

# *Naya Adhyaya:*

A New Chapter | Women of Nepal





Dedicated to women and girls across Nepal, to their hopes and dreams of achieving equality, and to finding voice among a new generation of leadership

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## P r e f a c e

The desire of the people of Nepal from all walks of life to participate in the peace process and to contribute to the building of a new Nepal has been demonstrated in many ways. Women have often been at the forefront of the call for change and for meaningful participation in the work of making lasting peace.

The *Jana Andolan* of April 2006 was perhaps the most dramatic demonstration of the will of the people to take their destiny into their own hands and to forge a path toward a new Nepal. I was privileged to be in Nepal during the *Jana Andolan*, as Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and witnessed for myself the leading role that many women played in this people's movement. The energy and momentum from this nationwide movement was harnessed by many women's groups across the country, who showed clearly that they would not accept going back to a peace that excluded women from active roles in all aspects of public life. The declaration in the Interim Legislature-Parliament in June 2006 providing that women would take up 33 per cent of positions in all public bodies was a significant commitment to changing a system that had largely excluded women.

During my time in Nepal I have attended women's conferences and meetings and met with women activists and community leaders, in Kathmandu and in the regions. UNMIN teams, fulfilling our responsibilities under our own direct mandate as well as in pursuing the objectives of Security Council Resolution 1325 on women in post-conflict societies, have worked with women from a wide range of communities in rural and urban areas. With an aim to understand the aspirations of women and the obstacles they

identify in the achievement of equality, we made particular efforts to meet women from traditionally marginalised communities such as Dalits, Madhesis, Janajatis and Muslims, women who often suffer multiple discrimination. Women activists have a leading role to play in building an inclusive peace process.

April 10, 2008 was a remarkable day in Nepal's history and, I believe, in the history of women's participation in building the new Nepal. National and international observers alike remarked on the turnout of women voters for the historic Constituent Assembly election. This election has resulted in over 30 per cent representation of women in the Constituent Assembly, a level of women's representation unprecedented in previous elected bodies and far ahead of the international average. This is an important step, but of course just one more step on a long journey toward equality for all women in Nepal. Women lawmakers and political leaders will shoulder particular responsibility to advocate for the fulfilment of previous commitments related to women's participation in public bodies.

Women lawmakers will also have the opportunity to work to make sure that the constitution-making process itself is one that involves citizens in a participatory way, including women. Listening to the aspirations of women and men from all communities will assist lawmakers to help develop a constitution, and other laws, that overcome past obstacles to equality between women and men and which open the way to a more just society.

Greater participation of women in the civil service and other State bodies, including new peace process institutions to be established,



will also enable women to take a leading role in ensuring implementation of programmes which enhance women's participation and which address the needs of women and girls.

UNMIN's partnership with UNFPA in developing the street theatre project *Naya Adhaya* (A New Chapter) signaled our commitment to reach out to communities in the districts with this message of the importance of the meaningful participation of women in peacebuilding. The creativity and skills of the Sarwanam theatre group brought to life the stories of women and girls who lived through the years of conflict, and showed the inspirational force of one woman, Bina, who would not allow the obstacles she faced to overwhelm her.

Life is still very difficult for so many Nepali women. Women's struggle for the simple dignity of equality, for opportunity to enjoy their human rights and live as equal citizens, continues. Nepali women activists and community and political leaders will continue to play a leading role in this struggle. It is my hope that more and more Nepali men will appreciate that this is their struggle too, and that the equality of all Nepalis will greatly improve the life of the nation.

This book is a small contribution to helping to spread the message of inspiration from Bina's struggle, and the aspirations of so many Nepali women. As you read it, I hope that you will be moved to take action to help achieve equality for all Nepali women and girls.

**Ian Martin, Special Representative of the  
United Nations Secretary-General in Nepal**





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e)})^ sf] hgcf'gf'ng g} lyof] . hgcf'gf'ng'sf ah'f'df  
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lyof] . b'ze/sf dlxfnf'z'n] ; d'x'z'n] of] b'z'j'ofkl  
cf'gf'ng'sf] an / ph'f'sf] /fd] ; bkof'u ub] ; f'j' h'lg's  
hl'j'gsf x/\$f l'f'qaf6 dlxfnf'z'n] { j'l-rt ug] v'f'nsf]  
zfl'et'df r'fl'x'F'g'k'm's'g] at'fP . c'g'tl/d Joj : y'f'lksf ; #bn]  
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7'hf] ; a'x'of'df dlxfnf'z'n] f0{ k'v'f nuf'pg] Joj : y'f'df kl/  
j't'g ug] p'N'no k'l'ta4'tf xf] .

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dl:nd'nufot k/Dk/fut z'kdf ; l'd'f'g't'l's't ; db'fox'z'sf  
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k'l'tl'gl'w'tj lj'utsf c'g'o s'g} klg l'g'j'f'f'rt l'gs'f'odf e'P'sf]  
ly'Pg / of] c'g't/f'f'6' c'f} t e'g'bf w}] g} a9l 5 . of] l'g's}  
d'x't'k'of{ s'bd x'f] t/ g'k'f'nsf ; du] dlxfnf'z'n] s'f nflu  
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s'f'g'g'sf] l'g'd'f'of'df ; 3'f'p k'l'5 / o ; n] dlxfnf / k'z'if alr  
; d'f'g't'f s'f'od ug] s'f'd'df lj'ut'df b'l'v'P'sf] c'j / f'w'x'z'n] f0{  
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# Introduction

This book reflects the collective determination of Nepali women to foster a culture of equality. Its images, along with the words of women and men from the community, are inspired by *Naya Adhyaya*, a pre-election street drama that was performed across Nepal by the Sarwanam theatre group. By raising awareness of the importance of women's involvement in the peace process, the play encouraged women's participation at all levels of decision-making.

The book draws on two distinct themes. Firstly, the struggles that must be overcome by Bina, the ostracised widow who is the play's central character. And secondly, the unprecedented participation of women in Nepal's 10 April 2008 Constituent Assembly election.

*Naya Adhyaya* was jointly developed by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) and Sarwanam. Launched with the objective to mobilise local communities around issues of concern to women, it sparked debate wherever it was performed. Street theatre is very popular among rural and semi-rural communities in Nepal and this medium was selected as an effective way to deliver the key messages of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325, which requires parties in a conflict to respect women's rights and support their participation in peace negotiations as well as post-conflict reconstruction.

Starting in the Far-West in November 2007 *Naya Adhyaya* was performed in 14 districts across Nepal, reaching an estimated audience of 8,800 people. The street drama transfixed audiences, and its success is testimony to the drive of Nepali women to develop a new perspective, to foster change and to make the most of new

opportunities. In a second, post-election, phase, Sarwanam performed the play again in April and May 2008 in a further 17 districts around the country, supported by the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA).

This book has been produced in both Nepali and English. The Nepali version is aimed at reaching leaders of Nepal, who are responsible for drafting the new Constitution, as well as the many women's advocacy groups. The English version is intended to inspire members of the international community to continue to support women and their contribution to Nepal.

This publication is also available online on UNMIN's website:  
<http://www.unmin.org.np>

United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 is a key advocacy tool used by the Government of Nepal, civil society and the international community to promote women's participation in the peace process. UNSCR 1325 was the first resolution in United Nations history to specifically recognise the impact of armed conflict on women and girls. It also acknowledges their significant contribution to conflict resolution and peacebuilding and addresses specific needs regarding constitutions, electoral systems, police and judiciary. UNSCR 1325 sets out key recommendations, including to ensure the participation of women in the promotion and maintenance of peace.



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A story that raised  
awareness and  
encouraged debate

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A group of women watch the performance of *Naya Adhyaya*  
Kailali, 17 November

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**We say that everybody in a house will get educated if women of the house are educated. Similarly, women's representation is necessary in State structures and the peace process to develop the country. Men also have an important role in implementing this.**

Bipin Sapkota, Rangeli

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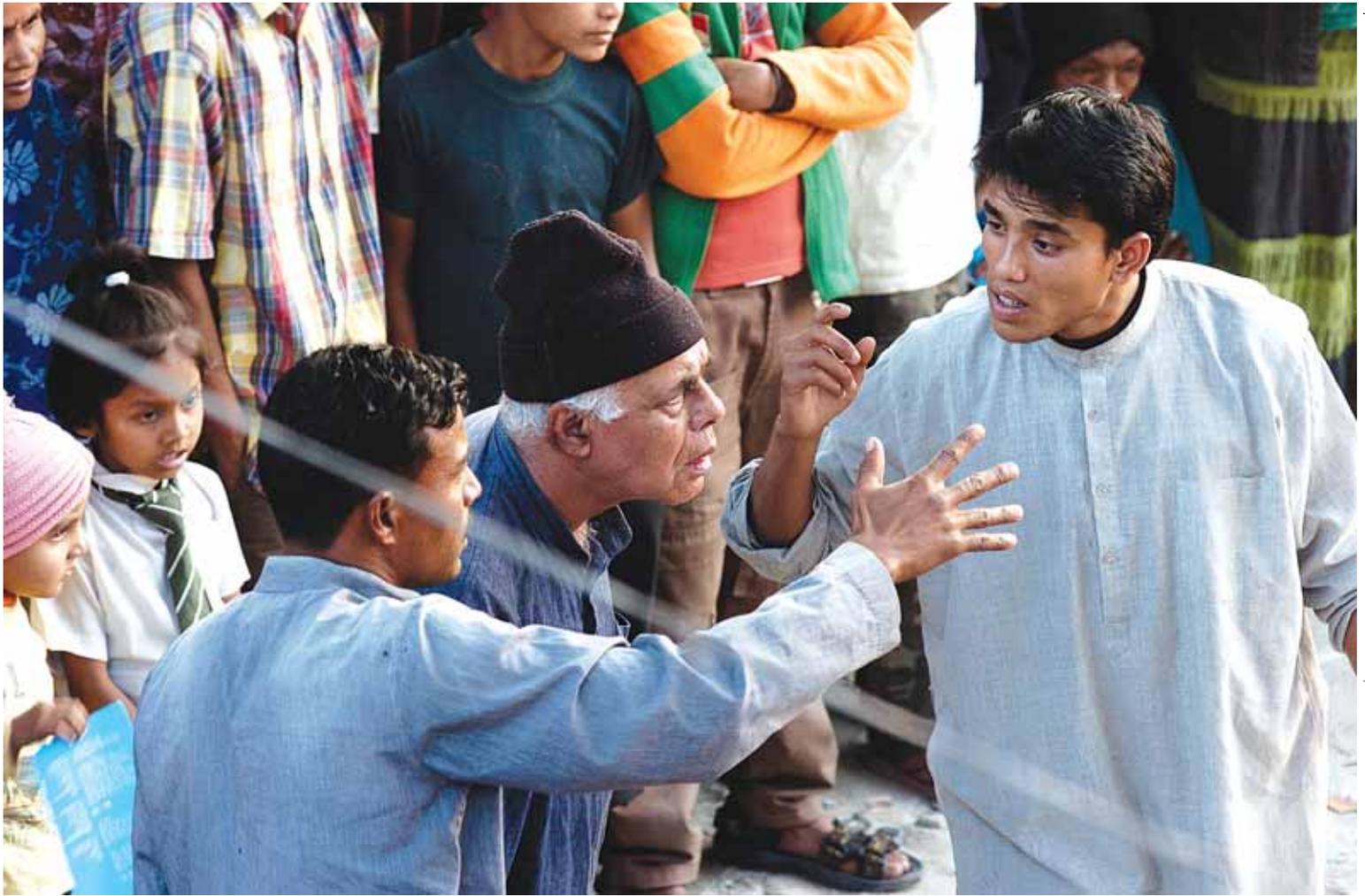
*Naya Adhyaya* protagonist, Bina, explains to members of her community how she became a political activist and why she wishes to participate in the upcoming election

Kailali, 17 November

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Male characters debate the notion of having a woman leader

Jhapa, 18 December

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## ANECDOTE

KAILALI, 17 November 2007 – When it comes to gathering a crowd for the street performances, everyone has to chip in.

