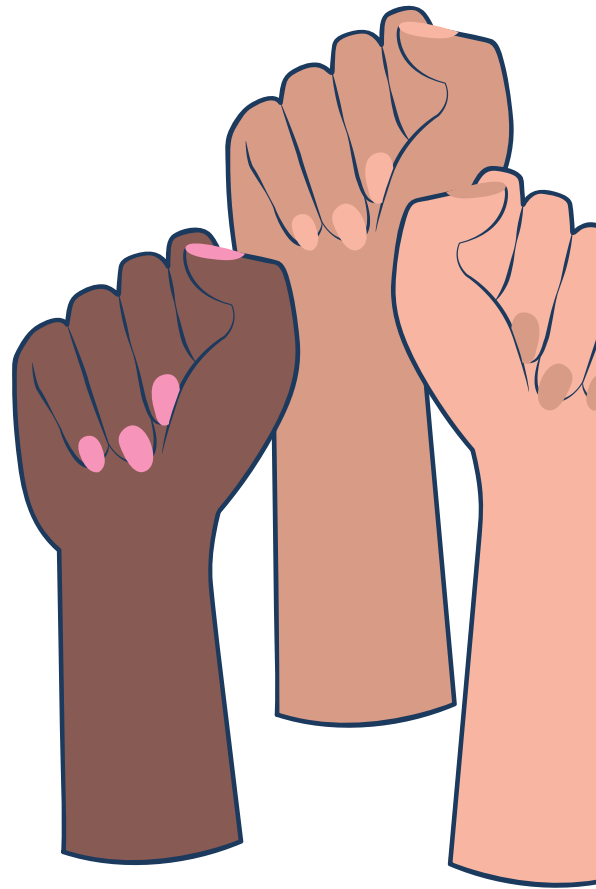


tarangini foundation

Tarangini During Lockdown

News and features

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About us

Tarangini Mahila Adhikar Prashikshyan Kendra (Tarangini Foundation), established in 2017, is a non-profitable organization working on an initiative for integrated security and feminist documentation. The Sanskrit word 'tarangini' means tranquility in English. This term was chosen for the institute because it better represents the harmonious relationship among the women who have been engaging in the feminist movement of Nepal since long. Tarangini Foundation was established to reclaim and save the feminist gains by accelerating the documentation process.



Turning Difficulties Into Opportunities

Countries around the world, including Nepal, are currently under full or partial lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All non-governmental organizations in our country were also closed from May 24, 2020. But, as part of an ongoing feminist movement, we, at Tarangini Foundation, did not stop working. Instead, we started investigating possibilities for turning this adversity into an opportunity to advocate for structural change. COVID pandemic brought the world to a halt and drew the attention of world leaders towards its mitigation and management. But it did not stop the rape of a woman in a mismanaged quarantine of Nepal. Violence against women persisted. And it also did not stop the oppression against women and the denial of women's rights. We have witnessed the pandemic of discrimination against poor and marginalized people and the pandemic violence against women for centuries. These pandemics created by global capitalist patriarchal institutions have killed many more people in the past, which has intensified and surfaced during the present COVID-19 crisis. This situation was not discussed before the pandemic, as it deserved to get discussed. Nor is it being discussed now.

Therefore, we at Tarangini Foundation felt the need to bring these issues to the surface and initiate dialogue with different stakeholders virtually. For this, we have been regularly conducting virtual interaction programs with different people and groups active for human rights, justice, and service delivery from the ground level along with the people who have been pushed to the margins. Duty bearers from local, provincial and federal governments, women human rights defenders, journalists, along with people directly affected by established structures such as women, gender and sexually diverse group, working women, migrant workers (women) were the participants in these interactions. It aimed to make the voices of voiceless people heard and support them to cope with the present crisis.

