



QUARTERLY POST

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Issue:53



HIGHLIGHTS



World Social Forum WSF2024



Commission on the Status of Women CSW68



Community Kitchen Launched



FEDO's Letter to National Planning Commission



Leading the way: FEDO's Visionary Approach to Dalit's Women's Inclusion in 16th Five-Year-Periodic Plan

The Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO) presented a memorandum to Dr. Ram Kumar Phuyal, a respected member of the National Planning Commission, on January 5th. In this memorandum, FEDO stressed the necessity of adopting a focused strategy to address the significant challenges faced by marginalized women, especially Dalit women. The objective of this communication was to outline FEDO's recommendations and requests regarding Nepal's 16th five-year periodic plan. Through this proactive step, FEDO aimed to influence the planning process, ensuring that the concerns of Dalit women and other marginalized communities receive adequate attention within Nepal's development framework. This initiative underscores FEDO's dedication to advocating for and empowering Dalit women across Nepal.



बसोही नं - ७/२०२४

दिनांक: २०८०/०१/२०

सोही योजना (२०८१/८२-२०८५/८६) मा सिमान्तकृत तथा दलित महिलाका लागि सम्बोधन गरिनुपर्ने मुख्य सवाल, रूपांतरणका रणनीति र कार्यक्रमहरूका लागि दलित महिला संघ (फेडो) को तर्फबाट पत्राचार गरिएको माग तथा सुझावहरू

प्रस्तावना

नेपालको संविधान (२०७२) ले मानव अधिकारमा आधारित अवसरता, सामाजिक न्याय र समावेशी विकासको परिचयना गरेको छ । बर्गीय, जातीय, क्षेत्रीय, शैक्षिक, जातिक, लैंगिक विभेद र सबै प्रकारका जातीय घुम्पुहरूको अन्त्य गर्ने आर्थिक समता, समृद्धि र सामाजिक न्याय सुनिश्चान गर्न समानुपातिक समावेशी र बहुभागीयतामूलक विद्यालयक आधारमा समतामूलक सञ्चालनको निम्तो गर्ने संकल्प संविधानको प्रस्तावनामा नै आत्मसात गरिएको छ । समाजबाट उन्मुख स्वतन्त्र र समृद्ध अर्थतन्त्रको विकास गर्ने राज्यको आर्थिक उद्देश्य र्थन संविधानको विदेशक विद्यालयहरूमा उन्मुख गरिएको छ ।

नेपालको संविधानमा महिलाको हक (आर २८), दलितको हक (आर ४०), छुवाछुत विरुद्धको हक (आर २४), सामाजिक न्यायको हक (आर ४२), जस्ता विभिन्न मौखिक हकको व्यवस्था गरिएको छ । संविधानको आर २८ ले दलित र महिलाका हकलाई विशेष अधिकार उन्मुख गरी मानव विकासलाई पनि जोडेको छ । उक्त आर २८ मा महिला तथा दलित समुदायको विशेष अधिकारको व्यवस्थाको कार्यान्वयन र त्यसको प्रभाव सम्बन्धमा मानव विकास सुचकाङ्कको आधारमा मूल्यांकन र पुनरावलोकन गर्ने कुरा उल्लेख छ । जसले महिला तथा दलित समुदायका लागि शिक्षा, स्वास्थ्य, रोजगारी र आधुनिकीमा विशेष ध्यान दिनुपर्ने कुरालाई जनाएको छ ।

समाज आर्थिक विरोधी विकास समूह (SDGs) पूर्ण गर्न 'कमैसाईं पछाडी छोड्दैन' (Leave No One Behind, LNOB) नीतिद्वारा नेपालले पनि विश्व समुदायसँगै अडोटे लिएको छ । विश्वव्यापी मानव अधिकारको घोषणा पत्र (UDHR), आर्थिक, सामाजिक तथा सांस्कृतिक अधिकार सम्बन्धी अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय महासन्धि (ICESCR), महिला विरुद्ध हुने सबैजसो विभेदहरूको उन्मुख सम्बन्धी अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय महासन्धि (CEDAW), जातिवि विभेद उन्मुख सम्बन्धी अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय महासन्धि (ICERD), सञ्चालन आर्थिक मानव अधिकार समीक्षाक सुझावहरू पनि नेपालले प्रतिबद्धता देखाउँदै आएको छ । यी सबै प्रतिबद्धताको योजनाबद्ध कार्यान्वयन पनि आवश्यक हुनु ।

