup> Although the knowledge of the use of contraceptives is around 99%, the modern contraceptive prevalence rate (MCPR) is lowest among women and girls aged 15-19 (4%) and 20-24 (17.9%). But the unmet need is the highest among the same group. While only 42.7% and 43.3% of the women aged 15-19 and 20-24 respectively are aware of the legalization of safe abortion and high unmet needs, the proportion of adolescents (< 20 years) among SAS users decline over the last three years for both medical (10%) and surgical abortion (11%). This may be an indication that most of the women have been attaining unsafe abortions.

Indicators	2015	2019	2030 Target <sup>a</sup>
mCPR (15-24) (%)	13.9 <sup>b</sup>	10.9 <sup>c</sup>	60 (age 15-49)
Unmet Need (15-24) (%)	39.6 <sup>b</sup>	33.7 <sup>c</sup>	
Adolescent Birth Rate (per 1000 age between 15-19)	81 <sup>b</sup>	88 <sup>c</sup>	30
Total Fertility Rate (%)	2.6 <sup>b</sup>	2.3 <sup>c</sup>	2.1
Knowledge on legalization of abortion (%)	41.5 <sup>b</sup>	42.7 <sup>c</sup>	
# of new HIV infections among adults 15-49 years old (per 1000 uninfected population)	0.2 <sup>d</sup>	0.15 <sup>e</sup>	0.014
Maternal Mortality Ratio (deaths per 100,000 live births)	258 <sup>f</sup>	239 <sup>c</sup>	70

Source  
<sup>a</sup>SDG 2030, <sup>b</sup>NDHS 2011, <sup>c</sup>NDHS 2016, <sup>d</sup>HMIS 2015/16, <sup>e</sup>HMIS 2017/18, <sup>f</sup>MICS, 2014)

A recent study conducted by BBC in 2019 on abortion stigmatization and barriers to safe abortion among young people indicated that stigma among unmarried and young women who have had an abortion is deeply ingrained in the society. The maternal mortality rate is 239 per 100,000 live births.<sup>3</sup> Though MMR is declining, it is still much higher than the SDG target of 70 per 100,000 live births. The risk of maternal deaths among adolescent girls in Nepal is twice the risk among young girls between the ages of 20-24.<sup>4</sup> Adolescent sexual and reproductive health (ASRH) education has been incorporated as a unit in the Health and Population Education

1 UNFPA Nepal <https://nepal.unfpa.org/en/node/15217>

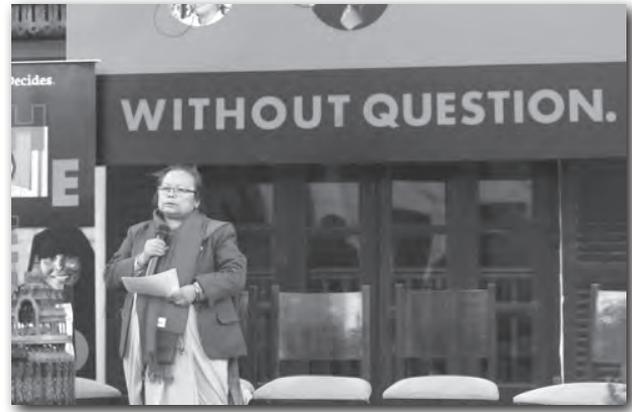
2 Joanna Morrison, J., Basnet, M., Bhatta, A., Khimbanjar, S and Baral, S., Analysis of Menstrual Hygiene Practices in Nepal The Role of Wash in Schools Programme for Girls Education 2016. UNICEF

3 NDHS 2016

4 Nove, A., Matthews, Z., Neal, S., & Camacho, A. V. (2014). Maternal mortality in adolescents compared with women of other ages: evidence from 144 countries. *The Lancet Global Health*, 2(3), e155-e164

(HPE) courses in grades 6-10, but the subject is optional for grades 9-12. It limits the SRH knowledge among youths.<sup>5</sup> The youths rarely get the opportunity to participate in the decision-making process, and in making policies or strategies and in their implementation.

The youths, especially women and girls, face many kinds of barriers on the realization of their SRHR due to the lack of youth-friendly behaviour among service providers, deficiency in evidence-based research on youths' SRHR, pervasive traditional norms and values, and the lack of enabling environments. Thus, in the milieu of ICPD 25th Anniversary, as a tool to build enabling environments to realize Youth SRHR, the second She Decides Flagship event was organized in Kathmandu on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019, with the key message of, "Every woman and girl can decide what to do with her body, with her life, with her future, without questions." It was convened in cooperation and coordination of the Ministry of Health and Population, the Ministry of Women Children and Senior Citizens, UNFPA, She Decides Global Unit, ARROW, IPPF and BBC Nepal, echoing, "Stand up, speak out, Change the Rules, and Unlock resources!"



## Achievements

- The Constitution guaranteed reproductive right as a fundamental right to all women, along with the recognition of the rights of SOGI.<sup>6</sup>
- Safe-Motherhood and Reproductive Health Rights act 2018, National Adolescent Development Strategies, and the National Strategy to End Child Marriage in 2016 have been developed, free and safe abortion services from the government health institutions has been ensured, and Chhaupadi (segregating and isolating women during menstruation and the post-partum period) has been criminalized.
- Youth Vision– 2025 and a Ten-Year Strategic Plan have been prepared by prioritizing the promotion of healthy youth, including issues of reproductive and mental health.<sup>7</sup>
- Adolescent-friendly services have been expanded and strengthened all over the country.
- Nepal family planning programme has been executed through Family Planning 2020.<sup>8</sup>
- SAS has been expanded through additional training programmes to the health workers, increasing the numbers of safe abortion sites.
- Distribution of sanitary pads along with awareness programmes have been launched for menstrual hygiene in public schools.
- Women's access to health services has been promoted through the expansion of universal health coverage or public health services.
- Specific health services for women and adolescent girls, including sexual and reproductive health services, mental, maternal health, and HIV services have been expanded.
- Comprehensive education on sexuality in schools or through community programmes has strengthened.
- Post-abortion care services have been provided, and abortion has been legalized.

5 UNFPA Nepal, Review of Curricula in the Context of Comprehensive Sexuality Education in Nepal, 2014

6 The Constitution of Nepal 2015

7 Goon Ministry of Youth and Sports, Youth Vision – 2025 And Ten-Year Strategic Plan, 2015

8 Department of Health Services, Annual Report: Department of Health Services 2016/2017, Kathmandu, Nepal, 2018



## Challenges

- The lack of availability, accessibility, acceptability and equity of health services remain as latent barriers for adolescents. Although Safe-Motherhood and Reproductive Health Right Act (2018) has been promulgated, regulation is yet to be formulated to put the policy and legal provisions into action. Because ‘Abortion’ is included in the National Criminal Code (2017), it stigmatizes the service seekers, despite the availability of free SAS in public health institutions.
- The youths lack adequate education and are unable to make informed choices about their health. The sheer lack for guidance and services in sexual and reproductive health has led them to risky sexual behaviours. Study shows girls face more socioeconomic and sexual problems than boys.
- Gender norms always limit girls’ control over their sexual and reproductive health, even to get educated and get required services, which have increased gender inequalities, endangering the health and wellbeing of women and future generation.

