

## Annexure 1. Voices of Sex Workers, Nepal

### 1. Access to Health Services

#### **N#3 Sunsari district, Mahila SahayogiSamuha**

I am a 22-year-old sex worker and I live in Sunsari district of Nepal. I used to live with my father and three brothers, as my mother left us to live with another man. In order to support my family, I started working as a sex worker. This earning kept my brothers in the hostel and I was also able to support my father's expenses while at a rehabilitation centre for alcoholism. On 28th May 2016, I went for a health check-up to a hospital, and found out that I had a wound in my cervix. As I am associated with the Mahila Sahayogi, I was not scared, and gave them all the details. I was mistreated by the hospital authorities for being a sex worker.

#### **N#4 Sunsari district, Mahila SahayogiSamuha**

I am a sex worker and I live in Itahari district of Nepal. I am married and have a child. My husband is employed in a foreign country. I love another man, and now I am planning to get married to him. On 17th February 2018, one of my clients had sex with me without using a condom. After that, I went for a health check-up, where doctors started asking me personal details. As I informed him about my work and gave other details, he started asking me inappropriate questions like how many clients do I have, and then started to touch my vagina sexually. As I expressed my discomfort, he asked me if I am enjoying what he is doing to me, and he commented that, 'You have sex with so many guys, and you are not allowing me to touch you.' This made me furious and I shouted at him for what he had said. But I did not report his behaviour because I felt that everyone will blame me since I am a sex worker.

#### **N#5Sunsari district, Mahila SahayogiSamuh**

I am a 20-year-old sex worker from Itahari district of Nepal. I started doing sex work for better access to education. I visited a hospital for a health check-up and most of the hospital staff knew me because of my CBO. They knew beforehand that I am a sex worker. But still the doctor behaved strangely and wanted to know personal details like why I was doing sex work, how much money do I charge, how many sexual partners do I have etc. which has nothing to do with my symptoms, which was irregular menstrual periods. Then I went to a private clinic, even there the hospital staff behaved strangely and kept asking me to do some other work, other than sex work. Once health staff comes to know my occupation, their behaviour towards me changes.

#### **N#6Kaski district, Goreto Nepal**

I am from Kaski district and I started doing sex work at the age of 22. I chose to do sex work as my mother passed away early, and I took up the responsibility of providing for my siblings and step-mother. I have not received any formal education. I also got involved in drugs at a very young age, and as I shifted to Pokhara, I started to consume more narcotic substances. One day when I wasn't feeling well, I went to the hospital where I was counselled and told that I was at double risk because of my drug consumption and my work. As they did a blood test, they found out that I was HIV positive. After that, I was ostracized by my family and my workplace. Initially, doctors refused to give me treatment. It was only later that I was provided with ART at the Pokhara ART Centre.

### **N#7Kaski district, Goreto Nepal**

I am a 30-year-old sex worker and I live in Kaski district of Pokhara, Nepal I do sex work to provide for my son and myself. In 2017, I went to a hospital for health treatment, and the nurse unnecessarily made me wait for a long time. However, I did not bring it up and waited. When I asked how much time will it take, the hospital staff replied you have no issue sleeping with so many men and now you have such a big problem because you have to wait?’ I was really shocked by this treatment and I could not utter a word. I told my friends at the CBO Goreto Nepal about this incident. After that I haven’t gone to the hospital on my own, I always go with my friends from Goreto Nepal. As they are also sex workers, it helps in navigating things together.

### **N#8Kaski district, Goreto Nepal**

I am a sex worker in Kathmandu. I didn’t receive any formal education because of my weak financial status. My father works as a labourer and mother has a street-based business. So they didn’t have sufficient money to survive. One day I left my home to visit Pokhara with my boyfriend. My boyfriend deserted me in Pokhara, and I was left without a phone, money or familial support. Then, I started to do sex work. After this, my health deteriorated as I had unsafe sex several times, suffered from sexually transmitted infections, and had several abortions. Whenever I went to the hospital, I was asked unnecessary questions like where is your husband, why don’t you change your profession, how long have you been in sex work etc. and faced a lot of judgment from the hospital staff.

### **N#9 Bhaktapur district, Sangarsha Mahila Samuha**

I am a 22-year-old unmarried sex worker studying for Bachelors in Social Work. I do this work for financial support. I get regular health check-ups done, but I don’t like to go to these treatment centres because of the way they behave. One day I went to the hospital to take Sangini Sui (contraception). The hospital workers asked me many questions as to why am I taking contraception, when I am unmarried, and in good health as of now. They were being very rude to me. I did not report this incident to anyone because in Nepal, if an unmarried woman has sex, it is considered immoral.