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यी सबै प्रावधान र प्रतिबद्धताका बावजूद २०७२ पछिका पौडी र पन्जी योजनामा समाजमा सबैभन्दा पीडित परेका 'परिवार दलित समुदाय तथा त्यस भित्र पनि लैंगिक विभेद तथा अन्य विभिन्न शोषण र प्रभावकारी वीहल दलित महिला र विभिन्न समुदायका सवाल र चुनौतीहरूलाई मूख्य रूपमा सम्बोधन गर्न निर्धारणको देखिन्छ । जातीय, लैंगिक तथा बर्गीय पूर्वाधारबाट मुक्त हुन नसकेको नेपाली समाजमा लोकेर लेकेर नभन्दासम्म योजनाहरू वीहल समुदाय नसुम्ने बन्दा चर्चा गर्ने हो । योजनामा उन्मुख भएका स्थानीय र कार्यक्रमहरूको समेत कार्यान्वयन नहुनु अर्को सबैभन्दा ठूलो चुनौती देखिन्छ । सोही योजनाको अन्तर्गत पत्रमा उल्लेखित शोषण र उद्देश्यहरूमा सुशासन, सामाजिक न्याय र समृद्धि प्रति जोड दिनुको छ जुन सरकारसक छ तर विधिगत, अर्थसाधनता र अन्त्याका सवाललाई ठोस रूपमा सम्बोधन नगरी सामाजिक न्याय सुदृढताका अन्तर्गत अर्थ साधन हुन सक्ने हुनु आवश्यक छ । यस सन्दर्भमा सरकारको विद्यमान योजना १३.४ अन्तर्गत अर्थसाधनको अन्तर्गत दलित समुदाय र त्यसभित्र पनि दलित महिलाका सवालहरूलाई आधारमा सोही योजना (२०८१-२०८५) ले ठोस रूपमा सम्बोधन गर्नुपर्ने आवश्यकतालाई मान्यतामा राखी दलित महिला संघ (फेडो) को तर्फबाट सोही योजनाको अन्तर्गत समग्र जोडदार रूपमा माग र सुझावहरू पत्र गर्दछौं ।

सोही योजनामा दलित तथा दलित महिलासँग किन विभिन्न रूपमा सम्बोधन गर्ने ?

राष्ट्रिय योजना आयोजनाले एक वर्ष अघि नेपालका लागि 'निम्न नो बन् विहाइण्ड' (LNOB) काका तयार गरी प्रस्तावनामा ल्याएको छ । उक्त काकाको मुख्य उद्देश्य जुन समूह सबैभन्दा पीडित परेको छ भनि विश्लेषण गर्नुको साथै LNOB मा प्रगति समीक्षा गर्नु रहेको थियो । सबैभन्दा पीडित परेको समूहको निर्माण गर्न समूह राष्ट्र मूखको संविधानका पाँच आयोजनाहरू: १) सामाजिक भेदभाव (social discrimination), २) भौतिक बेकारता (spatial disadvantage), ३) सामाजिक आर्थिक अवस्था (socio-economic status), ४) सुशासन (governance) र ५) अस्थिरता (shocks and fragility) । तयार ३० गटा समूहको आधारमा ८८ गटा अर्को विवेकपूर्ण गरिएको छ । मूल्यांकनको लागि पीडित भनि बर्गीय, क्षेत्रीय, लैंगिक, क्षेत्रीय, पौडी, पौडी समावेश र पौडी छरे समावेश समूहमा संश्लेषण गरिएको छ । उक्त श्रेणी अंतर्गत दलित र बर्गीय तत्त्व ४० प्रतिशतमा संश्लेषण प्रष्ट बना गर्नुपर्ने मूख्य सवाल उन्मुख छ ।

