



NATIONAL INDIGENOUS DISABLED WOMEN ASSOCIATION- NEPAL (NIDWAN)

MONTHLY BULLETIN

April 2020

Message

"During the disaster and pandemic situation, the priority is to reach the most vulnerable, pregnant and single women, children, elderly peoples, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, LGBTIQ, minority peoples and others. And we have tried our best in providing relief and peer support/counseling in this critical time. So, we would like to request you to support us and be part of this collective journey no matter where we are."

- Ganga Chhantyal, Vice Chairperson

April Program Highlights

- ❖ Feature on 'HER STORY' by Asia Indigenous People's Pact (AIPP)
- ❖ National Report on COVID-19: COVID-19 and Its impact on Persons with Disabilities and Marginalized Groups in Nepal
- ❖ Global Statement on COVID-19 Pandemic on Persons with Disabilities from Minority, Indigenous and other Marginalized Communities
- ❖ Distribution of COVID-19 Pandemic Relief Package and Peer Support Program
- ❖ Collaboration with organizations at national and International Level
- ❖ Attending National and International Webinars and Virtual Meetings

HerStory4

STRUGGLES AND SUCCESSES:
Indigenous Women voices
and perspectives



Published by:
Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact

Feature on 'HER STORY' by Asia Indigenous People's Pact (AIPP)

The 'Her Story Series' from AIPP hopes to amplify the voices and raise awareness on the realities of Indigenous Women (IW) featuring 15 stories of different personalities reflecting their struggles, challenges and their achievements for IWs issues. They have set examples in the society and paved path for future generations. Ms. Pratima Gurung was among the 15 Indigenous women who has been featured in this volume. The story reflects her experiences, struggles, challenges and triumphs to highlight the issues of indigenous peoples with disabilities in Nepal and globally. She has been a role model to initiate cross movement collaboration and build synergy in various movements like indigenous, disability, women's, youth and other marginalized movements. She has become voice for more than 54 million indigenous peoples and women with disabilities all around the globe.

Link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oRZv7ba2vDUXsTYVq_LOWzldswAOUGy5/view?usp=sharing

National Report on COVID-19: COVID-19 and Its impact on Persons with Disabilities and Marginalized Groups in Nepal

On the 14th of April 2020, President of NIDWAN Ms. Pratima Gurung and Mr. Krishna Gahatraj prepared a National report entitled 'COVID-19 and Its impact on Persons with Disabilities and Marginalized Groups in Nepal'. The main objective of the report was to highlight the adverse situation and challenges faced by person with disabilities and marginalized groups during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown situation. The report was reflected based on 7 provinces evidences and realities. The report was submitted in collaboration with Minority Rights Groups to the UN Special Rapporteur on disability, health, minority rights, indigenous peoples and violence against women on 21 April, 2020 at OHCHR. It also included number of recommendations that were crucial to make COVID-19 pandemic control and response actions disability, gender and indigenous inclusive to all.

Link: https://nidwan.org.np/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/NEPAL-COVID_NIDWAN-April-.pdf
http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/covid19-indigenous?fbclid=IwAR3JOQGkWaIDWPtAPWhOpPYPTiveJ8lnSu-MvW_sWI_pQQJ4S2TULicbRi8

Statement on the Impact of the Global COVID-19 Pandemic on Persons with Disabilities from Minority, Indigenous and other Marginalised Communities

STATEMENTS | 27 APR 2020



Read the Spanish version on our partner's website (RIADIS)

The Covid-19 pandemic presents a serious threat to persons with disabilities within marginalised communities around the world, including religious, ethnic, and linguistic minorities, refugees and internally displaced persons, and Indigenous communities. Multiple and intersecting identities of these individuals overlap, intensifying existing issues, excluding them from COVID-19 response strategies and placing them in the most vulnerable position in their nations.

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COVID-19 in Nepal: What are the challenges for indigenous persons with disabilities?

By IDA · May 5, 2020



This is one story as part of the [Voices of People with Disabilities during COVID19 Outbreak series](#)

"We are persons with disabilities but we are also indigenous, we have our own challenges, we have been historically marginalized in our own country, and we have never been part of the discussion. I am also a woman and we are not part of the feminist discourse either", says Pratima.

Pratima Gurung, is an activist for the rights of Indigenous peoples and women with disabilities in Nepal and Asia. She is General Secretary for Indigenous Persons with Disabilities Global Network and Nepal Indigenous Disabled Association (NIDA), Chair of the National Indigenous Disabled Women Association Nepal (NIDWAN) and a faculty member at Padma Kanya College in Kathmandu.

In other news

COVID19 and disability in West Bengal, India: the story of two teachers

This is one story as part of the [Voices of People with Disabilities during COVID19 Outbreak series](#)

[Names have been changed to protect the individuals mentioned in the story.](#)

Reyansh:...

