

*"Building Bridge towards Intersectional Activism"*

**Making Nepal's Diverse Women and Girls with Disabilities  
Heard at CEDAW**

# **A Shadow Report on Nepal's Seventh Report to CEDAW**

**January 2025**



**Submitted by a Coalition of Organizations of Diverse  
Women and Girls with Disabilities in Nepal**

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**Submitted By**



**Supported By**



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## Acknowledgements

This report was prepared and written by Dr. Amar BK on behalf of a coalition of seven organizations of diverse women and girls with/out disabilities namely Access Planet Organization (Access Planet), Blind Women Association Nepal (BWAN), Dalit with Disabilities Association Nepal (DDAN), Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO), Federation of Women with Disability Nepal (FWDN), National Indigenous Disabled Women Association Nepal (NIDWAN) and Pahichan Nepal.

The report was technically guided, reviewed and edited by Krishna Gahatraj, Program Officer for Nepal of Disability Rights Fund and Disability Rights Advocacy Fund. The technical inputs were also provided by International Disability Alliance to make this report comprehensive. The inputs and feedbacks were provided by Laxmi Nepal from Access Planet, Neera Adhikari from BWAN and Nirmala Dhital from FWDN and Pratima Gurung from NIDWAN. Special thanks go to all those diverse women and girls with disabilities who shared their lived experience participating in the consultations.



# Acronyms

<b>ANC</b>	: Antenatal Care
<b>BWAN</b>	: Blind Women Association Nepal
<b>CEDAW</b>	: Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
<b>CRPD</b>	: Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
<b>DDAN</b>	: Dalit with Disabilities Association Nepal
<b>DRF/DRAF</b>	: Disability Rights Fund/Disability Rights Advocacy Fund
<b>FEDO</b>	: Feminist Dalit Organization
<b>FWDN</b>	: Federation of Women with Disability Nepal
<b>GoN</b>	: Government of Nepal
<b>IDA</b>	: International Disability Alliance
<b>NIDWAN</b>	: National Indigenous Disabled Women Association Nepal
<b>PNC</b>	: Postnatal Care
<b>SMEs</b>	: Small and Medium Enterprises

# Key Terminologies and Their Definitions

**Diverse women and girls with disabilities** include those women and girls with disabilities from diverse backgrounds like caste, ethnicity, indigeneity, race, class, gender, age, geography, marital status, types of impairment and degree of severity, economic condition, living with HIV/AIDS, internally displaced and so on.

**Most marginalized groups** are those who are made politically, economically and socially backward, are unable to enjoy services and facilities because of discrimination and oppression and of geographical remoteness or deprived thereof and are in lower status than the human development standards mentioned in Federal law, and includes highly marginalized groups and groups on the verge of extinction as defined and interpreted by the Constitution of Nepal 2072 under part 34, article 306 (m) – definitions and interpretations.

**Underrepresented groups** are those groups of persons with disabilities who remain underrepresented within the mainstream disability rights movement. These include different types of impairment group, various social categories, economic conditions and cultural identities. For example, diverse women and girls with disabilities, Dalit with Disabilities, Madheshi with Disabilities, Muslims with Disabilities, Indigenous Persons with Disabilities, persons who are deafblind, persons with psychosocial disabilities, persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with disabilities from LGBTIQ++ communities, etc. It may differ in different country, culture and contexts.

**Dalits:** Dalits are those communities who, by virtue of atrocities of caste-based discrimination and untouchability, are most backward in social, economic, educational, political and religious fields, and are deprived of human dignity and social justice as defined by National Dalit Commission.

**Madheshis** are those dwelling in the plain land, and are enlisted by the Madheshi Commission of Nepal.

**Muslim** are those group of people who are religious minorities as defined and enlisted by the Muslim Commission of Nepal.

**Indigenous Nationalities (Adibasi Janajati)** include those ethnic groups or communities that “have their own mother tongue and traditional customs, distinct cultural identity, distinct social structures and written or oral history of their own” as defined by the National Foundation for Development of Indigenous Nationalities Act of Nepal (2002).

# Executive Summary

This shadow report is the first report submitted independently by a coalition of organizations of diverse women and girls with disabilities in Nepal to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Aligning with the spirit of the slogan of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities - “Nothing About Us, Without Us” and respecting the promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals—“Leave No One Behind”, we are proud to be able to come together from across the country, read and analyze the Government of Nepal (GoN) periodic reports, identify, and prioritize our concerns, and share our observations and recommendations to CEDAW.

This report was prepared and submitted, with technical and financial support from Disability Rights Fund (DRF) and International Disability Alliance (IDA), by a coalition of seven organizations founded and led by diverse women and girls with disabilities who have been advocating for their rights for many years.

Diverse women and girls with disabilities in Nepal face multiple and intersecting layers and forms of discrimination and violence. They often face stigma, abandonment by family and society, and neglect from the state. Disability in Nepal is still widely regarded as a divine curse resulting from one’s sin in their past life. Negative stereotypes about their sexuality, reproductive capacity, and ability to have a family further marginalize them. Such stereotypes and prejudices have created significant barriers to their full and effective participation in family and social life on an equal basis with others.

GoN's laws, policies, and programs have been ineffective in addressing diversity and inequality among the women category in Nepal, as well as in ensuring the rights of diverse women and girls with disabilities.

## **We request CEDAW to recommend the GoN to do the following:**

1. To inquire and update the implementation status of CEDAW and UNCRPD Concluding Observation 2018, particularly of the provisions related to diverse women and girls with disabilities.
2. Specifically, acknowledge and include diverse women with disabilities in the laws and policies that guarantee women’s representation and meaningful participation to ensure that their voice is represented in the decision-making processes. For example, ensure representation

of women with disabilities in the National Women Commission and proportional representation of women with disabilities in the House of Representatives, National and Provincial Assemblies, and civil service jobs.

3. **Raise awareness among healthcare workers** about the rights of diverse women and girls with disabilities especially related to access to health, government's health-related laws, policies, and programs for persons with disabilities, and stigma and discrimination against diverse women and girls with disabilities.
4. **Ensure access to justice for diverse women and girls with disabilities** by arranging required reasonable accommodation and accessibility measures, such as the use of sign languages, mother tongues, and local languages at police stations and courts, and by providing free legal services to diverse women and girls with disabilities.
5. **Ensure access of diverse women and girls with disabilities to public services, facilities, and resources** by making the built environment accessible to all, such as arranging sign language, mother tongue, and local language interpreters, easy-to-read versions, Braille, digitally accessible information at least in health care facilities, courts, police stations, banks, and government offices. Additionally, install accessible signages and information on roads, public buildings, parks, and other public places.
6. **Invest in research, evidence generation, and data collection on diverse women and girls with disabilities** to produce more disaggregated data based on disability, age, sex, caste, ethnicity, geography, and economic status to inform government policymaking.
7. **Revise election laws** to ensure the proportionate representation of diverse women with disabilities in elected bodies. Make voting processes—including election information, voting booths, ballot, and ballot boxes—fully accessible for diverse women and girls with disabilities.
8. **Make school education safe, accessible, conducive, and resilient to diverse girls with disabilities**, by investing in accessible infrastructure, providing instruction in accessible formats, increasing the amount of scholarship, and establishing more schools that offer education in accessible languages and mediums particularly mother tongue and local languages

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# 1. Brief Introduction of a Coalition

In Nepal, a coalition of seven organizations founded and led by diverse women and girls with disabilities representing from the most marginalized and underrepresented groups come together to implement a two-year long project '***Building Bridge towards Intersectional Activism***' with the support of grant by Disability Rights Fund and Disability Rights Advocacy Fund. The project commenced in May 2023 and will end by October 2025. The project has been instrumental to build the movement bridging with mainstream disability rights and feminist movements through cross-movement collaboration. The coalition include following organizations who submitted this shadow report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women for its 90<sup>th</sup> session to be held from 3 to 21 February 2025 at Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland –

**Access Planet Organization (Access Planet):** Access Planet Organization is led by young women with disabilities in Nepal and is working for the promotion of rights, empowerment and inclusion of persons with disabilities in general and young women with disabilities in specific. (Website: <https://accessplanet.org.np>)

**Blind Women Association Nepal (BWAN):** BWAN is a national level organization founded and led by those women and girls who are visually impaired and partially sighted. BWAN primarily works for visually impaired and partially sighted women and girls of across the country. It serves as a secretariat of the coalition. (Website: <https://bwan.org.np>)

**Dalit with Disabilities Association Nepal (DDAN):** DDAN is an emerging organization which is led by Dalit women with disability and has majority of Dalit women and girls with disabilities in its leadership and governance. DDAN works throughout the country to amplify the voices of those most marginalized and underrepresented Dalit with disabilities from intersectional approach. (Website: <https://ddan.org.np>)

**Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO):** FEDO is a non-profit non-governmental organization of Dalit women with a passion to eliminate caste and gender-based discrimination. It is a pioneer organization to advocate Dalit's rights and women's rights simultaneously. (Website: <https://fedonepal.org>)

**Federation of Women with Disability Nepal (FWDN):** FWDN is a national umbrella organization of women and girls with disabilities founded and led organization. It advocates for the protection and promotion of the human rights of all women and girls with disabilities across the country. The organization is founded by nine members organizations of women and girls with disabilities working all across the country. (Website: <https://fwdn.org.np>)

**National Indigenous Disabled Women Association Nepal (NIDWAN):** NIDWAN is a national level organization founded and led by indigenous women and girls with disabilities to amplify their voices from the intersectional approach across the country, region and global level. NIDWAN envisions a fair, just and equitable society where all indigenous women and girls with disabilities live their life with dignity and full respect. (Website: <https://nidwan.org.np>)

**Pahichan Nepal:** Pahichan Nepal, is a non-profit self-help organization that is dedicated to empowering single and marginalized women with disabilities in Nepal. It primarily works with those single, divorced and separated women across the country. (Website: <https://pahichan.org>)

## 2. Introduction

This shadow report is the first report submitted independently by a coalition of organizations of diverse women and girls with disabilities from Nepal to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), by the spirit of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)—“Nothing About Us, Without Us” and the promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals—“Leave No One Behind.”

Our concerns are most often neglected by the mainstream movements such as the women's movement, disability rights movement, and the movements of other marginalized groups such as Dalits, Adibasi Janajatis, Madheshis and Muslims. The distinct and intersectional experiences of marginalization faced by diverse women and girls with disabilities are recognized by neither movement nor by Nepali development discourse.

We are proud to be able to come together from across the country to read and analyze key documents (such as the GoN's seventh periodic report to CEDAW, CEDAW's list of issues and questions about the seventh periodic report, and its Concluding Observations on the sixth periodic report of GoN), identify and prioritize our issues and concerns, and share our observations and recommendations with CEDAW. We believe CEDAW will acknowledge our efforts and urge the GoN to be more accountable in protecting, promoting, and ensuring the rights of diverse women and girls with disabilities in Nepal.

This report was prepared and submitted, with technical and financial support from Disability Rights Fund (DRF) and International Disability Alliance (IDA), by a coalition of seven organizations founded and led by diverse women with disabilities who have been advocating for their rights for many years. The coalition represents diverse organizations based on their diverse identities not only based on their types of impairments but also based on their social identities such as caste, ethnicity, religion, and geography.

This report was prepared through a participatory, inclusive, and bottom-up approach. The findings, observations, and recommendations of the shadow report are based primarily on two key sources: (1) available secondary sources (academic and NGO studies, news reports, and government survey data) and (2) primary data representing lived experiences, opinions, and analyses of diverse women and girls with disabilities collected through participatory and empowering workshops. Given the utter lack of secondary data regarding

women and girls with disabilities<sup>1</sup> and our belief that experience should take precedence, this report gives primacy to first-hand accounts of those living with disabilities and other forms of oppression including gender, caste, ethnicity, class, and religion.

Initially, several preparatory meetings were held among the coalition members to discuss, design, and finalize the shadow report's methodology, approach, and process. Two workshops were, then, held among diverse women with disabilities representing various organizations, ensuring the diversity of disabilities, geographical coverage, caste, and ethnicities, to gather their views, feedback, and recommendations on the seventh periodic report of the GoN. The first workshop, convened for a day, was held in Koshi Province of Nepal in the leadership of the FWDN and was participated by 35 diverse women with disabilities from the province. Building on the lessons from this workshop, another four-day-long national capacity building and consultation workshop was held in Kathmandu among 80 diverse women and girls with disabilities coming from across six remaining provinces of Nepal representing diverse organizations in terms of their impairments, class, caste, ethnicity, religion, age, geography, and location (rural/urban). The workshop had twin objectives: firstly, educating on CEDAW (along with the CRPD, and the intersections of CEDAW and CRPD), and, secondly, to collect the participants' observations and comments on GoN's seventh periodic report to CEDAW. (See Annex: Workshop agenda, List of participants, Photos, and Flip charts)

This report summarizes the coalition's response to the GoN's seventh periodic report to CEDAW, CEDAW's list of issues and questions about the seventh periodic report, the Committee's concluding observations on Nepal's sixth periodic report, and the Coalition's recommendations to the GoN.

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<sup>1</sup> There is a severe scarcity of reliable data on diverse women and girls with disabilities in Nepal. Those that are present are confusing and even contradictory. See, Pita, Y., Bigler, C., Sony, K. C., & Amacker, M. (2023). The right to health: An examination of health care access for women with disability in Nepal. *SSM-Qualitative Research in Health*, 4: 1-8. Gurung, P. (2019). "Breaking Down Silos: Women with Disabilities Issues, Voices, and Concerns in Family" (pp. 317–344). In S. Halder and V. Argyropoulos (eds.) *Inclusion, Equity and Access for Individuals with Disabilities*. Springer Nature Singapore.

### 3. Situation of Women and Girls with Disabilities in Nepal

The situation of persons with disabilities in comparison with those without disabilities in Nepal is the worst. They are unable to fully exercise their fundamental human rights and often face stigma, abandonment by family and society, and neglect from the state. Disability in Nepal is still widely regarded as a divine curse resulting from one's sin in their past life.. Such stereotypes create significant barriers in multiple ways to their full participation in family and social life.

Nepal's uneven terrain—with much of the country being mountainous—economic hardships, and inadequate investment in accessible physical infrastructure and public goods exacerbate the barriers faced by persons with disabilities. As a result, their access to basic services and facilities such as education, health care, employment, livelihood, and political and public life is significantly lower than that of individuals without disabilities.

The situation of women and girls with disabilities is even more dire, as they face additional stigmatization due to their gender and social-cultural norms and are subjected to gender-based and sexual violence. Negative stereotypes about their sexuality, reproductive capacity, and ability to have a family further marginalize them.

Consequently, the socio-economic situation of women and girls with disabilities is worse than that of both men with disabilities as well as women without disabilities. Women and girls with disabilities lag far behind those without disabilities in most socio-economic domains such as education, health, employment, and public participation. An analysis of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey carried out by the GoN in 2019 shows that “in comparison with non-disabled women, women with disabilities had low education, low socio-economic status, low media exposure, and low access to sexual and reproductive health.”<sup>2</sup> For example, the reported literacy rate of women and girls with disabilities, according to Census 2022, is 38.5% while the rate of men with disabilities is 60% and overall women is 74%.

Among the population of women and girls with disabilities, those from marginalized communities such as Adibasi Janajati (indigenous nationalities), Dalits (who were formerly recognized as untouchables), Madheshi (those

<sup>2</sup> Kakchapati, S., KC, S. P., Giri, S., Bhattarai, S., & Baral, S. C. (2022). Factors associated with access to sexual and reproductive health services among women with disabilities in Nepal. *Dialogues in Health*, 1:1-6.

dwelling in the plain land), and Muslims experience additional layers of stigmatization, discrimination, and exclusion, because of their caste, ethnic, regional, and religious belongings. For example, a woman with disability belonging to a Dalit community in Madhesh experiences discrimination based on caste, class, ethnicity, region, and language. Thus, recognizing the diversity and inequalities within the women and girls with disabilities is crucial in understanding their issues.

