

# SANKALPA- WOMEN'S ALLIANCE FOR PEACE JUSTICE AND DEMOCRACY



## FEDERAL AND PROVINCE-LEVEL ELECTION - 2079 NOVEMBER-FEBRUARY (2022)



## Introduction

Nepal adopted a new constitution in 2015, establishing a federal government system, and dividing the country into seven provinces. The federal government is responsible for national-level policies, while the provincial governments are responsible for policies at the state level. There shall be a total of 334 members in the Federal Parliament, out of which the House of Representatives will have 275 members and the National Assembly will have 59 members. There are 550 provincial seats in all 7 provinces of Nepal. In 330 (60%) of Provincial seats will be elected through first past the post and 220 (40%) of seats will be elected through proportional representation.

Out of the total of 334 members of the Federal Parliament, at least one-third of members, or 112 members have to be women. Accordingly, out of 550 members in the seven States, at least 184 members shall be women.

Federal and Province-Level Election, 2079 was held on 20th November 2022 in Nepal in all 7 provinces. Sankalpa organized interactions and capacity enhancement programs for the women candidates before the election and after the election for elected women leaders from a diverse group for the Federal and Province Level elections.

Sankalpa organized various activities for women's empowerment this election collaborating with the Women's NGO Federation, and UNDP-Election Support Project.

## LIST OF MAJOR ACTIVITIES :

- NATIONAL LEVEL DIALOGUE
- INTERACTION PROGRAM
- CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM
- INTERACTION WITH WOMEN CANDIDATES
- ORIENTATION TO OBERVERS
- REPORT DISSEMINATION
- ISSUE IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP
- DISCUSSION WITH WOMEN POLITICAL LEADERS

6th September, 2022  
Hotel Himalayan,  
Kupondole



## Outcomes of the discussion

- Commitment to take inclusive participation with women from diverse groups to be the major agenda for the upcoming elections. of their respective political parties.
- To change election procedures including the party system so that there is a fair representation of women from all diverse groups.
- Commitment to give more opportunities to women and we will address them at the party. Human, as well as women's rights, should be practiced in reality. Women are in the frontline where inclusion is most necessary.
- To increase women's participation following constitutional provisions.

## National Level Dialogue with Key Party's Political Leaders

Sankalpa had organized a one-day dialogue and discussion program on “**Meaningful participation of women in Province and Federal Level Elections**” with a vision of prioritizing the women candidates from a diverse group that included Madhesi, Muslim, Tharu, Janajati, Dalit, and Single (Widow) women for both First Past the Post and Proportional Representation had invited renowned leaders from the leading parties of the country to talk about their party's agenda for women candidates in the upcoming elections. The facilitation of the program was done by renowned media person **Aarti Chataut**.

The political leaders from the leading parties were as follows:

- 1) **Jhakku Prasad Subedi- CPN Maiost**
- 2) **Sita Paudel – CPN UML**
- 3) **Nayan Singh Mahar- Nepali Congress**
- 4) **Keshav Jha- Loktantrik Samajbadi Party**
- 5) **Rekha Yadav- Janata Samajwadi Party**
- 6) **Prakash Jwala- CPN- AS**



## THE PROGRAM INCLUDED 3 ROUNDS OF QUESTIONS THAT INCLUDED:

- 1) What has the party been doing to ensure the meaningful participation of diverse groups of women including the ones from most marginalized communities in both FPTP and PR?
- 2) Agenda for the women's representation for First Past the Post?
- 3) Why still the male dominant and patriarchal thoughts and women are left behind including the costly elections which have been discouraging the women?





The resource persons were Ms. Gyanu Poudel- who holds a long experience in the field of women's rights and leadership from Butwal. Ms. Amrita Anmol-who is the chief news reporter of Kantipur Television's Lumbini Province. Ms. Lily Thapa- A member of the National Human Rights Commission of Nepal and Mr. Ayodhya Prasad Bhandari- The District Election officer of Rupandehi. The entire program was facilitated by Ms. Kala Swarnakar- General Secretary of Sankalpa.

## INTERACTION AND CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM AT LUMBINI PROVINCE AND PROVINCE 1.

In order to address the gap faced by potential leaders from women, Dalits, and marginalized groups, UNDP-ESP joined hands with Sankalpa and implemented the capacity-building and interaction programs targeting the participation of intersectional groups of women that included approximately 57% of minorities (Adibasi Janjati = 12%, Madhesi = 11%, Dalit = 14%, Tharu = 3%, Muslim = 10% and others = 7%) and 43% of Khas Arya for the House of Representatives and Provincial Assembly, 2022.

