25 years of Child Rights Movement in Nepal

25 Glorious Years of CWIN-Nepal

(1987-2012)

Dream. Create. Live: Live art created by Kiran Manandhar at a unique show performed by children

The Vision

"Working with children is not onlycharity, but it is a continuous process of social change"

In 1987, Child Workers in Nepal Concerned Centre (CWIN) issued its first newsletter outlining a vision for the children of Nepal. Digressing from the normative notion of children as recipients of charity, CWIN framed child rights as a process of social transformation. For the first time in Nepal children were recognized as powerful agents of social change and a group of citizens that should be empowered rather than silenced. For the first time children were considered contributors and partners in the human rights movement – they were a source of inspiration and learning for the young CWIN organisation.

CWIN was, and remains today, a voice for children. Itstrongly believes in the philosophy of empowerment and inclusion as reflected in its motto 'For Children, With Children'. The issue of child rights is not and cannot be treated in isolation to other social, economic and political structures. It must be considered as a part of a broader social environment, one where institutional violence tends to neglect, suppress or ignore the voices of children. Since its inception, CWIN internalised the aspirations of childrenand resolved to create enabling environments conducive to the realization of their rights.

In the last 25 years CWIN has directly worked for the protection of more than one million children in Nepal through innovative, unique and meaningful programmes of action. The foundation and success of the child rights movement can be attributed to CWIN's genuine approach to child participation.

Child participation is not merely a symbolic gesture or a superficial slogan. For CWIN, real, engaged and meaningful child participation is a process. This process imparts knowledge and

skills and creates a safe space for children to voice their concerns, and for these concerns to be heard.

Building on this vision, the children and youth CWIN engage with are viewed upon as invaluable resources for the child rights movement. Recognised as rights holders, they are inevitably andinvariably CWIN's teachers. Working directly with children at a grassroots level, especially in the formative years, is a huge learning experience for CWIN and the entire child rights movement. CWIN's sustained vision is to convert these lessons into policy, thereby instigating positive change in the lives of children.

In the face of challenges from state authorities, law enforcement agencies andsociety, a belief in children and the mutual trust fostered gives CWIN the conviction to carry on. Having introduced a fresh approach to social work in Nepal, one that defies the convention of charity, CWIN's child rights movement heralds a new era of rights, empowerment and activism – For Child, With Children.

Celebrating 25 years of CWIN and Child Rights Movement in Nepal

This November, CWIN will usher in 25 years of operation, and therefore celebrate 25 years of child rights movement in Nepal. It is cause to reflect upon the challenges, achievements, learnings and partnerships of Nepal's foremost child rights organisation. It is, moreover, an opportunity to look forward to the next decade of action, making a plan to further strengthen child protection mechanisms in Nepal.

But this is not just a journey of CWIN. This is a celebration of the successes and transformation of all the children CWIN have worked with in the last 25 years. It isa celebration their empowerment and their new lives;it is an opportunity to draw strength from their experiences to transform the lives of thousands of others across the country; above most is it is a platform to thank children for their perseverance, determination and genuine enthusiasm to make a difference. It is, after all, their movement. The movement of more than half of the nations population, the child rights movement.

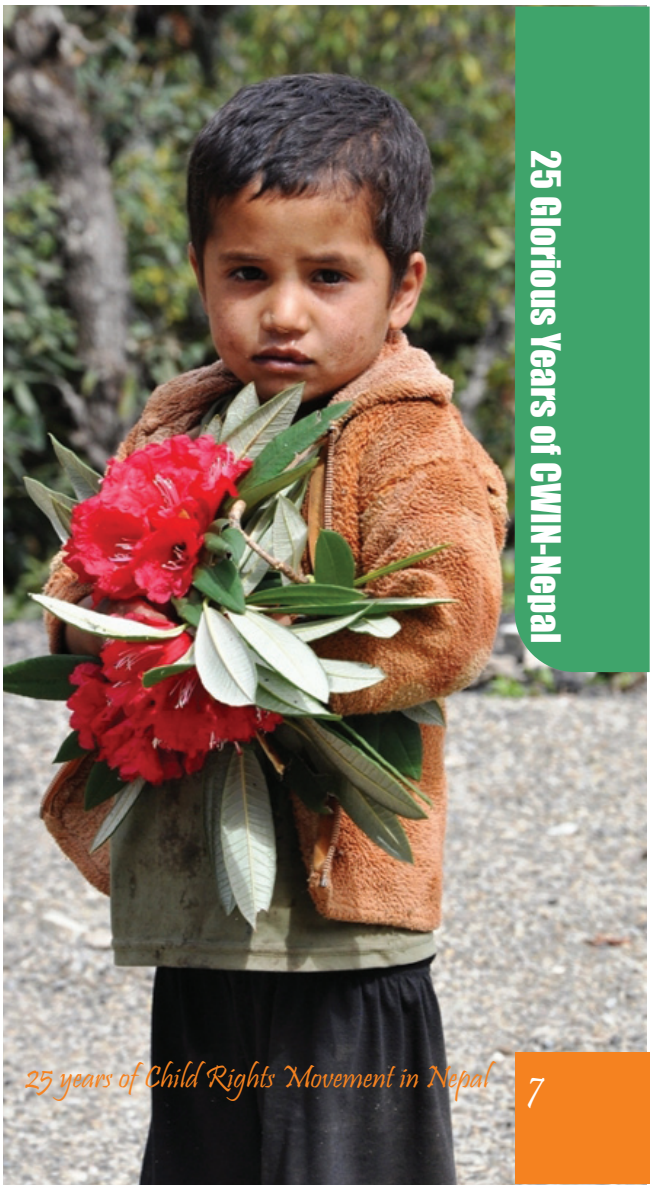
The Journey

Pioneering a Democratic Space for Children

In 1987 there was no national child rights body in Nepal. Indeed, contrary to the abundance of social organizations that now dominate Nepal's civil society landscape, only few organisations were championing human rights. The political context, dominated by the Panchayat System[1], suppressed all political parties and therefore the public space for individuals to champion rights.

It is well documented, however, that the democratic years from 1990-2002 provided "enabling conditions for inclusive reform seeking forces." [2]This movement was, albeit, predominantly focused on achieving civil

1. *Before 1990, the Shah Dynasty under the one party Panchayat system ruled Nepal. Under this system all political parties were banned.*
2. *Lawoti, Mahendra, "Introduction: Ethnicity. Exclusion and Democracy in Nepal" in MahendraLawoti and ArjunGuneratne (eds), Ethnicity, Inequality, and politics in Nepal (India: Himal Books, First Edition, November 2010) 17.*



and political rights. The women's movement, trade unions, teacher unions and emerging human rights organizations aimed to establish the civil and political rights of citizens to sustain the burgeoning democracy. Social and cultural rights seldom entered the agenda and there was no recognition of child rights as human rights.

Responding to this context, the mission CWIN carried was to integrate child rights into existing human rights and development movements. For example, the women's movement actively raised issues of gender based violence and gender discrimination. Neglected from their discussion, however, was particular reference to the experiences and needs of girls. So, utilizing already established networks, CWIN aligned their campaign for the recognition of the rights of the girl child to existing advocacy against gender-based violence.

Although these networks were a strong base, CWIN's attention to child rights was met with immediate opposition perpetuated by a lack of understanding among society. While UNICEF and a handful of other INGOS were operating in Nepal since the 1970's, due to the autocratic political regime, they were concentrated on providing services- education, water sanitation and immunization to name a few. Issues of child labour, violence against children and cases of

child trafficking rarely entered the agenda.

The introduction of child rights into the vocabulary of the rights movement was a new concept. CWIN's child rights agenda was not only new to Nepal, but the entire South Asia region. Even worldwide recognition of child rights had yet to be established. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) was not ratified until 1989.

This lack of international reference meant it took the public and other key stakeholders time to adjust to the concept and importance of child rights. The idea that the discrimination of a woman started in the womb, where she may be subjected to selective gender-based abortion, or that this violence continued when she were a young child, perhaps rejected from school because of her sex, was not recognisedproperly in Nepal. CWIN argued that womanhood would only be free from discrimination if girls too were empowered. In this context, working with the women's movement became a very strong base from which girls rights could be addressed.

The trade unions were another established vehicle through which CWIN raised the issue of child labour. The trade unions whole-heartedly supported CWIN's campaign against child labour exploitation. With their strong backing, CWIN was able to address the issue of child labour with such conviction that new laws on child

exploitation[3] were introduced. Soon the government, business sector, trade unions and civil society organisations began initiatives and programs to address child labour.

But this didn't happen over night. The start of CWIN's journey was plagued by disagreement from those who opposed children having rights. Initiated by the popular leaders of the student movement, CWIN's inception was unique, grassroots and attracted a lot of attention. The government and authorities perpetuated a sense of mistrust perceiving CWIN, and indeed any social organisation, as opponents to the system by virtue of discussing rights. The autocratic system was entrenched and initiating social issues into the public sphere was considered state resistance.

