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MOBILE APPS
MERO ADHIKAR

Download
Take away on

Sexual and GBV

Orientation on legal provisions against GBV

Panchkhal Municipality, Kavre in collaboration with Chandni Joshi Foundation and FWLD organized one day orientation program with judicial committee and mediators on legal provisions against gender based violence on April 10, 2023 at Dhulikhel. Senior advocate Meera Dhungana and advocate Sabin Shrestha from FWLD facilitated the sessions.
Interactive Orientation with Multi Sectoral Service Providers to Address GBV From Victim Centric Approach

Participants: Representatives from Chairperson, Member and staff of judicial committee of Biratnagar Metropolitan City, District police office, District court, District Public Attorney Office, District Hospital (OCMC), Safe house, Salaried Lawyer of District Court, Representative of District Court Bar, Legal aid committee and Mediators

MORANG
22nd to 26th May, 2023

WORKING FOR NON-DISCRIMINATION AND EQUALITY
Interactive Orientation with Multi Sectoral Service Providers to Address GBV From Victim Centric Approach

Participants: Representatives from the District Court, District Government Attorney’s Office, District Hospital (OCMC), judicial committee members, and mediators from Budhiganga Municipality and Badimalika Municipality, District Bar Association, Safe House, Stipend Lawyer, Legal Aid Committee, and various organizations working in the sector of women’s rights and access to justice

BAJURA
13th to 17th June, 2023
Interactive Orientation with Multi Sectoral Service Providers to Address GBV From Victim Centric Approach

Participants: District Court, District Government Attorney’s Office, District Hospital (OCMC), judicial committee members, and mediators from Mangalsen Municipality, Kamalbazar Municipality and Safebagar Municipality, District Bar Association, Safe House, Stipend Lawyer, Legal Aid Committee, and various organizations working in the sector of women’s rights and access to justice

ACHHAM
18th to 22nd June, 2023

Participants: District Court, District Government Attorney’s Office, District Hospital (OCMC), judicial committee members, and mediators from Mangalsen Municipality, Kamalbazar Municipality and Safebagar Municipality, District Bar Association, Safe House, Stipend Lawyer, Legal Aid Committee, and various organizations working in the sector of women’s rights and access to justice
Interactive Orientation with Multi Sectoral Service Providers to Address GBV From Victim Centric Approach

Participants: District Court, District Government Attorney's Office, District Hospital (OCMC), judicial committee members, and mediators from Dhangadi Sub Metropolitan City, District Bar Association, Safe House, Stipend Lawyer, Legal Aid Committee and various organizations working in the sector of women’s rights and access to justice.

KAILALI

21st to 25th June, 2023
On April 4, 2023, the FWLD delegation held a one-to-one meeting with the esteemed President of the Nepali Congress Party and former Prime Minister of Nepal, Honorable Sher Bahadur Deuba. During the meeting, the FWLD Team presented an attention letter urging to ensure citizenship rights and to take crucial measures from the Party to pass the Nepal Citizenship (Amendment) Bill and to align the citizenship law with the Constitution, aiming to foster an inclusive and equitable society.

On April 21, 2023, the FWLD delegation held a one-to-one meeting with Honorable Narayankaji Shrestha, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Home Affairs. During the meeting, the FWLD Team presented an attention letter urging the government to ensure citizenship rights and align the citizenship law with the Constitution. Additionally, they requested the government to take crucial step to pass the Nepal Act as soon as possible, aiming to foster an inclusive and equitable society.
Formation of Lumbini Provincial Network

Provincial level capacity building program for lawyers and CBOs was organized at Nepalgunj, Lumbini Province on April 8, 2023. Senior advocate Sunil Kumar Shrestha coordinated the event, where Binod Chandra Devkota facilitated the program. Advocate Sabin Shrestha highlighted on different dimensions of legal identity and citizenship including development of citizenship laws in Nepal, Citizenship Amendment Bill and recent development, judgments of the Supreme Court on citizenship and state accountability under UPR, CEDAW, CRC, ICCPR etc. The participants of the program formed Lumbini Provincial Network on Citizenship Rights under the chairperson-ship of senior advocate Sunil Kumar Shrestha to work on the issue of right to citizenship and birth registration. Advocate Basanta Gautam is nominated as secretary of the Provincial Network.

Discussion program with media on the citizenship rights and implementation status of decisions

A discussion program with media on the citizenship rights and implementation status of decisions relating to citizenship was conducted on 16th May, 2023 at Nepalgunj, Banke. The program saw participation of representatives from various print, audio-visual and online media houses and a local representatives of national news houses. Senior advocate Sunil Kumar Shrestha, advocate Basant Gautam and advocate Bishwajeet Tiwari presented various examples of cases and decisions on the citizenship issues from Nepalgunj High Courts and also highlighted on success and challenges to implement the decisions relating to citizenship. The program was facilitated by advocate Sabin Shrestha and Mr. Binod Chandra Devkota.
Training of social mobilizers

**ACCHAM**

*8th May, 2023*

**Objective:** To build capacity of social mobilizers to conduct community outreach programs in all over the district to aware general public on importance and process to obtain legal identity documents particularly birth registration and citizenship certificates.

