



QUARTERLY POST

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HIGHLIGHTING



Dialogue on Caste in Agri-Food Systems



Voter Education for Inclusive Democracy



**Monitoring & Policy Dialogue –
Dhanusha**



**Bagmati Network Meeting & CEDAW
Orientation**



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Advocacy for Inclusive Education – Sudurpaschim Province

FEDO, in collaboration with the Journey of Hope Foundation and FjS, organized an interaction program with provincial ministers, education officials, civil society, and journalists to advocate for the inclusion of Dalit and marginalized children’s educational needs in Sudurpaschim’s policies and annual budget. The initiative emphasized evidence-based advocacy and inclusive policy reform.

By grounding the dialogue in these figures, the initiative reinforced the urgency of inclusive, evidence-based policy advocacy to ensure that Dalit and marginalized children are not left behind in education and development, and that Sudurpaschim’s provincial framework responds directly to these disparities.

Major Data – Sudurpaschim Province

Education

- Dropout rate (Grades 6–8): 21–22% (national average 14–15%)
- Dalit children never attending school: Above 27% (Terai Dalits)
- Literacy rate: 67.4% among Dalits vs 76.2% national average
- Higher education attainment: Only 1.6% of Dalits reach bachelor’s level or above

Health & Nutrition

- Stunting (under-5): 28–29% vs national 25–26%
- Functional difficulty (ages 2–17): 12% vs national 7%
- Malnutrition prevalence: 45–50% among Dalit children

Capacity Building for Frontline Leaders – Kaski

FEDO organized a capacity-building program in Kaski for frontline leaders, focusing on strengthening their understanding of Dalit issues, advocacy approaches, and grassroots challenges. The session provided a space for experience sharing and collective reflection, where participants discussed ground realities, identified key gaps, and explored strategies to address ongoing challenges. Emphasis was placed on teamwork, coordination, and strengthening local-level advocacy efforts. The program supported the development of more informed, connected, and resilient frontline leadership, contributing to sustained efforts toward social justice and community transformation.



Lumbini Provincial Network Strengthening and Orientation

In Lumbini Province, FEDO implemented a series of programs, including a Provincial Network Meeting with **representatives from all 12 districts**, interactions with frontline leaders and elected women representatives, and monitoring visits with women's groups.

These engagements facilitated shared learning, coordination, and collective follow-up, strengthening efforts toward livelihood improvement and social justice. FEDO also conducted voter education awareness campaigns in rural municipalities, enhancing understanding of voting rights and electoral processes among Dalit and marginalized women, and promoting their active participation in democratic spaces.





Monitoring Visit and Policy Dialogue – Madhesh Province and Lumbini Province

FEDO conducted a monitoring visit and discussion–interaction program in Madhesh and Lumbini Province focusing on the meaningful participation of Dalit women in policy-making processes.

The interaction brought together elected women representatives, ward members, frontline leaders, and women’s group members, creating a platform for dialogue on their roles and engagement across political, economic, and educational spheres. Participants shared experiences, identified existing gaps, and discussed strategies to strengthen leadership and decision-making participation of Dalit women.

The program contributed to fostering inclusive governance and representation, while reinforcing the importance of ensuring Dalit women’s voices are reflected in policy spaces.





Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Caste-Based Discrimination in Agri-Food Systems

Marking the International Day for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination 2026, FEDO, in collaboration with FAO Nepal, the Government of Nepal, and the National Dalit Commission, co-organized a multi-stakeholder dialogue on inclusion and caste-based discrimination in agri-food systems.

The dialogue brought together representatives from government agencies, civil society, development partners, and grassroots organizations to examine persistent inequalities within Nepal's agricultural systems. Discussions highlighted how unequal access to land, markets, agricultural services, and economic opportunities continues to marginalize Dalit communities particularly women

limiting both their participation and the sector's overall productivity.

Participants emphasized that addressing these structural barriers is essential for building inclusive, resilient, and sustainable agri-food systems. Key priorities identified included ensuring equitable resource access, and strengthening livelihoods, and promoting enabling the policy environments.

The initiative reinforced the importance of collective action and inclusive policy-making, marking an important step toward addressing systemic discrimination and advancing social justice within Nepal's agri-food sector.

[Link to ebook](#) **FAO Nepal Leads Dialogue to Address Caste-Based Inequities**

Marking the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

On March 21, Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO) marked the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination through a series of rallies and community-led programs across all provinces.

