



NATIONAL INDIGENOUS DISABLED WOMEN ASSOCIATION- NEPAL (NIDWAN)

MONTHLY BULLETIN

November 2020

International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

25th November to 10th December

16 Days of Activism
against Gender-based
Violence

*“Orange the
World: Fund,
Respond,
Prevent,
Collect!”*

Collective Campaign for
Collective Rights: Raising
Voice against gender,
ethnic and disability
based violence!!!! Let's
speak and Raise Voice
against all these
incidents.

- ❖ Our Solidarity-
NIDWAN Nepal

November Program Highlights

- ❖ NIDWAN Virtual Discussion Series- 17th Series update
- ❖ Workshop of Indigenous Peoples Constituency of APRCEM
- ❖ Continued Session of Mental Health & Psychosocial Counselling
- ❖ Expert Meeting on Violence against Indigenous Women and Women with disabilities with NIWF Federation and INWOLAG
- ❖ South Asia Peoples Forum on the SDGs (SAPF 2020): Protecting Rights of the People in the time of COVID-19 Crisis
- ❖ COVID-19 STORY featuring Persons with Disabilities -IV
- ❖ Meeting on Asia Regional Consultation on Indigenous Peoples Forum to IFAD
- ❖ National Consultation on Violence against Indigenous Women during the COVID-19 pandemic by NIWF Federation
- ❖ Building Movements and Strategies for AIPP, Monitoring and Evaluation Consultation with Dr. Krishna Bhattachan
- ❖ NIDWAN's Information Gallery
- ❖ Disability & HR Training/Interaction 23rd session update
- ❖ Article Feature

कनै पनि मनोसामाजिक सहयोग वा परामर्स
चाहिएमा निडवान हेल्पलाइनमा सम्पर्क गरौं

Please remember for any kind of psychosocial support

निडवान

हेल्पलाइन

१६६००१९१५३४

NIDWAN Toll Free Number

HELPLINE

16600191534

NIDWAN Virtual Discussion Series Continuation

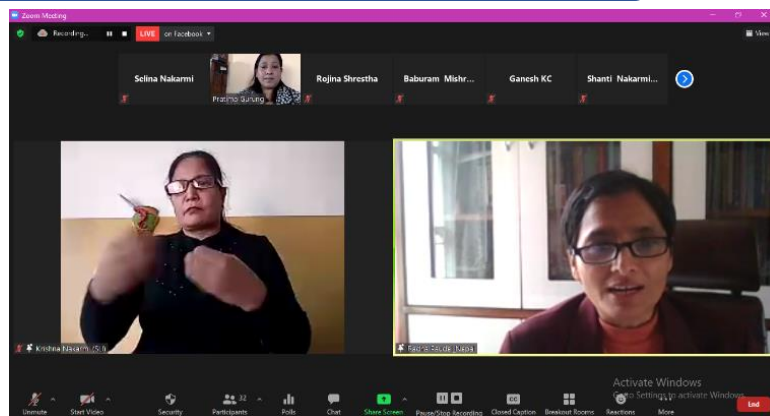
17th NIDWAN VIRTUAL DISCUSSION SERIES
१७ औं निडवान सम्बाद शृंखला
 21st November 2020, Saturday (२०७७ साल मंसिर ६ गते, शनिवार)

"Discussion on the Menstruating Women with Disabilities during COVID-19 Pandemic and its Safety Measures"
 कोभिड १९ को महामारीमा अपाङ्गता भएका महिलाहरूमा हुने महिनाबारी र त्यसका सुरक्षा उपायहरू सम्बन्धी छलफल

Guest Speaker: Ms. Radha Paudel
 Nurse, Activist & Founder, Global South Coalition for Dignified Menstruation
 Time: 11:00am- 1:30pm
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81446603548>

Moderator: Ms. Pratima Gurung
 President, NIDWAN
 Nidwan Nepal (live)
 Zoom ID: 814 4660 3548
 (Sign Language Interpretation will be provided simultaneously)