### **N #10 Dang district, Nari Ekta Samuha**

I live in Dang district and I am a married sex worker. My husband lives in India for work. One day, I went to a hospital in Dang for my pregnancy check-up. After all the tests were done, I was informed that I was HIV positive. The staff of the hospital was being very judgemental after realizing that I have HIV. My family and other people around me also started behaving badly with me. After this, I also suffered a miscarriage. I am on HIV medicines now, but I have also been abused by doctors. My husband also left me because of my disease.

### **N#11 Sunsaridistrict, Mahila SahayogiSamuha**

Initially, when I was not involved in sex work, I was fascinated by some of my friend’s lifestyles and I requested them to get me involved in their work in some way, so that I could earn a lot of money. So, they took me to a hotel for sex work. At the hotel, we had to sit with people who came to eat. Right after, someone took me to the room and forcefully had sex, and I had no option because if I would have screamed, other people would have come to know that I was in this room, so I didn’t scream. From the next day onwards, I started doing sex work. Over time I developed a relationship with a man

who used to work at the hotel, and I married him. He started to spend all the money I earned on alcohol and drugs. I also have a daughter with him, but he doesn't contribute to the expenses, and I run the house by doing sex work. I was very disappointed initially, and forced to have sex with clients.

One day I had a sexually transmitted disease, so I went to a hospital for medical check-up. The hospital authorities asked me about my profession. I gave an honest answer to all the questions they asked, but as a result, I was discriminated against and stigmatized. The doctor abused me and said who does this work; you shouldn't do this kind of work, what kind of a woman are you etc. I shouted at them, and only then they agreed to check me.

#### **N#12 Nawalparasi district, Nari ko Awaaj**

I work as a sex worker in Nawalparasi district. On 18th April 2018, I went to the hospital in Nawalparasi for a regular check-up. I didn't receive the health services I required, and the doctor sexually abused me. I didn't raise my voice and talk against the doctor because I was scared, and I feared my reputation.

#### **N#56 Kaski district, Goreto Nepal**

I live in Kaski district, and I am a 20-year old. When I visited the hospital for a health check-up, the staff asked me personal questions like, how many clients do you have, why are you involved in this profession etc. They informed me that until I answered these questions, they would not provide me with any treatment.

#### **N#68 Bhaktapur district, Sangarsha Mahila Samuha**

I am 30 years old and now I am a resident in Bhaktapur. I have one daughter and I am a single mother. I am not educated. When my family left me, then I started sex work. After that I went for regular check-ups at the VCT centres. At that time the doctors did not find any problems. In 2016 I underwent a pregnancy test since I had not used condoms with clients. I found that I was pregnant. I visited a clinic for undergoing an abortion. This is my third experience of abortion in this clinic. There was a male doctor who said "are you not tired of doing abortion? Do you enjoy doing this?" He then touched my breast and vagina inappropriately. I was very uncomfortable. But I had nowhere else to go since everywhere I had to tell them that I was a sex worker, I didn't have a husband etc. when I was getting an abortion. At least here I had already told them once and I didn't have to undergo the questions again. I face discrimination everytime because they know I am a sex worker. If I am doing in this work, don't I have the right to get any health services?

## **2. Police Violence, Extortion and, Intimidation**

#### **N#15 Four Sex workers, Chakrapath, Kathmandu**

On 4th July 2018, Chakrapath police of Kathmandu, raided a hotel and arrested four sex workers after finding condoms in the room. The police also arrested the hotel owner who was a woman. The JMMS team was in touch with the police, and after discussions with the team, the police released the sex workers on the condition that they would not conduct sex work anymore. The hotel owner was kept in custody the entire night, and was released the next day also on condition of not engaging in sex work. Since the raid, the sex workers concerned are doing sex work in unsafe spaces.

#### **N#16** Sunsari district, Mahila SahayogiSamuh

I used to live in Rampur district of Nepal and I started to do sex work in hotel. During that period, one of the brothers suggested that I should work at another hotel. He also mentioned that there would be less police raids there and more customers. However, when I started working there, I was caught by the police twice, they didn't allow me to speak, I could only speak at times to tell them my side of the story. They also made a video clip of me. My video clip went public and I was kept in a lock-up. With the help of representatives of Mahila SahayogiSamuha, I was able to release myself from the police.

#### **N#17** Tanahun district, Ekakrit Mahila Samuha

I am from Tanahun district of Nepal. I was an only daughter and had limited access to education. As I wanted a comfortable life, I shifted to market area and started doing sex work out of a hotel. On 18th October 2017, when I was sitting with my friends, suddenly the police arrived and arrested me. They called my parents but my parents did not arrive. Then, they asked me to pay a fine of Rs. 12,000 to be able to leave. My hotel owner made this payment and freed me, but after the arrest, I wasn't able to do sex work there, as the owner mentioned that if anyone found out about the arrests, they would not come.

