

NEWSLETTER

January 2024

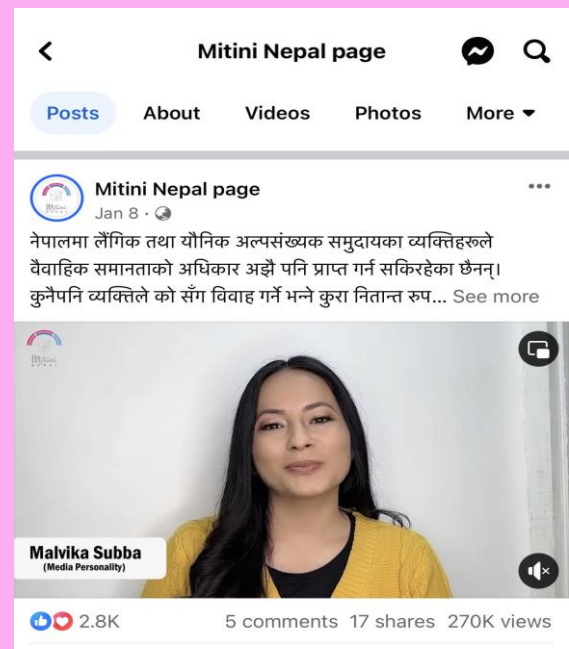
www.mitininepal.org.np


Highlights

1. Intergenerational Learning Session -3rd Session
2. Campaign on marriage equality
3. Intergenerational Learning Session -4th Session
4. Interaction with Stakeholders on Marriage Equality
5. Website Development and Launch
6. Sharing program on LGBTI terminologies

CAMPAIGN ON MARRIAGE EQUALITY

Former Miss Nepal 2002 and media personality, in collaboration with Mitini Nepal and supported by the Open Society Foundation, lent her voice to a compelling video advocating for the importance of marriage equality and expressing solidarity with the LGBTI community. This influential figure shared her thoughts on the significance of recognizing and embracing equal rights within the institution of marriage. The video, part of a hashtag campaign initiated by Mitini Nepal, aims to raise awareness and promote inclusivity. Through the powerful combination of a celebrity's voice, the campaign seeks to amplify the message of equality and acceptance for the LGBTI community, contributing to a more inclusive and understanding society.



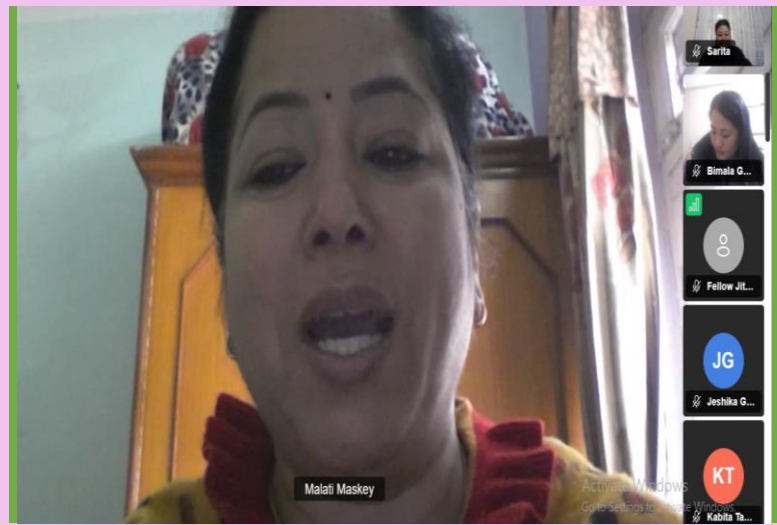
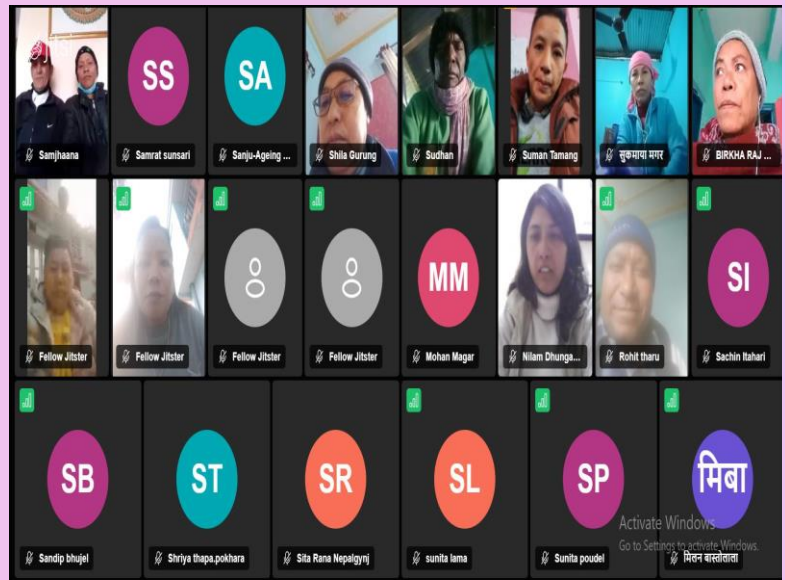
SHARING PROGRAM ON LGBTIQ TERMINOLOGIES