हालको LNOB काका प्राथमिक अन्तर्गत महिला जाति समुदायका रूपमा दलित र लैंगिक रूपमा महिला पीडित परेको तथ्य स्पष्ट हुन्छ । ३० गटा सामाजिक आर्थिक सुदृढ समूहमा समावेश गर्दा ९ गटा ८ गटा पौडी दलित र लैंगिक र केही पौडी बन् समुदाय पनि समावेश (Most Excluded) समुदाय परेका छन् । पौडी समुदाय पनि पहाडी दलित छरे समुदायमा पीडित परेका छन् । यति विवादा

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Supporting Recovery: FEDO's Relief Distribution in Jajarkot and Rukum

In response to the aftermath of the earthquake, the Feminist Dalit Organization - FEDO, Nepal, in collaboration with the Centre for Disaster Management Studies (acting as the secretariat for WFDM-Gender and Inclusion Core Group and Women Humanitarian and DRR Platform-WHDRRP) and with support from UN Women, has initiated the distribution of relief packages to the most vulnerable women in earthquake-affected regions. These packages include essential winter items such as shawls, jackets, blankets, thermoses, and sanitary supplies. These provisions are vital for ensuring the comfort, safety, and well-being of those affected by the earthquake, particularly as they face the challenges of harsh winter conditions in the aftermath of the disaster.

This joint effort reflects the power of solidarity and collective action during times of crisis. By reaching out to 1000 households in Jajarkot and Rukum West, including the elderly, single mothers, individuals with disabilities, and those experiencing economic hardships, the initiative aims to offer not only material assistance but also hope and comfort to those in need. Through their combined actions, FEDO, UN Women Nepal, and CDMS demonstrate their dedication to gender-inclusive disaster response and recovery efforts, ensuring that women's voices and needs remain central to relief endeavors.





Empowering Resilience: FEDO's Community Kitchen Initiative in Post-Earthquake Jajarkot and Rukum

The Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO) led a Community Kitchen project in Ranagau, Bheri Municipality, Jajarkot, and Rukum. This initiative, conducted in collaboration with the Feminist Dalit Organization - FEDO, Nepal, and the Centre for Disaster Management Studies (secretariat for WFDM- Gender and Inclusion Core Group and Women Humanitarian and DRR Platform-WHDRRP), received support from UN Women. From March 4th to April 2nd, the project aimed to provide meals to 75 households affected by the earthquake, totaling 375 meals daily, targeting the poorest of the poor Dalit and marginalized communities. The goal was to support families engaged in reconstructing their earthquake-damaged homes by offering them one-time meals, thereby allowing them to save time for self-care and attending to their children's needs. In addition, nutritious food was provided to children under the age of two, reflecting our commitment to addressing the comprehensive needs of the community. This ongoing initiative showcases the resilience and mutual support among women in the aftermath of the earthquake, highlighting the strength of community and solidarity.



Photo credit: UN Women



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Building Back Better: Stakeholder Meeting in Jajarkot

A Stakeholder Meeting convened to garner support for recovery and rebuilding initiatives in Jajarkot. The gathering featured key figures including the Mayor of Bheri municipality, the chief district officer, the district coordinator, Ward Chairpersons, District Police, Media representatives, and various sector representatives from Jajarkot. The agenda centered around assessing progress and discussing recovery efforts post-earthquake. The dialogue highlighted the importance of collaboration and unity. Special recognition was extended to the Feminist Dalit Organization - FEDO, and the Centre for Disaster Management Studies (secretariat for WFDM- Gender and Inclusion Core Group and Women Humanitarian and DRR Platform-WHDRRP for the contributions and facilitation at the grassroots level. Gratitude was expressed for the dedication and commitment. The meeting concluded with a reaffirmation of collective efforts towards resilience and recovery, emphasizing the significance of partnership in building a better future.