#### **N#18** Itahari district, Mahila SahayogiSamuh

I am a 30-year-old sex worker and I am from Biratnagar. However, I shift from one place to another, as per the customers' demand. My husband has left me and I now live with my two sons. On 4th June 2018, while working in a hotel, I was arrested by the police and in custody for 18 days. After I repeatedly requested the police, they took Rs.1500 deposit as fine and released me.

#### **N#19** Itahari district, Mahila SahayogiSamuha

I am a 35-year-old sex worker who works out of a hotel in Itahari. On 16th May 2018, a few police men came and took me to the police station for inquiry. However, I was kept in custody. When I asked why I was kept in custody, the police started to scream and call me names. I asked them many times to release me, and I also mentioned that my child would be waiting for me at home. Later, I had to pay Rs.10,000 as penalty.

#### **N#20** Nawalparasi district, Nari ko Awaaj

I am a home-based sex worker in Nawalparasi. As I was sitting in a hotel room with a client, the police arrested me and took me to the police station. I then had to pay Rs. 10,000 as fine for my release. Because of this, my husband found out that I am a sex worker and has filed for divorce. My anonymity was lost.

#### **N#21** Bardiya district, Mahila PaurakhiManch

I was married and I had two daughters from that marriage. Because of a financial crisis, my husband moved to Saudi Arabia for foreign employment. Initially, it was going well as I built a house with the money he was sending, and my daughters could get educated. Then I started to have an extra marital affair and was caught by the police. After that, my family ostracized me even though my husband supported me initially, he also left me. Now, I do sex work.

#### **N#22 Sarlahi district, Milijuli Mahila Samuha**

I am a mobile sex worker in Sarlahi district. On 15th July 2018, police arrested me and my client. In this district raids happen quite often, that is why sex workers keep going from one place to another. My client and I were kept in custody for two days. We were released with the help of CBO Milijuli Mahila Samuha, keeping a promise that we will be 'responsible' in the future and by paying a deposit (fine). The rate of the deposit (fine) varies from Rs 500 to 50,000.

#### **N#23 Sarlahi district, Milijuli Mahila Samuha**

On 14th June 2018, five boys walked into Riverside Hotel which is run by a sex worker. They were looking for sex workers and they told this woman that if she did not provide sex workers then they would have sex with her. They started harassing her and also started to destroy things in the hotel. To defend herself, the sex worker grabbed the private parts of one of the clients, and put him down. However, this led to more chaos. With all the noise which was being made, some villagers gathered around the hotel and called the police. Even after all of this, the police came and arrested the sex worker, and not the harassers.

#### **N#24 Sunsari district, Mahila SahayogiSamuha**

I am a 23-year-old mobile sex worker in Sunsari district of Nepal. On 2nd June 2018, I was with a client at a hotel. After having sex, we were having lunch, and this is when the police came in and started asking me personal questions like, 'How many clients do you have? How much money have you received from your client, bitch? Don't you have some other work? Can't you eat by doing other work? How many friends have you involved in this work? Where are they? Tell us?' The police mentally tortured me. When I was in custody, they categorized me under Public Offence (SarbanjanikMudda) and Mahila SahayogiSamuha helped to release me on 1st July 2018.

I did not get justice while pursuing the case. When I was doing sex-work they caught me by accusing me of breaking social norms, disturbing the people in society etc. They got away with this because there are no laws on sex work which are on our side.

#### **N#25 Kaski district, Goreto Nepal**

I am a thirty-one year old; I started working as a sex worker in a hotel in order to support my mother and son after my husband passed away. The hotel owner used to send me from one place to another, and make a lot of commission out of my work. I used to regularly get harassed by the police and have spent many nights in police custody.

#### **N#26 Kathmandu, Parijat Mahila Sangh**

I am a sex worker in Kathmandu, I work out of a hotel. On 11th April 2018, a policeman came as a client, in normal clothes and he asked for a sex worker. When the hotel owner refused, and said that they don't have any girls who engage in sex work, the police officer took one girl and hotel owner to Naya Bazar Bus Park Station, and shifted them to Chakrapath Police Station the next day. They were released only after paying Rs 10,000 each.

#### **N#27 Jhapa district, Mahila JagaranSamaj**

I shifted to Damak, Jhapa for sex work from my native district. My husband has been working in Malaysia since two years. I chose this occupation because he doesn't send any money, and I need to fulfil my needs and provide an education to my son.

