

## Highlights

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## Memorandum handover to Local government on the issues of LGBTQ women

On the occasion of 113<sup>th</sup> International Labor Women's Day, Mitini Nepal with the support of Women's Fund Asia hand over memorandum to various local government authorities across different provinces in Nepal from March 5 to 10, 2023. On March 5, the representatives from organization submitted memorandum to the mayor of Nepalgunj sub-metropolitan city in Lumbini province, Mayor of Itahari Sub-Metropolitan in Province 1, and Pokhara Metropolitan City in Gandaki Province. Similarly on March 6, a memorandum was handed over to the mayor of Dhangadhi sub-metropolitan city in Sudurpaschim province, and on March 9, a memorandum was presented to the Mayor of Birendranagar Municipality in Karnali Province. On March 10, memoranda were presented to Til Bahadu Thapa, President of Devghat rural municipality, mayor of Lamhi Municipality in Lumbini Province's Dang district, and the mayor of Khadak Municipality in Province 2. The memorandum highlighted the need for greater attention to intergenerational and intersectional issues of LBT women in Nepal. A workshop seminar titled "Situation Analysis and Documentation of Sexual and Gender Minority Women" was held on January 16 and 17, 2023, in Kathmandu, Bagmati Province, with the participation of LBT women from all 7 provinces, aiming to draw the attention of the local government. In order to address the multitude of challenges faced by the community, it is imperative for the local government to prioritize the needs of the sexual and gender minority community in their upcoming plans and activities. A memorandum highlighting these concerns was submitted to the local government on the occasion of International Labor Women's Day. The local governments from all provinces have pledged their commitment to support the community, ensuring equal rights and protection without discrimination.

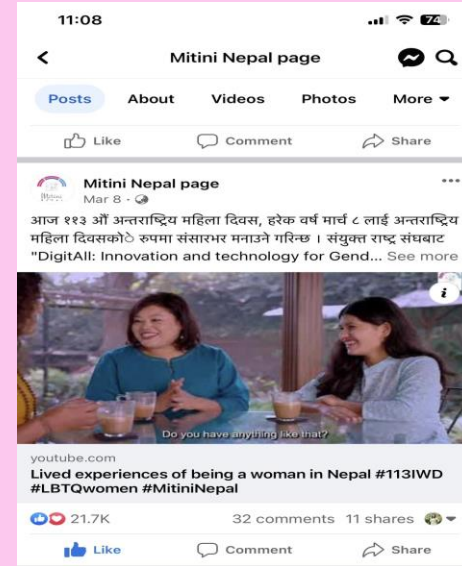


## Video Production on the occasion of International Women's Day

Every year, on March 8<sup>th</sup>, International Women's Day is celebrated worldwide. In Nepal, this day is commemorated with the United Nations' international slogan "Digital All: Innovation and technology for Gender Equality," along with the national slogan "Strong foundation of gender equality: Expanding women's access to creative technology." In the same context, Mitini Nepal has released a video addressing the challenges faced by women from sexual and gender minority communities.

Please click on the link below to watch the full video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IvVZnL-sS6U>



### Monthly Staff Meeting

On March 9, 2023, Mitini Nepal conducts its monthly staff meeting. The meeting included a comprehensive review of the organization's programs conducted in Province 1, Bagmati Province, Lumbini Province, and Sudurpaschim Province during the month of February. Additionally, the team discussed the monthly work plan for upcoming programs in March. Staffs provided updates on its submission of memorandums to various provinces in relation to International Women's Day. The meeting also delved into the findings of a case study conducted among community couples. Furthermore, there was a productive debate on gathering stories from the community, slated for May 17. The meeting was skillfully facilitated by Raj Chaudhary, the Focal Person of Mitini Nepal Sudurpaschim Province, and was attended by 13 staffs.



### Virtual CSW67 parallel event

On March 16, 2023 Virtual CSW67 parallel event was organized by the Soroptimist International and the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People (GAROP) to mark the rally for Older Women to Age with Rights in Rural Communities. During the session, Sukmaya Magar from Mitini Nepal/Outright International has shared her stories as narratives along with the country context on the human right issues and concerns of older women. Sukmaya Magar, Lesbian, age 52 from Gandaki Province shared her story of struggle, single women allowance, health facilities for single lesbian women, family acceptance etc as an older lesbian woman in Nepal. She stressed on the unique challenges related to her sexual orientation and age.

This is her first time where she shares her stories in international platform. We thank SAGE and Outright International for giving this opportunity to build the capacity of our elders and giving a space to share the lived experience in such a big platform. It is not possible for us to be in those spaces without your support.

### Result of 12<sup>th</sup> National Census 2078 BS

On March 24, 2022, Nepalese government's office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers and the National Statistics Office have made the results of the 12<sup>th</sup> National Census 2078 BS public. According to the results, the population of sexual and gender minorities was found to be 2,928, which is 0.01 percent of the total population. Among all genders, Bagmati province has the highest percentage with 32.7 percent, while Karnali province has the lowest with 2.8 percent. The National Census 2078 only counted the demographic details of individuals in the sexual and gender minority community under the category of male or female in the household survey based on biological sex while the community was not included in the main questionnaire as a separate category.



