

# ANNUAL REPORT 2016





## ABOUT US

### Vision and Mission

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 and technology 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.

**HOW:** At VOW Media we believe that we can use culture to change culture. To empower girls and provide opportunities for women to lead, we must consider education, reproductive health, economic justice and the impact of sexual and domestic violence. We believe that by enhancing women's awareness and participation in technology we can break barriers, empower them and allow them to control their own voices.

### Organizational Goals

- \* To provide project participants with the means to reflect on their experiences and empower them so they can tell their own stories.
- \* To encourage participants to foster a strong sense of self-identity and provide an alternative perspective to mainstream media.
- \* To ensure the economic, social and cultural rights of women and minimize violence against women through their empowerment.
- \* To develop a network of support and solidarity between marginalised groups of women.
- \* To reduce negative stigmas held against various marginalised groups 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 encourage the use of media & technology as a tool for women's rights and social justice.

# HIGHLIGHTS 2016



## SAVING dolma

a film by  
Kesang Tseten

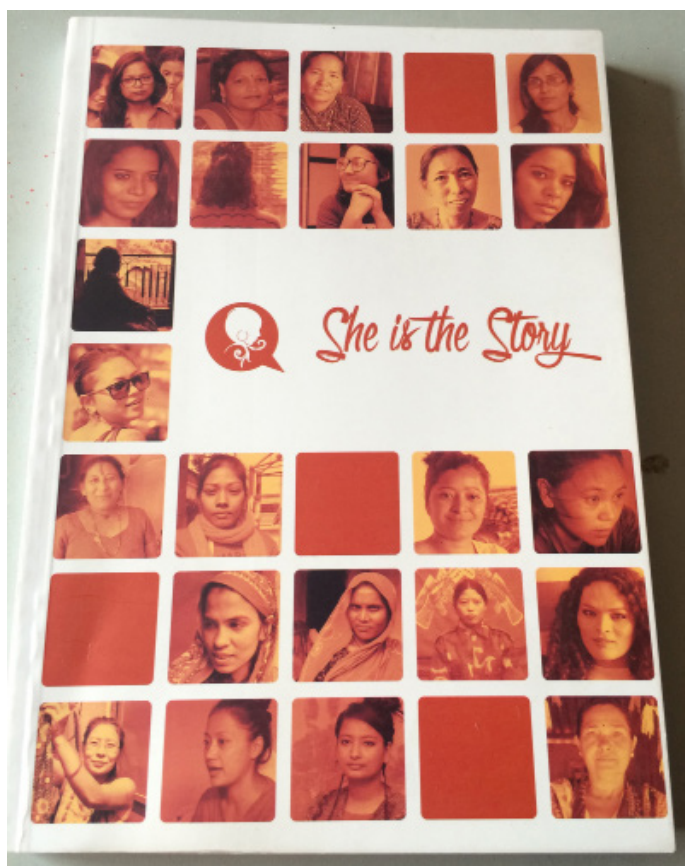
Location: Arun Thapa Chowk  
Jhamsikhel  
Lalitpur

## Feminist Film Screening

many more, we screened “A-Nagarik” – a film on citizenship for women in Nepal, “Nepal Slave Girls”- about the Kamlari tradition, “Saving Dolma”- a film of Nepali domestic worker sentenced to death for allegedly killing a fellow Filipino domestic worker in Kuwait and “Too Young To Wed”- about the wedding of 16-year old Anita in a village of Nepal. Each film screening has ended with vibrant panel discussions raising the issues of sexuality, marriage, citizenship and feminism amongst others.

Our monthly film screening served as a hub for the gathering of like-minded and newly interested young feminists where we watch a film and discuss the content from a feminist perspective at the end of the film screening. In 2016, among

## She is the Story



‘She is the Story’ is a photo story/ blog site. Through it, we have documented stories of everyday women which serves as a hub of historical collection and advocacy for women’s rights. These stories are printed as a book and we are currently distributing to various women’s rights organizations, human rights organizations and policy makers in Nepal.





## EmpowHER

‘Research to develop your idea!’ for EmpowHER 2016 took place on 25th June, 2016 at Kings College, Kathmandu and was led by Pooja Pant from VOW Media. The programme was organized as part of the 14-weeks long training session of EmpowHER, one of its kind platform that gives women in Nepal a sense of purpose and contribution to the growing community.

