



# WHR E-Newsletter

Issue 7,

October, 2009

## WHR International Chapter Australia Formally Launched

Women for Human Rights, single women group (WHR) announces the successful launch of our first International Chapter in Australia in April 2009. The formal launch event of WHR/ International Chapter Australia Incorporated was organised on Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2009 at the Korean Sydney Centre, Croydon Park in Sydney. The official logo and the website (<http://www.whraustralia.org.au/>) of the International Chapter Australia Incorporated were also launched during the occasion.



The vision of this International Chapter is to create a non discriminatory world where discrimination on the basis of marital status will not exist. To support this vision, mainstreaming the issues of widowhood into international development agenda by mobilizing widows globally so that widows are able to live dignified lives utilizing their human rights is the vision of the International Chapter. The formal launch began with lighting of the lamp by **Honourable Laurie Ferguson, Lily Thapa** and **Anjana Chalise Regmi** symbolising the unity and non-discrimination on the basis of gender and marital status.

On this occasion, **Honourable Laurie Ferguson**, Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural and Settlement Services congratulated WHR and Lily Thapa for the historical achievement of the organisation. **Honourable Deepak Khadka**, Nepalese Honorary Consul for New South Wales expressed the delightful experience of coming across the Nepalese organisation that has grown from the grassroots to the global level. He has shown his commitment of helping the organisation in achieving its objectives and mission as an International Chapter in Australia and inspired all those present in the launch to help the organisation in every ways possible. Following to this, **Anjana Chalise Regmi** (*Coordinator/ Public Relations- WHR/ ICA*) presented on the strategic action plan of WHR/ICA 2009-2011.

WHR would like to thank Anjana Chalise Regmi, Coordinator/Public Relations- WHR/ICA and the entire Management Team for their exemplary contribution and support in organizing the launching event with grand success. WHR is also very thankful to all the participants, organizations and individuals who provided their valuable support and sponsored for the launching event. WHR wishes for the success of the organization to build global network on the issues of widowhood.

## Budget Announcement on the Issues of Remarriage

The budget announcement of 2066/67 stated that the government would grant Rs.50,000 to a person who gets married with a single woman. This proposed policy is in fact humiliating to single women and has led to demoralization. Keeping in mind the terrible repercussions that this policy could have, key persons from the organization met Surendra Pandey, Minister of Finance to take this policy back and instead adopt single women friendly policies. There was no immediate response from the government.



As timely pressure, WHR central office, around 2000 single women from more than 20 districts, representatives from civil society, Human Rights activists demonstrated against the proposed policy. The rally began from Maitighar Mandala to Singhadurbar. By the end of the demonstration, there was meeting with the Finance Minister where he committed that he would look into the matter and improve the provision. As a follow up, WHR also presented a proposal to National Planning Commission with clear justification that the budget allocated should be utilized to empower single women through various skill trainings, education and other services. WHR filed a writ against the government of Nepal, Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Ministry of Finance on 12th October, 2009. This was done under Article number 107 (2) to **certiorari** and **mandamus**. There was a hearing under single bench of Supreme Court where the Honorable Justice Khim Lal Regmi made a decision for “**show cause order to government with priority**” on 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2009

## Youth Sensitive Towards Issues of Single Women

WHR with the support from European Union organized **Youth Sensitization Program** on single women issues on 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2009 at its training hall in Central Office, Baluwatar.

19 participants from different government and private colleges of Kathmandu valley participated in the program. The major objectives of the program were to sensitize youths on the issues of single women and their various challenges and to encourage them to get involved in the network of WHR.



The participants got opportunity to know about the issues and the state related to single women. They also showed their enthusiasm to get involved in WHR network in coming days.

## Interaction Program at World Trade Centre

An interaction program was organized at United World Trade Centre on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2009, regarding the government's decision to grant the couple Rs. 50,000 as incentive if a man marries a widow. The program was jointly organized by WHR, WAPPDCA and Women Security Pressure Group (WSPG).

Politicians, representatives from INGOs and NGOs, media personnel participated in the program. The participants at the program strongly condemned the government's policy and expressed their solidarity in the protest. They all agreed that such monetary incentive would rather bring negative impacts in the society and urged the government to nullify it.

## Yeti Supports WHR

Yeti Airlines, one of the well wishers of WHR supported with an amount of Rs. Two Lakh Eighty Four Thousand Four Hundred and Twenty Two which was collected from the tickets sold. The cheque was handed over by Ang Tsering Sherpa, Managing Director of Yeti Airlines at a Corporate Social Responsibility Program organized by Yeti Airlines on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2009. The fund received will be used for the construction of Chhahari for single women at Chandragadi, Jhapa.

Yeti Airlines supported three other organizations

along with WHR. Yeti Airlines has also been supporting for various activities



such as public awareness, women's empowerment, sports, health and environment by collecting Rs. 4 per ticket.

WHR heartily thanks Yeti Airlines for its support to WHR and highly appreciates its exemplary endeavour and contribution towards various sectors of development.

## Capacity Development Workshop for WHR Team

WHR with support from DED organized a workshop on Managing Development Results with Special Focus on Outcome Oriented Monitoring for WHR board and staff members. The workshop was conducted at WHR's training hall from 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2009. Mohan Damotharan, an International Expert from German was the main facilitator of the workshop while the representative from DED was Felix Neuhaus, Advisor of Democracy Promotion Program.

The main objective of the workshop was to deepen the understanding of the participants in Managing for Development Results (MfDR) and Outcome Oriented Monitoring.

During the workshop, the presently applied management approach was critically analyzed and the present Strategic and Operation Plan was modified towards outcome

orientation. The workshop also contributed towards identifying key outcomes and formulating outcome indicators for those modified outcomes.