Similarly, the interactions aimed to advocate for the change in structures which have pushed people into margins since centuries, making it difficult for them to reach for support, despite the government's willingness and commitment. These webinars and the support of WHRDs to connect women from the ground made it possible to make the voices from the ground heard by parliamentarians, policymakers, journalists, along with several other responsible authorities. Solidarity, support, and standing together for justice has made it possible for us to raise women's issues, make invisible issues visible and ease the lives of people, by creating support mechanisms. We know there is a long way to go, and it is not easy however, we, as WHRDs, have always taken the challenge and will be taking the challenges in the future too. Our commitment to justice will never allow us to stop. Our activism continues. Our trust in justice has been able to lay the foundation for more strong and vibrant women's movement and our passionate actions continue to nurture the movement. As always, we are thankful to all those who are willing to flow in this ocean, despite strong tides and very much look forward to being a part of a much stronger movement for justice, and equality. We trust that at this difficult time, we need to strengthen our solidarity despite the need for physical distance.

“Physical distancing,
social solidarity!!!”



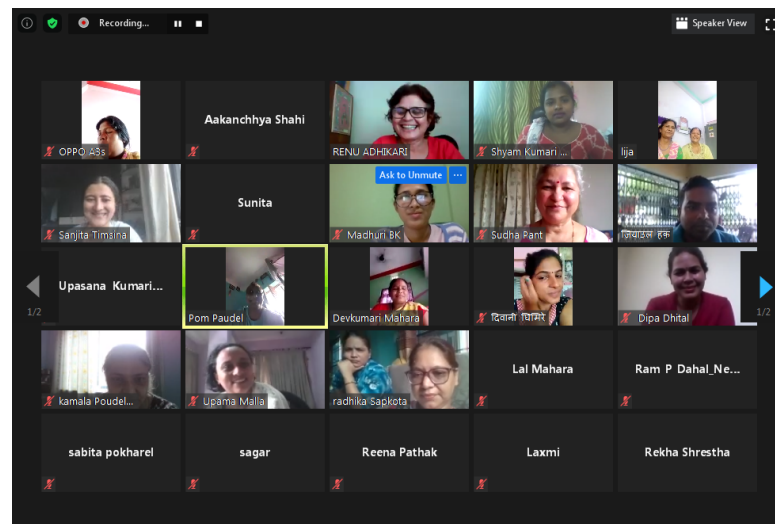
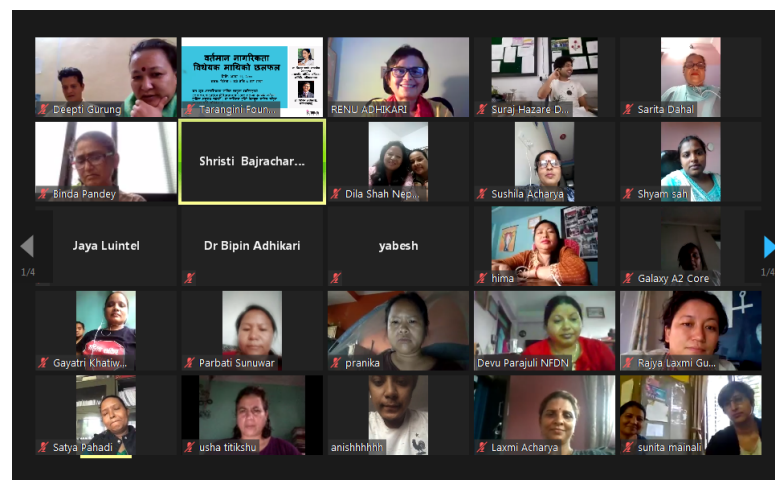
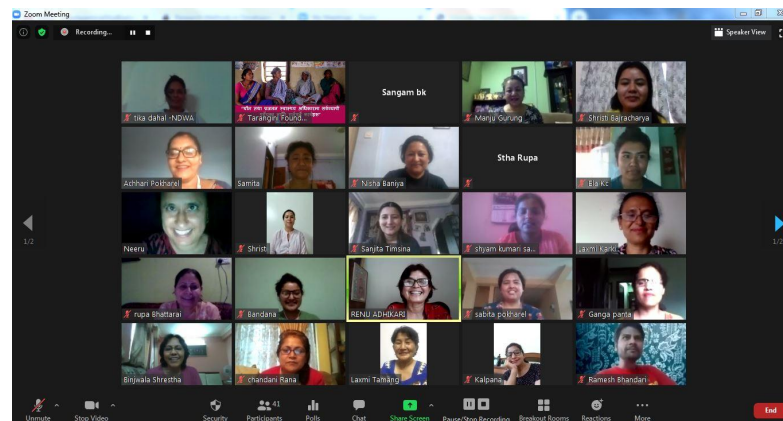
Dr. Renu Adhikari
Chairperson
Tarangini Foundation/National
Alliance of Women Human Rights Defenders