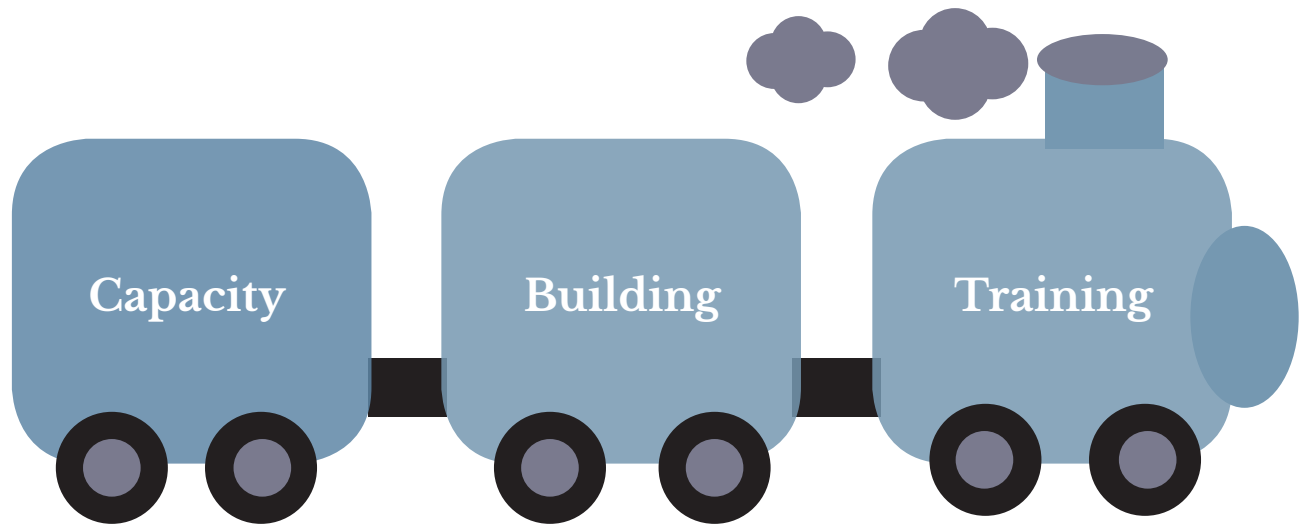
‘Media -the most impactful tool to fight injustice

and make voices heard’ was the theme of Pooja’s workshop and it was accentuated with various examples from VOW Media’s campaigns. Words like ‘It is up to us to tell our stories and make our problems and concerns heard.’ encouraged the participants to use different forms of media like photography, audio, video, and blogging to tell stories and bring to light what lays hidden.



## 11th International Youth Media Summit

VOW Media trained participants of an International Youth Media Summit as a Women’s Rights and Media expert during the 11th Summit on August 8, 2016. The group produced and directed a short film on women’s rights under Pooja’s mentorship.



A three day workshop held on 14, 15 and 16 September 2016 was based on Design Theory on Layout, Typography and Color. The composition and rules of graphic design, typeface and fonts, type pairing and basic layout were introduced and exercised. Concepts on color composition and logo designing was also practiced during the workshop. VOW Media staffs attended the workshop as part of our capacity building training.




## Feminist Politics and Digital Security

We participated in the workshop organized by LOOM on 9th and 10th July, 2016 on Feminist Politics and Digital Security which was about the impact of the internet and digital security. We went through different top-

ics like digital threats faced being a feminist, implementing digital security on an individual and organizational level and how data and communication can be used safely on the internet.





## People Power and Non Violent Struggle for Justice

VOW Media together with NEFAD, ICNC and the Berghof Foundation organized 'People Power and Nonviolent Struggle for Justice' in two locations in Nepal. The workshop was conducted in two cities; Bhairahawa and Dhulikhel; over a period of 4 days. Defining nonviolent struggle and people power, participants were taught different approaches to nonviolent movements and the benefits of the methods were briefly explained.



# PROGRAMS ATTENDED



Various South Asian Organizations from India, Bangladesh, Srilanka, Pakistan and Nepal participated in the South Asian Women's Funds Grantee meetup held in Kathmandu. Pooja Pant, VOW Media's director was one of the panelists in

'The impact and role of media in women's rights struggle.' The three days conference helped us network, learn about various issues and get to know the contribution by women's organizations all over South Asia.







VOW Media attended the program jointly organized by Mandala Theatre and the National Network of Families of the Disappeared and Missing Nepal (NEFAD). The International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappeared is one

of the main events held on Mandala theatre in the memory who were disappeared. It falls on August 30th every year. We screened our video “Memories” in a small video booth and helped NEFAD with the logistics of the event.







