



E-Newsletter

Bi-annual E-Newsletter of AATWIN | No. 5 (July - December 2020)

AATWIN's 17th Annual General Meeting

AATWIN's 17th Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on 16 October 2020 in Kathmandu. The AGM has approved the AATWIN's annual progress report, financial report along with the AATWIN's safeguarding policy, 2076, ToR's of various committees, annual plan of actions and audit report. The AGM also approved the membership of 3 Angles from Kaski. Altogether 43 representatives from the member organizations participated in the AGM where all the advisors of AATWIN were also attended.



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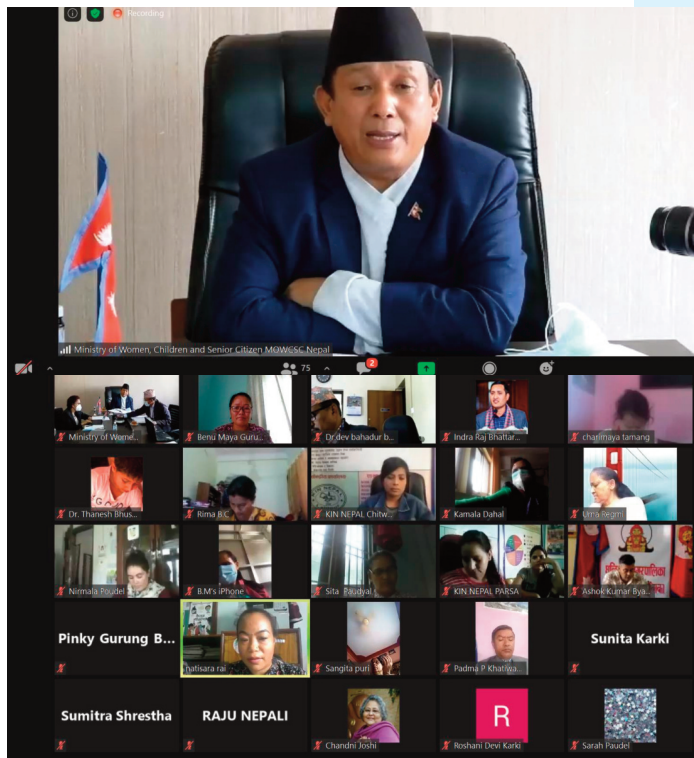
- Study on the Identification of Causes, Hurdles and Impact of Denial of Citizenship Certificate
- Launch Program of Research Report on "Access to Justice of the Girl Survivors of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation"

AATWIN's E-Newsletter is published every six months 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 and the region. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its implication in the form of lockdowns, the regular and planned activities of AATWIN has been affected. In these challenging times AATWIN has been able to conduct some activities to address issues related with COVID-19. This edition includes the activities of July - December 2020 of various projects and organizational activities.

International Day against Human Trafficking

AATWIN raised the issues of human trafficking in the talk-show on Nepali national television channel, Nepal Television to commemorate World Day against Human Trafficking on 30 Jul 2020. Ms. Benu Maya Gurung, Executive Director of AATWIN raised the issues and problems in the rescue and repatriation process of human trafficking victims/survivors and highlighted the need and importance of the rescue and repatriation/RRRR guidelines as well pointed out the challenges of access to justice. The other guests of the talk-show were SSP Dr. Deb Bahadur Bohora, Chief of Anti Human Trafficking Bureau (AHTB) and Advocate Mr. Dilip Koirala of Shakti Samuha.

Ms. Gurung stressed that the rescue and repatriations should be led by the government as it is the responsibility of the state. She also demanded the guidelines or Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the rescue and repatriation from the government.



14th National Day against Human Trafficking

A virtual program to commemorate 14th National Day against Human Trafficking was organized by the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen on 5 Sept 2020. The program was chaired by Hon. Minister Parbat Gurung. AATWIN is also invited for the presentation from the CSOs. Ms. Natisara Rai, Chairperson of AATWIN did the speech on the behalf of civil society. She raised the issues of human trafficking like the amendment of the Human Trafficking Act as per the Palermo Protocol, the need of SOP for rescue and repatriation of victims/survivors and the coordination among

stakeholders. In the program the Govt. representative from all the seven provinces as well other stakeholder were participated.

