

## Feminist Dalit Organization For a Just and Equitable Society



25 years of Journey

### Discussion Program on 'Increasing Violence Against Dalit Girls and Women and Their Access to Justice'



*Participants at the discussion program*

Coinciding the occasion of 109<sup>th</sup> International Women's Day, Feminist Dalit Organisation (FEDO) organized a discussion program on 'Increasing Violence Against Dalit Girls and Women and Their Access to Justice' on 11 March.

On the program, a situational analysis of violence against Dalit girls and women, especially rape, based on the study carried out by FEDO, was presented. According to the study, girls and the women from the Dalit community are more prone to the violence especially rape when compared to the girls and the women of the other castes. In addition to this, they have lesser access to justice. The study found that off the total incidents of rape, 21% of the victims were from the Dalit community. Unfortunately, only 15% of them could get justice. Likewise, there were 729 incidents of rape in Nepal from the month of Baishakh (April-May) to the Magh (Jan-Feb) this year. Off which in 154 incidents, victims were from the Dalit community. Moreover, in 80% of the cases, the victim has been killed.



## Feminist Dalit Organization

They study shows that due to poor and lesser access to education, high proportion of poverty, poor presence in state mechanism, no equality in justice, poor financial status, discrimination from so-called high caste people, Dalit find it difficult to seek justice. Owing to this, even police do not register their complaint. The society and even the police emphasizes to solve the case by offering some financial benefits to the victims instead of going through the legal proceedings and provide the justice to the victim as per the law.



*From the left : Founding President of FEDO Durga Sob , Deputy Inspector General Haribhakta Prajapati , President of FEDO Kala Swarnakar, Senior Advocate Meera Dhungana and Ashok Darnal*

The study suggests proper rehabilitation of the victim and establishment of the strong mechanism for easing the access to justice. Likewise, it also recommended the amendment of the existing law in a manner to remove legal loopholes that silence the violence on many occasions.

The findings of the study were shared among the Dalit women rights activists, human rights activists, women rights activists, local level representatives, lawyers, media officials and researchers working on Dalit issues.

The program was chaired by the President of FEDO Kala Swarnakar while the major guest presented in the program were: Senior Advocate Meera Dhungana, Deputy Inspector General Haribhakta Prajapati and Parliamentarian Anjana Bishankhe.

The program was facilitated by General Secretary of FEDO, Renu Sijapati.





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## Consultation Meeting Held With National Planning Commission



*FEDO President Kala Swarnakar and General Secretary of FEDO Renu Sijapati submitting position paper to National Planning Commission Member Min Bahadur Shahi*

Feminist Dalit Organisation (FEDO) along with the other Dalit organization, Dalit leaders and the Civil Society members held a consultation meeting with the members of National planning commission on 19 March.

The meeting dwelt upon how to address the issues of Dalit women on upcoming 15th 5-year plan.

On the occasion, FEDO President Kala Swarnakar and FEDO General Secretary Renu Sijapati stressed on the need for inclusive budget for Dalit women to ensure the equal access of them in education, healthcare, safe drinking water, sanitation, job opportunities, justice, various social-security schemes and among others. The duo also vowed for empowerment of Dalit women through socio-economic transformation and political participation.

Likewise, both on the behalf of FEDO submitted the position paper from the Dalit women prospective plan.





Feminist Dalit Organization

## FEDO Stages Sit-in Protest; Draws Attention Towards Increasing Numbers of Rape



*General Secretary of FEDO Renu Sijapati with others staging sit-in-protest*

Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO) stage sit-in-protest at Maitighar Mandala demanding justice for the Reshma Rasaily, who was brutally murdered after being raped at Mithila Municipality-3 of Dhanusha district.

In the sit-in-protest that last for one hour, FEDO along with the other organizations associated with Dalit Civil Society: Samata Foundation, Dalit NGO Federation, Dalit Mahila Utthan Sangh, demanded immediate and extreme punishment against the guilt and compensation to the family of the victim. In this connection, Dhanusha police have already arrested a suspected named Niraj Jargha Magar.

Meanwhile, Feminist Dalit Organisation (FEDO) has drawn the attention towards the growing number of incidents of rape, murder and the other different forms of violence and discrimination against Dalit women in Nepal. Issuing a press release, FEDO has also asked all the concerned stakeholders to vow for the justice.

Raising concern over two incidents of rapes of Dalit girls: Morang and Dhanusha rape case, FEDO has said that it has taken the issues very seriously. FEDO has also appealed the government to take the incident of rapes seriously and to arrest and punish the culprit according to the law.





## Feminist Dalit Organization

### FEDO marks International Women's Day



Central members of FEDO along with others at the rally organized to mark 109th International Women's Day

Feminist Dalit Organisation (FEDO) marked 109th International Women's Day expressing its solidarity towards women, social issues regarding women, and raising their voices to stop violence against women.

In this connection, FEDO organized a rally with the joint collaboration with CSOS, IN GOS\NGOs, UN agen-

cies, bilateral and multi-lateral agencies in Kathmandu on March 8. The march that began from the exhibition hall gate at Bhrikutimandap ended in Bhrikutimandap itself, going around Putalisadak, Kamladi, Bagbazar and Old Buspark.

