



# E-Newsletter

Bi-annual E-Newsletter of AATWIN | No. 3, January 2020

## Facebook Campaign for Ratification of the UN TIP Protocol



AATWIN carried out a Facebook campaign urging the prompt ratification of UN TIP Protocol throughout the month of July marking “World Day against Trafficking in Persons” 2019 and in September on the occasion of “National Day against Human Trafficking” 2019. AATWIN members, Hamro Samman Project team and other

organizations contributed the campaign by adding their voice with photos with placard displaying advocacy messages for the Campaign. Total of 45,736 people reached, 3465 likes received and 129 shares was reflected by Facebook analytics over the two months.

**AATWIN’s biannual e-Newsletter aims to share information with stakeholders about AATWIN’s activities including advocacy initiatives, learning and results; news from network members, campaigns related to human trafficking and updates on developments in Nepal related with counter trafficking-in-persons (CTIP). This Edition 3 includes the major activities of period of July 2019 to December 2019.**

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## 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence



AATWIN participated in the rally organized by National Women Commission to mark the first day of 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. AATWIN also started a Facebook campaign urging the prompt ratification of UN TIP Protocol throughout these 16 days. AATWIN's member organizations, Executive Members and Hamro Samman Project partners have contributed to this campaign by sending their photos with placard supporting the campaign of prompt ratification of UN TIP Protocol. To mark the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, AATWIN, CWIN, Shakti Samuha, Shakti Milan Samaj, National College, Plan International, and Girls Advocacy Alliance jointly organized a "Public Awareness Program" against Gender-Based Violence at National College, Dhumbarahi on 27 November 2019.

## AATWIN Members' Quarterly Meeting

AATWIN conducted its 3<sup>rd</sup> technical quarterly meeting on 6 September 2019. A total of 34 participants from its member organizations participated in the meeting including the staff. AATWIN progress report was presented in the meeting followed by sharing of the planning and preparation of upcoming AGM. The focal persons of member organizations were changed, and updated membership criteria of AATWIN network membership was also discussed in the meeting. The requirement of safeguarding policy for AATWIN was discussed and decision was made on the need of separate safeguarding policy for organizations. Members also requested AATWIN to provide orientation and guideline of safeguarding policy in coming days.



### 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

## Activities supported by Strengthening Advocacy to Prevent Internal Trafficking (SAPIT) Project

### Delegation to National Human Rights Commission related to Human Trafficking



The delegation led by AATWIN's Chairperson Ms. Anjana Shakya submitted a memorandum on 17 July 2019 to the Chairperson of NHRC, Honorable Mr. Anupraj Sharma as well the Commissioners of the NHRC, Honorable Ms. Mohana Ansari, Honorable Mr. Sudeep Pathak, Honorable Mr. Prakash Osti and Secretary Mr. Bed Prasad Bhattarai on ratification of UNTIP (Palermo) Protocol and amendment of Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Act (HTTCA) 2064 & Regulation 2065, formation of National Policy against human trafficking and repatriation Directive, monitoring and regulation of entertainment sector etc. There was in-depth discussion on the issue as NHRC also emphasised on the need of national data management system, amendment of HTTCA, regular monitoring of entertainment sector, more linkage and coordination of Local, Province and Federal level of Government and make them accountable, address its various dimensions including migration, and address NHRC's TIP report recommendations. Honorable Chairperson committed that NHRC is always with AATWIN for its campaign against human trafficking.

### Delegation to Hon'ble Niru Devi Pal, Women and Social Committee

A delegation of AATWIN members lead by Chairperson, Ms. Anjana Shakya met the Chairperson of Women and Social Committee of House of Representatives on 2 August 2019. The Delegation submitted the memorandum urging for the ratification of UNTIP (Palermo) Protocol and amendment of

Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Act 2064 & Regulation 2065; and an attention letter on Nuwakot Trafficker Case for Action to Honorable, Ms. Niru Devi Pal. Sun Bahadur Tamang, elected ward chair of Ghyanphedi Rural Municipality-1 was sent to jail to execute the verdict delivered by Nuwakot District Court six years ago for the crime of human trafficking. Various cases of trafficking were filed against him and he seemed to get a clean chit. So to ensure the right to justice of the survivors, AATWIN attempted to bring the attention of the related agencies to the case. Hence, attention letter to various ministries, committees, commission was submitted to solve the issue as soon as possible. The Chairperson committed to take further action to address the issue as well the need of sensitivity on the issue of human trafficking.