Inter-generational Feminist Forum (IGFF) hosted a virtual dialogue program, bringing together members from all seven provinces of Nepal to discuss LGBTI terminologies and shed light on the situation of the LGBTI community. Laxmi Ghalan, the President of Mitini Nepal, and Sarita KC, the Executive Director, played crucial roles in facilitating this session during the online monthly meeting with network associate members of IGFF. The conversation delved into the diverse terms used for the LGBTI community, exploring how people are identified across different provinces and highlighting their rights. Laxmi Ghalan and Sarita KC skillfully guided the participants through an insightful exploration of these issues.



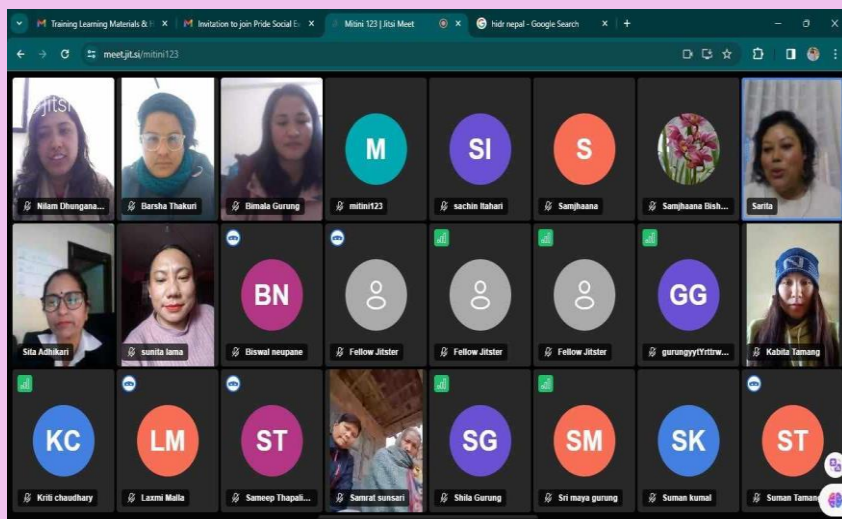
Intergenerational Learning Session- 3rd session

The third session of the "Capacity Building on LGBTI Ageing Issues and Vulnerabilities" on January 9, 2024, focused on "Crisis Resilience: Natural Disaster/Pandemic Response and Beyond." Supported by Outright International, Mitini Nepal showcased effective crisis management practices, featuring a presentation by GESI and Humanitarian expert Malati Maskey. The session covered Nepal's susceptibility to disasters, legal policies, government response mechanisms, and challenges faced by gender and sexual minority communities. Participants engaged in a discussion, and Mitini Nepal's Program Officer highlighted their humanitarian practices. Elders shared perspectives on relief efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic, and LGBTI youth activists discussed their experiences. The session concluded with remarks from Shila Gurung, elder committee member.



