Inside

Take away on Sexual and Gender Based Violence ........... 2

Take away on Implementation of Palermo Protocol ........... 14

Take away on Citizenship/Legal Identity ......................... 6

Take away on Child Rights ............ 16

Take away on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights ........... 11

Take away on Supplementary Activities .......................... 21

Media Coverage .................................................... 24

New Publications .................................................. 25
**Take away on Sexual and GBV**

**Countering Technology Facilitated Sexual and Gender Based Violence**

FWLD and Equality Now jointly organized "**F for Feminism**" under the theme of "**Countering Technology Facilitated Sexual and Gender Based Violence**" on March 7, 2023, at the Nepal Tourism Board in Kathmandu. The ceremony was chaired by Senior Advocate Geeta Aryal, President of FWLD, and Honorable Urmila Aryal, Vice-Chair in the National Assembly, attended as a Chief Guest. Ms. Aarati Chataut did a wonderful job of moderating the program. The event was attended by around 250 people, including representatives from UN agencies, INGOs, CSOs, lawyers, law students, and professionals. The celebration of the occasion included stage theater, performances by KMC law students, poetry readings, stand-up comedy sets, and musical acts.
FWLD hosted a dialogue program on February 3, 2023, in Kathmandu with concerned stakeholders on access to justice for women and marginalized groups and usage of the e-justice system during the COVID-19 pandemic. There was presence of representatives from the Supreme Court, the Office of the Attorney General, the Police Headquarters, the Ministry of Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs, the Kathmandu Metropolitan City, the Bar Association, the National Human Rights Commission, and LACC in the program. The program’s goal was to map the state of women’s and the underrepresented community’s access to justice during COVID 19, as well as any successes and difficulties encountered in providing services. The usage of the e-justice system during the COVID 19 pandemic and its prospects for the future were also discussed.

Similarly, FWLD hosted consultation program on February 8, 2023, in Pokhara, Kaski District with concerned stakeholders to discuss how to use the e-justice system and improve the access to justice for women and other marginalized groups during the COVID-19 pandemic. District Court, Office of District Government Attorney, District Police Office, Gandaki Hospital (OCMC), Social Development Ministry, Pokhara Metropolitan City (Judicial committee member & department of women development), High Court and District Court Bar Association, NHRC (Provincial office), Stipend lawyer, Kopila Nepal, and Human Rights Defender Society representatives took part in the discussion program. The program’s objective was to map the status of women’s and the underrepresented community’s access to justice during COVID 19 and identify effective practices and delivery-related issues. Also, the usage of e-justice was discussed.
In Pokhara, on February 7th, 2023, FWLD hosted a dialogue session with women and marginalized community members about access to justice for women and marginalized community members and usage of e-justice system during COVID-19 epidemic. The purpose of the program was to gather data for a study on how the COVID 19 epidemic affected access to justice and the utilization of the E-justice system. When seeking justice at COVID 19, service seekers, particularly women and members of the marginalized community, highlighted the difficulties they encountered and their experiences using the E-Justice system. There were 10 individuals from the Syangja and Kaski districts who participated in the program and presented their stories.
Interactive Orientation with Multi Sectoral Service Provider to Address GBV from Victim Centric Approach

The "Interactive orientation with multi-service providers from victim centric approach in the situations of GBV" program has been launched by FWLD in Udaypur District from March 24 to March 28, 2023, in partnership with Ipas Nepal and UNFPA. Hon. Nawaraj Dulal, Justice of Udayapur District Court, Mr. Basanta Kumar Basnet, Mayor of Triyuga Municipality, DSP Rakash Kumar Poddar from District Police Office, Chairperson of Ward No. 11 of Triyuga Municipality, Senior Advocates, and members of the Judicial Committee of all four local levels of the project location attended the inauguration session. A total of 15 interactive sessions on topics including the status of legal protections and their implementation against gender-based violence, technology-induced gender-based violence and the legal system, victims’ rights and victim hearings, gender-based violence related to reproductive health, the role of the local judicial committee, mock trial sessions on domestic violence cases, compensation and interim relief in the case of GBV, examination of health, and ethical issues were conducted.

All of the guests expressed appreciation for the program’s format during their remarks and shared a commitment to collaborate to provide services from a victim-centric perspective and work in coordination to put an end to GBV. Representatives from the district court, district government attorney office, district hospital (OCMC), safe house, and mediators participated actively in the program. Also, there were members of the judicial committees of the Triyuga, Katari, Belaka, and Chaudandigadi municipalities.
Citizenship/Legal Identity

Supreme Court decides regarding citizenship

The Supreme Court made a subject cluster and unanimously heard the citizenship-related issues on March 1, 2023. Those without citizenship recommendations and those who had gotten recommendations from local level felt that the District Administration Office had done them justly.