This was further exacerbated by a fatalist mindset, where poverty became an accepted justification of fundamental human rights violations. It was said children were trafficked or forced into labour because of the poor socio-economic conditions of their families or communities. It was further rationalized that some children cannot attend school because they must work to earn money for the family. But this rhetoric was merely a form of escapism from responsibility, an opportunity for the authorities to turn a blind eye and carry on business as usual.

CWIN and other organisations endeavoured to challenge the status quo and highlight sites of structural violence that perpetuate cycles of poverty. CWIN aimed to identify the government systems, or lack thereof, that placed children in compromising situations. It took at least two years to establish the fact that children do have rights. The initial phase of research, surveys and information gathering became the tools and evidence CWIN used to reveal the extent of child protection issues in Nepal.

3. *Nepali Children's Act 1992 / Child Labour (Prohibition) Act 1996*

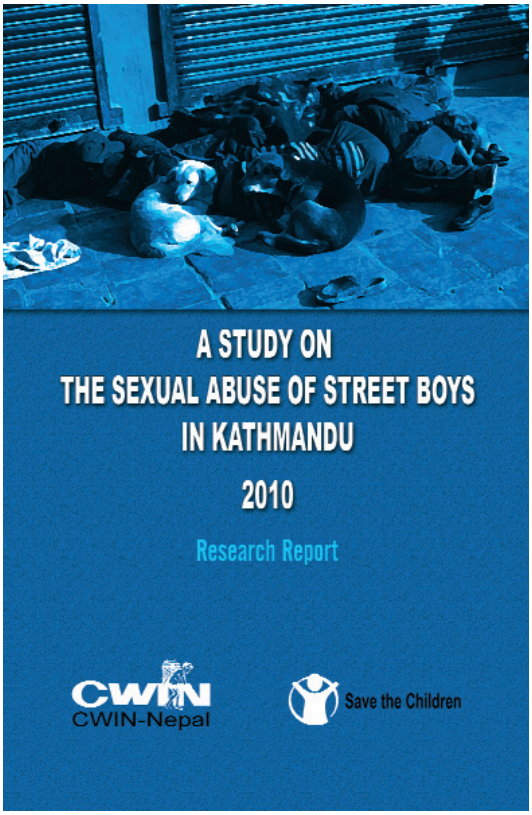
Participatory Research – Child Led and Action Responsive

Not long after inception, CWIN, seeking to learn more about the issues of street children, launched the first child participatory action research of its time.

After working in field with street children, the severity and extent of issues street children faced was elucidated and shocking. Harsh living conditions, drug use, and sexual abuse were among the most prevalent.

After initial consultations, it was obvious CWIN's programs of action would be informed by the street children themselves. The concept, Common Room, as a space to bring the children together, was a street-child led initiative. Common Room was successful because of the sense of ownership children felt over the space.

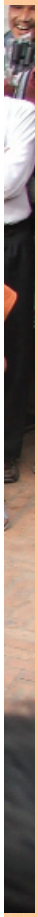
The program grew very quickly from a drop-in-centre to an empowerment program. Street children and youth became street mobilisers and facilitators, encouraging their friends to utilize the services



offered at the centre. CWIN, with the street children, continued to pioneer rights based and innovative approaches, by introducing Kitchen Club. As the name suggests, the street children came together at the Common Room to cook for themselves. Each child contributed Rs.5 that they earned from drawing gift cards, which CWIN then sold. Although it was a nominal amount, participants felt a sense of ownership and belonging to the Kitchen Club. By holding elections they organized themselves into teams of shoppers, cooks and cleaners, together creating an environment they could all contribute too.

By being active agents of change, there was a sense of dignity and purpose, both in the Common Room and Kitchen Club. The street kids wanted to be there. There was an understanding that the meal they were receiving was not charity, but something they had earned. Both initiatives fostered group mobilization and peer-to-peer involvement. The street children felt they could be taken seriously.

A Street Children Bank was the next development of the Common Room. From the money earned, again making cards and other small handicrafts, the youths



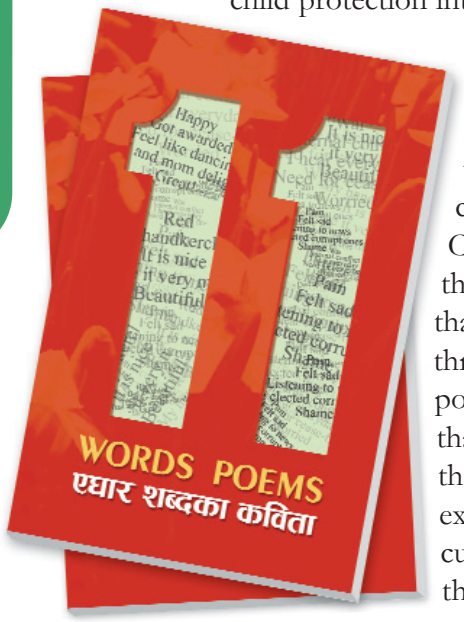
had the opportunity to deposit that money. Rather than spending the money, many were able to save hundreds of rupee, that they then used to support their own education or that of their siblings. CWIN facilitated workshops on basic financial education that helped the street children to understand the benefits of both saving and small investments. From the perspective of street children, this was an important learning, as it was imbued with notions of independence and respect.

A series of 'Workshops with Professionals' was another popular intervention. The street children had the opportunity to interact with bankers, celebrities, policy makers and the police to foster social harmony between different segments of society. As much as it was an opportunity for the street children to learn, it was equally beneficial for others to understand the experiences of street children and the sites of structural violence that perpetuate marginalization. The forum with the local police provided a sought after safe space for the street children to be able to canvas concerns to the police, and for the police to similarly make requests of them. CWIN aimed to transform the image of street children from that of a problem, to the reality of them being equal and deserving individuals.

Common Room, Kitchen Club and a Street Children Bank were unique because they were a direct response to the wants and needs of street children. They became active participants in a program for their empowerment, guiding CWIN's prescription for innovative intervention. CWIN went on to provide street children with an opportunity to gain self-esteem, capacity and skills in 45 days exclusive residential training to become active citizens of society. The graduates from this programme now work as social workers, peer educators and social entrepreneurs in various social fields. Today, CWIN acts as a mediator and advisor to the plethora of other organisations working with street children.

Innovative Interventions

As the pioneer national child rights organization in Nepal, CWIN is renowned for it's exploratory research, powerful campaigns and ensuing innovative child protection interventions. In research, advocacy and programs, CWIN seeks results by doing things differently. By daring to take risks, trial new approaches and respond specifically to the needs of the children, CWIN has been successful in fostering an environment of creativity, tolerance and innovation towards child protection interventions.



CWIN's innovation is born from the direct work it carries out with children. When working with children from different and often very difficult backgrounds, it is necessary to look beyond normative counseling techniques to help children understand and ultimately overcome their trauma. CWIN recognizes that every child has a potential. We believe that every child is expressive and has a diverse range of skills that can be drawn upon in the healing process. It is here, through the creative arts such as dance, music, street theatre, poetry, storytelling, painting, street art, sewing and photography that children are recognized as having a voice. Often greater than technical interventions, the arts enable children to be expressive in a secure environment. Through artistic and cultural programs, CWIN has been able to achieve great results that may otherwise not have been possible.

Innovative and artistic interventions are a catharsis both for the people who work with children and the children who have survived various traumatic experiences. It creates a space for shared learning, removing the barriers of a top down or adult led intervention. CWIN has also found success in engaging with children through sport and physical activity. Soccer, rock climbing, cycling, hiking, meditation and yoga have all been explored as a therapeutic experience and introduction to the counseling process.

Some examples of innovative interventions:

Stage Drama- performed by rag pickers along with the renowned Aarohan Group, the show depicted the lives of rag pickers in 1992. Each day the show was at capacity.

The Children's Mural on Cloth- 150 children from different working backgrounds, physically challenged children and school children took part in the mural by drawing paintings on theme of 'Say Yes for Children'.

Saha Srijana– FounderPresident of CWIN, Mr. Gauri Pradhan developed a concept on participatory creation to promote children's participation in literature. Renowned poets and writers worked together with children and created works of literature based on paintings made by children.This concept is now widely used among social workers in Nepal.

Child Rights Bus: CWIN ran child rights bus and collected 1 million thumbprints by reaching to 34 districts of Nepal to interact directly with children for their views to be presented to the Constituent Assembly for making child friendly new constitution of Nepal .

Peace is our Aspiration, Book– a creative response to children's experience during the civil war. Children expressed their feelings and experiences through writing and painting; they penned their reactions to losing family, their direct involvement in the conflict, atrocities they had witnessed, and also discussed their common aspirations for peace and for the future. Their poems, stories and paintings were collated and published in a book entitled *Peace is our Aspiration.*

Peace is our Aspiration I & II:Expression of Peace through Dance- CWIN coordinated a grand dance show with 70 children,including children in conflict from CWIN, mentally challenged children from AshaBalBikasSewa, physically challenged children from SOS Children'sVillage, Jorpati and youth from SIRC. The show was the outcome of dance therapy work carried out by Dance FacilitatorCharan Pradhan. The show received such an overwhelming response from the audience that the participating children performed an encore the following month. Media partners Kantipur Television and Nepal TV telecast the show live.