While some performers use cymbals and drums to alert the people, director Ashesh Malla prefers a much more personal approach.

He walks up to a woman who is busy with the season's harvest.

"We'll help you so you can come watch our drama," Malla says.

He sits in front of her husking machine, working the pedals hard while the woman sifts the grain.

"Watch your hands," Malla cautions. "What happens if the dust falls into your eyes?"

"We are used to it," the woman replies.

Malla asks her for her name.

"Jashoda Rana," she says. "You see, I stay at home and do all these things." Her young son is too shy to reveal his name.

"Will you take a break and come see the performance, which is happening in front of the temple?" Malla coaxes.

She hesitates, worried that there won't be enough time to cook the evening meal.

"The day's work is over but it's time to start household chores, like making dinner," she says. "Look, the sun is about to disappear."

"We've come to show you a drama and to listen to you," Malla explains. "We want to discuss the challenges facing women here. We thought you would be free by this time."

From a distance, a man shouts, "Come see the play. Once you see it, you'll think it's worth it!"

The woman looks at Malla and makes up her mind. Dinner will just have to be a little late tonight. She smiles, wipes her hands and heads towards the temple.



ems

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pgl e'; p8fpg]d]; g glhs a:5g\ / k}n rnf5g\  
tl dlxfn xj}fdf kg]u/l wfg emfg{yflN5g\.

æxft e}nf x} lgb}zs dNn eG5g\ æcf}fdf whf] k}of]  
eg}f

æfdlnf0{ t afgl kl/; Sof} dlxfn eG5g\.

lgb}zs dNn] pgsf] gfd ; fl}5g\.

æhzf}f /fgf} pgl eG5g\ . pgsf] ; fgf] 5f}f] eg]  
nhfp5 / cf}gf] gfd ; d} eI dfG6g} .

æfdl Ps}5g kl5 dlG6/ cuf}8 gf6s ug{nf}b}f}f. tkf0}  
klg gf6s x}k}{cfpg}; \ x}k} lgb}zs dNn lgt}f] u5G\.

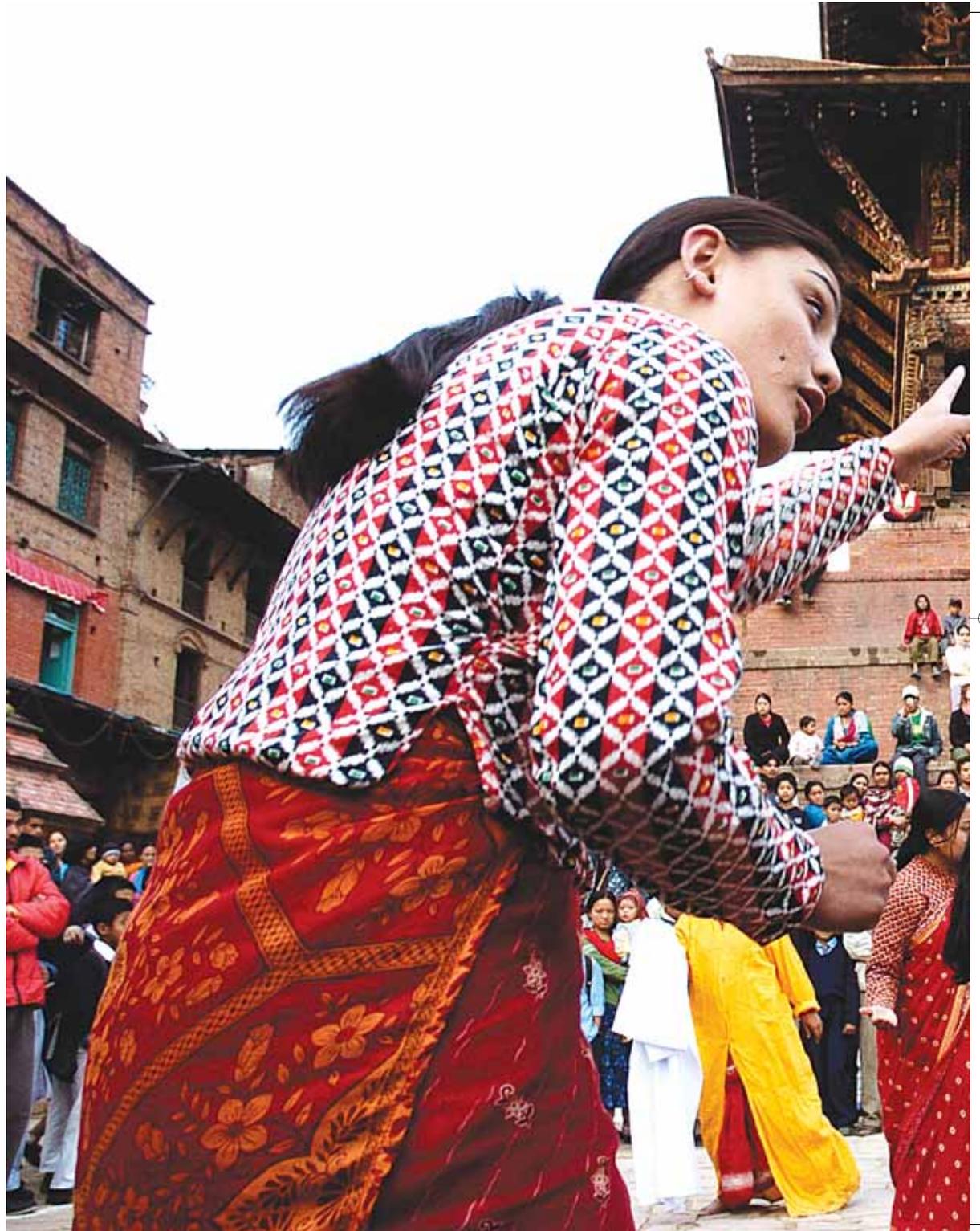
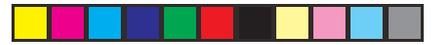
pgl /ftlsf] vfgf ksfpg l9nf] x}hf eg} cIn  
lx}Rsrfp5g\.

lbp; f}f] sfd t ; ls0; Sof] t/ vfgf ksfpg af}l g}5,}  
pgn] elgg\ æ3fd 8Ag nflu ; Sof] .}

æfdl tkf0}nf0{gf6s b}fpg / tkf0}sf s}/; }  
cfPsf x}f} dNn s}/f æmf}p5g\ . æfdln] t tkf0}  
dlxfn}n} ; fdgf ug{k}/f} r}gf}lx}sf af}/f 5nkm  
ug{v}h}f x}f} . o; ahf t tkf0}nf0{cIn} km }  
x}hf kf] eG7fg}f lyof}f .}

6f9faf6 Ps hgf k?if lrRofp5g\ ægf6s x}k}{cfpgxf] \ .  
Ps k6s x}]kl5 of]gf6s slt /fd} 5 eI] cfkm}f}g'  
x}g}f .}

hzf}f /fgf lgb}zs dNn lt/ x}5g / gf6s x}k}{hf}g}  
lg0f6 InG5g\ . cfh /ftl vfgf cIn l9nf] x}g] eof] . pgl  
d; \$s x}f5g\ xft kl:5g\ / dlG6/ lt/ nflu5g\.



Women characters debate the notion of having a woman leader  
Bhaktapur, 29 November

dlxnf0{ g]f agfpg]  
s/fdf ax; ub} snfsf/x<sub>2</sub> .  
eQmk/, d<sup>a</sup>k / !# ut].



Conditions should be created for women to have easy access to education and employment. Social security measures for widows and aged women should be ensured.

Maimuna Siddiqui, Banke

lZlff / /f\huf/L; Dd ; xh  
kxFSf nflu dlxfnxnf0{  
cj; / lb0g' k5{. ljwjf tyf  
j\fxsf nflu ; fdfilhs  
; /lffsf pkfox ; lglZrt  
ul/g' k5{.

d\gf l; l2sl, af5]



**I really enjoyed watching the show. It gives t he message that we should educate our daughters. This is the best dowry we can give them. I am illiterate. I have four daughters and no sons. Though I am poor, I am sending all my daughters to school.**

Bhojawa Chaudhary, Baniyabhar VDC

of]gf6s x7]k15 5f7lnf0{klg k9fpg' k5{e1}lzlff kfP . To; f]t d lg/lf/ xFt/ d]s] aem]eg]5f7lnf0{lbj}; a}5f7lx2nf0{k9g k7fPsl 5' . d7f rf/ 5f7l 5gV 5f7f 5g9\ d ul/ag}eP klg d]s]; a}5f7lx2nf0{k9g k7fPsl 5' .

ef]hj f rfw/l, algofef/ uflj ; , alb6f



Bina begs her father to allow her to go to school. Bina's supportive mother and brother are part of the discussion and hope he will agree  
Kailali, 18 November

lj Bfno hfgsf nflu lktfl; t la6tl ub7gofFcWbfo gf6ssl dVo kfqf algf . o; s7fdf algfsf cdf / ef0n] pgnf0{ ; dy6 u/3f 5gV/ pglx2n] lktfn] klg of] s7f df6g7g\efg] cfzf u/3f 5g\ . s7fnl, d7k / @ ut].





Bina's marriage is being arranged as she watches on with her mother

Makwanpur, 26 November

algfs] lax\$] s/f l56b}u/3f] b7o xDİ algf /  
pgsl cdf .

dsjfgk/, d^k / !) ut].