The programs brought together Dalit women, youth, community members, activists, and local stakeholders, creating a unified platform to raise awareness on the persistent realities of caste-based discrimination and its impact on dignity, rights, and social inclusion. Through coordinated actions at the local level, participants engaged in public demonstrations, dialogues, and awareness activities, amplifying collective demands for justice and equality.

Madhesh Province



Gandaki Province



Lumbini Province



These events not only highlighted the structural and everyday forms of discrimination faced by Dalit communities but also emphasized the importance of solidarity and collective action in addressing these challenges. By mobilizing voices across provinces, FEDO reinforced the message that the fight against discrimination must be both locally rooted and nationally unified.



Strengthening Voter Awareness Across Seven Provinces

Throughout February and March, FEDO intensified its voter education campaign across provinces, recognizing that informed citizens are the foundation of an inclusive democracy. These efforts connected communities especially Dalit women and marginalized groups with their civic rights and responsibilities, ensuring that their voices are not only heard but also translated into meaningful participation in governance.

Through community-based awareness sessions, dialogues, and trainings, FEDO worked extensively with Dalit women, youth, and marginalized groups to strengthen their understanding of voting rights, democratic processes, and informed decision-making. In places like **Chaukune**, **Surkhet**, women gathered at the community level many for the first time to openly discuss their political rights and responsibilities. They translated into active participation, with many first-time voters confidently casting their votes. This shift from hesitation to participation marks a critical step toward inclusive

democracy, where historically excluded communities are not just voters, but informed decision-makers shaping the political landscape.

Complementing these grassroots efforts, FEDO also undertook policy-level advocacy, submitting formal recommendations to political parties to ensure that Dalit women's issues are reflected in election manifestos. This dual approach working both at the community and policy levels reinforces FEDO's commitment to systemic change and inclusive governance. Further strengthening political engagement, a two-day Political Mentorship Program in **Bara** and **Udayapur** supported women and youth in building leadership skills, political awareness, and advocacy strategies. Through mentorship and dialogue, participants were encouraged to take on active roles in decision-making spaces, bridging the gap between awareness and leadership.

Strengthening Voter Awareness Across Seven Provinces





Political Mentorship Program Strengthens Women and Youth Leadership

FEDO conducted a two-day Political Mentorship Program in **Bara and Udayapur**, bringing together mentors and mentees to strengthen political leadership and civic engagement among women and youth. The program focused on enhancing participants' understanding of governance structures, legal frameworks, and advocacy strategies, while also building skills in leadership, political awareness, and effective communication. Through interactive sessions and dialogue, participants were encouraged to critically engage with existing political processes and identify pathways for meaningful participation.

The initiative aimed to nurture a network of confident and informed leaders, particularly from Dalit and marginalized communities, who are equipped to influence policy, advocate for rights, and contribute to social change, grounded in the principles of inclusion and intersectionality.





Advancing Equality through CEDAW Orientation and Youth Dialogue

FEDO organized a Bagmati Province-level Network Meeting, followed by an orientation for elected women representatives and key stakeholders on the recommendations of the Seventh CEDAW Periodic Report. The program aimed to strengthen understanding of gender equality commitments, women's rights, and accountability mechanisms, and to support their implementation at provincial and local levels.

The engagement also featured a strategic dialogue with youth and Gen Z leaders from the Dalit community, fostering intergenerational learning, exchange of perspectives, and collective reflection. Participants discussed shared responsibilities in advancing inclusive governance, equality, and rights-based advocacy, contributing to stronger and more coordinated action.



Capacity Building on Women's Rights, Resource Mobilization, and Proposal Development

FEDO conducted a two-day Capacity Building Training for Provincial Network Members, creating a dynamic platform for experience sharing, peer learning, and skills enhancement. The training covered women's rights, legal rights, fundraising, local resource mobilization, proposal development, planning, and documentation. With guidance from the trainer, participants explored key concepts, practiced drafting proposals, and collaboratively developed action plans to sustain and strengthen district-level initiatives. The training contributed to building a more resilient, self-reliant, and impactful grassroots network.



Livelihood Support for Women's Financial Independence

FEDO continued its efforts to promote economic empowerment and resilience by supporting community women in Udayapur and Bara districts through targeted cash transfer initiatives. The support enabled women to invest in and expand their small businesses, strengthening their capacity to generate income and support their households.

This initiative highlights the growing number of economically empowered women who are driving change within their families and communities. By enhancing financial independence, the program contributes to advancing dignity, self-reliance, and sustainable livelihoods among Dalit and marginalized women.