AATWIN was also given the responsibility for the coordination for Honour and Award Recommendation Sub- committee by MoWCS. Biswas Nepal from Kathmandu and Ms. Nirmala Poudel of Shakti Samuha from Banke Dist were awarded amongst organization and survivor category respectively for their contribution against human trafficking,

Contributed to Nepal 3rd Cycle of UPR Reporting, 2020

AATWIN contributed to the CSO's Reports on Universal Periodic Review (UPR) from its First Cycle with NGO Coalition for UPR. For the Third Cycle, it contributed to the report of the coalition, Govt. of Nepal's report as well some other networks from the perspective of human trafficking, women's rights, child rights, and migrant rights.

16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, 2020

On the occasion of 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, AATWIN organized various activities against human trafficking throughout the 16 days from 25 Nov-10 Dec 2020. Some of them were Orientation on



Rescue and Repatriation Process, Consultation Meeting on TIP Terminologies and Concepts, Consultation Meeting with Local Level in Kathmandu for Sample Policy against Human Trafficking, Close Session Workshop with female workers of Entertainment Sector on the current situation and COVID-19 Pandemic, Consultation program on "Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Act, 2064, Meeting for development of "Guideline/SOP of Rescue and Repatriation of Human Trafficking Victims and Survivors."

AATWIN also participated in a virtual program organized by MoWCSC. The global theme this year was "Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect!" National Slogan: "लैङ्गिक हिंसा अन्त्यको प्रतिबद्धता: व्यक्ति, समाज र सबैको ऐक्यबद्धता ।"

NACG Nepal's Leadership

National Action and Coordinating Group to End Violence against Children (NACG) is established in each South Asian Country (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, & Sri Lanka) and linkages are developed to the regional South Asia Coordinating Group on Action against Violence against Women and Children (SACG). The purpose is to strengthen inter-agency work including governments



and children groups to end violence against children including child trafficking. NACG Nepal Support and Collaborate with the SAIEVAC (is a SAARC Apex body) Governing Board Members/Coordinator and National SAIEVAC Mechanisms.

From AATWIN Ms. Benu Maya Gurung, Executive Director took the leadership of the NACG Nepal as a Chair on 28 Dec 2020. She has worked as Co-Chair in the previous term. At present, there are 17 member networks in NACG that are working for child rights in Nepal.

AATWIN's Press Releases

Issued the Press Release on 14th National Day Against Human Trafficking, 5 Sept 2020 and on World Day against Human Trafficking, 30 Jul 2020 to raised the various issues related with human trafficking need to address from policy level to implementation level.

Hamro Samman Project

Policy Forum on Palermo Protocol on TIP



The Policy Forum to discuss ratification of the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons (UN TIP Protocol) was conducted on 13 October 2020. The chief guest of the program was Hon'ble Minister Parbat Gurung, Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen (MoWCSC). Likewise, Hon. Mohna Ansari, Member of National Human Rights Commission, Mr. Puskar Sapkota, Joint Secretary of Ministry of Home Affairs, Ms. Goma Devi Dhakal, Under Secretary of MoWCSC, and Mr. Anurag Subedi from AHTB were the guests of the program. Ms. Geeta Pathak Sangroula, Senior Advocate did a presentation on the Palermo Protocol.

The presentation mainly covered the necessary amendments to the existing laws following the ratification of the Protocol. This facilitation from AATWIN acted as a platform for advocacy for the next steps after

the ratification of the Palermo Protocol including plans for the formation of required guidelines, mechanisms, policies, or systems.

Consultation Meeting on Human Trafficking Terminologies and Concepts

On the occasion of the 16 Days Activism on Violence against Women 2020, AATWIN organized a Consultation on Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Terminologies and Concepts on 11th December 2020 with its members and other related stakeholders.



Various terminologies are used related to human trafficking in our sector of work but at times there is variance in understanding and usage of certain terminologies and concepts amongst the stakeholders and others. However, to bring better clarity and understanding of the terms related to human trafficking for the people working in this sector as well as others, AATWIN is preparing a booklet defining various TIP terminologies and clarifying the concepts. The consultation on the draft of the booklet was organized with the stakeholders. AATWIN conducted series of meetings with its expert group for developing definitions and preparing the document. The participants appreciated AATWIN for its initiation to prepare the booklet on TIP terminologies.