The Rainbow Project – The children of the CWIN Transit Centre participated in a collaborative music project with some of Nepal's renowned Eastern Music musicians. The group utilized waste materials to make percussion instruments similar to the tabla and performed at Patan Museum in 2005

Street Children Photography Project– Street children were issued disposable cameras so they could document their lives and have an input into how their story was portrayed in media and by organisations.

Dream. Create. Live - celebrating 25 years of CWIN, this creative showcase event was a platform for the children of CWIN's Balika Peace Home to express themselves through dance, theatre and performance. Renowned artist, Kiran Manandhar, created five canvas paintings during the show, reflecting on the movement on stage and the expression of child rights.

11 word poems - In collaboration with Dutch Artist Eva Kipp, CWIN Introduced an 11-word poem concept to enablechildren them to express their feelings, especially during the conflict period. CWIN introduced this concept to children, writers and teachers. Since then, 11-word poems have been used as an important tool for the participation of children.

Advocacy through action

Advocacy is the main thrust of CWIN's work. It organizes national policy advocacy, lobbying and campaigns, publishes advocacy materials, and organizes training and community actions for sensitization on child rights on different issues through public awareness, social mobilization and community conscientisation.

In 1990, soon after the democratic movement began, Nepal held its first elections for multi-party democracy. Considering that children account for more than half of the nations population, CWIN ran a campaign "Who Says Children Can't Vote?" The aim of the campaign was to encourage parties running for election to consider children in their manifestos – what was their plan for the future of Nepal, how will their proposed policies affect children, and to what extent did they facilitate child participation? In 1992, CWIN also played a part in preparing Nepal's draft Children's Act.

After extended lobbying, CWIN submitted recommendations for the inclusion of fundamental and child rights to the National

Constitution Formulation Committee. The campaign extended to door-to-door advocacy in communities, encouraging caregivers to raise issues of child protection with local leaders. Soon after, the inclusion of child rights was a policy consideration of all major political parties. In each election, local or national, to follow CWIN continues to carry out similar campaigns to ensure political parties and their manifestos clearly address child rights.

Guaranteeing children's right to association, in 1999, CWIN was instrumental in filing the first case in the Supreme Court based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Jagriti Children's Club in Nawalparasi, with the support of CWIN, filed a case against the District Administration Office and Home Ministry for denying the formal registration of the club. The Supreme Court issued a Show Cause Notice to the Ministry. This decision legalized children's right to association in Nepal in practice and was one of the first of its kind internationally. The case proved to be a concrete step towards implementing CRC in practice.

CWIN sits on the National Election Observation Committee, observing the electoral process through the lens of child protection. They report cases of

children who have been threatened or lured to caste a vote in someone else's name, while monitoring constituencies for outbreaks of violence. The most important sites of monitoring are, however, the rallies of political parties to observe child participation. During the Constituent Assembly elections of 2006, CWIN was the first organisation to produce a report on the misuse of children by political parties in political campaigns. They successfully lobbied the National Electoral Commission, which aired a public message about the illegal misuse of children in political campaigns.

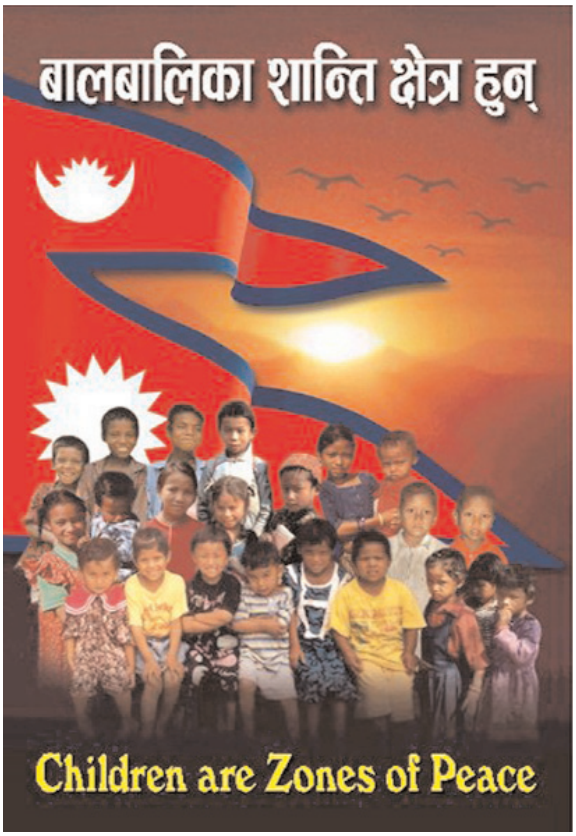
Since the 2008 transition period, CWIN has been continually lobbying for the inclusion of child rights and fundamental economic, social and cultural rights in the new constitution. Leading the national campaigns "Ensure Child Rights in the New Constitution of Nepal" and "Lets Build a New Nepal with Children", CWIN mobilized more than 470 different organisations across the country that went into 67 districts. The campaign directly met with 1 million children all over the country and collected their thumbprints and stories. A collection of children's voices, articulated through poetry, letters, drawings and thumbprints were presented to the then President of Nepal, the Prime Minister of Nepal and the Chairperson of the Constituent Assembly.

The CWIN led child rights bus ran through more than 40 districts. A team of musicians, theatre artists and social workers met with thousands of children and creatively engaged them on issues of child rights. Children, teachers and adults alike began thinking about the broader child rights movement and its importance in the new constitution. As it stands, the Interim Constitution of Nepal is the most progressive national policy document safeguarding child rights in Nepal.

Children as Zones of Peace

During Nepal's ten year civil conflict, CWIN was the leading and most active child rights organisation on the ground. They operated in the main hotbeds of conflict, actively voicing against the use of children in war and defending the rights of those children inversely affected. Conceptualised by CWIN, the Children as Zones of Peace Campaign was the most successful and internationally recognized conflict related child rights program. Supported by INGOs, the UN and local and national civil society organisations, the campaign was focused in the most conflict-affected districts of Rolpa, Rukum and Salyan. Schools as Zones of Peace Campaign followed.

The aim of both campaigns was to work directly with conflict-affected children, providing humanitarian assistance such the rebuilding of schools and providing psychosocial support. Education support was given to more than 3000 children in conflict zones and Shanti Griha (Peace Home), a rehabilitation centre for child



survivors of armed conflict, was established. CWIN also distributed a handbook for peace workers, providing information on working with children in armed conflict. They worked with child rights forums in 21 districts to promote peace for children.

Teachers and communities also received training and resources to assist them in protecting children in conflict. Direct support was administered to children whose parents had been injured, disappeared or killed in conflict, children who had been injured, and former child soldiers or those involved with rebel groups. CWIN became the voice of children in the National Taskforce, which formulated a National Plan of Action for Children Affected by Armed Conflict.

In the post-conflict period, CWIN, understanding that the realization of rights can only be sustained in a peaceful environment, has continued programs of peace building and conflict transformation. They have programs for social reintegration of children in conflict, including those in the armed forces and groups and those who were discharged as verified minors. They continue to support education initiatives and access to better livelihoods for conflict-affected families. Moreover, psychosocial support continues to be administered. To achieve this end CWIN works closely with young people engaging with them as master trainers in conflict transformation.

The Value of Volunteerism

The spirit of volunteerism is a fundamental value of CWIN, a value that the organization still holds in high regard. Starting out as a small group of dedicated and uncompensated student activists, CWIN is built on sustained engagement with and support from volunteers who want to contribute to child protection in Nepal. One attribution that unites all the volunteers of CWIN is a passion to contribute meaningfully to the lives of children at risk.

Over the years, volunteers at CWIN have predominantly included both young Nepali and international students who work with CWIN in the capacity of social workers and research interns. From a range of personal and academic backgrounds, the perspectives and enthusiasm the volunteers bring ensures that CWIN remains creative, open minded and responsive to a broad range of child's right issues. Remaining true to their motto, 'With children, for children', CWIN offers a real platform for young students to learn from, as well as significantly contribute to the organization. CWIN recognizes individual's unique contributions and

values their achievements, no matter how big or small. In this way, the relationship with volunteers is mutually beneficial as it enables individuals the space to canvas their ideas, ideas that contribute to the growth of CWIN.

Other volunteers include Nepali professionals, again from a diverse range of disciplines. They contribute to CWIN's work in the legal sector, psychology and counseling, social work, social marketing and entrepreneurship, human rights, and the arts. For the past five years, CWIN has also received volunteers as a part of the Australian Youth Ambassador for Development program.

To mobilize the energy and passion of all these individuals, CWIN coordinates volunteers

through the "Friends of CWIN" program. This public participatory program aims to gather support, solidarity and promote participation among individuals, groups and organizations towards CWIN's child rights movement. At any one time, CWIN has at least 50 different volunteers working in different capacities, both at the Head Office and in CWIN's working districts. Undeniably, the work CWIN achieves through the Friends of CWIN program saves the organisation a lot of time, money and resources. SumnimaTuladhar, CWIN's Executive Coordinator, explains how the important contribution of volunteers means that CWIN can spend money on direct work with children.

