

## HIGHLIGHTS

- ✚ Press meet on Marriage equality
- ✚ Monthly staff meetings
- ✚ Celebration of OBR
- ✚ Hearing on Marriage Equality
- ✚ Mitini Nepal Fund for Local Initiative (MNFLI) Update

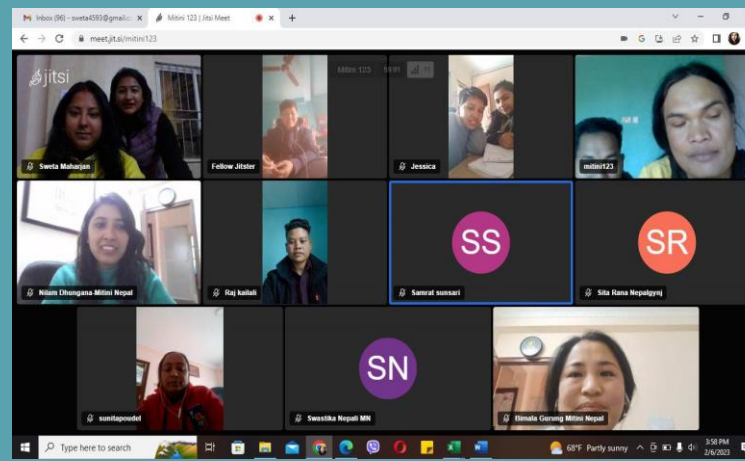
## Press met on marriage equality

On February 5, 2023, Mitini Nepal organized a press conference for marriage equality was held in Kathmandu, Bagmati Province, with the support of Global Fund for Women. Mitini Nepal has been working for the protection, prosperity and development of the human rights of sexual and gender minority communities for the past two decades. The Supreme Court legalized same-sex relationships and issued an order to live together in 2012, at the initiative of Mitini Nepal, but there is still no legal document certifying this relationship, and the community is experiencing many problems. The community is also deprived of the right to marriage in the context of not being able to enjoy basic human rights. Laxmi Ghalan, President of Mitini Nepal, said that the community's right to marriage is not only related to relationship but also to identity. They also said that the community does not demand separate rights, but it is necessary to create laws in accordance with the spirit and spirit of the constitution and to revise and amend discriminatory laws. Sabin Shrestha, advocate of the Women's Law and Development Forum, says that Section 67 of the Civil Code, 2074, states that men and women accept each other as husband and wife, which does not address the community's right to marry. On December 5<sup>th</sup>, Mitini Nepal and Women's Law and Development Forum jointly filed a petition in the respected Supreme Court demanding the creation of a law for marriage equality, with the Government of Nepal, the Ministry of Law and the Federal Parliament as the opposition. In the same context, on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of Poush 2079, accordingly, it was informed through a press conference that the first hearing of the Constitutional Court was completed on January 4, 2023, and in which the Honorable Supreme Court demanded a show cause order. At the end of the press conference, the media representatives of various media houses raised questions and inquiries, which were answered by Sarita K.C, the executive director of Mitini Nepal, saying that the right to marriage equality is linked to community identity, the right to property, and the right to adopt a child. She said that the media will play an important role in the marriage equality campaign. Aarti Chataut, a media person, facilitated the press conference, which was attended by 41 persons, including media representatives from various media outlets and Nepalese delegates.



## Monthly staff meeting

Mitini Nepal has completed the monthly staff meeting for the month of February on February 6, 2023. The review of the programs completed in January month by Mitini Nepal in Province 1, Bagmati Province, Lumbini Province and Sudurpaschim Province, the action plan of the programs to be held in February, the review of the mapping of senior citizens of the community, single women, and Dalit people of the community were discussed in the meeting. Salina Chaudhary, Lumbini Province Coordinator of Mitini Nepal facilitated the meeting, which was attended by 15 staff members.



## Celebration of OBR

On February 22, 2023 the One Billion Raising, Tewa Nepal and Sangat Nepal conducted a program at Jawalakhel, Kathmandu, Bagmati Province. Violence affects one out of every three women worldwide. The program featured a cycle rally, dancing, poetry recitation, drama, comedy, and other activities under the theme Rise For Freedom. Mitini Nepal also showed its meaningful participation on this event through dancing. On the same occasion, Sarita K.C., the executive director of Mitini Nepal emphasized the marriage equality of the community and said that the community's right to marry is also a human right. The program was attended by various human rights organizations, human rights activists and members from sexual and gender minority communities.



## Second hearing of Marriage equality writ petition

Mitini Nepal and Forum for Women, Law and Development together filed a petition in the Supreme Court on December 5, 2022 with the Government of Nepal, the Ministry of Law, and the Federal Parliament as the opposition, demanding the creation of a law allowing for marriage equality. As a result, the Constitutional Court's first hearing was conducted on January 4, 2023, during which the Honorable Supreme Court demanded a show cause order. Following the first hearing, Government of Nepal, the Ministry of Law, and the Federal Parliament had submitted the written note on February 23, 2023.



## Two-day's workshop on strategic planning

On February 27th and 28th, 2023, a two-day workshop on strategic planning was held in Itahari, Province 1, as part of the Awareness and Inclusion project. The workshop was organized by Sahara Samaj, Itahari and supported by Mitini Nepal through Mitini Nepal fund for local initiatives (MNFLI). The main objective of the meeting was to create a five-year strategic plan for Sahara Samaj and to form a committee responsible for strengthening the organization. Participants included local authorities, law enforcement, social organizations, ward offices, health organizations, media, Sahara Society committee officials, supporters, employees, reporters, and individuals from the communities of Jhapa, Morang, and Sunsari. Approximately 50 people attended the meeting, which lasted for two days. In the program, group activities were carried out in various sessions to determine the problem tree, problem solution, solution tree, SWOT analysis for the organization's situation analysis, and goals and objectives for the strategic plan.



## Media Feature on Marriage Equality press meet

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Marriage equality for LGBTQ community

nepalpress.com  
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