



E-Newsletter

Bi-annual E-Newsletter of AATWIN | No. 1, March 2019

Message from the Chairperson

It is my great pleasure to extend heartfelt greetings to the readers of the first issue of the E-Newsletter of AATWIN.

Human trafficking is a complex problem that requires multi-stakeholders and multi-disciplinary solutions. Nepal is a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children subjected to forced labour and sex trafficking. Some studies have estimated that a quarter of a million Nepalese are in forced labour or other forms of trafficking at any given time, with millions more vulnerable due to poverty, lack of employment and other livelihood opportunities and lack of information about trafficking and services for victims and survivors.

In our endeavor to communicate with our stakeholders and enhance the campaign against human trafficking, AATWIN has decided to publish a bi-annual E-Newsletter, which will give a snapshot overview on a regular basis on the works done and the future planned activities of AATWIN in the coming months. We hope to use this platform to increase our communication outreach as well as enhance the coordination among various stakeholders to combat human trafficking in the national and international level. AATWIN is a national level network working against human trafficking from human rights perspective for the last two decades.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge the support of USAID, Winrock International implementer of the 'Hamro Samman' project and AATWIN secretariat in publishing E-Newsletter

Ms. Anjana Shakya
Chairperson, AATWIN



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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, using a rights-based approach. Realizing the need of collective effort to fight against human trafficking, it was established as a network of organizations with the same perspective and objectives on 6 June, 1997.

Since its establishment, AATWIN has been working on policy changes to tackle human trafficking at the local, national, and international levels. It has laboured 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 phenomena, AATWIN strongly believes that national laws, rules and regulations, policies, and working styles as well as the campaigns should be 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 member.

The major programmes of AATWIN are:

Advocacy Campaign against Human Trafficking

AATWIN has been executing awareness and advocacy campaigns targeted to formulation, effective implementation, improvement and reform of existing laws and policies based on due analyses of human rights issues from human trafficking perspective. Its main activities include lobbying, consultations, interactions, workshops, memorandum, press conferences, press release, demonstrations, sit-in-protests and rallies.

Network Building

AATWIN, realizing the significance of network in the fight against human trafficking, has been building networks at local, national and international levels. It is expanding its networks at the districts through its member organizations. Likewise, it has been building linkages with regional and international networks by becoming member of GAATW, RECEM/SDG, SAIEVAC/NACG, etc.

Conceptual Clarity Initiatives

Conceptual clarity on right based approach, changing trends and dimensions of human trafficking is important for AATWIN member organizations and stakeholders. It carries out variety of activities such as research, workshops, interactions, orientations, training and trainer's training including publications of different information, education and communication materials on different aspects to create awareness among stakeholders.

Information and Resource Center of AATWIN

The Information and Resource Center was established in 2004 with the objective of systematic collection and dissemination of information relating to human trafficking and human rights at the national and international levels. It has collection of books, journals, magazines, reports, research findings, bulletins, newspaper compilations, audio/visuals, posters, booklets, pamphlets, photographs, articles, flyers, and others. It also produces 'OSHARPASAR' (Trafficking), a bi-annual publication, on various issues against human trafficking.

About USAID-funded Hamro Samman Project

The Hamro Samman project is a five-year project with financial support from the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) 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.

The Hamro Samman project continues Winrock's and USAID's long history of diverse programming in Nepal and builds upon other programmes to support and leverage Government of Nepal, civil society, and private sector efforts to counter trafficking in persons in Nepal.

An agreement has been signed between Winrock and AATWIN in order to improve the CSO networks' advocacy and engagement to address TIP on 21st May 2018.

Interaction Programme on Building Partnership to Counter Trafficking in Person



AATWIN in collaboration with USAID-funded Hamro Samman project organized an interaction programme on Building Partnership to Counter Trafficking in Person in order to mark the World Day against Trafficking in Person on 30 July 2018.

One of the important sessions of the event was a panel discussion where AATWIN was one of the panelists along with Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens (MoWCSC), National Business Initiative (NBI), National Network for Safe Migration (NNSM), and Chaudhary Group. Another session of this event was unveiling a new partnership, where the USAID "Hamro Samman" Project and AATWIN, NNSM, NBI and Chaudhary Group signed the partnership.



Regular Quarterly Meeting of AATWIN

AATWIN organized the regular quarterly meeting with its member organizations on 21 August 2018 in Kathmandu. The purpose of the regular quarterly meeting is to update the members about the programs and activities carried out, discuss about the upcoming

activities and holds discussion on the pertinent issues related with human trafficking. It also provides an opportunity for members to learn from each other.

During the meeting, the participant members expressed their views on the need and importance of life-skill training to the survivors. As Hamro Samman project is working in increasing private sector partnerships to service TIP survivors and at-risk populations, many participants expressed their interest to coordinate and collaborate with the private sector partners. Some members shared the problems of the survivors and why they drop out from these trainings. Many survivors do not have any economic support while they undertake training. The need to change the modality of training as only trainings and capacity building activities are not sufficient unless it is linked to any job opportunities was discussed in the meeting.