### Dialogue with Business Institutions/Private Sector for a Decent and Regulated Entertainment Sector

A joint interaction program was organized by AATWIN and Community-Police Partnership Program under Metropolitan Police Range, Kathmandu, including its annexes Kalimati and Kalanki on the topic "Role of Private Sectors to Make Decent and Regulated Entertainment Sector" on 20 August 2019 at Kalanki, Kathmandu. There were total of 165 participants. Ms. Shova Sapkota, Chairperson of Kathmandu Metropolitan City Ward No. 14 chaired the program and Honorable Krishna Gopal Shrestha, Member of House of Representative of the Federal Parliament was

the Chief Guest of the program. The main objective of program was to make entertainment sector safer and managed. Issues like what role government can play to make entertainment sector better were discussed. Government's frequent engagement in monitoring this sector was suggested as being encouraging and was raised by many owners. Owners also suggested that the government should make laws for minimum wage for workers. Government should make plans and policies for this sector for easy implementation.

The program was very effective as Nepal Police was directly involved in inviting the entertainment sectors owners, elected local government representatives and the civil society organizations working in this field. This program has made the authorities, including local governments, organize such interaction events with the entertainment sectors, conduct monitoring visits and take actions to make the entertainment sector decent and regulated as they have committed to it. Presentation was made jointly by Nepal Police and AATWIN on the situation, efforts and need of way forward as well the responsibility of private sector to manage and regulate the entertainment sector.



their efforts. Both the organization and the individual honored were from AATWIN's member organizations. CWISH was honored among organizations whereas KIN Nepal was awarded Rs. 10,000. The Slogan for this year was "सरकारको प्रतिबद्धता: मानव बेचबिखन तथा ओसारपसार नियन्त्रणमा हामी सबैको एकबद्धता" ।

AATWIN issued a press release covering the various issues on TIP on the occasion of the 13<sup>th</sup> National Day against Human Trafficking, 2076 on 5 September 2019.

## Enhancing Coordination against Human Trafficking

An interaction program on "Human Trafficking and Children Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSEC): Situation and Way Forward" was jointly organized by the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen (MoWCSC) and AATWIN on 23 October 2019 at Singhadarbar, Kathmandu, Nepal. The program was chaired by Honorable Minister, Tham Maya Thapa of MoWCSC. The objectives of the coordination meeting were to discuss the current situation of human trafficking and CSEC in Nepal and way forward to counter human trafficking. Executive Director of AATWIN, Ms. Benu Maya Gurung carried out a



## Commemorating the 13<sup>th</sup> National Day Against Human Trafficking Day

The 13<sup>th</sup> National Day against Human Trafficking was commemorated on 6 September 2019. AATWIN was also one of the members of the main organizing committee of the Government of Nepal and participated in the rally and the program organized by Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens (MoWCSC) to mark the day. AATWIN was given the responsibility to coordinate the rally subcommittee and organize a coordination meeting to organize the rally with civil society organizations. As a result, there were more than 750 people who participated in the rally. The Ministry honored individuals and organizations working against human trafficking for



presentation and Joint Secretary of MoWCSC, Ms. Rudra Devi Sharma facilitated the program. The participants also shared about the current situation and issues of entertainment sector and CSEC: changed forms of human trafficking, use of new technology and social media by traffickers without physical presence, sexual and labor exploitation has been increased in the name of employment, internal trafficking cases could not be established though it is prevalent in high numbers. Honorable Minister and Joint Secretary of MoWCSC committed that amendment of Human Trafficking and Transportation Regulation will be tabled in the cabinet in November 2019, as well as committed to prepare the roster of CSOs and its network working in the sector of human trafficking and transportation. A total of 68 persons participated in the program from various civil society organizations including AATWIN members.

## Orientation on New Laws related to CSEC & Human Trafficking

and protection of victims and witnesses according to Criminal Code, 2074; the definition of child, children who are in conflict with the law and children's rights (live, development, protection–right not to discriminate against–and participation), prioritizing the best interests of children, things to consider during juvenile justice, special protection and rehabilitation of children and crimes against children according to the Children's Act, 2075 were covered in the orientation. In the program, trafficking survivors also shared their challenges and problems in the context of access to justice as well other legal problems. Honorable Tek Narayan Kunwar, Judge of High Court facilitated the program along with Advocate Dilip Koirala from Shakti Samuha and Bal Maya Biswakarma from AATWIN. There were a total of 46 participants from government bodies and from AATWIN member organizations.