By listening to, engaging with and receiving motivated individuals and organizations, CWIN has formed longstanding friendships and partnerships that unequivocally contribute to the success of the organization. Moreover, CWIN has been fortunate enough to receive input from recognized individuals in their respective fields. Many of these relationships with established Nepali professionals have been long standing, promoting growth and dynamism in CWIN projects.

Another important pillar of volunteerism is CWIN's work with children. The children CWIN works with, in effect, become the most important contributors to the organization. Engaging with so many children on a broad spectrum of topics, skills, knowledge and mindset, their impart remains CWIN's number one motivator. Each child functions in their own unique way, they all have potential and a sense of agency and dignity that must be respected. By working closely with children, CWIN aims to explore this potential and bring out the best in all children.

Networks and Partnerships

One of CWIN's modalities is to work together with likeminded networks and movements. As mentioned above, the women's movement and trade unions provided indispensible support to introduce and uplift the child rights movement. Individuals, both inside and outside of Nepal, provided guidance and encouragement during challenging periods.

For CWIN, the key to successful partnerships has been a clear understanding among participating organisations of the expectations, duties and outcomes each must contribute. There should be equality in decision making among those who provide the resources and those who implement projects. CWIN is fortunate to have stable and successful partnerships with many international organisations. Along with the children, they are the backbone of the child rights movement in Nepal, entrusting CWIN with the space, resources and support to operate.

As the pioneer child rights organisation in Nepal, CWIN leads and is a member of numerous national, regional and international child rights networks. It is a testament to the child rights movement in Nepal that CWIN is recognized in an international arena and manages projects that are global in outlook.

PARTNERSHIPS

- Save the Children (1988)
- Plan Nepal (1993)
- Quinoa-Belgium (1993)

- FORUT-Norway (1994)
- GRT Italy (1998)
- Salaai-Belgium (1999)
- Chance for Children-UK (2007)
- SeljordFolkehaagskule (2009)
- Responding to Conflict- UK, (2009)
- Child Helpline International (2009)
- European Commission (2010)
- Rockwool Foundation- Denmark (2010)
- International Child Development Initiative (2011)
- Shaplaneer, Intervita-Italy (2011)

NETWORKS

National:

- NGO Federation of Nepal
- Alliance Against Trafficking in Women and Children in Nepal (AATWIN)
- National Coalition for Children as Zones of Peace and Child Protection (CZOPP)

- Nepal Alcohol Policy Alliance (NAPA),
- Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (National Network)
- Working Group on Children Associated With Armed Force and Armed Group (CAAFAG)
- Consortium of Organisations Working for Child Participation
- National Campaign for Education
- Human Rights Treaty MonitoringCoordination Committee (HRTMCC)
- Human Rights Alliance Nepal
- Shanti Malika
- National NGOs Network Group Against AIDS Nepal (NANGAN)
- Women Security Pressure Group
- Tobacco Pressure Group
- Girls Not Brides
- Childcare Homes Network Nepal (CNET-Nepal),
- National Alliance of Organisations Working for Street Children (NAOSC-Nepal),

Regional:

- South AsianAlliance against ChildServitude (SAACS)
- Child Workers in Asia(CWA)
- Asia South PacificAssociation for Basic and Adult Education (ASPBAE)
- South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC)
- South Asia Association of Child Helplines (SAACH)

International:

- Global March
- End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes (ECPAT International)
- Child Helpline International
- Aflatoun- Child Social and Financial Education
- Global Campaign on Education
- Girls not Brides

A Sustainable Future

The Transformation of Causes

Sustaining issues rather than projects is one of the definitive approaches CWIN prides itself on. In a development era of predominantly one-time donor funded projects, CWIN strives for continuity in the causes they fight for and the issues they raise. Rather than leaving issues unresolved at the end of a project, CWIN continues to work until they are assured of results. What is even more paramount is that those results have made a difference to the lives of children and youth at risk.

The transformation of the child rights movement in Nepal is itself a testament to the sustainability and future of CWIN. In 1987, the language of child rights did not exist in Nepal. Today child rights are a main political agenda and issues of child protection a consideration in both the private and public sector. Previously child participation was not a serious policy consideration. Nowadays children and youth are recognized as change agents. Street children were thought to be troublemakers and thieves, today there is greater understanding about sites of structural violence

that compel young children to a life on the street. Children all around the country have a space in society.

One of CWIN's greatest achievements has been the transformation of its working relationship with authorities. Despite early opposition, the emerging democratic period and increase in social movements created a space for CWIN to work in partnership with the government. Today, state mechanisms and bodies, particularly the Central and District Child Welfare Boards, respond to issues of child protection. The CWIN initiated Child Helpline is now a state run body, exemplifying how practice and policy is integrated into national institutions. However, as much as the state is a key ally in sustaining Nepal's child right movement, CWIN remains one of the loudest critics whenever a violation of child rights occurs by the state.

Exploring New Issues

Concurrent to safeguarding continuity among causes, ensuring a sustainable future also requires exploratory research into emerging fields of child protection. Previous CWIN research has exemplified how these trends are identified by direct interaction with rights holders, the children. During interviews, focus group discussions, questionnaires or trainings, if children raise an issue CWIN as a matter of policy make an effort to follow it up. More often than not research reports make important recommendations, but seldom have mechanisms in place to follow up. Valuing the insight of the children they work with, CWIN makes a point to respond to emerging issues as they are raised.

In 2008 CWIN conducted research, *Internet Behaviour of Nepali Children*. More than 67% of child

encountered abusive language on the Internet, 5.4% of children admitted to exposing themselves through a webcam, and 18.9% of respondents admitted viewing sexually explicit material on a regular basis. As access to the Internet was still in its infancy in Nepal, other stakeholders denied that this was a serious issue of child protection. However, based on the overwhelming responses from young participants, the issue of exposure to sexual content on the Internet was too big to ignore. CWIN launched an intervention of online child safety at cyber cafes in Kathmandu and schools in the district.

This is but one example of CWIN responding immediately to child protection concerns raised by youth. As an organization, if one follows the convictions of children, addressing their needs in real time, society may not be ready to accept the issue at hand. Moreover, resources may not be available. However, it is CWIN's conviction that children cannot wait, thus programs are launched as soon as issues are raised.

Social Sustainability

Sustainability can never be achieved through time-bound projects. CWIN has brought about change to the lives of thousands of children by challenging the stigma attached to vulnerable children by giving them a voice and enhancing their empowerment. CWIN has brought the children of Nepal to a point to where they are considered valuable citizens of society.

Sustainability is a long-term vision to raise issues of child protection and ensure they remain on the agenda; it is a vision to determine and witness change with and within children; and it is a commitment to the transformation of child rights issues in the public sphere.

In the truest sense of sustainability, CWIN is integrating issues of the Green Economy into research and programmes of action. CWIN have appointed an Environmental Officer to ensure the organisation's growth is environmentally and socially sustainable. CWIN have adopted an environmental policy and is pursuing a new environmental entrepreneur venture, Banners to Bags.

Banners to Bags aims to reduce Kathmandu's reliance on plastic bags by providing alternative bags made from one-time use and discarded flex banners. Young women of the CWIN Self-Reliance Centre have received skilled-based training in sewing and now make the recycled products as a source of income.

In the coming years, CWIN will merge the narratives of child rights with that of the environment, focusing on climate change, recycling, organic living and green entrepreneurship.

The Way Forward

CWIN is committed to taking forward the child rights movement through greater prescriptions of empowerment and guaranteeing children's participation. Through its advocacy work it will continue to influence mainstream development programmes to be inclusive of children, to foster democracy with children. It will continue to influence political parties, government, policy makers and other concerned stakeholders to act upon their promises to ensure rights of every child in the country.

CWIN will upgrade its information and research network,working to bring nationwide conceptual clarity on different issues affecting children.In addition to strengthening institutional capacity, CWIN will collaborate with the private sector to make children's issues more grounded.

CWIN will continue to fight against child abuse and exploitation to ensure the rights of children at risk. CWIN will also continue its efforts in peace building through advocacy on children in armed conflict and the nationwide 'Children as Zones of Peace' campaign. It will work towards social reintegration and self-reliance of children in conflict.

CWIN will carry forward the child rights movement with these strategic objectives:

- To improve access and quality of services for all children by strengthening structures and mechanism for child protection
- To promote the participation of children, young people and communities in conflict transformation by strengthening their capacities

- To enrich understanding of children's issues and their rights through research and generation of appropriate information and evidence
- To increase the influence of children in development and monitoring of local and national policies and plans by strengthening their capacities and creating forum for children's participation
- To promote inclusion of children's rights within broader social movements and development processes in the country through strengthened networking and expressions of solidarity
- To encourage commitment towards children's rights among duty bearers, communities and state through mass awareness generation

CWIN has led the child rights movement in Nepal for the last 25 years. As the pioneer child rights organisation in Nepal, CWIN has played a vital role in transformation of child rights issue from a non-issue to a national social and political agenda today.

