Maiti Nepal celebrates its glorious 20th anniversary.
On 6th April, Maiti Nepal celebrated its 20th anniversary amidst cultural shows, performances and long term service felicitations.
Maiti Nepal would like to extend its heartfelt thanks to all of its friends, supporters and well wishers for their highly valued solidarity in its 20 years of relentless fight against human trafficking. 20 years of journey to us has been a confluence of success and challenges.
Some statistical achievements, which Maiti Nepal has made since its inception are worth mentioning here-
- Rescued more than 22 thousand girls/women from conditions leading to exploitation.
- Prosecuted almost 1000 criminals involved with trafficking cases.
- Extended information on safe migration to 15 hundred thousand people
- Reached to more than 30 percent of the total population through various means of communication.
- Provided formal education and trainings to thousands of underprivileged girls and women.

Though anti trafficking initiatives have proved their efficacy in curbing down the intensity of the atrocity, still there are manifold challenges to be addressed. Human trafficking today has emerged with increased modes and manifestations. Not only to India, girls/women from Nepal are trafficked to China, Middle East and African Nations.
Maiti Nepal feels that, in order to tackle the burgeoning challenges brought about by this modern day slavery, we need to move ahead with newer strategies and consolidated resources. We need to expand ourselves and set up offices in all the districts. We need to focus on socio-economic concerns of people, gender roles and climate change issues as well, as these issues are indirectly contributing to trafficking.
Regarding criminal prosecution, Maiti Nepal is of the view that a fast track court should be established for cases of trafficking and other grave human rights violations. Delay in justice is denial of justice. Proper compensation mechanism has to be set up.
Maiti Nepal demands age verifying mechanism mandatorily established in every district administration offices. This can prevent chances of forging ages of minor girls and their illicit trafficking to Gulf countries in pretext of foreign employment. To exert vigilance on passport issuance and to impart pre departure information to the aspirants of foreign employment, Maiti Nepal has set up information and vigilance booth at Tribhuvan International Airport and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This has contributed in regularizing the mechanism to some extent.
20 years of journey has taught us many lessons. Until and unless, we ensure socio-economic prosperity of people, problems like trafficking continue to exist. Maiti Nepal has been operating its activities with the donations and grants made by foreign donors. But, foreign grants may not be the sustainable form of economic source. So, it is our humblest urge to all the Nepali Corporate houses, business people, media and citizens to acknowledge their social responsibility and join hands in our mission of creating a trafficking free society. If all of us are committed to this common agenda, we can one day eliminate this modern day slavery form our part of the globe.
We would like to thank and all our friends, donor agencies from all corners of the world and all of those who have supported us throughout our journey. We anticipate ties between us to strengthen further and cooperation prevail to a much visible degree in the days to come.
Glimpses of annual celebration

Walkathon organized against human trafficking as a component of Maiti Nepal’s advocacy strategy, to commemorate 20th anniversary.
Case against incest filed !!

A case against incest has been lodged at area police office Biratnagar on 2069 Kartik 22. As per the complaint filed at Maiti Nepal’s office at Biratnagar, the culprit Amar Bahadur Bhujel used to rape his step daughter repeatedly who was a minor and made her pregnant. Maiti Nepal facilitated the process of filing FIR at the police station. The survivor, Rina Tamang (name changed) narrates her harrowing ordeals as such-

I was a single daughter among four children of my father Hem Bahadur Lama. My father died when I was a small kid. The pathetic economic condition of my family propelled my brothers to migrate to India for work. My mother re-married with a man and she took me with her. The man has got a son of nine years of age. I am now studying in grade 8. The man used to rape me times and again threatening with dire consequences. I thought I had no options, either die or comply to his sinful offences.”

Rina gave birth to a son at Koshi zonal Hospital. So far, the baby is healthy. She and her son is staying at the shelter of Maiti Nepal.

Maiti Nepal organized Awareness program on International Migrants Day !!

