

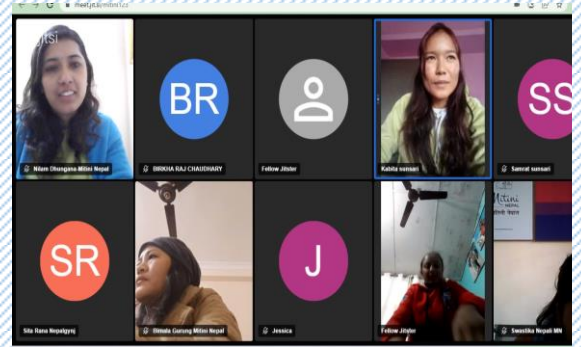


Highlights

1. Monthly staff meeting
2. CBOs selected for MNFLI
3. Certificate distribution of Effective Proposal writing and budgeting training
4. First hearing of Marriage equality writ petition
5. Meeting with Mentor of South Asian Young Women Leadership and Mentoring program
6. Interaction on current situation of sexual and gender minorities
7. Meeting with Ally members of Kathmandu
8. National Validation on CEDAW report
9. Workshop with LGBTQ women for situational analysis and documentation.

Monthly Staff Meeting

On January 3, 2023, Mitini Nepal concluded its monthly staff meeting for the month of January. Review of Mitini Nepal's programs completed in Province 1, Bagmati Province, Lumbini Province, and Sudurpaschim Province in December, action plan for programs to be held in January, review of mapping of senior citizens in the community, and continuation of story writing and editing of 10 elders under the Elder Advancing Project and other problems were considered as well. Kabita Tamang, Provincial Coordinator of Nepal Province 1, facilitated the meeting, which included 11 staffs.



Meeting with CBOs selected for MNFLI

On January 3, 2023, Mitini Nepal had a virtual meeting with LGBTQ community-based organization selected for the second year of the Mitini Nepal Fund for local initiatives (MNFLI). The meeting began with the participants' introductions, and the main purpose of the meeting was to review the programs to be carried out with the selected organizations, the training of the organizations, and the experience of writing the preface, including the program and budget framework. Sahara Samaj from Province 1, Mayako Sansar from Bagmati Province, and Voice for Equality from Lumbini Province for MNFLI project of second year were chosen. Sweta Maharjan, the finance officer, and Bimala Gurung, the program officer gave presentations during the meeting on the project's organizational structure and budget framework, respectively. The meeting was hosted by Nilam Dhungana, program officer of Mitini Nepal, and 8 persons attended the meeting, including representatives from Mitini Nepal, as well as Sahara Samaj from Province 1, Mayako Sansar from Bagmati Province, and Voice for Equality from Lumbini Province.



Certificate distribution of Effective Proposal writing and budgeting training

The certificate distribution program to representatives of LGBTQ community-based organizations of the Mitini Nepal Fund for Local Initiatives (MNFLI) of Provinces 1, Madesh Pradesh, Bagmati Province, Lumbini Province, and Sudurpaschim Province was completed on January 3, 2023, at the Mitini Nepal Head Office in Ranibari, Kathmandu. Niskarsa Subedi, the ISI (International Standard Icon Pvt. Ltd.) training development director, handed over all of the certificates to Mitini Nepal. Mr. Subedi thanks the organization and expresses his desire to continue working with it.

First hearing of Marriage equality

On 5 December 2022, Mitini Nepal and Women, Law and Development Forum jointly filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court of Nepal demanding for marriage equality for LGBTIQ+ communities in Nepal, amending the current provisions related to marriage in the **National Civil Code, 2017**. The Government of Nepal, the Ministry of Home Affairs, and Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs are defendants. The first hearing of the Constitutional Bench was held on January 4, 2023, in which the Honorable Supreme Court sought a show-cause order. The next hearing date is set for February 23, 2023



Meeting with Mentor of South Asian Young Women Leadership and Mentoring program

On January 6, 2023, a meeting was held at Mitini Nepal's head office in Kathmandu Ranibari with Ramita Limbu, mentor of South Asian Young Women Leadership and Mentoring. In the meeting started with the introduction of the participants, YWL leader Nilam Paudel reviewed the programs completed by the YWL project so far. Sanyog K.C., Neharika Pant, and Manisha Lama from Community YWL also presented their experiences during the meeting, adding that the project helped them learn how to talk both personally and professionally. The significance of group work, responsibility sharing, sexual and reproductive health, mental health, and other topics that were covered in the monthly meeting of YWL were discussed by Swastika Nepali, the program coordinator of Mitini Nepal's Bagmati Province.



Sharing meeting with Young Women Leader of Mahila Ekta Samaj

On January 13, 2023, YWL representatives from Mitini Nepal and Nepal Mahila Ekta Samaj met at Mitini Nepal's head office in Ranibari, Kathmandu. YWL Leader Nilam Paudel discussed the projects and its achievement likewise Samiksha Sharma, the shadow leader, give insights on the introduction, goals, objectives, initiatives, and status of sexual and gender minorities in Nepal. Participants in the meeting, including those from Nepal Mahila Ekta Samaj, raised a number of inquiries about the LGBTI community and the project activity. The meeting, attended by 29 people, was concluded by thanking each other.





