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National Indigenous Women Forum

“Collective Campaign for Collective Identity” Issue #1



Fiscal Year 2081/82 budget through Indigenous Peoples' Perspectives:

On May 3rd, 2024, National Indigenous Women Forum (NIWF) convened a closed group discussion and consultation, focusing on the Nepal Government's Fiscal Year 2081/82 budget through the lens of Indigenous Peoples' rights.

Following a closed group discussion and consultation with experts held on May 3rd, National Indigenous Women Forum (NIWF) has submitted suggestions recommendations to the Ministry of Finance, focusing on the upcoming Fiscal Year 2081/82 budget of the Nepal Government with a specific lens on Indigenous Peoples' rights. Grounded in information published by the Ministry of Finance, these recommendations aim to advocate for the rights of Indigenous Women and Girls, as well as all Indigenous Communities, within the budgetary framework.



Inauguration of Bankariya Children Library:

On May 4, 2024, National Indigenous Women Forum (NIWF), with the support of MADRE, celebrated the official inauguration of a library for the Bankariya, Chepang, and Tamang children of Musedhap located in Ward No. 4 of Manahari Rural Municipality, Makwanpur district.. NIWF supplied essential stationery to 41

The Bankariyas are endangered Indigenous Community of Nepal with a mere population of 180 according to the 2021 Census and a total household of 24, out of which only 86 of them speak their Mother tongue. In the 2011 National Census, Bankariyas were not recorded as they were not recognized till then.



NIWF at SBSTTA-26 held in Nairobi, Kenya:

Ms. Suni Lama, Chairperson of National Indigenous Women Forum (NIWF), and Ms. Yasso Kanti Bhattachan, Vice-Chairperson of NIWF along with Government delegate Dr. Rajendra KC, Joint secretary at Ministry of Forests and Environment participated in the Twenty-Sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-26) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) held in Nairobi, Kenya 2024. National Indigenous Women Forum(NIWF) in collaboration with Indigenous Peoples representatives of NDN Collective(Canada, USA, Mexico), IITC2, Qe'qchi People of Laguna, (Belize), Jamii Asilia Center(Africa Region, Kenya), and the Inuit Circumpolar Council submitted Indigenous Peoples' Position Statement for the separation of the terms Indigenous Peoples and Local



IGOF Recipient 2024:

In 2024, NIWF selected two candidates from Ward No. 9 of Kalinchowk Rural Municipality in Dolakha district for the Indigenous Girls Opportunity Fund (IGOF) scholarship. The selection process involved comprehensive interviews conducted by NIWF staff, assessing the candidates' economic status and academic interests. IGOF offers educational assistance to selected candidates from Marginalized and endangered Communities, particularly those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Emphasizing empowerment through education, IGOF aims to uplift and transform lives by providing essential educational support to those who need it most.



International Biological Diversity Day:

National Indigenous Women Forum (NIWF) family celebrated International Biological Diversity Day. This year, the theme of the International Day for Biological Diversity is “Be part of the Plan”. Everyone has a role to play and therefore can be [#PartOfThePlan](#).

International Biological Diversity Day highlights the indispensable role of Indigenous Peoples in conserving the world's biological diversity. Indigenous Communities, with their profound knowledge of local ecosystems, traditional practices, and sustainable land use, are crucial stewards of biodiversity.



FPAR on Indigenous Returnee Migrant Women: Consultation meeting on Preliminary Position Paper

On May 17, 2024, National Indigenous Women Forum (NIWF), supported by Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD), conducted a consultation meeting on the "Preliminary Position Paper Draft on the Inclusive and Sustainable Implementation of the Reintegration Programme 2079" in Chautara Sagachokgadhi Municipality. The event gathered local stakeholders, including human rights defenders, journalists, government representatives, local NGOs, media, and the SaMi Project, to discuss the effective economic reintegration of Returnee Migrant Women and Indigenous Women in the municipality.



Women Human Rights Impact Assessment (WHRIA) Pilot Test:

From 28 to 29 May 2024, National Indigenous Women Forum (NIWF) together with Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD) and the Center for Economic and Social Rights (CESR) conducted Women Human Rights Impact Assessment (WHRIA) Pilot Test: Addressing Gendered Impacts of Development Projects. The impact assessment was conducted in the Majhi Communities in Manthali to determine the status of the hydropower dam project and assess the human rights situation of the Indigenous Women, particularly in exercising their right for participation, access to information and self-determination.



