



E-Newsletter

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Celebration of 109th International Women's Day 2019



Every year International Women's Day is celebrated on the 8 March. This year, the 109th International Women's Day was celebrated in Nepal in line with the international as well as the national slogan. The international slogan was "Think equal, build smart -

Innovate for change", while the national slogan was "Equal thought and practice for gender equality – Basis for prosperity." AATWIN participated in the rally and various other programs coordinated by the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen.

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AATWIN's Regular Quarterly Meeting



AATWIN's regular quarterly meeting was held on 8 February 2019. The objective of the quarterly meeting was to update AATWIN members about the programs and updates, to discuss about the upcoming activities, and on how to enhance network members' understanding of joint objectives, goals and areas for advocacy. This meeting also provided an opportunity for members to learn from each other about anti-human trafficking initiatives. In this meeting, the members were informed about activities carried out by AATWIN, followed by experience sharing by Executive Director of AATWIN Ms. Benu Maya Gurung on CEDAW Sessions.

One of the objectives of Hamro Samman project is to enhance private sector partnerships to support TIP survivors and at-risk population. Mr. Monish Bajracharya, Program Manager of National Business Initiatives (NBI) – Hamro Samman's private sector partner, made a presentation on the opportunity for collaboration on sustainable livelihood for trafficking survivors. A total of 34 participants attended the event including the organizers.

ToT against Human Trafficking from Human Rights Perspective

AATWIN organized a Training of Trainers (ToT) for its member organizations from 7 to 10 May 2019, in Godavari, Lalitpur. The main objective of the training was to strengthen capacity of member organizations in combating human trafficking by enhancing conceptual clarity on human trafficking and its various dimensions.

The major contents of the training were conceptual clarity on various terminologies related to human trafficking, human smuggling, national and international definition of human trafficking and its situation, changing dimensions and trends of human trafficking, human rights-based approach and different national and international laws against human trafficking.

There were 27 participants from 9 geographical areas - Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Kanchanpur, Kailali, Makwanpur, Sindhupalchowk, Kapilbastu, Dang and Morang.



What is Human Trafficking?

"Trafficking in persons" shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs."

- UN TIP Protocol

Consultation Meeting on 15th National Plan and Issues of Human Trafficking



AATWIN organized a consultation meeting to advocate for incorporation of human trafficking issues in the 15th Periodic National Plan of the National Planning Commission on 3 December 2018 in Kathmandu. The meeting was organized on the occasion of 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence and Ms. Shandya Shrestha facilitated as resource person in the program.

The Government of Nepal is on the third year of its 14th Periodic Plan from FY 2073/74 BS to 2075/76 BS, which is going to end in July 2019. National Planning Commission is preparing for the 15th Plan with its member organizations and related stakeholders, working against human trafficking/slavery in coordination with the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen.

The consultation meeting was carried out by AATWIN in support of the United Mission to Nepal. The program was attended by 57 participants representing various relevant government agencies, stakeholders and AATWIN member organizations.

The National Development Council has approved the approach paper of the 15th five-year periodic plan (2019/20-2023/24) prepared by the National Planning Commission. In the approach paper, human trafficking has been included as one of the issues.

Interaction with Provincial Assembly Members on Human Trafficking and CSEC

An interaction program with the members of provincial assembly of Province No. 3 on "Human Trafficking and Slavery and Role of Province" was organized by AATWIN on 9 December 2018 in Kathmandu.

The objective of the interaction was to sensitize the members of the provincial assembly on the new trends of human trafficking, slavery and CSEC and lobby to prepare the required plan of action to implement the federal laws on human trafficking at provincial level to address such issues.

The resource person and the facilitator of the program was Mr. Gauri Pradhan, former member and spokesperson of the National Human Right Commission (NHRC). Total of 67 participants attended the program including 24 members of the Parliament of Province No. 3 along with AATWIN's member organizations, civil society organizations and media.

The program highlighted that the prevention, protection, prosecution and partnership model should be adopted by all levels of governments and civil society organizations. The assembly members committed to building mechanisms for controlling human trafficking from the local level to province level and urged for concrete feedback from their initiation.