On the occasion, all the participants presented in the rally chanted slogan in celebration of womanhood and vowed for ensuring women's rights. The participants demanded women empowerment through equal opportunity in jobs; equal share in resources and equal access to justice, health, education among others.



Participants representing FEDO at the rally organized to mark 109th International Women's Day





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## FEDO marks International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination



*Participants representing FEDO at the rally organized to mark 54th International Day on Racial Discrimination and its Elimination*

With the slogan to Mitigating and Countering Rising Nationalist Populism and Extreme Supremacist Ideologies; Feminist Dalit Organisation (FEDO) celebrated 52th International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

In this connection, FEDO jointly organized a rally with the different organisations like Dalit Civil Society, Dalit National Federation (DNF), Dalit Development Committee, among others in Kathmandu on March 21. The march that began from the exhibition Babarmahal ended at Banesor.

On the occasion, all the participants presented in the rally, chanted slogan in support of the elimination of all form of racial discrimination and expressed solidarity against the practice of such discrimination.





Feminist Dalit Organization

## Dhaka Weaving Training Begins in Kalikot



*Group Photo after the completion of 10-day Entrepreneurship Development training.*

A three-month long training on Dhaka weaving has been started in Raskot Municipality. The training has been conducted by Feminist Dalit Organisation (FEDO) with the financial assistance provided by the Raskot Municipality and the Office of District Cottage Industry Office, Kalikot. For the training, Raskot Municipality provided financial assistance of Rs 5,00,000 while Office of District Cottage Industry contributed Rs 3,50,000.

A total of 10 women, among which 5 Dalits and 5 non-Dalits, were selected for the training from the initial 10-day Entrepreneurship Development training.

Meanwhile, the trainees have expressed their happiness for being part of the training and have thanked FEDO for providing them with such an opportunity. With the skill in hand, they are now confident of being a helping hand to their families.

FEDO is looking forward to organizing the same sort of training in coming days.



*Dhaka fabric weaving machine*





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## Interaction Program on Caste-based Discrimination Concludes

An interaction program on caste-based discrimination and untouchability and its elimination has been concluded at Guleriya Municipality, Bardiya on 20 March.

The program was organized by the Feminist Dalit Organisation (FEDO) under the coordination of the Chief District Officer of Bardiya.

The program focused on present situation of caste-based discrimination, constitutional and legal provision for its elimination and challenges in its implementation. The program witnessed the participation of various activist working for human rights, Dalit rights, local public representative including the mayor and the ward president of each 12 wards of Guleriya municipality. The participants at the program urged for strong implementation of laws against discrimination and the untouchability.



*Participants at the program*

## FEDO Organises Dialogue Program on Dalit Women Issues



*Participants at the Program*

Feminist Dalit Organisation (FEDO) organized a dialogue program with the judicial committee on issues of Dalit women at Badhaiya Taal rural municipality on 17 March.

The program was organized to draw attention of the stakeholders towards the increasing number of discriminations and violence against Dalit women.

The participants in the program hold the dialogue on the discrimination and the violence faced by the Dalit women and the role of stakeholders and the judicial community in its elimination. Vice-President of Badhaiya Taal rural municipality and coordinator of the judicial committee was the Chief Guest of the Program. Other members of the judicial committees: Ganga Bahadur Khatri and Kamala Gurung; various activists, media personnel and different stakeholders were present on the occasion.





## Feminist Dalit Organization

### Journey From Group Member to Local Level Representative

Mina B.K., 37, had always witnessed hardship in her life. She was raised by her family in extreme poverty condition owing to which she was also deprived of formal education.

She continued to suffer economic crisis even after getting married at the age of eighteen. She had to look after medicinal expenses of her unhealthy husband along with the family. Due to extreme poverty, tradition, custom and values, she was bounded within household works and was not able to get out of it.



*Mina B.K.*

Fortunately, she came in contact of one of the Dalit women groups formed by Feminist Dalit Organisation (FEDO) Kailali. She joined the group as a member. There she got opportunities to participate in the trainings and interactions which contributed to raise her confidence level to do something for herself as well as society. She also gave her active contribution when the group was reformed under Combating Discrimination for advancing human rights of Dalit women in Nepal project during March of 2018. With attending various interactions, seminars, training and other programs organised by FEDO, she developed the skill of leadership and also realised the importance of political participation. Eventually, she got elected as a ward member in Bardgoriya RMP-6.

Now, she is making every effort for the socio-economic transformation of the women for her community. She played a vital role in obtaining the local budget total of 5 lakhs for conducting tailoring, embroidery and computer training and awareness in gender violence to community women and Dalit students. She also coordinated for distribution of goats and mushroom cultivation training for income generation through the ward-level program. She did strong lobby in ward no-6 office to released budget for hooding boards which disseminate awareness massage against caste-based discrimination & untouchability in many places of her ward.

She is appreciated for her effort. In fact, she is treated as the real hero of her community. She is now living a life full of dignity for which she thanks FEDO.

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