## Policy Formulation and Team Building Workshop

AATWIN organized a team building and policy formulation workshop from 7 to 11 November 2019 at Bhairahawa, Rupandehi district. There were nine AATWIN Executive Committee members and seven staff. The objective of the event was to build team spirit and as well as discuss the draft on safeguarding policy and draft Terms of Reference (ToR) of different committees of AATWIN.

AATWIN team also visited AATWIN member KIN Nepal field office Rupandehi and surveillance center at border area at Belahiya, Bhairahawa to observe cross border trafficking cases. Between January and October 2019, KIN Rupandehi Office provided counseling service to 2,865 persons. Among them, after counseling, 165 persons returned to their own homes, 110 cases were handed over to police security, nine women and girls were sent to safe home and three cases were registered for the human trafficking at the police. This is an effective method but the concerned staff have been facing challenges from perpetrators like Protection mechanisms did not have functional at

New law orientation program on human trafficking, Children Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSEC) and rights of the victims was organized on 4 and 5 November 2019 at Nagarkot, Bhaktapur, Nepal. Participants were made clear about the definition, meaning and purpose of human trafficking and transportation, procedures to register the case for prosecution, rights of victims of trafficking and transportation according to HTTCA, 2064 (2007). Definition and procedure to register the case according to Sexual Harassment at Workplace (Prevention) Act, 2071; the definition of labor and facilities which should be provided to the employee by the employer, procedure to register cases related to labor exploitation including major provisions of Labor Act, 2074; the victim's fundamental right to justice, minimum human rights standards of the victim, safety



local, district and provincial level so that it was difficult to coordinate and organize the different program, existing laws not addressing entertainment sector issues and instable government staffs.

## Publication of Five Years' Media Monitoring Analysis Report

AATWIN carries out media monitoring on the issue of human trafficking and migration. AATWIN analyzed news coverage on a yearly basis and shared with its stakeholders. AATWIN completed the five years (April 2012 to June 2017) comparative analysis and published 500 copies in November 2019. The book was launched on 4 December 2019 jointly by Tanka Panta, Senior Journalist, Kumari Sarwona Urao, Human Right Officer of NHRC, Natisara Rai, Chairperson of AATWIN. This report will be helpful for AATWIN or other likeminded organizations working for the prevention, control and reduction of human trafficking as the analysis can serve as evidence for lobbying and advocacy with the related stakeholders.



AATWIN is also one of the organizers of 11<sup>th</sup> National Human Rights Magna Meet-2019 and contributed as a member of Declaration Committee. The Meet was coordinated by NGO Federation.

AATWIN also participated in Human Rights Day rally organized by Magna Meet and National Human Rights Commission in Kathmandu and advocated its issues.

## Regular Dialogue with Media Persons to Reduce CSEC & Human Trafficking

Media has an important role to end commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) and human trafficking. It has high value in raising awareness among large number of people. It can also act as an important actor to address this issue. As a regular event, AATWIN and Biswas Nepal jointly organized a dialogue with media persons to end human trafficking and CSEC on 26 December 2019 at New Baneshwor, Kathmandu. AATWIN carried out a presentation on the situation of human trafficking news covered by media. The role of media and media persons was discussed in the program. There were 43 participants in the program including women workers from entertainment sector. From the media, Nepal Television, Kantipur Television,



## 71<sup>th</sup> International Human Rights Day and 11<sup>th</sup> National Human Rights Magna Meet-2019

AATWIN organizes International Human Rights Day every year and National Human Rights Magna Meet from the 1<sup>st</sup> Magna Meet by contributing as a member of various committees. This year also, AATWIN set up a stall in Lalitpur on 7 December 2019 and Rastriya Nachghar, Jamal, Kathmandu and distributed 2,012 IEC materials at the opening ceremony of National Magna Meet of 71<sup>st</sup> International Human Rights Day and 11<sup>th</sup> National Human Rights Magna Meet held on 8 December 2019.



Image Television, Sarokar Television, Gorkhapatra, the Kathmandu Post, Annapurna Post, Nayapatrika, Himalkhabar, Khabarhub, Radio Upatayka, ONS News online, Media Advocacy Group, Nepal Readers.com etc. participated in the program.