The workshop further helped the participants to better understand the appropriate instruments to track or measure identified indicators. It also clarified them about the necessary resources and responsibilities needed in formulating an Outcome Oriented Monitoring Plan.



WHR board and staff members sincerely thank Mohan Damotharan and Felix Neuhaus for the kind cooperation received during the workshop.

## Access to Justice for Single Women

WHR with the support of European Commission conducted one day workshop on “Single women and access to justice: Problems, Challenges and Remedies” with the registrars of the district, appellate and the supreme court of Nepal and the guests from the judicial and humanitarian background on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2009.

The Chief Guest of the program was Honourable Sarada Shrestha, Former Justice to Supreme Court and distinguished guest of the program was Dr. Alexander Spachis, Head of Delegation of European Commission (EC) to Nepal.



The workshop aimed at finding out the discriminatory laws and different challenges regarding the process and support from the judicial to the single women. It also focussed on sensitizing the judicial, legal staffs regarding the issues of single women. Geeta Pathak Sangroula from Cellard and Shekhar Prasad Poudyal, District Court Judge of Udaypur presented two commendable papers.

During the workshop, the single women representatives from five development regions also shared about the challenges faced by them in the society. All the participants of the workshop committed to support single women.

## Capacity Building Training for Conflict Victim Single Women

WHR with the cooperation of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) organized two days capacity building training for conflict victim single women in Malekhu, Dhading on 4-5 July 2009. There were altogether 40 participants from 10 single women group representing 9 Village Development Committees (VDCs) of Dhading district. All the participants were single women. The facilitators of the training were Balkrishna Adhikari and Sumeera Shrestha from WHR while there was presentation of Samira Poudel from FES.

The training provided the participants an opportunity to express their feelings freely and build up their confidence. The participants shared their problem and throbbing stories. Social and legal aspects of group formation, techniques for running the group and other various aspects including capacity building through networks, knowledge and institutional means were also focused in the training.



The participants learnt how they can gather in group to fight for their rights. The training also helped the single women to build up their self-confidence and empower them to some extent.

## Sensitization Program for Media Personnel

WHR with the support of **European Union** organized a half day “**Sensitization Workshop for Media Personnel on the Issues of Single Women (Widows)**” at its Central Office, Baluwatar on 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2009. The workshop aimed at sharing the issues of single women and challenges and identifying the role of media personnel to raise public awareness on this issue.

Altogether, 27 participants from 20 different media houses participated in the workshop. The media houses included both electronic and print media namely Radio, FM, Televisions, Newspaper and Websites.

Lily Thapa, Executive Director of WHR, made a presentation on the activities carried out by WHR and the issues and challenges faced by the single women. There was active participation of all the media personnel in the workshop. The role of media in disseminating the information and advocating for the single women issues were also discussed during the workshop. They shared their views on the issues of single women and also showed interest and commitment to work together on this issue. In this regard, the inputs and suggestions provided by the participants have been found to be very fruitful and helpful.

WHR is very thankful to the media houses and the media personnel for participating in the workshop and contributing their valuable time.



WHR has produced a Public Service Announcement (PSA) on the socio-cultural discrimination against single women which is being on aired through Radio Sagarmatha 102.4 from 23<sup>rd</sup> October onwards at 7:15 AM and 7:30 PM everyday.

## NADF Supports Single Women

Dinesh Raj Joshee, Hem Raj Kafle, Madhav Prasad Gaire and Shiva Bhandari, the members of Nepalese Australian Democratic Forum (NADF) visited Women for Human Rights, single women group (WHR) central office at Baluwatar on Tuesday, October 06, 2009. On the same day, WHR received an amount of NRs. 65,000/- from NADF for the single women of Nepal. NADF collected the fund by organizing a program in Australia. They also published a calendar sensitizing people in Australia about the issues of single women which also contributed to collect some fund. The fund received to WHR will be used to construct Chhahari, "A Safe Space" for the single women.



WHR extends heartfelt gratitude to NADF for their exemplary support and contribution for a noble cause.

### Untiring Endeavor

An interaction program was organized jointly by Tewa, WHR, Nagarik Aawaj and WAPPDCA at Tewa Community Hall, Dhapakhel, Lalitpur on 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2009. The program was organized to honor and celebrate the successful completion of M.A. by Rita Thapa and PhD. by Dr. Madhuri Singh Rana. There were presentations on "Save seeds in time of famine- in war save youth women" by Ms. Thapa and "Domestic Violence in Nepal: Social, economic and psychological impact on women" by Dr. Rana which was then followed by open discussions.

WHR heartily Congratulates Dr. Madhuri Singh Rana for receiving the doctorate and Ms. Rita Thapa for successfully completing M.A.

### National Conference on Beijing +15

A two day national conference on Beijing + 15 Review was held on Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> in Kathmandu, Nepal. The program was organized by National Network for Beijing + 15 Review Nepal (NNBN) which constitutes of 50 key national NGOs including WHR. The conference was coordinated by Saathi. During the conference, papers were presented on 12 critical areas of concern and emerging issues that were pertinent in the context of Nepal. The conference was attended by around 250 women and men gender activists from all over the country.

On behalf of WHR, Sumeera Shrestha, Program Coordinator presented paper on one of the critical areas of concern "Violence Against Women" dated 13<sup>th</sup> September at Network for Beijing +15 National Review.

### Heartily Congratulations

WHR family heartily congratulates **Sadhana Shrestha**, SANWED Coordinator and Board Member of WHR for getting an opportunity at Britain Nepal Medical Trust (BNMT) as a Country Director.



### Welcome to New Staff

WHR family warmly welcomes our new staff Manju Singh Rana as Senior Programme Manager.

We wish all the best for her future endeavours.

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