While working, I developed an intimate relationship with my client, and I used to meet him quite frequently. I fell in love with him. But on 10th January 2018, he stole my jewellery, money and ran away. I complained to the police but they didn't pay attention, and asked me to take back the case. They said that there was no basis for a case.

\*It was informed to Mahila JagaranSamaj that she had left sex work for the sake of her reputation and that of her son's. She changed her mobile number and shifted out of Damak.

#### **N#28 Jhapa district, Mahila JagaranSamaj**

I am 27 years old and my hometown is Damak, Jhapa. I have been working at a hotel since the last one year. On 24th April 2018, I was sitting with a client when I realised that the police was coming our way. We quickly ran and hid in the backyard, but the police still found us and arrested us. The police kept questioning me, and also went to the CBO to ask about me. Then they realised that I was doing sex work to sustain myself as my father passed away recently. My client and I were kept in custody for a week and then we were released after the client paid the police Rs.10,000.

#### **N#29 Three sex workers, Bhaktapur, Sangharsha Mahila Samuha**

On 13th December 2016, three sex workers, one hotel owner and a customer were arrested by the police in Bhaktapur. The police claimed that 'sex activities' are a crime. The customer had good links with the home ministry, so he was released on the second day itself. But the sexworkers were not released. They had to pay Rs.10,000 and got bail on the sixth day.

#### **N#30 Baudhadistrict, Individual**

XX is a hotel owner as well as a sex-worker. In Baudha, she does business from her hotel. One day a few police personnel came to the hotel and asked for lunch. Then they asked, if there are women available for sex at the hotel. XX responded by saying yes, and she also added that she is a sex worker. The police took her and five other women in custody. The other sex workers got released but XX did not. They even caught her husband claiming that both of them are running this lunch home together. They were released after three days.

#### **N #57 Dang district, NariEkataSamuha**

Two unmarried women who stay in Tulashipurstarted doing sex work because of the financial crisis in their family. On 1st April 2018, they went to a hotel in search of more clients. Hotel female owners also gave customers. She used to take more money from clients and only used to pay Rs 500 to them,One night, there was a raid in many hotels and police arrested them along with hotel owners and five clients. Police investigated every individual and fined Rs 30,000 for hotel owners for taking more money and paying less. Only these two girls were caught.

#### **N#59 Lalitpur district, Jeevan Jyoti Mahila Sangh**

While sitting in hotel police arrested two women and hotel owners. They were taken to police station. The complaint against this hotel was filed by local and AamaSamuha (local organisation for house wives) for doing sex work. Both girls and owner were released in 21-07-2018. But five other hotels were also raided by police on 22 July, 2018.

Police were ready to release them if they identified other hotels which let them do sex work. Because of the pressure the women gave the police all the information about hotels. Later, five others hotel owners and workers were also arrested. They were given bail the next day after intervention from an organization..

#### **N#60 Lalitpur district, JeewanJyoti Mahila Sang**

On 18th July 2018, five street-based sex workers were arrested in RatnaPark, as they were waiting for clients. The police made statements like, 'Don't you have some shame? Why are you doing this work? Why are you creating a havoc in a public park? You are doing such bad work!' Two out of these five sex workers were living with HIV, and they begged the police to release them, so that they could get ART. They were released at 6 pm with the intervention of an organization. They had to reiterate to the police that the sex workers had small kids at home, and were responsible for their well-being.

#### **N#62 Lalitpur district, NamunaMahila Sangh**

A sexworker was arrested on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2017 from Khusbu restaurant of Lalitpur. The police had conducted a raid there and found that the owner was a sex worker and detained her in Balkumaripolice station. After inquiry they were taken to Jaulakhel police station. The president of Namuna Mahila Sangh visited them and they were released on condition of not repeating this work.

#### **N#63 Kathmandu, Kriyashil Mahila Sangh**

Two sex workers and four clients were in an apartment when police arrived and arrested them. The reason they were given for this arrest was 'shouting and screaming in public places.' They were fined when police found condoms in the room. They were released from custody on the same date.

#### **N#64 Lalitpur district, Namuna Mahila Sangh**

I am a temporary resident of Lalitpur, and I am a hotel-based sex worker. On 3rd June 2017, I was with my client at a restaurant and the police arrested me. Further, the police mentally tortured me by asking personal questions like, 'How many clients do you have? Why do you do sex work? This is bad work, you should change your occupation!' I was released the next day.

#### **N#65 Makwanpur district, Mahila Mukti Sangh**

On 14th July 2018, police arrested a sex worker and her client at a hotel. The sex worker was accused of being with different men and doing sex work. They were released after paying a fine of Rs. 10,000. She was forced to change her profession because of the arrest. She started a street food business with the help of Rs 3000 given by Raj Devi Mahila Sangh and Rs 500 by Mahila Mukti Sangh.

