

# RAISING THE VOICES OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Children advocating, mobilizing, raising awareness, informing and communicating.

Asia and the Pacific: Nepal

Alliance Against Trafficking in Women and Children in Nepal (AATWIN) works against human trafficking and exploitation, whose major targets are women and children. "During the COVID AATWIN did a rapid assessment during 5-12 May 2020 and found that; During this pandemic, the cases of violence, exploitation, rape have been shadowed, given that the police and hospitals prioritize COVID related cases; the trafficking cases are presumed to surge, as many target groups will be facing financial problems due to the uncertainty of job and lack of job opportunities. This increases the circumstances for the perpetrators to lure the target groups into trafficking; Due to the lockdown, it is difficult to monitor the cases of exploitation; The situation of the vulnerable groups, target groups, and trafficking survivors is very critical. They are suffering from economic stress, household problems, mental stress, physical weakness, and difficulty meeting basic needs. Many of them have lost their jobs. Moreover, the incidents of violence and exploitation of women and children are increasing."

AATWIN continued raising voices for women and child friendly services during this pandemic, in various platforms. AATWIN was part of various meetings organized by related Ministries, government organizations and CSOs. In these meetings, AATWIN pointed out the problems faced by women – significantly the trafficking survivors and workers of entertainment sector.

"National Action and Coordinating Group (NACG) Nepal initiated the regular meetings of 16 networks working on child right during COVID-19 for child protection. I represent the AATWIN as an Co-Chair of NACG Nepal. The Girl child representative of SAIEVAC Governing Board member from Nepal initiated the regional level virtual program during COVID-19 of SAARC Children/youths. I was engaged and invited as a guest. The participants of various countries shared the situation of children during COVID in their countries. During the time AATWIN and NACG Nepal jointly issued various numbers of appeals and press release on the issues of child protection and rights, human trafficking and COVID-19 pandemic."