**Facilitator:** Advocate Sabin Shrestha, Mr. Binod Chandra Devkota and advocate Bal Bahadur Kuwar.

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**BANKE**

*17th May, 2023*

**Objective:** To build capacity of social mobilizers to conduct community outreach programs in all over the district to aware general public on importance and process to obtain legal identity documents particularly birth registration and citizenship certificates.

**Facilitator:** Senior advocate Sunil Kumar Shrestha, Advocate Sabin Shrestha and Mr. Binod Chandra Devkota
Mobile legal clinics

FWLD conducted 3-days mobile legal clinics on legal identity rights particularly on citizenship and birth registration. Mobile legal clinics were aimed to spread legal awareness and to provide case-based individual legal counseling on the doorstep of concerned people. It also offered further para-legal assistance and other legal services to obtain legal identity documents (citizenship certificates and birth registration certificates) to needy people during the clinics.
A Media Interaction Program titled "Citizenship Rights and Execution of Judgments on Cases related to Citizenship Rights" took place in Kathmandu on May 28, 2023. Advocate Bishwajeet Tiwari from Banke and Advocate Sushama Gautam from FWLD delivered informative presentations, discussing different cases where individuals faced difficulties in obtaining citizenship certificates despite receiving positive judgments from the Courts. Additionally, five affected individuals shared their personal experiences, highlighting the challenges they encountered during their legal battles and the obstacles they faced in the implementation of court decisions. Advocate Binu Lama emphasized the program’s objectives, while Mr. Binod Chandra Devkota moderated the event. Representatives from various print, audio-visual, and online media outlets attended the program.

Forum Theater on the Issue of Citizenship

FWLD conducted five Forum Theater Performances addressing the issue of citizenship in different locations within the Kathmandu District. The performances took place in Swayambhunath, Jorpati, Pashupati Temple, Tinkune, and Narephant on 25, 26 and 27 May, 2023 respectively. Following each forum theatre performance, there was a subsequent discussion with the audience focusing on the issue at hand and exploring potential solutions to the challenges faced by individuals without citizenship.
FWLD conducted three Forum Theater Performances addressing the issue of citizenship in different locations within the Lalitpur District. The performances took place in Lagankhel Buspark, Sankhapark, and UN Park on 28 May, 2023. Following each forum theatre performance, there was a subsequent discussion with the audience focusing on the issue at hand and exploring potential solutions to the challenges faced by individuals without citizenship.

FWLD conducted three Forum Theater Performances addressing the issue of citizenship in different locations within the Lalitpur District on May 29, 2023. The performances took place in Suryabinayak Chowk, and Kamalbinayak Kamalpokhari. Following each forum theatre performance, there was a subsequent discussion with the audience focusing on the issue at hand and exploring potential solutions to the challenges faced by individuals without citizenship.
Program on Legal Identity (Citizenship and Birth Registration)

SAFEBAGAR MUNICIPALITY, ACHHAM

9th May, 2023

Participants: Representatives from all the wards of the Safebagar Municipality including the Mayor Rajendra Bahadur Kuwar, Deputy Mayor Shiva Bahadur Kuwar, Chief Administrative Officer Dubindra Prasad Baral, Civil registration department, ward chairs and ward secretaries of Safebagar Municipality.

Resource Person: Mr. Laxman Dhakal, Chief district officer of Accham

CHAINPUR MUNICIPALITY, SANKHUWASABHA

9th May, 2023

Participants: Local government’s representatives from all 11 wards including the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Chief administrative Officer, Civil registration department, Women department, ward-chair and ward secretaries and chief of area administration office, Chainpur.
In the celebration of Pride Month, a "Discussion Program on Legal Identity of Gender and Sexual Minorities" was organized at Hukum Darbar, Kathmandu on June 23, 2023. The program aimed to bring together various stakeholders to engage in a meaningful conversation regarding the legal identity of gender and sexual minorities. Its purpose was to foster a deeper understanding of the rights and challenges faced by these communities, explore potential solutions, and promote more inclusive and equitable legal frameworks. The event featured speakers such as Bhumika Shrestha from Blue Diamond Society, Esan Regmi from Campaign for Change, and Laxmi Ghalan from Mitini Nepal, who represented the community and discussed the obstacles they encounter. Advocate Sushama Gautam from FWLD shed light on the existing legal provisions and the amendments introduced by the Nepal Citizenship (First Amendment) Act, 2079. Additionally, advocates Roshana Pradhan and Deepesh Shrestha from FWLD highlighted the writ petition on Marriage Equality filed by FWLD and Mitini Nepal. Mr. Binod Chandra Devkota, representing FWLD, welcomed the participants and emphasized the program’s objectives, while advocate Binu Lama moderated the event.
Role of Media in Implementation of the Nepal Citizenship (First Amendment) Act, 2079

