



WHR E-newsletter

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WHR News and Info

Celebrating 99th International Women's Day

International Women's Day is celebrated on 8th March as the great achievements by women and also to raise various related issues. This year of 2009's theme is "**Women and men united to end violence against women and girls**".

WHR organized a rally dated 7th March which started from Maitighar Mandala to Prime Minister Quarter at Baluwatar. The participants of the rally voiced slogans to incorporate their issues in the fundamental rights of the Constitution and provision for the social security scheme and submitted memorandum to Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal.



WHR heartily thanks all the single women members from districts and central, board members and advisors of WHR, volunteers, social mobilizers, representatives of different I/NGOs, special guests of the rally Sahana Pradhan and Daman Nath Dhungana and all the participants in the rally.

Consultation with CA members

Central office WHR conducted one day consultation with CA members dated 3rd January in collaboration with Save the Children Norway Nepal (SCNN). Present in the program were 23 Constituent Assembly members (women CA members) representing various political parties committed to work in the issues of single women, WHR central office board and staffs along with representative from supporting organization SCNN. The workshop focused on the sensitization of women Constituent Assembly members about the single women issues and on UNSCR 1325 and 1820.



The Constituent Assembly members present in the program internalized the single women issues and UNSCR 1325 and 1820 and showed their concern and enthusiasm .

There were many invaluable suggestions and commitments from the CA members which will help the organization to lobby about the issues of single women in the up coming Constitution. Many Constituent Assembly members showed their commitment to allocate the certain portion of the parliament development fund to the single women group in their respective districts.

Income generating support for the single women of Kavre

Aadhar, saving and credit department of WHR has till date provided loan worth 25 lakhs to different single women groups in the districts. As part of its regular work, Aadhar provided micro credit loan to 93 single women of Kavrepalanchok district with the support of Embassy of Denmark.

The supported loans have been used for performing multiple income generating activities such as pig rearing, buffalo rearing, vegetable farming, orange farming, coffee farming, retail shops. Within this year, there is plan to provide loan service to 200 single women of Kavre for income generating activities.



Discrimination on single women varies in terms of geography also

Vaikalya, term given to child widows of Terai region are women who get married very young but stays at their maiden home until their first menstruation. During that period, many young boys die especially due to snake bite in Terai region and in the foreign employment at neighbouring country India. As a result, the young women are left in their maiden home as Vaikalya whose situation is worse than the single women of the region.



WHR central office with the support of UNFPA launched a project to address issues of Vaikalys (child widows) to reduce the gender based violence at Terai districts namely Saptari, Siraha and Rautahat. The project focused on the identification of child widows at targeted districts, sensitization to the local stakeholders about the issues of single women program about the issue of Vaikalya with local level stakeholders along with the capacity building training to the identified single women.



WHR family refresher tour to Pokhara

WHR organized a recreation cum workshop for the staffs, volunteers and board members on 19th to 21st December at Pokhara. The tour was organized to bring out the best from the staffs as well as to divide their work and responsibility in an interesting milieu of exotic Pokhara.

Additionally, Single Women District Committee of Kaski along with the WHR central office team submitted a "Charter" to



Chief District Officer of Kaski district regarding removal of age bar in getting single women (widows)'s allowance. More than 300 single women reached CDO office for the submission of memorandum after signature campaign and peaceful rally.

WHR central office has filed a case at Supreme Court to remove the age bar of single women to get the monthly allowance. We hope to get the desired decision from the Supreme Court which will be supportive to single women for their requirements.

WHR team heartily extends gratitude to **YETI AIRLINES** for the contribution of certain amount of their ticket sale to the opportunity fund of WHR. Opportunity Fund of WHR provides scholarship to the needy single women and their children along with emergency relief service to single women.

Income generating skills to conflict affected displaced women

Rahat, department of WHR works for the conflict affected women. This department focuses on the skill training, income generating skill training, para counseling, providing employment opportunities, legal services, scholarship to their children and many other services needed to them.