Regular Interaction with Media Persons

Dialogue with media persons against human trafficking and CSEC was jointly organized by AATWIN and its member organization Shakti Samuha in Kathmandu on 20 December 2018. The interaction was organized in order to sensitize the media persons against human trafficking and CSEC and highlight the role of media towards combating trafficking and making government more accountable.

Ms. Sunita Danuwar, former Chairperson of AATWIN and Executive Director of Shakti Samuha, highlighted the objective of the program and stated that the CSOs have rescued trafficking victims/survivors from various countries but due to the lack of policies on repatriation in Nepal, most of the trafficking survivors had been facing problems and had been unable to return to Nepal. Therefore, the media should



play a role in highlighting the issue and push the government to formulate required laws.

The media analysis report, 'The analysis of trafficking news in print media in 2074' was also presented by Mr. Bijaya Paudel, journalist/consultant. The participants of the program expressed the need of such interaction program for effective coordination between CSOs and media persons. They also urged for capacity building of media persons by making them aware of the problems and challenges faced by victims/survivors of trafficking. They also expressed their commitments to do in-depth study and investigation while reporting on such crucial and sensitive issues.

Exposure Visit to Thailand

Human trafficking is a global problem and almost every country in the world is affected by human trafficking, as a point of origin, transit or destination. To understand the situation of human trafficking better in the Asian context, AATWIN organized an exposure visit to Thailand for its Executive Committee members and staff from 31 December 2018 to 5 January 2019. The objectives of the visit were to



understand the situation of CSEC and human trafficking in the entertainment sector in Thailand, learn from the good practices, experiences, problem and challenges of CSOs working in Thailand and know the situation of migrant Nepali women and girls working there.

AATWIN team visited the major adult entertainment sectors in Bangkok to observe the situation in these sectors. The team observed that the entertainment sectors of Thailand are more managed and systematic. Minors were not allowed to enter clubs, workers under 18 were not allowed to work in clubs and bars. We observed that identity card was compulsory for every worker and identity cards were checked before entrance by the security staffs.

AATWIN team also got an opportunity to visit Winrock International's office in Bangkok and learn about their work, mostly working for labor trafficking. Winrock International in Bangkok facilitates the USAID Thailand, Counter Trafficking in Persons (CTIP), USAID Asia Counter Trafficking in Person Program (USAID Asia CTIP) projects.



70th International Human Rights Day and 10th National Human Rights Magna Meet-2018

On the occasion of 70th International Human Rights Day, 10th National Human Rights Magna Meet 2018 was successfully organized which held various thematic dialogues on several issues, exhibitions, rallies including inauguration and closing ceremony throughout Nepal from 8 to 14 December 2018. Slogan for the 10th National Human Rights Magna Meet 2018 was "Let's stand for equality, justice and human dignity" and "Sustainable Development and Human Rights - Nepalese main concern". Altogether 134 civil society organizations were involved in the Magna Meet. At the closing ceremony, a 35-point declaration was issued.

AATWIN was also a member of the declaration preparation committee.

The declaration urged the government to ratify Palermo Protocol on human trafficking, formulate a new national policy on TIP and amend the relevant laws for the prevention and protection of human trafficking. Declaration also urged a need for formulation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the repatriation and reintegration of human trafficking victim/survivors.

The declaration specifically urged the government to ensure protection and security of female workers in the entertainment sectors, end all kinds of abuse, exploitation and violence against them, enactment of special law and its effective implementation for prevention of sexual exploitation, abuses, child marriages, trafficking and child labor as well as to make the entertainment sector dignified and safe workplace.

Closed Session Interaction with Entertainment Sector Workers

AATWIN conducted a closed session workshop with female workers from entertainment sectors on 3 and 4 April 2019 at Dhulikhel, Kavrepalanchowk. The main objectives of the workshop were to understand the current working situation of the entertainment sector, including the difficulties and challenges faced by female workers, and to identify the issues and problems, and generate evidence for further advocacy and lobbying for reform and enactment of laws and policies against internal trafficking and exploitation in the entertainment sector.