## Call for action (Plea and Plan)

Recognizing that young and adolescent people, especially females, are made vulnerable due to patriarchal norms and values, the parallel session during the national process recommended:

- Focus comprehensive SRHR Education not only on the rights but also on the responsibilities/duties and responsive behaviours towards each other.
- Make quality health service available accessible, and youth as well as adolescent-friendly at all levels particularly to reach the furthest behind first.
- Promulgate regulation, policies and guidelines immediately for effective implementation of the Acts with effective monitoring and evaluation.
- Develop and enforce ethical guidelines to avoid detrimental information and promos.
- Develop and implement family-focused interventions to eradicate harmful social norms and values which are entrenched deeply in society.
- Build She Decides movements at the local level to empower every girl.
- Design programmes and allocate resources adequately to achieve the SDG target as shown in Table 2 above.

## Chapter 8: A Position Paper: Feminist Leadership & the Women's/Feminist Movement in Nepal

### Preamble

We believe in our inalienable and indivisible rights to equal citizenship that respects women's individual autonomy and agency, rule of law and non-discrimination, just and equitable private and public institutions encompassing family, social, cultural, economic, legal, political and governance institutions.

We recognise, respect and express our deep gratitude to the glorious herstory of women's movements in Nepal that includes Dalits, Indigenous, Ethnic Indigenous, Muslim, Single Women, Madhesis, persons with disabilities, LGBTI +/MOGAI, Badis, Kamlaris, Halias, Sex Workers and Landless Women for their significant contributions in spearheading the call for substantive equality, non-discrimination, social justice, and dignity in all spheres of women's lives.

We hereby declare ourselves a group of Inter-Generational Women's/Feminist<sup>1</sup> Movement to ensure women's human rights by embracing diversity, intersectionality and inclusive democracy to redress the unjust, discriminatory structures and practices perpetuated by patriarchal institutions and the environment that supports such injustices.

On the eve of 25<sup>th</sup> year of the declaration of the BPfA, the Inter-Generational Women's/Feminist Movement is deeply concerned with the resurgence of fundamentalism<sup>2</sup> manifested in the form of nationalism and populism<sup>3</sup> in Nepal undermining the core principles of democracy that has a backlash on women's rights. Therefore, as Nepali feminists we take a stand on the following:

1. We believe in women's inherent rights to become sovereign and equal citizens of Nepal because the Constitution demonstrates how gender equality can be sacrificed in the name of protecting idealised patriarchal social and political values. This is demonstrated by not granting citizenship through motherhood, which is the assertion that mothers are not citizens in their own rights but that they create citizens.
2. We enforce the entitlement to live a life free from violence and the right to be protected from violence. This means that the systems of the State and leaders within those systems need to be accountable by complying with equality measures which includes responsible attitudinal shifts and maintains a focus on the individual complainant and responses to ensure the complainants' access to the much needed services – legal, medical, counseling, shelters, rehabilitation and protective measures. This is critical for ensuring women's right to dignified life that are free from violence, discrimination, exploitation, subordination, suppression and humiliation.
3. We challenge the normative framework of violence, which legitimate violence against women by men and institutional blindness towards everyday violence. We take it as serious problem, which has been fed into by an unequal and harmful gender ideology and have been fomented through historical power relations of racial and class inequality and abuse<sup>4</sup>.
4. We acknowledge the agency and the largely undocumented Nepali, "Her Story" which has so far been

1 *Our definition of feminism stems from the fact that although there are different strands of feminism, our experience affirms that caste, class, ethnicity and religious minorities oppression may be related to oppression based on sex, gender and sexuality but they are not the same. Sex and gender oppression is grounded in the ideology of male supremacy no matter what caste, class ethnicity and religious minorities they belong to, which is upheld by the universal patriarchal system and backed by religion. Under the patriarchal system, the separation of the private and personal life from public and political life has confined women to their reproductive functions limiting their mobility, access and control over resources, sexuality and social, religious, legal, economic and political structures of production and decision-making.*

2 *Strict following of the basic principles or discipline*

3 *A political approach that strives appeal to ordinary people who feel that the concerns are disregarded by established elites*

4 *Sexual Violence during War and Peace time, Gender, Power and Post-conflict Justice in Peru, 2014*



ignored to advance the rights of all women by eliminating oppressive patriarchal structures and practices that devalue girls and women in all their diverse identities as born or by choice.

5. We support nurture and care for all other diverse Nepali feminists and practicing self-care, mutual respect and feminist solidarity based on open and frank discussions.
6. We advocate professionalism, accountability, transparency and inclusive, equitable and egalitarian governance structures that fosters fair and equal treatment of girls, women and all other disenfranchised groups in all their diverse identities as born or by choice in their rights to livelihoods, security, facilities and services.
7. We create spaces that can inspire, uplift and empower all at all levels by critically assessing periodically the impacts of feminists' organisations and their roles in the women's movement.
8. We commit to observe non-violence to help and build non-violent families, communities, State and all relevant structures by promoting peace and inclusiveness. This will enable all to be equally eligible to represent and participate in all political processes and decision-making of nation-building to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment.
9. We promote an alternative leadership model based on the principles of collective leadership, which is devoid of familial, nepotism, favoritism, discrimination, non-hierarchical, is non-matronising.
10. We commit to dismantle patriarchy in all its manifestations in Nepal that has confined women to their reproductive functions limiting their mobility, access and control over resources, sexuality and social, religious, legal, economic and political structures of production and decision-making.
11. We commit to protect the legacy of our feminist ancestors who made numerous sacrifices, so that we can exercise greater autonomy by reminding ourselves of our duty to defend and respect the rights of all women and other disfranchised groups.
12. We believe in freedom of choice and autonomy regarding bodily integrity issues including reproductive rights, abortion, sexual identity and sexual orientation.
13. We nurture, mentor and provide opportunities for young feminists in a non-matronising manner and ensure necessary support and care for senior feminists.

# Annexes



## Annex 1: Steering Committee Members' Name and Organization

1. Anjana Shakya, Chairperson, Himalayan Human Rights Monitors (HIMRIGHTS); Honorary Chair, Beyond Beijing Committee (BBC) Nepal  
Coordinator, Steering Committee
2. Benu Maya Gurung, Executive Director, Alliance Against Trafficking in Women and Children in Nepal (AATWIN)
3. Bidhya Bhattarai, Lecturer, Tribhuvan University
4. Hira Dahal, Executive Director, Chhori
5. Jaya Luintel, President and Chief Executive Director, The Story Kitchen
6. Jyostna Maskey, Chairperson, Women Rehabilitation Center (WOREC)
7. Kamala Biswokarma, General Secretary, Centre for Dalit Women Nepal
8. Krishna Kumari Waiba, General Secretary, Beyond Beijing Committee (BBC) Nepal
9. Laxmi Karki, Program Manager, Rural Reconstruction Nepal (RRN)
10. Laxmi Tamang, PhD., President, Midwifery Society of Nepal (MIDSON)
11. Meena Bista, Manager, Jagaran Nepal
12. Nirmala Dhital, President, Nepal Disable Women Association
13. Pinky Gurung, Chairperson, Blue Diamond Society
14. Prativa Subedi, Founder President, Women Awareness Center Nepal
15. Rashmila Prajapati, Chairperson, Women Empowerment Nepal (WEN)
16. Samjah Shrestha, Manager, Human Rights Campaign and Advocacy Department, Informal Sector Service Center (INSEC); Coordinator, Human Rights Treaty Monitoring Coordination Centre (HRTMCC)
17. Sandhya Shrestha, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Specialist
18. Sanila Gurung, Program Manager, Beyond Beijing Committee (BBC) Nepal
19. Sarita Shrestha, Executive Director, Asmita Women's Publishing House, Media & Resource Organization (ASMITA)
20. Sarmila Shrestha, Executive Director, Justice for All
21. Sumnima Tuladhar, Executive Director, Child Workers in Nepal (CWIN)
22. Sushila Shrestha, Vice-Chairperson, Beyond Beijing Committee (BBC) Nepal
23. Yasso Kanti Bhattachan, Vice-Chairperson, National Indigenous Women Forum (NIWF)