Women, Law and Development Forum (FWLD) offered legal assistance to children of citizens by birth whose fathers refused to carry out their obligations and who were missing or had never seen their father’s face through the joint assembly of Supreme Court Justices Hon’ble Dr. Manoj Kumar Sharma and Honorable Dr. Kumar Chudal. According to the Constitution, a citizenship document. A promise to provide has been made. Advocate Sushma Gautam and senior advocate Mira Dhungana had advocated on behalf of the Women, Law and Development Forum (FWLD).

Program on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics

For district secretaries of Kathmandu Metropolitan City, a 2-day orientation program on civil registration and vital statistics was held from March 10–11, 2023, in Dhulikhel, Kavre. In association with UNICEF Nepal and FWLD, Kathmandu Metropolitan City organized the orientation session. Mr. Dipak Adhikari, Head of Administrative Department, KMC, Mr. Dan Rono, Chief, Child Protection Section, UNICEF Nepal, Advocate Sabin Shrestha, Executive Director, FWLD, Mr. Rudra Prasad Pandit, Director General, Department of National ID and Civil Registration (DoNIDCR), Mr. Basanta Adhikari, Chief Administrative Officer, Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC) and ward level secretaries of KMC participated in the orientation program.
Attention-grabbing letter

The delegations of FWLD met with representatives of different political parties and handed over an attention-grabbing letter, urging for the passage of the Nepal Citizenship Act (Amendment) Bill. The delegates further urged to initiate crucial steps to make the Citizenship law in-line with the Constitution and to ensure an equal citizenship rights for all to create a more inclusive and equitable society.

Honorable Rajendra Lingden, 
Chairperson of the Rastriya 
Prajatantra Party (RPP) 
Date : March 14, 2023

Honorable K.P Sharma Oli, 
Chairperson of the CPN (UML) 
Party and former Prime Minister 
of Nepal 
Date : March 15, 2023

Chairperson of the Rastriya Swatantra 
Party Rabi Lamechhane and Vice- 
chair and Parliamentary Party Leader 
Honorable Dol Prasad (D.P) Aryal 
Date : March 15, 2023
Honorable Madhav Kumar Nepal,
President of the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Socialist)
Date: March 23, 2023

Upendra Yadav
President, Janata Samajwadi Party
Date: March 25, 2023

Honorable Anita Devkota,
Member of National Assembly and coordinator of sub-committee formed to study that law was not made according to the constitution
Date: March 26, 2023
Discussion Program on Legal Identity (Citizenship and Birth Registration)

A discussion program was jointly organized by Pakhribas Municipality, Dhankuta and FWLD on March 17, 2023 with the local government’s representatives from all 10 wards including the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Chief administrative Officer, Civil registration department, Women department, ward-chair and ward secretaries and members of judicial committee of Pakhribas Municipality and head of citizenship section of Dhankuta District Administration Office. The objective of the program was to aware the ward of the municipality the importance of legal documents and legal identity. The roles of the local level government on legal identity were also discussed in the program. Advocate Hima Basnet coordinated the program and advocate Sabin Shrestha presented on the introduction of legal identity and roles of the government on legal identity along with tackling of the queries of the participants. Mr. Binod Chandra Devkota highlighted the objectives of the programme.

A discussion program was jointly organized by Baglung Municipality and FWLD on March 28, 2023 with the local government’s representatives from all the wards of the Baglung Municipality including the Mayor of Baglung municipality, Civil registration department, ward chairs and ward secretaries of Baglung Municipality were the participants of the program. The mayor of Baglung Municipality Mr. Basant Kumar Shrestha was the chief guest of the program. The objective of the program was to aware the ward of the Municipality on the importance of legal documents and legal identity. The roles of the local level government on legal identity were also discussed in the program. Advocate Sabin Shrestha presented on the right to legal identity and roles of the local government on legal identity along with tackling of the queries of the participants. Objective of the program was highlighted by Mr. Binod Chandra Devkota and program was facilitated by advocate Yam Bahadur Chamrakar.
Program on the Nepal Citizenship Act (Amendment) Bill

The Secretariat of the Civil Society Network for Citizenship Rights, FWLD, organized a Discussion Program on the Nepal Citizenship Act (Amendment) Bill with the esteem members of the network on March 24, 2023. The event aimed to facilitate a discussion on the Bill and strategize future steps of the network in this regard. A total of 44 representatives from CSOs including members of the Network attended the program, contributing diverse perspectives and insights to the conversation. We look forward to advancing our collective efforts towards protecting citizenship rights in Nepal.