On June 25, 2023, a discussion program was held with editors, senior journalists and other media persons on the Role of Media in Implementation of the Nepal Citizenship (First Amendment) Act, 2079 at Basera Boutique Hotel, Kathmandu. Advocate Sabin Shrestha, Executive Director of FWLD articulated the provisions brought by the Act. Mr. Ramkumar Sharma, former member of the Constituent Assembly highlighted on the rationality of the implementation of the Act, while advocate Sushama Gautam from FWLD talked about the practical aspects of the implementation of the Act. Mr. Binod Chandra Devkota from FWLD welcomed and highlighted the objectives of the program, while advocate Binu Lama facilitated the event. The program saw over 60 participants from various media houses.

Interaction Program with Parliamentarians on Birth Registration Right and Civil Registration

A residential program titled "An Interaction Program with Parliamentarians on Birth Registration Right and Civil Registration" took place on June 25 and 26, 2023, at Park Village in Kathmandu. The main objective of the program was to facilitate meaningful discussions on the rights to birth registration, the existing laws, Nepal’s international human rights obligations concerning birth registration, and the need for reforms in current laws and regulations. Nineteen esteemed members of the National Assembly, including presidents of various thematic committees and other members, actively participated in the program. Advocate Sabin Shrestha, Advocate Binu Lama, and Mr. Binod Chandra Devkota served as facilitators for the program.
SUCCESS STORIES

FROM DENIAL TO RECOGNITION:
A Courageous Mother’s Fight for Citizenship of Her Children

SIMRAN and SAJAN were raised by their single mother, BIMALA MANANDHAR. Their father disappeared when Bimala was pregnant with Sajan, claiming he was going to work out of the town but never returned. Bimala faced numerous challenges in raising her children on her own. Unfortunately, when Simran and Sajan sought to obtain their citizenship certificates, they were denied by the Chief District Officer (CDO) of Kathmandu. The reason given was that there was no legal provision allowing a single mother to grant citizenship to her children in the absence of a father.

Determined to fight for citizenship of her children, Bimala sought assistance from the Forum for Women, Law and Development (FWLD). With our support, the siblings were able to register their births and filed a case at the Supreme Court. After enduring a lengthy struggle and legal battle, the Supreme Court issued an order on March 1, 2023, instructing the relevant authority to grant citizenship certificate to Simran and Sajan. However, the CDO office remained reluctant to comply, arguing that citizenship could not be granted without a specific law despite the court’s decision. FWLD launched media campaign and other advocacies to shed light on the plight of Simran and Sajan. Their stories garnered significant attention in various media. Finally, after persistent efforts and advocacy, the CDO office relented and granted Simran and Sajan the citizenship certificates on 27 June, 2023.
SREEJA BAJRACHARYA, raised solely by her mother NANIHERA BAJRACHARYA. Despite financial hardships, Nanihera ensured Sreeja’s education, standing as her sole pillar of support. But when Sreeja sought her birth registration and later applied for citizenship, her father callously denied her the necessary documentation. Sreeja, in her relentless pursuit of justice, fought a grueling ten-year legal battle with the unwavering support of FWLD. Finally, on March 1, 2023, the Supreme Court ruled in her favor, granting her the long-awaited citizenship certificate under her mother’s name. As a result of the Supreme Court’s decision, Sreeja obtained her citizenship certificate on June 23, 2023, emerging victorious as a testament to her indomitable spirit and unwavering determination.
A Mother's Struggle for Securing Citizenship Certificate

In 2017, **SARU** sought a recommendation for citizenship certificate to her 18-year-old son **SURAJ**. However, the ward office refused demanding physical presence of his father, who had abandoned them while Saru was three months pregnant with Suraj and never returned back. With the legal assistance from FWLD, Suraj was able to obtain birth registration certificate in 2019, but his application for citizenship certificate was still denied by the Kathmandu District Administration Office. With the support of FWLD, Suraj filed a writ in the Supreme Court, and on March 1, 2023, the Court issued a final verdict to grant citizenship certificate to Suraj. Despite the Court’s decision, the CDO office resisted, and after persistent efforts, Saru managed to secure Suraj’s citizenship certificate through her name on June 27, 2023.
Access to Education and Employment for Individuals without Citizenship Certificates

ABINASH SHAH SWARNAKAR, a Bachelor’s degree holder, faced obstacle applying for a vacancy at Nepal Bank Limited due to lack of a citizenship certificate. With the legal support of FWLD, Abinash filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court. He sought an interim order that would permit him to fill the application form and participate as a candidate in such competitive employment exams. The Court issued an order as he demanded, enabling him to avail the benefits he sought.

