

First National Consultation on Women Human Rights Defenders **A Report**

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Balkumari, Lalitpur

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Women Human Rights Defenders
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Lastly, special thanks to WOREC team for working assiduously for months to make the consultation a success.

Dr. Renu Rajbhandari
Chairperson
WOREC
May 2006

PREFACE

The socio cultural challenges that women have always faced have been intensified by the recent political challenges that Nepal faces which has directly affected the work of women human rights defenders. Given the present deteriorating human rights situation of the country, many women have been active in their communities in addressing issues of human rights violations, specifically women's human rights. However, they so far remain invisible and marginalized.

WOREC has been working with 125 women human rights defenders from the community in Nepal for the past one year. During our work, specific issues related to the Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) have come up from the field. Issues of harassment, intimidation and threats from the State security forces and violations committed by non-State actors have emerged. Further, patriarchal notions of holding women as symbols of honour have been deliberately used to silence women about abuses they face. Reports of the most disturbing forms of violence that defenders face have come from various communities.

Given the authoritarian regime in Nepal at the time of the consultation, it became urgent to recognize women's human rights because the State itself acted as one major obstacle in addressing issues of WHRDs. The restrictions placed by the State even on peaceful demonstrations and the recent arrests of women political activists were clear indications that Nepal is moving fast towards violating the most basic human rights.

The militarization of the Nepali community due to the armed conflict has made the "Royal" Nepalese Army (RNA) the most powerful authority in the communities, which have increasingly silenced women human rights defenders and hindered their work. With the increasing militarization of the Nepali society and the autocratic regime, spaces for women to raise their voices were shrinking. Limitations posed on women by either party at conflict had further developed a culture of silence among women defenders that they were forced to practice. WHRDs in Nepal were doubly trapped: a. they were forced to face violations by the state as well as non state actors; and b. they were then barred from raising their voices against these violations.

However, the recent historical people's movement, its success in reinstating the parliament and the proclamation of the House of Representatives that ensued has opened up doors for a better reality. At least in words, the RNA has been transformed to Nepal Army (NA). The Nepali citizens are in the process of becoming sovereign.

The upcoming political events will unfold its trajectory. So far, the direction is towards Constituent Assembly. The WHRD movement has welcomed this change process. But at the same time, we are aware that although a political transformation is on the way, the cultural reality of patriarchal mindset pervasive in our political leaders and structures is still the same. The culture of marginalizing women is yet to be transformed.

It is especially challenging for the WHRDs because the human rights community that they are a part of are also from the rigid patriarchal milieu. The non-State actors, including NGO groups, are equally responsible in pushing women defenders to the periphery as are the State actors. Even among human rights groups in Nepal, many argue that women's issues are private, hence receive no attention. This is exemplified by a recent comment from a prominent male human rights defender in Kathmandu, who stated that "there are more important issues than those of women". Within the human rights community, patriarchal mindsets persist, thus posing further challenges to the work of WHRDs. For an inclusive Nepal, the NGOs as well as the political parties and institutions need to be inclusive themselves. Hence, politically, the WHRD movement holds a special place because of the ongoing struggle for a Constituent Assembly and to establish an inclusive democracy in Nepal. The struggle in order to be inclusive and gender sensitive needs to include issues of women in such a way that there is finally a space for women in the newly formed inclusive democracy. The need of WHRD movement is as much now as it was during the king's direct rule. No doubt the environment has now become more conducive for WHRDs to work and to bring forth their agenda to contribute in the changing political scenario.

The human rights movement in Nepal then will culminate as a movement for all; 'realization of all human rights for all' will then be able to see its full effect. Thus, WHRDs play an important role in the movement of protection and promotion of human rights, peace and democracy; and that their protection is one of the precursors to lead to such an achievement.

Inspired by the solidarity among all women activists of the world, the need to bring forth the issue of WHRDs in the context of Nepal and as a follow up to international consultation on WHRD held in Colombo in November 2005, WOREC held a national consultation on women human rights defenders in Nepal on March 3-4, 2006. The consultation was able to bring together grassroots women who although with similar experience and commitment never had a chance to come together in such a forum.

IV

The purpose of the national consultation was to bring together women human rights defenders from all over Nepal in one platform where they could share and reflect upon the experiences they face. The purpose was also to provide women defenders a safe space where they could identify and name the abuses they face by state or non state actors.

Since the consultation took place before the historical people's movement, the political context was that of an autocratic regime, hence the proceedings capture the sentiments of the time period before the historical people's movement.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The National Consultation on Women Human Rights Defenders was held in Kathmandu, Nepal between 3rd and 4th March 2006. The purpose of the national consultation was to bring together women human rights defenders from all over Nepal in one platform where they could share and reflect upon the experiences they face. The purpose was also to provide women defenders a safe space where they could identify and name the abuses they face by state or non state actors.

The consultation was able to bring together grassroots women from 64 districts who although with similar experience and commitment never had a chance to come together in such a forum. These participants included women who work to protect and promote human rights of others particularly women and also, men defending women's human rights.

Women human rights defenders are those women active in human rights defence who are targeted for who they are as well as those active in defence of women's rights who are targeted for why they do. Women human rights activists as well as other activists such as male, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or any other sexes who defend the rights of women fall as women human rights defenders.

The consultation became an important event to recognize the work of women human rights defenders in Nepal. Three senior women human rights defenders- Sahana Pradhan, Sneha Lata Shrestha and Dev Devi Sharma were recognized during the event. All three defenders highlighted their commitment towards women rights and women human rights defenders and stressed on their own marginalization during the course of their work and how that marginalization posed numerous challenges for them to work on the issue of women's rights.

The recurring issue of the WHRDs in the consultation was the lack of recognition of work they have been doing for decades. Women defenders that have worked equally or at many times more than their male counter parts in the end do not receive any credit for their work which usually discourages women defenders to take up any new work, yet they remain committed to the cause. Precisely because they are not recognized as defenders, their contribution to the protection of women's human rights and minority rights has not been visible which means even at the local level their contribution to the protection of human rights is considered insignificant. Women defenders themselves have internalized this feeling of insignificance, to break which is a challenge for the WHRD movement.

The consultation created a safe space for WHRDs to break the silence on abuses they and their colleagues and friends face. The abuses that WHRDs in Nepal face include torture and murder by both state and non state actors, isolation by mainstream human rights organizations, harassment and intimidation by family, community and the state as well as sexual and sexuality based attacks against activists particularly those working in the LGBT rights areas. Through various interactive workshops held during the consultation, participants shared, compared and analysed the violations they face.

The consultation became a point of departure for the majority grassroots women defenders to first of all identify themselves as significant change makers, significant women in activism. A starting point for women defenders to see themselves as important was made possible through this one of a kind event. The consultation was the initial step towards formalizing the existence of women human rights defenders nationally.

While discussing the strategies for tackling abuses committed against women human rights defenders and to develop protection mechanisms to support WHRDs, the defenders vehemently pointed out the need to have a declaration specifically on women human rights defenders. The reason for this is that the “neutral” UN declaration on human rights defenders has not been effective enough to address the violations WHRDs face. On the specific issue of domestic violence where men usually are the perpetrators, human rights defenders who are also usually men have not been able to effectively address the issue. Therefore, there is a further need of recognition of women human rights defenders, their work and a declaration that specifies these necessities for their protection.

Various legal protection instruments were discussed in depth during the consultation. The UN human rights defenders declaration, the EU guidelines for the protection of human rights defenders, filing complaints with the UN special rapporteur on violence against women, the special representative of the UN Secretary general on human rights defenders and mechanisms such as the International Criminal Court were the key instruments discussed.

