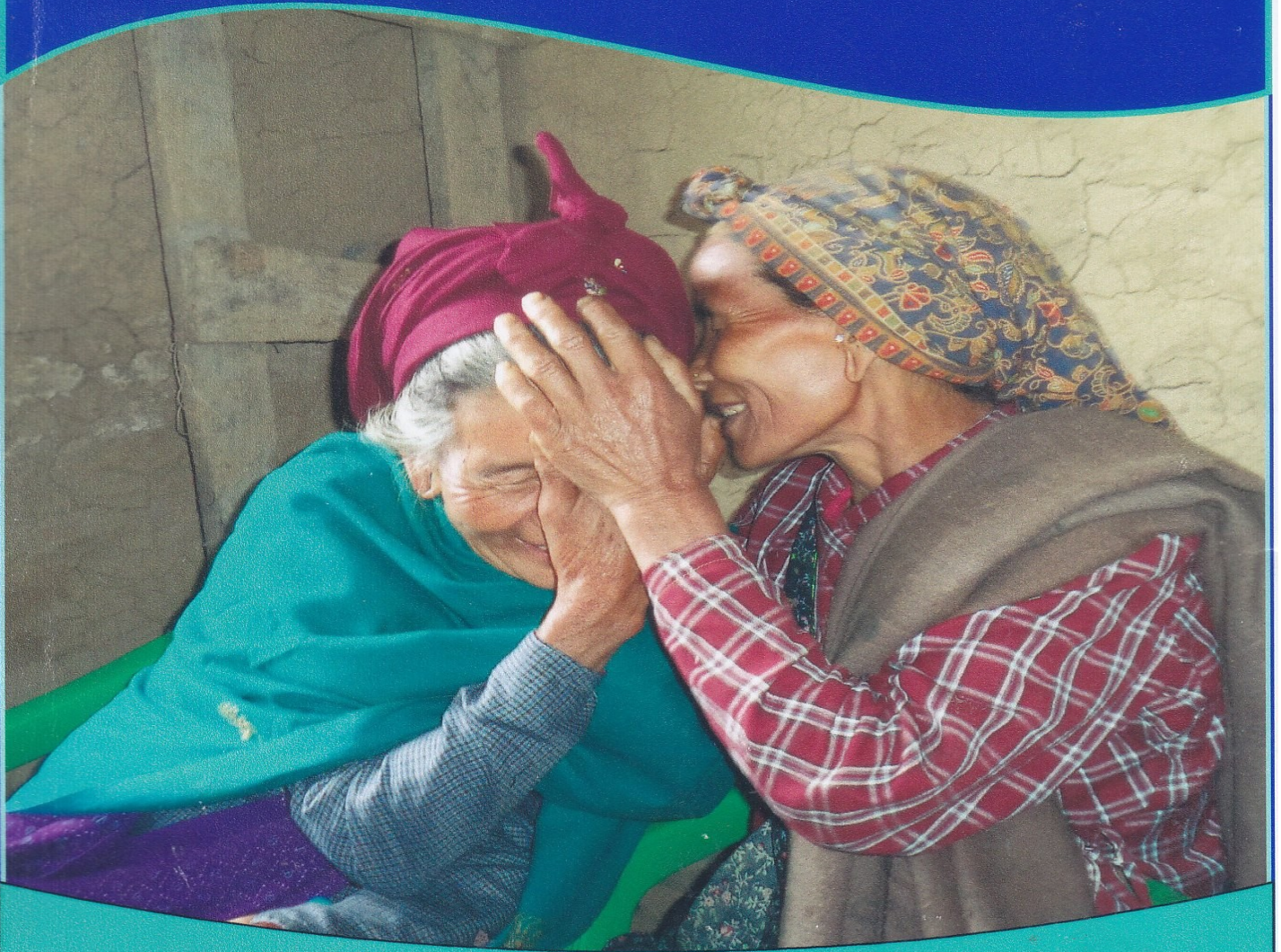


# Transforming Dreams Building New Relations



*Human Rights Protection and Legal Service Centre, HRPLSC - Nepal*



*European Union, EU*

# Transforming Dreams, Building New Relations



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The reading materials provided here are successes, results and learning materials and best practices from the “A Human Rights and Reconciliation Promoting Initiative at the Community Level in Rukum and Rolpa Districts” project which was financially supported by the European Union (EU).