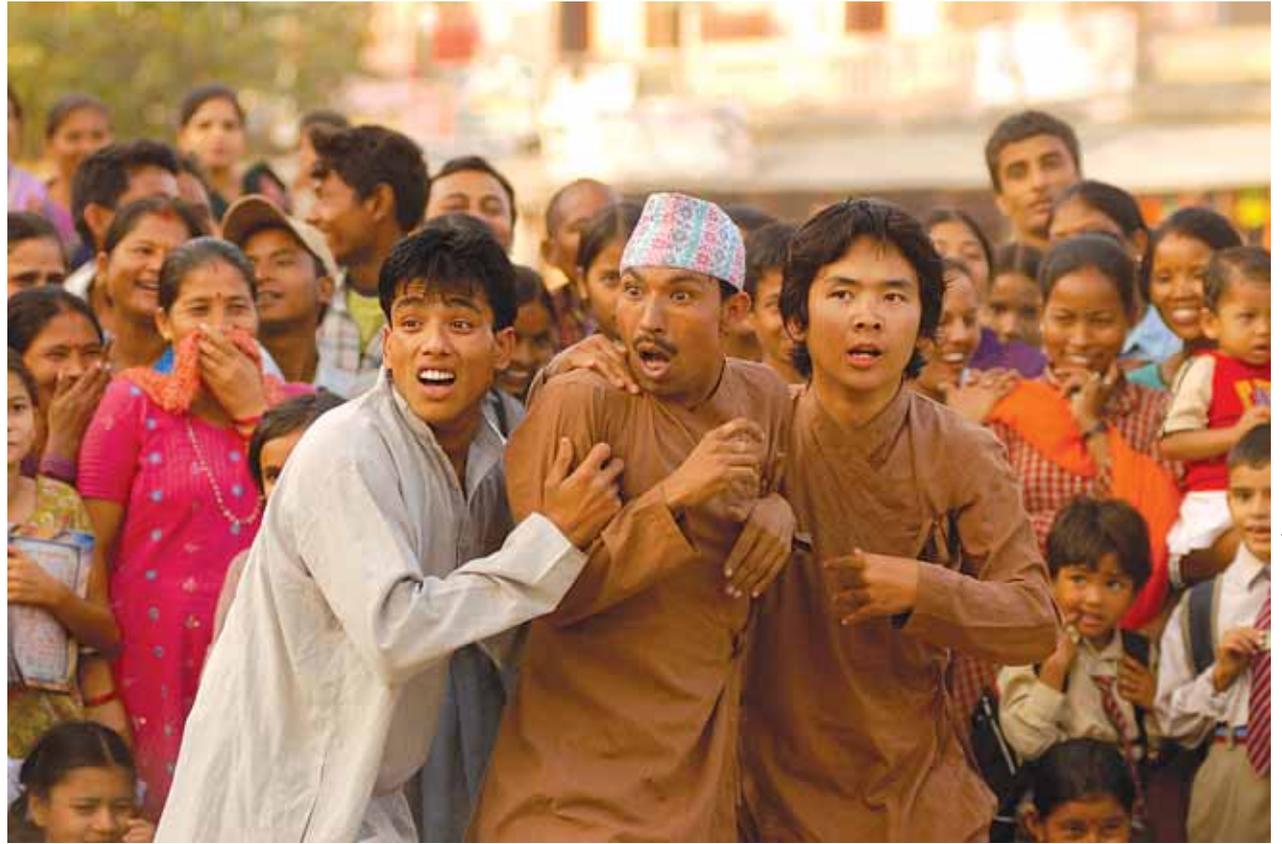
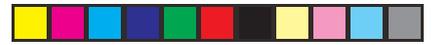
Bina and her mother plead with her father to allow her to continue her education instead of forcing her into marriage

Jhapa, 18 December

algf / pgsf cdf algfsf lktfl; t pgsf]pRr lzlfnf0{  
lg/6t/tf lbgf nflu la6tl ub}.

en[kf, k'; # ut].





Men from the community fear the arrival of an armed group and forced recruitment

Bardiya, 19 November

xltof/wf/l ; d\xn] cfP/ cfkmk;nf0{ ha/h:tl n]fvg] xg\ls eg] 8/fPsf  
; dbfosf nfgdf65} .

alb6f, d^k / # ut].





A funeral procession for Bina's husband  
Hetauda, 26 November

अर्निको याताको बोलाला  
बोलाला, २६ नोभेम्बर।

» Women are harassed by members of armed groups during the conflict  
Sindhupalchowk, 27 November

सिन्धुपाल्चोकमा अर्निको याताको बोलाला  
बोलाला, २७ नोभेम्बर।

सिन्धुपाल्चोकमा अर्निको याताको बोलाला  
बोलाला, २७ नोभेम्बर।





The story of the drama truly portrays the situation of women in the country. For a moment, I really thought it was my story.

Shobha BC, Banke

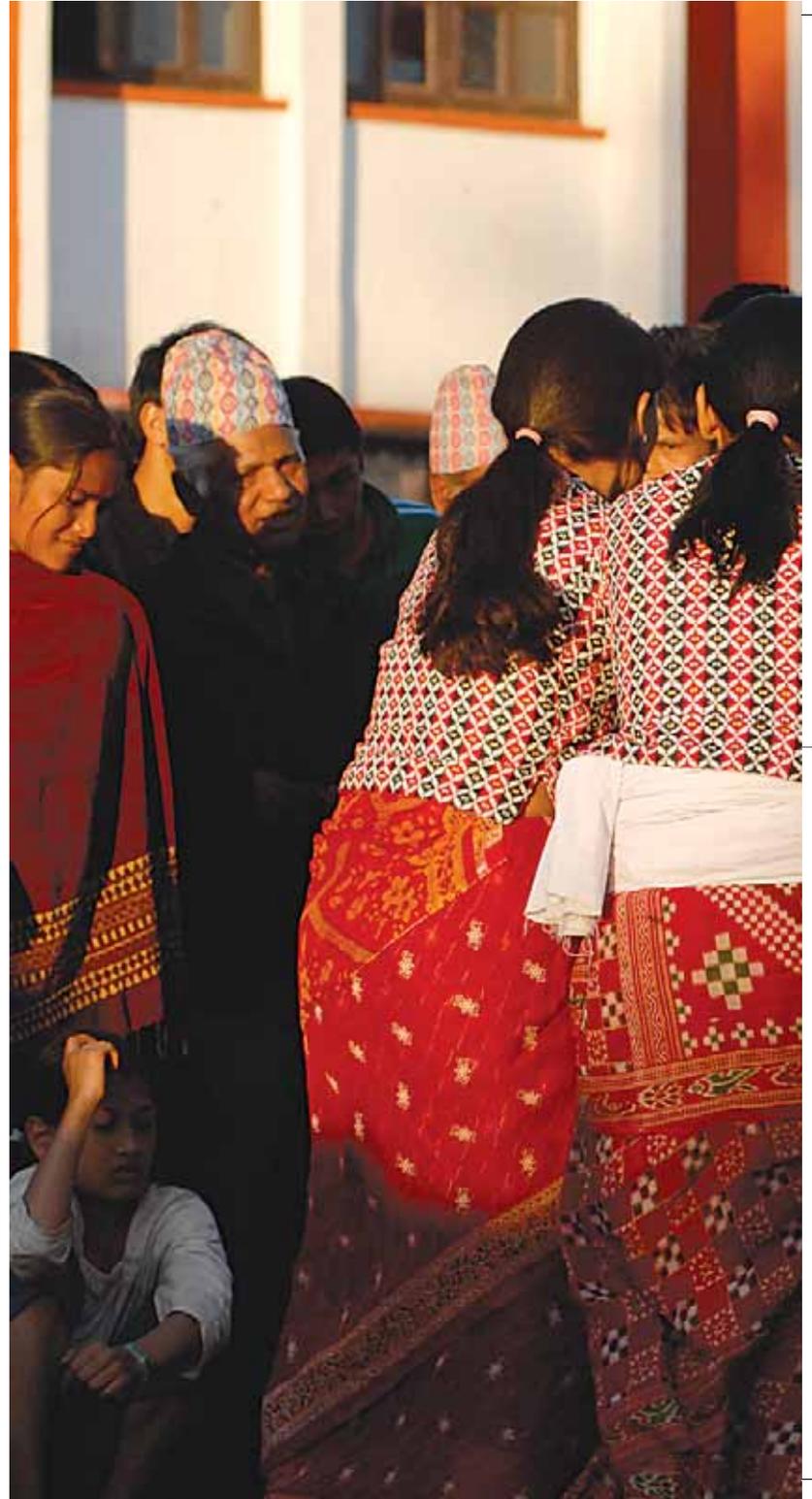
gf6ssf] syfn] gkfn]sf dlxnf]sf] oyfy{ tl:a/  
k|tt u/}f]5 . Ps lf0fsf nflu t dnf0{of]cf'g}  
syf h:tf]nflor].

zif al;l, af5]

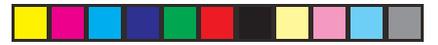


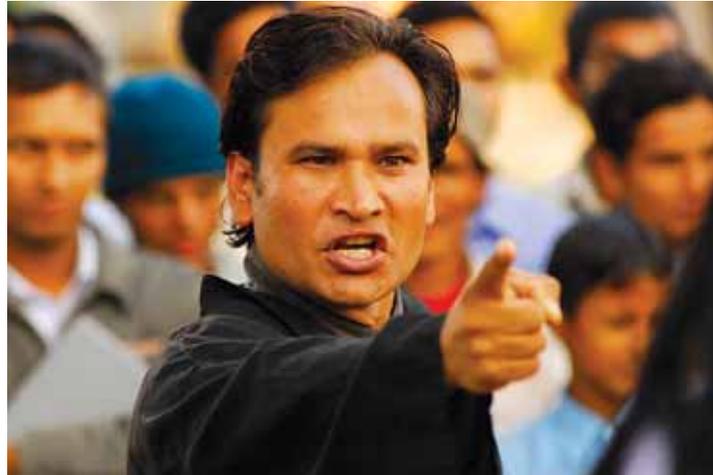
Women protect village men during the conflict «  
Palpa, 23 November

ägätsf ; dbfosf k?ifx; nf0{ hf]ufpg  
dlxnf] v]h}f] eldsf b]fpg] gf6ssf]  
Ps b}o .  
kfnkf, d^a / & ut].









An actor, symbolising society, shouts at Bina, demanding she succumb to the bounds of widowhood

Banke, 20 November

algnf0{lj wjf g} ag] a:g cfbz lb5 ; dfhsf] ; a\$]ffds  
k[tlgw]j u/3f ; j g]dsf snfsf/ .

af5] d^k / \$ ut].



Women from the community perform the rituals of widowhood with Bina

Bardiya, 19 November

>ldfg\latk|5 algnf0{lj wj fsf] klx/g nufp5 ; dbfosf dlxfx .  
alb6f, d^k / # ut].