Through the event, WHRDs were able to link more effectively at the national level in order to build solidarity among them. This was a rare opportunity for all the participants and they appreciated this and made full use of it to build networks and connections. The participants themselves pointed out a need for a district level and regional networks

for their own protection as well as to link up with the international WHRD movement. They have committed themselves to taking their realization into reality and building networks once they are back in their local communities. The national campaign has now been opened up for membership and women defenders can personally or organizationally be a part of it. The national WHRD movement is picking up momentum now through building alliances. The national alliance is linked up with the international WHRD movement. Mary Jane Real, Coordinator of the WHRD-ICC, who participated in the national consultation, assured that there will be continuous support and solidarity from the WHRD-ICC secretariat to the women defenders in Nepal. Similarly, a statement by Ms. Hina Jilani, the special representative of the UN Secretary General on Human Rights Defenders to WOREC on the occasion of the consultation stressed the importance and the need of such event and welcomed WOREC's initiative.

Encouraging women defenders to continue their human rights work, the consultation allowed the defenders to realize that there is national as well as international support network that will continuously provide support to Nepali women human rights defenders that are from various corners of the country. WHRDs have committed to demonstrate their solidarity with the political parties, civil society, human rights organizations, lawyers, professional associations, trade unions, women, Dalits, Disabled peoples, Janajatis, etc... to achieve the goals of the ongoing democratic movement through ensuring their active participation in protest activities, while they believe that democratic polity only ensures and protects the human rights of the people. Women have returned to their work places, to their communities re-energized with a deeper commitment towards their work of defending rights.

A Kathmandu declaration on women human rights defenders that resulted out of the consultation has formalized the pertinent issues of WHRDs and is come up as a key document to advocate on the issue of WHRDs in Nepal.

PROCEEDINGS

OPENING SESSION

The opening session was chaired by Ms Ganga Kasaju, Women Human Rights Defender (WHRD) and Member of WOREC. Retika Rajbhandari, the coordinator

“After almost one and a half decade of Vienna Conference which declared ‘women’s rights are human rights’, we are still highlighting ‘women’ because women’s issues have been neglected in the Nepali society; women’s rights have yet to become human rights.”

– Sahana Pradhan

of Violence Against Women (VAW) Project, highlighted the objectives of the consultation. In the opening ceremony, three senior women human rights defenders- Ms Sahana Pradhan, Central Committee Member of CPN (UML) and one of the first woman journalists in Nepal, Ms Snehalata Shrestha, first chairperson of Nepal Women’s Association, a sister organisation of Nepali Congress and Ms

Devdevi Sharma, Senior Social Worker in Siraha district were recognised and their contribution to the women’s human rights activism was respected and acknowledged.

Dr Meena Acharya, as a chief speaker of the opening session, pointed out that there is hardly any woman in the decision-making level and women’s voices are always ignored. Those working in this field are in minority and their voices are rarely heard. Dr Acharya added those women who are fighting for civil and political rights are blamed of moral degradation and this is a political strategy of patriarchal thinking to weaken women.

“Women’s movement in Nepal flourished after the formation of Nepal Women Association in 1952; however, it has not been successful yet. The key reason is women are still not economically independent.”

– Snehalata Shrestha

Dev Devi Sharma shared experiences of her life struggle and encouraged women to be courageous to struggle. She highlighted the paradox in women’s life that women face more hardship in their struggle for equality.



Sahana Pradhan



Dev Devi Sharma



Snehalata Shrestha



Dr Meena Acharya



Ganga Kasaju

I. WHY A SPECIAL FOCUS ON WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS?

It was important for the participants to understand the concept of women human rights defenders and the need to address specific issues of WHRDs.

Dr. Renu Rajbhandari, Chairperson of WOREC during her presentation in the opening session highlighted the vital role of WHRDs in the current quagmire of war in the country. She stressed that WHRDs presence in the field would help the warring party to be conscious on specific women's issues and to respect human rights in general. She emphasised that the focus of the consultation was on the challenges WHRDs face during the course of their work for protection and promotion of human rights in the communities.

Dr. Rajbhandari brought to light the direct link between the work of WHRDs and the current political situation of Nepal. Politically in the context of Nepal, the WHRD movement holds a special place because of the ongoing struggle to overthrow the monarchy and to establish an inclusive democracy in Nepal. The struggle in order to be inclusive and gender sensitive needs to include issues of women in such a way that there is finally a space for women in the newly formed inclusive democracy. The human rights movement in Nepal then will culminate as a movement for all; 'realization of all human rights for all' will then be able to see its full effect. Thus, WHRDs play an important role in the movement of protection and promotion of human rights, peace and democracy and that their protection is one of the precursors to lead to such an achievement.

In the opening session, short presentations were made concerning WHRDs. Mary Jane Real, Coordinator of the WHRD-ICC presented the over all objectives of the



Mary Jane Real



Dr. Renu Rajbhandari

WHRD campaign and the need to focus on WHRDs as opposed to only HRDs. Specific issues of dalit WHRDs was highlighted by Rachana Rasaili of Rural Reconstruction Nepal (RRN). Similarly, situation of WHRDs in the field was presented by Sirjana Danuwar, a grassroots level WHRD from Udayapur. Sunil Babu Pant highlighted the risks and challenges of working as a LGBT rights activist in the Nepali cultural context. Finally, issues on WHRD with disability and their marginalization were highlighted by Surya Gurung.

Mary Jane Real, highlighted the objectives as well as laid out the achievements of the international campaign on women human rights defenders so far. She also highlighted the future work agenda of the campaign. Ms Real stressed that the campaign is necessary for a worldwide recognition of women human rights defenders, resistance to state violence, responsibility by non-state actors and realisation of all human rights for all. Ms. Real shared examples of killings of WHRDs worldwide precisely because they are women or their work has focused on the issues of women and minority groups. She also shared various examples of violations that WHRDs worldwide have faced because they have been continuously working for the protection of human rights.

The risks and vulnerabilities WHRDs face:

- as human rights activists (*of a general character , e.g., harassment, torture, etc.*)
- as women (*gender-specific or gender intensified abuses due to their being women or impacts disproportionately on them because they are women*)
- as women advocating for women specific rights & issues (*reproductive rights, sexual rights*)

One of the workshops also focused on the discussion why there is a need for special focus on women human rights defenders. The shortcomings of the notion of –human rights defenders- were thoroughly discussed. The participants in the workshops discussed questions such as what is meant by women human rights defenders; how are women human rights defenders different as opposed to human rights defenders and



Surya Gurung

what do women human rights defenders do? The discussion was able to come up with the following points:

- Women human rights defenders are persons involved in the protection and promotion of human rights, especially of women and minority groups.
 - Women human rights defenders work as per the mandate given by the UN Declaration of Human Rights Defenders, 1998.
 - Women human rights defenders monitor the incident of human rights violation or abuse, document the case, issue urgent action for the relief and rehabilitation of the victim and do other necessary work.
 - Men human rights defenders are not able to see through the issues of women the same way women human rights defenders can. This can adversely affect women who have been violated; therefore there is a need of women defenders to authentically capture issues of women.
 - Without monitoring by women human rights defenders, incidences of domestic violence may not come out. Both perpetrators and victims are equally important to identify in any human rights violation. However, in most of the cases of domestic violence taken up by male defenders, the perpetrators' names are not made public or cases of domestic violence may not be considered important excluding it as a private issue. Thus, women defenders work is important as survivors can better relate with women.
 - Women human rights defenders can play a vital role in bringing out the human rights violations of women when priorities of both parties in conflict is their political agenda tossing women's agenda away.
-

II. THE CHALLENGES FACED BY WHRDs IN NEPAL : IDENTIFYING/ NAMING THE ABUSES

In all the six workshops, women defenders identified the kinds of abuses they face during their course of work. They categorised the abuses done by state and non state actors. Among non state actors, abuses done by the Maoists and family and community were identified separately and are presented separately in the report.

