

NEWSLETTER

March 2024

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MEETINGS WITH LBQ WOMEN LEADERS

Mitini Nepal conducted a virtual meeting on March 5, 2024, focusing on LBQ women's leader. This session proved to be a significant stride in addressing challenges faced by lesbian, bisexual and queer women within the sexual and gender minorities. Given the overshadowed status of LBQ issues in the broader LGBTQ+ movement and feminist initiatives, the virtual meeting aimed to spotlight the nuanced experiences, achievements, and hurdles encountered by LBQ women across different regions. Executive Director Sarita K.C. stressed the urgency of a comprehensive analysis and documentation of the LBQ community's provincial situation. This virtual gathering laid the foundation for discussions on the pivotal roles and responsibilities of LBQ leaders. Emphasis was placed on their integral contribution to crafting a groundbreaking position paper, a roadmap for the LBQ movement. The virtual meeting introduced key questions to guide leaders and their groups in exploring LBQ women's situations, achievements, legal gaps, and more in their respective provinces.

INTERACTION WITH STAKEHOLDERS IN LUMBINI PROVINCE

Mitini Nepal, Kapilvastu has successfully organized an interaction program with local stakeholders to address the 114th international women's day on March 6, 2024 at Kapilvastu, Bangaai, Lumbini Province. At the commencement of the interaction program, Salina Chaudhary, Mitini Nepal Lumbini Province Coordinator underscored the significance of Women's Day and provided a succinct overview of Mitini Nepal. Additionally, she directed stakeholders' focus towards the pertinent issues, circumstances and obstacles encountered by lesbian, bisexual, transgender and queer women. Addressing the gathering, Ward Representative Asha Panthi pledged her unwavering support for community initiatives at the ward level emphasizing her commitment to aiding their programs to the fullest. Likewise, Pramila Sunar, representing the Siddhartha Cooperative shed light on the intricate challenges faced by women within LGBTI community stressing the necessity for collaborative efforts from all quarters to secure their fundamental rights, including citizenship and rights related to marriage, thereby ensuring their dignified existence within society. Likewise, Laxmi Pariyar, serving as the Secretary of the Village Development Organization, affirmed her commitment to bringing forth the concerns of women from sexual and gender minority communities within the purview of village development initiatives. Overall, participants collectively emphasized the urgency of ensuring comprehensive empowerment for women within these communities, spanning economic, social, educational, and political spheres. The interaction program attracted 30 attendees, including local ward members, representatives from various associations among others.

Highlights

- Meeting with LBQ women Leaders
- Interaction meeting with stakeholders in Lumbini Province and Koshi Province
- Podcast of Sukmaya Magar on the occasion of International Women's Day
- Quotes by LGBTQ women
- Memorandum handover to women , children ans senior citizen ministry
- Province wise meeting with LBQ women group
- Mitini Advocacy Program (MAP)



Interaction with stakeholder in Koshi Province

Mitini Nepal, Sunsari has successfully organized an interaction program with local stakeholders to address the 114th international women's day on March 7, 2024 at Itahari, Koshi Province. The program commenced with the welcome remarks by Mitini Nepal Province Coordinator Kabita Tamang. She emphasized the importance of not only empowering women but also recognizing the lesbian, bisexual and queer women within a diverse sexual and gender minority communities. She also highlighted that elevating the status of women should encompass all facets of their diversity, ensuring inclusivity and equality for everyone.



Similarly, Suman Tamang, the program facilitator, addressed the specific challenges faced by LBQ (Lesbian, Bisexual, and Queer) women. These challenges included issues related to political participation, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and employment opportunities. He also shared that community continues to experience discrimination due to the absence of representation of such individuals at policy-making levels. The interaction program attracted 25 attendees, including local ward members, women's cell police inspectors from state police office, representatives from various associations, media and representatives from health service providers' associations.