## Mitini Nepal Advocacy Program (MAP)

Mitini Nepal with the support of Foundation for a Just Society (FJS) successfully conducted 3 days residential workshop on Sustainable Development Goals and UN mechanism with LGBTQ activists dated from March 18 to 20, 2023 at Bagmati Province, Kathmandu, Nepal. The workshop was mainly organized with an aim to inform the LGBTQ right activists about the importance of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) and International treaties as well as different forms of yoga and meditation for mental being and collective care. The first day of the session was focused on highlighting the importance of SDGs in advocacy work on global platform regarding the community issues. The session also talked about the SDG indicators and possible advocacy efforts. The second day session was focused on United Nations international human right treaties and its importance where Nepal government has rectified nine treaties. The third day was focused on the reporting process of Universal Periodic Review (UPR), Volunteer National Review (VNR) and other treaties. Different group works were performed by the participants during the session while the training session was moderated by video sharing and PowerPoint presentations. Role play was also done by the participants dividing them into different groups such as Nepal Government, CSO's/NGO's/NHRI, UPR committee members and Permanent Mission. A total of 31 participants were participated representing various community-based organizations from Kosi Province, Madesh Province, Bagmati Province, Lumbini Province and Sudurpaschim Province, community members including Mitini staffs.



## Orientation Program at hospitals on Sex, Gender and Sexuality

Mitini Nepal organized an orientation program on Sex, Gender, and Sexuality on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 at Frontline Hospital, Purano Baneshwor, Kathmandu, Bagmati Province. The orientation session began with the introduction of the participants. YWL leader Neelam Poudel outlined the objectives of the Young Women Leader project and the orientation program. Similarly, Swastika Nepali, Bagmati Province Coordinator of Mitini Nepal and YWL member, presented a Power-point presentation on Mitini Nepal's introduction, objectives, information sex, gender and sexuality. Jesika Gautam, a social mobilizer from Mitini Nepal, gave a tale of how discrimination by hospitals can make a difference in the community. Suresh Kumar Manoharan, the hospital's chief executive officer, stated that he was committed to the issue of the community and that he was ready to provide gender-friendly services and facilities to the community members. The program was attended by 49 participants, including doctors, nurses, hospital employees, and representatives of Mitini Nepal.



## Update on Mitini Nepal Fund for Local Initiatives (MNFLI)

### One day workshop on strategic planning

Mayako Sansar, a community-based organization works for the LGBTQ people, male and female sex workers under the Mitini Nepal Fund for Local Initiatives, held a meeting in Kathmandu, Bagmati Province to discuss the 5-year strategic plan of the organization under the project named Mayako Pahilo Paila. The meeting concluded with expectations regarding the projects and programs to be conducted within the next 5 years, as well as the challenges and mitigations that may be encountered during the implementation of the program to develop and strengthen the capacity of the organization. All the working committee members of Mayako Sansar, the legal advisor of the organization Advocate, the founder president of Mitini Nepal, and the executive director were present at the program.



## Psychosocial support program

On March 25, 2023, a psychosocial support program was successfully completed in Itahari, Koshi Province, by Sahara Samaj, an organization for LBT people in Koshi province as part of the Awareness and Inclusion project, supported by Mitini Nepal Kathmandu through the MNFLI. The primary goal of the program was to identify potential psychosocial issues that could arise among sexual and gender minority communities and explore ways to mitigate them. The program focused on group therapy and various activities aimed at promoting a healthy and happy life. The event was attended by a total of 19 people, including officers from Sahara Samaj's working committee, facilitators, employees, reporters, and members of the Jhapa, Morang, and Sunsari communities. During the program, the facilitator provided in-depth information on psychosocial problems and encouraged participants to share unforgettable experiences with their friends, leading to an impactful and emotional discussion. The facilitator then conducted various sessions, including safe place, stress control, meditation, mirror game, and other dances and games, which were successful in helping participants reduce stress and promote mental well-being.



## Session with chief editors on Marriage Equality

Mitini Nepal organized a session with chief editors of mainstream media on marriage equality on March 31, 2023 in Bagmati Province, Dhulikhel supported by the Global Fund for Women. The program focused primarily on various economic, social, political, educational and identity status, challenges and current legal provisions that addresses women within sexual and gender minority communities the presentation shared by Executive Director of Mitini Nepal Sarita K.C. including Mitini's mission, vision, current status of the community, challenges and achievements. During the session, Sabin Shrestha, advocate from FWLD shared his statement on marriage equality that the community has been deprived of the right to marriage due to lack of use of gender-neutral words in the place related to marriage. President of Mitini Nepal Laxmi Ghalan shared own story of discrimination and struggle faced by family and society as well as importance of marriage equality for the couple who have been living since 23 years. Senior media personalities provided suggestions and expressed their opinions and commitment as experts during the program. They stressed on the need for media to be constantly vigilant on community issues and for this, various awareness and training programs.

### For more information:

Website: [www.mitininepal.org.np](http://www.mitininepal.org.np)

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