Events

We organized a series of webinars during the COVID-19 lockdown period, through virtual mediums. These webinars aimed to bring out the voices of those who have always been silenced and most affected by the country's patriarchal structure and capitalist economy.

- Interaction with mayors, deputy mayors and parliamentarians on the initiatives and plans at the local level for the prevention and effective management of COVID-19 pandemic (May 16)
- Interaction with women journalists about their challenges during COVID-19 pandemic and recommendation to stakeholders. (May 17)
- Follow-up interaction with psycho-social counselors trained by Tarangini Foundation (May 20)
- Interaction with journalists and WHRDs of province 5 about the issues faced by community people during lockdown (May 22)
- Access to Justice: Interaction between the Federal/Provincial Parliamentarians, District Coordination Committee, Local Government and WHRDs (May 28)
- Interaction about SRHR and its challenges in COVID-19 pandemic (May 30)
- Self-care and stress management workshop for frontline workers (June 2)
- Interaction about mental health status and challenges in COVID-19 pandemic (June 4)
- Gender-sensitive/responsive budget training for the local government by experts (June 6)
- Necessary actions to address gender-based violence (GBV) in lockdown (June 7)
- Necessary actions to address the issues of pregnant and lactating women during lockdown (June 15)
- Necessary actions for the universal access to sexual and reproductive health rights (June 17)
- Self-care and stress management workshop for front-line psycho-social counselors (June 19)

- Relevance and future directions of ILO convention 190 in the context of Nepal (June 21)
- Discussion on the current Citizenship Amendment Bill (June 25)
- Follow-up and feedback session for 4th batch (5th and 7th July)
- Closing ceremony for Psycho-social Counseling Training group (July 6)
- Book discussion : Samanata ka pailaharu (July 10)
- Self-care session for Deputy and Chairs (22-28 July)
- Interaction with writer, journalists, activists and parliamentarians (July 24)
- Tarangini board member meeting (July 26)



OTHER FORMS OF ADVOCACY

In addition to the webinars, Tarangini Foundation/NAWHRD has been continuously advocating for change by sending out press releases, demand letters, and letters of concern. After the COVID-19 lockdown was implemented in Nepal, we sent out an appeal letter demanding the health rights of pregnant and lactating women and people living with chronic illnesses, as well as the rights of women and girls to live a life free from violence.



महिला मानवअधिकार रक्षकहरूको राष्ट्रिय सञ्जाल
"National Alliance of Women Human Rights Defenders"
(NAWHRD)

मिति: बैशाख १, २०७७ काठमाडौं,

“कोरोना भाइरसको दुष्प्रभावबाट बच्न भएको बन्दाबन्दीमा “गर्भवती सुत्केरी महिला एवं दिर्घ रोगी व्यक्तिको स्वास्थ्यको अधिकार एवं महिला र बालिकाको हिंसा मुक्त बाच्न पाउने अधिकार सुनिश्चित गर्न”

On 26 April, we sent out another appeal letter demanding with the government to ensure the rights of pregnant women and religious groups, within the prevention activities of COVID-19. Both these appeals were successful in drawing the attention of government stakeholders towards the plight of pregnant and lactating women in lockdown. The Ministry of Women, Children, and Senior Citizens has now issued a guideline for the operation of quarantines during the COVID-19 pandemic. This guideline specifically states that the quarantines should be women, children, and senior citizen-friendly, and mandates for provisions such as separate toilets.