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# Acknowledgement

Human Rights Protection and Legal Service Centre, HRPLSC-Nepal is a regional NGO established in 2000 to mitigate the immediate effect of armed conflict from a human rights perspective, and work towards constructive conflict transformation in the long-run. Based in Rukum, HRPLSC has been working in the areas of human rights protection and promotion, good governance, and peace building through awareness building activities, advocacy campaign, networking and community mobilization. It works in partnership with conflict affected single women, youth clubs, and media institutions and human rights networks in Rapti.

HRPLSC has implemented the "A Human Rights and Reconciliation Promoting Initiative at the Community Level" program in Rukum and Rolpa districts of Rapti Zone with the support from the European Union (EU) since 2012. The main objective of this program is to strengthen capacity of conflict affected women in 10 VDCs of Rukum and Rolpa and engage them in human rights and reconciliation promoting initiatives at the community level, and to make concerned stakeholders responsive to the human rights claims made by the conflict affected people. The project goal is to *create a just, peaceful and human rights promoting society in Rukum and Rolpa*. This program promotes the involvement of conflict affected single women and local and district level stakeholders in protection and promotion of human rights by strengthening their capacity. This is expected to maintain lasting peace, reconciliation and thereby make life of the conflict victims independent, dignified and peaceful.

The three-year project is expected to create an environment in which human rights violations are significantly reduced by transforming conflict affected single women into an active pool of change makers who would engage in community level human rights promotion and reconciliation initiatives.

This booklet is the compilation of experiences, learnings and good practices from the project. It documents cases of single women changing dreams by building new relations. We sincerely hope that these small stories of successes would be useful to other likeminded organisations in Nepal to draw inspirations from.

Finally, I extend my thanks and congrulation to all our stakeholder, the community people, conflict affected single women, media persons and government line agencies who contributed to successful implementation of the project. I would also like to record my sincere thanks to the European Union (EU) whose generous funding support and programmatic directions proved significant in achieving the success in the project.

Top Bahadur Khadka  
Executive Chief  
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## WORKING TOGETHER FORGETTING THE BITTER PAST

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Single women Nabi Dangi resides in Hansibang Ward number 9 in Simli VDC of Rukum District. While remembering the past, she recalled the bitter truth that she had to bear. Just one day after delivering a baby, armed men came to her house and assaulted her husband who later died while undergoing treatment. Her husband was killed accused of a Maoist. After his death, three children were left for Nabi to raise and maintain single-handedly.

After the death of her husband, Nabi had to bear both physical and mental trauma in her life. The life was hard for her and the most painful thing was the behaviour of the society which changed when she turned widow from a married woman. The community people called her widow and treated her with abusive words. She was likened to a bad omen. In a conservative society, a woman who lost her husband is taken as a bad omen. Further, she was also beaten by army men accused of being a wife of a Maoist. This caused a blood circulation problem in her hand for months.

She bitterly remembered the days when she had to face problems from community people and security personnel. She thought her life was just a burden. But seeing the face of her children, she accepted all the sorrows. At such a painful stage in life, she often thought that there was no one who would listen to her and understand her sorrows. She would dream of some people or organizations supporting her to overcome from the pain and make her life as happier as before.

One day, some single women from the village informed her that some persons had come to the village seeking information of single women and offering whether they would work in a group for their cause. After the information, she participated in a program organized by HRPLSC where she found single women like her from the village, including other conflict affected single women. She tried to understand the focus of the program. Attending

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the programmer the whole day created some hope in her heart and mind. With other single women in the program, she even forgot her sorrows for some time and got some hope brewing in her heart. Finally, she became a member of a group named Chetana Single Women Human Rights Reconciliation Forum.

About the first programmer Nabi said, “Madam and sirs from HRPLSC facilitated the program in a manner that gave hope.” She found the group meeting interesting and decided to be regular in such meetings. She thought the program was for single women like her. Initially, they shared sorrows and difficulties they faced. Slowly, they realized that the single women could also do something important for them and the community. HRPLSC regularly supported us, she adds, to organize group meetings and provided human rights and reconciliation trainings and leadership development training.

Now, Nabi organizes regular meetings among eight single women from the community. The group is active in solving small disputes and has started vegetable farming. They also formed a VDC level single women network involving other single women from other communities. They want to further expand the network.