राष्ट्रिय आदिवासी जनजाति अपाङ्ग महिला संघ नेपाल (निडवान)



17th NIDWAN Virtual Discussion Series: Discussion on the Menstruating Women with Disabilities during COVID-19 Pandemic and its Safety Measures

Guest Speaker: Ms. Radha Paudel, Nurse, Activist and Founder of Global South Coalition for Dignified Menstruation (21st November)

Program Highlights: Ms. Paudel elaborated on the natural process of menstruation in women since an early age and described on the detailed biological process of menstruation in women and informed menstruation as the bursting of the inner lining of the uterus, rich in blood vessels which sheds if pregnancy does not occur. Followed by it, she described the limited perspectives of our society in regards to menstruation where girl child and women are not allowed or restricted to talk, learn and practice healthy techniques, adopt safety measures, and so on. In addition, she mentioned on the development of the medical science in many sectors like the brain, muscles, bones, kidneys, heart, organs, and other systems while it has been only few years where the working of the ovaries and menstruation cycles have been studied. While these topics are very much crucial and important in terms of giving birth and maintaining the genetic cycle through the progeny in human beings. Giving examples from the *Paropakar* Maternity & Women's Hospital, also known as *Prasuti Griha*, is the oldest maternity hospital with the history of 60 years which provided numerous facilities related to the child birth such as the use of contraceptives for birth spacing, safe abortions but they do not talk or make campaigns related to menstruation in young girls and women. Further, she mentioned the outcomes of not being open and abiding by the scientific facts that promotes many myths that are widely disseminated and false concepts linking with traditional beliefs and customs. She also provided numerous examples from an uneducated girl or woman to highly educated girls and women and from village to urban context, the traditional practices and prohibitions they faced during menstruation including LGBTIQ and queer people. Linking it to the Nepalese context and describing the scenario from Eastern to Western Nepal, she shared the field stories and ground context and elaborated on the wide practices of living separately and following all the practices strictly mostly in Western Nepal and also mentioned on *Chhaupadi Goth*, (*small hut without door and sunlight*), unsanitary conditions, and practices while living in such *Goths* and even simple practices that are widely practiced in city areas like Kathmandu (not sleeping in the same bed with husband, not entering in kitchen and prepare foods, not engaging in social functions, living separately in a different rooms and many more). Shedding light upon the social and private life, she further added the issues faced in villages like strict following up of traditional believes, lack of sanitary pads and other required materials during the menstruations, not being able to eat healthy, sour and spicy foods, etc. which she has learned during conducting programs in various parts of Nepal. She also added the term 'Menstruation' have either a very critical or nominal effect on the lives of every woman and is widely practiced in each and every part of Nepal and the world.

Contd... Linking it with the basic human rights and violence against women, she elaborated on what 'Dignified Menstruation' actually refers to and more on the legal provisions provided by Nepal and need to sensitize women and youths more about 'Dignified Menstruation' and breaking the silos. Likewise, she also described how the issues and challenges related to menstruation have been left out from the individual level to the society and ultimately in the rules, provisions, policies, and services provided by the government. Further, she linked the lack of accessible forms of awareness raising materials and means for persons with disabilities mainly the young girls and women with disabilities to sensitize them on menstruation. Focusing on the women and girls having an intellectual disability, autisms, and Down syndrome, she elaborated and shared the examples of critical issues and challenges faced by these groups including their family members and caretakers. Studies both in national and international context have revealed that the persons having these kinds of disabilities have been given medicines and pills that obstruct the menstruation, some were even operated on to prevent their menstrual cycle. In Australia, later these provisions were eradicated when the disability movement got more limelight and the issues related to human rights were more faced. The issues like the use of medicines, hiding them from the society, using critical measures to oppress the young girls and women having such disabilities, issues related to economic condition to buy the basic necessities for menstruation, government facilities regarding these needs were also discussed. Not limited to the national policies and provisions, even while implementing the articles of UNCRPD and SDGs goals one should consider the sensitivity of the menstruation and the necessary steps and indicators to be indicated to consider the menstruation as 'Dignified Menstruation'. She also shared the limited or no researches and studies conducted on the topic of Menstruation or Dignified Menstruation and disability except for Australia, Eastern Europe, America, New Zealand (studies only on intellectual disability and menstruation).

