



VOICES OF WOMEN MEDIA

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

TABLE OF CONTENT

ABOUT VOICES OF WOMEN MEDIA	4-5
MISSION & VISION GOALS	
HIGHLIGHTS OF 2017	6
PROJECTS	6-7
DESH TO BIDESH GIRLS VOICES NAANHI BOONDE DISCOVER FOOTBALL VISUALIZING THE VOICES OF MIGRANT WOMEN WORKERS REMEMBRANCES - REFLECTIONS ON HEALING	
SCREENINGS	8-9
EXHIBITIONS	10-11
PRESENTATIONS	12
CAPACITY BUILDING AND STAFF TRAINING	13-14
AFS DOCUMENTARY FILM MAKING WORKSHOP DIGITAL STORYTELLING FOR SOCIAL CHANGE SAWF CONVERGENCE PHOTOSTORY TRAINING FEMINISM, PATRIARCHY AND MEDIA WOMEN LEADERSHIP SUMMIT 2017	

PROGRAMMES PARTICIPATED IN

15-17

WOW FESTIVAL
TRANS VISIBILITY DAY
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES
EMPOWER HER
TRUTH AND MEMORY IN POST-CONFLICT NEPAL
NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GENDER BASED VIOLENCE
NEVER ENDING ROAD FOR JUSTICE

STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

18

PARTNERS AND FUNDERS

19

PREVIEW OF 2018

20



ABOUT VOICES OF WOMEN MEDIA

MISSION & VISION

VOW Media wants to contribute to a world where women enjoy their basic rights and live with dignity, equality, and justice.

We are a non-profit organization that is committed to providing women from marginalized communities with innovative media tools to enable them to voice their own lives, to empower them and strengthen their voices. The advancement of women in society can be fostered by the creation of a positive self-image and a stronger sense of identity through the use of art, media, and education.

We believe that personalizing women's individual experiences can stop violence inflicted on women, change social norms and end discrimination.

At VOW Media we believe that we can use culture to change culture. To empower young girls and provide opportunities for women to lead, we must consider education, reproductive health, economic justice and the impact of sexual and domestic violence.

"STORYTELLING IS A MEDIUM OF SOCIAL CHANGE"

GOALS

- Provide women and young girls with the means to reflect on their experiences and empower them so they can tell their own stories.
 - To create women leaders and raise awareness of the community on the rights of women.
 - Ensure the economic, social and cultural rights of women and minimize violence against women through their empowerment.
 - Develop a network of support and solidarity between marginalized groups of women.
 - To reduce negative stigmas held against various marginalized group of women and their communities.
 - To help influence a positive change in behavior towards the themes of women's rights, sex work, migration, violence against women, trans-women's rights and freedom for gender identity.
 - To use media, technology & art as a tool for women's rights and empowerment.
 - Research and support cases of violence against women.
 - An understanding that technology is not only a 'man's tool' is created and have our participants be the nucleus of the paradigm shift we would like to see in the future.
 - Women and girls, especially from excluded and marginalized communities understand that they have a right to education, the right to feel safe and secure in their communities, can access technology, can demand their rights from the state and can live an independent life which ensures equal participation.
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HIGHLIGHTS OF 2017

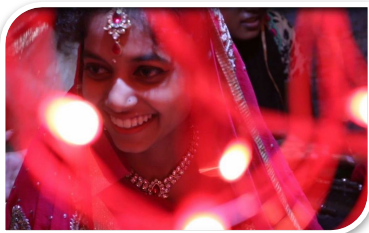
2017 was a very productive year for VOW Media. We completed 6 major projects and various other campaigns. We want to take this opportunity to share a quick recap of how the year was and all that we were able to achieve in it. Enjoy reading!

PROJECTS:



DESH TO BIDESH

In 2016-17, VOW Media collaborated with POURAKHI NEPAL in order to work towards safer migration of all Nepali persons, to promote the right to freedom of mobility, to lobby the government, to adopt a national migration policy, as well as to uphold the mobility rights guaranteed in the human rights conventions that the government has signed and to discuss women's rights, labor rights, change to familial ties and values within Nepali society.



NANHI BOONDE

As part of the Young Women's Leadership Program of our partner FAT in New Delhi, we trained 30 young girls to make video films about social issues particularly around the issues of early and forced marriage. The video is used as an advocacy tool by the girls within their communities.