BIKASH KUMAR AGRAWAL, who aspired to study engineering, was refused enrollment due to lack of citizenship certificate. With the legal assistance of FWLD, Bikash took his case to the Supreme Court. The Court granted an interim order, enabling him to enroll in college and pursue his engineering aspiration despite not having a citizenship certificate.

Both Bikash Kumar Agrawal and Abinash Shah Swarnakar, who were previously stateless, were able to enjoy their education and employment rights through the interim order granted by the Supreme Court. Both individuals have now successfully obtained their citizenship certificates on June 26 and June 29, 2023, respectively.
Take away on
Sexual & Reproductive Health Right

Discussion program regarding linkage of SAS and OCMC

On 9th April, 2023 FWLD and Ipas Nepal organized a consultative discussion program regarding linkage of RH specifically SAS and OCMC. The discussion was understanding of “violation of reproductive health rights as an integral part of Gender-Based Violence (GBV).

The nursing chief of Family Welfare Division of Department of Health Ms. Nisa Joshi presents on the legal provisions of the Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Rights Act, 2075. Ms Sharmila Dahal Poudel, chief of Center for Geriatric and Gender Violence Management of Nursing and Social Secretary Division presented on One-Stop Crisis Management Center (OCMC) services on safe abortion. The program was moderated by Advocate Nabin Kumar Shrestha while the suggestion was given by Advocate Sabin Shrestha.

Program with provincial multi stakeholder on SRHR

An interactive discussion program with provincial multi stakeholder on SRHR was conducted on 18th April, 2023 in Lumbini Province, Butwal. The discussion program was jointly organized by FWLD and Ipas Nepal. Hon’ble Provincial Parliamentarian, representatives from different organizations, Provincial Health Training Center office, District Police Office, District Court, District Government Attorney Office, District Hospital (OCMC), Lawyer of High Court and District Court Bar Association, media person participated the program. Adv. Nabin Kumar Shrestha of FWLD and Ms. Madhabi Bajracharya of Ipas Nepal was the resource person of the program.
An interactive discussion program with provincial multi stakeholder on SRHR was conducted on 21st April, 2023 in Sudurpachhim Province, Dhangadi. The discussion program was organized by FWLD and Ipas Nepal. Hon’ble Provincial Parliamentarian, representatives from different organization, Provincial Health Training Center office, District police office, district court, district government attorney office, District hospital (OCMC), Lawyer of High Court and District Court Bar Association, media person were participated in the program.

Dr. Jagadish Joshi, Director of Health Directorate of Sudurpachhim Province, Adv. Nabin Kumar Shrestha of FWLD and Ms. Madhabi Bajracharya of Ipas Nepal was the resource person of the program.

RHRWG meeting

On 23rd April 2023, FWLD, the secretariat of RHRWG coordinated the Reproductive Health Rights Working Group (RHRWG) meeting in Hukum Darbar, Kathmandu.

The meeting was Chaired by Honorable Kamala Parajuli, Chairperson of National Women Commission (NWC), coordinator of RHRWG. Furthermore, the Joint Secretary of NHRC Mr. Dipak Gunj Dhoy Karki also attended the meeting along with other RHRWG members.

Advocate Nabin Kumar Shrestha from FWLD moderated and facilitated the discussion in the meeting.
Discussion with the Honorable members of Parliament

FWLD, in collaboration with Ipas Nepal, hosted an interactive discussion session with the Honorable members of Parliament concerning the necessity of amendments on the Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Rights Act 2075 on May 4 2023 in Kathmandu. Advocate Nabin Kumar Shrestha facilitated the program. Madhabi Bajracharya from Ipas Nepal initiated the program welcoming everyone and highlighted on the objectives of discussion. Honorable Dig Bahadur Limbu, the recently-appointed Minister of Youth and Sports, Honorable Prakash Pantha chairperson of Sustainable Development and Good Governance Committee along with other honorable parliamentarians were present. Advocate Sabin Shrestha from FWLD as the resource person of the program.

Program on Safe Abortion Services and legislation & rights that relate to Self-Manage and Telemedicine Services

In collaboration with CRR and FWLD, the National Women Commission and RHRWG held an interactive discussion program on 4th May, 2023. Safe Abortion Services and the related legislation and rights that relate to Self-Manage and Telemedicine Services were the main topics of discussion. The program was chaired by NWC chairperson honorable Kamala Parajuli. Honorable member and officials of NWC, NHRC and the representatives from MoHP and NHEICC, representatives of member of RHRWG and journalists were also present in the program. Advocate Nabin Kumar Shrestha from FWLD moderated and facilitated the discussion in the meeting.
Interactive discussion program on Infertility and Assisted Reproductive including Surrogacy

FWLD, in collaboration with CRR, hosted an interactive discussion program on Infertility and Assisted Reproductive including Surrogacy with NHRIIs on May 20, 2023, at Ghyampe Danda, Bhaktapur. The program was chaired by Senior Advocate Geeta Aryal, Chairperson of FWLD. The chief guest of the program was Honorable Top Bahadur Magar, Chairperson of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), whereas Hon’ble Kamala Parajuli as a Special Guest in the discussion program. Honorable members of NHRC, NWC, National Dalit Commission, Tharu Commission, officials of NHRC, NWC, representatives of MoHP and different organizations attained as the guest in the program. Senior Advocate Geeta Aryal concluded the program with vote of thanks. Advocate Nabin Kumar Shrestha from FWLD moderated and facilitated the discussion in the meeting.