Intergenerational Learning Session- 4th session

On January 24, 2024, Mitini Nepal successfully conducted the fourth session of "Capacity Building on LGBTI Ageing Issues and Vulnerabilities," focusing on "Breaking the silence: Addressing Gender Based Violence." Building on insights from the previous session on Crisis Resilience, the session explored gender-based violence in marginalized communities.



Sita Adhikary, Chief Women Development Officer, National Women Commission, facilitated a presentation covering the definition, types, and contributing factors of gender violence in Nepal. The session highlighted the effects on individuals and communities, shedding light on vulnerable groups. Participants learned about the National Commission for Women's initiatives and service delivery status. Personal experiences were shared by Kanchi Lama and Sunita Lama, adding depth to the conversation. The session, with 29 diverse participants, concluded with reflections from senior citizen Laxmi Malla, fostering intergenerational knowledge exchange and commitment to addressing gender-based violence challenges in Nepal.

Interaction with stakeholders on marriage equality



Mitini Nepal organized an "Interaction with stakeholders on marriage equality" in Bagmati Province, Kathmandu, on January 31, 2024. The event aimed to foster dialogue among diverse stakeholders, with a focus on marriage equality for the gender and sexual minorities community. Executive Director Sarita KC delivered a comprehensive presentation covering the legal landscape, challenges faced, ongoing efforts, and future steps for marriage equality.

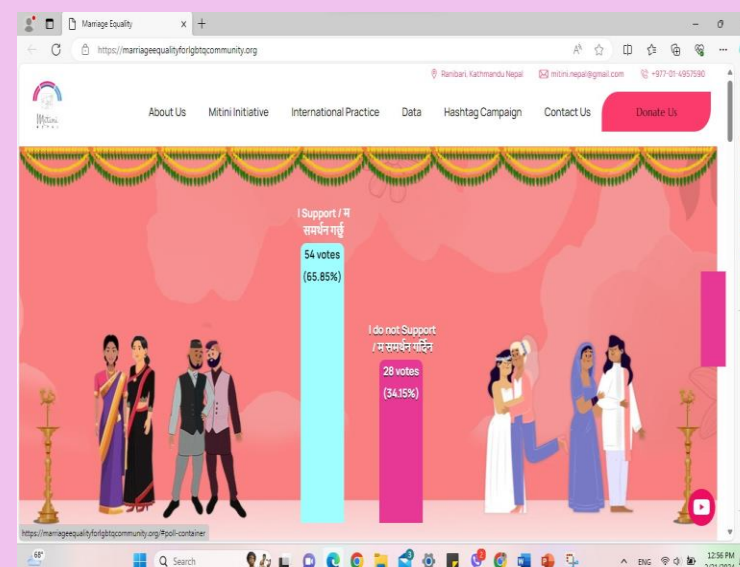
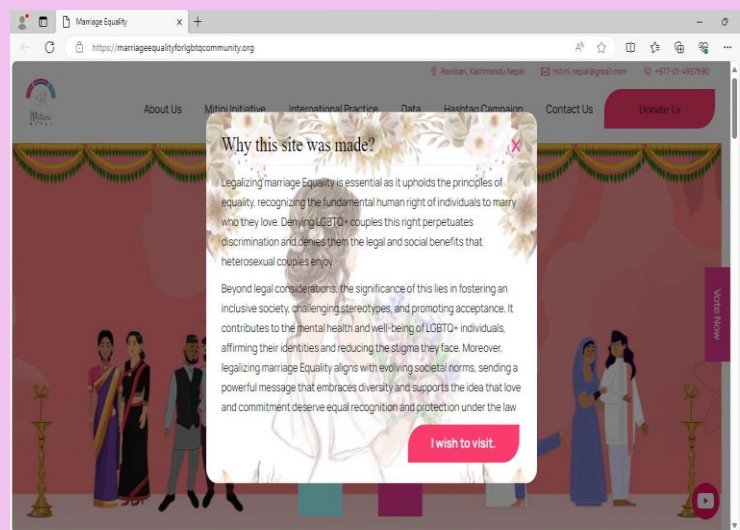
The event featured the inauguration of a website dedicated to promoting marriage equality and the endorsement of a letter of approval from various stakeholders. President Laxmi Ghalan emphasized the impact of societal factors on LGBTQ couples and highlighted instances of self-harm due to rejection. The program, with 104 diverse participants, facilitated open discussions, encouraging collaborative efforts to address challenges faced by gender and sexual minority communities.