Suggestions: Ms. Paudel suggested the initiatives to be taken from both private and government sector for not only building and providing disability-inclusive infrastructures and facilities but also to consider these basic requirements that are very essential during such period including the health facilities. While considering the aspects of dignified menstruation, the whole lifecycle of women is to be considered in the process.

Workshop of Indigenous Peoples Constituency of APRCEM

Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact and Indigenous Peoples Human Rights Defenders - IPHRD Network conducted a workshop of Indigenous Peoples Constituencies in APRCEM, Building Back Better through Indigenous Peoples Agency, Institutions and Knowledge: Challenges and Opportunities on the 28th of November. The program constitutes panel discussion, break out session and plenary session for setting the common agenda. The panelists includes: Ms. Joan Carling, Coordinator of Indigenous Peoples Major Group for Sustainable Development (IPMG), Mr. Gam A. Shimray, Secretary general of AIPP, Ms. Pratima Gurung, Chair, NIDWAN, and Ms. Chandra Tripura, Secretary Bangladesh Indigenous Cultural Forum while Ms. Guangchunliu Gangmei, Program Coordinator of Human Rights Campaign & Policy Advocacy, AIPP moderated the session. Ms. Gurung highlighted on the numerous issues and the challenges faced by persons with disabilities during COVID, however, she also reflected COVID as an opportunity to work at community level and a means to reach different right holders and stakeholders existing in different forms. She emphasized to have inclusive, participatory and consultative discussion at all levels with marginalized groups like women and persons with disabilities in COVID response, recovery, and building back better. According to her, it is a crucial time to reflect on us as Indigenous Peoples Organizations to reach a wider audience and comprehensive approach to assure leaving no one behind.

 **Workshop of Indigenous Peoples constituency of APRCEM**

Building back better through Indigenous Peoples agency, institutions and knowledge : Challenges and opportunities

28th November 2020 at 2PM to 4PM (GMT +7)

Moderator

 **Guangchunliu Gangmei**
Programme Coordinator of Human Rights Campaign & Policy Advocacy, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)

Programme

- Panel Discussion
- Break out session
- Plenary : setting common agenda

Panelist

 **Joan Carling**
Co-convenor of the Indigenous Peoples Major Group for Sustainable Development (IPMG).

 **Pratima Gurung**
Chair, National Indigenous Disabled Women Association Nepal (NIDWAN)

 **Gam A. Shimray**
Secretary General, AIPP

 **Chandra Tripura**
Secretary Bangladesh Indigenous Cultural Forum

Register
<https://aipp.org/indigenous-peoples-constituency-2020-november-28th>

 **INDIGENOUS PEOPLES PACT AND IPHRD NETWORK**

For questions, please contact at aprcem@aprcem.org

Continued session of Mental Health & Psychosocial Counselling

Continuing the session of Mental Health and Psychosocial Counselling in the month of November only one session has been conducted. The session was started in the close coordination of KOSHISH, National Mental Health Self Help Organization and NIDWAN. The virtual session was conducted with the support of Dr. Sagoon KC, Psychologist of KOSHISH. The details of the session are presented below:

Session 4: *Identifying and addressing symptoms related to Mental & Psychosocial Health Problems* (10th November)

Topics covered: Review on the types of mental health problems with reference to the WHO; importance of psychosocial counseling to the patients, persons with disabilities, family members, and even to the caretakers; sharing problems and experiences from the participants, addressing their queries; introduction to Conversion Disorder; myths and false concepts of the disorder; forms of excessive stress-excessive stress released in the form of physical symptoms, less or limited knowledge of stress releasing techniques or measures, changed environment and no means to release or reduce the stress; treatment of the disorder via the use of medicine and counseling; identifying the root cause and tackling it with the help of counselors and family members; concept on the Secondary gain; ways to address the disorder-Psychological intervention upon the Conversion disorder, identifying the patterns of symptoms, the possibility of stress management, identifying the close circle and apply certain techniques to tackle the issue or source of stress; necessary steps for the mass hysteria/ Conversion disorder in larger mass- the importance of isolating the first case with the rest of the mass, continued observation, preventing them for self-harm or harming others seek necessary support through psychosocial counselors.