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Global Statement on COVID-19 Pandemic on Persons with Disabilities from Minority, Indigenous and other Marginalized Communities

The COVID-19 pandemic has imposed threat to all people around the world. However the extent and impact of COVID-19 has been measured as very critical and serious to the persons with disabilities (PWDs) and within the marginalized community around the world including religious, ethnic and linguistic minorities, refugees and internally displaced persons, and indigenous communities. On the 27th of April 2020, based on the statements and recommendations from 21 organizations, NIDWAN Nepal and Minority Rights Group International (MRI) published the global statement. The statement highlighted some of the specific issues like accessible information, provision for personal assistance and medical care, economic impact, and racial discrimination, disablism, and domestic violence faced by above mentioned groups and drew attention of concerned stakeholders at both global and national level to consider their challenges and situations during the Covid-19 pandemic response. The statement also mentioned the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination faced during the COVID-19 by indigenous women with disabilities and other minority groups and response strategies during the emergency period.

Link: https://minorityrights.org/2020/04/27/statement-covid-19-pandemic-on-persons-with-disabilities-from-minority-indigenous-communities/?utm_campaign=shareaholic&utm_medium=facebook&utm_source=socialnetwork&fbclid=IwAR1E-1SrxJ4I3A-W5_puM3f4hfns1elow6T5SrGYJYDL7BQ5P1P5Kt3Utyk



**Distribution of COVID-19
Pandemic Relief Package and Peer
Support Program**

With the support of Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact and Minority Groups International, NIDWAN has started COVID-19 Pandemic Relief Planning and Distribution to the PWDs based on their basic necessities and medical requirements. The list of the needy PWDs were finalized based on the severity of disability of a PWD. The relief materials was organized as following: food package (a sack of rice (25 kg.), 2 kg. Lentils, 1 kg sugar, 1 kg beaten rice, 2 litre cooking oil, 1 packet salt, 1 packet biscuit), medical package (antiseptic soaps, 2 masks, diapers, medicines, cathedral pipe), and snacks package (1 box noodles, 2 kg lentils, 5 kg beaten rice, 1 kg peas, 1 packet biscuit). Ms. Pratima Gurung, and Ganga Chhantyal have coordinated for the relief distribution. Ms. Ganga has been actively and continuously involved in this distribution and peer support program. NIDWAN has also been supporting needy PWDs who haven't received allowances under the government scheme. Besides the relief, NIDWAN has been providing peer support, collecting information and narratives from PWDs in this pandemic along with their complaints and suggestions to the government.

Collaboration with different organizations at national and International Level

- **Indigenous Television:** To raise awareness and deliver information on COVID-19 Public Statement Assessment (PSA) in multiple local indigenous languages and sign language.
- **AIPP:** Engaged in updating the status of IPWDs status in Asia and relief distribution
- **MRI:** Published joint statement on impact of COVID-19 on indigenous people with disabilities and people with disabilities from minority groups and distribution of relief.
- **International Disability Alliance (IDA), MADRE, Equality Fund:** Participated on different sessions to update and discuss on COVID-19 pandemic situation and its impact on indigenous peoples/women with disabilities and ways to intervene further via webinars and virtual meetings.

Attending National and International Webinars and Virtual Meetings



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The missing millions from the gender lens discussion of COVID-19

By IDA - May 12, 2020

In other news

This story is part of the [Virtual Event: COVID-19 and Promoting Rights of Women and Girls with Disabilities](#)

As the COVID-19 pandemic swept across the globe, it has disrupted many planned United Nations (UN) events, conferences, and main functions. Among the suspended events is a sixty-fourth session of the Commission on Status of Women (CSW64). With the rapidly changing pace and unprecedented nature of the pandemic, International Disability Alliance (IDA) and European Disability Forum (EDF) decided to create space to react to this

COVID19 and disability in West Bengal, India: the story of two teachers

This is one story as part of the [Voices of People with Disabilities during COVID19 Outbreak series](#)

Names have been changed to protect the individuals mentioned in the story.

Revansh

Virtual Event: COVID-19 and Promoting Rights of Women and Girls with Disabilities

A virtual panel discussion on COVID-19 and Promoting Rights of Women and Girls with Disabilities was organized by the International Disability Alliance (IDA) and European Disability Forum (EDF) on the 8th of April 2020. A total of 572 participants registered for the event which featured the discussions about the inclusion strategy of women and girls with disabilities within the UN and different movements and ways ahead with priority issues. Ms. Pratima Gurung was one of the panelist representing Indigenous Person with Disabilities Global Network highlighting that diversity within women have to be acknowledged and those diversities should be meaningfully taking part in the feminists, disability and other movements. She also highlighted multiple and intersectional discrimination faced by women and girls with disabilities from indigenous and other minority groups.

Link:<http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/blog/gender-COVID19-follow-up?fbclid=IwAR3MtRexarBtJASf5unOKGDIIfNiBJQTBQZBcwQYKmfHS4Txd2996geaieY>



International
Disability
Alliance

Virtual Event:
COVID-19 Crisis and Promoting
Rights of Women with Disabilities

“We need document information, evidence, cases, stories, narratives, and voices from the margin and Global South. Frame global policies on multiple identities, clearly indicate them in the documents and implement programs at the national and grass-root levels and conduct studies and research, and assist DPOs to lobby with the government”

PRATIMA GURUNG
GENERAL SECRETARY, NIDWA

Webinar on Response to COVID- 19 and Women with Disabilities in Asia and Pacific

Virtual Discussion on the Response to COVID-19 with Women with Disabilities in Asia and Pacific region to share their experiences, challenges and way forward was organized by Asia Pacific Women with Disabilities Network on the 7th of April 2020. Abia Akram from Pakistan moderated the webinar and speaker from more than 15 countries were involved in the discussion. Ms. Pratima Gurung, of NIDWAN and Ms. Rama Dhakal of NAPD were the two spokespersons representing Nepal. The discussions were mainly focused on issues and challenges faced by women with disabilities issues and indigenous women with disabilities in COVID-19. Ms. Selina Nakarmi of NIDWAN also attended the event.