## 4. Response to GoN's Seventh Periodic Report to CEDAW and Coalition's Recommendations for the GoN

### Article 4: Temporary special provisions

We acknowledge the GoN's commitment to special measures for marginalized groups, including women and persons with disabilities. The GoN has reserved 33% of seats for women and 5% for persons with disabilities in civil service jobs. Similarly, at least 33% of seats are reserved for women in parliament. However, no specific seats have been allocated for women with disabilities, who fall under both the categories of women and persons of disabilities, either in parliament or the civil service jobs.

Workshop participants highlighted that, within the seats reserved for women, women without disabilities predominantly benefit, while men with disabilities are the primary beneficiaries of seats reserved for persons with disabilities. Consequently, women with disabilities are systematically excluded from opportunities given under the GoN's special policy measures.

As noted in this report, Nepal lacks reliable data on women and girls with disabilities. Such data is a critical tool for effective and evidence-based advocacy and policymaking, particularly in determining appropriate quota allocation. The limited data available, published by the GoN, is often unreliable. Disability rights activists and scholars working on disability rights believe the population of women and girls with disabilities is significantly underreported. The underreporting may stem from various factors, including families' reluctance to disclose disabilities due to stigma and as well as the conventional approach of taking disability data.

CEDAW, in its Concluding Observation on Nepal's sixth periodic report (para 45), recommends that the GoN expedite the revision of the Census Act and ensure the collection of disaggregated data by sex, gender, age, ethnicity, caste, marital status, disability, and profession. Although the "Statistical Act 2022" has been enacted, it does not mandate the collection of disaggregated data. Furthermore, Census 2022 produced data disaggregated by disability, and the Central Bureau of Statistics has published a statistical report on persons with disabilities. The report presents data based on only types of impairment and sex, which does not give justice to the diversity of persons or women

with disabilities. CEDAW also recommends (Concluding Observation 41 C) the adoption of “temporary special measures with a clear timeline to enhance access of women facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination, including women with disabilities to health services, education, safe water and sanitation services, food, fertile land, natural resources, housing, credit, and income-generating opportunities, including through the presidential program to uplift women” but the GoN has failed to address these recommendations.

### ***Proposed Recommendations for the GoN***

1. Reserve a proportionate number of seats for diverse women with disabilities in the civil service and elected and constitutional bodies.
2. Invest in research and data collection on women and girls with disabilities to produce more disaggregated data by disability sex, age, caste, ethnicity, class, and geography, particularly on women and girls with disabilities, to inform government policy-making.

## **Article 5: Measures to end traditional harmful cultural practices and stereotyping**

We acknowledge the GoN's efforts to address discrimination against persons with disabilities. The *Constitution of Nepal 2015* prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities and the *Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2017* criminalizes such discrimination. Additionally, the GoN has implemented laws and programs to eradicate harmful cultural practices that violate the rights of women and girls, such as child marriage, *Chhaupadi* (menstrual seclusion), polygamy, *Deuki*, and *Badi* customs.

Despite these measures, women and girls with disabilities continue to face social stigma and stereotyping from their families, neighbors, and service providers such as healthcare workers, teachers, employers, and government officials. Women and girls with disabilities are believed to be a sign of bad luck, mentally and physically weak, incapable of having sexual desire and bearing children, and if conceived, they are thought to be transmitting their disabilities to their offspring.<sup>3</sup> Dalit, Adivasi Janajati, Madheshi and Muslim women and girls with disabilities face stereotypes, stigma, and prejudices based on their physical, mental, intellectual, and sensory impairment conditions as well as their caste, ethnic, and religious affiliations.

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<sup>3</sup> Devkota, H. R., Kett, M., & Groce, N. (2019). Societal attitude and behaviours towards women with disabilities in rural Nepal: pregnancy, childbirth and motherhood. *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*, 19(1), 1–213.

Workshop participants shared experiences of humiliation and discrimination. One participant, a wheelchair user, described how people questioned her pregnancy, asking “Why did you conceive as a disabled woman, and how will you give birth to a baby?”

The GoN’s initiatives to educate the public about the negative stereotypes around disabilities remain limited and ineffective.

### ***Proposed Recommendations for the GoN***

1. Design and execute massive awareness-raising programs to address gender and disability stereotypes, caste and ethnicity, socio-cultural norms and values, and stereotypes, targeting both service providers and the general public.

## **Articles 7 and 8: Measures to ensure participation in political and public life and international participation**

The GoN’s periodic report emphasizes its efforts to increase women’s participation in political and public life, including legal requirements for women to occupy one-third of seats in the House of Representatives and Provincial Assemblies and at least seven percent in the National Assembly. However, those measures do not ensure representation of women with disabilities, who face multiple and unique barriers<sup>4</sup>.

An independent assessment of access and participation of persons with disabilities during the 2022 elections of House of Representative and Provincial Assemblies, found various barriers for voters of women (including men) with disabilities, including inaccessible voting booths, election information in an inaccessible format, and lack of access to voters’ education programs conducted by election commission.<sup>5</sup> Similarly, a news report cites several individuals having difficulties in casting their votes, for example blind persons having difficulty recognizing election symbols in ballots, a paralyzed person who could not stand enough to put the stamp on the ballots, and so on.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> NDWA. (2019). Political Participation of Women with Disabilities in Nepal: Barriers and Opportunities. Kathmandu: Nepal Disabled Women Association (NDWA).

<sup>5</sup> Blind Youth Association Nepal. (2023). Access and Participation of Persons with Disabilities in Nepal’s 2022. General Elections.

<sup>6</sup> The Kathmandu Post. (2024, May 10). For people with disabilities, there are barriers galore to the right to voting.

### **Proposed Recommendations for the GoN**

1. Ensure meaningful and effective representation of diverse women and girls with disabilities in political and public spheres.
2. Make the electoral process, including election information, voting booths, and ballots, fully accessible, safe, and conducive for all diverse women and girls with disabilities.

## **Article 10: Right to education**

The GoN, as mentioned in its seventh periodic report, has undertaken several welcome initiatives to bridge the gender gap in education. The *Constitution of Nepal 2015* guarantees the rights of persons with disabilities to free education, of persons with visual impairment in Braille script, and of persons with deafness in sign languages. Following the Constitution, the Education Act of Nepal also promised inclusive and disability-friendly education. The Ten-Year School Sector Plan (2022/23–2031/32) stresses gender equality in school education. However, such promises have not been fully implemented.

Participants in the Kathmandu workshop shared stories of discrimination in schools, particularly from teachers and classmates. A few participants said that although they got enrolled at schools despite their parent's objections and unwillingness, they eventually needed to drop the school because of their teachers' insults and humiliating behavior. Dhana Sunar, who was a participant of the workshop and who was featured in one of Nepal's top Nepali medium newspapers, was insulted by her teacher and father. As per the feature, when she wanted to enroll at a school at the age of seven her father questioned the benefit of her degree asking, "what can you do from your education?" On the first day of school, her classmates insulted her, nicknaming her a ghost. They avoided her presence and gave her a lot of trouble.<sup>7</sup>

Similarly, another participant having a physical disability, had to crawl to school or someone had to carry her on their back to take her to the school. However she faced daily humiliation and discrimination at the school, and she finally had to drop it.

The discussions in the workshop concluded that mainstream schools in Nepal are not accessible to women and girls with disabilities. Most schools do not have accessible infrastructure, do not provide instructions in Braille script, sign, local and mother tongue languages, and do not offer accessible textbooks. There are some schools specifically opened for persons with

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<sup>7</sup> Poudel, S. (2024, April 4). "Sahara Bandai Sudurki Maina" (The Mynah of Far-west is Becoming Savior). Kantipur National Daily.

disabilities, particularly for those with visual impairments and deafness, but such schools are very few in the country and prospective students must travel a very long distance or cannot afford to travel from their homes.

