



Compiled By:  
Meelan Karki

Designed By:  
Usha Gainju

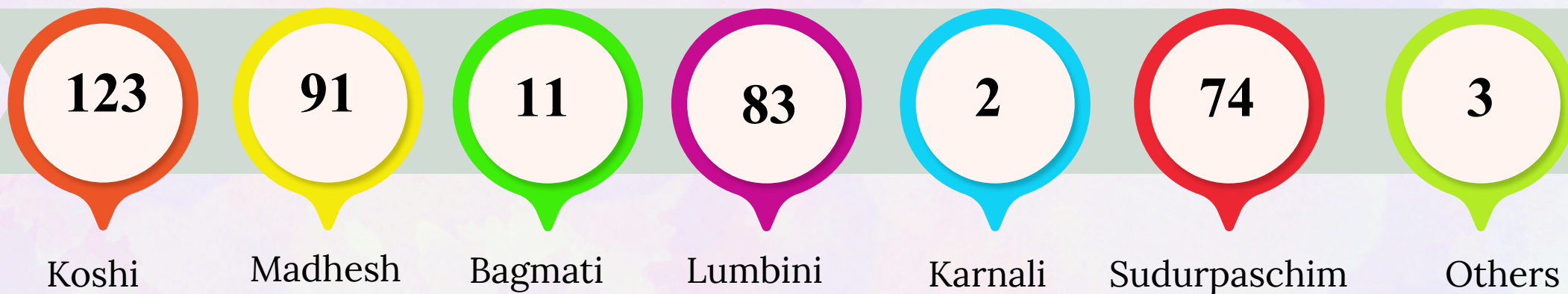
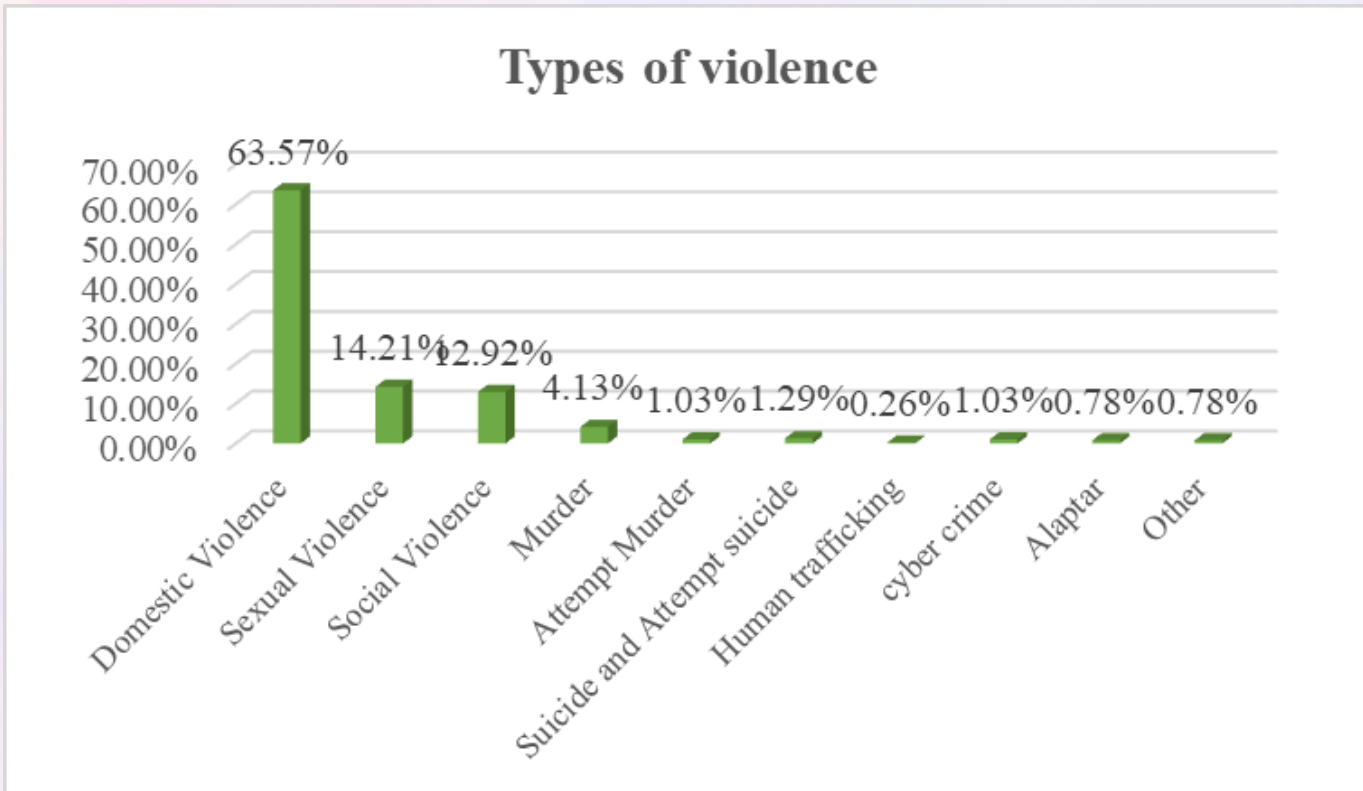
“Pairavi”; the quarterly advocacy newsletter includes, the advocacy practices carried out by WOREC and demonstrates a clear shift in the women’s rights movement from program-based interventions toward structural justice, political accountability, and a community-based feminist movement ecosystem.