Sharing Program on Yearly Media Analysis on Human Trafficking

The yearly sharing program of media analysis of human trafficking news was organized on 16th Dec 2020. AATWIN members, media personnels, and other related stakeholders participated in the discussion. Mr. Bijay Poudel, Senior Journalist presented the details of the Media Analysis Report 2076. The main objective of this study is to document the dimensions of human trafficking based on the news of human trafficking and unsafe migration in the media. The study covers the analysis of 11 daily newspapers and two magazines published from Kathmandu in the year 2076 B.S.



The statistics show that 46 percent of the people belonging to the Madhesi community were the victims of trafficking which is the highest among all ethnicities. More than 50 percent of survivors belonged to the age group of under 17 years. The participants mentioned that the report was factual, it would help all government and non-government sectors working against human trafficking in the coming days.

Consultation on Local Level Sample Policy against TIP

There is a huge gap in the policy and programs against human trafficking issues for combating it in the current context. As per the new structure of the country, a clear and adequate policy to address human trafficking at all three levels of the Government—local, provincial and federal—can enhance the effectiveness of CTIP programs including the justice for victims and punishment for the perpetrator. With this purpose, AATWIN has developed the sample policy against TIP for all three levels with consultations with its member organizations, and other related CSOs. The sample policy on CTIP identifies the key activities and provides a general strategy to decision-makers to handle the TIP issues as they arise.



AATWIN conducted a consultation meeting to discuss the draft Local Level Sample Policy on 23rd December in Kathmandu. Total 40 participants participated in the meeting including representatives from KMC Ward 22, Women and Children Department, Budhanilkantha Municipality, Lalitpur Metropolitan City, NHRC, AATWIN member organizations, other related stakeholders, and CSOs. Mr. Chinikaji Maharjan, Chairperson of KMC Ward 22, said, "We assure our commitment to walk together with you all in Advocacy against TIP."

The officer from Women and Children Department, Budhanilkantha Municipality, Ms. Roshani Shrestha said, "Budhanilkantha Municipality is also developing a similar Policy. I hope this draft policy will be very helpful for us too. I request AATWIN to conduct consultation meetings like this among the representatives of municipalities and influence them to implement this policy through Committees." The Local Government representatives viewed the necessity of adoption of such policies by every Local unit of Nepal for effective control against TIP.

Consultation Meeting on Province Level Sample Policy against TIP



Trafficking in Persons is a multidisciplinary subject so to address this, a Provincial Policy in a broader perspective is necessary. AATWIN has developed a Provincial Level sample policy against TIP. AATWIN conducted a consultation meeting to discuss the draft Provincial Level Sample Policy on 25th December in Hetauda, Makwanpur. The representatives from the Bagmati Province Assembly, Nepal Police, municipality officials, journalists, AATWIN member organizations, other related stakeholders and CSO members participated in the consultation meeting.

Hon. Juneli Shrestha, Member of Bagmati Province Assembly said, "AATWIN's this attempt has compelled

the Government to work on developing similar policies. This model policy also gives us a strong base to raise voice in Parliament house."

Hon. Indra Maya Gurung, Member of Bagmati Province Assembly said, "I am committed to endorsing such policies through the Parliament." The province-level parliamentarians provided their feedback on the proposed policies.

Research on Victim Identification of Human Trafficking

AATWIN is conducting research titled "Effective Practices on Identifying Victims of Human Trafficking amongst Prospective and Returnee Migrant Workers" in Kathmandu, Banke and Rupandehi. The objectives of the research are to document experiences of effective practices on HT victim identification; to develop the contextual analysis of legal and social-economic perspectives through different victim profiles/experiences and to identify gaps in human trafficking victim identification, and offer recommendations for addressing the gaps.

ProTECT Program (for Protection, Tracking, Education, Transformation)

Coordination Meeting on "Need of Guideline of Rescue and Repatriation of Human Trafficking Victims and Survivors"

Virtual coordination meeting conducted at the national level with key agencies and concerned stakeholders on 25th Sept 2020 to discuss the importance of rescue and repatriation guideline. The objectives of the program were: to learn about problems and difficulties in rescuing and repatriating the victims of human trafficking; discuss the importance of guidelines for rescue and repatriation of human trafficking victims/survivors; find out if any organization has the guidelines; learn how rescue and repatriation can be made more effective; collect suggestions on way forward, how to proceed our advocacy and enhance coordination, sharing and learning.