Program on implementation of reproductive health services

Ministry of Health and Population (Department of Health Service) and FWD jointly organized an interactive discussion program on effective implementation of reproductive health services on June 8th, 2023, at Hotel Himalaya, Lalitpur in collaboration with CRR, Yoshan and FWLD. Nisha Joshi from FWD, facilitated the session. Along with the other participants and representatives from different provinces, Director of FWD, Dr. Bibek Kumar Lal was also present in the program. Advocate Sabin Shrestha from FWLD, Ms. Lirisha Tuladhar from YoSHAN and Advocate Prabhakar Shrestha from CRR were the resource persons in the program. Dr. Gauri Shrestha, senior chief (MNH) of FWD concluded the program with a vote of thanks.
Discussion program on Reproductive Health Rights

Ipas Nepal and FWLD hosted an residential interactive discussion program on Reproductive Health Rights, focusing on safe abortion rights, with lawyers from different provinces of Nepal on June 9 and 10, 2023 at Dhuilikhel Kavre. The program emphasized on Value Clarification and Attitude Transformation (VCAT) relating to safe abortion. Honorable Sapana Pradhan Malla, Judge of Supreme Court, Advocate Sabin Shrestha of FWLD and Dr. Deeb Dangool Shrestha and Ms. Madhavi Bajracharya of Ipas Nepal were resource persons of the program. The discussion was moderated by Advocate Nabin Kumar Shrestha. Senior Advocate Geeta Devi Aryal and Senior Advocate Meera Dhungana concluded the program with a vote of thanks.
CRR and FWLD jointly organized an interactive discussion program with Parliamentarians on Infertility, Assisted Reproduction, and Surrogacy on June 17, 2023, at Everest Hotel Kathmandu. The program was facilitated by Advocate Nabin Kumar Shrestha of FWLD and Advocate Prabhasar Shrestha of CRR. Senior Advocate Geeta Aryal chairperson of FWLD chaired the session. Honorable Jayanti Rai, chairperson of Legislative Management Committee (National Assembly), Honorable Sapana Pradhan Malla, Supreme Court judge, Honorable Parliamentarians and Advocate Prabina Bajracharya from CRR were among the guests. Senior Advocate Geeta Aryal, chairperson of FWLD, concluded the program with a vote of thanks.

CRR and FWLD jointly organized a consultative discussion program on ‘Infertility and Assisted Reproduction including Surrogacy’ on June 20, 2023, at Basera Boutique Hotel Kathmandu. As a chief guest, Honorable Tap Bahadur Magar, chairperson of the National Human Right Commission, chaired the program. Hon’ble Jaya Ghimire, member of National Women Commission, Hon’ble Meena Devi Sob, member of National Dalit Commission, Hon’ble Bishnu Maja Ojha, member of National Inclusion Commission, Acting Secretary of NHRC, Murari Prasad Kharel, Dr. Shree Prasad Adhikari, Director of PMWN, Dr. Saoja Karki, President of NESOG and Dr. Sanu Maya Shrestha, Vice President of NESOG, Dr. Roshani Shrestha, 1st Secretary of FESON, Women Rights Activist and founder of WOREC Nepal, Dr. Renu Adhikari, Chief of FP/RH Section of Family Welfare Division, Kabita Aryal, Under Secretary of NHRC and NWC were among the guest participants. Along with the representatives from NHRC, NWC, NDC, NIC, PMWN, FWD, NESOG, FESON, WOREC, CRR, FWLD, medical specialist and journalists had also participated in the program. Advocate Sabin Shrestha from FWLD moderated the program and highlighting the program’s objectives. Prabina Bajracharya from CRR presented on the topic of infertility and assisted reproduction, including surrogacy from human rights perspectives.
**Implementation of Palermo Protocol**

**Take away on Meeting on the domestication of Palermo Protocol**

NHRC in collaboration with FWLD with the support of The Asia Foundation and Australian Aid organized a meeting on 19 May 2023 with CSOs in presence of Honorable Member Lily Thapa and Honorable Member Manoj Duwadi on the domestication of Palermo Protocol and necessary amendments in laws in line with the Protocol. The representatives of the CSOs had intensive discussion on the necessary reforms in the concerned laws. NHRC committed to coordinate with concerned ministries to expedite the process of the implementation of the Protocol.