Activities implemented in working districts of WOREC have integrated issues such as GBV, human rights violations, harmful social practices, mental health, SRHR, digital violence, and political participation into a unified movement agenda.

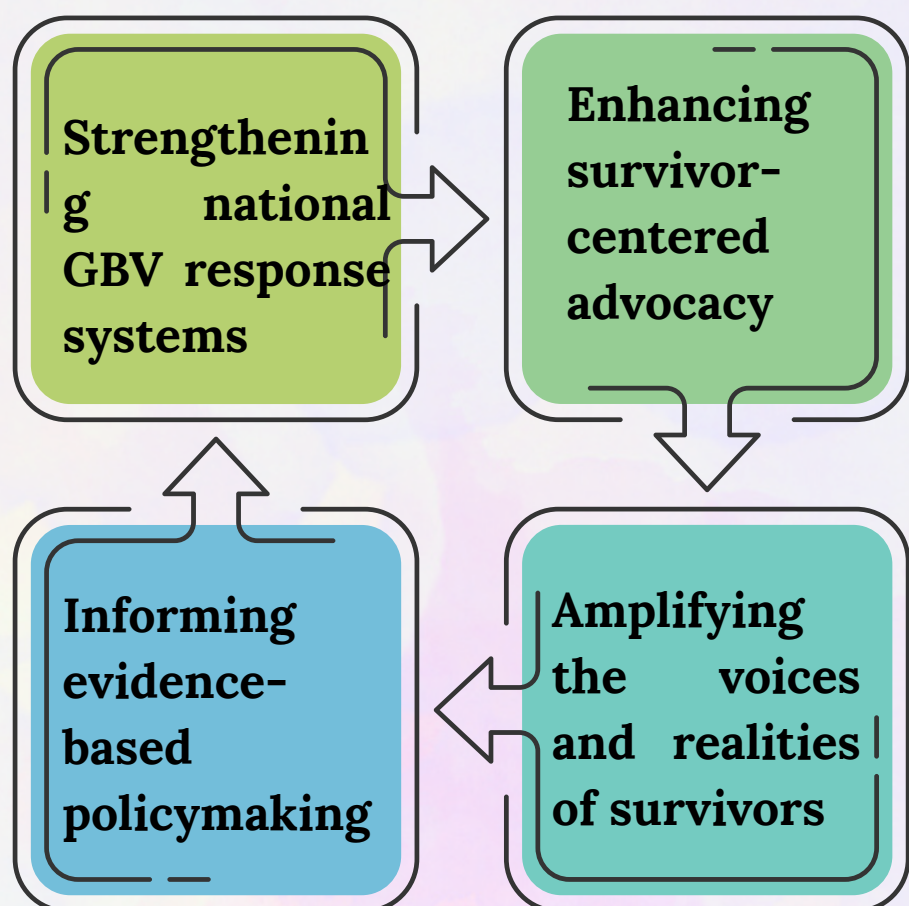
# Strengthening GBV Accountability and Response Systems in Nepal: WOREC's Evidence-Based Advocacy Contribution

Women's Rehabilitation Center (WOREC) has made a significant contribution to strengthening gender-based violence (GBV) response and accountability in Nepal through continuous, systematic documentation and analysis of cases.

In the January-March 2026 quarter alone, WOREC documented 387 GBV cases from primary sources, making visible the scale, nature, and emerging patterns of violence across the country. This evidence highlights domestic violence as the most prevalent form, while also drawing attention to sexual violence, femicide, cyber violence, trafficking, and other evolving forms of abuse.