Program with chief whips of the major political parties

An interaction program was jointly organized by FWLD and MAG with chief whips of the major political parties on Citizenship Amendment Bill on March 30, 2023. On the program, Hon’ble Ramesh Lekhak, the Chief Whip of the Nepali Congress, Hon’ble Hitraj Pandey, the Chief Whip of the CPN (Maoist Centre), Hon’ble Rishikesh Pokhrel, CPN (UML), Hon’ble Santosh Pariyar, the Chief Whip of the Ra. Swa. Pa., Hon’ble Prakash Jwala, the Chief Whip of the CPN (United Socialist) Hon’ble Ranju Jha, Ja.Sa.Pa. and Hon’ble Anita Shah, the Chief Whip of the Janmat Party expressed their strong commitments on introducing and passing the Citizenship Amendment Bill as a matter of priority. Advocate Sabin Shrestha urged the political parties to amend Nepal Citizenship Act in line with the Constitution. The program was chaired by Ms. Anita Bindu and facilitated by Ms. Babita Basnet.
Take away on Sexual and Reproductive Health Right

RHRWG meeting

Reproductive Health Rights Working Group (RHRWG) meeting was held on 24th January 2023 in Hukum Darbar, Kathmandu. The meeting was primarily held to discuss and analyze the newly introduced Adolescent Friendly Health Service Guideline, 2022. Ms. Durga Sapkota presented her analysis of the Guideline and facilitated the discussion. Advocate Nabin Kumar Shrestha from FWLD moderated the meeting.

RHRWG held a meeting in Kathmandu on March 30, 2023. The main agendas of the meeting were to review and analyze the current state of the RHRWG’s work on the MA self-care program, the CEDAW reporting mechanism, and the status of the proposed change to the SMRHR Act of 2075. Updates on the CEDAW reporting mechanism and the status of the SMRHR Act amendment proposal are provided by Adv. Sabin Shrestha and Ms. Madhabi Bajracharya, respectively. The discussion was mediated by advocate Nabin Kumar Shrestha from the FWLD.
Meeting for strategic advocacy on Right to Safe Abortion

FWLD and CRR conducted a consultative meeting with stakeholders to discuss on the strategic advocacy and implementation of safe abortion rights in Nepal on 13 February 2023. The meeting was productive in receiving inputs and insights in mapping the possible solution and way forward in strengthening SAS rights in Nepal. The discussion was led by Advocate Purna Shrestha as a presenter. While Advocate Neha Gurung moderated the program.

One-to-one meeting

FWLD and CRR engaged in a one-to-one meeting with two prominent figures – Honorable Kalyan Shrestha (Former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court) and Ms. Babita Basnet (Senior Journalist) on 20th February 2023. The purpose of the meeting was to share the current status of SRHR and safe abortion rights in Nepal along with the legal achievements and advocacy related to it.
An inception meeting of the project partners (Center for Reproductive Rights, Forum for Women, Law and Development and CARE Nepal) for the project “Rights-based Participation and Accountability for Increasing Accessibility and Quality of Comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health Services for Women and Girls in Disaster Situations in Nepal” was conducted on 15th March 2023 in Kupondole, Lalitpur. Discussions were made on the overview and work plan of the project.

Inhouse session on “Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) in Disasters”

An inhouse session on “Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) in Disasters” was conducted at Equality Now Hall, FWLD on 10th January 2023. Mr. Liam Holt who is an intern at FWLD presented on the various aspects of sexual and reproductive health rights at the time of disaster. A thorough discussion went along with the presentation.
Domestication of Palermo Protocol

FWLD and The Asia Foundation held a meeting on 9 February 2023 with National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in presence of Honorable Member Lily Thapa, Acting Secretary Murari Prasad Kharel and Under Secretary Jhankar Bahadur Rawal regarding the collaborations between the agencies for domestication of Palermo Protocol and necessary amendments in laws in line with the Protocol. NHRC committed to work together on the issue and contribute to the reformation process as well.