Interaction with local women of Sanibheri Rural Municipality of Rukum (West)

A formal gathering was organized, bringing together women from the Sanibheri Rural Municipality of Rukum (West), accompanied by representatives from UN Women, the Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO), and the Centre for Disaster Management Studies (acting as the secretariat for WFDM's Gender and Inclusion Core Group and the Women Humanitarian and Disaster Risk Reduction Platform). The aim was to witness the resilience and mutual support among these women as they navigate the aftermath of the 2023 earthquake. During the event, a visit was conducted with the beneficiaries and the team responsible for the Community Kitchen. Their dedicated efforts resulted in providing meals to 75 households in the municipality. This highlighted the commendable endeavors towards recovery and reconstruction, showcasing transformative initiatives that directly impact the community. The gathering offered glimpses of unity, hope, and progress, emphasizing the tangible outcomes of collective action.

Photo by UN Women





FEDO's Engagement on World Social Forum WSF2024

FEDO's engagement in WSF 2024 underscored its commitment to addressing the intersecting challenges faced by Dalit women within the larger framework of neoliberalism and globalization critique. During the World Social Forum (WSF) 2024 in Nepal from February 15th to 19th, FEDO's involvement emphasized its dedication to tackling the interconnected obstacles encountered by Dalit women amidst the broader critique of neoliberalism and globalization.

Participation in events like the Solidarity March not only strengthened FEDO's advocacy network but also fostered unity in the fight against discrimination and inequality. The visibility of FEDO's stall, numbered 84, at the WSF served as a platform for branding and raising awareness about the organization's mission and initiatives.

Moreover, within the WSF, FEDO contributed to a panel discussion focusing on the theme "Addressing Challenges: Intersecting Caste and Gender-Based Discrimination in South Asia," further highlighting the organization's role in addressing complex issues at the intersection of caste and gender.

In essence, FEDO's active involvement in WSF 2024 exemplified grassroots activism and collaborative efforts aimed at promoting the rights and well-being of Dalits, not only within the context of Kathmandu but also on a global scale.

Panel Discussion

Speakers at WSF





WORLD SOCIAL FORUM
15th - 19th February, 2024
Kathmandu, Nepal



Addressing challenges: Intersecting gender and caste-based discrimination in South Asia

<u>Chair of the Session</u>		<u>Panelists</u>				<u>Moderator</u>	
							
Ms. Anjana Bhuskhe, Politician, Nepal	Ms. Beena J Pallikal ADRF, India	Dr. Rabina G Rasaily FEDO, Nepal	Ms. Nadira Pervin NU, Bangladesh	Ms. S. Dharuka, IMADR, Sri Lanka	Ms. Pratima Gurung, Nidwan, Nepal	Ms. Ankita Paudel BK FEDO, Nepal	

Organizer:



Co-organizers:



Date: 16th February
Time: 2:00 - 3:30 PM
Venue: Ratna Rajaya Campus,
Block B, F1 Room - 7



Unity in Diversity: FEDO's Initiative in Nepal's Premier Disability Symposium

The first National Symposium of Women and Girls with Disabilities, held from March 1st to 3rd, 2024, at Hotel Manang in Kathmandu, marked a significant milestone as the first nationwide event to include women with disabilities from all seven provinces of Nepal. Led by a consortium of five organizations, including the Access Planet Organization, Blind Women Association Nepal, Feminist Dalit Organization, National Indigenous Disabled Women Association Nepal, and Pahichan Nepal, the event aimed to promote collaboration across diverse movements through an intersectional approach. Funded by the Disability Rights Fund/Disability Rights Advocacy Fund, the consortium is implementing a two-year project titled "Building Bridge Towards Intersectional Activism in Nepal," with BWAN serving as the project's secretariat.