## 2nd National Conference on Migration

On the 27th and 28th September, VOW Media attended the 2nd National Conference on migration. In the conference we displayed the photo story created during our three days' photography workshop, conducted by VOW Media. The

conference was organized by collaborating with 8 different organizations in order to ensure the rights of migrant workers during labor migration. There were panel discussions on different topics which we attended and participated in.



# Projects



## Desh to Bidesh

In 2016, 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 dis-

cuss women's rights, labor rights, change to familial ties and values within Nepali society. In the process, 19 participants were given a photography training. Further they will be trained on filmmaking from a women-centric and feminist approach and subsequently to use these media to run a campaign on safe migration within their communities and in the general Nepali society.





MEMORY, TRUTH & JUSTICE is a project to document, archive and share personal stories of survivors and families of the victims of the armed conflict in Nepal from 1996 - 2006. A multimedia project using audio, video and photo as a medium, the project seeks to preserve and dignify their memories by recording testimonies

from survivors and families of the victims, and by sharing them with the community at large with a purpose of education and remembrance. Educational and advocacy materials will also be produced for students, advocates and researchers interested in the issue of transitional justice.



We organized a six day mural workshop in Bardiya District from November 12 -17, 2016 for families whose family members got disappeared during the armed conflict in Nepal. The theme for the mural “The search of the missing family members and the much longer search for the truth” was developed through conceptualization of images from the personal stories and weaving them in to a design by searching common elements in each story. For the project we worked

with muralist Martin Travers who conducted the workshop with people from different age groups and ethnicities from the families whose members got disappeared. For the first two days of the program, participants were asked to share their stories of pain. Then they were asked different questions to express their stories through the art and picture so that the real scenario could be displayed. Finally this visualization was turned into a mural and painted on the wall.





## Preview of 2017

The projects in 2016 will be a predecessor for 2017 along with exciting projects in pipeline and dissemination of our work. The most exciting and new venture for us is to create a hub for marginalised women and girls from public schools in our locality to be able to have access to media technology.

### MEDIA TECH CENTRE FOR YOUNG GIRLS FROM GOVERNMENT SCHOOL

We are super excited to start a Tech Center where we plan to build, furnish and equip a computer lab and a media technology center in our office which will hold computer and multimedia classes with low income youths.

### MEMORY, TRUTH & JUSTICE

Following the work from last year, we are planning to work with the conflict victim's community together with our partners CVCP and NEFAD to plan and implement various creative arts projects with them.

### DESH TO BIDESH

In 2017 we will complete the video on female migration with our participants from last year's photography project and then travel through the country with this body of work so we can raise awareness on safe mobility for women.



# INTERNAL STRUCTURE, COLLABORATION AND NETWORK

## Staffs & Interns

Our Board members in Nepal are Astha Thapa, Nayan Tara Kakchyapati, Sangeeta Lama and Sarita Lamichane. Last year we had Uajwala Bajracharya on our board but due to her busy schedule she cannot continue. Hence we are searching for a new Board Member. VOW Media in Amsterdam and Hong Kong play an advisory role.

At the beginning of the year we had only one staff. There were two interns Monalisha Dhimal and Sangita Shrestha for four months. Later Monalisha Dhimal was hired as Communication Assistant. We had few more fantastic interns Deepika Juliana Neupane and Gita Rasaili. When we developed the capacity to hire more staff Anita Karmacharya came as an Office Manager and Gita Rasaili was hired as a Program Manager.

## The Office

For a year we were hosted by Women Lead Nepal at Jawalakhel, Lalitpur during our seeding stage. After we completed our registration in Nepal, we shared a co-working space with Haushala Creatives for five months in Sanepa. After a yearlong struggle, finally we were able to get our own space at Chagal, Kathmandu and have become part of a new community.

## Workshops

We believe in an interactive and equal participation. Building a relationship with our past and present participants through social media and direct calls helps us to maintain a healthy and sustainable relationship.



## Partners and Funders

VOW Media works along with different organizations for conducting workshops and implementing the projects. This year we have worked alongside Pourakhi, ICNC and NE-

FAD. Our projects would not have succeeded without the help of our funders DKA, CKU, SAWF, ADOBE, and our supporters through Global Giving; the crowd funding site.



**DKA Austria**  
Hilfswerk der Katholischen Jungschar