On the occasion of International Migrants Day, Maiti Nepal organized an awareness program at Chhaimale VDC located at the outskirt of Kathmandu Valley. The VDC, inhabited mostly by Tamang Community is backward in socio-economic profile and cases of violence including trafficking have been reported in bulk. Owing to this reason, the awareness raising activity was organized to disseminate information on safe migration and different forms of violence inflicted mainly upon the female populace. The spectators who were more than 600 in number, including students, teachers, women, police, local political leaders keenly observed the program. Some of the women couldn’t help crying as the drama showcased tragic ordeals of a trafficked girl.

Before the drama was conducted, a door to door program was organized. About 400 households were reached. People in that area requested us, that such program should be regularly organized. This would ensure safety and security to vulnerable women and children in that area.
23 years of suffering! - The story of Bindiya

What does it feel like when a family meets a lost member after 23 years? Even thinking about it one gets goose bumps. Bindiya Maya Thind (name changed) left her house in search of employment at an early age of 13 years old. She returned to her house after 23 years, and the family got struck by disbelief. Where do we look for the lost family member? Who do we complain? The father and mother, who were unaware, got confused after her disappearance. After the torment and torture Bindiya faced while she was trafficked, she sought for justice and assistance in the form of law from different NGOs and other organizations. She managed to get the offenders arrested and punished even after 23 years of her serving. Bindiya was the resident of Manhari, Makwanpur district. She went to Kathmandu at an early age of 13 years to work in a carpet factory, due to her critical financial condition at home. She got married to a 17 years old, Sitaram, also the resident of Makwanpur. He was not financially strong, thus after marriage he asked Bindiya to go to Kathmandu with him to work in a carpet factory. In Mangshir 2045, Bindiya and Sitaram left to go to Kathmandu. They were accompanied by two other friends of Sitaram, Satya Tamang and Shyam Tamang. During the absence of Bindiya, three of them used to whisper to each other or talk softly, and when questioned by Bindiya, Sitaram used to tell her that it was none of her concern. As days passed by, in 2046, Bindiya got pregnant. Whilst she carried the baby, the husband told her that ‘the carpet factory was soon to be closed, and they were to go to Banaras.’ They left Nepal to go to India with the other two friends of Sitaram. Lost in the desire to work in India, Bindiya didn’t realize she had reached Kamathipura in Mumbai via Gorakhpur, and had been sold by her husband. She knew about it after 4-5 days she was sold, when her husband didn’t return to take her back. She was sold at an early age of 13 years for INR 50,000 (NRS 80,000) and was forced to be a toy for other people. “Now you work here until you get us enough money”, these words of the brothel owner struck her all the time. If not followed her orders, she was tortured physically and mentally by getting beaten. “I have become the mattress for thousands, and destroyed my body”, said Bindiya when she told her story to Maiti Nepal with tearful eyes. We asked her what her wish was during her stay in Maiti Nepal. And she replied “I returned to Nepal after a long time, and now I wish to spend the rest of my life in Maiti.” These words of Bindiya make one think of the struggles in life. During her suffering in the brothel, she gave birth to a son. After he turned 5 years old, she handed him to an Indian woman she trusted, for his better future. Today, Bindiya’s son must have become 19 years old. As Bindiya spent many years in that hell and gained the trust of the brothel owner, she was allowed to leave the place and go to the market once in a while. On 2068/12/21, Bindiya went to buy vegetables, where she met a Nepalese woman of around 45 years of age. She told the woman about her life and was promised to be helped to return to Nepal. The next day, Bindiya made an excuse to go to the market again, from where she headed towards Gorakhpur with the help of that woman. Bindiya had saved some money from the profit she made whilst buying vegetables and also some from the guests she served in the brothel. With that money she arrived at her house in Makwanpur, Manhari via Bhairawa. She told her brothers about the whole incident. In 2069/01/05, with the help of Maiti Nepal in Hetauda, she filed a case in the local police station. Few months later in 2069/06/23, the three offenders were arrested and the case was running in Shree Makwanpur District court. Under the law of Human Trafficking and Transportation, 2064, the three offenders were sentenced 20 years of imprisonment, and were fined 2 lakhs each. Bindiya was promised 3 Lakhs from the government. The courage with which Bindiya dealt with, left the three criminals, still are being punished and behind bars. “In the end, neither we have her, nor the money we were to get”, said Muiman, Bindiya’s brother. Bindiya not only had to sell herself, but on top of that she didn’t know when she became a HIV patient. Soon two months after the case was filed, Bindiya had died. Therefore, she also didn’t receive the grant by the government.