**Meeting with Media on GEDSI**

FWLD with the support of The Asia Foundation and Australian Aid organized a meeting with Media on 27 June 2023 on the issue of GEDSI perspective while amending national anti-trafficking laws and the issue of difference between human trafficking and human smuggling.
Need of Amendment in Act and Regulation related to National ID and Civil Registration

On the occasion of ‘Personal Event Registration Week’, a dialogue program titled "Need of Amendment in Act and Regulation related to National ID and Civil Registration" was conducted on 20th April, 2023 in Kathmandu. The program was chaired by Senior Advocate Ms. Geeta Aryal, President of FWLD. The chief guest of the program was Mr. Rudra Prasad Pandit, Director General of Department of National ID and Civil Registration. Mr. Navaraj Jaisi, Director (Vital Event Registration Section), DoNIDCR presented on the various aspects of vital event registration and the works done by the department. Executive Director of FWLD Advocate Sabin Shrestha presented on the areas of need of amendments in existing laws to protect the right of vital event registration. The dialogue program saw the participation of representatives from UN Agencies, Kathmandu Metropolitan City Office, CSOs, lawyers and media personnel. The program was facilitated by Mr. Binod Chandra Devkota.
A 2-day orientation program on “Role of Stakeholders on Child Protection” was conducted on 25th to 26th April, 2023 in Nepalgunj, Banke. The program saw participation of lawyers, court officials, police officials, local representatives, members of judicial committee, media personnel and representatives from child rights organization and safe house. Senior Advocate Sunil Kumar Shrestha and Advocate Deepesh Shrestha conducted various sessions on national and international legal frameworks on child protection, juvenile justice, and the rights of crime victims and their protection.

Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of eCRVS

A 2-day workshop on “Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of eCRVS” was conducted on 28th - 29th April 2023 in Dhusikhel, Kavre. The workshop was organized by the Department of National ID and Civil Registration (DoNIDCR) and the National Statistics Office (NSO) with logistic support from UNICEF Nepal and FWLD. The workshop saw the participation of the secretary, directors, statistics officers of NSO, director and other representatives of DoNIDCR, UNICEF Nepal, Ministry of Health and Population, WHO, UNFPA, Department of Health and Service, PEES Consultant, NHRC, GIZ, and FWLD.
Meeting with the Technical Advisory Committee

On May 22nd, 2023, FWLD conducted a meeting with the Technical Advisory Committee in Kathmandu. The primary focus of the meeting was to share the findings of two research reports titled "Access to Justice of Women and Marginalized Groups during the COVID-19 Pandemic: An Impact Analysis" and "Exploring E-Justice in Nepal: Current Status and Future Prospects." During the meeting, the committee provided constructive feedback and valuable inputs to further enhance the reports. Distinguished individuals in attendance included Mr. Phanindra Gautam (Joint Secretary, Ministry of Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs), Mr. Bimal Poudel (Registrar, Supreme Court of Nepal), Ms Chhiring Kippa Lama (Deputy Superintendent of Police, Nepal Police), Advocate Mohna Ansari (Former member of the National Human Rights Commission), and Advocate Bishnu Basyal (Nepal Bar Association). Advocates Sabin Shrestha and Sagar Pathak, representing FWLD, participated in the meeting and facilitated the discussion.

Report launching program

FWLD organized a report launching program on May 30, 2023, in Kathmandu. The program’s esteemed Chief Guest was Honorable Justice Sapana Pradhan Malla from the Supreme Court. During the event, two reports were unveiled by Justice Sapana Pradhan Malla, namely "Exploring the E-Justice System in Nepal: Current Status and Future Prospects" and "Access to Justice for Women and Marginalized Groups During Covid-19: An Impact Analysis." Distinguished representatives from various organizations participated in the report launching program, including Supreme Court, Women, Children, and Senior Citizen Services Directorate of Nepal Police, UN Women, Ministry of Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs, Ministry of Women, Children, and Senior Citizens, National Human Rights Commission, National Women Commission, Nepal Bar Association, Nepal Disabled Women Association, Sabah Nepal, and various print and online media. During the program, Advocate Sushama Gautam warmly welcomed the attendees and skillfully moderated the proceedings. Ms. Subha Ghale, representing UN Women, highlighted the program’s objectives. Advocate Sabin Shrestha and Advocate Sagar Pathak delivered presentations on the research report’s findings. Finally, Sr. Advocate Geeta Aryal expressed gratitude and extended a vote of thanks, concluding the program.
FWLD conducted meeting of WFDM at Hukum Darbar on May 29th, 2023, in the presence of participants from WFDM member organizations. Ms. Navanita Sinha, Office in-charge of UN Women also participated in the program. Advocate Sabin Shrestha facilitated the session and briefly explained on the content of position paper. The meeting endorsed the Position Paper on GESI in the disaster process. Further discussion was carried out on how the WFDM effort could be carried forward in the future, stressing the existing state and accomplishments achieved by this network.
On April 5th, 2023, the FWLD team watched theatre drama “Euta Sapana ko Awasan” at Mandala Theatre Nepal. The play is based on Arthur Miller’s “Death of a Salesman” and depicted the life of a middle-class family, their struggles and love, career choices, and expectations for their children. It highlighted the contrast between dreams and reality and the consequences of unfulfilled dreams. It further highlighted the importance of mental health and reminded that being liked and having a bright smile is not the secret to success, being authentic is. After watching the play, the FWLD team had a reflection meeting to share their learnings from the play.