CEDAW in its Concluding Observation on Nepal's sixth periodic report (Para. 33 b) recommends that the GoN "ensure that schools are a girl- and disability-friendly, within a reasonable distance of communities." Similarly, CEDAW (para 33 a) recommends that the GoN "reinforce action to promote equality and inclusion in education, including by enhancing support systems, scholarships and incentives for girls from poor households, girls living in remote areas, girls belonging to "lower castes", Indigenous groups and religious and linguistic minority groups and girls with disabilities, by training teachers on inclusive schools and by monitoring the implementation of those measures in the framework of the State party's school sector reform plan."

### ***Proposed Recommendations for the GoN***

1. Make school education accessible to girls with disabilities, by investing in infrastructure, providing instructions in accessible formats and languages particularly mother tongues and sign languages, Braille, Easy to Read Version, by increasing scholarships for girls with disabilities, and by opening more schools that specifically provide instructions in accessible formats with reasonable accommodations.
2. Educate teachers and students about inclusive classrooms for all children and enforce anti-discrimination laws in schools.

## **Article 11: Right to employment**

We note that the GoN has launched several measures to enhance women's participation in the labor force and to promote their rights related to employment, including rights against harassment, exploitation, and discrimination at the workplace.

However, the periodic report does not mention any efforts, programs or policies specifically addressing the employment rights of persons with disabilities. It also fails to provide disaggregated data on who, within the women category, benefited from the government's employment-related policies and programs. **[Cite a source. Do not just mention "published in academia."].**

Discussions during the workshop revealed that women with disabilities face several obstacles in earning their livelihoods. They often lack the necessary educational qualifications and skills required by the labor market as well as

resources to invest if they want to start a business. Moreover, even when they possess qualifications, skills, and capacity, potential employers undermine their abilities. Women and girls with disabilities are often discriminated against at the workplace even if they secure an employment. According to a workshop participant, a female teacher with a physical disability in her village was forced to quit her permanent government teaching job because the teacher could not commute to the school where she worked, as she did not find someone to assist her in commuting, despite securing the job through hard work and competition.

Studies have shown that women with disabilities are more likely to engage in low-paid informal jobs or small-scale businesses, such as street vending.<sup>8</sup> A survey among 83 visually impaired women found that approximately two-thirds of respondents were unemployed."<sup>9</sup>

### ***Proposed Recommendation for the GoN***

1. Provide skills enhancement training, create a roster of prospective employers and employees, and establish provisions for internships and placements for diverse women with disabilities.
2. Offer subsidized loans to diverse women with disabilities to support them in starting their small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

## **Article 12: Health**

GoN policies mentioned in its seventh periodic report [**Looks like one paragraph above it was removed. So, this paragraph looks like out of context.**] are based on a blanket approach that fails to recognize the specific circumstances and needs of persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities. The assumption that women with disabilities will automatically benefit from the policies targeting women or gender equality is flawed.

Women and girls with disabilities continue to face several barriers in accessing health services. Health services are not often easily available (especially in remote areas), accessible, and affordable given the extra cost associated with disabilities. The lack of equitable health facilities and universal health coverage further exacerbates challenges for women and girls with disabilities.

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<sup>8</sup> Interdisciplinary Center for Gender Studies, University of Bern. (2022). *Women with disabilities in Nepal: Photovoice study on the barriers and enablers to social, cultural and political inclusion*. University of Bern.

<sup>9</sup> Lamichhane, Sarita. (2023). Employment status of visually impaired women in Nepal. In Zhang, et al (eds) *Disability, Sexuality, and Gender in Asia: Intersectionality, Human Rights, and the Law* (Pp 62-74). Taylor and Francis Group.

There is a government scheme of providing free health care services, free beds for admitted patients, and certain categories of free medicines in government hospitals for persons with disabilities. However, as many participants in the Kathmandu workshop mentioned, accessing these benefits is difficult. Hospital beds and medicines are often unavailable, and long waiting times for doctor appointments, test results, and surgeries force many women and girls with disabilities to either seek treatment in private hospitals or forgo treatments altogether.

Deaf women and girls face significant communication barriers with medical professionals and health workers which directly impacts the quality of care they receive. Workshop participants noted that the absence of sign language interpreters made it impossible for them to effectively communicate their symptoms to doctors and nurses.

Several studies corroborate the lack of access to quality health services for diverse women and girls with disabilities, because of several barriers, which include (1) lack of nearby healthcare facilities; (2) dependence on third parties for transportation to health facilities; (3) discrimination and neglect by healthcare workers; (4) stigmatization by families and communities; (5) financial constraints not only to cover medical expenses but also travel, food, and accommodation expenses incurred during treatments; (6) lack of specialized services in healthcare facilities; and (7) lack of information about government support systems such as free check-ups, free medicines and free beds."<sup>10</sup>

A study finds that only 15% out of 384 respondents with disabilities had ever utilized any sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services."<sup>11</sup> Additionally, healthcare workers reportedly had "limited clinical knowledge and disability management skills, limited skills for effective communication with clients/patients with disabilities, low gender sensitivity, and lack of evidence-based and practice-based learning mechanisms within the healthcare system."<sup>12</sup> Another study found that "disabled women—whether Dalit or non-Dalit—had lower rates of utilizing all maternal healthcare services than non-disabled

<sup>10</sup> Herren, L., Lanzarotti, F., Noori, S., Hillman, S. and Roll, K. (2023). *Maternal Healthcare for Women with Disabilities in Nepal: Access and Quality*. Reach Alliance; Pita, Y., Bigler, C., Sony, K. C., & Amacker, M. (2023). *The right to health: An examination of health care access for women with disability in Nepal*. *SSM-Qualitative Research in Health*, 4, 1-8; Interdisciplinary Center for Gender Studies, University of Bern. (2022). *Women with disabilities in Nepal: Photovoice study on the barriers and enablers to social, cultural and political inclusion*. University of Bern;

<sup>11</sup> Shiwakoti, R., Gurung, Y. B., Poudel, R. C., Neupane, S., Thapa, R. K., Deuja, S., & Pathak, R. S. (2021). Factors affecting utilization of sexual and reproductive health services among women with disabilities- a mixed-method cross-sectional study from Ilam district, Nepal. *BMC Health Services Research*, 21(1), 1361–1361.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

women.”<sup>13</sup>

CEDAW's Concluding Observation (Para 39 d) recommends that the GoN “end discrimination by health-care providers against Dalit women, indigenous women, women with disabilities, lesbian, bisexual and transgender women, intersex persons and women in prostitution, by raising awareness among providers, with the support of female community health volunteers, of the rights of those groups and encouraging reporting.”

### **Proposed Recommendations for the GoN**

1. Ensure effective implementation of government schemes offering free treatment, free hospital beds, and free medicine for persons with disabilities, and provide financial aid to cover the costs of travel, food, and accommodation during treatments.
2. Guarantee sexual and reproductive health rights, including antenatal care (ANC), safe delivery, postnatal care (PNC), and family planning services.
3. Train healthcare workers to deliver specialized services for women with disabilities ensuring their required reasonable accommodation and accessibility measures.

## **Article 13: Economic and social benefits**

The seventh periodic report of the GoN lists programs aimed at women's empowerment and gender equality, such as the establishment of *Women Entrepreneurship Facilitation Centers* and the provision of social security benefits. It outlines planned initiatives, including making gender-friendly public toilets, design training on economic self-reliance, capacity buildings, and women's rights, and launching employment programs. The report mentions that “resident houses will be built for persons with disabilities,” but fails to specify how diverse women with disabilities benefit from such programs.