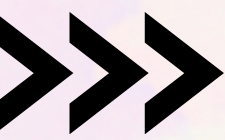


Through province-wise, age-wise, ethnicity-wise, and education-wise analysis, WOREC has strengthened advocacy by clearly showing that GBV affects women across all communities, age groups, and education levels, challenging common misconceptions about vulnerability and protection.



WOREC's work is not only data collection it is rights-based evidence generation for policy influence, exposing structural inequalities, patriarchal norms, and emerging digital risks that fuel violence.

Overall, WOREC plays a critical role in transforming lived experiences of violence into actionable evidence for advocacy, accountability, and systemic change in Nepal's GBV response framework.



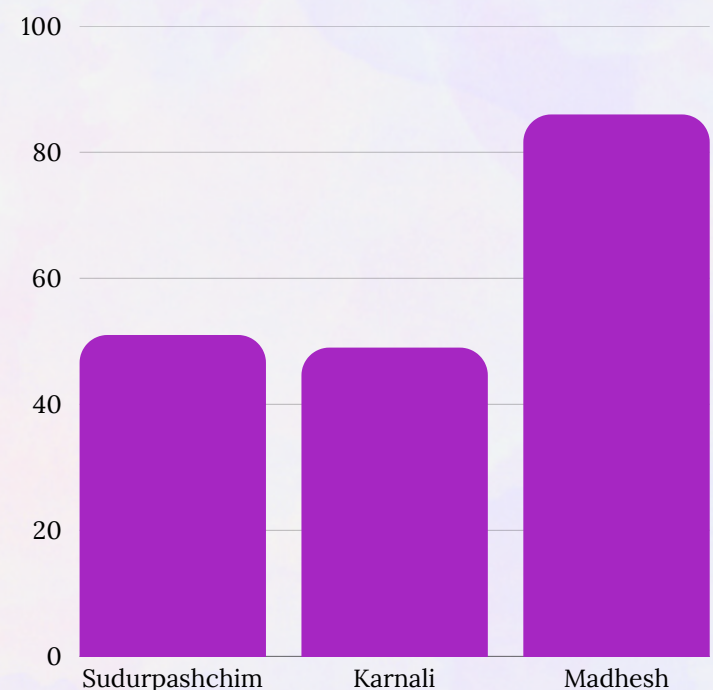
## Leadership in action: Promotion of Gender inclusive and responsive governance

A total of 186 elected women ward members from 39 local government units across Madhesh, Karnali, and Sudurpashchim Provinces engaged in seven Feminist Leadership trainings designed as strategic advocacy platforms to influence and transform local governance systems.

The trainings positioned gender-based violence (GBV) and harmful traditional practices as structural and public policy issues, challenging their normalization within private spaces. A significant outcome was a shift in perception, with 90% of participants recognizing domestic violence as a public concern requiring institutional accountability and response. This reflects a critical move toward strengthening governance systems that uphold rights and justice.



Beyond awareness, the initiative advanced women's political agency by equipping participants to actively advocate for Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) and Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB). Participants demonstrated increased confidence to question exclusionary practices, influence planning and budgeting processes, and assert their roles in decision-making spaces reinforcing the need for inclusive and accountable governance.



**Debaki Bista, elected women ward member said** “We were not aware of municipal plans, and we had no information about the GESI policy, GBV elimination fund and GRB. This lack of knowledge meant we were unable to question decisions or influence priorities. As soon as I return from here, I will go to the municipality and advocate on this issues. I am determined to engage actively, ask questions, and demand accountability so that these resources are used in ways that truly benefit women and marginalized communities. Through this, I will make my leadership meaningful and responsive.”

The trainings further advanced feminist leadership as an ethical and political practice grounded in equity, service, and accountability. By linking personal experiences with structural analysis, participants were enabled to reframe leadership as a tool for social justice and systemic change.

**Kalpana Kumari Damai, women Dalit ward member of Birendranagar Municipality expressed** that the training has strengthened them to understand that effective and accountable governance begins with planning at Tole-Basti level. She added that this has motivated her to utilize her remaining 14 months of tenure to strategically amplify the voices of marginalized women and integrate their concerns into local level planning process, contributing to more inclusive and responsive governance.

Complementing this, a 3-day residential training on Gender Responsive and Inclusive Governance and Digital Security for 46 elected women in Karnali province strengthened both technical capacity and advocacy positioning. It emphasized the urgency of addressing digital risks, systemic exclusion, and governance gaps that limit women's participation.

As a result, participants made concrete commitments to advocate for marginalized voices, promote transparency, and demand accountability within local governance.

