

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Interaction with Reporters on Marriage Equality
- Orientation on Sex, Gender and Sexuality
- Session Planning meeting with LGBTI Elders Advisory Committee Members
- Session Planning meeting with Young LGBTI activists
- Meeting with Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen on policy draft for LGBTI older persons
- Pre-Teej Celebration Program
- Celebrating Bisexual Visibility Month



## Orientation on Sex, Gender, and Sexuality

On September 5, 2023, an enlightening "Orientation on Sex, Gender, and Sexuality" was successfully conducted at Bal Udhar Higher Secondary School in Milan Chowk, Kapan, Bagmati Province. The event catered to students and teachers of class 11 and 12, setting the stage for a profound learning experience. The program commenced with a warm welcome from the esteemed Principal of Bal Udhar Higher Secondary School, Mr. Binod Pandit. Mitini Nepal's Outreach Officer, Jesika Gautam, and community member, Samyog K.C., delivered a compelling PowerPoint presentation that introduced Mitini Nepal, elucidated its objectives, shed light on the various impactful programs initiated by the organization, and delved into the formidable challenges faced by the LGBTQ+ community.

Over 100 enthusiastic individuals participated in the program, lending their unwavering support to the cause. The session featured sharing of personal stories and the screening of enlightening public awareness videos. The culmination of the program witnessed the collection of invaluable suggestions and feedback from the participants, who expressed their heartfelt gratitude for the initiative and strongly advocated for the continuity of such transformative orientation programs.

## Interaction with Reporters on Marriage Equality

Mitini Nepal organized an interaction program with reporters on marriage equality in Kathmandu, Bagmati Province, on September 7, 2023. The program was mainly focused to address the issue of marriage equality for sexual and gender minority communities. Laxmi Ghalan, the Chairperson of Mitini Nepal, expressed concerns that despite a Supreme Court interim order allowing the temporary registration of marriages for these communities, their right to marriage still faces challenges due to the lack of legal recognition of same-sex marriage in Nepal. The program aimed to inform the media about the importance of marital equality for sexual and gender minority communities and foster relationships for meaningful news dissemination. Executive Director Sarita K.C. presented the current status of these communities, Mitini Nepal's work on marriage equality, challenges they face, and efforts in advocating for marriage equality. An awareness video was also shown, highlighting the ongoing uncertainty among community couples regarding marriage registration.



It was pointed out that Article 18 of the Constitution of Nepal guarantees the right to equality, but the definition of marriage in the Civil Code 2017 conflicts with it, restricting marriage to only heterosexual couples. Mitini Nepal, along with FWLD, filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court in 2022, which is still awaiting a constitutional bench hearing. Representatives from the sexual and gender minority communities shared their personal experiences and challenges related to marriage equality. The program concluded with media personnel and journalists providing feedback and suggestions on the issue.



# Session Planning meeting with LGBTI Elders Advisory Committee Members

On September 6, 2023, a session planning meeting was held with members of the LGBTI Elders Advisory Committee. The main goal was to discuss a series of six virtual sessions addressing issues faced by LGBTI older individuals as part of the LEAP (LGBTI Elders Advancing Project) initiative led by Mitini Nepal's Executive Director, Sarita KC. These sessions would involve elders, youth, and aging organizations. The meeting aimed to collect valuable feedback to include in sessions.



The Advisory Committee members contributed insights on various critical issues, including health, safe shelter homes, educational inclusion, caregivers, political-visibility, mental health, and social services. They stressed the importance of involving elders in advocacy programs. This meeting signifies a significant step towards supporting and promoting inclusivity for LGBTI older individuals. In total, 11 individuals, including advisory members, project staff, and focal persons, attended the meeting.



During the meeting, Ageing Nepal's chairpersons and LGBTI young activists shared their concerns, including life planning, policy reform, digital literacy, safe shelter homes, mental health, and more. They also emphasized involving elders in advocacy-related programs. This approach reflects the comprehensive effort to support LGBTI older individuals in the community. Total 26 individuals attended the meeting, including Ageing Nepal representatives, LGBTI young activists, project staff, and focal persons.

