

**Post EQ Update - Our Situation/Work on the Ground - 17
30 September, 2015 (bi-monthly)**

General:



Amidst speculations, ongoing violence in the Tarai regarding Madheshi Parties discontentment, and Limbuwan strikes in the eastern hills, the Constitution of Nepal was officially promulgated by the Constitution Assembly and proclaimed by the President at 5.45pm on

the 20th September 2015. Considered to be one of the most inclusive and progressive constitutions in the world, it is still lacking in terms of women's representation and the ability to transfer citizenship through the mother.



- 1. Case Study** The NA led Building Lives – Inspiring Hopes 2-day workshop, culminated on the 25/26 September. The highlight of this programme was the participation of Dr. Ambreen Ahmed who wished to support our recovery work post EQ. A psychiatrist



and child specialist of repute in Pakistan and in the region Ambreen came as a resource person for the Sangat course but piggy backing on this she offered her 2 day services for the youths. Her experiences and skills were found to be

invaluable by the participants. On the other hand Ambreen observed that the youths had worked in their communities in the most practical and logical ways. She provided simple techniques that would allow them to provide psychological first aid services to children of different ages and the community. Importantly she gave them simple practical tools and tips to ensure that they knew how to take care of themselves.

Others:



The Sangat South Asia month long course on Feminist Capacity Building began from the 19th September and will be ongoing until the 19th October 2015. The newly built **Kamla Hall** in the Aadhar building has been officially inaugurated by Kamla Bhasin (seated in the center) herself in whose honour the training hall has been named. 32

participants from 7 countries are participating in this residential course. On the 21st the course participants and along with Nepali activists celebrated the International Peace Day with prayers for the peace and progress of all the nations and communities of the world.



Tewa/NA

Tewa and NA has gone on with both its ongoing activities as well as the recovery work. Regarding the EQ recovery work, the Tewa led HTG in 6 districts, the activists are still working in their respective districts and are coordinating with the youths of the Building Lives – Inspiring Hopes programme led by the NA. The Tewa Center has been busy hosting the residential Sangat South Asia's month long capacity building course with 32 participants from 8 countries. Through this time of transition, both organizations carried on their work like a breeze! Besides Tewa primarily has

all the preparation work ongoing with other feminist organizations for the upcoming Asian One Billion Rising celebrations on the 2nd October.

Conclusions:

It is difficult to describe the mood of our lives here now. An unexpected and unofficial India blockade following the promulgation of the Constitution and the ongoing Madhes agitations, have created a problem for everyone in Nepal. This is particularly challenging because the access on the North to China is not functioning after the 25 April 2015 earthquake. But quiet diplomacy and talks are ongoing at the official levels, and hopefully a solution is expected in the near future.

The good news is that owing to these exceptional situations, Dr. Govind KC who was on a 7th time fast unto death for ending the rule of mafia and corruptions in the health sector, agreed to end his fast on the 12th day. This is a close save as his health was fast deteriorating to be almost beyond repair owing to his previous fast only 10/12 days back.

Political disturbances and challenges are interlaced with ongoing doing of good work, learning, and the sheer joy of solidarity and caring of and for the larger wellbeing.



The above 2 pictures capture this especially well. Kamla Bhasin (L) after being honoured by Dr. Ambreen Ahmad and Ambreen after being thanked for her volunteer support to the NA led BL –IH programme. This is also the larger attitude in Nepal.