Armed conflict specific abuses that WHRDs face

Nature of specific abuses and challenges at times of armed conflict becomes different. State as well as Maoists are involved in abusing WHRDs. While protesting for the grave human rights violation by one or both of the conflicting parties, they accuse WHRDs as the informers or messengers of the state or non-state. On various charges, the WHRDs are abducted, arrested, beaten, threatened to death and in some cases killed as well by both the state and non-state actors. Both the parties in conflict are constantly trying to hide the case of human rights violations they have committed which makes the work of WHRDs more challenging.

There is absolutely no state accountability towards WHRDs. Increasing militarization has put WHRDs in further risk. Although Nepal is signatory to all the human rights covenants and documents, it still fails to protect rights of its citizens.

Abuses by state

- Attack and counter-attack in the name of conflict
- Arrest
- Torture (mental, physical, psychological)
- Beatings and intimidations
- Abuse and torture by security forces
- Rape, accusation of moral degradation

Abuses by Maoists

- Abduction
 - Accusation of being an informant of the state
 - Gender discrimination
 - Rape, accusation of moral degradation
-

The participants directly linked the abuses they face with the lack of recognition of them and their work. The issue of their work not being considered credible surfaced repeatedly in discussions.

The state and the Maoists do not take the issues raised by WHRDs as serious cases precisely because the work of WHRDs is not recognized. While monitoring the cases of human rights violation, WHRDs have to face the charge of moral degradation, sexual harassment and other forms of inhumane behaviour by both state and non state actors.

Srijana Danuwar said that there are several examples of women rights defenders not getting recognition. On one hand, recognition is a must for protecting WHRDs; on the other hand, the issue of security of WHRDs that arise precisely because of their recognition should be simultaneously addressed. If they get recognition, they are not secure. The WHRDs can have any kind of risk while protecting civilians from the human rights violation in the field. The WHRDs' rights are hardly ensured when they are off to monitor the incidences of human rights violations. Sharing the example of a brutal murder of Januka Nepali, who was a dalit WHRD in Udaypur district, she reiterated the fact that WHRDs are not safe especially those outside of the Kathmandu capital vacuum. The murder of Januka Nepali did not become big news outside of Udaypur and did not receive enough attention.

There are too many loopholes while seeking for justice mentioned the defenders. The process is too tedious; the issues put forth by WHRDs don't receive needed attention or attendance. WHRDs have to constantly prove their credibility which creates a hostile environment and thus more time is spent on trying to calm down the situation rather than actual work being done.

Challenges posed by family and community

Due to the traditional norms and values, the family and society of the WHRDs do not encourage them for protection and promotion of human rights. Family and community are constantly playing a role of reducing the status of WHRDs as activists. The families and communities not trusting the WHRDs was a recurring theme in most of the participants' experience. The participants pointed out that they face charges of moral degradation, are accused of breaking up families and constantly hear comments such as they have taken up work that they should not bother about.

They are exposed to more hostility by family and community as compared to their male counterparts. Families have refused to cooperate with WHRDs' work according to the participants at the event. It is a challenge to convince the community that the work of WHRD is an important aspect of human rights protection.

Practical problems of work such as difficulty to find and take shelter at night in the field was also pointed out by the WHRDs. WHRDs have to work at the expense of their own lives. Their families, their communities, the state are all not in their favour. Their work instead of rewarding and encouraging them has opened up ever increasing avenues of struggle. WHRDs have to deal with: financial crisis at home, burden of household work without any cooperation from family members, blames of them being defiant and corrupt without any religious or cultural morals. They are also not spared by state or Maoists either.

Below are some of the challenges shared by the participants:

- Families do not cooperate
- Burden of household work
- Society does not believe in WHRDs' voice
- Fear of sexual harassment and violence
- Economic crisis
- Caste discrimination
- Religious orthodoxies
- Inter-dependency in decision making, especially for economic matters
- Family outcast



Participants of the First National Consultation on WHRDs

Marginalization of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered (LGBT) rights activists

Defenders advocating for LGBT rights face a three fold marginalisation due to patriarchal Hindu socio cultural religious norms. Sunil Babu Pant of Blue Diamond Society (BDS) during his presentation requested all the participants to take transgender's issues seriously and that their rights being a part of the universal human rights norm. He stressed on the pitiful Nepali reality that human's rights organizations have yet to incorporate LGBT issues as a part of their larger human rights agenda. He shared his experience on how the state authorities have abused their outreach workers by arresting them and the police beating them up severely for having identity that defies the conventional norm of heterosexuality.

Dalit WHRDs further marginalised

Even within the WHRD community, due to prevalent caste discrimination, dalit WHRDs face even more challenges than others from upper caste. Rachana Rasaili, a dalit herself highlighting dalit women's rights said that gender discrimination and discrimination on ground of caste is rampant in Nepal. She talked that due to discrimination, both women and dalits have been deprived of basic health, education, food and shelter.

In December 2005, in Udayapur district, Januka Nepali, an active women human rights defender from the Dalit community tried to protect a woman severely battered by her husband. Unfortunately, as she was trying to intervene, Janaki Nepali was murdered by the abusive husband of the victim she tried to help. She died leaving behind two children. The death of Janaki is yet to receive any attention from the human rights community based primarily in Kathmandu. According to the investigation of human rights group in Udaypur, the murder was preplanned. However, the Government authorities have disregarded the investigation. The district court filed the case as 'fury driven murder' which means that the punishment is eight years imprisonment, whereas punishment for a general case of murder is lifetime imprisonment according to Nepali law. Hence this case clearly shows the disadvantaged position of the victim in the eyes of Nepali law that favours the perpetrator.



Rachana Rasaili



Sunil Babu Pant

III. EXTERNAL PROTECTION STRATEGIES

During the consultation, various external protection strategies were discussed that are available for protection of WHRDs. Although there are various UN mechanisms available, WHRDs have not had the chance to understand these mechanisms: how it works and its accessibility. There were thorough discussions on the strategies so WHRDs feel connected in the larger international context and experience a sense of solidarity nationally and internationally. Encouraging women defenders to continue their human rights work, the consultation allowed the defenders to realize that there is national as well as international support network that will continuously provide support to Nepali women human rights defenders that are from various corners of the country. Mary Jane Real, during her presentation talked about some of the external strategies that are available for the protection of women human rights defenders.

UN Special Representatives and Rapporteurs

The offices of UN Special Representatives, Special Rapporteurs, Working Groups and other UN Special Procedures mandate holders can work independently in the UN system and at the same time are influential to the core. They provide analysis and independent advice to the UN, which helps shape policy making at an official level. They can also have direct contact with the governments that they believe are violating rights and thus can engage them in constructive dialogue. They produce reports on special topics which become influential in addressing issues of human rights violations in any state or by any government.

The Special Representative on HRD has always put an emphasis on Nepal and on the issues of the HRDs and WHRDs in Nepal in her reports. In her fifth annual report to the General Assembly, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Human Rights Defenders, Hina Jilani affirms that “without the work of human rights defenders, today, in countries where there is ongoing armed conflict... United Nations systems would be much less well equipped to address the conflict.”¹ Referring specifically to Nepal as one of the three case studies, the Special Representative points out that Nepali HRDs are making major contributions to address all priority concerns and actions that need to be taken for the restoration of respect for human rights in Nepal, as identified by the 61st Commission on Human Rights. She goes on to say that this is in a context where in some areas there has been almost no remedial action by any other actor.²

¹ A/60/339 2005

² Ibid

WHRDs can approach these representatives in a number of ways. WHRDs can directly send cases to the offices of special representatives and rapporteurs. Women human rights defenders can make use of the special reports prepared by the representatives and rapporteurs as an effective advocacy tool to pressurize the government to take needed action.

Similarly, Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women can take up cases of violations faced by the women human rights defenders. Urgent action appeal with the help of other international organizations as well as through the WHRD ICC secretariat can be issued in cases of urgency.

Nepal Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights

OHCHR office in Nepal is the most appropriate place for women defenders to lodge complaints. The presence of OHCHR staff as a workshop facilitator during the consultation allowed women defenders to interact with the OHCHR. Also OHCHR offices in five development regions will allow women to have a better if not direct access to the office. Through the OHCHR office, complaints can be sent to respective agencies and necessary actions can be taken accordingly.

