

NWGN Conference 2012

***Maheela Sashaktikaran through Collaboration
and Activism***



***Sunday, October 7, 2012
American University, Washington, D.C.***

***4400 Massachusetts Ave., NW
SIS Abramson Family Founders Room***

www.nepaliwomen.org

Acknowledgements

Nepali Women's Global Network (NWGN) wishes to express its deep appreciation to all the sponsors for their contribution towards this conference. We would like to extend a special thanks to American University for their support, and for providing the venue and funding for the conference.

Additionally, NWGN would like to thank NRN – NCC USA for contributing \$1000 and Bishnu Ekata and the NWGN California Chapter for fundraising more than \$3500 towards Aama Ko Ghar. NWGN would like to extend a special thanks to Pralhad and Prudence KC for their gift of a Nepali handmade carpet for the silent auction, which will go towards supporting Aama Ko Ghar. NWGN would also like to thank all the local businesses that contributed to the silent auction and to the numerous NRNA members who contributed to Dilshova Shrestha's airfare.

Finally, a sincere thank you to all individuals and communities who in one way or another, contributed to the organization of the conference and without whose support this event would not have been a success.

Program Agenda

9:30 am – 10:00 am	Opening Conference Overview Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Bishu Thapa, NWGN President▪ Biva Ranjeet, NWGN Vice President▪ Dr. Vidya Samarasinghe, Director, School of International Service, American University
10:00 am – 11:15 am	Empowering Women through Collaboration and Activism Moderated by Dr. Bidya Ranjeet	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Neeva Pradhan, International Association For Human Values▪ Pralhad KC, President of Non-Resident Nepali Association (NRN)▪ Tsewang Sherpa Lama, President of The Association of Nepalis in the Americas (ANA)▪ Mukesh Singh, NRN ICC Regional Coordinator▪ Prem Raj Mahat, Honorary Counsel▪ Rama Singh, America Nepal Television▪ Season Shrestha, Newah Organization of America▪ Nagendra Paudel, America Nepal Society▪ Raja Ghale, Past President, Nepalese Association in South East America
11:15 am – 11:30 am	Break	
11:30 am – Noon	Status of Nepali Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ His Excellency Dr. Shankar Sharma, Ambassador of Nepal to the United States
Noon – 1:15 pm	Lunch and NWGN Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Prudence KC, NWGN Secretary
1:15 pm – 2:30 pm	A Rights-Based Approach to Empowerment Moderated by Madhavi Basnet-Karki	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Priya Kulkarni, ASHA for Women▪ Bandita Sharma-Dahal, Esq.▪ Sushma Barakoti, NWGN Past President
2:30 pm – 2:45 pm	Break	

Concurrent Sessions

2:45 pm – 3:45 pm <i>Classroom 1</i>	Education and Development Moderated by Biva Ranjeet	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Julie Rukavina, Room to Read▪ Claire Charnac, Women LEAD▪ Dr. Sudeep Shrestha, ANA
2:45 pm – 3:45 pm <i>Classroom 2</i>	Youth Panel: Images of Women in the Media Moderated by Dipti Thapa & Sonia Madhvani	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Bivishika Bhandari, Hollins University▪ Sujita Basnet, George Washington University
2:45 pm – 3:45 pm <i>Abramson Room</i>	Nepali Poetry Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Bharati Gautam, NWGN Board Member
3:45 pm – 4:00 pm	Break	
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Voices for Change: Making a Difference for Women’s Empowerment Moderated by Bishnu Thapa	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Bishnu Pariyar, Empower Dalit Women of Nepal (EDWON)▪ Bishnu Gurung, NWGN California Chapter Representative▪ Radha Basnyat, NRN ICC Deputy Women Chair▪ Saroj Prajapati, Nepa Pasa Pucha Amerikaye (NPPA)▪ Dr. Maheswor Baidya, America Nepal Women’s Association of Greater Washington (ANWA) Clinic
5:00 pm – 5:15 pm	Closing Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Sushma Barakoti, NWGN Past President
5:15 pm – 7:00 pm	Dinner Key Note Address: Dilshobha Shrestha Introduction by Dr. Bidya Ranjeet	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Dilshobha Shrestha, Aama Ko Ghar

Honoring Dilshova Shrestha

Dilshova Shrestha



Ms. Dilshova Shrestha is a social activist and the founder and director of Old Age Management & Social Welfare Trust (known as Aama Ko Ghar) – a non-profit organization in Nepal, dedicated to helping homeless, elderly women, and orphans. Witnessing the deplorable condition of a few elderly, she decided to give them shelter and care in her home. Aama ko Ghar, a safe haven for elderly women was established by Ms. Dil Shova Shrestha in 1998 at her own residence at Soaltee Mode, Kathmandu Nepal. Ms. Shrestha registered her residence as an Old Age Management Social Welfare Trust (OAMSWT) in the year 2000. Even though the organization is registered as home for old age, humanitarian Dilshova Shrestha, started taking in abandoned children as well. Ms. Shrestha has been sheltering more than 90 elderly, or ‘bridhas’, as well as child victims of war from the Karnali region. Her responsibilities include providing food and nutrition, medical care, and taking care of other basic needs, to improve the lives of the elderly and children under her care. For more information on Aama Ko Ghar, please visit: www.aamakoghar.org

Commendation

Sushma Barakoti



Sushma served as the President of NWGN from 2009-2010 and has been involved with NWGN in various capacities since 2003. In her leadership as the President, NWGN advocated and rallied for elimination of gender-based violence against Nepali women in the United States, Nepal and around the world. During her leadership NWGN established a 'Justice Fund' to support women of Nepali origin when in need. Before being elected to her current position, Sushma served as Vice President of the Network.