## AATWIN's Delegation to Hon'ble Minister Parbat Gurung, MoWCSC on TIP issues

A delegation team led by Chairperson Ms. Natisara Rai submitted a memorandum to Honorable Parbat Gurung, Minister for Women, Children and Senior Citizen on the contemporary issues of human trafficking needed to be addressed by MoWCSC at Singhadarbar on 26 December 2019. The objective of the delegation visit was to bring the attention of concerned authorities to this important agenda of TIP and to let them know about the current situation and issues linked with them.

AATWIN advocated the following important issues of human trafficking:

1. Amendment in Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Act 2007 and Regulation 2008 and Children Act according to the federal system.
2. Immediate ratification of Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children (Palermo Protocol), supplementing the UNCTOC
3. Formulation of new "National Policy against Human Trafficking"
4. Formulation of guideline/regulation for rescue and repatriation of victim/survivors of human trafficking
5. Formulation of relevant laws and mechanisms to end labor and sexual exploitation of women and adolescents in the entertainment and informal sectors
6. Amendment of the National Plan of Action Against Human Trafficking, 2011

The minister expressed his commitment to address the issues in coming days and coordination and cooperation will be increased with CSOs to fight against human trafficking.



## Organisational Activities

### AATWIN's 16<sup>th</sup> AGM & 8<sup>th</sup> Convention



On 25 September 2019, AATWIN's 16<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly (AGM) & 8<sup>th</sup> Convention was held at Buddhanagar, Kathmandu. The Assembly was chaired by Ms. Anjana Shakya, Chairperson of AATWIN. In the inaugural session Advisors of AATWIN Gauri Pradhan, Tanka Panta and Bishnu Maya Bhusal and Former Chairpersons Indira Phuyal, Devi Adhikari, Laxmi Karki and Meena Bista delivered speeches. In the program various Government and CSOs stakeholders also participated.

By the convention, new Executive Committee of 9 members in the leadership of trafficking survivor Ms. Natisara Rai was elected for a two-year period. In the committee, two other trafficking survivors and right holders have also been elected in the key position of General Secretary and Secretary. Organizations like Shakti Samuha and Biswas Nepal that are run by Trafficking survivors and right holders themselves represent AATWIN's Executive Committee. It is very important having three survivors as members of committee as AATWIN's core principle is survivor centric campaign from rights-based approach.

### 4<sup>th</sup> National Conference of Human Trafficking Survivors, 2019

AATWIN has been engaged as a co-organizer for the National Conference of Human Trafficking Survivors since the first conference itself. The 4<sup>th</sup> National Conference was organized by Shakti Samuha and co-organized by AATWIN from 4 to 6 September 2019 on the occasion of 13<sup>th</sup> National Day against Human Trafficking. The objective of the national conference

was to form a national level network of survivors, to raise their voices and issues. The network was formed at the conference by 17 members representing all seven provinces of Nepal. A total of 103 trafficking survivor were present in the national conference. At the end of the conference a 22-point declaration was released followed by press conference related with human trafficking and their survivors. Honorable Minister, Ms. Tham Maya Thapa of Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen was the Chief Guest of the conference's inaugural session, and Honorable Mr. Anupraj Sharma, Chairperson of National Human Rights Commission was the Chief Guest of the closing ceremony.



### Beijing+25 Review of Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) for Gender Equality

AATWIN has been engaging with the BPfA Review from its initial days in Nepal. Since the review of 25 years by UN was due in March 2020, the national process of review was initiated by the Government of Nepal as well by CSOs. In Nepal, from the very beginning, Beyond Beijing Committee (BBC) has been coordinating its periodic review. AATWIN is also engaged with the committee as a member reviewing the national process of CSOs. AATWIN played a key role as a Steering Committee Member of Beijing+25 Review coordinated by BBC as well as in writing the thematic report on violence against women and human trafficking by highlighting the current situation and recommendations. Similarly, AATWIN has participated in various province level and national level consultation programs.

## 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 child 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 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 been working to bring conceptual clarity on trafficking issues among the member organizations of AATWIN and the people of Nepal. With the understanding of human trafficking as a global phenomenon, AATWIN strongly believes

that national laws, policies, rules and regulations and working styles, as well as campaigns, should reflect international practices. AATWIN aims to mobilize campaigns by bringing as many organizations together to fight against the most pertinent issues of trafficking-in-persons (TIP). At present, there are 40 organizations affiliated with AATWIN as its members.

The major programs of AATWIN are:

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

## 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 (GON) efforts to combat TIP;
- Improving CSOs advocacy and engagement to address TIP; and
- Increasing private sector partnerships (PSPs) 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 TIP in Nepal.

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