National Human Rights Commission

The National Human Rights Commission office is also an appropriate agency for women defenders to approach with their cases. Now with political transformation on the way in Nepal, NHRC can play a significant role in addressing issues of women's human rights violations. Women from any corner can approach NHRC in their respective development regions and lodge complaints to seek further assistance.

Other mechanisms include collating evidences on abuses and submitting it to a member NGO of the national WHRD campaign who will then take necessary actions and reach out up to the international level.

UN declaration on Human Rights Defenders

The UN declaration on Human Rights Defenders was thoroughly discussed in one of the workshops during the consultation. It was highlighted that the UN declaration on Human Rights Defenders has accepted the fact that issue of human rights defenders is itself a human rights issue. It is an obligation of the State to respect the rights enshrined in the document. In practice, however, this has not been applied. Especially,

WHRDs rights have not been guaranteed as enshrined in the Declaration. The declaration adopted by the General Assembly, although not legally binding, include the rights explicitly mentioned in the fundamental human rights documents such as the ICCPR, ICCSER, and universal declaration of human rights that Nepal has ratified and is obligatory to fulfilling them as a state. It is therefore an important advocacy tool to ensure that the state is accountable towards the abuses it commits to the women human rights defenders as well to protect defenders from abuses by non state actors.

The declaration on HRD that was translated in Nepali was disseminated to all the participants. Because women defenders had access to the articles in the declaration in Nepali, it facilitated the discussions among participants so that they could clearly see the potential of the declaration. The declaration can be a powerful advocacy tool for women defenders to protect themselves and to address the issues of abuses they face.

Several examples were shared on how the rights enshrined in the Declaration are not guaranteed in Nepal. They focused mainly on how both the conflicting parties are reluctant to respect these rights. They also pointed out that especially women human rights defenders have been refused to enjoy these rights.

International Criminal Court

It has the power to hold individuals responsible for criminal acts in a court of law. Gender based persecutions are explicitly recognised as crimes. However, for ICC to be effective the state needs to have ratified the Statute. In case of Nepal, the state has not ratified it, in which case, it is not applicable to us till we ratify it.



Participants of the First National Consultation on WHRDs

IV. INTERNAL PROTECTION MECHANISM FOR WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

During the consultation, the participants realized that it is them that have to initiate their own protection. Given the grim situation of state, non state, family and communities being hostile towards WHRDs, it is they that have to come together and bring out internal strategies for their own protection. Certain efforts first need to be made individually as well as collectively. WHRDs coming together as a movement is the most powerful tool they have for their protection.

The following action points were prepared to implement by the participant WHRDs in their respective districts as an internal strategy for protection:

- The network to be established in the district will be expanded to national level.
 - District meeting will be organised on yearly basis.
 - Programmes related to empowerment will be organised.
 - Attempt will be made on establishing a separate safe space for WHRDs in the district as their office.
 - Quick and easily available provision of justice to women facing violence
 - The network will prioritise coordination and cooperation with the government and non-government agencies for effective monitoring and documentation of women human rights violation.
 - The network in the district will prepare code of conduct and pressurise both the state and non-state actors to sign the code so as to respect human rights even during war.
 - The network will endeavour for sustainable peace in the community.
 - The network will submit a memorandum to both the state and non-state parties to respect the Geneva Conventions.
-

One-year action plan

- Security training to WHRDs
- Compensation to the killed, tortured or women survivors of violence by state and non-state actors
- Establishment of network from VDC to national levels
- Provision of trainings, seminars and workshops to the network members
- Creating pressure to make the state accountable for WHRDs
- Creating pressure through interaction, seminar and workshop to the government by disseminating reports on women rights violations in the local, district, regional and national levels



Women Human Rights Defenders Rally on March 3, 2006

V. DOCUMENTATION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

One of the ways to make the work of WHRDs more credible is to provide them with skills needed for the part of their work. Hence, our focus at the consultation was to provide a group of participants with the skills on documentation of cases of women's human rights violations specifically at times of armed conflict.

It was discussed in the documentation workshop how during the times of an armed conflict, women rights are violated further when cases of violation are not documented. It was discussed that during conflict situation, WHRDs have comparatively lower access to the areas of incidence, and male human rights defenders may not bring out all the issues related to women. Therefore, certain skills and techniques of documentation are helpful. The OHCHR Nepal office supported us by providing their human rights officer for the workshop as a resource person who conducted the workshop on documentation skills.

The participants in the workshop after discussions concluded the following:

- While documenting incidences of women human rights violation, we need to use format and all the information sought in the format needs to be cross checked, a follow-up is necessary along with interviews with the key persons or witnesses. There should always be verification of the information collected.
 - WHRDs need to be given a pocket book, which contain operational guidelines or procedures for monitoring the case, identifying perpetrator, rescuing victim, protecting his or her life from the incident and so on.
 - WHRDs need to make an effort for establishing a network at the district level with other human rights defenders so that they can perform the duty of documenting the case of human rights violation with the help of other human rights defenders. It further helps to verify the facts and bring out the truth.
 - Such a network needs to be made in the national level too. Moreover, this should have coordination with the international level so that pressure can be created from local to national and international level to stop or prevent grave human rights violations of women.
-

- The documented case of women human rights violation should be provided to the OHCHR (central or regional offices), National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Amnesty International or other relevant human rights organizations. Based on our document, these institutions issue urgent actions, opens letters or press release, which will help to protect the victim from further violence. This will alert the parties in conflict on the grave violations they have committed and create pressure to rehabilitate and reintegrate the survivors of violence and punish the perpetrators.



Participants of the First National Consultation on WHRDs

CONCLUDING SESSION

The concluding session took place with discussion on a 17-point draft declaration to be passed by the first national consultation on WHRDs. The participants put forth their observations and reservations on the draft declaration prepared by the working team. After incorporating the participants' inputs and suggestions, the Kathmandu Declaration was declared by Dr Renu Rajbhandari, Chairperson of WOREC (See Annex 1 for the Kathmandu Declaration).

Four WHRDs from four development regions (Chandra Kala Magar, Reema Nepali, Jeewanti Poudel and Sarita Choudhary) shared their experiences during the closing. All of them highlighted that such a gathering has provided them with impetus to carry on their work of defending rights further. At such a sensitive political time, the coming together of WHRDs from 64 districts was remarkable and this sharing among all has provided WHRDs with new ideas and courage to carry on their work.

David Johnson, Senior Officer of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) gave WOREC many thanks for organising such an influential work by bringing together WHRDs from the districts. He stressed that the WHRDs must work for women survivors of violence and pay extra attention to further protect the rights of the survivors.

Mary Jane Real, coordinator of the WHRD International Coordination Committee expressed international solidarity once again with all the WHRD participants. She praised the representatives from Far Western Region that were able to make a network



Chandra Kala Magar
WHRD, Morang



Reema Nepali
WHRD, Rolpa



Jeewanti Poudel
WHRD, Kailali



Sarita Choudhary
WHRD,

of WHRDs. She urged the participants to establish similar regional networks throughout Nepal.

Dr Renu Rajbhandari, read out the message sent by Hina Jilani, the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General on the situation of human rights defenders, which Ms. Jilani had sent on the occasion of Women's Day (March 8). Ms. Jilani appreciated the initiative undertaken by WOREC to organise the national consultation on WHRDs in Nepal (See Annex 2 for Hina Jilani's Statement).

Jyoti Poudel of WOREC gave thanks to all the persons for making the programme a success. Dr Renu Rajbhandari, finally, declared the closure of the whole proceedings expressing hope that the programme will give the participants some new techniques and tools to involve in monitoring the women rights situation in the days to come.



David Johnson



Retika Rajbhandari



Jyoti Poudel

CONCLUSION

The first national consultation on women human rights defenders was one of a kind event that brought together women defenders from sixty four different districts. The consultation provided a platform for activists with similar experiences to share and reflect upon their experiences in such a gathering they had never been a part of.