Half-day Interaction Program was designed to provide a platform view of creating political ambience and pressure for meaningful participation of women and marginalized groups in elections. On the other hand, Capacity Building Program solely focused on magnifying the existent leadership quality. The women leaders first interacted and then the capacity-building program commenced. In the Capacity Building Program, the sessions included election Campaigning, leadership, polling, mock polling, use of Social Media and GBV, Financial Management, and Communications. This endeavor reached more than 200 women. A half-day provincial interaction program was held on 29th September 2022 at Nepalgunj and a capacity enhancement program was held on 15th October 2022 at Butwal in the Lumbini province. A similar model's capacity enhancement program was also organized in the Itahari-Sunsari district of Province 1 on 27th October 2022.



## Objectives of the program:

- Strengthen the capacity of potential women leaders belonging to Madhesi, Muslim, Dalit, Tharu, Janajati, and other marginalized groups for the HoR and PA elections.
- Facilitate advocacy, and interaction platforms among CSOs and major political parties (including male political leaders as an ally) to promote women's candidacy and their meaningful representation and participation in the HoR and PA elections.



## Challenges faced:

- The timing seemed a bit compact so the program could not be able to reach other potential candidates. The call for the program was a bit late which made everything a bit hasty.
- Unavailability of participants due to the peak election campaign time. In addition, participants who were busy with daily wage activities (especially Dalits) were not able to dedicate full-time to the program.
- Programs were conducted after the candidature registration in the program's target areas. The people complained and suggested organizing such a program before the candidature registration.

## Lesson learned:

- The program helped to understand the unique challenges women political leaders face, such as gender bias, discrimination, and stereotypes. It is essential to address these challenges to create a level playing field for women in politics.
- Such training should focus on communication skills, strategic thinking, and resilience building, which are critical to effective leadership.
- The programs should encourage women leaders to advocate for gender equality and provide them with the necessary tools to promote gender parity.
- Organizers should continuously assess the effectiveness of their programs and make changes as needed to ensure that they are meeting the needs of women leaders and producing positive outcomes.
- Capacity-building programs should not be a one-time event but rather an ongoing process. Organizers should provide ongoing support to women political leaders, including access to mentorship, networking opportunities, and continuing education.



## RECOMMENDATIONS ON PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION:

- **The program should be conducted at least a couple of months before the election.**
- **As the number of voter education programs is less, the number of programs should be increased to cover the maximum beneficiaries.**
- **Materials relating to voter education should be published in local languages to grab the public's attention.**
- **Constitutional bodies should develop a joint framework and work together for meaningful and democratic participation of women, Dalits, and marginalized groups in elections.**



3RD NOVEMBER , 2022

ALFA HOUSE, BANESHWOR



## Interaction with Women Candidates at Federal and Provincial Level.

Hari Prava Khadgi who was a former deputy mayor of Kathmandu made a notable contribution to reconstructing the cultural heritage, of Rani Pokhari without letting it lose its original architecture and values. Her political career took flight as the President of Nepal Mahila Sangh. Her agenda was a youth, women, and employment opportunities and was fully supported by the media. She took this political initiative to break the shackles of patriarchy. She addressed the need for women to unify and initiate a movement.



Current leaders like Toshima Karki and Sobita Gautam were also present and discussed building the county, keeping a healthy mind, and the problems of youth and women in politics. Financial management is necessary for elections and if we spend less in elections we do not need to earn from politics. Sabita Maharjan tackled the issue of women in politics- how they are discouraged through expensive ticketing policies. Women are expected to work as frontline defenders but are seen as someone who must be bounded below the political line. Kalpana Dhamala talked about development plans since Kathmandu is a diverse city.



These political leaders were not just active politically but in various fields of education and practice as well. They faced various challenges then and came above them all. Now, they have made a name for themselves in the political arena as well.

The major takeaway from the program is that the discussion should always be an active scheme and it is necessary to be in touch with the issues to combat the challenges.

**15TH NOVEMBER, 2022  
KUPONDOLE BANQUET,  
LALITPUR**



## Orientation to Observers for Federal and Province Level Election, 2079 from GEDSI Perspective

To orient observers about the election code of conduct, the way to fill out the questionnaires, and make the observation process more effective and efficient, Sankalpa organized an orientation program where different speakers from diverse backgrounds shared their knowledge and experience with the observers to make the observation process easier and more fruitful. The guests of the program include Mr. Gopal Krishna Siwakoti, Advisor of NEOC, Mr. Krishnanan Pradhan, Executive Director of GEOC, Mr. Kapil Shrestha, Chairperson of NEOC, and Mr. Tanka Aryal, Founder of Digital Rights Nepal and Former Head of on Electoral Laws, Electoral Disputes, and Electoral Dispute Resolution.