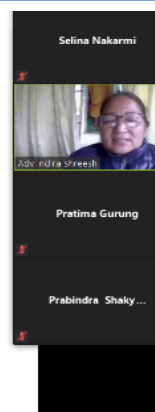
At the end of the session, Ms. Pratima Gurung thanked KOSHISH for the support and Ms. KC for her contribution.

Expert Meeting on Violence against Indigenous Women and Women with disabilities with NIWF Federation and INWOLAG

Many of the government data and researches have indicated that indigenous women and women with disabilities have been facing numerous and critical forms of violence including rape and murder. In 2019, NIDWAN with the support of MADRE has initiated research on violence against indigenous women and women with disabilities. The research aims to identify the ground scenario and different forms of violence that existed within the Nepalese context and basically faced by the indigenous women with disabilities in both the private and public sphere. The methodology of the research includes primary and secondary data collection. Primary data collection included expert meetings, key informant interviews, surveys, and focus group discussions while secondary data collection methods included a collection of information from online media. In regards to the expert meetings, two consecutive meetings were held in the month of November. The expert meeting focused on information such as: Different forms of violence against Indigenous Women/Girls and Women with disabilities (Manifestation of VAW: ground scenario, recent context); Legal perspective, provisions, differences in the nature and types of violence in regards to Indigenous Women and non-Indigenous Women in Nepal, access to justice mechanism of Nepal, Gaps & Challenges; Data: quantitative data, un/reported cases, victims who got justice; Past experiences, success and unsuccessful attempts, specific cases during the COVID-19 pandemic; Role of NIWF Federation and INOWLAG for the access to justice mechanism, activities conducted, and way forwards, how to integrate IPOs and other CSOs in the process. Expert meetings with the NIWF Federation and INWOLAG team were conducted on the 11th and 19th of November in presence of the staff and members of the organizations.

Cases

- Sita Rai vs. Nepal government, Immigration department Kathmandu (Rape, corruption, cheating)
- DIG Parbati Thapa Vs. Prime minister and at all (Public service)
- Msr. Gole vs. Managing Director of Nepal Rastre Bank and et all (Internal Human Trafficking)
- Susila Tamang vs. S hrestha (Murder)
- Purna Thapa, Bimala Gurung vs. TU.
- Angsu Gurung Vs. Oso Topoban (Cyber crime)
- Sarita Pulami vs BK (Acid)
- Lila Thapa vs. Chet B thapa (Attempt to Murder) Banke



South Asia Peoples Forum on the SDGs (SAPF 2020): Protecting Rights of the People in the time of COVID-19 Crisis

In the month of November (22nd & 23rd), the South Asia Peoples Forum on the SDGs conducted a two days program on SAPF2020: Protecting Rights of the People in the time of COVID-19 crisis with the support from various organizers and co-organizers. During the program NIDWAN being a member of SDGs National Network Nepal supported zoom services for two of the sessions (Session 6 and 7) for the program. In total, formal inaugural session followed by eleven different thematic and parallel sessions and formal closing sessions were conducted. Details of the program are provided below:

Day I (22nd November)

Inaugural session- Moderation: Mr. Daya Sagar Shrestha, Focal Point at Asia Pacific Regional CSOs Engagement Mechanism (AP-RCEM) and Chairperson, National Campaign for Sustainable Development Nepal
Welcome Remark: Mr. Mohamed Mubeen, Secretary General, Maldives Association of Persons with Disabilities
Keynote Speech: Mr. Wali Haider, Co-chair, Asia Pacific Regional CSOs Engagement Mechanism/Society For Roots of Equity