## Annex 2: Beijing+25 National Review Participants

1. Aalia Ahmad, NMWS, Kathmandu
2. Aava Khanal, National College, Kathmandu
3. Agni Gurung, AMKAS Nepal, Kathmandu
4. Ajay Thapa, YAV Nepal, Bhaktapur
5. Aliza Singh, BBC Nepal, Kathmandu
6. Amala Maharjan, PNC, Kathmandu
7. Ambika Shrestha, AMDC, Udayapur
8. Ami Maharjan, NAUW, Kathmandu
9. Amira Subha, AMKAS Nepal, Lalitpur
10. Amrita Thebe, LAHURNIP, Kathmandu
11. Amuda Mishra, Ujyalo Foundation, Kathmandu
12. Anish Shrestha, YFED Foundation, Baglung
13. Anisha Majhi, CWIN Nepal, Sindhuli
14. Anita Ranabhat, OXN, Kathmandu
15. Anita Bishankha, CDWN, Kathmandu
16. Anita Humagain, Nari Jagaran, Kavre
17. Anita Joshi, MSBKN, Kathmandu
18. Anita Shrestha, CWAD, Kathmandu
19. Anjana Shakya, BBC Nepal/HIMRIGHTS, Kathmandu
20. Anju Ghimire, Nari, Kathmandu
21. Anju K.C, AMK, Kathmandu
22. Anju Kandel, JNC, Lalitpur
23. Anju Kumari Purbey, EACDC, Dhanusha
24. Anju Pariyar, Girl Empowerment by Travel Nepal, Bhaktapur
25. Anju Shrestha, IM Swedish Development Partners, Sankhuwasabha
26. Anuja Gurung, CWIN Nepal, Makwanpur
27. Anupa Regmi, Radha Paudel Foundation, Kathmandu
28. Apsara Karki, BPW, Ramechhap
29. Aradhana Yadav, Siddhartha Bahuwudsye Krishi Samuha, Rupandehi
30. Archana Tandukhar, WEN, Lalitpur
31. Arjun Aryal, VSO, Kathmandu
32. Arjun Baral, Staff College
33. Aruna Rana Thapa, Independent Gender Consultant, Kathmandu
34. Ashok Rana, YouthAction Nepal, Kathmandu
35. Asmita Acharya, CWDC, Kathmandu
36. Asmita Gole, CWIN Nepal, Sindhuli
37. Asmita Thapa, CWIN Nepal, Myagdi
38. Bandana Rai, Kathmandu
39. Bhabani Sapkota, SAHAVAGI, Kathmandu
40. Bharati Silawal Giri, IGGF/NNAGT
41. Bhawana Ayer, WYESHR, Lalitpur
42. Bhawani Shrestha, Mahila Jagaran, Kavre
43. Bibek Bista, SV College
44. Bidhya Bhattarai, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu
45. Bidhya Rai, Kanitpur, Kathmandu
46. Bijay Karki, Nayapatrika, Lalitpur
47. Bijaya Maharjan, Kathmandu
48. Bijaya Rai Shrestha, TWL/AMKAS Nepal, Kathmandu
49. Bijaya Shrestha, Lalitpur
50. Bijaya Thapa Magar, UNFPA, Lalitpur
51. Bimala Tumkhewa, Sancharika Samuha
52. Bimala Gayak, SUS, Chitwan
53. Bimala Rai Paudyal, Rastriya Sabha Sadasye, Kathmandu
54. Bina Maharjan, Newa Misa Daboo, Lalitpur
55. Bindu Sharma, ED-JUS, Kailali
56. Binita Rijal, Nepal Television, Kathmandu
57. Binita Thapa, INWOLAG, Kathmandu
58. Binod Shrestha, Kathmandu
59. Binu Shrestha, The Rising Nepal, Kathmandu
60. Bipana Musikhwal, Siksyalaya Mashik, Bhaktapur
61. Bipana Tamang, Mahila Manch, Kathmandu
62. Bishal Shahi, SANJAL
63. Bishnu Bastola, Friendship Nepal, Bhaktapur
64. Bishnu Ojha, Makawanpur
65. Bishnu Thapa, Janata Television



66. Bisho Maya Dhonju
67. Bitisha B.K, Kishori Sanjal, Bardiya
68. Bivechana Gautam, National College, Kathmandu
69. Bridhika Senchury, Samata Foundation, Kathmandu
70. Chanchal Mahat, Ramechhap
71. Chanda Rai, Angala, Kathmandu
72. Chandani Rana, NNAGT, Kathmandu
73. Chandika Shrestha, Kathmandu
74. Chandra Bahadur Khadka, SV College, Kathmandu
75. Chetana Adhikari, SSDC, Kapilvastu
76. Chhetra Kumari Gurung, NFWLHA, Kathmandu
77. Chini Maya Tamang, Shakti Samuha, Sindhupalchowk
78. Chiring Lama Sherpa, Lalitpur
79. Chudadevi Dahal, Tewa, Udayapur
80. Daya Sagar Shrestha, National Campaign for Sustainable Development, Kavre
81. Deepak Acharya, ACORAB
82. Deepak Baral, Staff College
83. Dhana Suna, Alternative Research Nepal, Lalitpur
84. Dhanmaya Poudel, Mahila Samuha, Kathmandu
85. Dichhya Shrestha, National College, Kathmandu
86. Dikxya Giri, Kishori Sanjal, Bardiya
87. Dil Devi Maharjan, BBC Nepal, Kathmandu
88. Dil Kumari Chand, WEAf, Dailekh
89. Dipendra Kaphle, NWC, Kathmandu
90. Dipesh Bista, SV College, Kathmandu
91. Diya Bhandari, LNN, Morang
92. Dr. Agni Prasad Kafle, FEDUC, Syangja
93. Dr. Arbind Lal Bhomi, CERID, Kathmandu
94. Dr. Bimala Rai Paudyal, National Assembly
95. Dr. Indra Kumari Bajracharya, Mahendra Ratna Campus, Kathmandu
96. Dr. Prakash Man Shrestha, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu
97. Dr. Rajani Dhakal Kafle, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu
98. Dr. Savana Pradhan, Freelance, Lumbini
99. Dr. Sumitra Gurung, Mahila Sahayatra, Kathmandu
100. Dropati Rokaya, NMBS, Kathmandu
101. Durga Bist, BBC Nepal, Syangja
102. Durga Sob, FEDO
103. Elina Rai, BBC Nepal, Kathmandu
104. Ganesh Singh, CWIN Nepal, Kathmandu
105. Ganga Thapa, AMKAS Nepal, Kathmandu
106. Gardika Bajracharya, WOREC, Kathmandu
107. Garima Maharjan, CWIN Nepal, Lalitpur
108. Gaura Nepali, CDWN, Kathmandu
109. Gita Thapa, LOOM, Kathmandu
110. Gita Bhattarai, SAP Nepal, Kathmandu
111. Gita Pun, SHRISTI, Kathmandu
112. Gitanjali Singh, UN WOMEN
113. Goma Majhi, CWIN Nepal, Kavre
114. Grihalaxmi Shrestha, Kathmandu
115. Gyan Bahadur Sharma, CWIN Nepal, Kathmandu
116. Hima Bhandari, BBC Nepal, Kathmandu
117. Himali Shrestha, WEN, Kathmandu
118. Hira Dahal, Chhori, Kathmandu
119. Hisilina Shakya, Newa Misa Daboo, Kathmandu
120. Indira Shrestha, INWOLAG, Lalitpur
121. Indira Thapa, PLAN International Nepal, Kathmandu
122. Indra Bahadur Shrestha, FEDUC, Kathmandu
123. Indra Kumari Rai, TWBC, Bardiya
124. Indra Rai, TWUC, Bardiya
125. Is Khulal Magar, YFEED, Dhankuta
126. Jagjit Kour, BBC Nepal, Kathmandu
127. Jamuna, NACS
128. Janita Rai, NIWF, Kathmandu
129. Jaya Prajapati, Room to Read, Kathmandu
130. Jeevan Dev Bajracharya, NAGW, Lalitpur
131. Jit Bahadur Chhetri, MOWCSC, Kathmandu
132. Jita Baral, MIDSON, Kathmandu
133. Kabita Thapa, Gorkhpatra, Kathmandu
134. Kalpalata Dahal, NASC, Kathmandu
135. Kalpana Rai, BBC Nepal, Kathmandu
136. Kalpana Shrestha, Mahila Jagaran Samuha, Kavre