The symposium's formal inaugural ceremony featured lighting ceremonies conducted by several distinguished guests. Deputy Speaker Indira Rana Magar served as the chief guest, with the event chaired by Kala Sawarnakar, President of FEDO. Other notable guests included Mr. Padam Bahadur Pariyar, Honorable Member of the National Assembly; Ms. Kamala Parajuli, Vice President of the National Women Commission; Mr. Hari Datta Joshi, Honorable Member of the National Inclusion Commission; Ms. Durga Sob, Founding President of FEDO; Ms. Anita Ghimire, Vice President of the National Disability Federation; and Mr. Krishna Gahatraj, Program Officer for Nepal from DRF/DRAF. The program was moderated by Renu Sijapati, General Secretary of FEDO, while Pratima Gurung, President of NIDWAN, welcomed guests and highlighted the symposium's objectives. Additionally, women and girls with lived experience of disability performed songs and solo dances.

Photo by SDG Studio





KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- The symposium marks the first-ever event organized at a nationwide level with diverse participation of women with disabilities from all seven provinces, which is a significant milestone in itself.
- It has raised awareness and deepened the understanding of participants regarding the various and concurrent issues faced by women with disabilities.
- The involvement of various stakeholders and officials of government, NHRIs, UN agencies and CSOs as speakers has increased their awareness through the questions and stories shared by women with disabilities during the sessions. Symposium sessions were broadcast live through social media and radio platforms, effectively reaching thousands of people with the symposium's messages.
- It has advanced the agenda of intersectionality within the disability and women's rights movements.

The agreement to promote intersectional agendas through an Intersectional Feminist Forum.

- The creation of a call for action, known as the Kathmandu Declaration, provides a robust advocacy tool for future endeavors. The symposium marked a significant milestone in Nepal's women's rights movement, exploring the intersectionality of gender and disability. It emphasized the urgent need for inclusive policies, data collection, and collaborative efforts to address the challenges faced by women and girls with disabilities. Moving forward, it highlights the importance of amplifying marginalized voices, fostering diversity, and empowering leadership within these communities.

Photo by SDG Studio





FEDO Leads Global Dialogue on Gender Equality at CSW68 in New York

FEDO participated in the 68th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68) in New York, focusing on advancing gender equality and empowering women and girls worldwide. Their engagement included attending the opening session, participating in Ministerial Roundtables, and contributing to general discussions. The discussions brought together global leaders and change-makers to address gender equality issues and commit to actionable solutions. Special recognition was given to speakers dedicated to discussing gender equality, particularly for Dalit and Indigenous women and girls, including representatives from Bagmati Province Assembly and the Ministry of Women, Children, and Senior Citizens of Nepal.

Additionally, FEDO collaborated with partners such as Kira, DCA, and DFPA in a significant meeting at the Danish UN Mission, NY, aiming to amplify the impact of their work on gender equality and poverty alleviation. This collaborative effort emphasized the importance of meaningful dialogue and action in shaping a more equitable future.

In essence, FEDO's participation in CSW68 underscored their commitment to advancing gender equality and empowering women and girls globally through collaborative efforts and meaningful engagement.





The launch of OVOC Hub Platform brought together youths and CSOs from Bangladesh, Nepal, Thailand, and the Asia Pacific. The event included speeches, panel discussions on youth engagement, and special addresses on Civic Space Youth and Women Engagement by the EU Delegate of Nepal. This initiative signifies a crucial step in creating a secure and impactful platform for global youth to collaborate and advocate for positive change.



Review and Reflection Meeting for the OVOC project took place. The purpose was to assess the project's performance and impact, address any challenges encountered, celebrate successes, and identify areas for improvement through open discussion and reflection.

The event, organized by FEDO and Plan International Nepal, with support from the European Union Nepal, brought together Social Work students for a constructive discussion session. Many of the participants had backgrounds in Social Work, contributing valuable insights and ideas regarding Civic Space and Civic Action. Additionally, the session featured OVOC Hub Information Sharing, focusing on a digital platform aimed at enhancing civic, democratic, and civil spaces.