Growing from a team of five motivated student activists, to an internationally recognized organisation of more than 140 staff based in ten districts of Nepal and reaching out directly to 40 districts, CWIN is a leading child rights organisation in Nepal.

CWIN's success can be attributed to its direct engagement with children and young people. A tenant of rights based approaches, CWIN's sustained participation with youth has directly contributed to their empowerment. Today, children and youth are advisors to the CWIN board, meeting on a quarterly basis to provide their inputs. Likewise, children are consulted by various government and non-governmental sectors to participate in consultations on child rights, their rights.

CWIN's approach to child rights recognizes children as equal citizens of the state. Building on their experience and expertise, CWIN aims to facilitate dialogue in society, academic discourse and in policy on the importance of children's views and their protection. True to their original vision, CWIN strives to empower children and youth by providing them the platform to be direct partners in strengthening the child movement in Nepal.

CWIN has built 25 years of trust with the right holders, the children, and communities it works with. This has provided the organisation unprecedented access to and respect from grassroots organisations to government administrations. By drawing on these networks and good faith, CWIN seeks to mobilise social institutions and build the capacity of state mechanisms to increase its outreach to children in need.

For sustaining child rights movement in Nepal, CWIN will keep working with its like-minded partners, the networks it belongs to and more importantly the children and their organisations with more vigor and innovative approaches.

Memorable Milestones

1987 CWIN

CWIN was established and the national child rights movement initiated by a small collection of student activists led by Mr. Gauri Pradhan, who believed children had equal rights and the right to lead a dignified life. It began pioneer research, surveys and studies on the issues of child labour and street children. Voice of Child Workers, the first magazine in Nepal dedicated to the rights of child and the issue of child labour, was started.

1988 CWIN

CWIN translated the draft of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into Nepali. It was published in coordination with the UN.

CWIN organised the First South Asian Seminar-Workshop on Working Children.

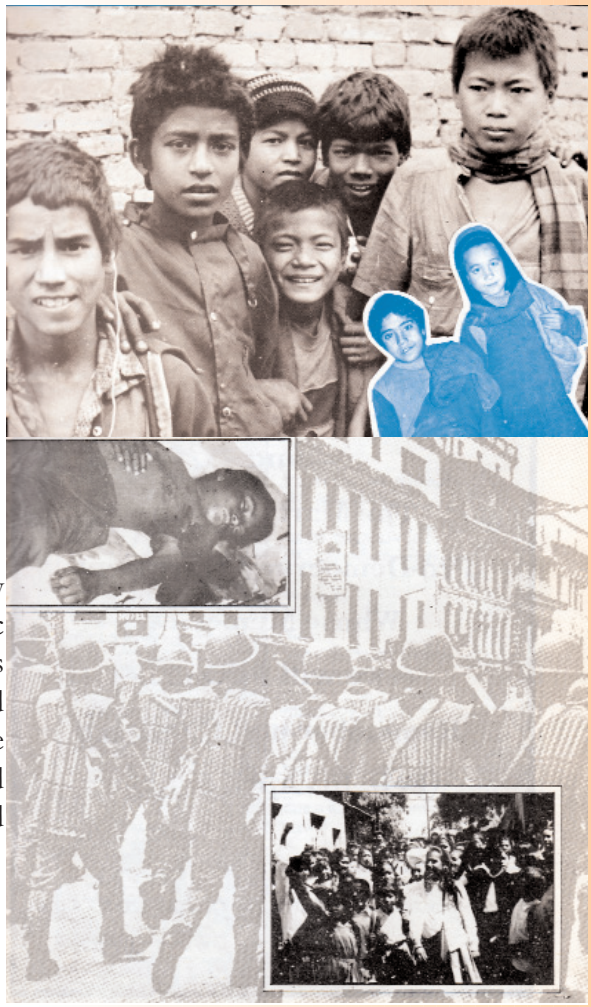
In the same year, with the cooperation of Redd Barna-South Asia, CWIN conducted field research in Calcutta, researching young women and children who were trafficked into India from Nepal. This was the first research carried out on cross border trafficking.

1989 CWIN

Two years after its inception, CWIN opened the first National Resource Centre on Child Rights. Documenting a plethora of issues such as child rights, child labour, trafficking, human rights, women's rights, the environment, anthropology, and sociology, the Centre remains the only child rights resource centre in the country.

1990 CWIN

Actively participating in the prodemocracy movement, CWIN organized a series of public opinion programs to incorporate the basic needs and rights of children into the newly framed constitution. It led a delegation to the Constitution Recommendation Commission and submitted a 10-point programme to safeguard children's rights in the proposed constitution.

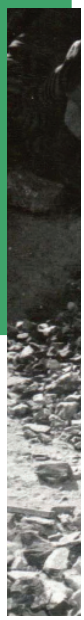


1991 CWIN

Prior to the upcoming elections, CWIN initiated a National Election Campaign for Child Rights and appealed to all political parties to make a commitment to work for the rights of the children. A national level Voters Awareness Programme was organised to bring the issues of children into the political agenda. A 10-point programme on the rights of the child was also advocated throughout the country.

CWIN published the first research-based book on the trafficking of girls in Nepal and started Bal Sarokar, a bi-monthly Nepali newsletter. The completion of the detailed research study on children working in Nepal's tea estates culminated in a report, which was published and which disclosed the actual situation of child workers as well as children whose parents worked in the tea estates.

To create public awareness about the plight of street children and child workers and to motivate the public to fight against all forms of child exploitation CWIN organised a national photo exhibition titled *Childhood Denied.*



1992 CWIN

The first national art exhibition on children at risk was held. CWIN ran a public competition of photographs and paintings depicting issues of child protection. The programme was a huge success with artists and photographers participating from all over the country. The exhibitions were held in public places in five districts of Nepal, generate greater understand among the 100,000+ attendees of the child rights movement.

This year CWIN conducted health camps and education support for children in need and started Carpet Campaign by initiating a research on situation of child workers in carpet factories.

1993 CWIN

CWIN played a significant role in the establishment of the Children at Risk Net-Working Group (CAR-NWG), an alliance of NGO's working for the children living in the most difficult circumstances. CWIN also actively participated in the formation of the Women Defend Pressure Group and helped prepare the Sankalpa Prastab (memorandum) against rape, trafficking of girls and child marriage in the House of Representatives.

Continuing its work with child labourers, CWIN organised a national campaign along with an advocacy programme on the rights of child working in carpet factories. CWIN organized a three-day workshop and released a pioneer research report, The Situation and Problem of Child Labourers in the Carpet Factories in Nepal, based on primary sources. A documentary, Misery Behind the Looms, was screened during the National Exhibition on the Rights of Carpet Children and in a number of subsequent programmes.

This year street children from Common Room collaborated with a popular theatre group-Arohan and performed stage drama on the plight of street children. The show ran full house for a whole week.

1994 CWIN

CWIN initiated three main programs that still exist today - the CWIN Children's Home, a transit centre for children at risk in partnership with Plan Nepal; CWIN Balika, a programme for girls at risk; and the CWIN Social Marketing Programme as a fund raising initiative in partnership with FORUT Norway.

CWIN was, more over, one of the first organisations to start a family and social integration programme with alternative care of children.

After seven years CWIN was starting to receive international recognition. Anti-Slavery International, in co-operation with the NGO Group on the CRC, launched its new book, Child Labour in Nepal, in Geneva. The book described many issues involving child labour including how urban migration in Nepal led to an increased exploitation of child labour. It was jointly published with CWIN as it drew on research conducted by CWIN.

1995 CWIN

CWIN was one of six organizations to start a Human Rights Education Programme on national radio; every three months, the programme was coordinated by one of the six organizations (CVICT, CWIN, FOPHUR, HURON, INSEC and INHURED).

The 'South Asian March against Child Slavery' was successfully organised in Kathmandu.

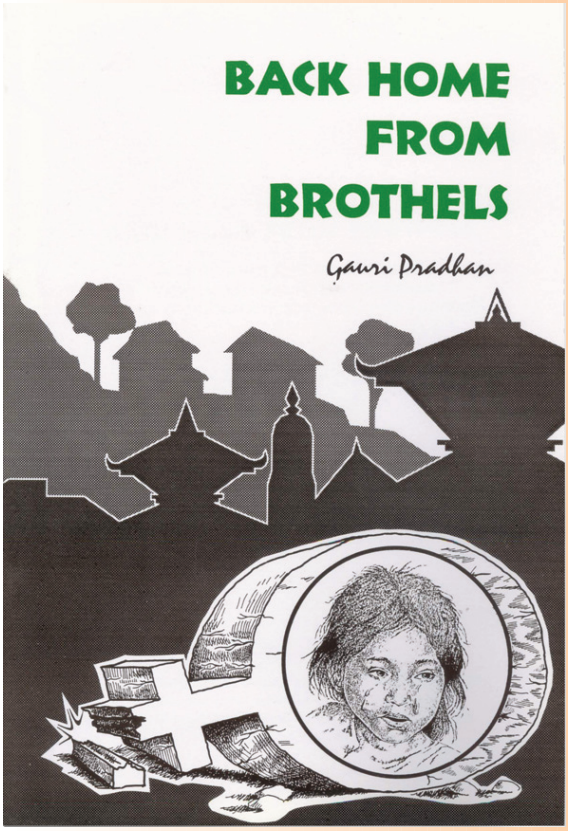
With the support of FORUT Norway, CWIN started Self Relaince centre for young people above the age of 14 years for skill development, vocational training, alternative employment and self relaince. This programme responds to hundreds of young people's aspiration for dignified future.