#### **N#66 Saptari district, Mahila SachaytanaSamaj**

On 1st February 2018, two mobile sex workers (Lata Nepali and Sandhya Nepali) and their clients were arrested from a hotel. They were charged with public offences and released the next day.

#### **N#67 Sarlahi district, Milijuli Mahila Samuha**

On 3rd April 2018, two sex workers were arrested with their clients at a hotel. They were arrested on the charge of establishing sex activities in that hotel. They were imprisoned for two days. However, because of pressure from a political leader, sex workers were sent away with a warning not to work that hotel or village.

### **3. Non -Paying Client Violence**

#### **N#31 Tanahun district, Ekakrit Mahila Samuha**

My name is XX and I am a sex worker. My husband lives in a foreign country. On 15th April 2017, one man came home and asked me for water. As I gave him water, he started asking for sex. When I refused, he forcefully had sex with me. Next day, he came along with a friend, and they forcefully had sex with me again. They threatened to tell my husband if I refused sex. However, I called my friends and we fought with those men and that got us arrested. My husband returned on the same day, and my son and I were thrown out of our house, as he found out that I was a sex worker.

#### **N#32 Nawalparasi district, Nari ko Awaaj**

I am a sex worker from Nawalparasi district. On 26th May 2018, when I was working, my client took all my money and ran away. When I asked help, the hotel owner didn't help me. I didn't file a complaint with the police.

### **4. Citizenship, Nationality**

#### **N#33 Kaski district, Goreto Nepal**

I am a 32-year-old, hotel-based, sex worker. I live in Kaski. While working, I also gave birth to a child. I do not have a citizenship from my parents' side, and my child does not have a birth certificate, because the authorities are asking for the father's citizenship documents. I have visited various government offices, VDC and wards as well. I have also contacted several NGOs to contact these government offices with their help, but I have not succeeded. Everywhere I go, they ask for my child's father's address and documents. My child has not been able enrol in any school because of this.

#### **N#34 Kathmandu, Kriyashil Mahila Sangh**

My name is XX and I am a home-based sex worker in Kathmandu. I did not have citizenship before marriage, and I married a Bhutanese man. Even from his side, I did not get citizenship and the marriage ended. I have two daughters from this marriage, who also have no citizenship and that is the reason why they are not being able to access education. The only way to get access to citizenship is to get married again. I think children of sex workers should get citizenship through their mother.

#### **N#35 Nawalparasi district, Nari ko Awaaj**

I am a sex worker in Nawalparasi. I went to the village development office to get a birth certificate for my child but the officer refused to make one, on grounds that I did not have citizenship.

#### **N#36 Nawalparasi district, Nari ko Awaaj**

I work as a sex worker out of a hotel in Nawalparasi district. I had approached a government office to attain citizenship, but the officer asked me for sex in return. I also approached people in the village, to get help, but everyone kept calling me names (because I am a sex worker) but didn't help me. I still don't have citizenship.

#### **N#37 Kaski district, Goreto Nepal**

I am thirty-four-years-old and I was born and brought up in Dhampus, Kaski. I had a happy childhood, and went to school, until my father married another woman because my mother couldn't give birth to a son. My mother had to leave the house. Eventually, I got married but the marriage didn't survive because my husband was abusive. I also married for a second time but that didn't work. I was unable to attain citizenship through my father and my previous husbands. The government offices that I am contacting to attain citizenship are asking me to bring my marriage certificate. My life has become very difficult because of this.

#### **N#38 Lalitpur district, Jeevan Jyoti Mahila Sangh**

I am a 50-year-old hotel-based sex worker. After I lost my husband, I started doing sex work to sustain myself and my child. I don't have citizenship and neither do my children. After I lost my husband, my family doesn't talk to me because I am a sex worker. I already have grandchildren but I doesn't have citizenship.

#### **N#58 Lalitput district, Jeevan Jyoti Mahila Sangh**

I was divorced by my husband after he came to know that I was working as a sex worker. I was discriminated against by my family and society. Additionally, my citizenship ship was also blocked. My citizenship was tied to that of my husband, and after divorce it became void. He asked me to remove all marriage symbols like sindoor and bangles. I went again to court to get my citizenship, and the authorities asked me to present my neighbours and family in court. However, I could not get citizenship and because of my relationship with my husband I couldn't have another citizenship even though I am citizen of Nepal.

#### **N#61 Kathmandu, Kriyashil Mahila Sangh**

I am a home based sex-worker from Solukhambu. I have two children. My parents had passed away, and I was married early. I had one son with my husband, who died very early, before I could make him a citizen. I married again, but was deserted by my second husband, with whom too I had a son. I still do not have citizenship.