Shakti Samuha did a presentation on the problems and challenges faced by the CSOs working against human trafficking especially in rescue and repatriation. All the participants of the programs who were involved in CTIP expressed that there is a need for Rescue, Repatriation, Rehabilitation, and Reintegration (RRRR) guideline to



The program was attended by Hon. Indramaya Gurung, Member of Bagmati Province Assembly; Ms. Bhagwati Pudasaini, Vice-chair of District Coordination Committee; Ms. Meena Kumari Lama, Deputy Mayor of Hetauda Sub-metropolitan; Ms. Indira Ojha, Under-secretary, Social Development Branch, Ministry for Social Development; and Ms. Bishnu Kumari Lamichhane, Chief Women Development Officer.

Coordination Meeting on Human Trafficking, Rescue and Repatriation at Provincial Level

learn how CSOs have been doing rescue and repatriation during the pandemic situation and how can we enhance coordination while working against human trafficking during pandemic or crisis.

Maiti Nepal and KIN Nepal did presentations on their experiences, challenges they had to face while working in rescue and repatriation during the pandemic situation and what could be the way forward. This coordination meeting was very important in the present context because of the COVID situation. In the past, we have witnessed disaster situations like an earthquake. There could be another kind of disaster in the coming future. During the time of disaster or pandemic, everyone's concerned is centered in crisis, disaster and the issues of trafficking are overlooked. The traffickers, brokers become more active and the rescue and repatriation become more challenging than in normal times. We need to have a dialogue on how to work effectively in the situation of crisis.

Consultation on the SOP for RRRR at Provincial Level

Consultation workshop on the draft of SOP for RRRR at Provincial level in Hetauda, Makwanpur was organized on 25 Dec 2020 and collected the feedback and suggestions to make the document more effective with due attention to the three-level of the government. The draft SOP was developed based on the discussion on the framework during AATWIN's small group meeting with govt. Stakeholders and experts on 30 Nov 2020.

The coordination meeting with key agencies and stakeholders at the province level was conducted on 26 Dec 2020 in Hetauda, Makwanpur, capital of Bagmati Province. The objective of the program was to learn about the situation of human trafficking, what are the issues for advocacy at the provincial and federal level as well as how the organizations and stakeholders in Makwanpur are working in counter-trafficking in persons in coordination.



Human trafficking has been a serious problem in Nepal, both internal and cross-border trafficking. According to various statistics, Bagmati Province seems to be more affected by this problem. Nepal moving towards federalism, the provincial level has an important role to play in controlling human trafficking.

Ms. Maya Tamang, Maiti Nepal, Vice-chair of the network for human rights and against human trafficking shared the brief history and how the network is working against human trafficking in Makwanpur district. The network was formed in 2001 at present 23 organizations are affiliated with it. CSOs in Makwanpur are jointly working together on the human trafficking issue as a part of the network. However, there is a gap in coordination amongst Govt. agencies and CSOs. The good coordination among the agencies working against human trafficking will help us all to work effectively and address this issue properly.



COVID-19 Emergency Relief Project

Virtual Interaction on 'COVID-19 and its Impact on Human Trafficking'

The virtual interaction on 'COVID-19 and its impact on Human Trafficking' was conducted on 8 July 2020 with 90 participants. The objective of the virtual program was to reflect on the status of human trafficking and its new dimensions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The special guests of the program were: Hon. Mohna Ansari, Member, NHRC; Ms. Manmaya Bhattarai Pangen, Joint Secretary, MoWCSC and SSP Dr. Deb Bahadur Bohora, AHTB/Nepal Police.



The participants shared that the trafficking survivors and workers of the entertainment sectors are worried about their livelihood, they are at high risk of unsafe migration and trafficking while they search for job opportunities. They have also been facing domestic violence and due to the lack of citizenship, they are deprived of government services during COVID-19. Besides, lack of vehicle pass during lockdown has caused problems in the rescue and repatriation of victims. Even during the lockdown, there are cases of trafficking. Some organizations have been involved in rescuing the victims and shared about receiving support from NCHT and AHTB. Many organizations are provided relief materials, quarantine services, shelter, and legal services to the survivors of trafficking and violence.