1996 CWIN

This year CWIN concentrated on the issue of trafficking. CWIN participated in a joint taskforce with seven other organisations to repatriate 130 Nepali girls who were rescued from brothels in Bombay, India. CWIN BALIKA took responsibility for the socialization and social reintegration of 28 girls under the age of 18. A documentation of the repatriation of survivors of trafficking entitled Back Home from Brothels was published.

CWIN was granted the Tulshi Mehar Award from the Social Welfare Council in recognition of active involvement in child welfare and rehabilitation.

CWIN was nominated for the National Steering Committee on the Elimination of Child Labour and also for the National High Level Task Force on the Child Development.



1997 CWIN

On the occasion of its 10th anniversary, CWIN organised a national symposium on the roles of different stakeholders and their commitment towards children. Leaders from two major political parties of Nepal, Honourable Manmohan Adhikary from UML and Honourable Girija Prasad Koirala from the Nepali Congress, joined the symposium as guest speakers.

The emphasis placed on the importance of child participation led CWIN to organize a children's meeting, which led to the creation of a Child Rights Forums in schools in rural and urban areas, to raise awareness at a local level.

The Kathmandu Post

Friday, November 21, 1997

ON THE HORNS OF DILEMMA - Former prime ministers Girija Prasad Koirala and Man Mohan Adhikari are trapped in a dilemma as to who is to open the colloquium after both of them were invited to inaugurate the event organized by CWIN in the capital on Thursday.
Post Photo/Chandra Shekhar Karki

1998 CWIN

CWIN became a member of the 'Global March Against Child Labour' and coordinated a nationwide campaign. CWIN formed a joint National Organising Committee consisting of representatives from 20 different NGOs and government agencies and fulfilled its role as a national coordinator

CWIN established the first Child Helpline and Hotline telephone services and provided emergency rescue, emergency support and social reintegration.

On the occasion of the International Child Rights Day and CWIN's 12th anniversary, CWIN launched the first helpline system for children at risk in Nepal, called CWIN Helpline 271000 to help protect children at risk through emergency relief and counseling services.

Over the year, CWIN introduced some innovative and action based programs to continue its efforts; it established CWIN Center, a student Hostel for children at risk and CWIN Local Action, a knowledge-based programme against alcohol and drug use.

1999 CWIN

As a part of the broader human rights movement in Nepal, CWIN actively participated in fact-finding missions, investigating several incidents of human rights violations during the Janayuddha (People's War). It also played a part in lobbying for the formation of the announced Human Rights Commission and formation of the Alliance for Human Rights and Social Justice (ALLIANCE).

CWIN's advocacy programme focused on the adoption of the ILO Convention on the Elimination of Worst Forms of Child Labour, which led to lobbying for the adoption of Child Labour Bill in parliament, and focused discussions on the role of education in reducing child labour. CWIN took a strong stance against pedophiles, assisting Nepal Police arrest a pedophile during a coordinated raid.

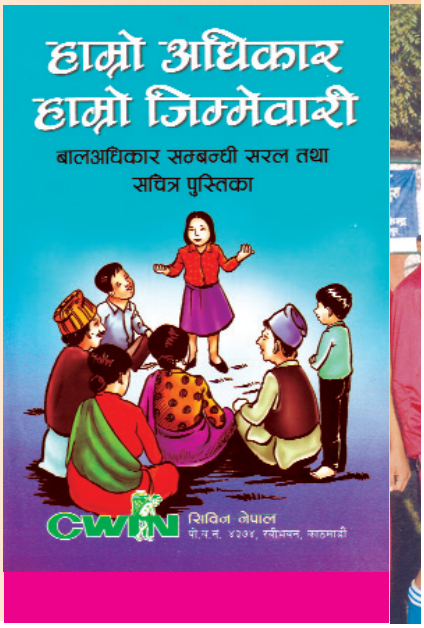
CWIN was instrumental in filing the first case in the Supreme Court based on the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Jagriti Children's Club in Nawalparasi, with the support of CWIN, filed a case against the District Administration Office and Home Ministry for denying the formal registration of the club. The Supreme Court gave Show Cause Notice to the Ministry. This decision legalized children's right to association in Nepal in practice and was one of the first of its kind internationally. Thus this case proved to be a concrete step towards implementing the CRC in practice.

2000 CWIN

At the turn of the century, UNICEF recognised CWIN among 52 organisations in the world working in the best interests of children. This was published in "The State of the World's Children" report.

On the occasion of 11th International Child Rights Day, CWIN and the Central Child Welfare Board jointly organised a review workshop -- Decade of Ratification of UN CRC: Implementation and Achievements of Our Commitment, where a report on the issue was presented. CWIN also released a 'small book' to popularise the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child which has been cited as the smallest book in Nepal.

To promote child participation, a National Workshop on Young People's Participation Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation was organised. CWIN also published a booklet entitled Our Rights, Our Responsibilities and a briefing kit on the role of District Child Welfare Boards.



An emphasis was placed on CWIN's campaign to end child labour through meaningful education. Various trainings, orientations and workshops were conducted on this theme, as well as a street drama which was performed in schools and public places. Under the community support programme, CWIN worked with volunteer groups and communities in construction of school buildings in Kalleri village of Dhading district and Kolma village of Syangja district.

2001 CWIN

CWIN initiated a campaign for child tempo conductors in cooperation with trade unions, entrepreneurs, concerned governmental bodies and the traffic police.

Two youth representatives from CWIN attended the 2nd World Congress Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children held in Yokohama, Japan.

CWIN conducted a massive campaign against exploitation of domestic child labour. Consequently, a memorandum was presented to the National Human Rights Commission requesting the introduction of a code of conduct for civil servants. An email and letter campaign was launched to appeal to NGO's and INGO's working on children's issues to also introduce a code of conduct for their staff to move towards putting an end to child labour exploitation. Former domestic child labourers submitted an appeal to the Minister of Women, Children and Social Welfare urging the state to put an end to exploitation of children. CWIN joined hands with the ILO's Kathmandu Office to generate public awareness on the worst forms of Child Labour by setting up 100 hoarding boards in 15 districts of Nepal.

A Street Children's Friendly Football Match was set up among children living on the streets. Habitat International Coalition (HIC) and CWIN jointly organised a Regional Workshop on Children's Housing Rights in Kathmandu.

CWIN and the Central Child Welfare Board jointly organised a national workshop on the role of childcare centres in protecting child rights, which concluded with the formation of a national network of childcare homes called Children's Home Net. CWIN also released a book on the management of childcare homes in order to ensure the protection of children's rights.

To commemorate the 34th National Children's Day, a unique event, the Children's Mural on Cloth was organised. The theme was 'Say Yes for Children' and 150 children from different working backgrounds, physically challenged children and school children took part in the mural by drawing paintings on 10 themes of the campaign.

CWIN, in collaboration with the ILO's Kathmandu office, organised a national consultative workshop with children to review the National Plans of Action Against Trafficking in Children.

CWIN's Local Action Programme with FORUT Norway released a research report Alcohol and Drug Use in Nepal: With Reference to Children. It also carried out action research on child sex abuse in Nepal with children's perspectives for the first time.

This year, CWIN actively involved itself in lobbying for the paper concerning children in 10th five-year plan to have a rights-based approach.

As a member of the human rights community, CWIN was actively involved in defending human rights in the country and advocating the importance of protecting children. It was involved in the peace talks, which aimed to find solutions for the armed conflict, through the human rights alliances such as the Peoples Committee for Peace-Dialogue (Janastariya Santi-Barta Samiti).

2002 CWIN

2002 was the 15th anniversary of CWIN and a musical album was produced to promote children's issues through popular songs. CWIN participated in 'Peace for Children', a national campaign with Bal Chetna Samuha and Milijuli Nepal, and collected 100 000 signatures of children and submitted them to the Prime Minister with an appeal to restore peace for children.

To continue its efforts to strengthen child rights issues, CWIN initiated and facilitated: Street-Net; a network of NGO's working with street children and Community-Net; a network of

community organizations and community police. This year, CWIN also published Children's Forum in children's literary magazines, Muna and Sunkeshra. CWIN organized a meeting with representatives of political parties to influence their commitment to children in their election manifesto. A report on alcohol and drug use among street children in Nepal was published and research was carried out on glue sniffing among street children in Nepal. To address the burning issue of children in conflict, CWIN published a book, Effect of Armed Conflict on Children in Nepali, which was written by Mr. Gauri Pradhan.