#### **N#69 Kathmandu, Kriyashil Mahila Sangh**

I got married when I was nine years old. After marriage I got citizenship from my husband, and had three children by the time I was 21. However, my husband took away my property. He left me and also took our citizenship. A few years later, he took custody of our three children. When I started

searching for a job, they asked for my identity, including citizenship documents. Despite following all the legal processes I was unable to get my citizenship papers. In desperation I married a Nepali man to obtain citizenship. I had two children by him. After a few years, he left me and got married to another woman. Now I am 60 years old and staying with her two boys and leading an organisation.

## 5. Discrimination

### **N#40 Kanchanpur district, Kriyashil Mahila Sangh**

She started working as sex worker when she was 14 years old. She had to face a lot of violence throughout her life. She was asked to leave the village to which she belonged by the villagers, as soon as they found out that she does sex work. She had to move to Kanchanpur, where she took up a room on rent. However, she was evicted from there by the landlord. After that, she decided to do sex work out of a hotel, but the police caught her and kept her in custody. She contacted Kanchan Kriyasil and she was released after paying Rs. 2000. She continued to do sex work after her release. She got married to a client, who was a dalit. This marriage to a dalit, and the fact that she did sex work, really enraged her family, and they continuously taunted and ostracized her. This ostracization, and the violence that she had faced all her life, led to her suicide.

### **N#41 Kaski district, Goreto Nepal**

I am a hotel-based sex worker. I usually return from my workplace around 10:15 pm. As I was returning from work, two men started following me on the road. This made me really scared. I started running and screaming to save myself. These men were abusing me and commenting on the fact that I am walking alone at night on the road. As I was screaming, a car stopped in front of me, but even that man tried to assault me. I did not file a complaint, and I don't wish to share more details.

### **N#42 Kaski district, Goreto Nepal**

I am a 25-year-old sex worker who is originally from Vietnam. A 28-year-old man named YY married me and brought me to Nepal on a tourist visa. He made a stay in a hotel, took away my money and passport, and did not return. In order to survive and make a living, I do sex work for Rs.100 or 200.

### **N#43 Jhapa district, Mahila Jagaran Samaj**

I am a 19-year-old sex-worker operating from a hotel where I was also doing the cleaning work. When a client came to the hotel, the owner sent me with him. I was pregnant at the time. On 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 when I was having sex with a client, the police personnel raided the hotel and arrested me with my client and owner. I was charged with committing a "public offense". I needed Rs. 5000 for my release but since I didn't have that much money, I was transferred to jail. I had a baby girl. Since I didn't have any identity papers through my family, my baby was not registered in local government. According to Nepali law, if a citizen wants an identity from the State, they need a father or husband. In this situation since I don't have any parents or a husband, I am not able to get an identity for my child. Sex workers need identity from the mother, because we cannot identify any client as the father.

### **N#44 Kanchanpur district, Kanchan Kriyasil Mahila Sangh**

I am a hotel-based sex worker who is married with a baby. My husband was in a foreign country on work. While working in the hotel, I got pregnant from a client, due to which I was publicly shamed by my family and socially boycotted. Neither my family nor the client was willing to accept me and I was thrown out of my home by my family. My husband returned and complained to the police. I was arrested by the police and was in custody because I had aborted the foetus and cheated on my husband.

I am now staying alone. My client has left that area after the incident. Despite sex work not being considered as wrong, sex workers are treated with tremendous stigma. Police use any law to arrest and shame sex workers.

#### **N#45 Itahari district, Mahila Sahayogi Samuha**

I am a mobile sex worker. I used to visit many places for sex work. During my working I have been arrested three times by police because I am a sex-worker. On 3rd June 2018 I was having snacks with a client in hotel, when police came and caught me and the hotel owner. In police custody, they beat me a lot and abused me because I was with a customer. When we are arrested we didn't have right to speak, they always they treat us as though we are not human. I am abused with many names like Bhalu, Bashya, cheap person. It is very humiliating. They kept us in police lock up and released me on June 15, 2018 after I agreed to pay the deposit (fine). The hotel owner is still in custody. I am now working in in other hotels, where the owner is not known to me. It is not secure. But I cannot quit this work since it gives me money. I have a right to choose my occupation.

#### **N#46 Kanchanpur district, Kanchan Kriyasil Mahila Sangh**

I am a hotel-based sex-worker. I got married at the age of 15-16 years. I am not educated and belong to a poor family from the western region of Nepal. On 6th June, 2018 I was arrested by the police when I was doing sexwork. The police took me to the police station. The CBOs of JMMS went to the police station and got me released in the face of opposition from the police. Now I stay in a rented room and work in secret due to fear of the police who are constantly watching me and trying to arrest me again, and trying to force me to change my work. It has made me more insecure and unsafe.