Policy Forum on Ratification of UNTIP Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons



AATWIN and MoWCSC jointly organized the policy forum on ratification of UNTIP Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons (Palermo Protocol) 2000 on 3 September 2018 in Kathmandu. The programme was organized with the objective to advocate for the ratification of Protocol by the Government of Nepal.

The programme was attended by 49 participants representing concerned government agencies including Office of Prime Minister and Council of Ministers, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, and Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, MoWCSC, and Civil Society Organizations' (CSOs) representatives.

During the programme Senior Advocate Ms Geeta Pathak Sangraula, the resource person, highlighted on the urgency of the UN Protocol, which is needed to be ratified by the government as it came in 2000.

Commemorating 12th National Day against Human Trafficking

12th National Day against Human Trafficking was commemorated on 5 September 2018.

AATWIN was also member of main organizing committee and participated in the rally and the program by MoWCSC to mark the day. Ministry honoured individuals and organizations working against human trafficking for their efforts. Among them AATWIN Member CWIN Nepal and Ms. Balkumari Darlami, Secretary of AATWIN and Chairperson of Shakti Samuha is also honoured.

AATWIN's Organizational Development and Strategic Planning Workshop



Adhering to the country's federal system and recommendation of the organizational performance index assessment, AATWIN decided to review and update its organizational strategic plan, so as to lead its campaign against human trafficking in the changed context.

AATWIN organized a three-day residential organizational development and strategic planning workshop on 29-31 October 2018 in Lalitpur. In the workshop the review of the previous plan and strategy for the coming plan was discussed. Total 41 participants from the member organizations and AATWIN Secretariate were present in the program. Among them, 10 were from outside Kathmandu i.e. Makwanpur, Dailekh, Morang, Kanchanpur, Kavre, Sarlahi and Sindhupalchowk.

Solidarity to the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign—from 25 November, the International Day



for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to 10 December, Human Rights Day—is a time to galvanize action to end violence against women and girls around the world. The international theme for 2018 was "Orange the World: #HearMeToo"

AATWIN participated in a rally organized by MoWCSC as well Office of Prime Minister and Council of Ministers, National Human Rights Commission, National Women Commission. AATWIN also supported MoWCSC in White Ribbon Campaign by providing them with 6,500 white ribbons for all seven provinces of Nepal.

Memorandum Letter Submitted to the Minister of Home Affairs

AATWIN, along with "USAID-funded Hamro Samman" partner organizations NNSM, Forum for Protection of People's Rights, Nepal (PPR Nepal), Legal Aid and Consultancy Centre (LACC), Centre for Legal Research and Resource Development (CeLRRd) and Forum for Women, Law and Development (FWLD) submitted a memorandum letter to Hon. Minister of Home Affairs Mr. Ram Bahadur Thapa for the ratification of UNTIP (Palermo) Protocol on 30 November 2018. After receiving the memorandum letter, Minister Thapa committed that he would present the agenda in next cabinet meeting and planning to purpose in coming session of parliament too.parliament too.



Orientation Programme on Provisions of Human Trafficking and Slavery in New Laws



An orientation programme on Provisions of Human Trafficking and Slavery in New Laws was organized on 18 July 2018 in Lalitpur. The main objective of the programme was to orient the stakeholders about the legal provisions related to trafficking and slavery in the new Criminal (Code) Act, 2074 and newly amended Labour Law, 2074.

Ms. Bishnu Maya Bhusal, an advocate and Central Member of Nepal Bar Association was the resource person of the programme. The new Criminal (Code) Act, 2074 has criminalized act imparting information about prostitution, forced labour, slavery, physical confinement, sexual harassment, child sexual abuse.

Interaction Programme on Effective Implementation of SDGs linked with Human Trafficking and Slavery

AATWIN was engaged with SDG from its formation to address the issue of human trafficking. Implementation of the SDG is the next important step so in this regard AATWIN organized an interaction programme on Effective Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) linked with human trafficking and slavery on 19th July 2018 in Lalitpur.

The resource person of the programme was Ms. Shanta Laxmi Shrestha, Chairperson of Beyond Beijing Committee and Convener of Women Major Group for Sustainable Development in Nepal. In program the information about the related provisions of human trafficking in SDG was given to the

stakeholders including AATWIN members as well Nepal Government's initiations to achieve the SDGs and CSOs' role to implement the SDGs.

SDGs linked with human trafficking and slavery are:

- SDG Target 4.5: By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous people and children in vulnerable situations
- SDG Target 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- SDG Target 5.2: Eliminate all violence against all women and girls
- SDG Target 8.7: By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous people and children in vulnerable situations
- SDG Target 8.8: Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants
- SDG Target 10.7: Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies



- SDG Target 16.2: End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children
- SDG Target 16.3: Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all
- SDG Target 16.9: By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration.