FWLD celebrated its 28th Anniversary on 29th May, 2023. On the auspicious occasion FWLD felicitated its employees Advocate Deepesh Shrestha and Advocate Sagar Pathak with best staff award for their dedication and performance at work. Advocate Bishwajeet Tiwari was felicitated for his commendable action of acquiring citizenship certificate with stating the name of his wife. FWLD also bid farewell to Advocate Neha Gurung and Advocate Dechen Lama. Likewise, the mobile application “Mero Adhikar: Know Your Rights” was also relaunched with the updated version in the event and 28 achievements of FWLD in the past 28 years were also recalled.
Ruling alliance vows to pass new citizenship bill

The Himalayan

MEDIA COVERAGE

FWLD’s quarterly online Bulletin

The Himalayan News Service Kathmandu, March 30

Chief whip of parties in the ruling alliance - Nepal Congress, CPN-Ma specifics Centres, CPN-Mufhunu Securitary and Janata Party — expressed their commitment to bring a new citizenship bill and, secure passage of an one.

Speaking at an interaction organised by the Forum for Women, Law and Development here today, NC Chief Whip Ramkesh Luitel said he was moved by the heart-wrenching stories of many eligible citizens who were deprived of their citizenship rights. “Those people who have not been able to achieve the status of citizenship are the heart of the problem. This is a problem that is not only affecting us but also affecting our future,” he said.

Luitel said many eligible young people were not receiving citizenship because of the laws. He said the law was also not providing adequate protection to women. “We are also talking about the protection of women’s rights in the constitution. That’s why, they are not receiving citizenship to many eligible citizens,” Luitel said.

The brave and the honest are not receiving citizenship, said Luitel. “The brave and the honest are not receiving citizenship because of the laws. The law is not adequate to protect the rights of women,” Luitel said.

NC’s senior leader Simha Prasad Adhikari said the party was committed to passing the citizenship bill. “We are committed to passing the citizenship bill. We are also talking about the protection of women’s rights in the constitution. We are also talking about the protection of women’s rights in the constitution. That’s why, they are not receiving citizenship to many eligible citizens,” Luitel said. He emphasized the need for a comprehensive citizenship bill that would ensure rights to women and children.

“Eligible residents of Nepal must be given citizenship,” NC’s senior leader Simha Prasad Adhikari said. He said the party would continue to fight for the rights of all citizens, regardless of their gender or race.

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NC’s senior leader Simha Prasad Adhikari said the party would continue to fight for the rights of all citizens, regardless of their gender or race.
The Himalaya

Birth registration laws need amendment

Himalayan News Service
Kathmandu, April 20

Nepal has pledged to secure 100 per cent birth and death registration by 2024, but it is unlikely to meet this target.

As per the new census, the percentage of children below five years whose guardians/parents registered their birth was only 74 per cent.

Information Officer, Department of National ID and Civil

bles refugees staying in Nepal to register births of their children.

Rights activists have urged the government to amend the National Identity Card and Registration Act to ensure that all children born in Nepal get their names and birth registration certificates without any hassle or procedural delays.

Executive Director of FWLD Sabin Shrestha said Article 39 of the constitution states that every child shall have the right to new births if parents lack national identity card. This is against the constitutional guarantee of birth registration, Shrestha argued. He said the form that the service seekers fill requires police report in case the father of a child is not traced and that provision is discriminatory.

Nepal’s laws need to be amended to ensure that children’s birth are registered without requiring them to produce...
The Himalayan

‘New citizenship law needs to be improved’

Himalayan News Service
Kathmandu, Nov 22

A CHPA member claims that the new citizenship law needs to be improved to ensure equality in citizenship.

The new citizenship law, which was recently approved by Parliament, has faced criticism from human rights activists and scholars. They have called for improvements to ensure that the law does not discriminate against people based on their ethnicity or religion.

One CHPA member, speaking on condition of anonymity, said: “We have been calling for improvements to the citizenship law for a long time. The law needs to be more inclusive and should not discriminate against any group.”

The CHPA member added that the law should be reviewed to ensure that it meets the needs of all citizens. They said that the law should be amended to ensure that people born in Nepal to foreign parents are also granted citizenship.

The CHPA has been working to ensure that the citizenship law is revised to meet the needs of all citizens. They have been calling for improvements to the law to ensure that it is inclusive and does not discriminate against any group.