The guests awakened about the importance of democracy, exercising voting rights, the major objectives behind observing the election process, observers' roles and responsibilities, electoral laws, electoral disputes and electoral disputes resolution, and methods to fill the questionnaires during the observation.

### Challenges faced during the program

- Limited time and resources such as budget, facilities, etc. made the orientation process a little tad difficult as there were so many aspects of the election that needed to cover.
- It was hard for some observers to make understand the importance of the orientation program because of this it was difficult to make them engaged in the program as they were busy using their cellphones and doing side-talks.
- Since the festivals like Dashain, and Tihar was closed, the participants were only from Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Lalitpur, and Kavre. The participants from outside the valley could not attend as a result inclusivity was not achieved as expected.



### LESSONS LEARNED:

- 1) The election observers had a thorough understanding of the electoral process including the laws, regulations, and procedures that govern it.
- 2) The observers understood the importance of neutrality, impartiality, communication, and accuracy in the process of election observation.
- 3) The observers understood the role of election observers and the responsibilities that comes with it.





## Report Dissemination and Review Workshop of House of Representatives and Provincial Assembly Elections, 2079

To disseminate the election report prepared vis a vis finding of Sankalpa's observers of the House of Representatives and Province Level Election, 2079 in the presence of the Chief Election Commissioner, and concerned stakeholders and create awareness and provide information for implementation, Sankalpa organized report dissemination and review workshop of House of Representatives and Provincial Assembly Elections, 2079. The program was attended by Chief of the Election Commission Nepal (ECN) Honorable Dinesh Kumar Thapaliya and Honorable member Janaki Kumari Tuladhar (Ph.D.), Deputy Secretary of the National Human Rights Commission's (NHRC) Honorable Mohan Joshi, member of the Indigenous Nationalities Commission Honorable Reena Rana, Senior Advisor of the National Emergency Operation Centre's (NEOC) Dr. Gopal Krishna Shiwakoti, and finally the Executive Director of General Election Observation Committee's (GEOC), Mr. Krishna Man Pradhan and shared their valuable feedbacks on the prepared report.

Shobha Basnet, the Senior Vice President of Sankalpa. She presented the cases of what was reported by the observers and what the analytical outlook on that looked like. The presentation was inclined toward the GEDSI perspective (Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion). The chief guest of the program Honorable Dinesh Kumar Thapaliya, the chief of ECN shed light on every question and recommendation Sankalpa presented before him. He stated the importance of voter education and compared the status of it during the local elections which made it easier for people to decide based on their personal preferences than during the provincial and federal level elections. It is imperative that the people be taught the method of voting rather than just being aware of whom they would like to vote for. He hopes that digital media plays a positive role in this journey and mobilized NGOs and CSOs for the same purpose.

### Challenges faced during the program

- Due to the time restriction, the identified issues could not be addressed properly.
- The participants were lesser than anticipated.
- The speakers could not manage their time properly. We ought to create a specified time limit in order to create a good discussion.



### LESSONS LEARNED:

- 1) Importance of GEDSI importance.
- 2) Election commission advising the CSOs and implementing the advice gained.
- 3) Vagueness results in misinformed and misunderstood situations. Hence, clarity is essential.
- 4) Plans to introduce a women's rights-friendly election process.
- 5) Involvement of CSOs, and NGOs with complete cooperation with/from the Election Commission



**5TH FEBRUARY, 2023  
SQUARE HOTEL,  
PULCHOWK**



## **Some of the common issues identified by this workshop:**

- Patriarchal thoughts
- Multiple forms of discrimination
- Lack of proper economic opportunities
- Lack of access to mainstream politics
- Lack of access to information
- Gender-based violence
- Lack of access to the property
- No family support
- Lack of intersectional study among women
- Trauma and mental health issues
- Persistence of traditional norms, values, and customs
- Early marriage

## **Consultation Workshop for the Identification of Key Issues of GEDSI Group**

Consultation Workshop for the Identification of Key Issues of GEDSI Groups was organized on 5th February 2023 at Square Hotel, Pulchowk to develop a deeper understanding of GEDSI issues and their root causes which involves social, cultural, and economic factors, etc. that contribute to these issues and their impacts on individuals and societies. Women from diverse backgrounds were invited to talk about their issues and make a collective effort for finding some strong solutions to address these issues. The facilitation of the program was done by Ms. Sangeeta Lama, President of Sankalpa. The participants were divided into 10 groups and all of them were given a certain time to identify their respective issues. The groups whose issues are identified are as mentioned below:

1. Indigenous women
2. LGBTQI+
3. Single women
4. Conflict-affected women
5. Muslim and Madhesi women
6. Adolescent girls
7. Dalit women
8. Disable women
9. Geographically marginalized Khas- Arya and rural women
10. Missing, injured, and displaced women
11. Female journalist



## **SOME OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS GIVEN BY THE PARTICIPANTS TO ADDRESS THE ABOVE MENTIONED ISSUES:**

- Addressing digital violence
- Making participation of women 50% in all levels
- 33% participation of women for FPTP (GEDSI)
- Sensitization of indigenous, Dalit, and single women issues
- End of caste-based discrimination
- Economic empowerment for GEDSI
- Collective efforts should be made on the issues of identity
- CSC, gender rights, and sex education should be included in the curriculum
- Collaboration with the private sector in case of giving training, jobs
- Issues of inclusion (GEDSI) should be included in our curriculum
- Participation of males should be more prioritized so that they could understand the issues of women from their perspective
- Focus on the nation's policies.

# ANNEX

Name of the organizations from where the participants had attended the program :

1. National Indigenous Women Federation (NIWF)
2. Sankalpa
3. Nepal Disabled Women Association (NDWA)
4. Bikalpa Gyaan Tatha Bikas Kendra
5. Women for Human Rights (WHR)
6. Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO)
7. Working Women Journalist (WWJ)
8. Nispachhya
9. Blue Diamond Society (BDS)
10. Fatima Foundation
11. Indigenous Women's Legal Awareness Group (INWOLAG)
12. Association for Dalit Women's Advancement of Nepal (ADWAN)
13. IWL
14. National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)
15. DNJ

## PHOTOS :



**9TH-10TH FEBRUARY, 2023**  
**RUBUS HOTEL, DHANGADHI**



## 2 days Capacity Building Program for Elected Women Representatives of Sudurpaschim Province

To support in capacity enhancement of the newly elected women representatives of Sudurpaschim province through leadership, communication, and Nepali women-friendly laws, Sankalpa organized this 2 days capacity enhancement program. On the first day, the program started with welcoming and felicitating all newly elected representatives of the provincial assembly and local-level election from Sankalpa team. There was a session about leadership and its importance given by Usha Rawat, Treasurer of Sankalpa. The participants understood that being a leader we should need to overcome different boundaries created by society and all the so-called traditional gender roles. Being a leader, s/he should be capable of taking leadership of her institution, decision-making, problem-solving, staff mobilization, and monitoring.

Shobha Basnet, Senior Vice President of Sankalpa organized a session about lobbying and advocacy. This session helped the participants to internalize what issues exist within their community as they shared about the increasing rape case, Chaupadi pratha, human trafficking, and gender-based violence, and also committed to making an effective plan to eliminate those kinds of violence.

The discussion was also made about women-friendly laws. On the second day, the total number of participants was divided into 5 groups, where they identified some of the key issues which are as follows:

- Strong and effective law in human trafficking cases, rape cases, citizenship acts, Chaupadi cases, and child marriage cases.
- Women's 51% participation in politics
- Women's participation in the constituency and decision-making process.
- Requested sankalpa to organize an orientation program in remote areas of Sudurpaschim province.

In the end, the floor was opened for discussion where participants shared about the good practices they initiates where the deputy mayor of the Beldandi municipality allocated social protection allowance for unmarried women and sexual minorities, she also initiated to provide allowance new mothers of the girl child as the female feticide was increasing in her area.



## Some of the challenges faced during the program is mentioned below:

- Due to the huge no of participants, the program modality was changed to participatory where participants were encouraged to share their learning.
- Hard to provide transportation costs as participants expect DSA according to government policy.
- Network members also need to be oriented so they also can handle participants as Sankalpa representatives more than a participant.

## ANNEX

### PHOTOS :



10TH FEBRUARY, 2023  
SQUARE HOTEL, PULCHOWK



## Discussion with Women Political Leaders

This program was a joint initiative of the Sankalpa Women's Alliance for Peace, Justice, and Democracy and the Women NGOs Federation (WNF.) It was envisioned to guide women in politics toward reflective practices. The main discussions were centered on the following:

1. The expectations and strategies to reach specific political goals.
2. The quota of Candidacy vs. Winning Seats.
3. Improving situations for women leaders- by women to women.