Overall, these initiatives demonstrate that capacity building, when grounded in feminist principles, serves as a powerful advocacy mechanism enabling elected women leaders not only to understand inequality but to actively challenge and transform the systems that sustain it.

## **Campaign for Democracy, Women's Rights and Youth Participation: Provincial Youth Forums**

Nepal's democratic transition has been significantly shaped by sustained youth-led movements, culminating in the 2015 Constitution, which introduced progressive inclusion provisions such as 33% representation of women. Despite these constitutional gains, young people, particularly young women and those from marginalized communities continue to face entrenched structural barriers that limit their meaningful participation in political leadership and decision-making.

In this context, WOREC and partners strategically positioned the Provincial Youth Forums in Koshi, Sudurpaschim, Lumbini, and Madhesh Provinces ahead of the 5 March 2026 elections as advocacy platforms to strengthen youth political voice and influence democratic processes. Engaging more than 500 young participants, the forums created structured spaces for critical dialogue on governance, leadership, and political accountability.

A key advocacy outcome was the development of collective provincial youth declarations, consolidating grassroots demands into unified policy positions. These declarations serve as concrete advocacy tools, calling for inclusive governance, accountable institutions, and meaningful youth participation in decision-making processes.

The forums generated distinct yet interconnected advocacy priorities across provinces: demands for rule of law and institutional accountability in Koshi; redefinition of politics as public service in Sudurpaschim; strengthened inclusion of Dalits, gender and sexual minorities, and persons with disabilities in Lumbini; and calls for equal citizenship rights and youth-responsive policies in Madhesh. Collectively, these priorities reflect a shift from symbolic inclusion to substantive democratic participation.

## The Provincial Youth Advocacy Matrix

Demands of 500+ young participants united under the ANKUR Youth Network ahead of the 2026 elections.

### Koshi

Demanding rule of law and institutional accountability.

### Sudurpaschim

Redefining politics as public service, not power.

### Lumbini

Strengthened inclusion of Dalits, gender/sexual minorities, and persons with disabilities.

### Madhesh

Calls for equal citizenship rights and youth-responsive policies.



Importantly, the initiative repositioned youth as present-day political actors rather than future stakeholders. As expressed by participants, including voices like Laxmi Pandey from Gulmi, there is a clear demand for political institutions to recognize and institutionalize the leadership potential of youth, including those with disabilities.

Through the continuation of the **ANKUR Youth Network**, **WOREC** aims to sustain this momentum by strengthening ongoing youth-led advocacy, collective action, and leadership development. Overall, the forums reinforced a clear advocacy message:

Meaningful democracy is only possible when youth are recognized, included, and empowered as active political actors in governance and decision-making.

**ANKUR Youth  
Network,**

## Technical Support for GESI policy, GESI Audit and GBV elimination fund guideline

The technical support provided by WOREC to Suvakalika Rural Municipality demonstrates how structured capacity-building can function as an effective advocacy approach to institutionalize Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) and GBV prevention at the local level.

Rather than a standalone intervention, the process strategically integrated capacity strengthening, participatory policy development, and a comprehensive GESI audit to influence both institutional systems and leadership mindsets. This positioned local governance actors not as passive recipients but as active-duty bearers responsible for advancing inclusive governance.

A key advocacy milestone was the engagement of 35 municipal stakeholders, including elected leaders, in a two-day workshop that led to the drafting of a GESI policy and GBV elimination fund operational guideline. These outputs

represent concrete steps toward embedding gender-responsive governance within municipal systems.

The subsequent GESI audit, conducted with 27 senior officials, further strengthened evidence-based advocacy by identifying gaps (46/100 indicators) while creating a shared accountability framework for reform and action planning.

Importantly, the process contributed to a shift in political commitment, with local leadership expressing ownership over GESI integration, including intentions to mobilize internal resources for implementation. The municipality's commitment to endorse the policy and fund mechanism reflects emerging institutional will for sustained change.

Overall, the initiative illustrates how participatory governance processes, combined with evidence generation and policy engagement, can translate technical support into a powerful advocacy mechanism for systemic and sustainable gender-responsive local governance.