Bina is wrapped in a widow's white sari after hearing about the death of her husband

Nawalparasi, 24 November

>ldfgsf] d[osf] va/ ; bkl5 algfnf0{lj wj fsf] ; }f] ; f/l klx/f0f}.  
gjn/f; l, d^k/ \* ut].





**Caste- and gender-based discrimination is obvious in the villages. But such violence and discrimination is hidden in urban areas and in educated families. Firstly, men should change their attitude by eliminating such practices, and awareness should also be raised among those women who discriminate against other women.**

Kalpna Bishwakarma, Makawanpur



ufp̄df cfd 2kdf g}hft tyf  
In<sup>a</sup>nsf cfwf/df xg]eDefj x65 . t/  
;x/l Ifqdf tyf lzllft kl/jf/df  
o:tf lx:f / eDefj n53f]cj:yfdf  
x65 . klxn]t o:tf]Jojxf/ x6fP/  
k?ifx2n]cf^gf]/j0fdf g}kl/jt0  
Nofpg' k5{/ To; ; 6}dlxnfdly g}  
eDefj ug]dlxnfx2sf]r]gf a9fpg'  
k5{.

sNkgf ljZj sdf{ dsjfgk/



Bina is consoled by her female family members after she becomes a widow  
Nawalparasi, 24 November

ljwjf ePkI5 algfnf0{ ; f6]jgf lb5}kl/jf/sf dlxnf ; b:ox2 .  
g]nk/f; l, d<sup>a</sup>2 / \* ut].



Bina's family members wipe off her *sindoor* as she finds out that she is a widow  
Morang, 16 December

>ldfgsf] d[o' ePsf] s'/f yxf ePkI5 algfsf] l; p[bf] k5b} pgsf  
kl/jf/sf ; b:oxç .

df]ª, k' ! ut].





Society demands that Bina succumb «  
 to the bounds of widowhood  
 Rupandehi, 22 November

; dfhsf] algfnf0{ ljwj f g}  
 ag] a:g cfbz .  
 ॆkGbxl, d^k / ^ ut].





**Our parents did not send us to school. I was married off at an early age. I went to night adult education classes, carrying my small children on my back. Now I treat all my four children – three daughters and a son – equally. I also tell others to do the same.**

Sona Devi Chaudhary, Kailali

klxnf xfdlnf0{cfd f aafn]k9fpg'ePg . d]f]t lax]klg  
; fg]pd]df eof]. ; fg]aRrf af\$]eP klg d /flt kf9  
lzlfdf k9y uP . d t cf`gf rf/hgf 5f]f5f]lnf0{  
a/fa/l Joj xf/ u5x c2nf0{klg To; }ug{l; sfp5' .

; fg]b]l rfw/l, shfnl



» A woman holding her baby while enjoying *Naya Adhyaya*  
Banke, 20 November

gofFc]lbfosf] gf6sdf /dfp5} fgfl ; dfPsl  
dlxnf .

af5] d^k / \$ ut].





A Sarwanam actor discusses the contents of the drama with a member of the audience after the performance  
Banke, 20 November

gf6s ;lsPkI5 gf6ssf] syfj :t' af/]Ps hgf bz\$; E 5nkm ubI ;j fdfsf snfsf/ .  
afE] d^h / \$ ut].



**The drama was emotionally impressive. It has shed light on the issue of women's exploitation in society. Awareness of women's empowerment should start from home .**

Mohammadi Siddiqi, Banke

of]gf6s ; jϕglzn ς kdf kϕj sf/l  
lyof]. ; dfhdf dlxnfdly ePsf  
pllk8gdf o; n]kϕfz kf/ϕf]5 .  
dlxnfsf]z; lQms/0fsf af/ϕf hfuf/0f  
3/af6}; ? xgk5{.

dfx]dbl l; l2sl, afϕ]



Bina witnesses the rape of a woman in her community  
Kapilvastu, 22 November

algfn] cf^gf] ; dbfodf Ps hgf dlxf anf]s[ ePsf]  
; flfl aϕg k[ug .  
slknj:t; d^k / ^ ut].





After Bina becomes a widow, she walks through her community and finds scenes of violence against women

Nawalparasi, 24 November

lj wj f ePkI5 ; dbfodf lx8b} ubf{ algfn] bly}f] dlxfn lj ?4 xg] lx}fsf] b}o .  
gjn k/f; L, d<sup>a</sup> / \* ut].



**Women in the Muslim community have now begun to come out of their houses and take classes. They can even write their names now. We hope th at the new constitution will have some provisions to eliminate discrimination against women, especially domestic violence.**

Mobina Bano Ansari, Nepalgunj

d'; ndfg ; dbfosf dlxfn} klg 3/  
aflx/ cfp/ slffdf k9g yfn}f  
5g\ clxn] pglx} cf^gf] gfd n}g  
; Sg]e0; s}f 5g\ gofF; lj-wfgn]  
dlxfn lj ?4 xg] e}efj To; df klg  
lj z}ft\3/h' lx}f c}to ug]klj wfg  
/flvg] xfdln] cfzf lnPsf 5f}.

dfllj gf afgf] c}; f/L, g}fnu-h





A Sarwanam actor engages with a woman after the street performance to discuss the play

Palpa, 23 November

gf6s ; lSpkl5 gf6s af/]Ps hgf dlxf; E 5nkm ub}; j gdfsf snfsf/ .

kfnkf, d<sup>a</sup> / & ut].

## ANECDOTE

BUTWAL, 22 November 2007 – In a corner, four children stand transfixed by the drama.

“Is it real?” Anita Prajapati, 9, asks a boy next to her.

Anita’s young friend doesn’t budge. He is too absorbed by the play to respond. So Anita poses the same question to a man nearby.

“No,” he says. “This is a drama.”

## eins

a b j n d<sup>a</sup> / ^ ut] – Pp6f sgdf plePsf rf/ hgf s f s f l 5 s s k / ] gf6s x g \.

æof] ; f R l s } x f ] t < A g f } j i f l c l g t f k h f k t l c f k h g f ] 5 p s f ] s f n f 0 { ; f M 5 g \.

clgtfsf] ; fyl s x l a f l b g . p m gf6s x g \ d l g 5 / p m n f 0 { h j f k m l b g ] k n f 5 g . c l g c l g t f T o x l k z g g l h s } p l e P s f ] P s h g f 7 h f ] d f 5 h f 0 { ; f M 5 g \.

æ x g x g , o f ] t g f 6 s k f ] x f ] t A p g l / f d f ] E h j f k m l b 5 g \.



**There are many women in our society who have been victimised. They haven't been able to raise their voices. Even if they raise their voices, they know that nothing will change for them. That is the reason why women endure pain and blame their fate. This is a mistake.**

Tara Bhattarai, Nawalparasi

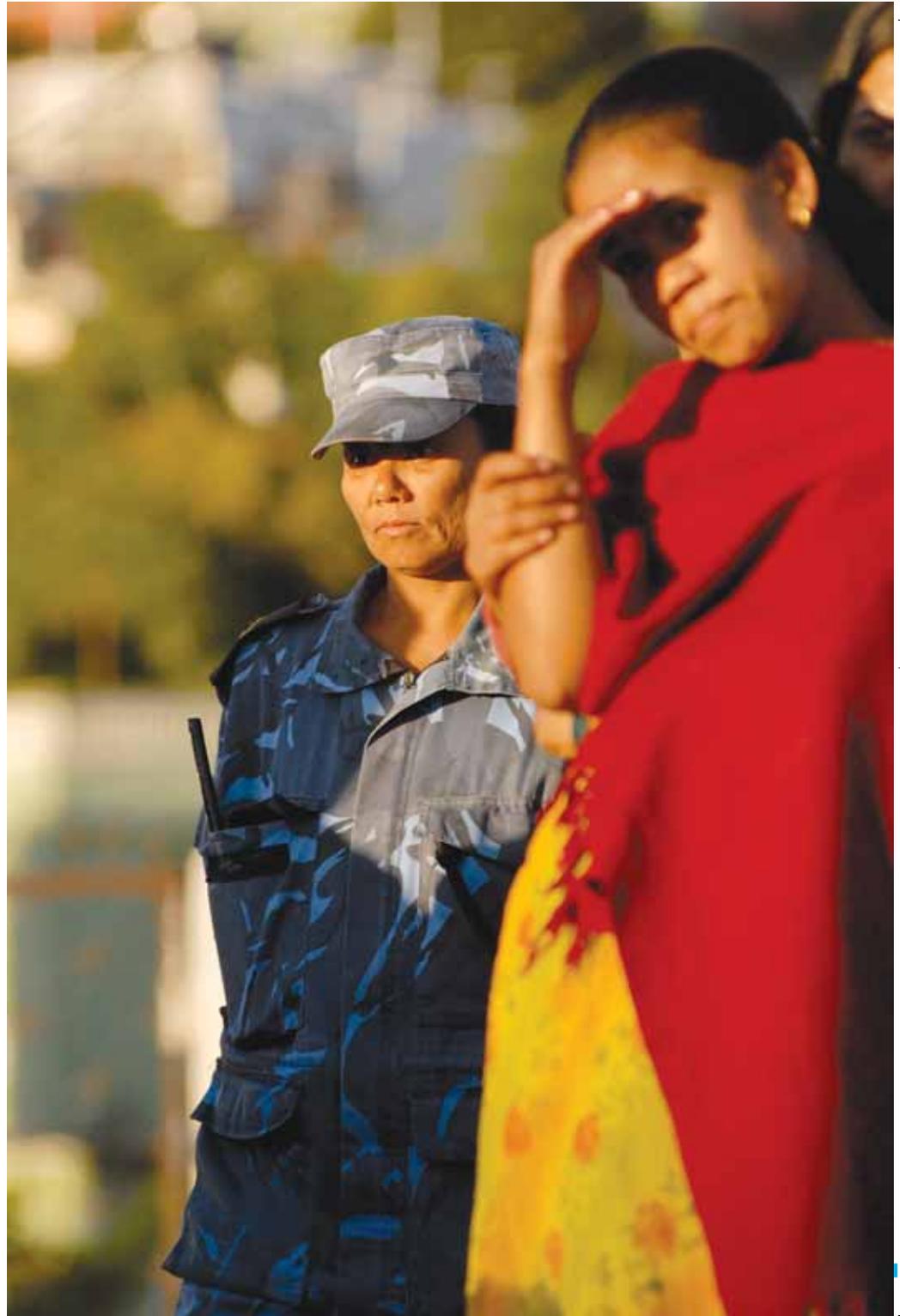
xfdf] ; dfhdf kl18t eP/ a; }f w]}  
 dlxfx 5g\ . pglx n] cfj fh  
 p7fp5 ; s}f 5gg\ . cfj fh} p7fp  
 klg ; dfhdf sj}kl/j t6 cfpbg e1]  
 pglx nf0{ nfu5 . To; h] eflonf0{  
 bfif lb} dlxfx n] kl8f ; x65g\ of]  
 t pglx sf] uNtl xf].

tf/f e6&/f0{ gj nk/f; l



Audience members look on <<  
 Palpa, 23 November

gf6s x}bz}x .  
 kfnkf, d^ / & ut].