#### **N#47 Kaski district, Goreto Nepal**

I am a 26-year-old sex worker from Nagdhunga, Pokhara. I am married and have a baby boy. My husband is in a foreign country for work. A man has a medical store near my room from where I take medicine. We used to interact often. One day the man offered me some snacks. I often used to reject his overtures because I considered him as a brother.

On 26th February 2017, due to the constant request from the man I agreed and we went to a nearby hotel. Without my knowledge he reserved a room. He wanted me to have sex with him, but even after I refused he forced himself on me and raped me. When I accused him of abusing her, he began calling me names: 'bitch' and 'randi' (whore). He said that I was a cheap woman with no morals and I should not try to speak with him. He threatened me and accused me of trying to seduce him. Since I was a sex worker, I was scared of going to the police and complaining of the rape and violence by the man. I have not been able to speak out about the episode in my family also since I am scared that my identity as a sex worker will be revealed.

#### **N#48 Sunsari, Mahila SahogiSamuha**

On 19th May 2018, two sex workers were arrested by the police from their rooms where they were working. The two girls were working from their own room. The police said that they were doing sex work. Though they tried to defend themselves and say that they were not doing anything against the law, the police abused them and told them not to teach them the law. They were taken to the police station and charged with committing an offence in public. They kept the two girls in jail for a month without bail and released them on 17th June 2018. Both the girls are now out of jail. They have started work in different hotels to escape the police. They don't want to change their work, but would like the government to address the constant police harassment that makes it difficult for them to work with dignity. They are constantly abused by the police using the public order laws.

#### **N#49 Kathmandu, Individual**

On 18th July 2018, the police arrested four women who were on the streets, saying that they were soliciting clients and breaking the law. They were taken to the local police station in Durbar Marg. The police was going to charge them with breaking public order. It was only after the JMMS team intervened and held that the sex workers were not soliciting and should be released, that the police agreed. Once a woman's identity as a sex worker is known to the police, they harass her at every step, pick her up when she is on the streets, accuse of breaking public order, or soliciting clients. It is difficult for sex workers to walk on the streets without being harassed. They have to bribe police to escape the constant harassment.

#### **N#50 Pokhara district, Goreto Nepal**

I am a mobile sex-worker, and a resident of Nawalparasi who works in Pokhara. On 14th February 2017, I received a call from a client and we decided her charge for sex through mobile phone. When I reached the hotel that I had agreed with the client, I was pounced upon by four unknown boys. They forcibly held me and raped me by turn till I fainted. The four boys ran away from the hotel. I was found unconscious by the hotel owner in the room and rushed to the hospital. When I was released I went to the local police station and complained against the boys. However, the police didn't listen to my complaint or take action. In fact, they abused me and kept me in custody on charges of doing sex work. Later again because of unsafe sex I was pregnant for the second time.

#### **N#51 Kathmandu, Jagriti Mahila Mahasangh**

On 23rd July 2018, police raided a snacks house in Bhatti and arrested two sexworkers on charges of doing sex work. The women reached out to the JMMS team who visited them in police custody. The police refused to release the women even after JMMS argued that they were not doing anything illegal. The women were kept overnight. They were released the next day and warned never to do sex work again and that they would not be released so easily. The police carry out moral policing and use public order laws to constantly harass sex workers.

#### **N#52 Kaski district, Goreto Nepal**

I am a 20 year old sexworker and I work in Kaski district of Nepal. When I was 12, I was shifted to Pokhara to work as a domestic help. While I was working as a domestic help in Pokhara, I used to constantly suffer many advances from the house owners. One day the house owner caught me and

raped me inside the house. He threatened me, asked me to not complain and paid me Rs. 1000. He used to force himself on me on many occasions, even though I used to protest. I was pregnant after a while. The man's wife took me to a hospital but I was unable to abort, since the pregnancy was already advanced, so I gave birth to a child. The perpetrator disappeared after that and his wife took me to another place and set me up in a room to stay in. I have no contact with that man now and I stay with my child. I have no way of obtaining identification documents for my child since I am a single mother.

#### **N#53 Bhaktapur district, Individual**

I work as a sex worker in a restaurant in Bhaktapur district. After I gave birth to three children, my husband abandoned me. Since it was very difficult to raise my daughters singlehandedly, I gave my youngest daughter to another family. When the youngest daughter turned 20 she tried to get citizenship, but since she did not have the documents to establish the identity of her father, her citizenship has not been accepted. The girl found me and is now staying with me but she has not been able to get citizenship till date. I have not been able to help her since I am a single mother. Mostly sex workers don't have identity of the father of their children which creates a problem in obtaining citizenship.