Now, Nabi she is a confident woman and an established person in her community. In the past, she used to assert that the state should punish the perpetrators who committed crime in conflict days. Now she thinks differently. She finds the family members of the perpetrators as innocent as she is and any form of hostility within them will only add to the problem. The plight of conflict victims is similar regardless of whoever is the perpetrator. Whether victimized by the Maoists or the state, single women face the same difficulty. She feels, they should support each other work together.

Nabi's daughter is studying CMA with the compensation money provided by the government and she is hopeful of her daughter's bright future. There is hope and she is positive towards life. She thanks HRPLSC for providing her with a new life. She has developed a positive attitude towards her life and the future.



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## MOTIVATED TOWARDS SOCIAL WORK

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**B**hima Buda from Simli VDC 3 of Rukum District said that there was no one in their community to talk about their rights and responsibilities earlier. Now, they are aware of it. They raise voices about their rights and also fulfil their obligations.

Bhima recalled the days when her husband was shot dead by armed forces while sleeping in the room after returning from community cultural program. Her husband was accused of being a Maoist. After the death of her husband, the life was really hard for her. She felt the life was not just dark but meaningless as well.

Suddenly, she heard about the organization that supports single women. She decided to join the program of the organization. She was not sure she could talk in front of others but decided to join them anyway. In the meeting she participated, all agreed to form of a group named Paribartan Single Women Human Rights Reconciliation Forum and she was selected to work as a secretary in the group. At that time, they would simply gather and cry and express the sorrows with each other in the meetings. It was like a forum for listening each other and share the story of sorrow.

As part of the programmer, Bhima participated in a three-day leadership development training at Musikot Khalanga. “I learnt a lot from the training. I also got an opportunity to meet other single women from the whole district,” she said. At the training, she learnt about how to mix with the community, how to take leadership and work with confidence in the community. More important, she knew ways to find income generation activities for persons like her.

After the training and with the skill gained, she regularly facilitated group meetings, and started a saving of monthly 10 rupees from each member.

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When the group members are in financial troubles, they utilize the saved money individually. Bhima visits to some other cooperative meetings and VDC organized programs to share what her groups is doing. She does not just share sorrows now, but also hope and possibilities.

In the past, she used to be badly treated by the community. Now she is treated with respect as a group member of single women and doing some good work in the community. Using the money available from the Village Development Office (Rs.20,000), Bhima's group has started income generation programs, such as vegetable farming and goat rearing.

Bhima is now also engaged in campaigns for vital registrations. Following an orientation by HRPLSC, the forum Bhima leads has conducted orientations on registration of births and marriages and has called on all concerned to acquire citizenship certificates. The groups educates single women and all concerned about the citizenship process and the importance of getting citizenship certificates. Encouraged by the efforts made by single women, a school administration has also initiated a campaign for citizenship. Bhima's efforts led to Dhankali Oli Dhanmaya Pun to get citizenship certificates (or register births of their children: check).

## SUPPORT FOR SINGLE WOMEN NETWORKING PROCESS

Local Development Officer of Rukum Mr. Bharat Kumar Sharma stated that HRPLSC supported for empowerment of single women at Rukum District. The support triggered networking among concerned agencies. The District Development Committee (DDC) Rukum will work hand in hand for empowerment of the single women.

The Officer adds that HRPLSC is the first organization that has been working for the empowerment of conflict affected single women in Rukum District. HRPLSC role came into prominence when it formed a VDC level single women's group and district level single women's network in Rukum. DDC and other organizations have supported the work to mobilize the single women's network.

DDC has organized leadership development training, skill development training and some other raining for the network. Some VDC offices also allocated budget for single women programs, which was used for development works. The network members said that there are nearly 25 single women in their district above the age of 60. They did not want to recall the previous life when the village people used to scold them for being widow. The situation is different now, these women are respected today.

HRPLSC also worked to mobilize other supports and cooperation for single women. As a result, DDC also provided one laptop and other trainings. As per the demand of single women, VDC office provided budget for running homestay, construction of toilet etc. Responding to the demand for separate budget for dalit women, ethnic women and conflict affected women, the VDC promised them to provide the budget in near future.