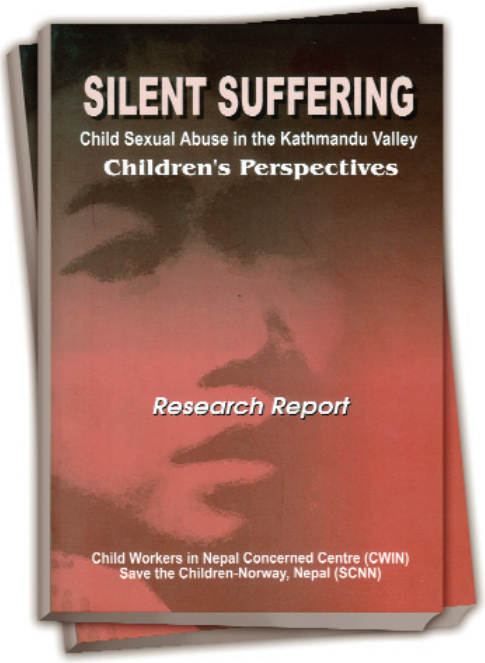
For the promotion of children's right to participate, CWIN facilitated the formation of 255 Child Rights Forums in 23 districts, which provided a platform for 37 400 children to participate. Dalit Jagaran Manch and CWIN jointly organized a national meeting on the rights of dalit children, followed by a campaign against the social discrimination of children. In collaboration with AHURA Bhutan, Lumanti and HIC, CWIN organized a children's workshop on housing rights and children; the children's declaration from the workshop was presented in the UNGASS by a female Bhutanese refugee.

2003 CWIN

CWIN expanded the Child as Zones of Peace Campaign.

The Common Room intervention with street children evolves into a residential empowerment programme, Hamro Sajha Thalo (Our Common Space).

Exploring new issues, CWIN organises a national workshop Alcohol Use and Nepali Society: Reflection on children. Theypublish a directory of organisations working on the issue. They similarly conduct research on glue sniffing among street children and, as a result, develops a campaign against glue sniffing



The number of Child Rights Forums increased to 270 in 30 districts with involvement of more than 50,000 child members.

On the occasion of its 16th anniversary, CWIN felicitated its staff and volunteers who had been working for CWIN for more than ten years as well as media persons who had contributed to the child rights movement in Nepal. A blood donation program was also organised and adolescent girls from CWIN BALIKA arranged a discussion programme on the role of adolescent girls to combat violence against girls.

2004 CWIN

2004 was an inspiring year for CWIN; President Mr. Gauri Pradhan was appointed the Chairperson of the Central Child Welfare Board (CCWB) - the first appointment of a member of civil society instead of a minister. Under the convenorship of Mr. Pradhan, CCWB formulated National Plans of Action for children for the first time in Nepal. CWIN played an important role to ensure participation of children from all five development regions in the process of this policy making.

The 'Children Are Zones of Peace (CAZOP)' campaign was extended to 32 districts. Hundreds of social workers and peace workers, from different parts of the country, were trained on the issue of children in conflict. CWIN extended humanitarian assistance to children affected by armed conflict in remote districts such as Mugu and Bhojpur. A Peace Hostel for Boys,

partnership with Plan-Nepal and ICRC, was started in Kathmandu for children associated with armed groups and armed forces.

CWIN conducted a campaign, 'Exploitation to Education', with CIRCLE projects in 10 districts of Nepal to promote education for working children and brought various advocacy materials to support this campaign. Research called 'No More Suffering: Child Sexual Abuse in Nepal', with reference to four districts was carried out with UNICEF-Nepal. And, in cooperation with FORUT Norway, CWIN Local Action completed research on the impact of an anti-alcohol campaign in Rolpa, Rukum and Salyan.

A CWIN representative presented an alternative report to the UN CRC Committee in Geneva, which raised issues like the abuse and exploitation of children, and the situation of children trapped in armed conflict.

The CWIN Website (www.cwin.org.np) was voted among the 50 best websites of Nepal for two consecutive years by Nepalnet.com.

2005 CWIN

CWIN, as a member and convener of the Global Campaign for Education, led Nepal's Global Action Week, carrying out a school enrolment campaigns in 58 districts.

In the international arena, representatives from CWIN-Nepal submitted an alternative report to the UN Child Rights Committee in Geneva.

CWIN Alcohol, Drug and Development (ADD) completed a study called, Anti-Alcohol Campaign and its Impact on Children and Impact of Alcohol and Tobacco Advertisements on Children and launched it amidst a national meeting with celebrities and media in Kathmandu. The CWIN Street Theatre Group, a young people's theatre group, organised street performances in various districts to raise awareness and advocate the importance of education to

reduce child labour and the harm in using tobacco, alcohol and drugs.

CWIN published a book on child protection in Nepal and an advocacy book on child labour and Education in Nepal entitled Balsharam Ra Sikchha. CWIN made interventions for the prevention and control of child labour exploitation through its campaign programme, Exploitation to Education under the CWIN-CIRCLE project. CWIN has extended its support to strengthen the National Forum of Working Children. In May 2005 CWIN actively participated in the eastern regional level Convergence of Working Children and in the South Asian Convergence of the working Children held in Kathmandu in August 2005.

Realising the role of religion in the protection and development of children, CWIN organised an interaction programme with religious leaders, scholars and child rights activists to reinforce role of religion in children's' development. CWIN organised a 3rd winter camp for street children with the aim of protecting them form the cold of the winter season and enhancing their socialisation and empowerment in addition to trying to reunite the children with their families.

CWIN this year also organised an awareness programmes on child sexual abuse for children and community members in different districts -- as a result, peer pressure groups were formed within schools in districts to fight against child sex abuse.

2006 CWIN

After the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Accord between the two warring parties, CWIN staff also joined the human rights observers' team to monitor human rights violations during the people's movement. A network was formed to safeguard children's rights during the uprising and CWIN provided shelters to some of the injured children and extended further support to other survivors.

The 'Children are Zones of Peace' campaign was strengthened nationwide through the community, media, children's mobilisation, trainings and advocacy.

In partnership with European Union European Commission Humanitarian Aid (EU ECHO), CWIN established a helpline in Nepalgunj and extended humanitarian assistance to children in conflict in

five districts of mid-west Nepal.

Likewise, CWIN organised a National Working Girls' Forum where working girls from 15 districts gathered to discuss their issues and submitted memorandum to concerned authorities for improving situation of working girls in Nepal.

On the occasion of its 19th Anniversary, CWIN organised a national interaction programme on Role of Stakeholders in Protecting Children. Its partners, Save the Children Norway-Nepal (SCNN), Plan Nepal GRT-Italy and FORUT- Norway (Solidarity for Development) were honoured for their support and solidarity for a more than a decade. Singer and Musician Mr. Ramesh was also honoured for pioneering children's songs in Nepal.

2007 CWIN

2007 marked 20 years of CWIN. After the end of the 12-year-old armed conflict, CWIN focused on peace and children. It organised public hearings and consultations with national stakeholders on the subject of 'Children as Zones of Peace in a Changed Context', distributing a concept paper.

The Child Helpline (toll free number- 1098) was regulated under the Nepal Government and with cooperation of other NGOs.

CWIN began a fortnightly radio programme entitled 'Bal Chautari' on Radio Sagarmatha FM.

2007 marks 20 years of CWIN. After the end of the 12-year-old armed conflict, CWIN focused on peace and children. It organised public hearings and consultations with national stakeholders on the subject of 'Children as Zones of Peace in a Changed Context'. It also revised the concept of 'Children as Zones of

Peace in Changed Context' and distributed the concept paper nationwide. For its 20th anniversary, CWIN organised a national symposium entitled 'Lets begin a New Nepal with Children' to give due importance to children's voices regarding the issues affecting them in the Constituent Assembly. CWIN's Peace Home and the Boys Peace Hostel worked towards family reunions for many of the children who were involved in the conflict. It continued its activities on promoting quality education for children in conflict-affected areas. CWIN also addressed the issue of social reintegration of the Children Associated with Armed Forces/Groups (CAAFAG).

This year, CWIN's President Mr. Gauri Pradhan was nominated as a member of the advisory committee from Asia to the UN Study on Violence.

2008 CWIN

As the Constituent Assembly was developing the new constitution, CWIN facilitated consultations on child-friendly elements to be included. One consultation included children representing all 75 districts of Nepal. They published a 20-point recommendation to concerned stakeholders on children and the constitution. Children prepared a memorandum and presented it to the President of Nepal and the political parties, appealing for recognition of their rights in the new constitution.

Together with FORUT Norway and RDTA-TUKI, CWIN initiated a peace divident programme in 6 northern VDCs of Dolakha by engaging in empowerment and livelihood support of women and children.

CWIN also started a new campaign called 'Protecting Children Online' with Save the Children by carrying out a research on the Internet Behaviour of Nepali Children.