## Session planning meeting with Young LGBTI activists

On September 8, 2023, an online session planning meeting was held with Young LGBTI activists and Ageing Nepal. The primary objective was to plan six virtual sessions addressing issues faced by LGBTI older individuals. Mitini Nepal's Program Officer, Bimala Gurung, began the meeting by explaining its purpose, which was to gather feedback on the topics to be covered in the upcoming sessions. Executive Director Sarita KC emphasized that LGBTI older person's issues should not be overlooked in discussions about LGBTI human rights, as they are a vulnerable part of the community. Each online session will focus on different aging-related topics, such as health, housing, and employment. KC also highlighted the challenge of accessibility to shelter homes for LGBTI older individuals.

## Meeting with Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen on policy draft for LGBTI older persons

Mitini Nepal conducted a meeting with Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen on policy draft for LGBTI older persons on September 12, 2023 at the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen in Bagmati Province, Kathmandu.



By focusing on emerging issues, concerns, and challenges, the meeting likely aimed to discuss on the existing situation of LGBTI older persons addressing their unique needs. During the meeting, organization recently completed a comprehensive survey involving over 100 LGBTI older individuals, shedding light on various aspects of their lives and challenges they face. An upcoming initiative involves the launch of a storybook featuring diverse testimonials from elders, while a factsheet on the "Impacts of Age Discrimination on Older LGBTI Persons in Nepal" was presented. Vice-Secretary Dahal emphasized the need for orientation and education on LGBTI issues in policy-making and advocated for an integrated approach to develop networks for addressing LGBTI elders' concerns. The meeting highlighted the significance of inclusive policies and supports for the elderly, including those in the LGBTI community, considering the global demographic shift towards aging populations.

## Pre-Teej Celebration Program

On September 15, 2023, Mitini Nepal organized a Pre-Teej Celebration, "Daar," which brought together members of the LGBTI community and Mitini staff to foster inclusivity and unity. The event, held in Kathmandu, aimed to create a judgment-free space for the LGBTI community to celebrate Teej, a traditionally female-oriented Hindu festival, while maintaining cultural and traditional aspects. The celebration included a traditional Dar feast and vibrant Teej songs and dances, preserving rich Nepali traditions. Distinguished guests, including Mitini Nepal's President Laxmi Ghalan and Executive Director Sarita KC, added prestige to the event, highlighting Mitini Nepal's commitment to inclusivity.

Beyond the festivities, the celebration provided emotional support and a sense of belonging for LGBTI individuals, many of whom face family challenges and discrimination. Laxmi Ghalan emphasized the importance of unity and creating cherished memories of love and support. The event exemplified the power of creating inclusive spaces and showcased the potential for positive social change when diverse communities come together in solidarity, reflecting Mitini Nepal's commitment to fostering a sense of belonging for the LGBTI community during Teej and beyond.

# Celebrating Bisexual Visibility Month

In September 2023, during Bisexual Visibility Month, Mitini Nepal orchestrated a significant and empowering initiative. This transformative event showcased the organization's unwavering commitment to fostering inclusivity and amplifying the voices of the bisexual people. Through digital videos and inspiring quotes, Mitini Nepal provided a space for three individuals to share their unique experiences and perspectives. Rohit Tharu from Lumbini Province, Sarita Ruchal, from Bagmati Province, and Sumitra Khaa from Koshi Province shared their stories and insights, creating a powerful narrative that underscored the significance of recognizing and celebrating the diversity within the sexual and gender minority community, particularly for the often-overlooked bisexual individuals. This initiative marked a pivotal moment in advocating for bisexual visibility and rights, reflecting Mitini Nepal's dedication to a future where all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, can live with respect and dignity.