Every year there are many missing young girls in Nepal. Where are they? Who has the answer? Bindiya is just an example here. Similarly, there are many other young girls like her, who are forced into prostitution. Who is going to raise their voice for thousands of others? Such questions still arise.
Kanchhi Maya had never thought that she would one day be trafficked by her own brother. Her utmost faith upon him acted like venom which totally ruined her life. Kanchhi Maya Tamang hails from a village named Chiple, of Sindhupalchowk district. She belongs to a peasant family. She had five siblings, the eldest of whom was his brother Sun Bahadur Tamang. His father had got married twice following the death of his former wife. Though Kanchhi Maya was admitted to school, she was dyslexic towards studies and had no interest to it. She used to bunk classes and reach home at the middle of the school hours. Meanwhile, his brother Sun Bahadur returned home from Saudi Arabia with attractive attire and handsome amount of money in the pocket. This was enough to entice Kanchhi Maya. Tempted by her brother’s progress, she expressed the desire to earn money by going abroad. Her parents consented to this idea. Sun Bahadur got the passport made for her. She went to Kuwait to work as a domestic maid. Contrary to her expectations, she was immensely burdened with household chores than she could deliver. She had to serve many people and she was not paid as compromised. She was denied access to communication with her family members. She was physically abused and mentally tortured. Even for minor errors she made she had to suffer vehemently. After the inhumane inflictions reached extremitiy, she lost her mental control. After two years of barbaric tortures, she was sent back to Nepal by her boss. She was rescued at the airport and brought to Maiti Nepal for rehabilitation services. She doesn’t know where she is and how she arrived Nepal. She is mentally sick. She prefers to sit alone and talk to self. This is just an example out of thousands of such cases Maiti Nepal has dealt so far. Foreign employment in the Gulf countries has been emerging as one of the organized form of trafficking, especially to women.

Africa –bound Nepali women rescued !!!

Four women all set to be flown to Tanzania last Saturday by an agent for recruiting on a cultural dance have been rescued by Maiti Nepal after TIA security was tipped off that they were being sent illegally for commercial purposes. However, police have not been able to identify the agent who has been named as “Sabin Shrestha aka Kale” and is accused of sending numerous girls to various Gulf and African countries under different visas. The rescued women are aged 22 to 25. The agent handed the women their passports and citizenship cards just 10 minutes before entering the immigration area. Three of them were to fly on holiday visas and one on work a work visa. One woman with the surname Gurung, who hails from Lubu and is aged 22, said, “I followed their instruction and tried to enter the immigration areas but was stopped by officials who had suspicions about my documents”. Another woman, with the surname Tamang, who is 24 and come from Morang, turned back from the sterile area, where people cleared by security go before boarding a flight, after she learnt about Gurung being delayed by immigration. The women were hired for at least four months and promised Rs. 100,000 per month each. “I was not aware about the details of my work and responsibilities,” Gurung said. “I got to know the agent through a friend. I was given Rs. 90,000 as an advice to do some shopping.” said a woman whose surname is Baruwal, is aged 22 and hails from Dhading. Surprisingly, she didn’t know how to dance but was promised a dancing job. Another woman, who is 25, hails from Bhaktapur, already worked in Tanzania twice. She said, “In my earlier visits there I earned good money in a short time.” At Maiti Nepal, the four women have been in contact with family members and will be handed over to them after completing some legal formalities.