**Dharma Kala Shahi, Vice chairperson of Suvakalika rural municipality reflected during the GESI policy development workshop;** *“After realizing the importance of gender equality policies and operational guidelines for the GBV prevention fund, we have started mobilizing resources under our own leadership to organize a workshop for the localization of the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Policy. I have realized that not only dreams but also clear policies and procedures play a significant role in reaching the targeted groups. I will take initiative to prioritize and implement these mechanisms.”*

**Amrita Adhikari, elected women representative of municipal committee shared “**

*” Earlier we worked with target groups, but without a clear policy framework it was difficult to justify our actions. When asked in trainings who had a GESI policy, we often felt uncomfortable because we did not have one. Now we feel more confident moving forward. We had long wanted to develop this policy but needed technical facilitation. Through the WOREC’s support, we are now preparing to finalize the policy. Our next step is to have it endorsed by the executive committee and publish it on the municipality’s website.”*



## Intergenerational knowledge transfer

WOREC advanced feminist movement building through a series of strategic capacity-strengthening initiatives in Udayapur, Dang, and Kapilvastu, reinforcing intergenerational knowledge transfer as a core feminist advocacy approach for sustaining long-term social transformation and collective action for gender justice.

In Udayapur, a 5-Day Training on Social Transformation and the Role of Youth engaged 20 young participants from Madhesh Province, critically reframing social transformation as an ongoing political process of dismantling structural inequalities rather than isolated responses to violence. Participants examined how patriarchy is embedded in unequal power relations, resource distribution, and reinforced through harmful gender norms, toxic masculinity, and practices such as child marriage and dowry, while positioning youth as key agents of change whose leadership becomes stronger when grounded in intergenerational knowledge, lived experiences, and feminist praxis.

Complementing this, a Feminist Training of Trainers (ToT) for Emerging Women Leaders strengthened the feminist political analysis and facilitation capacities of 17 participants from six districts, reaffirming feminism as a collective political movement that challenges structural violence and entrenched inequality through participatory and peer-learning methodologies that deepened critical consciousness on gender-based violence, power relations, and transformative leadership.

In parallel, WOREC Dang and Kapilvastu convened a two-day Intergenerational Feminist Leadership Training bringing together women, adolescent girls, representatives from the Adolescent Girls' Rights Forum, and members of sexual and gender minority communities, further strengthening inclusive feminist solidarity. Collectively, these initiatives demonstrate WOREC's sustained contribution to building an intersectional, intergenerational feminist movement in Nepal, rooted in critical analysis, lived realities, and collective resistance for structural change.



Across the initiatives, WOREC positioned intergenerational knowledge transfer as a deliberate feminist advocacy strategy, not merely an exchange of experience. It strengthened continuity within the feminist movement by fostering structured cross-generational dialogue, reinforcing collective leadership, and ensuring that advocacy remains firmly grounded in lived realities while responding to emerging challenges such as digital violence and shifting social norms. The initiative functioned as a critical platform for advancing feminist thinking as a foundation for social transformation, emphasizing that justice requires recognition of diversity among women, men, and sexual and gender minorities, alongside the realization of equal rights, dignity, and opportunities across political, economic, and social spheres. At its core, it challenged entrenched patriarchal systems that sustain inequality and exclusion, reinforcing that feminism is a transformative approach essential for dismantling discriminatory structures and advancing a society where all individuals can live with freedom and equality. Overall, the initiative reflects WOREC's sustained contribution to building an intersectional, intergenerational, and resilient feminist movement in Nepal, rooted in collective action, shared political consciousness, and long-term structural change for gender justice.

## ➤➤➤ **Advancing GBV Prevention and Justice through Community and National Advocacy**

Between January and March 2026, coordinated feminist actions were carried out across Nepal including protests, sit-ins, public dialogues, and awareness campaigns under the global slogan “Rights, Justice, Action, For ALL Women and Girls.” These actions exposed the gap between constitutional guarantees and real implementation, particularly in women’s political participation, reproductive rights, and equality.

The movement also demanded justice for the rape and murder of 16-year-old Dalit girl Inisa BK, highlighting the intersection of caste discrimination and gender-based violence. Advocacy further linked GBV with economic injustice, recognizing how rising costs and inflation increase women’s vulnerability and dependence.



In addition to that, a series of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) awareness and advocacy interventions were implemented across districts to challenge patriarchal norms, strengthen prevention systems, and improve survivors' access to justice and essential services.

Across locations, the campaign combined awareness, dialogue, and community mobilization to address GBV as a structural issue rooted in inequality. With coordinated outreach and grassroots initiatives are increasingly being used as powerful advocacy tools to challenge patriarchal norms and strengthen responses to gender-based violence (GBV).

During the period, community outreach reached over 900 individuals and identified 38 GBV cases highlighting both the widespread nature of violence and the critical role of trusted, community-based reporting systems. Dialogues on child marriage, dowry, and Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) created space to question harmful practices that continue to control women's autonomy and choices.