Guest Remarks:

Ms. Devika Malik, Co-founder Wheeling Happiness Foundation

Mr. Ahmed Irash, Policy Director and Registrar of NGOs (Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment)
Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Head, UN-ESCAP South and South West Asia Office

Vote of Thanks: Ms. Annie Namala, Wada Na Todo Abhiyan India

Parallel Thematic Session First Round:

Session 1: Economy, livelihood, employment, SM business, informal sector workers, migration

Session 2: Right to health, education, social protection

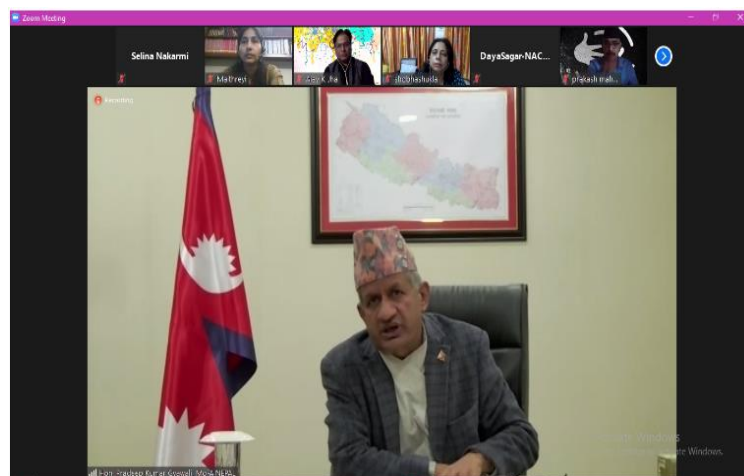
Session 3: Civic Space, Peace, justice, fundamental freedom, democracy, good governance and anti-corruption

Parallel Thematic Sessions-Second Round:

Session 4: Castism and discrimination

Session 5: Regional cooperation

Session 6: Environmental, climate justice, Disaster



Day II (23rd November)

Thematic Session- First Round:

Session 10: Progress on the SDGs South Asia

Parallel Thematic Sessions:

Session 7: Patriarchy and Gender Justice

Session 8: Leaving No One Behind, minorities, marginalized communities, and vulnerable groups

Session 9: Open, just and inclusive recovery

Thematic Sessions-Second Round

Session 11: Financing for Development

Closing session: Moderation: Mr. Ajay Jha, Centre for Community Economics and Development Consultants Society (CECOEDECON)

Sharing conclusions of thematic sessions: by rapporteurs

Sharing draft declaration: Dr. Jyotsna Mohan Singh, Asia Development Alliance

Guest Remarks

Ms. Aishath Saadh, Deputy Director General, National Planning and SDGs coordination, Ministry of National Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, Government of Republic of Maldives

H.E. Mr. Esala Ruwan Weerakoon, Secretary-General, SAARC Secretariat (tbc)

Hon. Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Minister, Foreign Affairs, Government of Nepal/Chair, SAARC (tbc)

Vote of Thanks: Mr. Imad Mohammad and Mr. Daya Sagar Shrestha

COVID-19 STORY featuring Persons with Disabilities -IV

Story 5: I am a permanent resident of Bhoraksheni VDC of Ramechhap district and currently living in the Godavari Municipality-9 at Lalitpur. Describing **my disability, I am physically disabled and cannot not walk due to polio at the age of 4.** Regarding my family, my mother passed away when I was very young so my father married another women and now I live together with my father and step- mother, my wife and my daughter. **Even my wife is disabled. During the Nepal's People's War, she lost two of her fingers on her left hand and her left eye.**

I work in a non-governmental organization and is the only employed member of my family. Due to the limited income, we are facing numerous problem. In addition due to the COVID-19 lockdown and our disability, more problems have been added as we have limited mobility, due to abrupt lockdown offices have been shut down, we don't have enough money to buy daily necessities and are not able to stock the food grains. For persons with disabilities like us and in times of uncertainties like this, having a job and saving seems very crucial.