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| 137. Kalyane Shah, WSPG, Kathmandu                      | 173. Laxmi Basnet, Himal Media, Kathmandu                             |
| 138. Kamal Bhandari, Computer Care Pvt. Ltd., Kathmandu | 174. Laxmi Bajracharya, STEP NEPAL                                    |
| 139. Kamal Budhathoki, Dhankuta                         | 175. Laxmi Basnet, BBC Nepal, Kathmandu                               |
| 140. Kamal Chaulagain, Kishan, Kathmandu                | 176. Laxmi Basnet, Himal Media, Kathmandu                             |
| 141. Kamala Biswokarma, CDWN, Gulmi                     | 177. Laxmi Karki, RRN, Kathmandu                                      |
| 142. Kamala Dahal, MOWCSC, Kathmandu                    | 178. Laxmi Rai, INWOLAG, Lalitpur                                     |
| 143. Kamala Subedi, C.W.D.C.N, Makwanpur                | 179. Laxmi Sapkota, Kavre   |
| 144. Kamala Thapa, NIWF, Kathmandu                      | 180. Laxmi Shrestha, Women Friendly Space, Bhaktapur                  |
| 145. Kamala Upreti, The Women Foundation, Kathmandu     | 181. Laxmi Tamang, MIDSON, Lalitpur                                   |
| 146. Kamala Lamichhane, SDSC, Gorkha                    | 182. Lirisha Tuladhar, YUWA, Kathmandu                                |
| 147. Kapil Shrestha, NEOC, Kathmandu                    | 183. Madhabi Bajracharya, IPAS Nepal, Kathmandu                       |
| 148. Karuna Amatya, Freelance, Lalitpur                 | 184. Madhu Ram Dangol, NASC, Kathmandu                                |
| 149. Karuna Maharjan, AATWIN, Kathmandu                 | 185. Madhu Rani Dhakal, WAM, Surkhet                                  |
| 150. Khumananda Subedi, SISO Nepal, Kathmandu           | 186. Maei, N.A.C.S, Lalitpur  |
| 151. Kopila Kandangwa, BBC Nepal, Kathmandu             | 187. Mahendra Laxmi Sharma, Community of Evaluation Nepal, Kathmandu  |
| 152. Kopila Rai, INWOLAG, Kathmandu                     | 188. Makhanapu Kayastha, SHRISTI, Kathmandu                           |
| 153. Krishna Bista, M.U.S, Baitadi                      | 189. Mala Rai, Gender Studies, Kathmandu                              |
| 154. Krishna Dangol, OSED Nepal, Lalitpur               | 190. Mandira Shrestha, Kishori Member, Lalitpur                       |
| 155. Krishna Gopal Maharjan, Newa Misa Daboo, Lalitpur  | 191. Manisha Hada, Visible Impact, Sindhupalchowk                     |
| 156. Krishna Gurung, MANK                               | 192. Manisha Tandukar, Lalitpur                                       |
| 157. Krishna Kumari Waiba, BBC Nepal, Kathmandu         | 193. Manjima Dhakal, The Rising Nepal, Gorkha                         |
| 158. Krishna Lama, CWIN Nepal, Kathmandu                | 194. Manju Acharya Ghimire, Nari Chetana Kendra Nepal, Kavre          |
| 159. Krishna Maharjan, ETV, Kathmandu                   | 195. Manju Dhimal, NIWF, Jhapa  |
| 160. Krishna Neupane, ADCCN, Kathmandu                  | 196. Manju Gurung, Pourakhi Nepal, Kathmandu                          |
| 161. Krishu Gauchan, MSBKN, Kathmandu                   | 197. Manju Karki, Kathmandu   |
| 162. Kriti Thapa, OXFAM, Kathmandu                      | 198. Mausam Rai, BBC Nepal, Morang                                    |
| 163. Kriti Vaidya, CWISH, Lalitpur                      | 199. Maya Bade, WHRD, Kavre   |
| 164. Kul Bahadur, Lalitpur                              | 200. Mayakohari, WAVE, Kathmandu                                      |
| 165. Kumar Nyaupane, Nobel College, Bajura              | 201. Meena Gurung, Tewa, Kathmandu                                    |
| 166. Kumari Waiba, CWIN Nepal, Makwanpur                | 202. Meera Karva, BPW Nepal, Kathmandu                                |
| 167. Kushal, NACS                                       | 203. Meeta Pradhan  |
| 168. Kushila Rai, INWOLAG, Kathmandu                    | 204. Menuka Rajbhandari Shrestha, Women Empowerment Center, Kathmandu |
| 169. Kusum Dhungel, RRN, Kathmandu                      | 205. Menuka Rawat, CWIN Nepal, Banke                                  |
| 170. Kusumlata Tiwari, NEMAF, Rautahat                  | 206. Menuka Thapa, CW, Bhaktapur                                      |
| 171. Lalita Tamang, Kishori Sanjal, Lalitpur            | 207. Meri Gautam, BYIF, Bhaktapur                                     |
| 172. Laxman Karki, NASC, Kathmandu                      |   |