Legal awareness sessions strengthened women's understanding of their rights and access to justice, while focused discussions on digital violence and monitoring of support mechanisms emphasized the urgent need for more accountable and responsive institutions. At the same time, strengthened coordination between women's groups and local governments improved case identification and access to essential services.

Public advocacy efforts including street dramas, rallies, and community dialogues—actively challenged silence and stigma, transforming public spaces into platforms for resistance against discrimination and violence. These efforts were further reinforced through provincial-level mobilization, amplifying collective voices to demand accountability and action against harmful traditional practices.

women and girls.

At the local level, ward-based trainings and peer-led orientations strengthened community response systems, with a focus on preventing child marriage, addressing substance abuse, and improving GBV referral mechanisms.

Together, these initiatives demonstrate that effective GBV prevention goes beyond awareness it requires sustained community engagement, survivor-centered approaches, and collective action. By fostering collaboration between communities, local governments, and advocacy groups, these efforts are contributing to dismantling entrenched patriarchal structures and advancing a more just and equitable society.

Similarly, at the national level, WOREC and feminist networks organized a “National Roundtable on GBV and State Accountability” at the National Human Rights Commission Hall. The discussion

“ When we get the opportunity to share our spouse's positive behaviors with others, and when our wives appreciate us publicly, it brings a unique sense of happiness. ”

**Rajkumar Chaudhary,**

identified GBV as a result of deep-rooted patriarchy, weak law enforcement, social tolerance of violence, and systemic impunity.

Key gaps highlighted included limited survivor-centered services, biased media reporting, and protection of perpetrators. The roundtable called for urgent reforms, including stronger law enforcement, survivor-friendly justice systems, and gender-sensitive policies.



The meeting concluded with a collective commitment to develop policy recommendations to be submitted to the Council of Ministers, demanding stronger state accountability to prevent and respond to GBV. Collectively, these interventions reinforce that GBV is not individual violence it is a structural issue rooted in patriarchy, caste inequality, and economic injustice. Sustainable change requires strong law enforcement, survivor-centered systems, inclusive political participation, and meaningful accountability from the state. The ongoing movement continues to demand a shift from policy commitments to real, measurable action for justice, dignity, and equality for all women and girls.

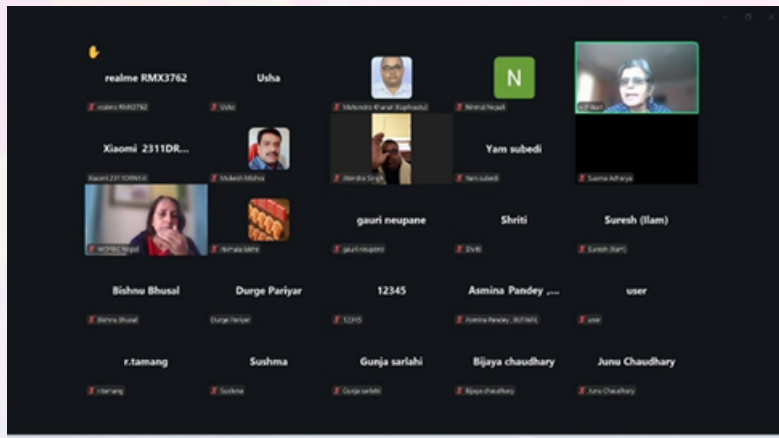


## **Election Brief: Fear-Free and Inclusive Elections**

A national virtual webinar organized by WOREC in coordination with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and Tarangini Foundation was used as a strong advocacy platform to promote safe, inclusive, and rights-based elections ahead of the House of Representatives elections.

The event brought together over 65 human rights defenders from all seven provinces, creating a shared national space to raise real issues from the ground and push for action. Participants highlighted key barriers faced by marginalized groups, including women, Dalit, Indigenous, Muslim, sexual and gender minorities, persons with disabilities, and elderly voters.

The discussion clearly showed that elections are not equally accessible or safe for everyone. Major concerns included digital violence and hate speech, misinformation, voter intimidation, unsafe environments for women human rights defenders, and lack of accessible voting systems.



As an advocacy outcome, the webinar produced clear and actionable recommendations. These included stronger protection measures for voters and defenders, better coordination among security agencies, digital monitoring to address online abuse, and inclusive voter education to reduce misinformation and improve informed participation.



In addition, WOREC operated a 24x7 election-focused hotline as a direct response and advocacy tool. The hotline provided immediate support to women candidates, elected representatives, and survivors of violence, including cases of online abuse, threats, harassment, and political intimidation. Services included counseling, legal and psychosocial support, safety coordination, rescue assistance, and referrals to safe shelters.

