



FEDO's E-Bulletin

Movement Against Caste and Gender-Based Discrimination

Feminist Dalit Organization(FEDO)

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In this fourth edition is included one of FEDO's biggest event of the year: the FEDO's retreat and review program. You can read about it just below!

FEDO's Retreat and Review Program

From 13th till 16th February, FEDO's central office organized a "Review/Retreat and Issues Identification Formulation Workshop", supported by WAPPDCA. Altogether 56 persons from FEDO attended this program. The participants, Board members and employees, were from both central and district levels.

The aim of this program was to enhance FEDO's actions, guidelines and to prepare next annual planning by collecting the different opinions and ideas of everyone. Various topics were covered, such as FEDO's organizational development (under which FEDO's structure, organizational assessment, norms, values, code of conduct, policy procedures), FEDO's action plan, existing challenges and future direction of FEDO. As regards the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) Analysis of FEDO, a resource person, Mohandas Manandhar, facilitated this session. With his facilitation, some points from FEDO's Strategic Plan 2010 to 2012 were debated and improved.

Another work's method consisted in working by region-wise groups on different topics such as the identification of emerging issues of Dalit women and appropriate strategies to address them. After that each group presented the fruit of their reflection.

On this occasion, the 17th Annual General Assembly was also held. All members approved the narrative and financial report of last year. Following this, the next year was tackled by discussing the different regional-wise issues, the budget and the planned activities.



Durga Sob welcoming participants on the first day of Program.

Lastly, what definitively made this program a success was the choice of a peaceful place that is Dulikhel. It was a good opportunity for everyone to meet people from other districts, to create a spirit team and to feel entirely involved in our national-wise NGO.

This E-bulletin's Contents

- FEDO's review and retreat program
- The International Women's Day
- Submission to Human Rights Council
- International Day against Racial Discrimination

The International Women's Day



Each representative of NGOs introduced his NGO, its purpose and its struggles.



A canvas painted by artists from Heart Beat. Every participant could write a message for social change on the occasion of the Women's Day.

FEDO participated also in the 2nd Social Women Forum. But it was postponed to the 15th and 16th March because of the national mourning from March 6 to 8 after the death of the former Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai.

There, the main NGOs of Nepal supporting women gathered together for a rally, drama and dance performances and stalls. This event is essential to strengthen their network, to celebrate together women's voices and to support each other to keep going on with their struggle. Concerning FEDO, a workshop focused on the topic "how can Dalit people get access to the government?" was conducted.

This year, FEDO changed its own habits on 8th March. To celebrate the 101st International Women Day, FEDO did no rally, but participated in a program at Alliance Française (a French cultural centre). This whole day program coordinated both by Alliance Française and FEDO gathered together photo and painting exhibitions, documentary, artists and NGOs.

As upbeat in the morning, the movie entitled "Women are heroes" has been screening. JR, a French artist, traveled across the world. There, JR took faces of women victims of discrimination that he and townspeople put up on huge canvasses in their neighbor streets, buildings and trains. The result promotes a powerful artistic and social message through these gigantic humorous portraits.

All the day, NGOs were attending the program to present their work through stalls. Their common point: they are all working for marginalized women. Disabled, Madhesi, Indigenous, Muslim and Dalit women were present from National Disabled Women Association, Videh Foundation, National Indigenous Women Federation, Nepal Muslim Women Welfare Society and FEDO respectively. Messages of hope in changing social behaviors were spreading through the dance of disabled women, even a one-legged person, and through the painting of an 8 meters long canvas on which each participant could write thoughts to close this special Day.



Representatives of NGOs throwing colorful powder for the opening of the 2nd social Women Forum.

Submission to the Human Rights Council

In the offing of the 16th session of the Human Rights Council held in March, Geneva, a submission was written regarding the situation of human rights defenders in Nepal. This joint statement entitled: "NEPAL: Serious threats to human rights defenders hampering democratization and peace-building" was submitted by the Asian Legal Resource Centre (ALRC) with the support of FEDO, Women's Rehabilitation Center (WOREC), Jagaran Media Center (JMC).

The submission raises the issue of the threats and difficulties that people are facing when they speak up to defend the rights of discriminated groups, notably Dalit and women. As conclusion, we seek that the Human Rights Council is urged to:

- 1- Follow-up on the implementation of the UPR recommendations concerning the situation of human rights defenders and pay special attention to the situation of human rights defenders working on the issues of vulnerable communities' rights and to the situation of journalists in Nepal;
- 2- Urge the government of Nepal to acknowledge the work of human rights defenders and adopt specific and effective legal mechanisms to ensure their protection;
- 3- Draw the attention of the government of Nepal to the need to address the issue at the policing level by providing awareness-raising training to the police officers on those issues;
- 4- Ensure that specific training is made available, through the OHCHR and any other appropriate vehicles, to human rights defenders in Nepal, in order to provide them with information regarding the different international mechanisms they can resort to.

You can see the full submission on this link: <http://www.humanrights.asia/news/alrc-news/human-rights-council/hrc16/ALRC-CWS-16-04-2011>.



Organizations involved in the submission about the Human Rights Defenders in Nepal

International Day against Racial Discrimination

On the 46th International Day against Racial Discrimination, a program was organized by FEDO along with other NGOs in the coordination of the National Dalit Commission. At the beginning of the program, everyone observed one minute of silence to the memory of the 69 killed people in 1960, South Africa. Then, Durga Sob, the President of the Feminist Dalit Organization, reminded of there is no discrimination on the basis of colour in Nepal, but caste discrimination exists. The Chairman of the Constituent Assembly, Subash Chandra Nemwang, Chief guest of the program, added that caste discrimination should be eliminated in the upcoming Constitution and in practice as well.

Before this program, a rally took place on the morning in the center of Kathmandu gathering together approximately 1000 people. FEDO was one of the participants, among political parties and other Dalit organizations. FEDO had its own banner in the rally and chanted slogans proclaiming the Dalit rights which should be included in the next Constitution.



Dalit women and men activists in the rally against caste/racial Discrimination.