The facilitation was carried out by Ms. Chandrika Bhattarai and Ms. Durga Sop, the Vice President and member of Sankalpa Women's Alliance for Peace, Justice, and Democracy, respectively. There were a total of seventeen women political leaders, all enthusiastic and ready to outline their motives to win. The discussions led to the identification of concerns, issues, gaps, hindrances, and the path that needs to be paved. The participants poured all their frustration and concluded having to create a continuation of discussions to address their collective issues. They acknowledged the importance of creating a network and hope to base their efforts in a more unified manner in the future because women need to uplift each other first.



## Identified Issues:

- Financial struggles because the election is equal to money.
- Party members' unwillingness.
- Vague article of the constitution.
- Lack of efficient intervention.
- Political veteran losing to a businessman.
- The trust of the citizen and corruption.
- Voter's education.
- Lack of civic education.
- The disparity in the status of male and female politicians.
- Not being able to connect with the newer generation.

## THE NEXT STEP :

This discussion will be made into a series- to create momentum and ensure a safe space for women to speak their minds and reflect on their actions and their chances to win by utilizing various mediums. This will also include discussions with the election commission next so that their concerns may be addressed by an authorized and relevant body.

Women in politics should be made into a sensation through the use of mass media next so that the youth start to ponder upon the relevance of voting and its necessity. The creation of videos will give rise to information and awareness being enshrined in the space of the new generation. Using relevant mediums to communicate with the youth will also give you the advantage of knowing your target audience better.



# CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM AT NEPALGUNJ

Sankalpa with The Asia Foundation of USAID had organized a two days Capacity Building Program for the Province Level Women Leaders of Lumbini Province at Nepalgunj. The two days program was aimed of delivering knowledge building subject matters for the leaders which will be an aid to their political journey in five years.

## GOAL

The aim of the Program was to provide knowledge on Women Friendly Laws and Policies of the Province Government. How to pass the bills and raise questions in the parliamnets. Communication strategy and GEDSI issues.



## STRATEGY

the strategy of the program went well where we could deliver our contents to the women parliamentarians. The participation of the parliamentarians was overwhelming. they were also very thankful to Sankalpa for having providing this opportunity to learn under a roof together though they belong to different parties.





## INTERACTION AND CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM OF FEDERAL LEVEL WOMEN LEADERS

Sankalpa had hosted a one day interaction and capacity building program for the recently elected Federal Level Women Leaders of diverse group. the program was done with the inyteraction with Dr. Sashi Shrestha, Parbati rawal and Dina Upadhyaya the former Federal Representatives where the challenges and issues to women leaders were discussed in a common platform. the women leaders interacted with the former leaders and they were felicitated for their victory by the National Assembly President Honorable Ganesh Prasad Timilsina.



### GOAL

The goal of this program was to make women leaders learn from the former leaders to enhance their capacity and knowledge for their journey in next five years. how the bills are passed, raising of bills, women friendly laws and policies were also discussed in the program.

it also aimed of gathering women leaders from diverse group and political parties in a common platform to share their knowledge and learn in a collective approach.



### STRATEGY

the strategy of the program commenced with the sharing of the resource person with on their thematic committees experiences. later which went as an interaction by the newly elected leaders. the joy of sharing their victory through the felicitation was also a direction towards unity of women leaders.



# निर्वाचन २०७९ मा समावेशी समूहका चयित जनप्रतिनिधिहरुको क्षमता अभिवृद्धि कार्यक्रम

८-९ बैशाख २०८०, हेटौडा, बागमती प्रदेश



## CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM OF THE ELECTED LOCAL LEVEL WOMEN LEADERS IN HETAUDA

The recently elected local level women representatives of Bagmati Province were capacitated in Hetauda of Bagmati province.

the local level women leaders from all the districts of Bagmati province had gathered in a place to learn in a common platform.

the program was conducted with necessary topics for women leaders to carry out their tasks in a proper way.

### GOAL

The goal of the program was to give women leaders knowledge in the local level laws and policies, communication strategies, handling of media and social media. The coordination with the women leaders from diverse group and to understand the issues of GEDSI group was also taken in the program to make them clear in a broader way. The goal of the program also focused on uniting the women leaders though they belonged to different parties and diverse communities.



### STRATEGY

The strategy of providing the valuable knowledge to the women leaders on the required laws, policies, ways to draft the policies, raise the voices in the respective Province, necessary of consultations with leaders as well as the people was marked by the program