Likewise I would like to share that I have found a lot of differences in the peoples' perspective in village and city areas. In village, the social stigma and stereotypes is deeply rooted due to which the disabled people are viewed and treated very differently and also discriminated. Even my own aunt looks at me very differently. Since then, I have lost the courage to speak out against society because I don't have any support. The society needs to change its attitude towards the disabled people. Many people are educated in the city due to which the language used and attitude towards disabled people is changing. It is still difficult for disabled people to be acknowledged in their home, family and society. With the continuous support of various organizations and the Government of Nepal, the image of disabled people is slowly changing. They should be encouraged, loved, trusted, supported, educated,

Story 6: I am a 28 year old guy from Kavre. I became disabled after I developed high fever when I was small. Since my family used to believe more *in Dhami & Jhakris* than the doctors and general physicians, I became like this. I cannot walk and need support to walk. I work for a travel agency and support my family expenses through the earnings. Suddenly the Corona virus started spreading all over the world in the last couple of months and impacted most of the sectors majorly the lives and livelihood of poor and disabled people. On one hand, the implementation of the lockdown is a very good thing to control the spread of the virus, however on the other hand, it is very difficult for a person with disability, like me to work and be able to earn enough to eat in the morning as well as in the evening.

Sometimes I feel very sad when I look at our government. They should provide relief to disabled people having different needs. We, disabled people have not received the relief items yet. Even if we have, it is very hard for us to access it. Despite the relief, we also do not have cash with us and since the shops are closed we cannot buy things as well. We want the government to pay special attention to the persons with disabilities. I was able to pay for food and rent with my work but due to this lockdown it has become very hard for me. This pandemic has taught a good lesson to me. Given this miserable situation, the government should arrange both lodging and fooding facilities including our basic necessities. I am afraid now as we have not been able to pay the house rent and it is very likely that the house owner will evict us from the house.



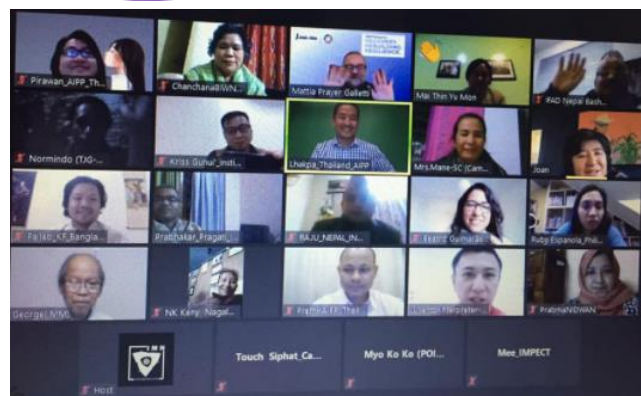
Meeting on Asia Regional Consultation on Indigenous Peoples Forum to IFAD

On the 26th of November, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) conducted an Asia regional consultation that focused on the inclusion of disability in overall governing body, structure, program and activities of IFAD (proposal calls, ICT materials, information dissemination and others). The discussion broadly mentioned on the inclusion of women, youth and peoples with disabilities issues and linking food security and disability. Ms. Pratima Gurung, President of NIDWAN attended the discussion and provided inputs on the means and ways to include disability and integrate intersectional perspective in the future activities of IFAD.

Story 6 contd....: If such situation comes, I don't know how we will manage and where we will go. This is a very critical and challenging situation for me and for the people like us. Even though, if I return back to the village, the environment is not disable friendly. In addition, someone has to carry me if I move back to my village and I would not be able to get all the facilities which I am getting here. I would like to ask the government, how can I survive in this situation? Previously, in spite of our disability, we were still working and managing our life. But now how we will find a job. Who will give us a job? The government has to take responsibility and provide us with the job. The past six months have really been tough for me and I don't know what I will do if I had to go through the same situations again.