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"National Alliance of Women Human Rights Defenders"
(NAWHRD)

मिति: १४ वैशाख २०७७, काठमाडौं,

कोभिड-१९ को नियन्त्रण कार्य अन्तर्गत धार्मिक समुह एवं सुत्केरी हुने महिलाहरूको अधिकार सुनिश्चितताका लागि महिला मानव अधिकार रक्षक राष्ट्रिय सञ्जालको अपिल

On International Day of Action for Women's Health on 28 May, we sent out a press release demanding a time-sensitive response from all concerned stakeholders to mitigate the issues of women's sexual and reproductive health rights. We also suggested the government to mainstream and prioritize gender equality in government's plans, programs, and policies, without which achievement in women's sexual and reproductive health rights is impossible.



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"National Alliance of Women Human Rights Defenders"
(NAWHRD)

Press Release: International Day of Action for Women's Health

28 May, 2020

Kathmandu, Nepal

May 28 is also an important day in Nepal for the celebration of its 13th Republic Day and 2nd National Women's Rights Day. On this occasion, we appealed to both federal and local governments to start a campaign for social transformation by eliminating the discrimination rampant in the community.



महिला मानवअधिकार रक्षकहरूको राष्ट्रिय संजाल
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गणतन्त्र दिवस तथा दोस्रो महिला अधिकार दिवसको सन्दर्भमा महिला मानव अधिकार रक्षक राष्ट्रिय संजालको प्रेस विज्ञप्ति

After a woman was raped in the mismanaged quarantine of the far-western region of Nepal, we immediately sent out a press release on 15 June 2020. We appealed to the government to immediately provide health care, security, and justice along with compensation for the survivor and severe punishment for the perpetrator.

Similarly, we appealed for the management of separate quarantines for women, placement of a woman police officer and other health workers at the quarantine, and operation of quarantines based on the guidelines set by the national government.



महिला मानवअधिकार रक्षकहरूको राष्ट्रिय संजाल
"National Alliance of Women Human Rights Defenders"
(NAWHRD)

च.नं. : ७१-०७६/७७

मिति : २०७७/०३/०१

प्रेस विज्ञप्ति

Even though the Constitution of Nepal guarantees equality to all its citizens, women and gender diverse groups are still being treated like second class citizens in their own country. The current Citizenship Amendment Bill, passed by a majority in the Parliament, has discriminatory provisions between Nepali men and women. After organizing a comprehensive discussion on this bill with parliamentarians, local government representatives, and people affected by the citizenship law, we sent a letter of concern enlisting our opinions and demands, asking the government to address the discriminatory provisions against Nepali women and gender diverse groups.

CALL FOR A FEMINIST COVID-19 POLICY

We also signed the call for a feminist COVID-19 policy coordinated by the Feminist Alliance for Rights (FAR). This statement was endorsed by more than 1600 individuals and women's networks and organizations from more than 100 countries, to demand states the adoption of a feminist policy to address the extraordinary challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic in a manner that is consistent with human rights standards and principles.

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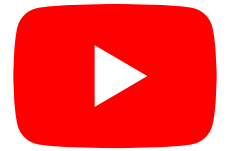
Српски

**Statement of Feminists and Women's Rights
Organizations from the Global South and from
marginalized communities in the Global North**

Lessons Learned

Advocacy is one of the most powerful tools for demanding and bringing change. Dignity and identity of women is their fundamental human right, which has been denied by the state for long. Ensuring these rights is not only for the sake of women; it also ensures the formation of a fair and prosperous nation. However, we still need to go a long way to make the government and other stakeholders understand the importance of women's rights and control over their work, body, and identity. Similarly, unlike other countries of the world, the wave of COVID infection cases arrived late in Nepal. During this time, the government had plenty of time to model the health system and infrastructure towards the prevention of spread. But it failed to act swiftly to plan and implement a solid response mechanism for the COVID-19 pandemic. Also, the issues of pregnant and lactating women, people living with disabilities, poor and vulnerable communities, and senior citizens were disregarded while preparing the response mechanisms. Now the government should focus on strengthening the national health system to be ready to deal with a similar situation in the future.

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