One on one meeting

FWLD organized a one on one meeting with Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen (MOWCSC) on necessary amendment in Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Act 2007 to make it inline with the Palermo Protocol on 9 February 2023. The meeting had presence of Joint Secretary Laxmi Kumari Basnet, Under Secretary Meena Poudel and other officers from NCCHT of the Ministry along with representatives from TAF and FWLD. FWLD presented the proposed amendments on anti trafficking law and the Ministry committed to include the proposal in the forthcoming amendment of the law.
FWLD organized a meeting with federal parliamentarians on 17 February 2023 regarding the Amendment Bill on Prevention of Money Laundering and Promotion of Business Environment which included amendment on the definition of Human Trafficking and Transportation under the Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Act 2007. The proposed amendment included issue about human smuggling which dilutes the difference between trafficking and smuggling and contradicts with the Palermo Protocol as well. Hence discussion was conducted on the issue and the honorable parliamentarians expressed their commitments that they will submit amendment proposal on the issue in the parliament to separate the definition of Human smuggling from human trafficking and transportation.
A One-day Orientation to the Police Officials on “Role of Police in regard to the Child Protection” was conducted on 17th January, 2023 in Kanchanpur, Sudurpaschim Province. The participants of the program were police officials from Kanchanpur district. Adv. Deepesh Shrestha presented on the national and international legal provisions regarding child protection, Mr. Shyam Singh Chaudhary, Superintendent of Police (Kanchanpur) presented on the role of police in child protection and Adv. Sabin Shrestha presented on the crime victim protection and rights of victims of crime specifically in line with the rights of children. The program was facilitated by Mr. Binod Chandra Devkota.
Date: 18th January, 2023  
Venue: Kailali, Sudurpaschim Province  
Participants: Police officials from Kanchanpur district

Presentators:  
Adv. Deepesh Shrestha, on the national and international legal provisions regarding child protection  
Devendra Bahadur Pal, Superintendent of Police (Kailali) highlighted the role of police officials in child related cases  
Saraswoti Adhikari, Inspector, presented on the role of police in child protection children  
Adv. Sabin Shrestha, on the crime victim protection and rights of victims of crime specifically in line with the rights of children

Facilitator: Binod Chandra Devkota

Date: 26th January, 2023  
Venue: Bhairahawa, Rupandehi, Lumbini Province  
Participants: Police officials from Rupandehi district

Presentators:  
Adv. Deepesh Shrestha, on the national and international legal provisions regarding child protection  
Sabita G.C., Inspector presented on the role of police in child protection  
Adv. Sabin Shrestha, on the crime victim protection and rights of victims of crime specifically in line with the rights of children

Facilitator: Binod Chandra Devkota
Date: 27th January, 2023  
Venue: Tansen, Palpa, Lumbini Province  
Participants: Police officials and media personnels from Palpa district

Presentators  
Adv. Deepesh Shrestha  
on the national and international legal provisions regarding child protection  
Janak Bahadur Shahi,  
Superintendent of Police (Palpa)  
highlighted the role of police officials in cases related to children  
Birendra Thapa,  
Deputy Superintendent of Police (Palpa)  
presented on the role of police in child protection  
Adv. Sabin Shrestha  
on the crime victim protection and rights of victims of crime specifically in line with the rights of children  
Facilitator: Binod Chandra Devkota

One-to-One Advocacy Meetings

One-to-One Advocacy Meetings were conducted with a stipendiary lawyer of Kailali District Court, Legal Officer of Dhangadi Sub-metropolitan City, Department Head of Women and Children’s Section (Dhangadi Sub-metropolitan City), Department Head of Women and Children’s Section (Kailari Rural Municipality) and Ward Level Mediator on January 25, 2023. Discussions were made regarding the situation of child rights as well as the existing problems in relation to parenting, child custody and alternative care. The meetings were conducted by Adv. Renu Pradhan (Shrestha).

One-to-One advocacy meetings were conducted in Rupandehi District, Lumbini Province on February 28, 2023 with Legal Officer of Tilottama Municipality (Rupandehi), Officer of Department of Child and Women Development, Siddharthanagar Municipality, Inspector of Department of Child and Women Development of Rohini Rural Municipality and Omsatiya Rural Municipality and Child Welfare Officer, Mayadevi Rural Municipality. Discussions were made regarding the situation of child rights as well as the existing problems in relation to parenting, child custody and alternative care.
Establishing and Strengthening Appropriate Service for Women and Children subject to Violence

A local level dialogue titled “Establishing and Strengthening Appropriate Service for Women and Children subject to Violence” was conducted on 28th January, 2022 in Tansen Municipality, Palpa, Lumbini Province. The dialogue program saw the participation of Chair of Bagnaskali Rural Municipality, Ward Chairperson, members of judicial committee and media personnel.