HRPLSC also became part of the RED CAMPAIGN with support from the Women and Children Office. The RED CAMPAIGN is one in which red vermilion and red bangles are provided to single women (widows) to counter the Hindu culture that prohibits widows to wear red clothes and marks to demonstrate publicly that they have lost their husbands. This tradition not just demeans and ostracizes the women but also keeps them vulnerable to other abuses, which society tolerates. The RED CAMPAIGN stands against this culture and aims to bring back to them their birth right to wear the dress of their choice and preference.



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## HUMAN RIGHTS AND RECONCILIATION FORUM (HRRF): A SHARING PLATFORM FOR SINGLE WOMEN

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**S**ita Pun, a member of the Rukum Human Right and Reconciliation Forum stated that few days ago there was a different situation. Single women did not use to meet with each other but after formation of HRRF, it was possible for theme to meet. This forum supported them to gather together and share the pain of each other.

Purna Kumari Roka Magar of Thawng 6 Rolpa lost her husband during the 10-year conflict in a very young age. Rokka stated that in the age of 23, she became a widow when her daughter was just two months old. Her father in law was also killed by the army accusing him of being a Maoist.

Likewise, Mulsari Gharti lost her husband when she was pregnant. Unfortunately her daughter also died, so she was alone and residing in her native home. Another Barmaya Rokka lost her husband and found it difficult to continue her son's education due to financial crisis. Omla Gharti from Gam VDC is a widow. Her husband was also killed during the conflict, so she had to bear all the responsibility of home, including ploughing the field, taking care of children's education and so on.



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Sita, Purna, Mulsari, Omla and nearly other 300 women lost their husbands in Rolpa during the conflict. All these women didn't meet with each other and were ignorant about the problems of each other. They were ignorant about the services and benefits provided by government. On the other hand, the community people often scolded them and treated them with disdain. All these widows only had to bear the plight alone, no one was there to hear and help them.

In this situation, HRPLSC facilitated to form human rights reconciliation forums in villages of Rolpa and Rukum districts. Single women there were provided with psycho-social counseling and reconciliation classes. They were then encouraged towards group formation processes. The single women from both sides of conflict came together and shared feelings of pain sorrow of each other. These women are from Thawang, Uwa, Gam, Jelbang, Dhawang VDCs of Rolpa and Rukum districts and they are in the human rights and reconciliation forums (HRRF) from the year 2012. After citizenship and vital registration campaigns, including birth and death registration campaigns, organized by HRPLSC, they are motivated towards raising voice against social discrimination. There were ten members in each HRRF in one VDC. They not only share their sorrows and pains but also discuss other issues affecting them including how best to educate children drawing inspiration from HRPLSC-supported education materials. These women are victims of both sides. But now they just see themselves as victims and focus their attention on joint programs and initiatives. They work together, learn together and plan a future together.

Sita Pun stated that the program enabled them to work together with other single women at the VDC levels. She recalled the days when she felt shy to speak against any person, even to introduce her. Slowly she learnt many things. She speaks freely to strangers, motivates peoples to join groups, and participates in the meetings of village development committees. The people in the village know her and through her the good work of the human rights and reconciliation forums.

After the VDC level formation of the HRRF, they formed a district level forum comprising single women from the whole districts, and got the forum registered at the District Administration Office. The members thanked HRPLSC that it taught them and empowered them. It helped them build their unity, develop their confidence and connected them to administration offices, VDC offices and other members of the society. They feel that HRPLSC helped them get back their dignity they had lost with the death of their dear ones.

## FROM SINGLE WOMAN TO HEALTHPOST EMPLOYEE

**S**arkini Sunar, a resident from Chunbang VDC, briefed that Human Right Reconciliation Forum has supported her towards positive life. After participating in regular meetings of HRRF, a thought arose in her mind to do something different. She was active in group meetings and had solved many problems. Seeing her community work, she was selected as the helper in the health post nearby.

She didn't remember the exact date of her husband's death but he was killed by the Maoists in the conflict days without any fault. She then had to take care of her children and support their studies. She had no source of income and she felt very upset when her children used to ask about their father's death. She had no answer why her husband was killed without any fault.

One day, she heard about HRPLSC as an organization working for human right protection with the support of European Union and wanted to participate in its work. She somehow happened to join the meetings and also the Santi Single Women Human Rights Reconciliation Forum as a member. While working with these groups, sharing with similar single women, she got chance to sharing of the sorrows and opportunity. With other members, she started a saving of Rs. 10 per month and was able to deposit Rs. 20 thousand over the years. The saving was used to support emergencies of group members with a minimum interest. She also participated in leadership training and developed linkages with other line agencies too.