Entrepreneurship Development Training



Entrepreneurship Development Training in Multiple Districts

FEDO organized a 3-day Entrepreneurship Development Training across several regions including Bardiya, Dang, Surkhet, Kailali, Makwanpur, and Morang. The training included engaging workshops and discussions covering various topics such as combating caste-based discrimination and untouchability, along with essential areas like business planning, financial management, and effective marketing strategies. These valuable insights serve to empower Dalit women towards attaining financial autonomy. The participants, displaying enthusiasm and dedication to learning, were pivotal to the program's success.



Seed Funding Empowering Women Entrepreneurs Across Multiple Districts

Seed funding allocated to women's groups in Hetauda-11, Shahid Smarak, has also been disbursed across six additional districts: Bardiya, Dang, Surkhet, Kailali, Makwanpur, and Morang. 120 Dalit women have received crucial business startup support to kick start their entrepreneurial ventures. This initiative aims to equip Dalit women with the necessary skills and resources to establish and manage successful businesses, fostering economic empowerment and self-reliance within the community.

Women and Men Development Training Program

A Women and Men Development Training Program took place in Birendranagar, Surkhet, on February 21st. The program aimed to promote equality and facilitate personal and communal growth. It provided an inclusive learning platform for both women and men, fostering transformative experiences.



Digital Literacy Campaign in Banke

FEDO conducted a digital literacy campaign in Banke on February 27th, with a primary focus on empowering women and youth. The aim was to increase awareness about cyber threats and strategies to combat digital violence, emphasizing the importance of digital safety and empowerment for the community.



Training program for frontline leaders in Surkhet

FEDO conducted a training program on February 22nd in Surkhet for frontline leaders. The program's objective was to equip women with the skills necessary to lead community campaigns and develop impactful campaign strategies.

Empowering Connection through Interaction



Orientation session for frontline leaders across multiple districts

Training session for frontline leaders in Bardiya district, encompassing Dang, Surkhet, Kailali, Makwanpur, and Morang, aiming to establish a district-level network comprising 180 members. This initiative is geared towards empowering these leaders to address pressing social issues, including gender-based violence, participation, and leadership, for the betterment of society. During the session, Founder President Durga Sob and President Kala Swarnakar offered guidance and inspiration to the frontline leaders, imparting valuable insights into their roles and responsibilities in effectively managing their networks.



Tharkudada, Tulsipur, Dang

On January 25th, 2024, FEDO successfully established a network of locally elected Dalit women representatives in Dangisaran Rural Municipality. This initiative is pivotal in empowering marginalized communities and addressing social injustices.

This network serves as a platform for sharing experiences and learning, showcasing the potential for collective action to drive positive change. By fostering unity among Dalit women representatives, it has the capacity to significantly advance advocacy efforts for social justice within their respective areas.

Furthermore, FEDO's founder president, Durga Sob, and President Kala Swarnakar visited and motivated a Dalit women's group in Ward no. 9, Tharkudada, Tulsipur, Dang. During the visit, they emphasized the importance of leadership and collective action, highlighting the role these qualities play in effecting meaningful change.



Shree Basudev Janata Madhyamik Bidhyalaye in Kapilvastu, Rangapur

FEDO hosted a thought-provoking discussion program on February 23rd at Shree Basudev Janata Madhyamik Bidhyalaye in Kapilvastu, Rangapur -6. The program aimed to tackle caste and gender-based discrimination among students, striving to understand these issues and pave the way for a more inclusive future.

Empowering Connection through Interaction



Gandaki Province

Feminist Dalit Organization, organized a dialogue session in Pokhara, bringing together esteemed Members of the Gandaki Province, representatives from various political parties, and members of civil society organizations. The primary purpose of this gathering was to engage in discussions regarding the proposed Dalit Empowerment Act.

During the session, participants likely exchanged perspectives, insights, and concerns related to the proposed legislation. Topics of discussion have included the specific provisions of the act, its potential impact on Dalit communities, challenges in its implementation, and strategies for ensuring effective empowerment of Dalits within the region.