The consultation started the process of recognising grassroots women human rights defenders from various corners of the country whom till date have been working with conviction, commitment and without any expectation risking their lives and yet their contribution has never received the needed honour by the state or by the human rights network in Nepal. This recognition has provided women defenders with renewed zeal to carry forward their agenda of protecting and promoting human rights for all.

The consultation enabled women defenders to build solidarity with defenders from all over the country. At the same time, it has allowed women defenders to place themselves and their work in the larger international context of women human rights defenders' movement that their contribution in their local communities is in fact a significant contributor to the larger global agenda of human rights protection. The message that WHRDs are significant change makers and that only through including their issues in the wider human rights debate in Nepal will result in a real inclusive Nepali society.

With the present struggle for an inclusive democratic republic of Nepal, WHRDs role has come up in the fore front, their contribution in the peace building process has become even more necessary now. Hence, politically, the WHRD movement holds a special place because of the ongoing struggle for a Constituent Assembly and to establish an inclusive democracy in Nepal. The struggle in order to be inclusive and gender sensitive needs to include issues of women in such a way that there is finally a space for women in the newly formed inclusive democracy.

ANNEX 1

Kathmandu Declaration adopted by the First National Consultation on Women Human Rights Defenders

A total of 450 participants from 62 Districts gathered in Lalitpur of Kathmandu Valley on March 3 & 4, 2006 at the First National Consultation of Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRD), organized by the Women's Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC);

Recognizing the provisions of human rights and fundamental freedoms guaranteed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, Vienna Declaration and Plan of Action, Beijing Declaration and Plan of Action, and the Declaration of Human Rights Defenders;

Stressing the implementation of the principles of international human rights standards in relation to women's human rights, particularly taking initiatives for the protection of women's human rights;

Realizing the additional risks of WHRD's due to lack of recognition, as part of the continuation of established patriarchal social mechanisms in the country;

Drawing the attention of the United Nations to immediately set up the necessary mechanisms to create accountability of concerned parties regarding the ill-treatment of WHRDs committed by state and non-state actors (family, society, religious organizations, multinational companies, armed groups);

Agreeing to equal respect of WHRDs and protection of their rights in the workplace, while the WHRDs play an important role in the movement of protection and promotion of human rights, peace and democracy;

Recognizing the important role of WHRDs to create a human rights-friendly society through identifying the risks faced by WHRDs during the time of protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

Declares:

1. Urges the state to create a conducive environment for respect and compliance, as well as the protection and promotion, of universal, indivisible and indispensable principles of human rights;
 2. Demands state and non-state actors to create a conducive environment for the protection and promotion of human rights of women, while WHRDs face increased risks due to the deteriorating situation of human rights in the country;
 3. Demands an immediate end to all forms of ill-treatment against WHRDs that is a product of increasing militarization, which is a result of the ongoing armed conflict;
 4. Stresses with state and non-state actors to halt all forms of violence and ill-treatment against WHRDs that is a product of increasing impunity institutionalized by the autocratic regime in the country;
 5. Emphasizes with the state to play a responsible role for the protection and promotion of human rights by ending all activities in relation to harassment of human rights defenders carried out by the state after the establishment of the King's direct rule on February 1, 2005;
 6. Demands the parties to the conflict to ensure a conducive atmosphere for human rights defenders to carry out their activities in conflict-affected areas without any restrictions respecting the principles of human rights;
 7. Expresses the commitment by WHRDs to demonstrate their solidarity with the political parties, civil society, human rights organizations, lawyers, professional associations, trade unions, women, Dalits, Disabled peoples, Janajatis, etc... to achieve the goals of the ongoing democratic movement through ensuring their active participation in protest activities, while they believe that democratic polity only ensures and protects the human rights of the people;
-

8. Demands leadership roles for women in every sector, recognizing WHRDs' important role in the movement for democracy, civil liberties and human rights;
 9. Calls for the implementation of the 12-point Understanding signed between the seven political parties and the CPN (Maoists) on November 22, 2005 to find a peaceful solution for ending the ongoing violent conflict in the country;
 10. Calls upon the democratic political parties to take initiatives for holding a Constituent Assembly election as the political solution to the violent conflict, while the WHRDs believe that the Constituent Assembly election plays an important role in establishing a sustainable peace by ensuring people's sovereign rights thereby creating political stability in the country;
 11. Demands with the CPN-Maoists to ensure the freedom of movement of human rights defenders and to create a conducive environment to carry out their independent activities in their strongholds by respecting the principles of human rights and international humanitarian laws;
 12. Emphasizes that the parties to the conflict must protect the human rights of ordinary civilians and calls upon them to stop all forms of human rights violations, including killing, violence, abduction, and torture, and to respect the provisions of Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions;
 13. Declares to carry out campaign activities and mobilize ordinary civilians in human rights related movements that include ending of all forms of domestic violence and assurance of full enjoyment of women's human rights; equal rights; and citizenship rights under the mother;
 14. Demands the immediate disclosure of the whereabouts of all disappeared persons at the hands of state and non-state actors, and also condemns the manhandling of women by the security forces of the autocratic regime, while the families of disappeared persons were gathered to inform the status of their missing family members inside the premises of the National Human Rights Commission on March 3, 2006;
 15. Condemns the brutal killing of Januka Nepali, a WHRD based in Udayapur District, due to her involvement in safeguarding human rights of the people,
-

and WHRDs demand with the state to create an appropriate mechanism to address such killings and take action against the perpetrators;

16. Recognizes that human rights violations occur as a form of violence, including harassment, torture and killing based on separate identity of sex (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People) and demands with the state to create appropriate mechanisms to address the freedom to choose sexual identity and protection of their rights;
17. Demands the immediate release of all illegally detained persons including human rights defenders, political prisoners, lawyers, etc.

March 4, 2006

ANNEX 2

HINA JILANI'S STATEMENT

NATIONS UNIES
HAUT COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME



PROCEDURES SPECIALES DE LA COMMISSION
DES DROITS DE L'HOMME

UNITED NATIONS
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

SPECIAL PROCEDURES OF THE COMMISSION ON
HUMAN RIGHTS

**Mandate of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on the situation of human rights defenders
established by the Commission on human rights**

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Ref. G/SO 214 (107-5)

3 March 2006

Women human rights defenders.

International Women's Day Message by the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary on the situation of human rights defenders.

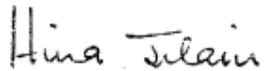
1. I greatly appreciate this initiative undertaken by the Women's Rehabilitation Centre to organize a national consultation on Women Human Rights Defenders in Nepal. I am sure that this consultation has provided an important opportunity for women human rights defenders in Nepal for the discussion of issues facing women human rights defenders in Nepal and the identification of strategies to tackle abuses against women human rights defenders.
2. Women human rights defenders are working tirelessly for the protection and promotion of the human rights of all the world over, and against all odds. In this respect, it is important to emphasize the sheer wealth, diversity and breadth of the human rights work they undertake. Women human rights defenders have been at the forefront of peace movements, of demands for democratic rights, and calling for the respect of all human rights. They have campaigned indefatigably for an end to disappearances, for humane prison conditions, for the rights of ethnic and religious minorities, migrants and asylum seekers and have protested against widespread impunity for violence against women. As victims themselves of human rights abuses, they have testified in proceedings against the alleged perpetrators. As trade union activists they have championed workers' rights; as lawyers they have been active in seeking redress for victims of human rights abuses and in combating impunity; and they have also organized and campaigned for the rights of human rights defenders. It is a testament to their courage and achievements that this list could go on and on.
3. However, it is also important to highlight the fact that, worldwide, women human rights defenders are paying a heavy toll for their work in protecting and promoting the human rights of others. They have suffered violations of some of the most fundamental rights at the hands of the state as well as non-state entities, including the right to life, to mental and physical integrity, to liberty and security of person, to freedom of expression and association, and to privacy and family life. Some

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have been abducted and made to disappear, others have been raped or otherwise sexually abused. Some women defenders have been forced to flee their homes and countries in fear for their life. In many cases their family members have also come under threat and have suffered harassment, intimidation, beatings, verbal abuse, arbitrary arrest and detention.