Overall, these initiatives demonstrate how advocacy works in practice by linking evidence from communities, amplifying affected voices, and creating real-time response systems to promote free, safe, and inclusive democratic participation for all.



## Advancing Women’s Right to Integrated Sexual and Reproductive Health and Protection Services

The Integrated Women’s Health and Protection Initiative demonstrates a critical, rights-based response to the systemic barriers that continue to limit women’s and adolescent girls’ access to essential sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services and protection mechanisms. By adopting an integrated approach that combines clinical care with gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response, the initiative highlights the urgent need to recognize women’s health not merely as a service



delivery issue but as a matter of equity, dignity, and human rights. Importantly, the identification and referral of 38 GBV cases underscores the reality that violence remains a significant yet often hidden determinant of women’s health, and that health systems must serve as safe and accessible entry points for survivors. The initiative further strengthened early detection and referral pathways, with targeted interventions for uterine prolapse and suspected cancer cases, alongside large-scale screening efforts.

These outcomes reinforce the effectiveness of integrated, community-centered models in improving health access and outcomes; however, they also call for sustained policy commitment, increased investment, and institutionalization of such approaches within public health systems. Ensuring universal access to integrated SRH and GBV services is essential to advancing gender equality and fulfilling the fundamental right of every woman to live a healthy, safe, and dignified life.



## Advocacy for Ending Harmful social norms and practices

WOREC, through a series of targeted awareness and capacity-building initiatives, has advanced community-level advocacy to challenge harmful traditional practices, particularly child marriage, while promoting gender equality, adolescent rights, and mental wellbeing.

These interventions functioned as grassroots advocacy platforms, engaging adolescents, women, and community members to critically reflect on social norms and strengthen understanding of their rights and responsibilities.

At school level, orientation sessions at Shree Durga Bhawani Secondary School and Durga Bhawani Girls Secondary School generated critical dialogue on the health, education, and legal consequences of child marriage. Participants recognized that early marriage restricts education, increases health risks, and limits future opportunities. Students collectively expressed commitment to continue education and resist child marriage, demonstrating strengthened agency and rights awareness.



Similarly, an adolescent dialogue at Janaki Secondary School created a safe space to discuss adolescence, gendered experiences, and menstrual health. The session highlighted how discriminatory norms and early marriage reinforce inequality and limit girls' mobility and decision-making power. Adolescents were encouraged to act as peer advocates for gender equality and social change within their families and communities.

In Kapilvastu, a three-day training including women, adolescents, health volunteers, and gender minority representatives strengthened understanding of gender-based violence, harmful practices, and community leadership for social transformation. Participants were

equipped as local advocates to challenge discriminatory norms and promote collective action for gender equality. In addition, a mental health orientation at Shree Panchakanya Secondary School, Triyuga Municipality-6, enhanced adolescent understanding of stress, depression, PTSD, and substance abuse, along with coping strategies and psychosocial support systems. The session reframed mental health as a community



protection and collective responsibility issue, encouraging early recognition, open dialogue, and help-seeking behavior.

Overall, these initiatives demonstrate that community awareness is a powerful advocacy tool, strengthening individual agency, shifting harmful social norms, and fostering collective action toward ending child marriage, advancing gender equality, and promoting adolescent wellbeing in Nepal.



## **Right to work: Advancing GBV Prevention and Justice through Community and National Advocacy**

Promoting women's right to work especially for those affected by gender-based violence and from marginalized communities requires strong collaboration between local government, the private sector, and civil society. In this context, a tripartite agreement between Biratnagar Metropolitan City, Fahad Apparel Garment, and WOREC Nepal was signed on Falgun 15, 2082 (B.S.) to create sustainable employment pathways for women.



Through a transparent selection process, 75 women were selected for a 55-day skill-based training, with a clear commitment to link them to employment opportunities afterward.

These efforts reflect a rights-based approach to economic empowerment, contributing to women's access to safe, dignified, and sustainable employment, reducing vulnerability to violence through financial independence, and strengthening accountability of institutions to uphold women's economic rights.



## Integrating GBV-Responsive Disaster Risk Reduction in Local Governance

WOREC, in collaboration with the Girl Rights Forum (GRF), engaged Maharajgunj Municipality officials and DRR stakeholders on 24 February 2026 to strengthen gender-responsive disaster risk reduction and communication systems.