Discussion during the workshop revealed several weaknesses in the government's social security programs. Participants highlighted that the monthly social security allowance for persons with disabilities--4,000 Nepalese Rupees (approximately 30 US Dollars) is not sufficient to cover basic living expenses. This amount falls far below Nepal's minimum monthly wage of 17,300 Nepali Rupees (approximately 133 US Dollars). Furthermore, the allowance is only provided to persons with complete and severe disabilities, excluding those with moderate and mild disabilities. Workshop participants

<sup>13</sup> Devkota, H.R.; Clarke, A.; Murray, E.; Kett, M.; Groce, N. Disability, Caste, and Intersectionality: Does Co-Existence of Disability and Caste Compound Marginalization for Women Seeking Maternal Healthcare in Southern Nepal? *Disabilities* 2021, 1, 218–232.

said that those having moderate and mild disabilities also face significant barriers, including discrimination from families, communities, and employers, as well as difficulties in earning a livelihood.

Adibasi Janajati women's knowledge, skills, and traditional practices have been undermined and devalued as 'inferior knowledge.' For example, the traditional occupation of Dalit women and girls with disabilities, for example, sewing and basket weaving, are not protected and promoted by the government, which has threatened their livelihood.

### **Proposed Recommendations for the GoN**

1. Acknowledge the specific needs of diverse women with disabilities, and especially protect the traditional knowledge and skills with economic and social programs and ensure equitable access to these initiatives.
2. Expand the social security allowances to include all women and girls with disabilities and increase the monthly allowances.

## **Article 14: Women excluded from services – rural women**

The seventh periodic report does not have any specific policies and programs for diverse women and girls living in rural areas. It lists general initiatives such as the President Women Empowerment Program, offering "concessional loans to farmers, youths, Dalits and women for agricultural business and other enterprises at the local level" (para 195 e), distributing food security ID cards for low-income families, and mainstreaming gender in climate change actions. However, there is no clarity on whether diverse women and girls with disabilities benefit from these measures.

Rural women and girls with disabilities face various barriers as highlighted during the workshop discussions. These include limited mobility due to a lack of accessible roads,<sup>14</sup> difficulty accessing information and legal documents (e.g., disability identity card<sup>15</sup> citizenship card or passport) getting employment, and accessing justice.

Gender-based and sexual violence is another severe issue for rural women and girls with disabilities. According to workshop participants, rural women and girls with disabilities are subjected to stricter gender norms and subjected to

<sup>14</sup> Roads are not accessible in Kathmandu too. See, Gautam, P. Khadka, A., Chand, O., Prasai, M., Paudel, S., Joshi, S., Mytton, J. & Brangan, E. (2024). *Facilitators and barriers to inclusive and safe mobility on urban roads in Kathmandu, Nepal: a participatory research study. Disability & Society, 1-23.*

<sup>15</sup> Dangal, H., Paneru, S., & Pokhrel, B. (2020). *Constraints on applying disability identity card: A study from Roshi rural municipality from mid-hill, Nepal. Journal of Social Protection, (1), 71-79.*

more gender-based and sexual violence. However, they have limited agency to resist or seek justice for such violations. Additionally, women and girls with disabilities living in rural areas, especially those belonging to indigenous nationalities, Dalits, and poor backgrounds, are disproportionately impacted by climate change.<sup>16</sup>

### ***Proposed Recommendation for the GoN***

1. Formulate and execute targeted outreach programs to increase access of those diverse women and girls with disabilities particularly from the most marginalized and underrepresented group like Dalit, Madhesi, Muslim, indigenous to government services and programs—such as disability identity cards and citizenship cards distribution, monthly allowances, free regular medical check-ups, and medicines—directly to communities, villages, or households of women and girls with disability.

## **Article 15: Access to justice**

Women and girls with disabilities face mammoth challenges in accessing justice in Nepal. Nepal's justice system is largely inaccessible due to high costs, lengthy procedures, and inefficiencies. Courtrooms and police stations lack essential accommodations, such as sign language interpreters, making communication difficult for women and girls with hearing or speech impairments.

A 2022 study by Nepal's National Human Rights Commission found “widespread discrimination, harassment, and mistreatment against them [persons with disabilities]” lack of knowledge among persons with disabilities about “how to initiate and pursue justice and how the justice system works,” and their tendency “to tolerate violence than seek justice since they simply understand that getting justice takes a long time and is costly too.”<sup>17</sup>

CEDAW recommends (Concluding Observation, para 11 b) that the GoN “provide targeted financial support and legal aid in commonly spoken languages for women facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination, such as women with disabilities” However, the Government has yet to make legal services available in sign languages or substantive steps to address these barriers.

### ***Proposed Recommendations for the GoN***

<sup>16</sup> Gurung, P, Stein, P., and Stein, M (2024). *Intersectionality, Indigeneity, and Disability Climate Justice in Nepal*. Blogpost. School of Law, Harvard University.

<sup>17</sup> National Human Rights Commission. (2022). A study on identifying barriers to accessing justice for persons with disabilities. (Text in Nepali) National Human Rights Commission.

1. Provide free and accessible legal support for diverse women and girls with disabilities.
2. Train lawyers, judges, and police personnel on the rights and needs of women with disabilities.

## **Article 16: Marriage and family life**

The periodic report of the GoN claims that the implementation of National Strategy on Ending Child Marriage and strengthening of Nepal's vital registration system such as the national identity card can improve women's family and marital life.

However, women and girls with disabilities are still treated as objects in Nepali society, stripping them of individual autonomy, voice, and choice. Decisions regarding their marriage, choice of spouse, and pregnancy are often controlled by their husbands and parents.

Workshop participants highlighted the significant challenges faced by women and girl with disabilities in getting married. Firstly, women and girls with disabilities are wrongly thought to have no sexual desire, be incapable of conceiving and raising children, or are likely to pass on disabilities to their offspring. Secondly, they may fail to fulfill the traditional gendered expectations of their parents-in-law, such as performing physically demanding household tasks. Thirdly, they are often stigmatized as symbols of back luck.

Even when women and girls with disabilities do get married, they often experience unequal marriages. They may end up with husbands who are significantly older, less educated, or of lower economic or social status, or their families may need to offer a higher dowry. Participants also revealed that divorce rates for women with disabilities are higher compared to women without disabilities. Some participants shared stories of being harassed and discarded by their husbands and parents-in-law after marriage.

### ***Proposed Recommendations for the GoN***

1. Raise awareness to challenge stigma and stereotypes regarding the sexual capacity, ability to conceive, and child-rearing potential of women and girls with disabilities.
2. Provide incentives to newlywed spouses of persons with disabilities to promote their marriage and family life.

## 5. Annexes

### 5.1. Program Schedule

**National Capacity Building Training & Consultation Workshop to Women and Girls with Disabilities on Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women for Shadow Report Submission**

**Venue: Hotel Pension Vasana, Dilli bazaar, Kathmandu @December 21 – 24, 2024**

Day/Time	Agenda	Facilitated By
<b>Section I: Capacity Building Training on CEDAW</b>		
<b>Day I – Saturday (December 21, 2024): Introducing CEDAW and Its Articles</b>		
<b>Session I (9:00 – 10:30)</b>	Formal Inauguration	BWAN & Coalition Members
<b>Session II (11:00 – 12:30)</b>	Setting the Context & Ground Rule Making	Pahichan
<b>Lunch Break (12:30 – 13:30)</b>		
<b>Session III (13:30 – 15:00)</b>	<b>Introduction of CEDAW</b> (Historical background of evolvement of CEDAW; Key Features/Characteristics of CEDAW)	<b>FWDN</b> (Nirmala Dhital)
<b>Session IV (15:30 – 17:00)</b>	<b>Familiarizing of CEDAW Articles</b> (Introducing each article and explaining them regarding women and girls with disabilities)	<b>FWDN</b> (Nirmala Dhital)
<b>Day II – Sunday (December 22, 2024): Familiarizing with CEDAW Reporting Process and its methodologies development</b>		
<b>Session I: (9:00 – 10:30)</b>	<b>Recap of Day I and Intersection of CEDAW and CRPD</b> (Interconnection and complementary of CEDAW and CRPD; Key messages to consider while writing report)	<b>BWAN</b> (Neera Adhikari)
<b>Session II (11:00 – 12:30)</b>	<b>CEDAW Report Writing Process</b> (State's Report Writing Process; CSOs Report Writing Process (CSOs Shadow/Alternative Report Writing Process))	<b>NIDWAN</b> (Pratima Gurung)
<b>Lunch Break (12:30 – 13:30)</b>		