Press Conference on WHRIA Pilot Test Findings:

On May 30, 2024, National Indigenous Women Forum (NIWF), in collaboration with Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD) and Center for Economic and Social Rights (CESR), held a press conference at the Kathmandu Guest House to present the findings of the WHRIA Pilot Test, focusing on the gendered impacts of development projects. During the conference, NIWF's Vice-Chairperson Ms. Yasso Kanti Bhattachan provided a brief background on the Sunkoshi Hydropower Dam. Representatives from the Majhi Community—Sukumaya Majhi, Mamta Majhi, and Purna Majhi—shared powerful testimonies about how the hydropower project and climate change have affected their lives.



Interaction program on Policy and Program for Freed Kamlaris, Kamaiya and Haliyas Rehabilitation Procedure 2080 :

On June 2, 2024, the National Indigenous Women Forum (NIWF), in collaboration with the Freed Kamlari Development Forum (FKDF), organized a significant discussion and interaction program at Devotee Hotel in Dhangadi. This event focused on reviewing and deliberating on the policies and programs specifically designed for the freed Kamlaris in the Sudurpaschim Province, as well as the comprehensive rehabilitation procedures for freed Kamaiya, Kamlaris, and Haliyas outlined for 2080.



NIWF attended 2nd Indigenous and Local Knowledge Dialogue for the Global Environment Outlook 7 (GEO-7) in Oaxaca, Mexico:

From June 11-13, 2024, Ms. Saraswati Sherpa, Program Officer of National Indigenous Women Forum (NIWF), participated in the 2nd Indigenous and Local Knowledge Dialogue for the Global Environment Outlook 7 (GEO-7) in Oaxaca, Mexico. This significant event marked a crucial step in integrating the perspectives of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities into the GEO-7 assessment, following the first virtual dialogue held earlier in 2024.



NIWF team congratulated Ms. Bandana Rana for being re-elected

CEDAW Committee for the third time:

National Indigenous Women Forum (NIWF) congratulated Ms. Bandana Rana for being re-elected CEDAW committee member for the third term. We have a high appreciation of her contribution in securing the rights of women & girls and intersectionality. Also, her meaningful support to the cause of Indigenous Women and Girls of Nepal and beyond. We wish her all the best for a successful tenure.



Training Program on CEDAW GR-39 Implementation in Nepal and Contemporary IPs Issues:

On June 22-23, 2024, the National Indigenous Women Forum (NIWF) held a training program on implementing CEDAW GR 39 in Nepal and addressing contemporary Indigenous Peoples' issues with members of the Women and Social Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives. Facilitated by NIWF's Vice Chairperson, Ms. Yasso Kanti Bhattachan, and Executive Director, Ms. Dwarika Thebe, the program opened with a welcome speech from NIWF's General Secretary, Ms. Manmaya Tamang. The chief guest, Hon. Kiran Kumar Shah, also gave a speech. The inauguration ceremony included candle lighting, led by Hon. Kiran Kumar Shah and NIWF's Chairperson, Ms. Suni Lama.



2-Days Workshop on Cyber Security: Young Indigenous Women and Girls in Cyber Spaces:

On June 28th and 29th, 2024, National Indigenous Women Forum (NIWF), in collaboration with Focus for Indigenous Girls (FIG) and supported by MADRE, organized a 2-day workshop on Cyber Security for young Indigenous Women and Girls at Itahiti-5 Chhampi, Godawari. The workshop specifically targeted Pahari and Nagarkoti Indigenous Girls. NIWF's Chairperson, Ms. Suni Lama, and Treasurer, Ms. Sushila Gole, also attended the program to share their insights on cyber security. The workshop was facilitated by Ms. kabita bahing, an Indigenous feminist storyteller, and Ms. Dikshya Khadgi.

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National Indigenous Women Forum

मुक्त कमलरी दिवस २०८३

niwf_nepal On June 27, 2013, Nepal's legislature officially abolished the kamlari practice: A system rooted in predatory lending, ethnic oppression, and generational debt that deprived tens of thousands of young women of their education, cultural connections, and childhood. Since then, every year on Ashadh 13, the freed Kamlaris have joyfully celebrated Liberation Day. However, in 2023, the celebration was not marked with the usual enthusiasm. They called on the government to include freed Kamlaris who were missing from official records, provide vocational training, arrange food in hostels, ensure job opportunities, and offer scholarships for higher education. This situation highlights that, despite being free from bonded labor, these individuals still face an identity crisis and...

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Happy World Environment Day 2024 🌍🌱. On Environment Day, let us honor the wisdom and stewardship of Indigenous Peoples, who have long safeguarded the earth through their profound connection to nature. Indigenous communities hold traditional knowledge that promotes sustainable living and biodiversity conservation, emphasizing the interconnectedness of all life. Their practices remind us that caring for the environment is not just about preservation but about respecting the bala... See more

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