Program on “Role of Stakeholders on Child Protection”

Date: 14th - 15th February, 2023
Venue: Mahendranagar, Kanchanpur
The program saw participation of lawyers, government attorneys, court officials, members of judicial committee, representatives of child rights organization and shelter homes. Advocate Sabin Shrestha, Advocate Deepesh Shrestha and Advocate Kaushila Yogi conducted various sessions on national and international legal frameworks on child protection, child justice and rights of crime victims and their protection.

Date: 16th- 17th February, 2023
Venue: Dhangadi, Kailali
The program saw participation of lawyers, court officials, members of judicial committee, representatives of child rights organization and shelter homes and local representatives. Advocate Sabin Shrestha, Advocate Deepesh Shrestha and Advocate Renu Pradhan (Shrestha) conducted various sessions on national and international legal frameworks on child protection, child justice and rights of crime victims and their protection.
Date: 13th - 14th March, 2023  
Venue: Tilottama-1, Rupandehi

The program saw participation of lawyers, government attorneys, court officials, police officials, local representatives, members of judicial committee, representatives from child rights organization and safe house. Advocate Sabin Shrestha, Advocate Deepeesh Shrestha and Advocate Shyam Raj Ghimire conducted various sessions on national and international legal frameworks on child protection, juvenile justice and rights of crime victims and their protection. The program was facilitated by Advocate Nagendra Bashyal.

A discussion program on “Provincial Policy on Children” was conducted on 16th February, 2023 in Dhangadi, Kailali. The program was organized by Ministry of Social Development, Sudurpaschim Province with the support of UNICEF Nepal and FWLD. Ms. Jayanti Giri, Head of Department of Social Development presented on the provincial policy draft of Sudurpaschim Province on rights of children. The presentation was followed by an open discussion. The participants of the program comprised of representatives from Ministry of Social Development, various CSOs, local representatives, police officials, lawyers, media personnel and representatives from UNICEF Nepal, UNFPA, World Vision and FWLD.

A dialogue program on Provincial Policy and Programs relating to Children in Lumbini Province was conducted on 12th March, 2023 in Rupandehi. Ms. Sharada Bashyal, Head of Department of Social Development, Ministry of Social Development, Lumbini Province presented on the various laws, policies, strategies and programs regarding children in Lumbini province. The presentation was followed by an open discussion. The dialogue program saw participation of local representatives, police officials, lawyers, representatives from CSOs, UNFPA, bar association, Ministry of Social Development, High Court Bar Association and media personnel.
FWLD conducted a Strategic Planning Meeting from 20th to 22nd January, 2023 at Chitwan. The objective of the meeting was to develop a 5 year strategy of FWLD to achieve its motto of Non-discrimination and equality. A series of discussions and group presentations on different strategies were conducted. The meeting concluded with a common commitment to make an implementation plan to achieve the prepared strategy. Board members and staff of FWLD attended the meeting.
Orientation program on Safeguarding Policy

FWLD organized an orientation program on Safeguarding Policy on 23rd January, 2023 at Chitwan. The program was organized to orient about the safeguarding policy of FWLD. Thorough discussion on different subject matters of policy like definition of sexual harassment, jurisdiction, time limitations, complaint mechanisms, punishment and areas of its implementation was conducted. Board members and staff of FWLD participated in the orientation program.

FWLD team watched a theatre drama

On 1st February, 2023 FWLD team watched a theatre drama “Maujung Babusahebko Kot” in Shailee Theatre. The drama is based on the scenario of transition from Rana Period in Nepal to Democracy. The drama also portrayed the attachment and illusion of the ruler on their autocratic regime.
Secretariat handover

The meeting of Women Friendly Disaster Management (WFDM), a network of 11 women-led organizations with the mission to engender policies formulated and implemented on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) preparedness and response, was conducted on 27th February, 2023. FWLD successfully completed the 2-years tenure of Secretariat of the network and handed over it to Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO) in the meeting. Discussions were made on the works concluded and their achievements in the past two years as well as the strategies on upcoming activities. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Chadani Joshi where representatives from the member organizations participated.

Farewell bid

We bid a farewell to the talented international research intern ‘Liam Holt’ from Australia who has been with us here at FWLD for the past three months on 23 March, 2023. He has provided significant contribution through his research on the topics related to SRHR and mensuration. He has the opportunity to visit Nepal for his research, having been awarded with prestigious Colombo Plan Scholarship from the Australian Government. He holds two different degrees in law and political science. Thank you for choosing FWLD for your internship and we wish you all the best for your future endeavors. FWLD will be glad to welcome you in the future as well.

Liam expressed his gratitude for the great opportunity to explore SRHR (Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights) issues from a broader perspective with the help of FWLD. He was also thankful for the welcoming and friendly working environment.
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