National Consultation on Violence against Indigenous Women during the COVID-19 pandemic by NIWF Federation

Internationally from the 25th of November to the 10th of December is celebrated as the 16 Days Activism on Violence against Women. Commemorating the event, NIWF Federation conducted a program entitled 'National consultation on violence against indigenous women during the COVID-19 pandemic' on the 28th of November with the national slogan 'Commitment to End Gender-Based Violence: Solidarity of Individuals, Society, and Family' (लैङ्गिक हिंसा अन्त्यको प्रतिबद्धता: ब्यक्ती, समाज र परिवारको एक्यवद्धता). During the program, Ms. Yam Kumari Khatiwada, secretary of Ministry of Women, Children, and Senior Citizen and other experts presented on various forms of violence against indigenous women during the pandemic, the steps taken against the violence, way forwards and suggestions. Ms. Ganga Channtyal and Ms. Rasmi Waiba Tamang from NIDWAN attended the program. The consultation also integrated the joint report submitted to the special rapporteur on violence against women in the consortium by the women-led organization, the evidence collection procedure, and documentation process, justice mechanism, and many others.



Building Movements and Strategies for AIPP, Monitoring and Evaluation Consultation with Dr. Krishna Bhattachan

On the 11th of November, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) organized an evaluation and monitoring consultation meeting in Nepal regarding the mainstreaming of youth in the activities of AIPP and the young indigenous women and indigenous youth with disabilities issues (disability inclusion). Dr. Krishna Bhattachan was the moderator of the consultation. Staffs and members of NIDWAN and NIWF Forum were present in the consultation. Further, the consultation focused on how AIPP could integrate the youth-led activities in its program. The consultation is one of the 14 consultations conducted with different nations for the preparation of the annual assessment report of AIPP.

NIDWAN's Information Gallery

16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence 2020

1 in 3 woman experience violence over the course of their life.

Source: UN

Women with disabilities are 2 times more likely to get sexually assaulted

Source: UN VAWG with Disabilities, 2013

Indigenous women are 3.5 times more likely to experience violence

Source: Native Women's Association of Canada

STAND UP AGAINST GENDER, ETHNIC AND DISABILITY BASED VIOLENCE!

#NIDWAN

For more information:
 National Indigenous Disabled Women Association Nepal
 nidwan2015@gmail.com | 977-9841457270; 9803016859
 Toll free number: 16600191534
 Website: www.nidwan.org.np | Facebook: nidwannepal (https://www.facebook.com/profile)

In Past 7 Years

6,336 Girls

7,664 Women

Have Been RAPED in Nepal

Source: Nayapatrika, 30 Nov, 2020

Respond, Raise, Collect and Speak up!
 Together against gender, ethnic and disability Based Violence!

#NIDWAN

For more information:
 National Indigenous Disabled Women Association Nepal
 nidwan2015@gmail.com | 977-9841457270; 9803016859
 Toll free number: 16600191534
 Website: www.nidwan.org.np | Facebook: nidwannepal (https://www.facebook.com/profile)

Let's Fight and Raise Our Collective Voices Against Gender, Ethnic and Disability based Violence

Indigenous women and girls with disabilities suffer higher rates of...

School dropout Unemployment

Poverty Violence

Illness and death Maternal mortality

DISCRIMINATION **STEREOTYPING**

GENDER **POVERTY**

INJUSTICE **ETHNICITY**

DISABILITY **MARGINALIZATION**

SOCIAL STIGMA

Source: UN Women Factsheet 2019

For more information:
 Website: www.nidwan.org.np
 nidwan2015@gmail.com | 977-9841457270; 9803016859
 Toll free number: 16600191534
 Facebook: nidwannepal (https://www.facebook.com/profile)

ONLY LESS THAN 40% OF WOMEN WHO EXPERIENCE VIOLENCE REPORT IT OR SEEK HELP.

-UN Women

Believe the survivors!

Support!

Speak up!

Together against gender, ethnic and disability Based Violence!