4. While all human rights defenders continue to face serious risks, as defenders whose work challenges social structures, economic interests, traditional practices and interpretations of religious precepts women face greater risks, specific to their gender and additional to those faced by men. Also, their professional integrity and standing in society can be threatened and discredited in ways that are specific to them. They are targeted by various social and private actors, such as religious groups and institutions, community or tribal elders, or even members of their own family. They become particularly vulnerable to prejudice, to exclusion and to public repudiation, not only by State forces but by social actors as well when they are engaged in the defence of women's rights. The hostility, harassment and repression women defenders face often take a gender-specific form, ranging from, for example, verbal abuse directed exclusively at women because of their gender, to sexual harassment and rape.

5. Despite the lack of protection and sometimes withdrawal of social support even by their own families and communities, women human rights defenders continue to make their valuable contribution to human rights as part of movements, members of non-government organizations, professionals, survivors of violence and families of victims of violations. Their commitment and courage deserves respect, but above all an urgent attention to address their specific protection needs.



Hina Jilani
Special Representative of the Secretary General on the situation
of Human Rights Defenders

ANNEX 3

National Consultation on Women Human Rights Defenders in Nepal

March 3 - 4, 2006

Staff College, Jawalakhel

Lalitpur, Nepal

DAY ONE, March 3rd 2006, Friday

09.00- 10.00 Registration
10.00- 13.00 Opening session

Chair Ms. Ganga Kasaju

Chief guests

Sneha Lata Shrestha	Senior Woman Human Rights Defender
Sahana Pradhan	Senior Woman Human Rights Defender
Dev Devi Sharma	Senior Woman Human Rights Defender

Special Speakers

Dr. Meena Acharya, Senior Woman Human Rights Defender
Ms. Mary Jane Real, Coordinator, International Coordinating Committee on Women Human Rights Defenders

Panelists

Dr. Renu Rajbhandari, Chairperson, WOREC
Rachana Rasaili, Gender and Social Justice Program, Rural Reconstruction Nepal
Sunil Babu Pant, Chairperson, Blue Diamond Society
Srijana Danuwar, PESOC, Udayapur
Surya Gurung, Representative, National Disabled Federation

Saraj Gurung	Welcome speech and Person of ceremony
Retika Rajbhandari	Highlights of WOREC's WHRD program

13.00- 14.00 Lunch

14.00- 17.00 Six parallel workshops

WS - 1**Documentation, investigation and monitoring of Violence against Women (VAW) in armed conflict situation**

Facilitator - Mohammad Abu-Harthieh, OHCHR Nepal Office, Dip Magar,

Translator, OHCHR Nepal Office

Rapporteur - Kamala Rai, WOREC

WS - 2**Standards of due diligence in making the state accountable for VAW**

Facilitator - Satish Krishna Kharel, Senior Advocate, Indu Tuladhar, Save the Children US

Rapporteur - Balram Dawadi, WOREC

WS - 3**Available international protection tools for WHRDs**

Facilitator – Mary Jane Real, Coordinator, WHRD-ICC, Meena Poudel, PhD Candidate, New Castle University

Rapporteur – Min Basnet, WOREC

WS - 4**UN Human Rights Defenders Declaration and its relevance for the protection of women human rights defenders**

Facilitator - Jyoti Poudel, WOREC, Reshma Thapa, International Commission of Jurists

Rapporteur – Bimal Karki, WOREC

WS - 5**Internal protection strategy of building alliances**

Facilitator - Babu Ram Gautam, WOREC, Raksha Basyal

Rapporteur - Bishnu Neupane, WOREC

WS - 6**WHRDs and mental health**

Facilitator - Dr. Bidur Osti, Mental Health Expert, Jyoti Regmi, School of Social Work, St Xavier's College

Rapporteur – Roni Pradhan, School of Social Work, St Xavier's College

DAY TWO, March 4th 2006, Saturday

09.30- 12.30	Six parallel workshop (as day one)
12.30- 13.30	Lunch
13.30- 15.00	Plenary (presentations by Rapporteurs on the outcome of the workshops)
15.00- 15.30	Tea break
15.30- 17.00	Closing Session

Presentation of Draft Kathmandu Declaration of the First National Consultation on WHRDs and Discussion

- Dr. Renu Rajbhandari

Closing Main Speakers

- Chandra Kala Magar, Woman Human Rights Defender, Eastern Development Region
- Jeewanti Poudel, Woman Human Rights Defender, Far Western Development Region
- Reema Nepali, Woman Human Rights Defender, Mid Western Development Region
- Sarita Chaudhary, Woman Human Rights Defender, Western Development Region
- David Johnson, OHCHR Nepal Office
- Mary Jane Real, Coordinator, International Coordinating Committee on women human rights defenders

Thank you and Closing note

- Ms Jyoti Poudel
-

List of Participants

S.N	Name	District
1	Aarati Poudel	Banke
2	Aashadevi Mishra	Mahottari
3	Abha Shrestha	Kathmandu
4	Aditi Dahal	Kathmandu
5	Akta Sunar	Kathmandu
6	Ambika Poudyal	Kavre
7	Ambika Timilshina	Chitwan
8	Amika Rajthala	Kathmandu
9	Amrita Thapa	Baglung
10	Amrita Thapa Chhetri	Baglung
11	Amrita Thapa Magar	Baglung
12	Anisha Lama	Kathmandu
13	Anita Rai	Udayapur
14	Anjana Devkota	Kathmandu
15	Anjana Rawal	Kathmandu
16	Anju Gurung	Kathmandu
17	Anu Patel	Routahat
18	Apshara Pokharel	Janakpur
19	Arpana Baral	Morang
20	Asha BK	Kathmandu
21	Asha Choudhary	Sunsari
22	Asha Gurung	Chitwan
23	Ashok Kumar Phathak	Kirtipur
24	Ashok Pathak	Kathmandu
25	Ashwini Mandal	Morang
26	B. Karki	Kathmandu
27	Babita Thapa Magar	Gorkha
28	Badri Dulal	Lalitpur
29	BalRam Dawadi	Udayapur
30	Basanta Gautam	Nepalgunj

31	Beni Maya Aktin	Panchthar
32	Benu Maya Gurung	Kathmandu
33	Bhagbati Basnet	Kathmandu
34	Bhagbati Dhungel	Panchthar
35	Bharati Sing	Kanchanpur
36	Bhoojmaya Gurung	Dhading
37	Bhuma B.K.	Rolpa
38	Bhuma Devi Upadhaya	Kathmandu
39	Bhusan Shrestha	Kathmandu
40	Bidhan Acharya	Lalitpur
41	Bidur Prasad Wasti	Kathmandu
42	Bifala Maskey	Dhanusha
43	Bijaya Pokharel	Ilam
44	Bikash Byanju	Bhaktapur
45	Bimal Karki	Morang
46	Bimala Acharya	Biratnagar
47	Bimala Devi Das	Morang
48	Bimala Peba	Kanchanpur
49	Bimala Shrestha	Sindhupalchowk
50	Bina Pokharel	Kathmandu
51	Binda Bhandari	Kathmandu
52	Binda Thapa	Morang
53	Bindiya Rajbhandari	Okhaldhunga
54	Bindu Gautam	Kathmandu
55	Binita Neupane	Kathmandu
56	Bipula Acharya	Ilam
57	Bishnu Kumari Sijapati	Daileakh
58	Bishnu Neupane	Kathmandu
59	Bishnu Pokharel	Kathmandu
60	Bishnu Shrestha	Saptari
61	Bodh Kumari Ghimire	Lalitpur
62	Buddha Kumari Rai	Udayapur
63	Buddha Lakshmi Shrestha	Kavre