Such dialogue sessions serve as crucial platforms for stakeholders to collaborate, deliberate, and contribute towards shaping legislation that addresses the needs and concerns of marginalized communities. By convening such discussions, FEDO facilitates the inclusion of diverse voices and perspectives in the policymaking process, ultimately striving towards greater empowerment and social justice.



Sudurpashchim Province: Empowering Dalit Women: A Step Towards Equality

On March 20th, FEDO (Feminist Dalit Organization) orchestrated a pivotal gathering that convened representatives from various administrative tiers. The central theme of this gathering was the empowerment of Dalit women, a crucial step towards fostering equality within our society.

At the heart of the discussion was the recent enactment of the Dalit Empowerment Act by the Sudurpashchim Province Government. This legislative stride symbolizes a significant milestone in the ongoing struggle for Dalit rights and recognition.

The meeting served as a platform for stakeholders to deliberate on strategies and initiatives aimed at amplifying the voices of Dalit women and addressing the multifaceted challenges they encounter. Through collaborative efforts and meaningful dialogue, attendees explored avenues to enhance access to education, economic opportunities, healthcare, and social services for Dalit women.

Furthermore, the event facilitated networking opportunities, fostering partnerships among government agencies, NGOs, and grassroots organizations committed to advancing the rights and well-being of Dalit women.

In essence, this gathering underscored the collective commitment to dismantling barriers and fostering an inclusive society where every individual, irrespective of caste or gender, has the opportunity to thrive and contribute meaningfully to the community.



SUCCESS STORIES

Ageing Against Discrimination: Shobha Sundas' Search for Justice with Fedo's Support



I am Shobha Sundas, a 62-year-old woman residing in Morang District Uurlabari Municipality 3. I do not have any children, and my husband, Rajman Sundas, has been missing for 35 years, making my life challenging. Due to ongoing physical conditions, even walking has become a difficult task. Tika Bhujel, a ward member, recommended that I move to Jagriti Elderly Ashram in Pushpalal Chowk, Budhiganga Rural Municipality, Ward No. 1, Morang District, considering my health and financial struggles.

I went to an elderly home seeking assistance from Asmita Darnal to accompany me there, along with the recommendation I received from Uurlabari Ward 3. However, the director, Bhuaneswari Acharya, discriminated against me based on my Damai caste, resulting in my immediate discharge. I doubted that justice would be served. To help me seek justice during this difficult time, Fedo, a Feminist Dalit Organization based in Morang district, became my pillar of support. Due to my health

issues and financial challenges, going to the district police office was a struggle. I faced difficulties with transportation and daily expenses. Sharmila Pariyar, the president of Fedo, offered 2000 rupees to assist with transportation. The officials from Fedo collaborated with the district police, leading to the arrest of Bhuvaneshwari Acharya on charges of caste discrimination. Currently, she is out on bail.