On 30th January and 6th February, under the initiative of this department 10 conflict affected women were trained to make candles and incense. The trainers of the session were Poonam Rokka and Nisha Swar (Staffs of Single Women Entrepreneur Group).



Total 20 conflict affected single women were benefitted from the training. In both training, participants were enthusiastic to start using the learnt skill through some loan from Adhaar, WHR's saving and credit department.

Signature campaign all over WHR's network

All the 52 out of 75 working districts of WHR have started the signature campaign to remove the age barrier to get the widows allowance. Single Women District Committees (SWDC) of the working districts have also started the submission of Charter to their respective CDO for the same purpose.

These SWDCs are also lobbying for the incorporation of single women issues in the fundamental rights of the upcoming Constitution.



Strategic Plan Sharing meeting

WHR single women group as NGO has decided to move ahead in Strategic partnership thus, WHR has developed its five year Strategic Plan for (2009- 2014) . In this regard, WHR organized joint Strategic Partnership meeting dated 20th March 2009 at Danida HUGOU, Panipokhari. During the joint donor meeting representatives of different funding agencies were present. After the presentation of strategic and operational plan certain feedback and suggestion along with commitment was received.



WHR plans to organize second round of strategic partnership meeting in the **second week of April** where we will finalize the activities to perform in collaboration to create an impact in the lives of single women (widows).

Finding out what different religion has to say about code and conduct for single women

WHR in collaboration with The Asia Foundation conducted one day workshop at three districts namely Kailali, Dang and Banke. Religious leaders representing different religions such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity, Sikhism, Islam, Vaisaniam, Brahma Kumari and Sai religion.

In the interaction program every leader from each of the religion mentioned that none of their religious book has mentioned discriminating code of conducts against the single women. Rather they stressed that the code of conducts set for single women is just the misinterpretation of the religious quote by patriarchal society. All the religious leaders committed to share this information each and every time when they preach.



Way forward for SANWED

SANWED, an advocating network of WHR organized a conference titled "WAY FORWARD FOR SANWED" at Hotel Radisson dated 4th December with the support from the Embassy of Denmark. The conference aimed to disseminate the draft Widows' Charter, inform about the Colombo Declaration, an outcome of the 15th SAARC Summit and to share the views and seek suggestions for leading SANWED in future.

There were altogether 74 participants representing various organizations such as non government organizations, Nepal BAR association, SAARC secretariat, representatives of Ministries, media

personnels. Ms. Sahana Pradhan, Former Minister for Foreign Affairs, was the special guest for the program.



The SANWED conference was successful in meeting its objectives as set.

WHR will internalize the invaluable inputs given by participants and distinguished guests and will work accordingly to lead SANWED, an advocating network ahead.

Joint discussion panel by NA and WHR

Women for Human Rights single women group (WHR) and Nagarik Awaz (NA) jointly organized the discussion panel titled "Advocating for the Needs, Dignity and Rights of Conflict Affected Women" on 19th February 2009 at Nepal



Tourism Board. During the program, Rita Thapa- of Nagarik Awaz and Lily Thapa of WHR presented their papers related to conflict, women and justice.

The commentators for the session were Dr. Bishnu Raj Upreti (Conflict Management Specialist), Mr. Hari Rokka (Constituent Assembly members) and Ms. Chitrlekha Yadav (Former Deputy Speaker of the Lower House). Present were representatives of government offices, NGOs, INGOs, students, academicians and lawyers.

Catering Service by Single Women Entrepreneur Group (SWEAG)

Single Women Entrepreneur Group of WHR central office has started catering service in the offices, banks, agencies in the form of lunch package. Training center of WHR is also providing service of renting training halls to organizations and agencies for seminars, trainings, meetings and other purpose.



"10 single women are getting employment from SWEAG for this purpose."

Contact us for fresh delicious lunch package, catering and hospitable service

"Only with solidarity comes change, a real change"

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