64	Bina Pokharel	Ilam
65	Chanda Rai	Kathmandu
66	Chandra Kala Magar	Morang
67	Chandra Kala Subba	Morang
68	Chatur Lakshmi Rai	Udayapur
69	Dambari Oli	Dadeldhura
70	Dan Bd. BC	Kathmandu
71	Deepa Koirala	Kathmandu
72	Deepa Rajbhandari	Kathmandu
73	Deepa Thapa	Kathmandu
74	Dev Devi Sharma	Kathmandu
75	Dev Kumari Mahara	Siraha
76	Dev Kumari Phuyal	Udayapur
77	Devi Ghimire	Udayapur
78	Dhakani Devi Mahato	Sunsari
79	Dhan Kumari Bhattraï	Jhapa
80	Dhana Thapa	Jhapa
81	Dhanakumari Karki	Udayapur
82	Dil Shova Pun	Gulmi
83	Dilu Shrestha	Kathmandu
84	Dr. Binayak Rajbhandari	Kathmandu
85	Dr. Kailash Nath Pyakuryal	Kathmandu
86	Dr. Meena Acharya	Kathmandu
87	Dr. Nafisha Malla	Kritipur
88	Dr. Renu Rajbhandari	Kathmandu
89	Dr. Tara Maiya Shakya	Kritipur
90	Drupada Neupane	Dang
91	Durga Bishwakarma	Siraha
92	Durga Ghimire	Lalitpur
93	Earita Choudhary	Rupandehi
94	Ganga Devi Pariyar	Palpa
95	Ganga Dhakal	Kathmandu
96	Ganga Kasaju	Kathmandu

97	Ganga Shrestha	Dhading
98	Gayatri Pyakurel	Nuwakot
99	Gita Pariyar	Baglung
100	Gita Pokharel	Siraha
101	Gita Ramtel	Panchthar
102	Gita Thapa	Udayapur
103	Gopal Krishna Siwakoti	Kathmandu
104	Hallu Pd. Choudhary	Kathmandu
105	Hari Maya Gurung	Jhapa
106	Hari Maya Khatri	Magydi
107	Hari Maya Sahi	Udayapur
108	Hemanta Raj Neupane	Morang
109	Ijana Mishra	Dhanusha
110	Indira Angai	Gorkha
111	Indira Basnet	Kathmandu
112	Indira Kharel	Kathmandu
113	Indira Phuyal	Kathmandu
114	Indira Pokharel	Palpa
115	Ishwari Raut	Salyan
116	Jamuna Bhandari	Rupandehi
117	Janaki Ram	Siraha
118	Januka Baniya	Gorkha
119	Januka Baral	Udayapur
120	Januka Bhattraï	Kathmandu
121	Januka Pokharel	Mahottari
122	Januka Rai	Udayapur
123	Jaya Kaligar	Kathmandu
124	Jaya Pathak	Kathmandu
125	Jayanti Sunuwar	Sarlahi
126	Jeet Maya Gurung	Kaski
127	Jeni Shrestha	Kathmandu
128	Jibanti Poudel	Kailali
129	Jyoti Bhattraï	Kathmandu

130	Jyoti Poudel	Kathmandu
131	Jyoti Regmi Timilshina	Kathmandu
132	Kabita Limbu	Ilam
133	Kabita Sharma	Kritipur
134	Kalpana Malla	Kanchanpur
135	Kalpana Timsina	Kritipur
136	Kamala Acharya	Ramechhap
137	Kamala Dhungana	Kathmandu
138	Kamala Luitel	Ilam
139	Kamala Pun	Gulmi
140	Kamala Rai	Dhanusha
141	Kamala Rijal	Pyuthan
142	Kamala Thapa	Pyuthan
143	Kastura Giri	Parbat
144	Kaushlya Devi Damai	Dadeldhura
145	Kopila Timsina	Udayapur
146	Kripha Karki	Kathmandu
147	Krishna Ale	Dhanusha
148	Krishna Bhandari	Kathmandu
149	Krishna Choudhary	Kathmandu
150	Krishna Gurung	Bara
151	Krishna Maya Lama	Dhanusha
152	Kshitz Adhiraj	Kathmandu
153	Lakshami Bhandari	Udayapur
154	Lakshmi Khasu Magar	Rupandehi
155	Lakshmi Lama	Bara
156	Lakshmi Pandey	Bara
157	Lakshmi Pokharel	Kathmandu
158	Lakshmi Poudel	Sindhuli
159	Lakshmi Sapkota	Maygdi
160	Lakshmi Silwal	Morang
161	Lalita Adhikari	Sindhupalchowk
162	Lalita Mahañan	Kathmandu

163	Lila Satyal	Kavre
164	Luna Khatri	Kathmandu
165	Maha Rana	Khotang
166	Maina Dhital	Kathmandu
167	Malpalata Dahal	Kathmandu
168	Mamata Ghising	Siraha
169	Mamata Kadari	Dhanusha
170	Mamata Kahari	Dhanusha
171	Man Kumari Rimal	Dolakha
172	Mandira Kumari Lama	Dhanusha
173	Manila Bista	Makwanpur
174	Manita Sharma	Kathmandu
175	Manjita Upadhaya	Morang
176	Manju Adhikari	Kathmandu
177	Manju Chepang	Makwanpur
178	Mary Jane Real	WHRD-ICC
179	Maya Gurung	Tanahu
180	Meena Bajracharya	Kathmandu
181	Meena Devi Mehata	Sunsari
182	Meena Nepali	Kathmandu
183	Meena Poudel	AWHRC
184	Meena Rakhel	Dailekh
185	Meena Sharma	Kathmandu
186	Menka Pokharel	Dang
187	Menu Pokharel	Kathmandu
188	Menuka Bartaula	Chitwan
189	Menuka Pyakurel	Morang
190	Min Basnet	Kathmandu
191	Mina Shrestha	Kathmandu
192	Mithu Devi Rumba	Makwanpur
193	Mithu Devi Rumba	Makwanpur
194	Mudita Bajracharya	Kathmandu
195	Muna Kumari Lama	Dhanusha

196	Nainkala Limbu	Taplejung
197	Namarta Giri	Sunsari
198	Namita Lamsal	Kathmandu
199	Namrata Lamsal	Kathmandu
200	Nanda Gurung	Surkhet
201	Narmada Poudel	Sunsari
202	Nilu Choudhary	Dang
203	Nimesh Adhikari	Kathmandu
204	Nira Ranabhat	Kathmandu
205	Nirmala Baral	Kathmandu
206	Nirmala Byashal	Surkhet
207	Niru Dhungana	Bhaktapur
208	Nishan Rai	Kathmandu
209	Nishchha Lata Lawati	Jhapa
210	Om Kumari Bhatta	Kathmandu
211	Pabitra Ghartimagar	Kathmandu
212	Padam P. Khatiwada	Kathmandu
213	Padma Kumari Shrestha	Rautahat
214	Parita Rai	Jhapa
215	Phulo Devi Pashwan	Dhanusha
216	Pitambar Upadhyaya	Lalitpur
217	Pragati Ghimire	Tanahu
218	Pramila Dhungana	Kathmandu
219	Pramila Jirel	Sindhupalchowk
220	Pramila Nepal	Sindhupalchowk
221	Prideep Ghimire	Kathmandu
222	Pushpa Giri	Salyan
223	Pushpa Regmi	Kapilbastu
224	Pushpa Thapa Magar	Kathmandu
225	Rachana Rasali	Kathmandu
226	Radha Kumari Mandal	Morang
227	Rajesh Niraula	Banke
228	Rajkumari Sada	Udayapur