2009 CWIN

Marking two decades of the UNCRC, CWIN published a national report on the status of implementation of the UN UNCRC with reference to Nepal.

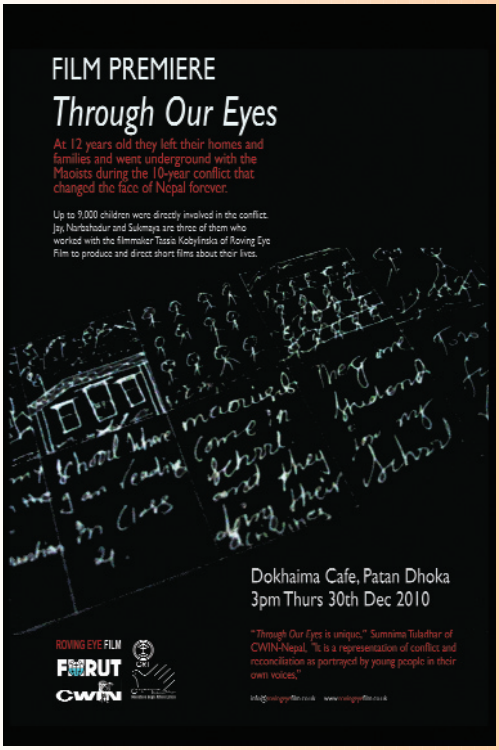
CWIN, in collaboration with SOS Children's Village, SlRC and Asha Balbalbikas, held a dance therapy performance 'Peace is our Aspiration'. Physically and mentally challenged, in addition to conflict affected youth and children, created a spectacular dance show expressing their aspiration for peace.

CWIN conducted a massive campaign by mobilising 700 organisations nationwide and collected 1 million thumbprints of children from 67 districts of Nepal. The thumbprints and children's views were presented to the Constituent Assembly for making child friendly new constitution of Nepal .

CWIN formed a national Stakeholder's Workgroup to address the issues protecting children from online harms.

2010 CWIN

CWIN strengthened its collaboration with government, ensuring that a policy on children was drafted, children's issues were included in the national planning agenda, and other national action plans were formulated. CWIN collaborated with the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, the Ministry of Peace and Rehabilitation, the National Planning Commission with other governmental organizations to prepare the report on the UNCRC.



The Roving Eye, CWlN, GRT and FORUT came together to produce a participatory documentary entitled 'Through Our Eyes', which was made by former children associated with armed. The documentary highlights the social reintegration and rehabilitation of the conflict affected children. The film was premiered in Kathmandu and has been shown in different countries. This year, CWlNstarted an EC project with partner Responding to Conflict for Sustainable Reintegration of former childrenassociated with armed conflict in 27 districts.

CWIN also conducted and published research on the sexual abuse of street children. This was followed by a program of action.

2011 CWIN

Continuing its sustained work in child labour, CWIN extended it's program to incorporate child labour in restaurants under the Prevention and Reduction of Child Labours of Restaurants in Kathmandu Valley programme with Shaplaneer-Japan. CWIN, in collaboration with World Education, responded to cases of domestic child labour through the Child Helpline 1098 and also produced a situation analysis on Child Porters in Nepal.

CWIN partnered with NGO Federation of Nepal to provide orientation to the member of NGO Federation on child protection and urged them to formulate organisational child protection policy. This year, CWIN Balika conducted media sensitisation programmes in order to increase sensitivity among journalists and the wider community on girls' issues and their rights.

With the support from Save the Children, CWIN launched its first report on the environment documenting the effects of "Climate Change and Children". This research heralds in CWIN's commitment to exploring

issues related to children and the environment.

The WOCELIP Project carried out by CWIN, RDTA-TUKl and FORUT constructed the Alampu Health Post building and supported 6 health posts with the necessary equipment.

CWlN and Responding to Conflict partnered with Rockwool Foundation to work towards creative conflict transformation with youth from five regions of Nepal.

Young people associated with CWIN registered their organization Youth Safe as an independent youth organization with a unique objective of empowering young people from difficult backgrounds.

2012 CWIN

On the occasion of 25 years of child rights movement in Nepal, CWIN organised a child rights event where the Honourable Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai was chief guest. In this milestone event, individuals, organisations, founding members and partners of CWIN were felicitated for their contributon in Child Rights Movement in Nepal. Various publications, merchandise and video documentary on 25 years of child rights movementin Nepal were launched.

Dream. Create. Live. CWIN organised a unique show to celebrate 25 years of CWIN. This creative showcase event was a platform for the children of CWIN's Balika Peace Home to express themselves through dance, theatre and performance. The theatre and dance for the show were facilitated by Kishor Dangol and Charan Pradhan respectively. Renowned artist and Chancellor of Nepal Academy of Fine Arts, Mr. Kiran Manandhar, created five canvas paintings during the show, reflecting on the movement on stage and the expression of child rights.

CWIN formulated a 3-Year-Strategic Direction (2012-

2015) after consultation with CWIN's staff members, partner organizations and the children affiliated with CWIN.

CWIN joined Girl Power and Girls Not Brides to strengthen girls' empowerment in Nepal and joined national steering committee to successfully mark the first UN International Day of the Girl Child with the support of girls from 14 districts.

With the initiative of the Nepal Alcohol Policy Alliance (NAPA), a taskforce was formed under the coordination of Ministry of Health and Population for the formation of an alcohol policy.

Feeling the need of integrating the issue of child rights with climate change and environment, CWIN formed an environment policy and initiated the Banners to Bags Campaign with Youth Safe. 'Banners to Bags' combines issues of waste management, recycling and green entrepreneurship focusing on young people.

Important Achievements of CWIN and the Child Rights Movement

- The Child Helpline 1098, operating in partnership between CWIN-Nepal, the Nepal Government, and Nepal Telecom, has received **300,000 calls** from children and concerned citizens. Operating from its centres in Kathmandu, Biratnagar, Nepalgunj, Hetauda and Pokhara, the service has rescued and given protection to **18,000 children**.
- CWIN has provided direct **education support to 59,473 children** from different backgrounds such as labour, abandoned, street, conflict affected, orphans, marginalised and economically deprived.
- CWIN has provided vocational and small **entrepreneurship training to 5,100 children and youth** from different backgrounds to help them gain independence.

- CWIN has conducted more than **100 research reports** and studies.
- CWIN has reached at least **5 million** people through its social and child rights campaigns.
- CWIN's National Resource Centre has served more than **55,000** national and international students, researchers, journalists, activists, and social workers.
- CWIN has broadcast **200 episodes** of BalChautari, a child rights related programme from NTV Plus. Meanwhile, it has also produced **5 music albums** and **50 video documentaries** on various issues of child rights.
- More than **17,000 volunteers** from educational institutions around the world have volunteered and interned with CWIN through the Friends of CWIN programme.
- CWIN has successfully conducted family and **social reintegration for 7,030 children.**
- **10,300 girls** and adolescents have benefited from the CWIN Balika (Girls) programme.
- CWIN has supported **20,000 conflict-affected children** through the Children As Zones of Peace Campaign.
- CWIN provided training on child rights protection, participation, and awareness to about **125,000 citizens** including District Child Welfare Committee, teachers, NGO/INGOs' members and employees, Nepal Police, lawyers, District Development Representative, health workers, AamaaSamuha, adolescents, youths, children, students, school management committee, parents, religious and community leaders, human rights and women rights activists, indigenous leaders and trade unions among others.

A Catalogue of Major CWIN Campaigns

- Defend the Rights of the Child
- Education not a privilege but a right
- Campaign for ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)
- Beyond Smiles: Campaign for Socialisation of Street Children
- Misery Behind the Looms: Campaign Against Child Labour in Carpet Factories
- South Asian March Against Child Slavery, Trafficking
- Global March Against Child Labour
- Global Campaign for Education: Education for All
- Campaign against Exploitation of Domestic Child Workers
- Campaign to Stop Child Labour in Transportation
- Campaign Against Smoking in Public Places by Child Clubs

- Campaign against Drug Use Among Street Children
- Campaign against Glue Sniffing among Street Children
- Campaign against Sexual abuse and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children
- Child and the Tourist: Campaign against Commercial Exploitation of Children and Paedophilia
- National Campaign Against the Harmful Use of Alcohol and for Alcohol Policy
- Campaign for Realization of Children's Meaningful Participation
- Child Rights in Election Manifesto of Political Parties
- Campaign against Use of Children for Political Benefit
- Child Rights in New Constitution of Nepal
- Campaign Against Corporal Punishment in School
- Stay Safe Online: Campaign for Online Protection of Children
- Campaign Against Human and Child Trafficking

- Campaign against Child Marriage
- Campaign for Girl's Empowerment
- Children as Zones of Peace Campaign
- Schools as Zones of Peace Campaign
- Peace is Our Aspiration: Creative Expression of Children for Peace Campaign
- Lets Build New Nepal with Children
- Child Rights Bus and Collection of 1 million thumbprints: Ensure Child Rights in the Constitution of Nepal
- Banners to Bags Social and Environmental Entrepreneurship Campaign

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