» A Sarwanam actor interviews audience members after the performance to hear their reactions  
Nawalparasi, 24 November

bz&sf] k|tlqmf kfgg  
bz&sf] t s/fsgl ubf  
; j gdfsf snfsf/ .  
gjnk/f; l, d^k; / \* ut].



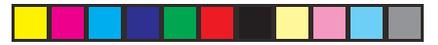
**Men say that women should stand up, be aware, be courageous and cautious, but it is not so in practice. For example, both men and women are responsible for the birth of a child but men do not consider nursing the baby as their responsibility. That is why women have to devote most of their time in household activities, making their participation impossible.**

Janaki Rai, Itahari

dlxnf; klg p7g' k5{ hfu; s xgk5{ ; fxl; s xgk5{ r]glzn xgk5{e] ]cfbz{  
s/f k?ifx; n]klg u5g t/ Joj xfl/s ; kn]To; nf0{nful'flx Fubgg\ . h:tf]  
afnaRrf t ldn]} h6df0Psf] x65 t/ aRrfsf]: ofxf/; ; f/sf] sfd k?ifn] d]f] klg  
cfwf st{0 x]eg] aen] sfd ubg . To; h] dlxnf] a9l ; do 3/kl/jf/d] latfpg'  
kg] x65 / pglx; sf]; xeflutf xg ; Sbg .

hfgsl /f0{ 06x/l





A Sarwanam actor calls out to the local community to gather audience members before the performance  
Nawalparasi, 25 November

gf6s ;? xgēēbf klxf :yfglo ;dbfosf JolQm&nf0{afhfp5}; jgfdsf snfsf/ .  
gjn/f;l, d<sup>a</sup>k / ( ut].



**There are very few people who want to bring women forward and give them a chance. It's because of a lack of education and awareness.**

Santaram Gupta, Kapilvastu

dlxnf0{cuf18 Nofpg]/  
 pglx;df kl/j t6 Nofpgdf sfd  
 ugIdflg; oxfPPsbd sd 5g\  
 of]lz1ff / ; r]gfsf]sdlsf  
 sf/0f ePsf]xf].

;f6tf/fd uktf, slknj:t'



» A woman member of the audience reads a comic book produced by the NGO Saathi and UNFPA aimed at promoting women's participation in peacebuilding efforts

Kailali, 17 November

zfl6t :yfkf ugI k6Igd  
 dlxnf;sf] ; xeflutf a9fpgsf  
 nflu ;fyl tyf /fi63lo  
 hg; a\of sf]faf/f tof/ kfl/Psf]  
 lrqsyf k9h}Ps hgf dlxnf .  
 shfnl, d^N / ! ut].



Sarwanam actors call out to the local community from the top of their tour bus, to gather audience members before the performance

Narayangadh, 25 November

gf6s ; ? xgëëbf klxnf :yfglo ; dbfosf JolQmçnf0{gf6ð ofqf a; sf] 5taf6 af]hfp5}

; j g]f dsf snfsf/ .

gf/fo0fu9, dªk / ( ut].



A Sarwanam actor draws the boundary with flour, separating the audience from the performance space

Makwanpur, 25 November

gf6s / bz{nf0{5bðfpg] kl7f3f] ; ldf/yf sf0i ; j6fdsf snfs/ .  
dsjfgk/, d^k / ( ut].





Audience members engaged by the performance  
and theatre programme

Hetuada, 25 November

gf6sdf WbfgdUg bz\$Xz .  
x0fBf, d^N; / ( ut].





**Makawanpur is a conflict-affected district and this drama has reminded us of the suffering of women during the conflict. Wo men can contribute to the peace process if they are provided with opportunities.**

Geeta Pandey, Makawanpur

dsj fgk/ áġá kēflj t lhNnf xf] / of]gf6sn] áġásf j ĩpddf dlxfnxġn] eflġg' k/ġf  
 bM/nf0{; DenfPsf] 5 . dlxfnxġnf0{cj ; / lbOPdf pglxġn] klg zflġt klj ĩpddf  
 ofġbfg lbg ; \$5g\.

ultf kf08] dsj fgk/



» Sarwanam actors depict ploughing of the fields in a rural setting  
 Kailali, 17 November

vġ hfġġf] clego ubġ  
 ; j ġfdfs snfsf/ .  
 sġfnl, d<sup>a</sup>k / ! ut].



Audience members engrossed in the performance  
Makwanpur, 26 November

gf6sdf d:t bzξxζ .  
dsjfgk/, d<sup>a</sup>ξ / !) ut].





Bina rejects the rules of widowhood and casts aside her white sari, showing her new drive to change society

Sindhupalchowk, 28 November

lj wjf kyfsf lgodxꞤsf] cj 1f ubꞤ algf cf`gf] ; Ꞥf] ; f/l kl/Tofu ul5g\  
/ ; dfh kl/j tꞤsf nflu gofFcleofg yfllbl5g\  
l; GwkflNrfꞤ, d<sup>a</sup>Ꞥ / !@ ut].



An audience member  
Sunsari, 15 December

Ps bzξ .  
;g; /l, d<sup>a</sup>h / @( ut].





**The main problem faced by Dalit women is social issues. We should be able to live with equal rights, respect in the social arena. We should be allowed to participate in economic activities and employment. We should be allowed to participate in all sectors of government, and we should be given employment according to our capacities.**

Gyanu Gairi, Dadeldhura

blnt dlxnf;sf]dh ; d:of ; fdfhs xf].  
 xfdln]; dfg clwsf/sf ; fy afRg kjpg'k5{  
 ; fdfhs lfgdf ; Ddfg kjpg'k5{ cfly\$  
 ultlalw / /fhuf/ldf ; xeful xg lb0g'k5{  
 ; a); /sf/l lfgdf xfdl ; xeful xg kjpg'k5{  
 / xfdl]lfdtf cg;k xfdln]/fhuf/l kjpg'  
 k5{.

1fg'u]L, 88]hw/f

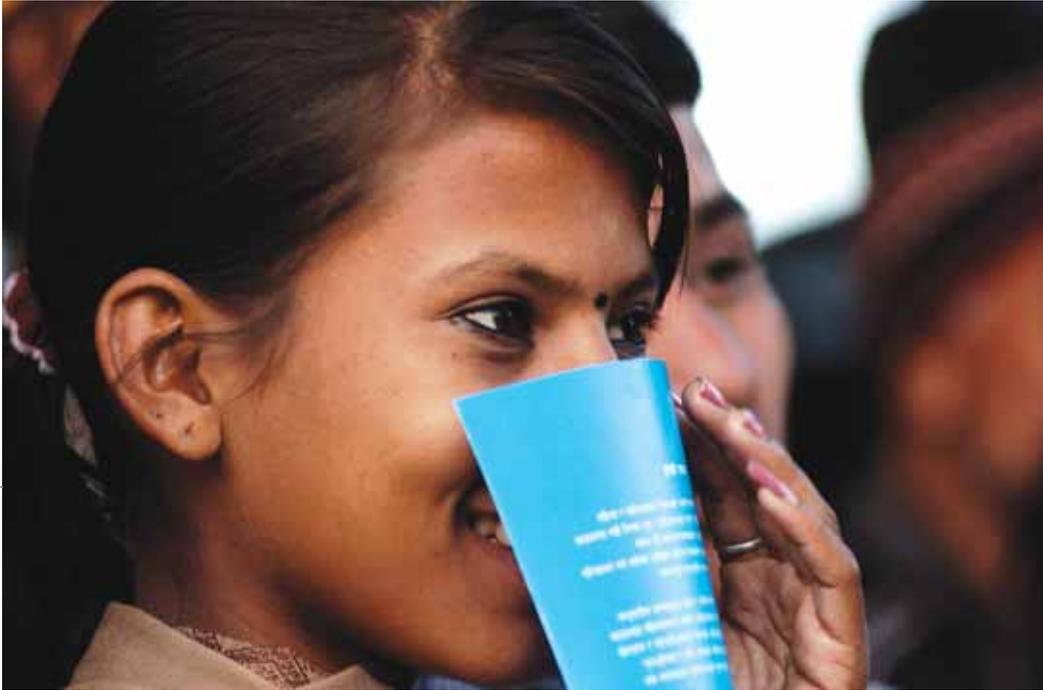


Amused audience members  
 Sunsari, 15 December

gf6sdf /dfPsf bz\$ .  
 ;g; /L, d^k / @( ut].







A female audience member hides her amusement as she watches the performance

Jhapa, 18 December

gf6s xD} ubf{ cf`gf] xFf] nSpE} Ps hgf  
dlxfn bZ\$ .

enkf, k' # ut].



**This show is very relevant to our lives as women. The changes in the lives of the characters resemble the changes in the lives of women in our society. Women must not limit themselves to the four walls of their homes. They can shape their lives as they come out of their homes and face challenges.**

Mangala Devi Shrestha, Gulariya

of]gf6s dlxfnsf 2kdf xfdln]  
lj tfg] hljg; E lgs}; fble\$  
5 . of]gf6ssf rl/qx2sf]  
hljgdf blvPsf] kl/j tgn] xfd]  
; dfhdf dlxfnx2sf] hljgdf  
cfpg] kl/j tgnf0{ kltlalDat  
u5{. dlxfnx2n] cfknhf0{3/sf]  
rf/ kvfhelq l; ldt /Vg xEg .  
3/af6 aflx/ lglSnP/ dlxfnx2n]  
rgf]lsf] ; fdfg u/] eg]pglx2n]  
cf`gf] hljg agfpg ; S5g\.

dunfb]l >]7, uhl/of





## ANECDOTE

NAWALPARASI, 24 November 2007 — Not everyone can get front row seats to *Naya Adhyaya*, especially not when the crowd swells. Gopal Ranabhat, 26, found himself watching the performance from up a tree.

"I climbed up after the crowd blocked my view of the stage," says Ranabhat, who is jobless. "I couldn't tear my eyes away from the play."

Ranabhat wasn't the only person in the tree. Three children wedged themselves between two trunks, several branches down.

Trees are great places to climb to get a new perspective.

## ems

gjn/f;L, \* d^k; / @)^\$ - ; a] ; 8s  
gf6s gofFc//bfo cuf18af6 xq{ kfpEgg\  
vf; u/l a9l bz\$ ePsf] a]hf t gf6s xq{  
cg\$ 7fpFvf]g}  
k5{. uf]kn /fgfef6, @^, 2vaf6 gf6s  
x]/xg' ePsf] 5 .

vf; sfd sxl gePsf /fgfef6nf0{ km, b} 5 .  
pxfFel x65, abz\$ w}] ePsf] d-r g} b]VPg  
/ d 2v r9\$] xF. d] cfFf lemdSs gu/l  
gf6s x]F.F

To; 2vdf /fgfef6 Psn} xgx1 lyof]. b0  
j6f xFfsf alrdf tlg hgf afnafnsf klg  
al; /x\$] lyP .