Website launch on Marriage equality

Mitini Nepal proudly launched the "Marriage Equality for LGBTI Community" website on January 31st, generously supported by the Open Society Foundation. This digital initiative plays a vital role in raising awareness, fostering understanding, and advocating for marriage equality within the LGBTI community. The platform serves as a valuable resource, offering insights into the current status of LGBTI community marriages and disseminating international best practices. With a user-friendly design, the website aims to promote widespread recognition of marriage equality by providing comprehensive information on campaign objectives and missions. As a dedicated effort towards progress, Mitini Nepal looks forward to engaging with a broader audience and sharing updates on its continuous journey to advance the cause of equality.

Link for website

<https://marriageequalityforlgbtqcommunity.org/>



My journey of being elder single lesbian women to activist

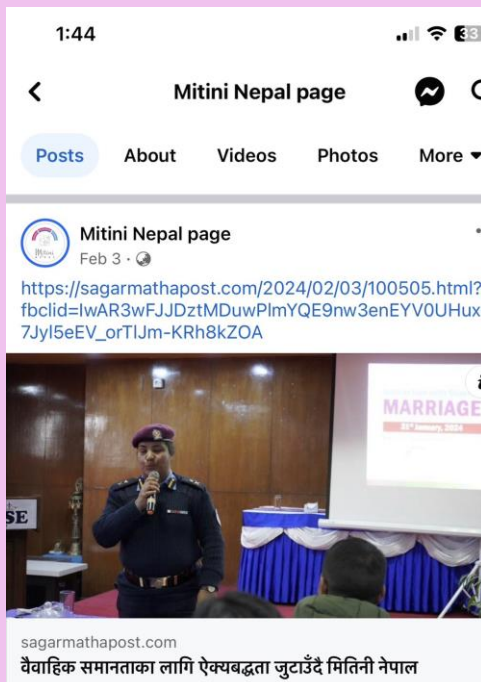


I am 54 years old Sukmaya Magar and I am proudly identifying as a lesbian woman living in Devghat, Gandaki Province, Tanahu. I have not participated in awareness or capacity development programs in the past. Notably, I enjoyed engaging in events facilitated by the LGBTI Elders Advancing Project launched for the first time in 2021 by Mitini Nepal. Embracing my sexuality and continuing to be part of community initiatives brings me joy and fulfillment. Participating in Mitini Nepal's capacity development and public speaking training was initially daunting for me.

During that experience, I felt an overwhelming fear, struggling to even recognize and express myself. Speaking in front of a large audience seemed like a daunting task at the time. Following that program, a transformative shift occurred in my mindset. Determined to progress, I, despite being a senior citizen, actively attend capacity development programs hosted by Mitini Nepal. This decision has catalyzed significant personal growth and positive changes in my life. Mitini Nepal has empowered me with the skills to navigate online meetings, a capability I initially lacked. Thanks to their support, I now actively join the online session. Through this experience, I have gained insights into the challenges faced by LGBTI elders on diverse subjects. My involvement extends to sharing my life story in the book "Our Lives, Our Stories: LGBTI Seniors in Nepal" shedding light on the experiences of seniors in LGBTI community. Advocating for equal rights, I aspire for single women in our community to enjoy the same social security benefits as their counterparts of the opposite sex.



News Features



News Features Link

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