The single women of Chunbang VDC also organized some awareness program within the VDC areas and the group was recognized by village peoples and people understand their works. They were also involved in the VDC level network and were able to raise Rs.15 thousand from the VDC council from which they organized sewing and knitting training and pig farming training to the group members.

When she heard that there was a vacant position at the district health post for the post of helper, she applied for it. With the help of the goodwill and trust she had earned in the community, she got the application supported by the local people and was selected for the post. Now, she is a health post employee. This enables her to serve the people more widely as well as brings her a regular income to deal with family issues including children's education.

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## HRPLSC SUPPORTED FOR AWAKENING

There was no hope, no place to share pains and grieves, no confidence to express oneself, and no belief in any one. They only had pain and mental distress. In this situation, human rights and reconciliation project implemented by HRPLSC made Dhanmaya Pun of Dhanawang VDC of Rolpa District, a conflict victim, aware of her rights as a human being. This awakened her from dark sleep.

Dhanmaya's husband was shot dead, 13 years ago, in Pyuthan District by armed forces. After that, with utmost anger, she herself joined the Maoist Party politics and moved to the jungle. She returned back only after the agreement between the conflicting parties. After returning from the Maoist Party, she has been in search of justice, which she is doing at the village level.

For some time, she thought that the political party will solve all the problems. But getting no answer from the party, she started engaging in human rights reconciliation forum activities. She was soon selected as a president of the group. As a group member, she received leadership development training, visited inter-district exchange programs and received scholarship for her two sons.

She expressed that after involvement in the group, she learnt many things, including the importance of working with other conflict victims in the spirit of solidarity and friendship. She feels that blaming each other will only create further problems.

Previously, the women were ignorant of VDC budget and its allocation processes, but after the network formation, the single women succeeded to receive Rs. 45 thousand from a VDC office. From this money, four single women from the group were given a loan for chicken farming.

Dhanamaya holds the organization very dear. When she was in distress, it came to her rescue. She is happy that the organization has provided education support to her children. She was also able to save some rupees through the scheme of chicken farming, which she wants to use for other income generation schemes with other members.

There is an environment of peace in the village after the formation of single women's groups through which they solve small disputes locally. If disputes are of a complex nature, they invite all members of the village and solve with common consensus.

Appreciating her good work, Dhanmaya has been selected as the chairperson of a school management committee. She is available to serve the community in other ways, and also supports the cause of single women.



## CHANGING THE LIFE OF SINGLE WOMEN

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The life has not been pleasant for Ms. Bishnu Devkota after her husband's death. She was badly insulted when she visited her relatives' marriage, accused of bringing bad omen. She returned home with full of tears in eyes. Initially, Bishnu had to live with the belief that she brought bad luck to the society. After 13 years, the life of Bishnu has changed. She is no more a bad omen for anyone as everybody respects her and invites her in the marriage and god worshipping ceremonies.

There are many women in Rukum who used to be insulted just because of being widow in previous days. The situation is different now. Single women participate in school management meetings, village councils, cooperatives and other community processes. Bishnu remembers the days when her husband was shot dead by armed policemen accusing him of being a Maoist. After that she was prohibited from participation in social functions like marriage and god worshipping festivals. But the situation is changed now.

HRPLSC implemented Human Right Reconciliation project and supported for unity of single women and their capacity building and empowerment. As a result, single women were united and, after awareness raising programs, started to engage in self-development and community development projects. Now the people respect them, and invite them to community level project planning and implementation processes.

There is a single women's network in the village. Initially, only conflict victims were involved in it and gradually the group expanded to include other widows as well. As network members, they discuss and settle community problems and also implement saving schemes. The Secretary of the district level network of single women, Sita Pun, said that there are all types of victims and widows in the groups. They are united against discrimination and for creating awareness in the society. The women in the groups are influential in VDC and district level processes. In some cases, their participation has been made compulsory.

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# RECONSTRUCTION AFTER CONFLICT

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The house of Mr. Dalbahadur Khatri of Kotgown 9 was destroyed during the conflict. Ms. Santi Pun of Iribang 4 Rolpa faced the same fate. The life was not simple while there was damage everywhere and it was difficult to start a new life. In the midst of distress and sorrow, Dal Bahadur and Santi decided to burn the candle of hope. Now, after some years, they have been able to start a new life.