Call for Justice



FEDO stood in solidarity with activists and community members at Maitighar, calling for a transparent investigation and immediate justice for Inisha BK. The protest highlighted ongoing concerns around violence against women and girls, particularly those from marginalized communities.

Through this action, FEDO reaffirmed its commitment to accountability, justice, and survivor-centered approaches, emphasizing that impunity for violence must end. The demonstration served as a collective call to authorities to ensure timely legal action and protection of rights, while also raising broader awareness on the need to address systemic violence.

PRESS RELEASE

"Fight Against Caste and Gender Discrimination Construct Just and Equitable Society"



दलित महिला संघ
Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO)

Ref. No.: 60/026



मिति: २०८२ फागुन २७ गते

प्रेस विज्ञापित

वि.सं २०८२ फागुन २३ गते कर्णाली प्रदेशको राजधानी सुर्खेत जिल्लाको वीरेन्द्रनगरमा विहान ट्युसन पढ्न गएको किशोरी इनिशा वि.क.माथि वीरेन्द्रनगर-४ शहीद पार्क नजिकको जनजागरण सामुदायिक बनमा भएको सामूहिक जबरजस्ती करणी(बलात्कार)पछि हत्या गरिएको अमानवीय र क्रूर घटनाप्रति दलित महिला संघ (फेडो) को गम्भीर ध्यानाकर्षण भएको छ। यस घटनाले सम्पूर्ण समाजलाई स्तब्ध, दुःखी र आक्रोशित बनाएको छ। यो घटना केवल एउटा अपराधिक कार्य मात्र नभई महिला, बालिका तथा दलित समुदायको सुरक्षा, स्वतन्त्रपुर्वक हिडडुल गर्न र बाँच्न पाउने अधिकारका साथै सिद्धो मानव अधिकारमाथि गरिएको गम्भीर जघन्य अपराधको पराकाष्ट हो।

विभिन्न संचार माध्यममा आएको समाचार अनुसार यस घटनामा संलग्न भनिएका चार अभियुक्तहरूलाई उन्मुक्ति दिताउने उनीहरूको उमेर घटाएर नापालक कायम गराउने षत्तखेल भइरहेको भन्ने सूचना सार्वजनिक हुनु अत्यन्तै गम्भीर र चिन्ताजनक विषय हो। यदि कित्तै कागजी प्रमाण तयार गरी वा कानूनको दुरुपयोग गरेर अपराधीलाई जोगाउने प्रयास भइरहेको छ भन्ने कुराहरू बाहिर आईरहेको हुँदा कानूनको विरुद्ध नेपालको न्याय प्रणाली बाहिर जाँदै भन्ने कुरामा हामि विषवस्त छौ।

यस सन्दर्भमा दलित महिला संघ (फेडो) सम्बन्धित निकायहरू समक्ष निम्न मागहरू राख्दछः

१. पीडितलाई न्यायको निमित्त घटनाको निष्पत्ति, पारदर्शी र गम्भीर अनुसन्धान गरियोस्।
२. दोषीलाई कुनै पनि बहामा वा प्रभावका आधारमा उन्मुक्ति नदिइयोस्।
३. अभियुक्तहरूको उमेर घटाउने वा प्रमाण कित्तै गर्ने प्रयास भए त्यसमा संलग्न सबैमाथि कडा कारवाही गरियोस्।
४. पीडितका परिवारलाई न्याय, सुरक्षा तथा आवश्यक संरक्षण सुनिश्चित गरियोस्।

अतः न्यायमा कुनै पनि प्रकारको मोलमोलाइ स्वीकार्य हुन सक्दैन भन्ने सर्वमान्य सिद्धांतलाई राज्यका सम्बन्धित निकायहरूले अक्षरस पालना गरि नागरिकलाई कानुनि राज्यको महसुस गराउन सक्नु पर्दछ। त्यसकारण पीडितलाई न्याय र अपराधीलाई हदैसम्मको कानुनी कारवाहीको निमित्त दलित महिला संघ (फेडो), नागरिक समाज, मानवअधिकारकर्मी, पत्रकार तथा सरोकारवालाहरूलाई न्यायका लागि जोडदार रूपमा आवाज उठाउन हार्दिक अनुरोध गर्दछौ।

कन्ता स्वर्णकार
अध्यक्ष

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FEDO released a press release to draw serious attention to the rape and murder case of teenager Inisha B.K. in Surkhet.

MEDIA COVERAGE