2vdf r9] gofFlsl; dsf] b[o b]g kf065 .



A mesmerised audience member  
Morang, 16 December

d6qdlw bz\$ .  
df]a, k'; ! ut].





Bina performs a transformation dance after she denounces her widowhood  
Morang, 16 December

lj wj fkgnf0{ c:jlsf/ u/kl5  
 2kf6t/0fsf] g[o k|t't ub}algf .  
 df]a, k' ! ut].



A silhouette of Bina's transformation dance before becoming a teacher in her community  
Morang, 17 December

algfsf] 2kf6t/0f g[osf] 5fof#5lj .  
 df]a, k' @ ut].







## ANECDOTE

PALPA, 23 November 2007 – Fifty-six year old Laximi Gotame can hardly hold back tears. Bina has just discovered that her husband is dead. Sobbing in disbelief, she puts on her mourning garb. As a widow, Bina is ostracised by her community.

“The drama gave me a heavy heart,” Gotame says after the performance. “Looking at the white clothes, I wonder why this happens to women.”

A few metres away, a group of young children start humming the chorus of the play’s theme song.

*Cheli timi uthnai parchha... Cheli timi uthnai parcha...*  
[Hey womenfolk, you should stand up...]

Ten-year-old Muna Neupane’s voice soars above the rest.

“I like the drama because of that *didi*, the one who cried,” she says, pointing to lead actress Sushma Koirala. “I want to be like *didi* when I grow up.”

Koirala beams as Neupane and her friends continue to sing.

*Cheli timi uthnai parchha...*

Their voices soar long after the sun disappears.

## ems

kʌkʌf, & dʌ\ / – 5kʌl j iŋlʌf nɪdl ufʃɪfd] an} u/ʃ  
cɪf' yfʌg' eof]. lagfn] ev{} cfkʌgf] >ldfgsf] d[o' ePsf]  
yxf kfPsl l5g . pgl bM/sf] o; 38ldf ?b} ljwjfn]  
nufpg] ; ʃf nuf nufpʌ5g\ . ljwjf eP kl5 lagfsf ; fd'  
o; f] ug{xʌ5 / o; f] ug{xʌ5 eɪ} sʃfsf cgʃ k|ta6w  
nʌU5g\ . æf] gf6sn] dʃf] dg g} ef/l agfofʌ, gf6s  
; lʌP kl5 ufʃɪfd] eɪ xʌ5, æ; ʃf nuf bʌbf dnf0{dlxnfn]  
lsg o:tf] aʃfʌ{k/ʃf] xʃf h:tʃ] nʌU5 . ʌ

cln k/, Ps xh sʃfsʌ gf6ssf] zlifʃ ult ugubfpg\  
yʌU5g\.

*rʃl ltdl p7g}k5{ rʃl ltdl p7g}k5{*

!) j ifʃl dgʃ gʌkfgʃf] :j/ cʌ ; aʃf] e6bf rlvnf]  
; lg65 .

ædnf0{gf6s lt ?g] lbbln] u/ʃf] ; fx} dg kʌofʌ, snfsf/  
; ifdf sfʌ/fnfnf0{cfʌofʌ} eɪ65g\ æ7hl eP/ d lbb  
h:t} xʌ5ʌ .

dgʃ / ; fylxʌ ult ufpg yʌU5g\clg sfʌ/fnf bʌ  
kl5ʌg\.

*rʃl ltdl p7g}k5{=*

3fd c:tʃ0; Sbf klg pglxʌ ult uf0/xʃ} xʌ5g\.



**We have now understood about untouchability, learnt that we have to take steps to solve the problems of our Badi women. We have the right to live like other women, our children have the right to study like other children and we have the right to live our lives with dignity.**

Rama Devi Badi, Kailali

ca xfdln]5] f5'tsf af/df yxf kf0; s\$ f 5f7/ j fbl dlxnsf ; d:ofx' sf]; dfwfg ug{xfdln]g} kxn ug{k5{e1] klg alem; s\$ f 5f7: xfdln]klg c' dlxnf; ; dfg eP/ affg kfg'k5{. xfdl] 5f7f5f7ln]klg c'sf 5f7f5f7ln]h:t}k9g] clwsf/ kfg'k5{/ xfdln]; Ddfghgs 9En]affg kfg'k5{.

/dfb]l j fbl, s'fnl



A Sarwanam actress talks with an audience member after the performance, discussing the themes of the play

Jhapa, 18 December

bz\$sf] k|tlqmof kfg bz\$; t s'/fsfgl ubI; j'gdsf snfsf/ . enkf, k; # ut].

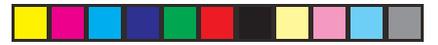




Audience members look on  
Morang, 16 December

gf6s xD|bz{xz  
df<sup>a</sup>, k' ! ut].





Sarwanam members practice yoga in preparation for the street performances  
Banke, 21 November

; 8s gf6ssf] tof/ldf of]ufEof; ub{  
; j gfdsf ; b:ox .  
af] d^k / % ut].





**I realise now that education is important and that is how we gain knowledge. If I was educated I would probably also have been involved in spreading awareness against discrimination. Men and this society discriminate against women, humiliate them and attack them. That is why we should learn skills. Then we can teach others. I feel that I would have also taught society.**

Sabitri Thapa Magar, Parbat

1fgsf nflu lzlfssf]; fx]g)dxIj k0f(xb7)/x\$ . d k9]y]sf]xb7]xFt d  
klg e]efj sf lj ;4df r]gf hufp5]x8y]. xdf]; dfhsf k?ifx;n]  
r]ha0lnf0{slt x]hf u5g, slt x]5g / slt s0lk6 u5g\ To; }  
eP/ ;lk l; s] xfdl Psbd ; lfd xg'k5{clg c;nf0{klg l; sfp5}  
; lfd agfpg'k5{.

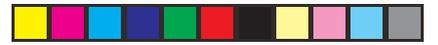
; flaqf yfkf du/, kj f



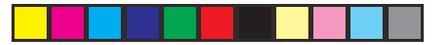
The final scene of *Naya Adhyaya* depicts Bina teaching other women the lessons she learned throughout her life about the importance of education for girls  
Nawalparasi, 24 November

dlxnf lzlfssf] dxIj af/] cf^gf] hlj gaf6 l; s3f] kf7 c6o  
dlxnf;nf0{ algn] atf0x3f] gf6ssf] cl6td b7o .  
gj nk/f; l, d^a / \* ut].









An historic election  
that inspired women  
to cast their vote

P[|txfl; s lgj f{g h; n]  
dlxnfX; nf0{dtbfgdf  
k|/t u{of]



**Women were aware that this election was not an ordinary one. It was an historical event and an opportunity to write our own laws. If women didn't participate with such enthusiasm then how would our rights be addressed?**

Usha Baruwal, Kaski

of]lgjffg ; fdfco vfnsf]xf]g e] ]dlxfx;n]aer]sf lyP .  
 of]Ppof P]txfl; s 36gf / cf^gf]sfgg cfkn]n]vg kfpg]  
 cj; / xf]. dlxfx;n]Tolt pI; fxsf ; fy efu glnPsf]eP  
 t xfd] clwsf/x; s; /L ; Daf]vg ug{; lsg]of] t<

piff a;zn, sf:sl

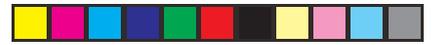


Women arrive long before this polling station has opened to the public in Gorkha «

uf]vdf dtbfg ; ? xge]bf w}]cuf]8 dtbfg  
 s]b]df kl;f dlxfx; .

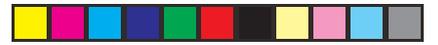






Tharu women queue to cast their votes in Kailali

सुनिलदत्त बस्नेतले लेखेको छ ।



A Tharu woman casts her vote in Kailali

सभ्रनलद दतबfg उबईPs yfऒ dlxf .



**The 33 per cent representation of women in the Constituent Assembly will definitely help in framing a constitution that safeguards the rights of women. It doesn't matter which political party you belong to, when the question of gender equality arises all women represent a single body. Stating that there will be no discrimination on the basis of sex does not ensure equality. We now need to get deeper into the roots and find ways to uplift and advance women.**

Sapana Pradhan Malla,  
President, Forum for Women Law and Development

;lj-wfg;efdf ## kltzt dlxfn kltlgw]n]  
;lj-wfgdf dlxfn clwdf/nf0{klofet ugdf kSs}  
klg ;xofu kU5 . hg; s}/fhgllts bnsf]  
kltlgw eP klg ha n]us ;dfgtfsf]kZg  
p7gf ;fy ;a}dlxfn kltlgwn]Pp6}j u\$]  
kltlgw]j u5g\ . lsgsl In^nsf cfw/df ul/g]  
e]efj xg5g e] ]kljwfgn] ;dfgtfsf]clwdf/  
nf0{;lg]Zrt ubg . ca t xfdln]e]efj sf lelg  
sf/sx; vfh] dlxfn;nf0{dfly Nofpg]/ k]lt  
kydf nfg]pkfox; vfh]g' k5{.

;kgf k]vf]g dNn,  
cl]b]f, dlxfn, sfgg / lj sf; d-r



» A traditionally dressed Tharu woman, after voting in Kailali

s]h]n]sf]Ps dtbfg s]b]df k/Dk/fut  
kf] fsdf Ps yf; dlxfn .



**Large numbers of women were involved in the Constituent Assembly election because they desire to move forward.**

Mira Yadav, Biratnagar

; l;wfg; efsf]lgj f(gdf olt w})dlxnfχn]efu lngsf]cy{s]xf]eg]  
pglxχ cuf]8 a9ϑ rfxG5g\.

dl/f ofbj , lj /f6gu/



Women, who turned out in large numbers to vote, outnumbered men at this polling station in Kanchanpur

sGrk'/sf]Ps dtbfg sϑbdf k?ife6bf a9L ;<sup>a</sup>ϑofdf ; xeful ePsf dlxnfχ .





**Women today know what they want and are capable of. There is a strong need for the newly elected Constituent Assembly to frame gender-sensitive laws, keeping in mind the various international conventions and resolutions that Nepal is a party to.**

Meena Pun Magar, Kaski

cfhsf dlxnfd cf^gf rfxgf /  
 lfdtfsf af/df /fd/l yxf 5 . gkfn  
 klf ePsf ljlel cgt/fl6e ; lGw /  
 ; Denj}fx; nf0{ dgg ub}gj lgj flr-t  
 ; ljwfg; efn]nl}s dflndfd  
 ; j}hglzn sfgg agfpg' k5{.

dlgf kg du/, sf:sl



» An elderly woman is shown the way to a polling booth in Dolakha

bf}hvfsf] Pp6f dtbfg s}bdf Ps  
 j }fnf0{dt v; flngsf nflu af6f]  
 b}fobF.