Flyer on Available Services During COVID-19

Developed a two-pager flyer on the services available for the victims/survivors of violence and exploitation. AATWIN collated the helpline, toll free and hotline numbers related to COVID-19 via communicating with the organizations as well as by referring to the organizations' website.

The flyer mainly included services available in case of (a) violation of human rights (b) violence against women (c) risk of or vulnerability to trafficking (d) mental health issues as well as services related to (e) children (f) reproductive health (g) shelter services (h) legal services. The flyers was circulated among AATWIN's member organizations, related stakeholders through email, website and Facebook Page.

SAPIT Project

Publication of Bulletin Osarpasar, Issue-19

AATWIN published its regular bulletin, *Osarpasar's* 19th edition on Oct 2020. This edition is focused on the Palermo Protocol ratified by Nepal Govt. also the impact of COVID-19 on human trafficking. AATWIN's role in the ratification of the Palermo Protocol including further action needed, the expectation of trafficking survivors following the ratification, the future plans of MoWCSC in controlling human trafficking, the impact of COVID-19 on the entertainment sector and steps needed in the bulletin.



Closed Session Interaction with Right Holders of Entertainment Sector

Closed session interaction with right holders in the entertainment sector to find out the situation and solutions in the entertainment sector was conducted on 2-3 December 2020. There was a total of 15 female participants who are working in *Dohori*, dance bar, spa, massage parlor, restaurant, and café. The objective of the closed session was to understand the

difficulties and challenges faced by the right holders before, during, and after COVID-19 and lockdown and to collate the issues for advocacy and lobbying for making entertainment work as a decent work ensuring their labor rights.

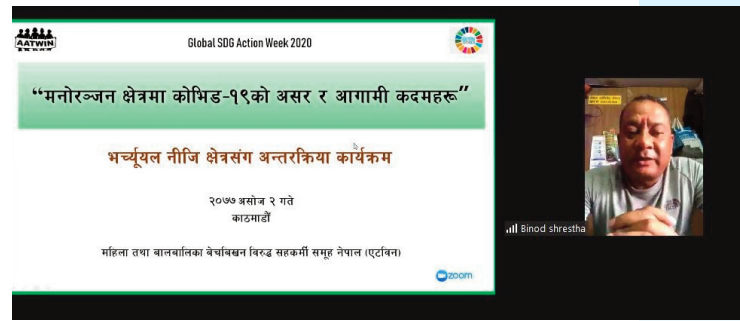
Through the program, the real situation and problems of the Entertainment sector workers during the COVID pandemic were identified. The issues of economic crisis, mental problems, lack of alternative job opportunity and need for vocational training was identified including numerous others. The recommendations on the roles and responsibilities of trade unions, employers, Government, police and NGOs were provided for advocacy and lobbying in the coming days.



The findings of the closed session were shared with the related government agencies (representatives from Anti Human Trafficking Bureau (AHTB), Municipalities, Ward Chairpersons and representatives), CSOs including the right-holders of the entertainment sector. The sharing was held on 16 December 2020. The registration of entertainment sectors, permitting to open entertainment sectors following safety measures, regular monitoring of entertainment sectors and the responsibility of the local government representatives to make the entertainment sector regulated and respectful was highlighted in the program. After the program one of AATWIN member organizations supported the workers with house rent as this issue was raised by the workers.

Dialogue with Private Sector on 'Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Entertainment Sector and Further Steps

The dialogue with private stakeholders was conducted virtually on 18 September 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The chairpersons and secretaries from National Lok Dohori Business Association, Nepal Restaurant Business Association along with the workers from Dohori, restaurants, dance bars participated in the program. The objective of the program was to discuss issues among the restaurant owners and workers of the entertainment sector and to explore the way forward. The workers shared that as their workplaces have been



closed, it has been difficult for them to fulfill their basic needs such as: buying food, paying rents. Many of them have been going through mental issues such as stress, anxiety and depression. It is also challenging for them to seek alternative jobs.