229	Rajkumari Sardar	Udayapur
230	Raju Guindel	Surkhet
231	Ram Kumari Dangal	Sindhupalchowk
232	Ram Pradhan	Sunsari
233	Ramesh Tharu	Kathmandu
234	Ranjana Mishra	Dhanusha
235	Ranjana Nepal	Kathmandu
236	Rashmi Jairu	Dadeldhura
237	Ratna Shrestha	Rupandehi
238	Renuka Thapa	Kathmandu
239	Renuka Thapa	Kathmandu
240	Rima Nepali	Rolpa
241	Rita Dhungel	Makwanpur
242	Rita Kumari Maharata	Siraha
243	Rita Magar	Surkhet
244	Roni Pradhan	Kathmandu
245	Rukmina Neupane	Dang
246	Ruku Luitel	Lalitpur
247	Sabita Rai	Udayapur
248	Sabita Subedi	Morang
249	Sabitra Ale	Udayapur
250	Sabitra Bhusal	Kathmandu
251	Sabitri Devi Sada	Udayapur
252	Sabitri Sardar	Siraha
253	Sabitri Thapa	Bhaktapur
254	Sadhana Shrestha	Kathmandu
255	Sahana Pradhan	Kathmandu
256	Sakuntala Oli	Panchthar
257	Sakuntala Khanal	Dhading
258	Sakuntala Pokharel	Kathmandu
259	Samjana Gurung	Rasuwa
260	Samjhana Shrestha	Kathmandu
261	Baburam Gautam	Kathmandu

262	Samjhana Tamli	Dhankuta
263	Sandhya Joshi	Kathmandu
264	Sanjana Gurung	Rashuwa
265	Sanjib Gurung	Kathmandu
267	Sanju Kumari Baitha	Rauthhat
268	Santi Thapa	Palpa
269	Sanu Maya Basnet	Gorkha
270	Sanu Raut	Udayapur
271	Sarita Choudhary	Siraha
272	Sarita Gautam	Kathmandu
273	Sarita Oli	Rukum
274	Sarmila Niraula	Udayapur
275	Saroj KC	Accham
276	Sarswati Osti	Tanahu
278	Sarswati Poudel	Kapilbastu
279	Sashi Kala Dahal	Mahottari
280	Satra Kumari Gurung	Kathmandu
281	Shanta Ghimire	Gulmi
282	Shanta Regmi	Baglung
283	Shanti Adhikari	Kathmandu
284	Shanti Danuwar	Udayapur
285	Shanti Kumari Shah	Bajura
286	Shanti Poudel	Kaski
287	Shanti Singh Kurmi	Bara
288	Shanti Thapa	Palpa
289	Sharada Rokaya	Kailali
300	Sharda Sharma	Kathmandu
301	Sharmila Karki	Kathmandu
302	Sharmila Kumari Ghalan	Bara
303	Sharmila Maharjan	Kathmandu
304	Sharmila Tamang	Udayapur
305	Shilaja Sharma	Kathmandu
306	Sholtee Maya Chepang	Chitwan

307	Shova BK	Banke
308	Shova Gautam	Kathmandu
309	Shova Khadka	Nuwakot
310	Shova Marashini	Gulmi
311	Shova Pandit	Kathmandu
312	Shova Shrestha	Bara
313	Shova Yadav	Kathmandu
314	Shree Bindu Ale	Dhanusha
315	Sindhu Sapkota	Kathmandu
316	Sister Teresha	Kathmandu
317	Sita G.C.	Kapilbastu
318	Sita Kumari Thakur	Sunsari
319	Sita Lamshal	Dhading
320	Sita Shrestha	Ramechhap
321	Suvekshya Bindu Tuladhar	Kathmandu
322	Sudha Bishwakarma	Banke
323	Sudha BK	Banke
324	Sujata Choudhary	Siraha
325	Sukamaya	Siraha
326	Suman BK	Kathmandu
327	Sumati Dhungana	Kavre
328	Summina Tuladhar	Kathmandu
329	Sunibha Shrestha	Kathmandu
330	Sunita Katuwal	Kathmandu
331	Sunita Moktan	Ramechhap
332	Sunita Senturi	Kathmandu
333	Sunita Subedi	Morang
334	Surja Dahal	Dolakha
335	Surya Devi Sigdhel	Tanahu
335	Surya Gurung	KTM
336	Sushma Rana	Salyan
337	Swagat Raj Pandey	Kathmandu
338	Syani Choudharu	Dang

339	Tara BK	Udayapur
340	Tara Subedi	Kaski
341	Teji Rana	Salyan
342	Tika Dahal	Kathmandu
343	Tila Kumari Khadka	Udayapur
344	Tirtah Kumari Nain	Sunsari
345	Tirtha Pd. Gyawali	Kathmandu
346	Tuka Khanal	Kailali
347	Tulasha BK	Taplagunj
348	Tulasha Dahal	Dhanusha
349	Tulsa B.K.	Taplejung
350	Unnati Pradhan	Kathmandu
351	Urbashi Bhattarai	Mahottari
352	Urmila Choudhary	Saptari
353	Urmila Yadav	Dhanusha
354	Usha Karki	Dhanusha
355	Usha Mahato	Dhanusha
356	Usha Titikshu	Kathmandu
357	Yamuna Baskota	Kathmandu
358	Yashodha Pokharel	Siraha
359	Yashodha Thapa	Banke

ANNEX 5**1. GUEST SPEAKERS**

S.N	Name	Affiliation
1	Sneha Lata Shrestha	Senior Woman Human Rights Defender
2	Sahana Pradhan	Senior Woman Human Rights Defender
3	Dev Devi Sharma	Senior Woman Human Rights Defender
4	Mary Jane Real	Coordinator, International Coordinating Committee on Women Human Rights Defenders
5	David Johnson	OHCHR Nepal Office
6	Dr. Meena Acharya,	Senior Woman Human Rights Defender, Advisor of WOREC
7	Ganga Kasaju	Senior Woman Human Rights Defender, Advisor of WOREC
8	Rachana Rasaili	Gender and Social Justice Program, Rural Reconstruction Nepal
9	Sunil Babu Pant	Chairperson, Blue Diamond Society
10	Srijana Danuwar	PESOC, Udayapur
11	Surya Gurung	Representative, National Disabled Federation
12	Chandra Kala Magar	Woman Human Rights Defender, Eastern Development Region
13	Jeewanti Poudel	Woman Human Rights Defender, Far Western Development Region
14	Reema Nepali	Woman Human Rights Defender, Mid Western Development Region
15	Sarita Chaudhary	Woman Human Rights Defender, Western Development Region

2. RESOURCE PERSONS OF WORKSHOP

S.N	Name	Affiliation
1	Mohammad Abu-Harthieh	OHCHR Nepal Office
2	Dip Magar	OHCHR Nepal Office
3	Satish Krishna Kharel	Senior Advocate
4	Indu Tuladhar	Save the Children US
5	Mary Jane Real	WHRD-ICC
6	Meena Poudel	PhD Candidate, New Castle University
7	Jyoti Poudel	WOREC
8	Reshma Thapa	International Commission of Jurists
9	Babu Ram Gautam	WOREC
10	Raksha Basyal	WHRD
11	Dr. Bidur Osti	Mental Health Expert
12	Jyoti Regmi	School of Social Work, St Xavier's College

3. RAPORTEURS OF WORKSHOPS

S.N	Name	Affiliation
1	Kamala Rai	WOREC
2	Balram Dawadi	WOREC
3	Min Basnet	WOREC
4	Bimal Karki	WOREC
5	Bishnu Neupane	WOREC
6	Roni Pradhan	School of Social Work, St Xavier's College



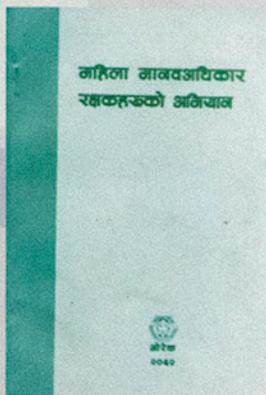
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