HRPLSC organized interaction programs to encourage single women to start a new life. This included discussion on remarriage among other things. This was done in view of the fact that many young women became widows during the 10-year conflict and remarriage would be an option to found a family, if they wish, and start a new life. HRPLSC thus encouraged single women to remarry as a way of their readjustment in the society and a way of healing the wound they suffered. After the program, some single women got married and began an exemplary life.

Dal Bahadur had 2 sons and 1 daughter and some grandsons from his previous marriage. Santi had 2 sons. Both lost their partners during the conflict so they decided to marry with each other to support the family members. Now, they have 16 members in the complete family. They have constructed one new home. The children receive love and affection from parents and guardians. While sharing experiences, Shanti expressed that when she was alone she was insulted by village people but after re-marriage she has had a great support. After his wife's death, Dal Bahadur's children were helpless. They had no one to guide and support at home after their mother died. So Dal Bahadur decided to remarry with Santi. Now, Dal Bahadur and Santi have their own house at Mulpani. They run a hotel business, in which both of them serve together. Sometimes, they visit their parents. While sharing experiences, Dal Bahadur said that Santi's parents welcome him as their own son.

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Dal Bahadur and Santi are one of many couples living an easy life after re-marriage. Some of them have even conducted inter-caste marriages breaking the taboo that inter-caste marriage is impure. The reunion of conflict victims has not only transformed their lives but also of their children and other dependents.

In another example, Deusi Sharma and Nirmala Pariyar remarried in a big ceremony. Nirmala had 3 daughters and 1 son whereas Deusi had 1 son and 1 daughter from their previous marriage. All the family live together and are happy. In the initial phase, Deusi was misbehaved as he married with dalit women, and he was also treated as being a dalit. But he worked as a leader of society and raised awareness against discriminations. Now, everybody takes their life easy.

Similarly, Pustamali Pun of Rolpa Dhawang and Barman Pun got married before 5 years. Pustamali's husband was killed some 12 years ago by armed police personnel. The family members searched a man and arranged their marriage. Now, both of them are living life happily.

HRPLSC honoured these couples in a program, which delivered the message that remarriage is not bad. Single women has the right to remarry. HRPLSC Executive Chief, Top Bahadur Khadka, says, "Remarriage of conflict affected people has been a revolution of some kind. It has not just broken a social taboo of treating women negatively but has also enabled the couples to refound a family and plan a future jointly." There were many children lefty to live a life as orphans. Now, they have found guardians. Re-marriage is a positive initiation. It helps to secure the children's future as well.

## ALTERING THE BROKEN RELATIONSHIP

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Bal Kumari Pun's husband was killed by armed police and Sarkini Sunar's husband was killed by Maoists. Both of them used to see each other as enemies during conflict days. They used to abuse each other. Now both the single women understand each other. They find that they share the same sorrows and pain. They are involved in the same group and have jointly tried to solve problems together.

In the HRPLSC-formed human rights and reconciliation forums, victims from both the sides are involved. The members of the groups are provided with training and orientations on human rights, leadership basics and reconciliation. The enemies of the past have come together to work for a common destiny on the basis of common consensus.

Many single women like Balkumari and Sarkini started a new life forgetting the bitter past. In the past, Sarkini used to be very angry to see the Maoists and view them as her enemies. Today, they have become her friends. As victims they are one and the same, and they have realized that only working together will help them solve their problems. Sarkini's husband was killed because he was from a different political party. Similarly, Balkumari's husband was killed by state security personnel accusing him of providing shelter to the Maoists. Forgetting who killed whom, they have come together as victims and are engaged in campaigns against discrimination of women through the reconciliation group.

The women are not only active for solving the issues of single women but are also engaged in solving problems related to domestic violence in general. They also stand against child marriage and polygamy. The single women also discuss about their children's future in group meetings and initiate planning towards that end. Some of the women have started poultry farming and goat rearing utilizing the group savings. From the profit, they support children's education.

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The group members have also constructed a shelter for the victims of domestic violence in Libang VDC of Rolpa. For the shelter, they collected money from different agencies, organization and individuals.