#NIDWAN

For more information:
 National Indigenous Disabled Women Association Nepal
 nidwan2015@gmail.com | 977-9841457270; 9803016859
 Toll free number: 16600191534
 Website: www.nidwan.org.np | Facebook: nidwannepal (https://www.facebook.com/profile)

Article Feature

Nepal: For persons with disabilities from minority and indigenous communities, the greatest barrier to accessing assistive technologies is discrimination

Link:

<https://minorityrights.org/trends2020/nepal/?fbclid=IwAR19bplz6aYEZj1sKJzJIEQQsnWKb1k3XgvpvdNReokmgvPpVTqoUwtbPOk>

Access to appropriate technologies for persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and other marginalized groups can deliver wide ranging benefits, fostering equality, non-discrimination and participation in society. With new generations of screen reading software for those who are blind or visually impaired, improved mobility devices such as wheelchairs for physically disabled users and other assistive technologies, the potential to transform the lives of the millions of indigenous persons with disabilities in developing countries is immense. Yet access to technology continues to be characterized by a growing gap between those who are technology-rich and those who are technology-poor, in the process deepening the existing disparities between dominant groups and those belonging to marginalized groups, including indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities.

- **Lack of access to information:** 'Even if there are provisions for receiving assistive devices for persons with disabilities, those may not reach indigenous peoples, as the information circulates in urban settings, within networks of a few Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) to which most marginalized groups may not have access.'

- **Administrative hurdles:** 'The procedural requirements may represent more barriers since the documentations and forms may not be provided in accessible formats and appropriate languages. Forms, recommendations, information on rights, procedures for applications, follow up, time frames and legal formalities remain challenges for individuals from these groups as most are not familiarized with institutional and legal structures.'

- **Physical distance:** 'Geographical remoteness is also an obstacle for indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities as travelling to a headquarters or city and going through procedures can take several days and is costly.'

- **Unaffordability:** 'These groups may not be able to afford technologies because of the high costs, maintenance requirements and lack of training and literacy. The absence of initiatives to educate people in this regard can be compounded by the limited information technology infrastructure available for indigenous peoples in rural areas.'

- **Culturally inappropriate technologies:** 'If people manage to have access to the technology, they might still not be able to use it properly due to the lack of a disability, social and cultural friendly environment. For example, the wheelchair provided might not be the right size or according to the needs of the disability, or environment and cultural friendly. During our home visits, we have noticed wheelchairs used for keeping clothes and pots and crutches used for chasing chickens in the fields.'

Activate Windows

Disability and Human Rights Training/ Interaction Continuation

Virtual training/interaction entitled 'Interaction on Disability and Human Rights' in joint collaboration of Center of Independent Living for Persons with Disabilities- Kathmandu (CIL Kathmandu), National Indigenous Disabled Women Association Nepal (NIDWAN), National Association of the Sign Language Interpreters Nepal (NASLI- Nepal) and in the coordination of National Disabled Journalist Association Nepal Disability Development Forum- Bajhang, Disability Women's Association- Rupandehi, ReCed-Tanahu, Rural Disability Concern Center-Dhanusha & Disability Development Association- Udayapur had a single session in November. The resource person of the 23rd Session was Ms. Rita Sah, Writer and Activist. Ms. Sah discussed the Issues of Madeshi persons with disabilities on the 10th of November.

FUTURE EVENTS

- Preparation and sending invites for three national consultations on persons with disabilities and COVID-19, indigenous women with disabilities and preparation for 2nd World Conference of Indigenous women and preparation for Global Disability Summit 2022.
- Continuation of NIDWAN Weekly Virtual Discussion Series on Saturday & Disability & Human Rights Training on Tuesday
- Planning for NIDWAN Advisory Meeting

CONTACT

National Indigenous Disabled Women Association-Nepal (NIDWAN)

Lalitpur Metropolitan City, Kusunti

Post Box No 21535

nidwan2015@gmail.com, info@nidwan.org.np

+977-9841457270, +977-9863191534

www.nidwan.org.np

Social Media: Facebook-Nidwan Nepal Twitter: NidwanNepal