The multi-sectoral dialogue brought together 31 representatives from key municipal departments and DRR structures, fostering inclusive participation across governance, including GESI, health, administration, and disaster management sectors.



The advocacy focused on integrating GBV and SRH-sensitive approaches into disaster risk communication, emphasizing the need for coordinated, inclusive, and rights-based preparedness systems. Discussions highlighted the importance of aligning disaster communication frameworks with the Local Adaptation Plan of Action (LAPA) and strengthening coordination among government, NGOs, INGOs, and community actors.

The engagement resulted in enhanced institutional understanding, strengthened inter-departmental coordination, and growing commitment to develop a gender-responsive disaster risk communication guideline. Local authorities also recognized the need for a formal coordination mechanism to avoid duplication and ensure effective disaster preparedness and response.

This initiative reflects WOREC's ongoing advocacy to ensure that disaster risk reduction systems are inclusive, gender-responsive, and accountable to the needs of women and marginalized groups, particularly in crisis contexts where risks of GBV and SRH vulnerabilities increase.

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**Mr. Radheshyam Kalwar, Section Chief** of the Health Department, emphasized the importance of coordinated disaster preparedness, highlighting the need for NGOs, INGOs, health actors, and community organizations to work through a unified, non-duplicative approach. He recommended establishing a formal coordination platform to ensure systematic collaboration rather than relying on ad hoc efforts, reflecting a strong institutional understanding of existing coordination challenges.

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## Kutuni: A feminist space

WOREC leveraged digital platforms as an advocacy tool by producing and publishing four podcast episodes, strengthening feminist discourse and public engagement on gender justice issues. The series created an accessible space linking lived experiences with structural and policy-level analysis.



The episodes addressed key themes including the intersection of electoral politics and gender-based violence, digital violence and survivor experiences, psychosocial healing, and gender-responsive budgeting. By bringing together diverse voices youth activists, survivors, counselors, and feminist leaders the initiative ensured inclusive and representative advocacy. The podcast series effectively positioned digital media as a powerful advocacy platform to influence public discourse and promote gender justice.



## Enhancing Digital Advocacy Through Strategic Social Media Engagement

During this quarter, the digital communication strategy of WOREC demonstrated consistent outreach and strengthened public engagement through strategic use of social media platforms. A total of 89 posts were disseminated, reflecting WOREC's ongoing commitment advocacy, awareness raising, and public accountability on women's rights and social justice issues.

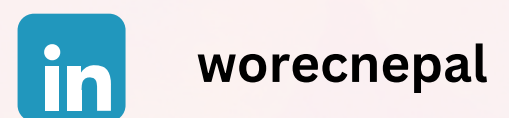
The organization primarily utilized photo-based content, which accounted for the majority of posts. The approach ensured regular visibility and timely dissemination of campaign, program, field interventions, and advocacy messaging. However, analytical observation indicates that video and issue-based advocacy content generated comparatively higher engagement, particularly in terms of views, comments and shares.

The post related to OCMC services (kutuni podcast) achieved the highest visibility, reaching over 44,000 views demonstrating strong public interest in survivor support mechanisms and essential services. Similarly the WOREC Day video received the highest number of comments, suggesting that commemorative and organizational identity-based content encourages dialogue and community interaction. Furthermore, the post addressing election and human rights recorded the highest shares, highlighting audiences willingness to amplify rights-based advocacy messages when they resonate with the current socio-political contexts.

Overall, the analysis suggests that while regular informational posts maintain organizational presence, multimedia storytelling and advocacy-oriented content significantly enhance engagement and message amplification. Moving forward, WOREC will prioritize strategic video production, issue-focused campaigns and interactive digital engagement to further expand outreach and influence public discourse on gender justice and human rights.



Quarter (January-March) analysis demonstrates that gender-based violence (GBV) is not merely a social issue but a deeply political phenomenon rooted in entrenched patriarchal power structures. At the same time, it highlights the increasing emergence of women and marginalized communities as political actors and rights-holders, alongside the evolution of programmatic interventions into a broader feminist movement ecosystem. Despite persistent structural challenges including entrenched patriarchy, a weak justice system, rising digital violence, child marriage, and unstable resource allocation collective efforts across districts have contributed to a strengthening trajectory of transformative change. Together, these actions signal a shift from isolated service delivery toward a sustained struggle for structural transformation, accountability, and gender justice.



**Balkumari, Lalitpur**  
**Phone No.** 01-5186073  
**Email :** ics@worecnepal.org  
**Website :** www.worecnepal.org  
**Hotline:** 1600178910