"I have voted for a new Nepal," says this elderly woman from Dolakha

bfhvsl ol j f e l x05, ægofFgkfnsf nflu d] dtbfg ug k5{.æ





**Women today are confident about what they want and have the capacity to be an integral part of the peace process. With good representation of women in the CA, this time we expect to see a constitution that safeguards our rights and also gives us strong laws. Women being a part of the revolution signifies that we have the capacity to start another revolution if our rights are not considered this time around.**

Kamala Gahatraj, Kaski

cfhsf dlxfndf cf^gf rfxgfsf af/df cfdljZjf; 5 / zflGt  
klj rpsf]clel c^a al ;Sg] lfdtf 5 . ;ljwfg; efd /fd]  
kl|t|glw|j ePsf]n]x]fd| clwsf/x; ;Af0f xg]/ x]fd| nflu ;zQm  
sfgg al ]ck]ff xfdln]lnPsf 5f}.

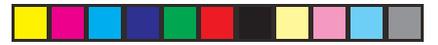
sdnf uxt/fh, sf:sl



- » Eighty-year-old Ratna Maya Thapa in Dolakha shows her voter identification card as proof of her eligibility to vote

dtbfg ug{kfpg] clwsf/nf0{k}df]0ft ug{dtbftf kl/rokq b]yfpb}  
bf]hv]sl c;l j]l]f0f /Tgdfof ykfk .

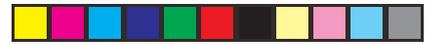




A young mother prepares to vote near a Maoist cantonment site in Chitwan

Irtjgsf] dfcf] fbl lzlj/ glhs} dtbfg ugI tof/l ub}Ps oj tl .





In Patan Durbar Square, women queue alongside men to cast their votes

kf6g b/af/ lfjdf  
dtbfgsf nflu k?ifx; E}  
; dfgft/ ?kdf nfd  
nfu\$ f dlxfx; .





» Madhesi women vote in Sarlahi

dtbfg ug{ cfPsf ; nf{lsf dlxfx¿ .

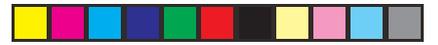


»

An Election Commission volunteer helps a woman with poor eyesight to cast her vote in Sankhuwasabha

cfwf sd b]g] Ps dlxfnf0{dtbfgsf nflu ; xof] ub} lgjffg cfo]usf :jod\}s .



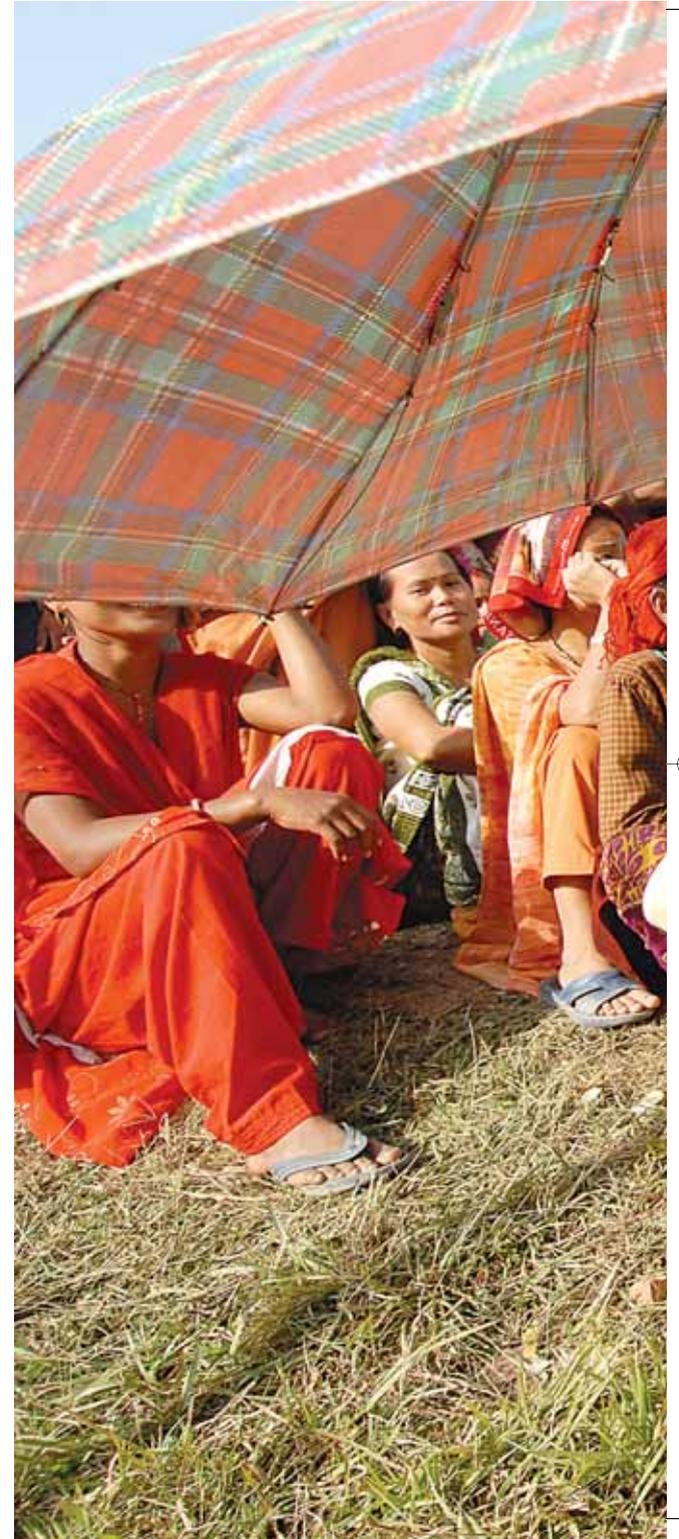


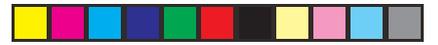
Women patiently await their turn to vote in Banke

dtbfgsf nflu cf`gf] knf] sbIafE}f dlnf .

The hot sun is not enough to prevent these women from voting in Banke

dtbfg ugIafE}f ol dlnfx;sf] pI; fxf0{  
66nfk/ 3fdn] klg sd ug{; sŋ .









**The fact that more than 50 per cent women participated in the election proves that everyone is looking for change. This participation will surely be able to do something for those women who are dominated and victimised. Women's issues and rights should be included in the new constitution. We will not write the constitution time and again, it's a one time opportunity. We cannot just sign on to a constitution written entirely by men. Our voice should be heard.**

Anuradha Koirala,  
Chairperson, Maiti Nepal

lgjff(gdf %) kltzt dlxfn]efu lnPsf] tYon]; ahgf  
kl/j t[gsf]klfdf /x\$]kpf0ft ul/lbPsf]5 . of]; xeflutfn]  
kSs}klg zfl]ft / lkl8t dlxfn]sf nflu s]k ug{; lfdtf  
k]fg ug]5 . gofF; l]wfgdf dlxfn]sf clwsf/ /  
; /\$f/x]nf0{; dfj z ul/g' k5{. ; l]wfg ; w}el/ n]vg]s/f  
xf]0g of]t Ps k6s dfq n]vg]s/f xf]. k]ifx]n]dfq n]y\$]f]  
; l]wfgdf dlxfn] x: tflf/ ug{; Sb]g\ xfd] cfj fh ; lgg'  
k5{. ; l]wfg; efsf]af]l /x\$]f @^ l; 6dWb]%) kltztdf  
dlxfn]nf0{k]t]glw]j u/f0g' k5{. %) kltztdf klg ; a}  
lf]sf dlxfn]nf0{k]t]glw]j u/f0g' k5{. ; l]wfg; ef dlxfn]  
; ef; bx]nf0{k?ifaf/f lgldf ; l]wfgdf x: tflf/ ul/lbg]x]sf  
; kdf ln0g]5] / pglx]sf]cfj fh klg ; lgg]5 el]d]h]  
cfzf lnPsl 5' .

cg'fwf sf]0/fnf,  
clWbf, df0tl g]kfn



» Maoist army personnel cast their votes in Chitwan  
cantonment site

l]rtjg lzlj/df dfcf]fbl ; ]fsf ; b:ox]n]  
dtbfg u/].





A woman dips her thumb in ink to mark her ballot in Banke

dtkqsf] cw\$§ldf Nofkr] nufpg] tof/ldf afE\$ł Ps dlxf .





An election official marks a voter's thumbnail with black indelible ink in Banke  
afBdf dtbftsf]g<sup>a</sup>df gd]6g]d;l nufpb}Ps lgjffg dtbfg sdf/l .

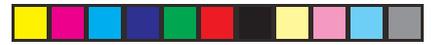




Madhesi women present  
their voter identification  
cards in Kaski

sf:sldf cf^gf] dtbftf  
kl/rokq b\fpb}  
dw]l dlxf .





A group of friends votes together in Sankhuwasabha

dtbfg ug{ hfb} ; vj f; efsf bfE/l .





The proportional tool adopted for this Constituent Assembly election has proved to be an effective mechanism to ensure women's participation in framing a new Nepal. The new constitution should now respect the diversity of women and safeguard the rights and issues of Nepali women as a whole. Women need to feel a sense of ownership towards the new constitution, only then will gender equality be guaranteed.

Lucky Sherpa,  
President, National Network of Indigenous Women

; l;wfg; efsf] lgj f{gsf nflu c<sup>a</sup>lusf/  
ul/Psf] ; dfgkflts kffnl gofFgkfn  
agfpg] sfddf dlxfx;sf] ; xeflutf  
; lglZrt ugdf kfj sf/L ; flat ePsf] 5 .  
ca a l ] ; l;wfgn] dlxfx;sf] lj lwtfsf]  
; Ddfg ub; ; du|gkfnl dlxfnsf clwsf/nf0{  
kfofel't ug{k5{. n<sup>3</sup>lus ; dfgtfnf0{  
kfofel't ul/Pdf dfq gofF; l;wfg kl't  
dlxfx;n] :jfldlj cgej ugfg\.

nSsl zkf{  
cWbf, /fli6 cflbjf; L  
hghft dlxfn ; -hfn



» A policewoman takes time off from guarding booths to cast her own vote in Sankhuwasabha

dts]b\$] ; /lff ug] sfdaf6 Ps lfof kn; k  
lnP/ dtbfg ub; dlxfn kx/L .



A woman quenches her thirst after standing for over three hours under the sun in Dolakha

dtbfgsf nflu 666nfk/ 3fddf tlg 306fe6bf a9l nfddf a; ङl dlxf Itvf{d6fb}.