Interaction Programme on CSEC and Internal Trafficking in Entertainment Sector

AATWIN organized an interaction programme on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) and Internal Trafficking in Entertainment Sector on 14 August 2018. The programme shared the outcomes of the closed session with female workers working in entertainment sector on 28-29 May 2018 at Dhulikhel.

The right holders also kept their voices regarding their issues in the program. The role of trade unions, employers, state, CSOs, employees themselves to make decent and regulated the entertainment sectors was discussed in program. Mr. Rishi Ram Bhusal, Director of the Department of Labour and Occupational Safety expressed his commitment to support for the effective implementation of Labour Act, 2074.



Representative from various government agencies including Office of Prime Minister and Council of Ministers, Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens, District Government Attorney Office, Nepal Bar Council, Nepal Police Headquarters, Central Investigation Bureau, Ministry of Law and Justice, Ministry of Home Affairs, Special Police Unit for Women and Children were participated in the programme.

The issue of Foreign Employment Act, Labour Act and Human Trafficking and Transportation Act should be inter-linked with each other, the establishment of rehabilitation fund, compensation fund and interim relief, sensitization and responsibility of local level representatives by formulate policy and strategize for the implementation of programme were also raised.

Dialogue with Government Stakeholders on Human Trafficking and CSEC

Dialogue on 'Role of Government Stakeholders to Make Decent and Regulated the Entertainment Sectors' was organized on 25 September 2018 in Kathmandu.

The government officials from MoWCSC, National Human Right Commission, National Women Commission, Central Police Nepal, Central Child Welfare Board, Department of Labour, Central Investigation Bureau (CIB) of Nepal Police; Women and Children Services Centre; Metropolitan City Kathmandu, Labour Office, Industries' Office and etc. attended the programme.

Mr. Rishi Ram Bhusal, Director of Labour Department said that if CSOs support to register the cases at



Consultation on Amendment of Human Trafficking Act, 2007

On the occasion of 12th National Anti-human Trafficking Day - 2018, AATWIN organized a consultation programme on Amendment of Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Act, 2064 in Federal System on 28 August 2018.

The main objectives of the programme were to make the Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Act, 2007 victim and survivor friendly, to align the definition of human trafficking or transportation with UN Palermo Protocol (UN TIP Protocol) and to make recommendations for amendment of the Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Act as per new federal structure of Nepal.

Labour Office, then the Department of Labour would definitely address those issues. He also added that the government and CSOs could work jointly to address the issues of the entertainment sectors. Most of participants stress on the continuity of such program for effective coordination and joint action plans to improve the situation of workers in entertainment sector.

Some of the issues that came in discussion for future advocacy were— proper implementation of the Supreme Court issued about the entertainment sectors how to conduct the entertainment sectors, 2065, regulation of Children’s Act 2075, rescue and shelter related issues of human trafficking survivors, amendment of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Control) Act, formulation of the special Act for entertainment sector.



Coordination Meeting against Human Trafficking & CSEC with Stakeholders

On 2 October 2018 against Human Trafficking & Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) with CSOs and respective government agencies working especially against human trafficking and exploitation in the entertainment sector with the objective of strengthen coordination among government agencies and CSOs and to discuss on way forward to end human trafficking and CSEC.

15th AGM of AATWIN

AATWIN’s 15th Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on 2nd Oct 2018 in Kathmandu Chaired by Ms. Anjana Shakya. The AGM approved the programmatic and financial reports of the organization presented by Ms. Samjha Shrestha, General Secretary and Ms. Shanta Khanal, Treasurer of AATWIN respectively as well as annual plan for coming year was also presented.

In the meeting, the criteria for the new membership was reviewed and decided to amend. Altogether 42 participants were present in the AGM from various member organizations of AATWIN. The AGM was done adjoined with the Social Audit of AATWIN.



Social Audit of AATWIN 2018

AATWIN organized its first Social Audit on 2 October 2018. AATWIN members, representatives from government agencies, CSOs, international non-government organizations as well as beneficiaries were present at the programme.

AATWIN was acknowledged as a leading organization working to formulate and amend anti-human trafficking polices and laws from the CSOs side and that it has been raising issues of human trafficking from national level to international level. AATWIN's role as a coordinator between government and CSOs



- Ratification the UN TIP Protocol
- Formulation of the new national policy against human trafficking
- Formulation of the Standard of Procedure (SoP) for repatriation or operational guideline
- Formulation of the special act to end the labour and sexual exploitation in entertainment sector.

Hon. Minister Tham Maya Thapa committed that, MoWCSC is in the process of amendment in Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Act 2007. She also informed that MoWCSC has been discussing it with other ministries as well and that they have been moving ahead to amend the Act.

for sharing information and coordinating for prompt actions was commended during the programme. The program was facilitated by Mr. Shiva Adhikari

Memorandum to Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen (MoWCSC)

AATWIN submitted a memorandum to Hon. Minister Tham Maya Thapa, MoWCSC to address the various important issues related against human trafficking on 21st Nov, 2018.

The memorandum included the following memos:

- Amendment of Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Act, 2007



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