19 right holders/female workers from entertainment sectors participated from 9 various organizations (Biswas Nepal, Change Nepal, WOFOWON, Shakti



Samuha, Chhori, CAP Nepal, YST Nepal, Raksha Nepal and SASANE). They were oriented about their rights as well as on human trafficking and potential vulnerabilities. They shared that they felt empowered through the workshop as they got to learn from each other's experiences. The problems and situation of exploitation are still grim. However, during the workshop, some positive changes were also shared by workers. An example of such change was reflected by 36% of the participants who had been provided with identity cards by employers, 10% had been provided appointment letters, and 50% of the participants reported receiving salary on time.

Dialogue with Government Stakeholders

AATWIN organized a dialogue with Government Stakeholders on CSEC and internal trafficking in entertainment sector on 29 April 2019 in Kathmandu to enhance coordination with government stakeholders in order to reduce child labor from the entertainment sector, make entertainment sector dignified and regulated.

There were a total of 39 participants including 15 government officials from MoWCSC, NHRC, National Women Commission, Nepal Bar Association, Anti Human Trafficking Bureau, Central Child Welfare Board, Department of Labor and Occupational Safety, Kathmandu Metropolitan City, Lalitpur Metropolitan City, Tokha Municipality, Labor Office, Cottage Industries Office, Office of Attorney General, Lalitpur District Attorney and 24 representatives from CSOs who attended the program.

Information about the Bureau was shared by Anupam Samsheer JBR, SP, Anti Human Trafficking Bureau who provided detailed information about the special unit established by the Nepal Police to investigate human trafficking cases. The Anti-Human Trafficking Bureau (AHTB) was established on 4 February 2019.



Representative from Department of Labor also committed that the monitoring visit of entertainment sectors will start in future.



Consultation on Amendment of Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Regulation, 2065

A bill to amend the Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Act was tabled in the Federal Parliament in January 2019. This amendment had made only a few changes to operate the Rehabilitation Centre for the survivors/victims of human trafficking. However, there are still not adequate protection mechanisms from local to national level to address the protection and security of people affected by trafficking. In this context, AATWIN organized a consultation workshop on "Amendment of Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Regulation, 2065 in the Federal System" on 23 May 2019.

The main objectives of the program were to make the Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Regulation victim/survivor friendly and recommend amendments in the Regulation as per the new federal structure of Nepal. The chief guest of the program was Ms. Rudra Devi Sharma, Joint Secretary of Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen. Advocate Kapil Aryal was the resource person for the program. In total there were 66 participants including 12 representatives from government offices i.e. NHRC, NWC, MoWCSC, Department of Labour and Occupational Safety, Office of Attorney General, District Attorney Office, Anti Human Trafficking Bureau, Special Police Unit for Women and Children, Kathmandu.

The participants gave constructive feedback on the structure of different committees, their roles and responsibilities, the operation procedure of rehabilitation center and emergency shelter, and matching fund to support the survivors of human trafficking. Joint Secretary committed that these important suggestions and feedback will be incorporated in the Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Regulation, 2065 and the Regulation will be referred to the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs soon.

Advocacy Program at Federal Level on Human Trafficking and CSEC

AATWIN organized an interaction program with Federal Members of Parliament on 'Human Trafficking and CSEC and Role of Federal Level' in Kathmandu on 24 May 2019. The resource person and the facilitator of the program was Mr. Gauri Pradhan, former member and spokesperson of NHRC. A total of 60 participants were in the program including 12 members of the Federal Parliament



The main objective of the program was to sensitize the members of the Federal Parliament on the new trends of human trafficking and CSEC issues and lobby to ratify the UN TIP Protocol and amend the Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control), Act (2064) and Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control), Regulation, 2065, to allocate budget, implement the federal laws on human trafficking. Members of Parliament committed to raising the issues– ratification the UN TIP Protocol, amendment of Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Act, 2064 and Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Regulation, 2065 at the next session of the Federal Parliament.

Interaction Program on 'Human Trafficking and CSEC in Entertainment Sector – Problems and Solutions'



AATWIN organized an interaction program to share and discuss the problems and solution of CSEC and human trafficking in the entertainment sector in Kathmandu on 24 June 2019. The major objective of the program was to share the findings of the closed session workshop with the female workers of entertainment sector, which was conducted in April 2019.