208. Milan Kumar Yadav, Namu Budhha Sewa Samaj, Rupandehi
209. Mina Lama, NIWF, Kathmandu
210. Mina Sharma, CAHURASI, Kathmandu
211. Mina Swornakar, WSPG, Dang
212. Misa Chaudary, Kishori Samuha, Kailali
213. Mohani Maharjan, WGA, Kathmandu
214. Mohna Ansari, NHRC, Kathmandu
215. Muna Thapa Magar, CWIN Nepal, Kavre
216. Muno Basnet, Jagaran Nepal, Kathmandu
217. Nabin, NACS
218. Nabin Pujari, NASC, Kathmandu
219. Nahida Banu, NIRN, Kathmandu
220. Namrata Baniya, Janata Television
221. Nanda Kumari, Udayapur
222. Nani Maya Thapa, Sindhupalchowk
223. Nanu Thami, NTWS, Dolakha
224. Nar Kumari Gurung, BBC Nepal
225. Syangja, Nati sara Rai, Kathmandu
226. Neelima Basnet, GRID Nepal, Kathmandu
227. Neelmony Lama, Siraha
228. Neera Bista, Jagaran Nepal, Kathmandu
229. Neera Shakya, DoE, Bhaktapur
230. Neeta Shrestha, CWIN Nepal, Kathmandu
231. Nichha Kirat, BBC Nepal, Lalitpur
232. Nilam Bhandari, Gulmi
233. Nima Maharjan, L.N.C, Lalitpur
234. Nina Shrestha, PNC, Kathmandu
235. Nirjala Basnet, Chhori, Kathmandu
236. Nirjana Bhatt, CWIN Nepal, Lalitpur
237. Nirmala Bhujel, NIWF, Lalitpur
238. Nirmala Gurung, YWCA, Syangja
239. Nirmala Kumari Gupta, DNF, Dang
240. Nirmala Shrestha, Mahila Jagaran Samuha, Kavre
241. Nisha Adhikari, YUWA, Surkhet
242. Nor Kumari, Lalitpur
243. Pabitra Bhattarai, Lalitpur
244. Padam Bahadur Pun, NIDA, Lalitpur
245. Pampha Pariyar, ADWAN, Kathmandu
246. Paneeta Rai, Kathmandu
247. Parvati Sunam, BBC Nepal, Kathmandu
248. Pinky Gurung, BDS, Kathmandu
249. Prachi Neupane, National College, Kathmandu
250. Pramila Manandhar, Kathmandu
251. Pramila Nepali, Prapti Kishori Samuha, Kailali
252. Prasan Thapa, YAV Nepal, Bhaktapur
253. Pratima Parajuli, NFGF, Kathmandu
254. Prisma Singh Tharu, TWUC, Bardiya
255. Priti Mandal, NNAGT (TWL), Siraha
256. Priyanka Chaudhary, SWISS Contact, Lalitpur
257. Puja Shrestha, Kathmandu
258. Purna Karki, Jagaran Nepal, Lalitpur
259. Purnima Kayastha, CWIN Nepal, Bhaktapur
260. Pushpa Raj Shahi, Madhesi Commission, Lalitpur
261. Puspa Thapa, AMKAS Nepal, Kathmandu
262. Rachana Bhattarai, UN WOMEN
263. Radha Pradhanaga, WAVE, Kathmandu
264. Radhika Ghimire, Consultant, Rupandehi
265. Radhika Regmi, IFES, Kathmandu
266. Raghav Shrestha, KYG, Kathmandu
267. Rajana B. Chakarmu, NDWACUC, Kathmandu
268. Rajendra Maharjan, Right Here Right Now Nepal, Lalitpur
269. Rajendra Prasad Shrestha, Lalitpur
270. Rakhi Chaudhary, Jyoti Kunja Sahara Sanstha, Banke
271. Rakshya Dangol, NASC, Kathmandu
272. Ram Kumar, Makwanpur
273. Rambhai
274. Ramchandra Silwal, Green Tara Nepal, Dhading
275. Ramita Chhaju, CWIN Nepal, Lalitpur
276. Ramkumar Ojha, Kathmandu
277. Ranju Napit, LWCWC, Kathmandu
278. Rashmila Prajapati, WEN/SC, Kathmandu
279. Ratna Kaji Bjaracharya, ARC, Lalitpur

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| 280. Ratna Prasad, NACS   | 316. Sandhya Shrestha, BBC Nepal, Kathmandu           |
| 281. Reela Pariyar, Social Activities, Gorkha                   | 317. Sanila Gurung, BBC Nepal, Lalitpur               |
| 282. Reena Koju, Patan Hospital, Bhaktapur                      | 318. Sanjita Timsina, WOREC, Bhaktapur                |
| 283. Reena Lama, FAITH, Lalitpur                                | 319. Sanoj Rai, YFEED, Kathmandu                      |
| 284. Rekha Aryal, FTG Nepal, Lalitpur                           | 320. Santina Devkota KC, Didibahini, Kathmandu        |
| 285. Renu Sijapati, FEDO, Lalitpur                              | 321. Sanu Maharjan, Lakasa Nepal, Lalitpur            |
| 286. Renuka Rai, Practical Action, Lalitpur                     | 322. Sapana Rana Magar, WEN, Kathmandu                |
| 287. Reshma Shrestha, AIN, Kathmandu                            | 323. Saraswati Bartaula, WOSCC, Makwanpur             |
| 288. Reyusha Chalise, BBC Nepal, Kathmandu                      | 324. Sarita Bajracharya, Newa Misa Daboo, Lalitpur    |
| 289. Rita Sah, NEMAF, Kathmandu                                 | 325. Sarita Gautam, Mitini Nepal, Lalitpur            |
| 290. Rita Thapa, IGFF/TWL                                       | 326. Sarita K.C, BBC Nepal, Kathmandu                 |
| 291. Rock Tamang, SANJAL, Kathmandu                             | 327. Sarita Lamichhane, NDWA, Kathmandu               |
| 292. Rohini Shrestha, Ward Member, Kathmandu                    | 328. Sarita Shrestha, ASMITA, Kathmandu               |
| 293. Rojina Malla, NID, Lalitpur                                | 329. Sarmila Shrestha, J4A, Kathmandu                 |
| 294. Roni Shakya, BBC Nepal, Bhaktapur                          | 330. Saroj Mahato, NASC, Kathmandu                    |
| 295. Roshana Khadka, SUPPORT Nepal, Kathmandu                   | 331. Saroswoti Lohar, Dalit Path Alliance, Kanchanpur |
| 296. Roshani, MOWCSC, Kathmandu                                 | 332. Saru Khadka, GEF Nepal, Ramechhap                |
| 297. Rudra Shrama, MOWCSC, Lalitpur                             | 333. Saurav Khawas, BBC Nepal, Kathmandu              |
| 298. Ruma Manandhar, Distance Learning, Kathmandu               | 334. Savitri Thapa, WSPG                              |
| 299. Rupa Pandey, CRS Nepal, Lalitpur                           | 335. Seema Khan, BBC Nepal, Kathmandu                 |
| 300. Sabina Sanjel, NNDSWD, Kathmandu                           | 336. Seeta B.K, CWIN Nepal, Kavre                     |
| 301. Sabita Chepang, NIWF, Lalitpur                             | 337. Shambhu Shah, Onlinekhabar                       |
| 302. Sabita Ghising, Ruwon Nepal, Ramechhap                     | 338. Shamshu Kunwar, Sanjanya Media, Kathmandu        |
| 303. Sadhana Shrestha, RIS, Kathmandu                           | 339. Sharu Joshi, IGFF/NNAGT, Kathmandu               |
| 304. Sadikshya Sudedi, CWIN Nepal, Myagdi                       | 340. Shanta Laxmi Shrestha, BBC Nepal, Kathmandu      |
| 305. Sadikshya Bhattarai, Reliance Nepal, Jhapa                 | 341. Shanti Adhikari                                  |
| 306. Sailaja Ghimire, PAHS, Kathmandu                           | 342. Shanti Lama, Nari Chetang, Kavre                 |
| 307. Sajan Shakya, BBC Nepal, Kathmandu                         | 343. Shanti Nakarmi, NAPD-Nepal, Lalitpur             |
| 308. Sajana Bhadel, Girl Empowerment by Travel Nepal, Bhaktapur | 344. Sharada Poudel, Aawaaj, Surkhet                  |
| 309. Sally Thrane, AMK  | 345. Sharda Subba, BBC Nepal, Kathmandu               |
| 310. Saloni Singh, DidiBahini                                   | 346. Sharmila, Kathmandu                              |
| 311. Sambhu Prasad Raut, Myagdi                                 | 347. Sharmila Karki, Jagaran, Kathmandu               |
| 312. Samina Basyal, Staff College, Lalitpur                     | 348. Sharmila Shrestha, CWIN Nepal, Sindhuli          |
| 313. Samita Karmacharya, Didibahini, Jhapa                      | 349. Sheetal, Tewa, Kathmandu                         |
| 314. Samjha Shrestha, INSEC, Kathmandu                          | 350. Shiva Karmacharya, Kathmandu                     |
| 315. Samyog Khatiwada, ESBO, Kathmandu                          | 351. Shiva Tamang, Gorkhpatra, Nuwakot                |
|   | 352. Shree Krishna Thapa, YAV Nepal, Bhaktapur        |