Interaction on current situation of sexual and gender minorities

Maya ko Sansar has organized “An interactive program about the current situation of sexual and gender minorities” on January 21, 2023, in Bagmati Province, Kathmandu, Lazimpat, with support from Mitini Nepal Fund for local initiatives. The major goal of the program was to educate the sexual and gender minority community about existing legal protections. The program was facilitated by legal advisor Bhim Prasad Dhimal. They discussed the current status of the community, difficulties, existing legal rights, and so on. Sunita Lama, president of Maya ko Sansara, stated that she has gained more courage to move forward with cooperation and coordination in the coming days as a result of this project. In the interaction program, 30 people including board member of Maya ko Sansar, Laxmi Ghalan, president of Mitini Nepal and Sarita K.C., Executive Director of Mitini Nepal and other community people were participated.

Meeting with Ally Members on the issue of Marriage Equality

Mitini Nepal organized a discussion with Ally members from Kathmandu on the issue of marriage equality for sexual and gender minority communities on January 25, 2023, at Mitini Nepal's central office in Ranibari, Nepal. The Executive Director of Nepal, Sarita K.C, welcomed all participants and explained the main goal of the program at the start of the meeting. The discussion was mainly focused on the marriage equality right of sexual and gender minority communities to discuss on the solidarity and inform the importance on it. In this context, the support groups of Kathmandu present at the meeting suggested that they are positive about the issue of marriage equality and should undertake public awareness campaigns about it. They stated that because the marriage bond is so crucial, they will provide their full support in this instance. Laxmi Ghalan, the president of Mitini Nepal, thanked everyone for participating in the conversation and advised them that they needed help and support in the discussion for other community issues as well. Ten persons from five different organizations attended the meeting.



National Validation CEDAW Report

On January 29, 2023, a national validation workshop on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence against Women (CEDAW) report on the LGBTQ women was conducted in Kathmandu, Bagmati Province. Nilam Dhungana, program officer of Mitini Nepal, and Kavita Tamang, program coordinator of Province 1, collected expectations from the participants and facilitated the table of rules to be observed throughout the program. While outlining the program's goal, Sarita KC, executive director of Mitini Nepal, stated that Nepal has ratified nine different international treaties, with the CEDAW convention being one of the most important. The validation centered on the presence of LGBTQ women from various provinces, where the province wise consultation's report was also shared and discussed. Sumeera Shrestha, the facilitator, led discussions and group work on a variety of topics, including education, health, employment, marriage and family life, judicial equality, political and social participation, among others, while educating the participants about CEDAW and the Shadow report. 44 participants from all seven provinces attended the meeting, including facilitators, Mitini Nepal representatives and women from sexual and gender minority communities.



Two Days Workshop with LGBTQ women on situation analysis and documentation

Day -1

Mitini Nepal with the financial support of Women's Fund Asia organized a two-day workshop with LGBTI women for situation analysis and documentation in Kathmandu, Bagmati Province, on January 30, 2023. Mitini Nepal's Executive Director, Sarita K.C. emphasized the program's goal. She stated that while the women's movement in Nepal has achieved significant progress, it has not addressed the diversity of women in the sexual and gender minority populations. As a result, the program focused on analyzing and gathering suggestions about the economic, social, educational, political, family, and identity-related conditions of the community's women. The participants were separated into groups and worked on group work and presentations, which were facilitated by Advocate Binu Lama and Roshana Pradhan. During which the individuals recounted their personal experiences and experiences as a lifeboat, they also noted the community's common problems. The province level group primarily worked on and presented on different contemporary political, economic, social, educational, health, and identity-related conditions, variables, and the ensuing results or effects of the sexual and gender minority communities. Similarly, group work was used to map the linked concerned agencies or groups, with participants discussing how powerful and supportive the agencies in their regions were.





Day 2

In the second day of the workshop, Sarita KC, executive director of Mitini Nepal, welcomed participants to the session and provided a brief overview of Mitini Nepal's aims, objectives, work areas, programs, and sexual and gender minority communities based on the expectations gathered on the first day. The participants mapped the key stakeholders or organizations on the first day of the two-day session. Based on the same mapping, the participants created a list of the community's necessary demands based on the province and presented it as a group. Similarly, in the following session of the program, the participants role-played how to present the demands prepared by their provinces to the necessary bodies via a memorandum. The memorandum assessed and made recommendations about the economic, social, educational, political, family, and identity-related problems of women from sexual and gender minority communities. The program was attended by 43 people from all seven provinces, including women from sexual and gender minority communities, representatives from Mitini Nepal.



Case Study- Sudurpaschim Province

Shanti Chaudhary, a transwoman aged 39 was born as a first male child in a family. However, as Shanti grew older started to show feminine behavior like dressing like a girl, playing games like a girl, making friends with girls etc. She used to be verbally and physically abused. Her parents started worrying about her behavior as a girl and thought to marry her. At the age of 14, Shanti was forcedly married to a girl. She disclosed her gender identity to her wife and found support from her. Shanti is also fond of attending religious chants and ceremonies as she likes dancing wearing feminine clothes. In Tharu culture, **Nachaniya** is not considered as a part of sin and Shanti also get support from her society. Shanti started to work as an activist for transgender community organizing different programs. Gradually, Shanti has gone through mental disorder due to not having enough support from the society.

Despite the fact that the constitution has ensured the rights of the sexual and gender minority community, they are still subjected to discrimination and violence in reality. In rural areas, the members of this community are often ostracized and become isolated from the rest of society, facing a multitude of challenges and difficulties on a daily basis. This not only affects their physical and emotional well-being but also their ability to fully participate in and contribute to society. It is important that we work towards creating a more inclusive and accepting society for all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

For more information:

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