The root of the violence as the women see is the improper behavior of political leaders. Common people should not be blamed for this and they should feel sorry for. They should rather find ways to live together and not be divided. They should forget the bitter past and look to a bright future.

For sustainable peace, people from both the camps of conflict should come to common consensus, says Top Bahadur Khadka. The group members also share the same spirit. Single women are conscious that some people in the community may feel it difficult to cope with the past and may turn violent creating another cycle of violence. But they hope to be able to prevent such a possibility by organizing peace and reconciliation initiatives. They feel that the state should also be aware of the possibility and should take measures necessary.

## THE SINGLE COUPLES WERE HONOURED AFTER RE-MARRIAGE

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Deu Singh Magar "Stone" remembers his childhood and recalls it as a bad experience. He was born 58 years ago to Rukha Gharti Magar and mother Tijala Gharti Magar. He has five siblings, four brothers and one sister. His father was not positive towards their education and used to force them to choose work over study. Deu Singh was thus detached from education and turned into a shepherd, who used to spend time in jungles for rearing goats, cows and sheep. One day he ran away from his house to earn money. Cutting hills and carrying salt from various places became his new chores. He returned home after 13 years of foreign employment and got married. After some years, his mother died. He also lost two children and his wife the same year. He became single. Seeing the difficulty facing him, his relatives suggested him to re-marry, which he did with single woman Mani Kala Gharti Magar, a mother of a son.

While traveling from one place to another, Stone was attached to the Maoists. He was arrested and tortured by armed forces. This made him more violent.

Eleven years ago, he also lost his second wife. He re-married again with Nirmala Pariyar. Nirmala Pariyar said that the marriage was decided by the Party. Stone was degraded as being dalit after marrying a dalit women. The children were also demeaned as "untouchables". This couple came to know of the HRPLSC-implemented empowerment program in the Gam VDC. Nirmala was selected as an advisor of single women's network and HRPLSC honored this couple for their bravery to break with the traditional belief system that discriminates on grounds of caste. HRPLSC honored the couples in a public ceremony by providing a certificate of honour and four thousand cash. School principal of a local school Mr. Balbir Gharti said that this type of honour program is encouraging as it contributes to ending caste based discrimination by creating a positive attitude in society.

The couple have become an example in the community now, and the children of both Stone and Nirmala live together. Their daughter, Anu Pariyar, a class 10 student, says she is happy at continuing her study with father's support.

Nirmala after being honored said that when the society insulted her as a low-caste dalit, she had low confidence. When she was honored, she feels that she and her husband did an exemplary work. Deu Singh Gharti also said that he had never hoped of being honored.



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## SINGLE WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN VILLAGE COUNCIL

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Single women Shri Maya Buda was totally ignorant about VDC office budgets and budget allocation processes. She was always busy doing household chores and was unaware about individual rights. Similarly, Kamini Buda said that the village women were far away from the ideas of rights and other information. If they had known about human rights earlier, the situation could have been different.

The HRPLSC-implemented human rights and reconciliation programs in Rolpa and Rukum district and the related human rights education and awareness events and leadership development trainings informed the community people about the services available locally. The community people were also made aware of services available to single women. As part of the reconciliation initiative, a human rights and reconciliation forum (HRRF) was also formed with Bipata Pun Magar as its president. The forum then planned and organized various programmes, including programmes for resource mobilization for single women. Last year, the forum succeeded to receive Rs. 30,000 from the VDC. The money was used to implement a vegetable farming project. This year the single women participated in the VDC council and succeeded to mobilize Rs. 50,000 from the VDC council on the basis of the proposal that they developed. The VDC invited them and awarded the budget to support their promoting project. This has developed confidence in the single women in the VDC.

Earlier, the single women were unaware of the VDC working processes, budget allocation processes and their rights that the government should respect. At present, they can speak about their rights and take measures to realize the rights.

Encouraged by the work of the forum, other single women of adjoining VDCs, Thawang, Dhawang, Gam and Uwa got united. They also approached respective VDCs for budgets for the projects they developed.

In the Thawang VDC, single women mobilized Rs 20,000 for vegetable farming training. The single women from Jelbang and Uwa VDC received Rs 30,000 for vegetable farming and after the training the women started business of vegetable farming. Seeing their confidence other single women from nearby VDCs also became aware and started to talk about rights and participate in VDC planning processes.

The end

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