## News Features

### News Links

- [https://kathmandupost.com/art-culture/2023/09/08/discussing-marriage-equality-within-lgbtq-communities?fbclid=IwAR2sJ7CoHC\\_YcZ-1c2i0jZJPbY5M02XkTLIKpxFX5bb9wPILn6XWgq3LYMQ](https://kathmandupost.com/art-culture/2023/09/08/discussing-marriage-equality-within-lgbtq-communities?fbclid=IwAR2sJ7CoHC_YcZ-1c2i0jZJPbY5M02XkTLIKpxFX5bb9wPILn6XWgq3LYMQ)
- <https://nagariknews.nagariknetwork.com/social-affairs/1288531-1694314874.html?fbclid=IwAR1u3IE0JEAvkDILY74oVRqMK76E2GHHATYYaARGKidkugFdwbjLdjxvPNo>
- [https://ekagaj.com/article/society/151420/?fbclid=IwAR1qDbK37OMh5KBM3JnjDQP5CPzmMVAgHTzSgh6WG\\_Y6BCoMEGjROsRWhhpE](https://ekagaj.com/article/society/151420/?fbclid=IwAR1qDbK37OMh5KBM3JnjDQP5CPzmMVAgHTzSgh6WG_Y6BCoMEGjROsRWhhpE)
- [https://rupaantaran.com/news/1795?fbclid=IwAR04L57Fg8\\_DFGcDGGI6I4fyaR1yob8WzGZgYmpyCLBXDOj\\_q\\_C7fmOP7-Y](https://rupaantaran.com/news/1795?fbclid=IwAR04L57Fg8_DFGcDGGI6I4fyaR1yob8WzGZgYmpyCLBXDOj_q_C7fmOP7-Y)
- <https://www.arthabazar.com/86874?fbclid=IwAR2dbG897asnvAhVd0xu67R13efe4XqVdNiuDF3if0dUy4RYPQPLHu-Ludo>
- <https://www.setopati.com/social/311102?fbclid=IwAR2BTEgOa46FV2Udt0ZA-Qa9D4yJbeOGPmH3s29kvgl8OCifdlkSFnKXzwE>
- <https://aafnokhabar.com/2023/09/07/mitini-nepal/87063/?fbclid=IwAR2X5a8XZUyIJcd1BPgdHHVYO0SfnKYGTrPjL5HztTK7gBLChZJQnfm04w>
- [https://www.nepalpress.com/2023/09/07/372164/?fbclid=IwAR1lx7FpHt\\_jBHS5pTsmDMnbSBATTk3i2AoNBk7lxtRy-REX\\_BTMI7HPa4](https://www.nepalpress.com/2023/09/07/372164/?fbclid=IwAR1lx7FpHt_jBHS5pTsmDMnbSBATTk3i2AoNBk7lxtRy-REX_BTMI7HPa4)
- <https://www.ratopati.com/story/383484/court-?fbclid=IwAR1vH04hZ4CTskl9Lr2qOen10dDGF6Js9i6sMqEAYrvqPUBMYTdsBAduBJU>



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Thank you the Kathmandu Post and Manushree Ji for the news feature...  
<https://kathmandupost.com/art-cultu...> See more



**Challenges**

- Discrimination against LGBTIQ+ people is not explicitly prohibited in Article 15(1) right to equality and non-discrimination in the constitution of Nepal.
- Gender Equality and Women's Rights Act, 2072
- Health rights
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kathmandupost.com  
**Discussing marriage equality within LGBTQ+ communities**

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7 Sep · 🌐

Thank you Aafnokhabar and Saroj sir for the news coverage..  
<https://aafnokhabar.com/2023/09/0...> See more



aafnokhabar.com  
**वैवाहिक समानताको विषयमा अन्तरक्रिया कार्यक्रम सम्पन्न | Aafno Khabar**

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Thank you Nagarik Dainik and Pabitra mam for the news article..  
<https://nagariknews.nagariknetwork...> See more



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**विवाहमा कानुनी मान्यता अभावले यौनिक अल्पसंख्यक मारमा**

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Thank you Nepal Press and Keshab ji for the news coverage..!  
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**वैवाहिक सम्बन्धमा सर्वोच्चले पनि न्याय दिएन: लैंगिक तथा यौनिक अल्पसंख्यक समुदाय**

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Thank you Ratopati and Krishni Ji for the news coverage ...!  
<https://www.ratopati.com/story/383...> See more



ratopati.com  
**वैवाहिक सम्बन्धमा सर्वोच्चले पनि न्याय दिएन: लैंगिक तथा यौनिक अल्पसंख्यक समुदाय**

**For more information:**

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**Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/mitini.nepalofficial/>**

**YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gfa4X5TXCf0&t=399s>**