



# WHR E-newsletter

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WHR News and Info

## Widow's issue in SAARC Summit Declaration



15th SAARC Summit 2008 Declaration was held at Colombo, Srilanka.

directed to work for a regional cooperation for the elimination of all forms of discrimination and abuse against women in general and widows in particular and guarantee their rights to live in the society in a dignified manner.

The Colombo Declaration Point 32 has incorporated the issues of widows for the first time in the history of SAARC Summit which is as follow:

Point No. 32: The Heads of State or Government noted with satisfaction the increased cooperation in the region towards achieving the all important goal of bringing women fully into the mainstream of development, on the basis of gender equality. The Leaders

### Point No. 32:

The Leaders directed to work for a regional cooperation for the elimination of all forms of discrimination and abuse against women in general and widows in particular and guarantee their rights to live in the society in a dignified manner.

Lily Thapa and Prof. Radha Devi Sharma from WHR participated in the Summit for advocacy and lobby with the delegates of SAARC countries.



**WHR heartily thanks Nepal government, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare and Ministry of Foreign Affairs for working to put on Widow Charter as priority in agenda of the country and also the whole SAARC committee for addressing the issues of widows of South Asia.**

WHR also thanks Anuradha Wickramasinghe, Sanwed Core team member and focal point of Srilanka Chapter (for cooperation and arrangement at Colombo), Margaret Owen (International Focal Point) and whole SANWED team for trust and immense support to make the visit remarkable and significant for the widows of South Asia.

## Teej Celebration

Different single women groups through out the country celebrated Teej as the color as their birth right. Likewise this year, single women group of Dharmasthali celebrated Teej for the first time after they became single (widow) with the support of WHR. Single women organized singing competition related to songs of Teej. They delivered the information related to politics as well as social in form of melodious lyrics. Single women celebrated the day with other women in the community in memorable way.

## Felicitation of Single Women Constituent Assembly (CA) members

It was in the year 2005, when Cherie Blair, wife of Tony Blair declared 23 June as International Widows Day. From then onwards WHR in central and its groups in different districts have been celebrating the day with various programs.

This year of 2008 too, WHR celebrated the International Widows day honoring 51 single women CA members. The Chief Guest of the program was Sahana Pradhan, then Foreign Affairs Minister. Participants were single women CA member guests from different government and non government organizations, board members and general members of WHR from different districts, journalists and others.

During the program participants emphasized for the social security scheme of the single women (widows) and specifically incorporate their issues in the **Fundamental Rights** of the upcoming Constitution.



*"I will definitely lobby and advocate for the social security schemes for the single women in the Constituent Assembly", states Jayapuri Gharti, CA member from CPN Maoist.*

All the present single women CA members committed to advocate for the welfare of single women and incorporation of issues of single women in the Fundamental rights of Constitution.

## Danish Ambassador's visit to Kavre

His Excellency Finn Thinsled, Danish Ambassador to Nepal visited single women group of Kavre along with Lily Thapa, Shradha Pradhan and Ryoko Yonamine from WHR and Meera Ghale Gurung and Bandana Sharma from Danish Embassy. Kavre single women group had organized small interaction program. The group also visited the orange farming and coffee farming done by Kavre single women group.



*It is just to share that Kavre single women group received 60 Ropani of government land for Chhahari" Shelter" construction and orange and coffee farming last year.*

Danish Embassy is supporting single women groups of Kavre, Sindhupalchowk and Bhaktapur through loan provision for micro entrepreneur and income generating activities as livestock rearing, Vegetable farming and other income generating sources.

*WHR heartily thank Danish Ambassador, Dorothy Just and whole team of Danish Embassy for the support.*

## National workshop

WHR single women group central office conducted National Workshop with support of Danida HUGOU dated 28<sup>th</sup> August 2008 at Staff College, Jawalakhel. The workshop aimed at identification of issues of single women from grassroots level to central level to incorporate in upcoming Constitution. The Chief Guest of the program was Renu Kumari Yadav, Education Minister. Present were over 200 participants consisting single women representing 52 districts of Nepal, representatives from government and non – governmental organizations, Constituent Assembly members, board members and advisors of WHR, staffs of WHR, journalists, volunteers and many other guests.



The workshop was conducted within five different theme namely ***Provision of social security for single women, Agenda of single women in newly forming Constitution, Five year vision of WHR, Decentralized plan and policies of WHR and Declaration of single women.***

The Kathmandu declaration was passed by commitment from all the participants present in the workshop.

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## WHR as grantee of World Bank, Winner of Nepal Development Marketplace “Lau na aba ta kehi Garau” 2008

WHR became one of the 25 grantee of **Nepal Development Marketplace “Lau na aba ta kehi Garau” 2008**. WHR got the grant for the project **“Reintegration and Rehabilitation of displaced women”**.

The project has started and has already functioned for providing service for the targeted people. The services of counseling, legal provision and skill training have already started. Few displaced women have been provided with orientation.



In order to undertake activities to understand the nature and extent of impact of conflict on women, to assist conflict affected women with information pertaining to their rights and with legal services in attaining their rights, to advocate for gender sensitive approaches in the state mandate for transitional justice mechanism for Nepal and to strengthen conflict affected women through capacity building , skill development for income generation with the support of World Bank, WHR have established a separate department for Conflict affected and displaced women.

With the objective to provide services to conflict affected women and address their issues,'Raahat' has already started compiling the cases of conflict victim and also giving legal services to obtain their inheritance rights.Raahat is also providing counseling services as well as exploring opportunities for income generation to conflict victim.

## Humanitarian Effort

The flood caused much loss of life and livelihood for many people, over 50 lakhs in the Koshi region of our country Nepal. WHR in association with WAPPDCA team and ASWIF (Army Single Women and Injured Family) collected dried food products (beaten rice, rice and noodle packets) and clothes and distributed with the support of Army Wives Association "Sainik Srimati Sangha".

WHR and ASWIF extend gratitude to all the organizations, clubs and individuals who supported this noble cause.

## Art of life

Ester Ben Ari and Carmel Pelunsky volunteers from Israel and South Africa respectively took interaction and painting session with few staffs and members of WHR. They articulated the paintings and interaction into beautiful **Art**. The art portrayed the positive changes occurred in single women (widows) after affiliation with WHR Chhahari "Emergency Relief Center" for single women (widows).



*Thank you, Ester and Carmel for such a wonderful inspirational art of life.*

## Scholarship Support

WHR is supporting needy single women and their children for the continuation of education. WHR has till date supported over 600 children of single women and 20 single women from the districts of Nepal for their education.

Opportunity fund also runs emergency fund for the emergency relief to young single women. This fund is provided for the skill training, health facilities, transportation and all the related emergency problems of single women .

*WHR extends gratitude to CORE International and Incontop Fra Popoli (Italian Organization) for scholarship support in this year 2008.*

## WHR New Staff



**Rajin Rayamajhi**



**Bina Dahal**

WHR welcomes new staffs of WHR **Rajin Rayamajhi**, legal officer and **Bina Dahal**, counselor. We wish all them all the best for their future endeavors.

## Award

Manachitra Sanchar Samuha awarded WHR with "Manachitra Samman – 2064" for the major contribution of WHR in fighting against ill orthodox practices and discrimination done to single women through out Nepal and South Asia. **Hisila Yami**, then **Minister for Physical Planning and Construction** was the Chief Guest of the award ceremony.

## Congratulation !!

We would like to congratulate Sunsari and Dang District Committee for being able to get land from government for the establishment of Chhahari from local initiation.

## Editorial Board:

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