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Major political parties commit to pass Citizenship Bill through parliament at the earliest

Published On: @March 31, 2023 12:45 AM NT By: Sujata Shrestha

KATHMANDU, March 31: Top leaders of various seven political parties in parliament have expressed commitment to pass the Citizenship Bill through parliament as soon as possible.

Addressing a program ‘Citizenship Bill: Viewspoints of Political Parties’ joint organized by Media Advocacy Group and Forum for Women, Law and Development (FWLD), top leaders and chief whip of various political parties assured that no Nepal citizen should be denied citizenship certificate. They also assured that the Citizenship Bill, which is currently in parliament, will be passed at the earliest date to pave the way to acquire citizenship certificate through natural birth or legal adoption

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The Himalayan

e-justice needed but there are many barriers

Himalayan News Service
Kathmandu, May 30

Justice Sapana Pradhan Malla said that e-justice is the use of online service to facilitate filing of cases, court procedures, and hearings, and has the need of the hour to make justice affordable and accessible to people.

Addressing a report launch titled “Exploring E-Justice System in Nepal: Current Status and Future Prospects” and “Access to Justice for Women and Marginalized Group During Covid-19: An Impact Analysis” prepared by Forum for Women, Law and Development, Justice Malla said the courts needed to use online services as much as possible and certify documents electronically without requiring case parties to be physically present at the concerned court. She said the cases were allowed to appear online for court dates, but many were unaware of this.

Justice Malla said a recent full court meeting of the SC decided to allow the Registrar to issue orders in citizenship cases to the foreign document holders in a limited number of cases without requiring the case parties to file their cases at the same time.

The SC issued a series of orders when many eligible citizens, particularly children of citizens by birth and single mothers, were denied citizenship by district administration officials. Despite court proceedings, many DAOs refused to issue them citizenship. Court proceedings or cases are not applied in similar cases, but in citizenship issues, DAOs refuse to abide by the procedures adopted by the courts.

Justice Malla said that e-justice is required for the judicial system to be effective. The judicial system had a number of resources that were not used in a limited number of cases. She added that the judiciary had limited resources to equip courts with computers and required infrastructure to facilitate e-justice.

Allocating the e-justice budget, the judicial system is a top priority, but in Nepal the judiciary gets less than one percent budget. Justice Malla said the judiciary delivered some key decisions ordering the government to improve election services, including results announcements of case parties and witnesses.

Shrestha said new research on e-justice found that lack of access to technology, limited budget for the judiciary, lack of human and other resources in the judiciary, and the resistance of the judiciary to use e-justice systems were some of the barriers confronting e-justice. Shrestha said that the SC had delivered positive verdicts in citizenship cases, but the problem was that the DAOs were not complying with those orders.

Report of Programme, UN Women Shubha Chale said that her office supported the FWLD research on e-justice in its importance and had increased more than 200 cases during the COVID-19 pandemic.
There have been achievements, but they are not enough.

How strong is our anti-bias movement?

We have gained ground and walked down a long path. The pathway of social justice is still far away for us.

The current movement is just the tip of the iceberg. It will take a lot more work to achieve equality.

We have achieved a lot, but we still have a long way to go.

We need to continue fighting for equality and non-discrimination.

Your organization has been working on promoting equality. What is your strategy for the future?

We are working on several fronts. We are trying to raise awareness, provide training, and support initiatives that promote equality.

We need more support from the community and the government.

Your organization has been working on promoting equality for many years. What have been the challenges you have faced?

We have faced many challenges. One of the biggest challenges is the lack of support from the government.

We need more support to continue our work.

Local governments are important in this process. How are you working with them?

We are working closely with local governments to promote equality. We provide training and support to local government officials.

We are also working with the community to promote awareness.

Your organization has been working on promoting equality. What is your vision for the future?

Our vision is to create a society where everyone is treated equally and with dignity.

We need more support and resources to achieve this.

What changes do you think need to be made to achieve equality?

We need more support from the government and the community.

We need more resources to continue our work.

We need to change people's minds.

We need to change the laws.

We need to change the way we treat people.

We need to change the way we think.

We need to change the way we act.

We need to change the way we feel.
NEW PUBLICATIONS

1. *Exploring the E-Justice in Nepal: Current Status and Future Prospects*
   - FWLD's quarterly online Bulletin

   - FWLD's quarterly online Bulletin

3. *कानुनी पहिचान (जनमदर्ता तथा नाजारिकता) संबंधी जानकारी पत्र*
   - मेरो अधिकार (लोकाल राज) आइए अधिकाराते जनकारी प्राप्त गर्न। FWLD
NEW PUBLICATIONS

1. Legal Analysis on Nepalese Legal Provisions Regarding Adoption
2. Documentation of Case Studies on Parenting and Child Custody in Nepal
3. A Study on Impact of Current Laws on Parenting and Child Custody
4. सुरक्षित मातृत्व तथा प्रजनन स्वास्थ्य अधिकार ऐनको संशोधनको आवश्यकता