In her professional life Sushma works as the Assistant Director at the Women’s Resource Center (WRC), Scranton, Pennsylvania, a non-profit organization committed to ending domestic and sexual violence against women and children. Before taking the administrative position, Sushma worked as a passionate advocate for survivors of gender-based violence. Sushma has a Masters degree in Social Work from Marywood University, Scranton, PA. Sushma went back to Marywood to work for its Adult Basic and Literacy Education Program (ABLE) to help with adult literacy with ESL and GED programs, especially among the immigrant community, including the Bhutanese refugees settled in Scranton. Sushma has been a great resource and support for the Bhutanese families as they acclimatize and integrate in their new environment.

Before coming to the United States in 2000, Sushma had several years of community development experience working in areas such as grassroots organizing, micro-credit loans, Non Formal Education, local governance and HIV/AIDS prevention and control. Sushma is very grateful to all the trainings and mentoring she received while working with various organizations including the United Nations Development Program, PLAN International, Marywood University, WRC and many more. Sushma demonstrates her belief in feminist philosophy and passion for women's empowerment by supporting three women's NGOs. These NGOs work for women's economic empowerment in a fair manner. Sushma enjoys organic gardening and believes in healthy eating.

Bindu Pant



Born in Kathmandu and married while she was a teenager, Bindu received a Bachelor's degree in Economics from Tribhuvan University. Later, when she and her husband, Pralhad Pant, moved to the United States in 1976, she obtained a certificate in Computer Technology and worked in the Credit Department for Sears. For the past 12 years, she has been providing support to Engineering PDP Associates Inc. firm in managing its financial accounts.

Bindu Pant is a founding member of the Nepali Women Global Network (NWGN). She actively participates in the programs of the Nepalese Association in Southeast America (NASEA), Association of Nepalese in Midwest America (ANMA), and NRN NCC USA. Bindu is action-oriented and often times works behind the scenes to help Nepal and Nepali women. She has a big heart and is passionate in helping her community. Bindu's identity as a Nepali woman, with an indelible love for her homeland, has defined and guided her life as has her devotion to family and friends. In 2008, she co-founded the "Pralhad & Bindu Pant Orphans Foundation", a non-profit, charitable, tax exempt organization, with an endowment fund of \$150,000. The foundation provides food, shelter and education to Nepal's poorest, parent-less children. She along with her husband also established the "Pralhad and Bindu Pant Legacy fund" in NRN NCC USA in 2003, which supports charitable causes within the NRN community in the U.S.

Radha Basnyat



Radha Basnyat has been a consummate activist for the Nepali community in Canada and America, as well as in Nepal and India. She holds a B.Sc. in Biology from University of Rajasthan and a Diploma in Social Science from Algonquian College, Ottawa. Radha also studied in Mahatma Ghandi philosophy School in Jaipur, Rajasthan, and since then social service has been her passion. She has devoted her life to serving Nepalis in Nepal and around the world in every possible way.

A member of many organizations such as the NRNA-ICC, Radha was involved from the inception of the ANA, INLS (International Nepalese Literary Society), Nepalese Community Organization in Canada and Association of Canada Nepal Friendship Association. She has also served as President of Nepalese Community Network of Canada and Association of Canadian Nepalese Community in Ottawa. She has also served as Vice President of NAC and was founder Vice President of Nepali Women Global Network. Radha is currently serving as NRNA-ICC Global women Deputy Coordinator and RN-NCC Canada Women and Children Committee founder Chair Coordinator.

Radha was awarded for her outstanding service to the Nepali Community by the Nepalese Americas Council in Atlanta in 2002 and received an Outstanding Service Award from the Nepalese Community Network of Canada 2003. She also organized the Women Handy Craft program and contributed to the construction of *ashram* for Nepali pilgrims in Vrindawan, India. Additionally, Radha is very involved in philanthropy; she provided full financial support for the construction of a Nepali ashram (shelters units) in Vrindawan (India) for Nepali pilgrims and students and continues to provide financial support to those who take shelter at the Ashram. She has also built a shelter home in Udaipur, Nepal, her hometown.

Recognition

Rajan Adhikari, NWGN Service Award

Bishnu Gurung "Ekata", Promoting NWGN Mission Award

Sujita Basnet, Rising Star Award