353. Shreejana Pradhan, NIWF, Kathmandu
354. Shreya Shrestha, SV College, Kathmandu
355. Shreya Shrestha, YUWA, Kathmandu
356. Shubhechya Khadka, INSEC, Bhaktapur
357. Shyamaya Pun Magar, Kaski
358. Siristhi Tharu, Banke
359. Sita Dahal, CWIN Nepal, Kathmandu
360. Sita Ghimire, BBC Nepal, Kathmandu
361. Sita Poudel, Child Society Nepal, Morang
362. Smriti Devkota, NCDC, Kathmandu
363. Sonam Tamang, National College, Kathmandu
364. Soni Mehta, Sayapatri, Sunsari
365. Soni Pradhan, Save the children/AIN, Kathmandu
366. Sonika Poudel, YFEED, Kathmandu
367. Sony Piya, CWIN Nepal, Lalitpur
368. Sophiya Kisiju Shrestha, BBC Nepal, Kathmandu
369. Srijana Baral, CIN/ACORAB, Lalitpur
370. Srijana Kafle, Purple Group, Kathmandu
371. Srijana Luitel, Sayapatri, Sunsari
372. Srijana Poudel, Nari Chetana Kendra Nepal, Parbat
373. Subhadra Gautam, Nepal Television, Kavre
374. Sudeep Rajbanshi, Leo club of Bhaktapur  
Suryabinayak, Kathmandu
375. Sudha Pant, UNFPA, Kathmandu
376. Sudip Thakuri, NDIP, Lalitpur
377. Suhana Shrestha, CWIN Nepal, Kathmandu
378. Sujana Dhakal, Setopati.com
379. Sujita Khawas, BBC Nepal, Kathmandu
380. Sujita Shrestha, AMK, Lalitpur
381. Sumeera Shrestha, TWL/IGFL WHR, Kathmandu
382. Sumitra Adhikari, Sindhupalchowk
383. Sumitra Bhandari, Friendship Nepal, Bhaktapur
384. Sumitra Ghimire, Patan Hospital, Lalitpur
385. Sumnima Tuladhar, CWIN Nepal, Kathmandu
386. Sunil Kumar Shrestha, J4A, Kathmandu
387. Sunita Gurung, IM Swedish Development Partners,  
Kathmandu
388. Sunita Lama, BDS, Kathmandu
389. Sunita Moktan, CWIN Nepal, Makwanpur
390. Suran Maharjan, VSO, Lalitpur
391. Surya Biswokarma, World Vision, Palpa
392. Susan Suwal, YAV Nepal, Bhaktapur
393. Sushaili Pradhan, BBC Nepal, Kathmandu
394. Sushila Chaudary, Tharu Kalyan Kari Sabha, Kailali
395. Sushila Chaurei, NFCC, Lalitpur
396. Sushila Shakya, Lakasa Nepal, Lalitpur
397. Sushila Shrestha, BBC Nepal, Kathmandu
398. Sushma Bushyal, NFWLHA, Kathmandu
399. Sushmita Shrestha, AYON, Kathmandu
400. Sudip Thakuri, SANJAL
401. Suvhanu Acharya, RSS, Lalitpur
402. Sweta Magar, SV College, Kathmandu
403. Tara Bhandi, Biswas Nepal, Kathmandu
404. Tara Das, RICOD, Lalitpur
405. Tham Maya Thapa, MOWCSC
406. Thomas Thakuri, NDIP
407. Tika Dahal, NDWA, Kathmandu
408. Tripura Giri, Kishori Sanjal, Bardiya
409. Tula Mahaju, Newa Misa Daboo, Lalitpur
410. Tula Rana, BBC Nepal, Kathmandu
411. Tulasha Hamal, NASC, Dang
412. Uma Tamang, INWOLAG, Kathmandu
413. Urmila Ghimire, NID, Kathmandu
414. Urmila Rai, Sukh Santi, Kathmandu
415. Urmila Shrestha, Tewa, Lalitpur
416. Usha Baruwal, NSK, Kaski
417. Usha Ghimire, YAV Nepal, Bhaktapur
418. Usha Malla, BBC Nepal, Kathmandu
419. Vaijayanti Karki, AMK, Ramechhap
420. Vidiya Laxmi Joshi, Nursing, Lalitpur
421. Wadi Dalam, Swotandra, Lalitpur
422. Yamuna Panchkoti, Fight Back, Kathmandu
423. Yasso Kanti Bhattachan, NIWF, Lalitpur

**Some others from Nepal Administrative Staff  
College without registering**

### Annex 3. Glimpses of Beijing + 25 Provincial Reviews



Province 1



Province 2



Province 3



Province 4



Province 5



Province 6



Province 7



Provincial Focal Persons



Province 1



Province 2



Province 3



Province 4



Province 5



Province 6



Province 7



Group work at Provincial Review

### Annex 4. Glimpses of Beijing + 25 National Reviews



Adolescents Girls in Inclusive Cultural Dress National Consultation



Guests in the National Review



Minister of MoWCSC Hon'ble Tham Maya Thapa



BBC Nepal EC and Staff Members



Participant with Newari dress



Participants



With Gitanjali & Rachana, UN Women



BBC with Volunteers



Press Meet



Precatory Meeting



Guest Participant



Registration



Certification to Volunteers



Participants Inaugural Session



Chair with Steering Committee Members



Participants Inaugural Session

## Annex 5: Provincial Focal Person's Name and Organization

1. Sita Paudel, Chairperson, Child Society Nepal, BBC Nepal's Provincial Focal Person, Province 1, Biratnagar
2. Anju Kumari Purbey, Chairperson, Batabaran tatha Krishi Samudayik Bikash Kendra, BBC Nepal's Provincial Focal Person, Province 2, Janakpur
3. Saraswati Bartaula, Chairperson, Women Skill Creation Center, BBC Nepal's Provincial Focal Person, Province 3, Hetauda
4. Usha Baruwal, President, Nari Sewa Kendra, BBC Nepal's Provincial Focal Person, Gandaki Province, Pokhara
5. Prisma Singh Tharu, President, Tharu Mahila Utthan Kendra, BBC Nepal's Provincial Focal Person, Province 5, Bardiya
6. Madhurani Dhakal, Managing Director, Women's Association for Marginalized Women (WAM), BBC Nepal's Provincial Focal Person, Karnali Province, Surkhet
7. Bindu Sharma, Member, Center for Human Rights Education and Access to Justice (ED-JUS), BBC Nepal's Provincial Focal Person, Sudurpaschim Province, Dhangadi