<b>Session III (13:30 – 15:00)</b>	<b>CEDAW Report Writing Process (Key Features of Shadow Report Writing process)</b>  <b>Exploration of Intersectional Issues and Incorporation in the CEDAW Shadow Report</b> (discussion on the intersectional issues)	<b>DRF/DRAF</b> (Krishna Gahatraj)  <b>Access Planet</b> (Laxmi Nepal)
<b>Session IV (15:30 – 17:00)</b>	<b>Designing of Methodology/Framework for CEDAW Shadow Report Writing</b> (Collective work for framework designing)	<b>Consultant</b> (Dr. Amar BK) & Krishna Gahatraj
<b>Section II: National Consultation on CEDAW Shadow Report Writing</b>		
<b>Day III – Monday - (December 23, 2024): Group Consultation</b>		
<b>Session I (9:00 – 10:30)</b>	<b>Recap of Day II Context Setting and Debrief on Framework</b> (Setting up of context based on the previous days on CEDAW shadow report writing and its framework; Group Formation based on broader Themes)	<b>Consultant &amp; Coalition Members</b>
<b>Session II (11:00 – 12:30)</b>	Continuation of group work and issues identification to be led by a hired consultant	
<b>Lunch Break (12:30 – 13:30)</b>		
<b>Session III (13:30 – 15:00)</b>	Continuation of group work and issues identification to be led by a consultant	<b>Consultant &amp; Coalition Members</b>
<b>Session IV (15:30 – 17:00)</b>	Continuation of group work and issues identification to be led by a consultant	
<b>Day IV – Tuesday - (December 24, 2024): Sharing of group work outcomes and prioritization of issues</b>		
<b>Session I (9:00 – 10:30)</b>	Prioritization of identifies issues to be incorporated into the shadow report	<b>Consultant &amp; Coalition Members</b>
<b>Session II (11:00 – 12:30)</b>	Sharing of Lived Experiences by Individual Participants (Story Telling)	
<b>Lunch Break (12:30 – 13:30)</b>		
<b>Session III (13:30 – 15:00)</b>	<b>Formal Closing</b>	<b>BWAN &amp; Coalition</b>

## 5.2. Lists of Participants

SN	Name of Organization	Name of Participant	Name of Province	Type of Impairment	Degree of Severity	Caste/Ethnicity	Age Group
1	Access Planet Organization	Jayanti Rana	Sudurpaschim Province	Physical Disability	Category D (White Card)	Terai/Madheshi Janajati	A (16 - 30 years old)
2	Access Planet Organization	Dhanshara Shahi	Karnali Province	Physical Disability	Category C (Yellow Card)	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	C (36 - 59 years old)
3	Access Planet Organization	Pramila Adhikari	Lumbini Province	Disability Related to Vision	Category B (Blue Card)	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	A (16 - 30 years old)
4	Access Planet Organization	Anju Baral	Gandaki Province	Physical Disability	Category B (Blue Card)	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	B (31 - 35 years old)
5	Access Planet Organization	Pratibha Rai	Bagmati Province	Disability Related to Vision	Category B (Blue Card)	Hill Janajati	A (16 - 30 years old)
6	Access Planet Organization	Aasmin Khatun	Madhesh Province	Physical Disability	Category C (Yellow Card)	Muslim	A (16 - 30 years old)
7	Blind Women Association Nepal	Basanti Kalaumi	Sudurpaschim Province	Disability Related to Vision	Category B (Blue Card)	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	C (36 - 59 years old)
8	Blind Women Association Nepal	Nirmala Hamal	Karnali Province	Disability Related to Vision	Category B (Blue Card)	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	B (31 - 35 years old)
9	Blind Women Association Nepal	Dev Kumari Harijan	Lumbini Province	Disability Related to Vision	Category B (Blue Card)	Terai/Madheshi Brahmin/Chhetri	
10	Blind Women Association Nepal	Muna Aryal	Gandaki Province	Disability Related to Vision	Category B (Blue Card)	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	A (16 - 30 years old)
11	Blind Women Association Nepal	Om Kumari Magar	Bagmati Province	Disability Related to Vision	Category B (Blue Card)	Hill Janajati	A (16 - 30 years old)
12	Blind Women Association Nepal	Anita Chaudhary	Madhesh Province	Disability Related to Vision	Category B (Blue Card)	Terai/Madheshi Janajati	A (16 - 30 years old)
13	Dalit with Disabilities Association Nepal	HiraDevi Das	Madhesh Province	Physical Disability	Category B (Blue Card)	Terai/Madheshi Janajati	C (36 - 59 years old)
14	Dalit with Disabilities Association Nepal	Dhana Pariyar	Bagmati Province	Physical Disability	Category B (Blue Card)	Hill Dalit	A (16 - 30 years old)
15	Dalit with Disabilities Association Nepal	Susmita BK	Gandaki Province	Disability Related to Vision	Category C (Yellow Card)	Hill Dalit	A (16 - 30 years old)
16	Dalit with Disabilities Association Nepal	Kabita BK (Albino)	Lumbini Province	Unlisted Disability	Category B (Blue Card)	Hill Dalit	A (16 - 30 years old)
17	Dalit with Disabilities Association Nepal	Sarmila Nepali	Karnali Province	Physical Disability	Category B (Blue Card)	Hill Dalit	A (16 - 30 years old)

18	Dalit with Disabilities Association Nepal	Bhagrathi BK	Sudurpaschim Province	Physical Disability	Category B (Blue Card)	Hill Dalit	A (16 - 30 years old)
19	Feminist Dalit Organization	Sita Darnal	Lumbini Province	Disability Related to Vision	Category C (Yellow Card)	Hill Dalit	B (31 - 35 years old)
20	Feminist Dalit Organization	Ritu BK	Gandaki Province	Unlisted Disability	Category B (Blue Card)	Hill Dalit	A (16 - 30 years old)
21	Feminist Dalit Organization	Sirjana Mijar	Karnali Province	Disability Related to Vision	Category B (Blue Card)	Hill Dalit	A (16 - 30 years old)
22	Feminist Dalit Organization	Anita Bartaula Nepali	Bagmati Province	Disability Related to Hearing	Category C (Yellow Card)	Hill Dalit	C (36 - 59 years old)
23	Feminist Dalit Organization	Sarita Sunar	Sudurpaschim Province	Disability Related to Voice & Speech	Category B (Blue Card)	Hill Dalit	B (31 - 35 years old)
24	Federation of Women with Disabilities Nepal	Anita Kumari Dhunagana (Amputation below the knee)	Sudurpaschim Province	Physical Disability	Category C (Yellow Card)	Terai/Madheshi Brahmin/Chhetri	C (36 - 59 years old)
25	Federation of Women with Disabilities Nepal	Manisha Nepali (Totally Deaf)	Karnali Province	Disability Related to Hearing	Category B (Blue Card)	Hill Dalit	B (31 - 35 years old)
26	Federation of Women with Disabilities Nepal	Sabitri Subedi (Amputation hand from kuuu)	Gandaki Province	Physical Disability	Category C (Yellow Card)	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	C (36 - 59 years old)
27	Federation of Women with Disabilities Nepal	Janaki Ghimire (Low Vision)	Madhesh Province	Disability Related to Vision	Category C (Yellow Card)	Terai/Madheshi Janajati	A (16 - 30 years old)
28	Federation of Women with Disabilities Nepal	Devi Basel (Scoliosis)	Bagmati Province	Physical Disability	Category C (Yellow Card)	Hill Dalit	B (31 - 35 years old)
29	Federation of Women with Disabilities Nepal	Bishnu Kunwar (Amputation hand from kum)	Lumbini Province	Physical Disability	Category C (Yellow Card)	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	C (36 - 59 years old)
30	National Indigenous Disabled Women Association Nepal	Rashmi Gurung	Sudurpaschim Province	Disability Related to Vision	Category A (Red Card)	Hill Janajati	B (31 - 35 years old)
31	National Indigenous Disabled Women Association Nepal	Sangita Baral Magar	Karnali Province	Physical Disability	Category C (Yellow Card)	Hill Janajati	B (31 - 35 years old)
32	National Indigenous Disabled Women Association Nepal	Shruti Maya Kumal	Gandaki Province	Physical Disability	Category C (Yellow Card)	Hill Janajati	C (36 - 59 years old)
33	National Indigenous Disabled Women Association Nepal	Dipika Lama	Madhesh Province	Physical Disability	Category C (Yellow Card)	Terai/Madheshi Janajati	A (16 - 30 years old)
34	National Indigenous Disabled Women Association Nepal	Basanti Chaudhary Tharu	Lumbini Province	Physical Disability	Category B (Blue Card)	Terai/Madheshi Janajati	A (16 - 30 years old)
35	National Indigenous Disabled Women Association Nepal	Anu Kala Rai	Bagmati Province	Physical Disability	Category B (Blue Card)	Hill Janajati	C (36 - 59 years old)