Ms. Neelam Sharma, the facilitator of the workshop presented the findings of closed session workshop in the interaction program along with role of workers, employers, government agencies, trade unions and CSOs. The representatives from the Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security (MoLESS), MoWCSC, Anti Human Trafficking Bureau, Trade Union, AATWIN members, various CSOs and journalists were present in the program.

In the closed session workshop, workers suggested that the government agencies should play their respective roles to make entertainment sector decent and dignified. They also suggested that the local government should make mandatory provisions for registration and renewal of each business, conduct regular monitoring, strictly prohibit illegal activities, all police personnel should be oriented and sensitized on entertainment sectors' issues, and proper and effective implementation of Labor Act, 2074.

The participants suggested that, owners of the entertainment sector should recruit only adult staff, provide job description, appointment letter, identity

cards, leave facility, minimum salary, festival allowances, insurance and transportation facility to the employees. They also suggested that management should pay salary on time and create worker-friendly environment and follow the government rules and regulations.

AATWIN Delegation Submits Recommendations to MoWCSC for Amendment of Human Trafficking Regulation 2008

AATWIN organized a delegation visit to Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens (MoWCSC) on 26 June 2019. Ms. Anjana Shakya, Chairperson of AATWIN submitted the recommendations for the amendment of Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Regulation 2065 to Honorable Tham Maya Thapa, Minister of MoWCSC. Likewise, the recommendations were also handed over to Ms. Rudra Devi Sharma, Joint Secretary; Ms. Chandra Kala Shrestha, Under Secretary, Human Trafficking Control Section; and Mr. Krishna Prasad Bhusal, Under Secretary, Child Protection Section.

The delegation team consisted of AATWIN members–HIMRIGHTS, GMSP, Biswas Nepal, Chhori, CWISH, RRN, WDSETC, WOFOWON and Bal Samaj Nepal. During the meeting, Hon. Minister shared that MoWCSC is in the process of amendment of Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Regulation 2008 and committed the suggestions and feedback would be incorporated. She also shared that the Council of Ministers had decided to ratify the UN TIP Protocol.



AATWIN delegation with Hon'ble Tham Maya Thapa, Minister, MoWCSC.

About AATWIN

Alliance Against Trafficking in Women and Children in Nepal (AATWIN) is a national level network of non-governmental organizations working against human trafficking, and for human rights, women's rights and children's rights by using a rights-based approach. Realizing the need for collective effort to fight against human trafficking, it was established as a network of organizations with similar organizational perspective and objectives on 6 June 1997.

Since its inception, AATWIN has been working on policy changes to tackle human trafficking at the local, national, and international levels. It has labored for bringing conceptual clarity on trafficking issues among the member organizations and the people in general. With the understanding of human trafficking as a global

phenomenon, AATWIN strongly believes that national laws, rules and regulations, policies, and working styles, as well as the campaigns, should reflect the international practices. AATWIN aims to mobilize campaigns by bringing as many organizations together to fight against the most pertinent issues. At present, there are 40 organizations affiliated with AATWIN as its member.

The major programs of AATWIN are:

- Advocacy Campaign against Human Trafficking
- Network Building
- Conceptual Clarity Initiatives
- Information and Resource Centre of AATWIN.

About Hamro Samman Project

The Hamro Samman project is a five-year project generously supported by the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the British people through the United Kingdom's Department For International Development (UK aid) and implemented by Winrock International. Its goal is to reduce the prevalence of trafficking in persons (TIP) in 10 strategically selected districts of Nepal. Using the '4Ps' framework—Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Partnership—the Hamro Samman project will bring together various stakeholders and implementing partners to reduce the prevalence of trafficking in persons

through the following objectives:

- Strengthening national and local Government of Nepal efforts to combat TIP;
- Improving CSOs advocacy and engagement to address TIP; and
- Increasing private sector partnerships to service TIP survivors and at-risk populations.

It builds upon other programs to support and leverage the efforts of Government of Nepal, civil society, and the private sector to counter trafficking-in-persons in Nepal.

Disclaimer:

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