DISCOVER FOOTBALL

For many women, playing football is more than a just a sport. Playing football means to claim spaces in society that are usually reserved for men. Over three days young female football players from all over India learned about the basics of photography as a tool of empowerment and political/social commitment. The workshop covered issues such as prejudice, discrimination, women's rights and football and showed how photography can be used to influence these.



GIRLS VOICES

VOW Media conducted a six-week long workshop where 10 underprivileged girls who are currently studying in Kanti Ishwori Rajya Laxmi School, Nepal's first all-girls public school. This school was badly damaged in the earthquake and classrooms were made in makeshift bamboo halls. The young girls were trained on photography and digital storytelling. Using 'Girls' Barrier to Education' as their theme, the girls created 10 videos voicing their issues and concerns. Three videos were nominated for Girls' Voices for Change Contest and one was the 2nd place winner.



Visualizing the voices of migrant women workers

Fifty participants, including domestic workers, refugees, asylum-seekers, and allies were trained in video production. Each participant scripted and directed their own video, as well as worked on other participants' crews. The videos in this screening offer a thoughtful glimpse into the lives and aspirations of domestic workers, asylum-seekers, refugees, migrants and ethnic minorities. These videos provide new ways to think about what we see or don't see - in Hong Kong and in each other.



REMEMBRANCES - REFLECTIONS OF HEALING

Young girls and women who are survivors of human trafficking and living in our partner organization, Shakti Samuha's shelter home were trained on photography and videography skills for over 4 months. With the skills they learned and the knowledge they gained, they made their own short films and shared their unique stories in their own perspective. These short films demonstrate strength, courage, and hope and has also been used as an advocacy tool to raise awareness of human trafficking in Nepal.



SCREENINGS:

6 April 2017

Visualizing the Voices of Migrant Women Workers
Forced Migration and ICT: Key Concepts for Future Research
The Chinese University of Hong Kong, HK

23 April 2017

Visualizing the Voices of Migrant Women Workers
2017 VOW-HKU Participatory Video Workshop Series
University of Hong Kong, HK

14 June 2017

Girls' Voices
Kanti Ishwori Rajya Laxmi School
Kathmandu, NP

6 August 2017

Visualizing the Voices of Migrant Women Workers
Para Site Contemporary Art Centre,
HK

2 September 2017

Visualizing the Voices of Migrant Women Workers
Bellas Artes Project,
Manila, PLH

10 November 2017

Visualizing the Voices of Migrant Women Workers
Connecting Communities: Participatory Arts and Social Action Research
Conference 2017
University of Greenwich, London, UK

15 November 2017

Visualizing the Voices of Migrant Women Workers
Sink or Swim - Goldsmiths University,
London, UK

2 December 2017

Desh to Bidesh
Remembrances - Reflections of Healing
16 Days of Activism to End Gender Based Violence - Women Lead Nepal,
Jawlahkel, NP

7 December 2017

Visualizing the Voices of Migrant Women Workers
5th International Cellphilm Festival: Resisting and Speaking Back
McGill University, Montreal, Canada

9 December 2017

Visualizing the Voices of Migrant Women Workers
Social Transformations in Chinese Societies: Hong Kong Sociological
Association Annual Meeting 2017
Lingnan University, HK

11 December 2017

Remembrances- Reflections of Healing
Outdoor Adventure Center, Kathmandu, NP

14-18 December 2017

Remembrances- Reflections of Healing
Nanhi Boonde
Todo Bandishen
Desh to Bidesh
Arrival
Drowning
Displaced
Kathmandu International Mountain Film Festival 2017, Kumai Hall, NP

Feminist Film Screenings**9 January 2017**

Mira Rai - Jagat Sundar Bhwonekuthi School, Kathmandu, NP

29 February 2017

Kamaro -Voices of Women Media, Kathmandu, NP

27 March 2017

Where the water meets the Sky
White House International College, Kathmandu, NP

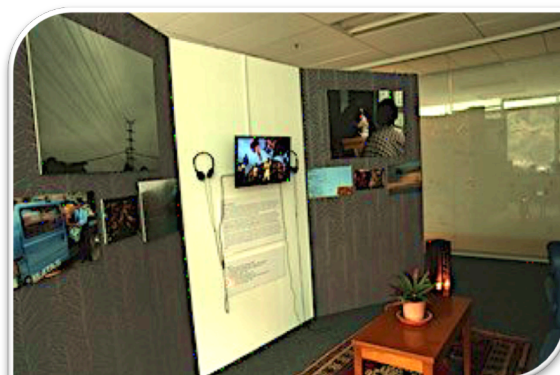
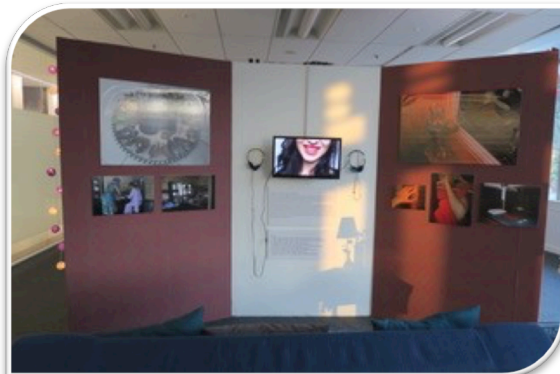
EXHIBITIONS:

VISUALISING THE VOICES OF MIGRANT WOMEN WORKERS - UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, HK

This exhibition features stories of journeys, work abroad and letters home as visualized by migrant women including migrant sex workers, domestic workers, marriage migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, women who have been trafficked, and informal workers.

The panel talk at the launch event on 10 February, 2017 featured the following panelists:

- Lin Chew, Executive Director, Institute for Women's Empowerment
- Pooja Pant, Co-Director, Voices of Women Media - Nepal
- Eni Lestari, Chairperson, International Migrants Alliance
- Freya Chou, Curator of Education and Public Programmes, Para Site
- Dr. Ju-chen Chen, Lecturer, Department of Anthropology, HKU



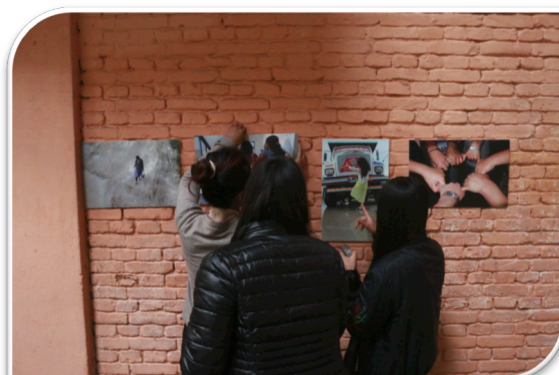
KATHMANDU INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL 2017- KUMARI HALL, NP

15th Kathmandu International Mountain Film Festival 2017, premiered on 14th - 18th December, 2017. The only festival of its kind east of Suez, brings to Kathmandu Valley some of the most recent and exciting films about mountains, mountain environment, mountain cultures and communities from various corners of the world. VOW Media screened various different films during the festival and also exhibited photos taken by participants of different projects.



REMEMBRANCES - REFLECTIONS ON HEALING - OUTDOOR ADVENTURE CENTER, NP

The public screening of a collection of short films, Remembrances, took place at Outdoor Adventure Centre Nepal in Thamel on December 17. The photos taken by the young girls who are survivors of human trafficking were also exhibited during the program.



PRESENTATIONS:

DIGITAL SECURITY WORKSHOP, SAWF CONVERGENCE 2017, SOALTEE CROWN PLAZA, NP

The workshop focused on Digital Security, IT as mobilization strategy and Digital storytelling. Anita Karmacharya from VOW Media presented some information on the power of digital storytelling and the importance for girls and women to be technically sound.



EARLY CHILDHOOD MARRIAGE AND ITS CONSEQUENCES, SAWF CONVERGENCE 2017, SOALTEE CROWN PLAZA, NP

Anita Karmacharya from VOW Media was one of the panelists during a discussion on early childhood marriage and its consequences which took place on 15th July 2017 at Soaltee Crown Plaza, Kathmandu, Nepal.



BOOK LAUNCH OUTDOOR ADVENTURE CENTER, NP

On December 11, 2017, VOW Media launched the book 'Remembrances- Reflections of Healing' which is a collection of photo stories created by young girls who are survivors of human trafficking. Charimaya Tamang, co-founder of Shakti Samuha, and Pooja Pant, director of VOW Media jointly launched the book.





CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING FOR STAFF:

AFS Documentary Film Making Workshop

The workshop held on January 17-20, 2017 was organized by American Embassy in collaboration with USC School of Cinematic Arts, American Film Showcase and Oscar International College.

The participants explored the principles of nonfiction digital filmmaking from conceptualization and visualization through story development, preproduction, production and editing film, and complete a short documentary in four days.

Digital Story Telling for Social Change

The Digital Story Telling for Social Change Workshop held on (29-31) March 2017 was organized by Moving Stories in Women Lead Nepal Training Hall.