36	Pahichan Nepal	Sarita Chaudhary	Sudurpaschim Province	Physical Disability	Category C (Yellow Card)	Terai/Madheshi Janajati	A (16 - 30 years old)
37	Pahichan Nepal	Rupshila Budha	Karnali Province	Physical Disability	Category B (Blue Card)	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	C (36 - 59 years old)
38	Pahichan Nepal	Chiya Giri	Gandaki Province	Disability Related to Vision	Category B (Blue Card)	Hill Janajati	A (16 - 30 years old)
39	Pahichan Nepal	Mira Shah	Madhesh Province	Disability Related to Vision	Category B (Blue Card)	Terai/Madheshi Janajati	B (31 - 35 years old)
40	Pahichan Nepal	Sita Poudel	Lumbini Province	Disability Related to Vision	Category B (Blue Card)	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	B (31 - 35 years old)
41	Pahichan Nepal	Nirmala Karki (Spinal)	Bagmati Province	Physical Disability	Category B (Blue Card)	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	C (36 - 59 years old)
42	Feminist Dalit Organization	Suresh Bhiwokarma	Bagmati Province	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Hill Dalit	C (36 - 59 years old)
43	National Association of the Sign Language Interpreters Nepal	Shilu Sharma	Bagmati Province	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	C (36 - 59 years old)
44	National Association of the Sign Language Interpreters Nepal	Nanu Jayana	Bagmati Province	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Hill Janajati	C (36 - 59 years old)
45	National Federation of the Deaf Nepal	Shikha Pradhan	Bagmati Province	Disability Related to Hearing	Category B (Blue Card)	Others	C (36 - 59 years old)
46	Federation of Women with Disability Nepal	Rama Dhahal	Bagmati Province	Physical Disability	Category B (Blue Card)	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	
47	Dalit with Disability Association Nepal	Chijamaya Bishwokarma	Bagmati Province	Physical Disability	Category C (Yellow Card)	Hill Dalit	C (36 - 59 years old)
48	Nepal Stutters Association	Shikshya Nepal	Bagmati Province	Disability Related to Voice & Speech	Category C (Yellow Card)	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	A (16 - 30 years old)
49	National Networks of Disabled Conflict Victims	Kamala Amatya	Bagmati Province	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Others	A (16 - 30 years old)
50	Pahichan Nepal	Sundari Mishra	Bagmati Province	Physical Disability	Category D (White Card)	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	C (36 - 59 years old)
51	Federation of Women with Disability Nepal	Sabina Dhital	Bagmati Province	Disability Related to Voice & Speech	Category C (Yellow Card)	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	A (16 - 30 years old)
52	Feminist Dalit Organization	Muna Khadgi	Bagmati Province	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Others	A (16 - 30 years old)
53	Access Planet Organization	Mamata Subedi	Bagmati Province	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	A (16 - 30 years old)

54	Blind Women Association Nepal	Pratichhya Chhapain	Bagmati Province	Disability Related to Vision	Category B (Blue Card)	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	B (31 - 35 years old)
55	Dwarf Association of Nepal	Shrijana Sinchury	Bagmati Province	Physical Disability	Category C (Yellow Card)	Hill Dalit	A (16 - 30 years old)
56	Disability Women of the Society	Lalrasa Gharti Magar	Karnali Province	Physical Disability	Category C (Yellow Card)	Hill Janajati	C (36 - 59 years old)
57	Pahichan Nepal	Myanuka Baniya	Bagmati Province	Disability Related to Vision	Category B (Blue Card)	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	C (36 - 59 years old)
58	Dalit with Disability Association Nepal	Sabitri Dahal	Bagmati Province	Not Available	Not Available	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	C (36 - 59 years old)
59	National Disability Women Society Nepal	Devi Acharya	Bagmati Province	Physical Disability	Category B (Blue Card)	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	A (16 - 30 years old)
60	National Disability Women Society Nepal	Pratichhya Thapa	Bagmati Province	Physical Disability	Not Available	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	A (16 - 30 years old)
61	National Association Of Intellectual Disability Parents	Indira Acharya	Bagmati Province	Intellectual Disability	Not Available	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	C (36 - 59 years old)
62	National Federation of the Deaf Nepal	Januka Rooka	Bagmati Province	Deaf-Blind	Not Available	Hill Janajati	B (31 - 35 years old)
63	Parents Federation of Persons with Intellectual Disability	Jamuna Poudel	Bagmati Province	Intellectual Disability	Not Available	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	C (36 - 59 years old)
64	Parents Federation of Persons with Intellectual Disability	Bholga Poudel	Bagmati Province	Intellectual Disability	Category A (Red Card)	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	A (16 - 30 years old)
65	National Indigenous Disabled Women Association Nepal	Selina Nakarmi	Bagmati Province	Not Applicable	Not Available	Hill Janajati	A (16 - 30 years old)
66	National Indigenous Disabled Women Association Nepal	Pratima Gurung	Bagmati Province	Physical Disability	Category B (Blue Card)	Hill Janajati	C (36 - 59 years old)
67	Disabled Women Society, Surkhet	Bipana Khadka	Karnali Province	Physical Disability	Category D (White Card)	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	B (31 - 35 years old)
68	Dalit with Disability Association Nepal	Pampha Parkoti	Bagmati Province	Physical Disability	Category C (Yellow Card)	Hill Dalit	B (31 - 35 years old)
69	Access Planet Organization	Laxmi Nepal	Bagmati Province	Disability Related to Vision	Category A (Red Card)	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	B (31 - 35 years old)
70	Burn Survivor	Chitra Maya Aale	Gandaki Province	Physical Disability	Category B (Blue Card)	Hill Janajati	B (31 - 35 years old)
71	Pahichan Nepal	Ikchha K.C	Bagmati Province	Disability Related to Vision	Category B (Blue Card)	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	B (31 - 35 years old)
72	Pahichan Nepal	Bhawani K.C	Bagmati Province	Physical Disability	Category C (Yellow Card)	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	C (36 - 59 years old)
73	Nepal Disabled Women Association, Bara	Godawari Kumari Shah	Madhesh Province	Physical Disability	Category C (Yellow Card)	Terai/Madheshi Brahmin/Chhetri	C (36 - 59 years old)