**This historical Constituent Assembly election is the starting point of a revolution for gender equity. This surely is an indication that women now have taken the responsibility of bringing long lasting peace in Nepal. Special provisions for women are not the need of the day, the new constitution should guarantee rights for both women and men equally. Participation of women in all constitutional bodies should be guaranteed by the constitution itself.**

Dr Durga Pokharel,  
Former Chairperson, National Women's Commission; Former Minister of State for  
Women, Children and Social Welfare

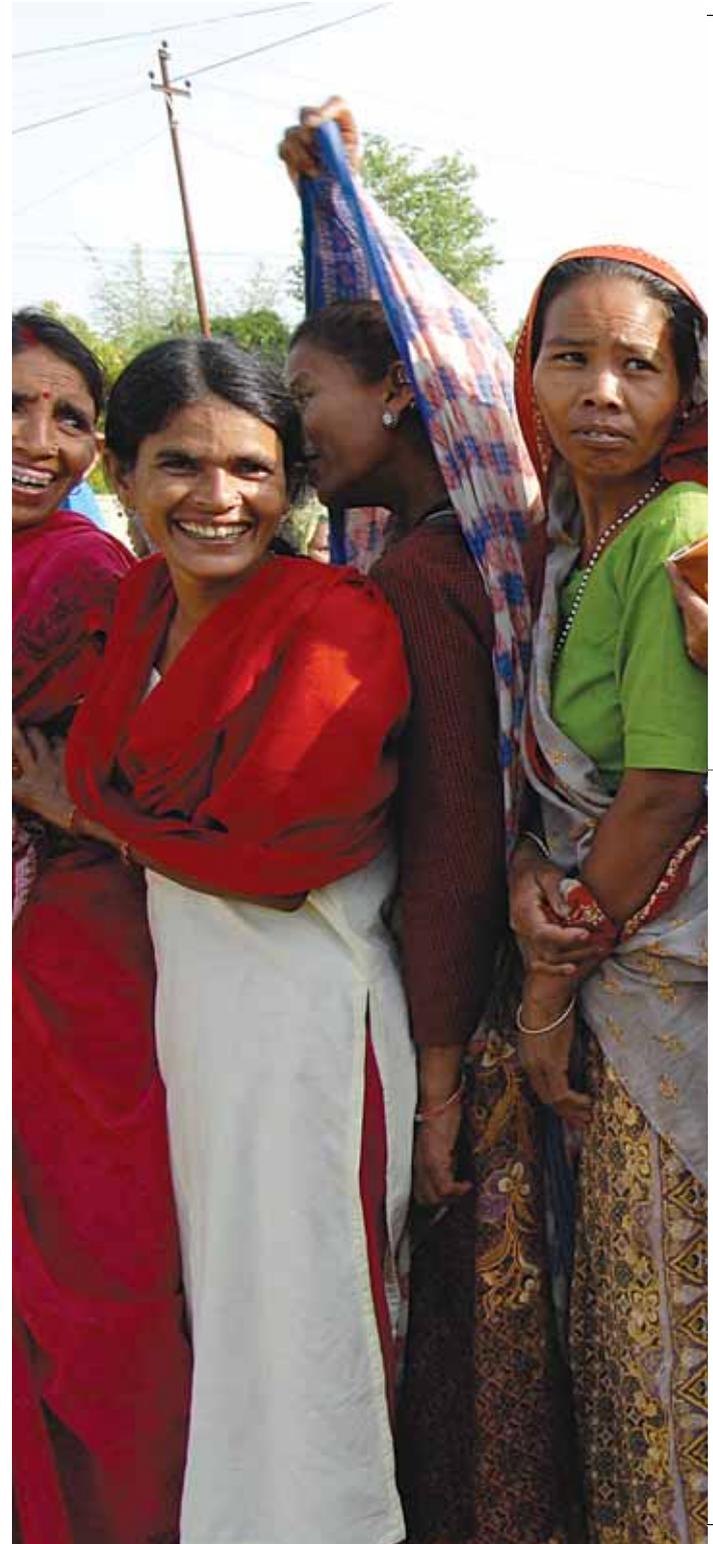
n]lus ; dfgtfsf nflu xg] cfbbfngsf] ; ?j ftl lj Gb' P]t xfl; s  
; ljwfg; efsf] lgj f{g xfl. dtbfgdf dlxnf x] sf] pRr ; xeflutf  
g]kndf lb3\$flng zflGtsf nflu dlxnf x] n] pQ/bfloTj lnPsf]  
; a] s] xfl. dlxnsf nflu lj z]f Joj :yf chsf] cfj Zostf xfoG,  
gofF; ljwfgn] t dlxn / k?ifnf0{ ; dfg clwsf/sf] k]ofel't ug{  
k5{. ; a} ; jw]lgs lgsfodf dlxn ; xeflutfnf0{ ; ljwfgn] g}  
k]ofel't ug{k5{.

8f= bluf{kfy]/h,  
kj{k]lBlf, /fli6 dlxn cfof] tyf kj{k]/fhodGql,  
dlxn, afnaflnsf tyf ; dfh snofdf dGqfno



Women voters are all smiles in Banke «

af]d]f d'sfg 5b] dlxn dtbftf .







Members of Nepal's Constituent Assembly, the most inclusive elected body in the country's history, celebrate their republic vote, Kathmandu, 28 May

gkfnsf] lgj f{gaf6 rlgPsf] clxn] Dds} ; a9Gbf a9l ; dfj zL ; lj wfg; efsf ; b:ox? h] !% ut] u0ftGqs] xiff]nf; ub}.





The Constituent Assembly Election Act, adopted in June 2007 required political parties to submit lists with equal numbers of female and male candidates for the proportional representation race, and also to select winning candidates for these 335 seats in accordance with this quota.

Female voter turnout on 10 April 2008 was equal to that of men. Thirty women were directly elected to the Constituent Assembly through the first-past-the-post system while 161 were allocated seats through the proportional representation system. Today 191 women comprise 33.21 per cent of elected members of the CA, compared to the global average of 17.8 per cent. This places Nepal fourteenth worldwide in terms of representation of women in national elected assemblies.

; g\@)& sf] hg dlxgdf hf/l ul/Psf] ; ljwfg; ef lgj {rg Pgn] ; a} bnx;n] ; dfgkflts kltlgw]j sf nflu a/fa/ ; ^\ofdf dlxnf / k?if /x\$] ; rL k? ug{ kg] / ##% l ; 6sf nflu o ; }sf cf cg?k lj hol pbd]j f/x?sf] rog ug{ kg] Joj :yf u?of] .

r? @\* ut\$] lgj {rgdf dlxnf dtbftfx? klg k?ifx? hIQs} ; xeful eP . k]olf dtbfgaf6 ; ljwfg; efsf nflu #) hgf dlxnf? lgj {rt eP eg] ; dfgkflts kltlgw]j sf l ; 6af6 !! hgf dlxnf dgf]gt eP . xfn ; ljwfg; efd (! hgf dlxnf? af6 #-@! kltzt lgj {rt kltlgw]j ePsf] 5 . ; f/e/df dlxnf kltlgw]j sf cf} t b/ !&=\* kltzt /x\$] 5 . o ; /L /fli6? :t/sf lgj {rt lgsfodf dlxnsf] kltlgw]j sf b[6af6 gkfn rfvf :yfgdf ku\$] 5 .



## A f t e r w o r d

Since Nepal began its peace process in April 2006, the parties engaged in peacebuilding have managed to negotiate numerous obstacles in order to hold a successful Constituent Assembly election on 10 April, 2008. Of particular significance in this election is the achievement of over 30 per cent representation of women, placing Nepal on the world map within the top 20 countries for representation of women in its political sphere.

I have had the pleasure to work on, advocate for and be in Nepal during significant turning points which have contributed to the increase in women's participation in decision-making processes. In 2006, after the *Jana Andolan*, the UNFPA created a special project on United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325, with the aim of increasing women's participation and protection in Nepal's peace process. UNSCR 1325, adopted in October 2000, on women, peace and security, provides the framework for and is a powerful advocacy tool to promote women's participation and protection during the peace process.

The goals of UNFPA's UNSCR 1325 project include sharing and improving local knowledge of the provisions of the Resolution, promoting the inclusion of women in all steps and levels of the peace process, ensuring adequate protection for women and girls in the post-conflict situation, and facilitating the implementation of the recommendations of the Resolution with wide participation of key Nepali stakeholders. The street theatre performance, *Naya Adhaya*, was a central activity in taking the messages of women's participation to the public in a creative, challenging way. The project has already reached a significant audience, as this compilation of photographs and texts from *Naya Adhaya* shows. The responsibility to continue promoting an understanding of the



needs and rights of women and girls persists at all levels, from the Constituent Assembly to the grassroots.

UNFPA was instrumental in the establishment of a UN-donor coordination group on UNSCR 1325, which I have chaired. The group has supported the efforts of Nepali women and men, working towards sustainable gender equality. The networks and individuals that we have worked with have shown great resilience and commitment to recognising women's contribution to peace and development processes, promoting the importance of women's participation in decision-making, and ensuring women's protection in their communities. The compilation of

photographs and texts in this book contributes to creating more space for women's voices in Nepal. It pays homage to their thoughts, concerns, feelings and hopes on how to express themselves in the emerging, new Nepal.

The Constituent Assembly election has allowed an unprecedented number of women to enter the political sphere in Nepal. The next challenge is to support women's meaningful participation in the development of a new constitution. UNFPA looks forward to continuing partnerships to promote women's inclusion in Nepal's peace process, especially in the arena of policy implementation, both through its regular programmes and particularly through activities related to UNSCR 1325.

**Junko Sasaki, Representative of the  
United Nations Population Fund in Nepal**



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## PHOTOGRAPHERS

## PAGE

Filippo Busconi	71
Ganesh Khadka	84
Ky Chung	78, 79, 82, 83, 88
Manoj Sah	76
Mukunda Bogati	13, 14, 20, 23, 26, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 46, 59, 60,
Nayantara Kakshapati	70, 72, 87
Robel Mockonen	77, 85, 86
Sagar Shrestha	15, 18, 21, 22, 24, 25, 32, 43, 44, 45, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 57, 58, 66, 67, 69, 90
Sanu Bajracharya	74, 80,
Stephen Malloch	75
Surendra Chaudhary	69
Tilak Pokharel	64



*Naya Adhyaya* was a partnership between UNFPA, UNMIN and Sarwanam

Women and girls make up more than half of Nepal's population. This book draws inspiration from their determination to take on an increasingly prominent role to create a more inclusive and equal Nepal. Through photos and quotes, the stories of women and their hopes for their country are colourfully weaved. The hardships and the struggle of women are evoked, as well as women's aspirations for a brighter future without discrimination. Women across Nepal acted in large numbers in the Constituent Assembly, as candidates, voters, advocates and workers. This has resulted in an unprecedented level of representation of women in the Constituent Assembly, and an historic opportunity to ensure that women play a key role in all decision-making in the Assembly and in all aspects of governance and the peace process.

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