On the other hand, the owners of this sector shared that they are facing problems in paying rents of the workplace and taxes. They are planning to submit a memorandum to the government in coordination with the Tourism Board and related organizations so that they receive permission to open the restaurants by following safety measures as other sectors are opened.

Consultation Workshop on the Amendment of Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Act, 2007



The consultation workshop for Policy Advocacy was held on 1 Dec. The draft of the proposed amendment on the Human Trafficking and Transportation Control Act (HTTCA) 2007 was presented by Advocate Indu Tuladhar. The major focus of the discussion was that the HTTCA Act should be amended based on the Palermo Protocol as well as making the definition of exploitation comprehensive as well address the federal system of Nepal.

The other major issues raised were increasing the amount of compensation and ensuring that the victims

get the compensation, regulation of Victim Relief Fund, the demand side should be addressed, the significance of the personnel involved in rescuing victims to have legal knowledge including the importance to distinguish between trafficking and migration, and smuggling.

Following this workshop, a small meeting with experts was organized to finalize the proposed amendment on HTCA 2064. The proposed amendment and submitted to the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen.

Dialogue with Govt. Agencies for the Regulated and Respectful Entertainment Sector



The dialogue was organized on 20 Dec 2020. The chief guest of the program was Ms. Hari Prabha Khadgi – Deputy Mayor of Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC). There were participation from KMC, Lalitpur, Tokha Municipality, Department of Labour and Occupational Safety, Kathmandu District Coordination Committee, NHRC, AHTB etc. The findings of the research “Impact of COVID-19 on female workers of entertainment sector” conducted by Shakti Samuha and Purple Foundation was shared in the program.

The program underlined the responsibility of the local Govt. to ensure registration of entertainment sector businesses, to monitor the businesses, to make the entertainment sector regulated and decent. The necessity of the data of the workers of the entertainment sector municipality – wise was emphasized for the municipality to develop related action plans. Also, a suggestion was provided to make a network or a cooperative of the entertainment sector workers. The coordination between the government and CSOs to tackle the issues of the entertainment sector along with raising awareness was highlighted.

AATWIN Resource and Information Center



AATWIN's Resource and information center during this period disseminated a total of 11689 IEC materials whereas collected 235 IEC materials from various forums and organizations. The total number of visitors who visited AATWIN's resource center during this period was 16.

AATWIN also disseminated its initiatives, information, news linked with human trafficking, violence and unsafe migration through its official Facebook page and websites.

Activities in Collaboration

Study on the Identification of Causes, Hurdles and Impact of Denial of Citizenship Certificate

AATWIN in joint collaboration with FWLD conducted a research for the identification of causes, hurdles, and impacts of denial of citizenship certificate. The study is primarily aimed at identifying legal issues, causes, and impact of denial of citizenship certificate of the survivors of human trafficking and children born to women who are trafficked and in foreign employment and who become the victims of sexual exploitation in a foreign country, who are at the highest risk of denial of citizenship. It further focuses on identifying the hurdles and barriers faced by the group while acquiring a citizenship certificate. Total 60 survivors were interviewed.

Launch Program of Research Report on “Access to Justice of the Girl Survivors of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation”

Research Report on “Access to Justice of the Girl Survivors of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation” was launched jointly by AATWIN and CWISH on the occasion of 14th National Day Against Human Trafficking on 2nd Sept 2020. Hon. Minister Dr. Shiva Maya Tumbahangphe, Ministry of Law, Justice and



Parliamentary Affairs was launched the report as the Chief Guest of the program.

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 and children’s rights, using a rights-based approach. Realizing the need for collective effort to fight against human trafficking, it was established as a network of organizations that share the same perspective and objectives on 6 June 1997. Currently there are 41 members affiliated with AATWIN.

The Hamro Samman Project

Hamro Samman project assisted by USAID and UK aid, made possible by the support of American and British people, is implemented by Winrock International and its aim is to reduce human trafficking in Nepal and increase the protection of civil and human rights by improving systems to counter trafficking-in-persons. 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.

Disclaimer

This E-Newsletter is made possible by the generous support of the American people and British people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and UKaid. The contents of this E-Newsletter are the responsibility of Alliance Against Trafficking in Women and Children in Nepal (AATWIN) and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government or the UK Government.

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