## **Annex 6: A List of Rapporteur, Facilitators and Chairperson**

### **National Review: Parallel Sessions**

#### **Inclusive development shared prosperity and decent work**

- Chairperson: Nirmala Gupta, Chairperson, Dalit National Federation  
Facilitator: Prisma Singh Tharu, President, Tharu Mahila Utthan Kendra  
Rapporteur: Madhurani Dhakal, Managing Director, Women's Association for Marginalized Women (WAM)

#### **Poverty eradication, social protection and social services**

- Chairperson: Pinky Gurung, Chairperson, Blue Diamond Society  
Facilitator: Laxmi Karki, Program Manager, Rural Reconstruction Nepal (RRN)  
Rapporteur: Samjah Shrestha, Manager, Human Rights Campaign and Advocacy Department, Informal Sector Service Center (INSEC); Coordinator, Human Rights Treaty Monitoring Coordination Centre (HRT-MCC)

#### **Freedom from violence, stigma and stereotypes**

- Chairperson: Saloni Singh, Executive Chair, DidiBahini; Thought Workshop Leader  
Facilitator: Yasso Kanti Bhattachan, Vice-Chairperson, National Indigenous Women Forum (NIWF)  
Rapporteur: Hira Dahal, Executive Director, Chhori

#### **Participation, accountability and gender-responsive institutions**

- Chairperson: Srijana Pradhan, Vice-Chairperson, National Indigenous Women Forum (NIWF)  
Facilitator: Sarita Shrestha, Executive Director, Asmita Women's Publishing House, Media & Resource Organization (ASMITA)  
Rapporteur: Nani Maya Thapa, Executive Director, Gramin Mahila Shrijanshil Pariwar

#### **Peaceful and inclusive societies**

- Chairperson: Dr. Seema Singh, Vice-Chairperson, Akikrit Gramin Vikas Pariyojana, Mohottari  
Facilitator: Kamala Biswokarma, General Secretary, Centre for Dalit Women Nepal  
Rapporteur: Sanjita Timsina, Program Coordinator, Women Rehabilitation Center (WOREC)

#### **Environmental conservation, protection and rehabilitation**

- Chairperson: Tika Dahal, Advisor, National Disable Women Association (NDWA)  
Facilitator: Rita Kumari Sah, Senior Research Officer, Nepal Madhesh Foundation (NEMAF)  
Rapporteur: Bijaya Rai Shrestha, Chairperson, Aaprabasi Mahita Kamdar Samuha (AMKAS)

#### **Priorities, Achievements, Challenges and Setbacks**

- Chairperson: Durga Sob, Founder President, Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO)  
Facilitator: Meena Bista, Manager, Jagaran Nepal  
Rapporteur: Sarmila Shrestha, Executive Director, Justice for All

## National Institutions and processes

- Chairperson: Nahida Banu, Chairperson, Antar Dharmik Mahila Sangh
- Facilitator: Ratna Kaji Bajracharya, Managing Director, Aurora Research Centre
- Rapporteur: Samjah Shrestha, Manager, Human Rights Campaign and Advocacy Department, Informal Sector Service Center (INSEC); Coordinator, Human Rights Treaty Monitoring Coordination Centre (HRT-MCC)

## Youth SRHR

- Chairperson: Bajjanti Karki, President, Aama Milan Kendra; Treasurer, Women Security Pressure Group
- Facilitator: Laxmi Tamang, PhD., President, Midwifery Society of Nepal (MIDSON)
- Rapporteur: Shiwa Karmacharya, Research Coordinator, Youth LEAD

## Emerging Issues

- Chairperson: Natisara Rai, Chairperson, Alliance Against Trafficking in Women and Children in Nepal (AATWIN); Executive Director, Shakti Milan Samaj
- Facilitator: Anjana Shakya, Chairperson, Himalayan Human Rights Monitors (HIMRIGHTS)
- Rapporteur: Bijaya Rai Shrestha, Chairperson, Aaprabasi Mahita Kamdar Samuha (AMKAS)

## Data and Statistics

- Chairperson: Kalyanee Shah, Vice-President, Women Security Pressure Group
- Facilitator: Daya Sagar Shrestha, Chairperson, National Campaign for Sustainable Development (NACAS-UD-Nepal)
- Rapporteur: Sanjita Timsina, Program Coordinator, Women Rehabilitation Center (WOREC)

## Beijing Declaration

- Chairperson: Sharmila Karki, Founder Chairperson, Jagaran Nepal
- Facilitator: Sumnima Tuladhar, Executive Director, Child Workers in Nepal (CWIN)
- Rapporteur: Rita Kumari Sah, Senior Research Officer, Nepal Madhesh Foundation (NEMAF)

## First Provincial Review

### Province 1:

- Facilitator: Meena Bista, Steering Committee
- Rapporteur: Benu Maya Gurung, Steering Committee

### Province 2:

- Facilitator: Laxmi Karki, Steering Committee
- Rapporteur: Sandhya Shrestha, Steering Committee

### Province 3:

- Facilitator: Sarita Shrestha, Steering Committee
- Rapporteur: Hira Dahal, Steering Committee

### Province 4:

- Facilitator: Sarita Gautam, BBC Nepal
- Rapporteur: Sarmila Shrestha, Steering Committee

### Province 5:

- Facilitator: Kamala Biswokarma, Steering Committee
- Rapporteur: Samjah Shrestha, Steering Committee

### Province 6:

- Facilitator: Bina Devi Rai, NIWF
- Rapporteur: Nirmala Dhital, Steering Committee

### Province 7:

- Facilitator: Laxmi Tamang, Steering Committee
- Rapporteur: Bishnu Poudel, CWIN



## Second Provincial Review

### Province 1:

Thought Workshop Leaders:

Rita Thapa

Laxmi Ghalan

Rita Kumari Sah

Facilitator:

Sarita Shrestha, Steering Committee

Rapporteur:

Rashmila Prajapati, Steering Committee

Secretariat:

Sushila Shrestha, BBC Nepal

### Province 2:

Thought Workshop Leaders:

Rita Thapa

Indu Tuladhar

Rita Kumari Sah

Facilitator:

Nani Maya Thapa, ED, Gramin Mahila Shrijanshil Pariwar

Rapporteur:

Sarita Shrestha, Steering Committee

Secretariat:

Sushila Shrestha, BBC Nepal

### Province 3:

Thought Workshop Leaders:

Sumeera Shrestha

Priti Mandal

Sarita K.C

Facilitator:

Anjana Shakya, Steering Committee

Rapporteur:

Samjah Shrestha, Steering Committee

Secretariat:

Shanta Laxmi Shrestha, BBC Nepal

### Province 4:

Thought Workshop Leaders:

Saloni Singh

Sanjita Timsina

Chandani Rana

Facilitator:

Meena Bista, Steering Committee

Rapporteur:

Hira Dahal, Steering Committee

Secretariat:

Krishna Kumari Waiba, BBC Nepal

### Province 5:

Thought Workshop Leaders:

Sharu Joshi Shrestha

Kopila Kandangwa

Bijaya Rai Shrestha

Facilitator:

Rashmila Prajapati, Steering Committee

Rapporteur:

Sarmila Shrestha, Steering Committee

Secretariat:

Sarita Gautam, BBC Nepal

**Province 6:**

Thought Workshop Leaders:

Bharati Silawal-Giri

Manju Gurung

Gaura Nepali

Facilitator:

Sandhya Shrestha, Steering Committee

Rapporteur:

Bina Devi Rai, Program Manager, NIWF

Secretariat:

Parbati Sunam, BBC Nepal

**Province 7:**

Thought Workshop Leaders:

Bharati Silawal-Giri

Manju Gurung

Gaura Nepali

Facilitator:

Kamala Biswokarma, Steering Committee

Rapporteur:

Bina Devi Rai, Program Manager, NIWF

Secretariat:

Parbati Sunam, BBC Nepal



## **Annex 7: Intergenerational Feminist Forum’s Core Group Members**

### **Thought Workshop Leaders**

1. Rita Thapa – Coordinator, Feminist Position Paper
2. Saloni Singh, Executive Chair, DidiBahini
3. Bharati Silawal-Giri, Chairperson, National Network Against Girls’ Trafficking (NNAGT)
4. Jyotsna Maskey, Chairperson, Women Rehabilitation Center (WOREC)
5. Sharu Joshi Shrestha, National Network Against Girls’ Trafficking (NNAGT)
6. Sumeera Shrestha, Executive Director, Women for Human Rights (WHR)
7. Indu Tuladhar, Executive Chair, Himal Innovative Development and Research Pvt. Ltd (HIDR)

## Annex 8: Beijing + 25 National Review Media Coverage Links and Clip

<http://ajakoartha.com/story/18625>

<http://corporatekhabar.com/2019/10/15843/>

<http://dharananews.com/news/2019-10-23-1193>

<http://newspolar.com/2019/10/119106>

<http://www.arthadabali.com/2019/10/24/51487/>

<http://www.makalukhabar.com/news/391710>

<https://charawatipost.com/economy/7239>

<https://en.janatapati.com/news-detail/2344>

<https://everestmission.com/2019/10/23/17/79452/>

<https://himalayapost.com/archives/100116>

<https://livemandu.com/11145/>

<https://lokpati.com/2019/22/46777/>

<https://risingnepaldaily.com/nation/5th-world-women-conference-concluded-endorsing-20-point-declaration>

<https://www.bikashnews.com/2019/10/23/176676.html>

<https://www.dainiknepal.com/2019/10/417704.html>

<https://www.dcnepal.com/2019/10/84284/>

<https://www.dcnepal.com/2019/10/84371/>

<https://www.everest-times.com/2019/10/24/4324/>

<https://www.hamropatro.com/news/details/5711861879537664?ns=>

<https://www.karobardaily.com/news/lifestyle/25377>

<https://www.pariwartankhabar.com/2019/10/23/125119/>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z5zW3TcTG8E&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR23pkaffD2kwzN8t04VMosgL-bcN0l6jqSKmqczWayDLBBulGVm\\_WMMMpps](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z5zW3TcTG8E&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR23pkaffD2kwzN8t04VMosgL-bcN0l6jqSKmqczWayDLBBulGVm_WMMMpps)



# THE RISING NEPAL

THE FIRST & THE FOREMOST NATIONAL DAILY

National Edition

308 | October 23, 2019 | Kartik 6, 2076 | Nepal Sambat 1139 Kaulaga Dashami | Wednesday | www.risingnepaldaily.com | Pages 8 | Rs. 5.00



A woman preparing flowers for the festival.

## Harmony during Tihar'

Within one or two days, the police will hold a meeting to give the notice about the play Deusi Bhailo in the valley, CDO Dhakal said.

According to the Ministry, the government had given attention to the Kathmandu valley-based Metropolitan Police Offices to implement a police-centric security during the festival.

The Metropolitan Police Offices of Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur said they had already made festival-centric security arrangements.

Over 3,000 security personnel will be in the field to ensure different police operations in the valley targeting to curb the festival-related crimes.

District Superintendent...

Bogati said that they would be mobilising their teams in both civil and uniform to curb festival related unsocial activities like gambling, drinking alcohol and gathering of individuals in shops and local alcohol shops till late night.

Gathering of youths and alcohol consuming people used to be high in the public shops in the evening hour in the Valley and outside the ring road which have been causing distraction and violating peace and harmony in the society, DSP Bogati said.

The Ministry has also instructed the police to keep tight vigil in the selling of alcohol and its consumption.

During the festival hour, the police will mainly keep an eye on financial transaction hubs in the banking area, and shopping areas and markets.

## Issues of women being implemented: Minister Thapa

By A Staff Reporter  
Kathmandu, Oct. 22

Various women activists celebrated the Beijing + 25 National Review programme with the slogan of "Acceleration Feminist Movement towards Generation Equality by 2030" here on Monday.

Beijing + National Review programme was organised by Beyond Beijing Committee (BBC) Nepal where the representatives from all seven States made public the national citizen review.

Inaugurating the programme Minister for Women, Children and Senior Citizens Thapa said that the nation was moving ahead to implement issues finalised by the World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995.

Minister Thapa said...



celebrating National Women Rights Day from this year. The government had given priority to the programmes introduced to control violence against women.

Recalling the Beijing Conference held 25 years back, Anjana Shakya, founder chair of BBC, said that 150 women from all sectors, community and area had participated that time.

"We faced criticism...

institutionally, several ways will be explored in women empowerment issues from this programme, she added.

The 4th International Women Conference, which was held in Beijing China, 25 years ago, had made clear draft with worldwide programme for the women in the world. After that, the review programme has been organising in the world on the subject of Beijing + 25, she said.

Speaking at the programme, Dipendra Kafle, secretary at the National Women Commission, said that the conference would make public its progress. "This will support for women empowerment," he added.

The Commission has been without office bears since long time but it has worked remarkably in the women and children sectors, he said.

## Two Indian pickpockets nabbed

By Our Correspondent  
Birtamod, Oct. 22

Police have arrested two Indian women for allegedly picking pocket in a crowded bus.

Puja Gultha and Kabita Mandal were arrested while they were running away after stealing Rs. 100,000 from Bimala Roka Sarki's bag. Roka, 40, was travelling from Chauram Kaka Bhatim by a bus.

Gultha and Mandal were going towards the border through a tempo, said Mahendra Shrestha spokesperson, District Police Office, Jhapa. "We arrested them along with the stolen money."

Shrestha said the investigation was going on the incident by taking the women to the Police Office Dhangadhi.



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RIGHT NOW**