Photo Storytelling Training

A two day long photo story training for VOW Media's staff held on 11 and 12 September was given by Bikkil Sthapit at our office. We were trained to better develop our technical skills and learned some advanced photography techniques.

Feminism, Patriarchy and Media

VOW Media team members had a training on understanding feminism and patriarchy with Pranika Koyu, a feminist poet. She shed light on various topics and issues which are relevant to our daily lives.

Women Leadership Summit 2017

Women Leadership Summit 2017, organized by Ujyalo Foundation, Hamro Chahana Nepal, and Sodh was a five days residential program providing capacity building and leadership training for 18-20 young feminist professionals. We were one of the participants.

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PROGRAMMES PARTICIPATED IN AND ATTENDED

WOW FESTIVAL



TRANS VISIBILITY DAY



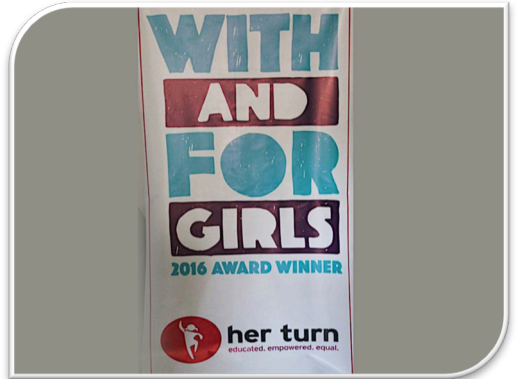
TRUTH AND MEMORY IN POST CONFLICT NEPAL



NEVER ENDING ROAD FOR JUSTICE



NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GENDER BASED VIOLENCE



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES



EMPOWER HER



STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Pooja Pant, Co-director
Vivian Wenli Lin, Co-director
Gita Rasaili, Program Officer
Anita Karmacharya, Office Manager
Sushila Chaudhary, Field coordinator
Bikkil Sthapit, Program Supervisor
Ankeeta Manandhar, Communications Officer
Monalisha Dhimal, Technical Assistant
Conor Hartnett, Intern
Kreenjala Pyakurel, Volunteer
Manju GC, Volunteer
Manju Deula, Office Staff

BOARD MEMBERS

Susan Risal, Board Member
Rukmani Maharjan, Board Member
Dewan Rai, Board Member
Krishna Gurung, Board Member
Sarita Lamichhane, Board Member

PARTNERS AND FUNDERS



PREVIEW FOR 2018

2018 is proving to be as busy as its predecessor, with a number of exciting new projects in the pipeline and the continued dissemination of our previous projects.

Dissemination of previous films - While the multimedia training workshop is over, we will be as busy as ever organizing and holding film screenings and discussions of the project in the local communities, institutions and likeminded organizations. We will also be submitting the short film to festivals and hold public screenings.

Memory, Truth, and Justice - Following the work from our previous years, we will be working with the conflict victim community together with our partners CVCP, NEFAD and GF Nepal. This project will record individual testimonials to create a rich personal history of the armed conflict, and to share these accounts using multimedia for historical record, education and advocacy. The conflict victim's groups are divided into 7 groups; families of the disappeared, victims of sexual violence, victims of torture, families of extra judicial and killings, people with disabilities, female ex- combatants, indigenous and impoverished groups such as Dalits, Magars, Tharus, Madhesi who were systemically targeted and killed or arrested. We plan to get at least 10-15 stories within each group; each group of stories will be told using a different medium; some videos, some photos, some art, some oral history. While choosing our participants, we will first work together with the organizations within our network to make sure that we balance geographic areas, victims of both sides of the conflict, and primarily focus on civilians who were affected.

Media Tech Center - We are super excited to start a tech center where we plan to build, furnish and equip a computer lab and media technology center in our office which will hold computers and multimedia classes with low income youths. VOW Media Tech Centre will be created with a focus on marginalised girls and women who are ignored by our conventional social and educational systems. Our primary goal will be to provide quality care and technological education for women that can eventually change their lives by creating opportunities, knowledge of rights and employment skills.

VOW Media will conduct a yearlong multimedia and computer skills training project with 12 young women from Maiti Nepal and Shakti Samuha's shelter home in Kathmandu. The young girls will be trained in photography, video and computer skills and will then create their video which can be used as an advocacy tool by Maiti Nepal, Shakti Samuha & VOW Media to raise awareness on the topic of human trafficking in Nepal.

Website: www.voicesofwomenmedia.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/vowmedia/>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/vow_media

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/vowmedia_/