Podcast on International women's day



On the occasion of the 114th International Women's Day in 2024, with the international theme, 'Invest in women: Accelerate Progress', Mitini Nepal produced a poignant video broadcast. The video featured Sukmaya Magar, a courageous lesbian elder and single woman, who shared her lived experiences and the multitude of challenges she faced. Through her compelling narrative, Magar shed light on the intersecting layers of adversity encountered as a woman, a member of the LGBTQ+ community, and an individual navigating life's complexity. Her story resonated deeply, highlighting the urgent need to address the systemic barriers faced by LGBTQ+ individuals, particularly in accessing essential resources and support. She is facing the challenges of aging alone and struggling with various health issues exacerbated by economic hardship.

QUOTES BY LGBTQ WOMEN

In honor of International Women's Day, Mitini Nepal gathered quotes from LGBTQ (Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer) women across various provinces, highlighting the diverse range of issues they face. These quotes were then transformed into powerful digital flyers, which were shared across social media platforms. By amplifying the voices and concerns of LGBTQ women, Mitini aimed to raise awareness, spark dialogue, and advocate for greater inclusion and equality.



Interaction with ministry of women children and senior citizen on LGBTI elders

On March 27, 2024, Mitini Nepal with the support of Outright International in collaboration with Ministry of Women, Children, and Senior Citizens host an "Interaction program on LGBTI older Person Issues" in Kathmandu. Bimala Gurung, Program Officer of Mitini Nepal, articulated program objectives, aiming to sensitize Ministry employees to the challenges faced by LGBTI seniors, foster closer ties with the Ministry, and disseminate information on existing policies. Nirmala Karki, Chief Women Development Officer, delivered a comprehensive presentation highlighting senior citizens' rights, Ministry programs, legal frameworks, and challenges confronting sexual and gender minority communities. Sarita KC, Executive Director of Mitini Nepal, provided insights from a survey of 100 LGBTI seniors, outlining challenges and potential solutions. Ministry Director Ramhari Gaihre expressed the Ministry's commitment to collaboration for policy reforms benefiting LGBTI individuals. Laxmi Ghalan, Mitini Nepal's founder president, emphasized the need for recognition and dignity for LGBTI seniors in closing remarks. Representatives of the Ministry, LGBTI communities, and representatives Mitini Nepal participated in the program including 49 in total.



Memorandum handover to women children and senior citizen minister

On March 27, 2024, in Kathmandu, Bagmati Province, Mitini Nepal presented a chart of demand addressing the status of senior citizens and women within sexual and gender minority communities to the new minister of Women, Children and Senior Citizens, Bhagwati Chaudhary at Bagmati Province, Singadurbar, Kathmandu. The chart of demand included an analysis of the status of senior citizens and LBQ women of sexual and gender minority communities, constitutional rights, challenges faced by senior citizens and women of the community and suggestions as way forward from Mitini Nepal. Upon receiving the chart of demand, Bhagwati Chaudhary, affirmed that the ministry would facilitate the essential coordination for policy reforms.

Mitini Advocacy Program (MAP)



Mitini Nepal with the support of Foundation for a just Society (FJS) successfully organized a three-day residential MAP, held from March 28 to March 30, 2024, in Bagmati Province, Kathmandu, Nepal. The primary objective of the workshop was to educate and inform LGBTI human rights activists about the significance of SDGs and United Nations human rights treaties. The first day of the workshop focused on highlighting the importance of SDGs in advocacy efforts on a global platform, specifically addressing issues within the LGBTI community. Participants engaged in discussions on SDG indicators and explored potential advocacy strategies. The second day centered on United Nations international human rights treaties and their relevance to advocacy.

The third and final day delved into the reporting processes of Universal Periodic Review (UPR), Volunteer National Review (VNR), and other relevant treaties. Throughout the workshop, participants engaged in group activities, facilitated discussions, and role-play exercises. Divided into groups representing different stakeholders such as the Nepal Government, CSOs/NGOs/NHRIs, CEDAW committee members, and Permanent Mission, participants actively participated in role-play scenarios to better understand the complexities of advocacy work. The training sessions were supplemented with video sharing and PowerPoint presentations to enhance learning and engagement. A total of 45 participants from various community-based organizations spanning Koshi, Madesh, Bagmati, Gandaki, Lumbini, Karnali, and Sudurpaschim Provinces, LGBTI right activist along with Mitini staff members, actively contributed to the workshop, making it a collaborative and impactful event.

For more information:

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