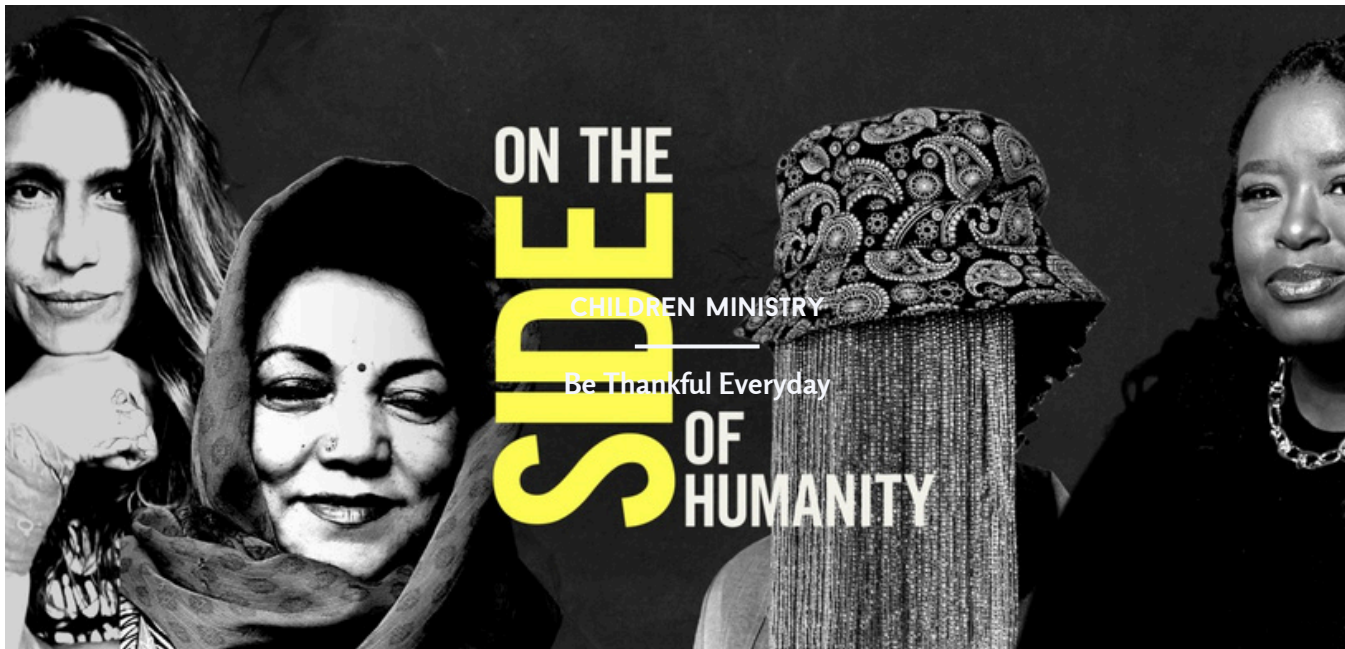
I extend special thanks to Fedo's team for supporting my fight. I anticipate continued support and express gratitude for efforts to enhance Dalit women's access to social justice in this district.

Ram Dulari Ram, a 35-year-old Dalit housewife residing in Kalaiya Sub Metropolitan City-10, hails from Matiarwa village. Her 45-year-old husband, Ratan Mahara, works as a daily wage laborer, supporting their family. Their 14-year-old son is their only child. Ram Dulari faced unhappiness due to her husband's abusive behavior fueled by alcohol and drugs. Joining the Dalit Women Entrepreneur Group through a project and participating in bi-monthly meetings became a turning point for her. She began confiding in group members and frontline representatives about her struggles.

As an active member of the Dalit Women Entrepreneur Group, Ram Dulari developed advocacy skills and addressed human rights issues. When her husband's behavior became a concern, the group organized a meeting to address the issue. They motivated Ratan, educating him on human rights and advocating for positive change. Eventually, he pledged to amend his ways, and after a month of monitoring, Ram Dulari reported no recurrence of mistreatment. Her transformed manner and happiness testified to the success of the program. She thanked the Feminist Dalit



Media Coverage



National Conference of Women with Disabilities begins

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KATHMANDU, March 1: The National Conference of Women with Disabilities has kicked off in Kathmandu.

The program started on March 1 with the slogan 'Count me with you: My voice has meaning' and will end on March 3 with the unveiling of the Kathmandu Manifesto.

Altogether 36 women with disabilities from 7 provinces and more than 90 people representing national level organizations working in the field of women and disabilities are participating in the program.

The program was jointly organized by organizations working in the field of women and disabilities, Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO), National Indigenous Disable Woman Association Nepal (NIDWAN), Netrahin Mahila Sangh Nepal, Access Planet Organization Nepal and Pahichan Nepal in the context of 114th International Women's Day.

The program inaugurated by Deputy Speaker Indira Rana Magar was attended by National Assembly member Padam Pariyar, National Women's Commission Chairperson Kamala Parajuli, representatives of National Inclusion Commission



National Conference of Women with Disabilities begins

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