74	National Disabled Women Rehabilitation Center Nepal, Mahottari	Madhu Mahato	Madhesh Province	Physical Disability	Category A (Red Card)	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	A (16 - 30 years old)
75	Nepal Haemophilia Society	Nira Karki	Bagmati Province	Haemophilia	Category C (Yellow Card)	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	C (36 - 59 years old)
76	Federation of Women with Disability Nepal	Nirmala Dhital	Bagmati Province	Physical Disability	Category B (Blue Card)	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	C (36 - 59 years old)
77	National Human Rights Commission	Lily Thapa	Bagmati Province	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	Not Available
78	Forum for Women, Law and Development	Sabin Shresthi	Bagmati Province	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	Not Available
79	National Human Rights Commission	Nawaraj Pathak	Bagmati Province	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	Not Available
80	National Human Rights Commission	Menuka Ghimire	Bagmati Province	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	Not Available
81	National Women Commission	Kamala Kumari Parajuli	Bagmati Province	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	Not Available
82	Blind Women Association Nepal	Neera Adhikari	Bagmati Province	Disability Related to Vision	Category B (Blue Card)	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	C (36 - 59 years old)
83	Blind Women Association Nepal	Chirimaya Maharjan	Gandaki Province	Disability Related to Vision	Category B (Blue Card)	Others	C (36 - 59 years old)
84	Camera Person	Madan Acharya	Bagmati Province	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	Not Available
85	Radio Sagarmatha	Sarmila B.K	Bagmati Province	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Hill Dalit	Not Available
86	Sakur TV Program	Tilak Tiwari	Bagmati Province	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	Not Available
87	News Agency Nepal	Menon Raj Rajbhandari	Bagmati Province	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Newar	Not Available
88	Nepal Media	Sudeep Bimali	Bagmati Province	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Hill Dalit	Not Available
89	odapalika.com	Sudip Kumar Poudel	Bagmati Province	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	Not Available
90	Apangata Aawaj	Nabaraj Soti	Bagmati Province	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	Not Available
91	UN Women	Rachana Bhattarai	Bagmati Province	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	Not Available
92	Sarokar Team	Tek bahadur Rana	Bagmati Province	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Hill Janajati	Not Available
93	Sarokar Team	Sabitri Subedi	Bagmati Province	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	Not Available

94	Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen	Sanjeev Shah	Bagmati Province	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Tera/Madheshi Brahmin/Chhetri	B (31 - 35 years old)
95	Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen	Santosh Pandey	Bagmati Province	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	Not Available
96	Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen	Madhav Yadav	Bagmati Province	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	Not Available
97	Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen	Bikash Yadhav	Bagmati Province	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	Not Available
98	Disability Rights Fund	Krishna Gahataraj	Bagmati Province	Physical Disability	Category C (Yellow Card)	Hill Dalit	C (36 - 59 years old)
99	Blind Women Association Nepal	Sita Subedi	Bagmati Province	Disability Related to Vision	Category C (Yellow Card)	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	C (36 - 59 years old)
100	Blind Women Association Nepal	Manasi Sharma	Bagmati Province	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	A (16 - 30 years old)
101	Blind Women Association Nepal	Nuzema Bajracharya	Bagmati Province	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Newar	A (16 - 30 years old)
102	Blind Women Association Nepal	Prakriti Adhikari	Bagmati Province	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	A (16 - 30 years old)
103	Blind Women Association Nepal	Laxmi Majhi	Bagmati Province	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Hill Janajati	B (31 - 35 years old)
104	Blind Women Association Nepal	Aakriti Gautam	Bagmati Province	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	A (16 - 30 years old)

**List of Participants from Koshi Province who Participated in-person during the "Provincial Level Consultation on CEDAW for Preparing Shadow Report, Organized by FWDN"**

SN	Organization	Name	District	Disability	Ethnicity	Age Group
1	National Federation of the Disabled Nepal, Koshi Province	Pabitra Karki	Morang	Psychosocial	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	C (36 - 59 years old)
2	Association of Indigenous People with Disabilities Development and Empowerment (AIPDDE)	Punam Bhujel	Jhapa	Physical	Hill Janajati	A (16 - 30 years old)
3	Individual Representation	Deepa Sharma	Shankhuwasabha	Parent of Intellectual Person with Disability	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	C (36 - 59 years old)
4	Jhapa Blind Association	Mana Maya Tim-sina	Jhapa	Disability Related to Vision	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	C (36 - 59 years old)
5	Jhapa Blind Association	Kritika Pandey	Jhapa	Personal Assistant	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	A (16 - 30 years old)
6	Individual Representation	Puja Kafle	Shankhuwasabha	Intellectual Disability	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	A (16 - 30 years old)
7	Disability Organization Rehabilitation Center	Devika Lamichane	Terhathum	Disability Related to Vision	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	A (16 - 30 years old)
8	Jagriti Disability Association	Kamala Neupane	Ilam	Physical	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	B (31 - 35 years old)
9	Rehabilitation and Development Forum	Sabitri Budhathoki	Morang	Physical	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	B (31 - 35 years old)
10	Jagriti Disability Association	Manju Khanal	Ilam	Physical	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	B (31 - 35 years old)
11	Damak Disability Support Committee	Parbata Shrestha	Jhapa	Physical	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	C (36 - 59 years old)
12	Nepal Disabled Women Association	Radha Thapa	Morang	Physical	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	B (31 - 35 years old)
13	Ability Society	Sabu Pandit	Biratnagar	Disability Related to Vision	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	B (31 - 35 years old)
14	Koshi Deaf Association	Sunita Timsina (Tiwari)	Biratnagar	Deaf	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	B (31 - 35 years old)
15	Bhojpur Deaf Association	Ganga Shivakoti (Bohora)	Biratnagar	Deaf	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	B (31 - 35 years old)
16	National Federation of the Deaf Nepal	Sita Ram Ojha	Kathmandu	Deaf	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	B (31 - 35 years old)
17	National Federation of the Deaf Nepal	Sita Dahal	Itahari	Sign Language Interpreter	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	B (31 - 35 years old)
18	Koshi Deaf Association	Radhika Neupane	Biratnagar	Sign Language Interpreter	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	B (31 - 35 years old)
19	Community based Rehabilitation capable Society	Aakriti Rani Phuyal	Biratnagar	Physical	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	B (31 - 35 years old)
20	Disability Development Association	Sita Poudel	Udayapur	Physical	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	C (36 - 59 years old)
21	Feminist Dalit Organization, Koshi Province	Pandu Pariyar	Udayapur	Physical	Hill Dalit	C (36 - 59 years old)
22	Koshish Nepal	Anita Khanal	Biratnagar	Psychosocial	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	C (36 - 59 years old)
23	Ability Society	Lila Kumari Parajuli	Biratnagar	Physical	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	C (36 - 59 years old)
24	Solu Dudh Kunda Disability Association	Maiti Shova Rai	Solukhumbu	Physical	Hill Janajati	C (36 - 59 years old)
25	Disability Welfare Organization, Panchthar	Yam Kumari Mukhiya	Panchthar	Physical	Hill Janajati	B (31 - 35 years old)

26	Disability Organization Pakhribas	Juna Ghimire	Dhankuta	Physical	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	B (31 - 35 years old)
27	Nepal Chelibeti Disabled Women Society	Laxmi Ghimire	Itahari	Physical	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	B (31 - 35 years old)
28	DSF	Chandrika Sardar	Morang	Physical	Muslim	B (31 - 35 years old)
29	Nepal Chelibeti Disabled Women Society	Deep Kala Rai	Sunsari	Physical	Hill Janajati	B (31 - 35 years old)
30	Individual Representation	Divya Neupane	Morang	Not Available	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	B (31 - 35 years old)
31	National Federation of the Deaf Nepal	Chetnath Itani	Kathmandu	Not Applicable	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	C (36 - 59 years old)
32	National Federation of the Deaf Nepal	Suman Adhikari	Kathmandu	Not Available	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	C (36 - 59 years old)
33	Society of Deafblind Parents Association	Aakash Ghimire	Morang	Not Available	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	B (31 - 35 years old)
34	KOAD	Mohan Tiwari	Morang	Not Available	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	C (36 - 59 years old)
35	Federation of Women with Disability Nepal	Nirmala Dhital	Kathmandu	Physical	Hill Brahmin/Chhetri	C (36 - 59 years old)
36	Federation of Women with Disability Nepal	Aarohi Shrestha	Kathmandu	Not Applicable	Hill Janajati	B (31 - 35 years old)

### 5.3. Photos









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