7th April 2020 3:00 PM BKK TIME (BANGKOK)

E-TALK: RESPONSE TO COVID-19 AND WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES IN ASIA AND PACIFIC



ZARA TODD Scotland	MANIQUE GUNARATNE Sri Lanka	DWI ARIYANI Indonesia	ABIA AKRAM Moderator, Pakistan	MASAKO OKUHIRA Japan
MARIA ELENOA Fiji Island	RASANJALI PATHIRAJE Sri Lanka	SAMANTHA FRENCH Australia	MIYEON KIM South Korea	RAMA DHAKAL Nepal
PRATIMA GURUNG Nepal	NAZMA ARA BEGUM PORI Bangladesh	VILLANY BEMENCESAU Palau	NIDHI GOYAL India	LYAZZAT KALTAYEVA Kazakhstan
ASHRAFUN NAHAR Bangladesh	AZIMA DHANDEE Sign Language Interpreter	SHEILA MAY IMHENZO Philippines	BISHAWATI UTAME Indonesia	AIKO AKIYAMA UN ESCAP



LIVE ON: WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/NFWWD.PK

Addressing Gender Based Violence in Communities

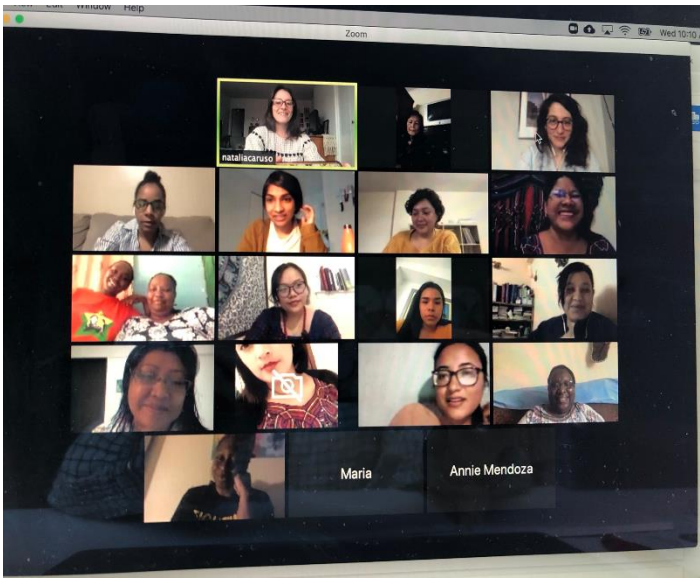
With an objective to identify issues of indigenous women, the confronts encountered during COVID-19 by indigenous women from different parts of the world were discussed through webinars initiated and conducted by MADRE in the month of April. Among many others, a session on Addressing Gender Based Violence in Communities was held on the 29th of April 2020. Participants from more than 12 different countries participated in the event and shared current ground scenario on Gender Based Violence in their country and ongoing activities in their communities including their own views. Ms. Pratima Gurung from NIDWAN shared on issues of the violence and discrimination faced by PWDs especially girls and women in Nepalese community and denial of various facilities which are essential for them. She further mentioned the assistance required from the experts from MADRE to reach those vulnerable population of young girls, women and to gather their stories and document in a proper manner. She suggested toolkits and trainings to address the issues and document their voices as evidences to move forward. Ms. Ganga Chhantyal and Ms. Selina Nakarmi also participated in the event.

Equality Fund's (EQ) Onboard Launch Webinars

Equality Fund's Onboard Launch Webinar was hosted on the 23 of April 2020. The Webinar focused on inspiring partners from different parts of the world highlighting grants & accompaniment process, monitoring, evaluation and learning, finance, protection and security, areas of engagements, policy and advocacy, EQ funds and commitment to partners and others. NIDWAN participated and shared its point of view and updates about COVID-19 critical situation to move further.

CONTACT

National Indigenous Disabled Women Association-Nepal (NIDWAN)
Lalitpur Metropolitan City, Post Box No 21535
nidwan2015@gmail.com, info@nidwan.org.np
+977-9841457270, +977-986319153
www.nidwan.org.np



“For us, what we believe is: today, we have our own identity and that identity is grounded in our feet and our feet are connecting with Mother Earth. We stand on Mother Earth and that is our identity.

Pratima Gurung
National Indigenous Disabled Women Association Nepal



FUTURE EVENTS

- Organizing online meetings and webinars
- Distributing relief packages and peer counseling to needy PWDs
- Second Phase research on COVID-19