#### **N#54 Sunsari district, Mahila Sahogi Samuha**

I am 25 years old, unmarried and working in Sunsari district. I work out of a hotel. On 25th April 2018, during my working hours, the police came picked me up and took me to the police station for inquiries. There was no one else at the hotel at point of time. I was locked up in a cell and despite asking the police several times, as to why they had picked me up, they refused to answer any of my questions. In turn, they abused me and beat me up for questioning them. They kept forcing me to reveal names of people who are supporting me in my work, but I told them that I work alone. They refused to release me since I did not have money to pay the deposit (fine). The collective in Sunsari came forward to help me pay the fine. Finally, I was released by the police after a warning to not do sex work again. Out of fear of the police, now I do sex work in other places to keep out of the eye of the police.

#### **N# 55 Bardiya district, Mahila Pairavi Samuh**

I was married at the age of 16, and I do sex work in Bardiya district. As I was really young, I was not capable of managing all household activities on my own. Later, I took up higher studies. In this period of attending school, I met someone and got pregnant. Mahila Pairavi Samuh helped me in receiving money from this man's parents for my abortion. They gave me Rs 10,000. I was ridiculed and humiliated by the villagers for being pregnant and for aborting the child.

Later, I was pregnant again due to unsafe sex and I was taken to the police station. However, this time I refused to abort my child. I was handed over to my parents after this incident.

## **Cyber Crime**

#### **N#1 Kathmandu, Parijat Mahila Sangh**

I have been working as a home-based sex worker for a few years. I received a friend request on Facebook from someone called XX which had my pictures all over it. This incident shocked me. I accepted her friend request and started chatting. When I asked XX the reason behind posting my pictures, I was informed about how she is aware that I do sex work, she has information about my clients and all sexual pictures and videos. I was very scared and requested XX to shut down her Facebook ID.

Next day I went to Parijat Mahila Sangh the local sex workers' collective and asked for help. Representatives from the organization went with me to the police station and reported the cyber-crime. I installed an application on her phone, to identify the person behind this fake account. When my phone rang, I noticed that the number of this person who was calling and the number on the fake profile were same. I realized that this profile was being run by a man I met in a brothel. I warned him that this was a cyber-crime and that the police had gotten involved in the case. As a result, the man deactivated this account.

### **N#2 Sarlahi district, Milijuli Mahila Samuha**

Mahila, I am a 50-year-old sexworker from Chandranigahapur, I went to the field to have sex with my client. The villagers saw us in the field, and took a video. They uploaded it on Facebook. After that, my family and the villagers ostracized me and asked me to leave. The villagers also proposed another idea which was that I should get married to the man. This made the man so afraid that he ran away. He was later found, and gave Rs 6 lakh as compensation to me, as I had suffered ostracization in the village.

## Annexure 2. Extracts from Kathmandu case studies on violence collected by JMMS, 2013

[Sex work and violence in Kathmandu, Nepal: Understanding factors for safety and protection; UNFPA, UNDP, JMMS, BDS, APNSW, CASAM- SANGRAM 2014.]

### Health

- E#1** I felt very unpleasant. They (doctors at the government hospital) hated and misbehaved with me because of my bad work. But I had to eat and live. I wanted to weep. I had to face problems everywhere. They used to do backbiting and say that it would be better for me to die. They did not give me medicines in good manner. Doctor/nurses were not ready to give me medicines. They used to be angry and told me that medicines had finished. *[FSW Dance Restaurant Case 2]*
- E#2** I had been in hospital one time. I knew that I have disease but I did not think that I was sick because of that. I have wounds in my body. Then I went for a check-up in Bir Hospital. Doctor said that I had to do blood test. Then I told him that there is no need to test; I am HIV+. Immediately he hated me and he wore the mask and gloves and chased me from there saying that HIV+ were not treated there. He did not give me treatment. I tore the OPD ticket there and returned. *[FSW Disco Case 2]*
- E#3** I went to hospital after I was beaten by the police. I was not treated well there even though I paid money. They taunted me that I was sex worker, *randi*, *bhalu*[whore] who would treat you? They gossiped about me saying that I am a *bhalu* staying in Ratnapark and I returned. I spent 4/5 thousand rupees but they did not treat me well. *[FSW Street Case 2]*
- E#4** I went to the hospital after the client raped me...They (medical staff) asked lots of questions who did that why etc. When I told them that my husband had done it because I was a drug addict, they hesitated to touch me. Later my friends had come. At the same time, I just looked at doctor, he was my client. He saw me and I saw him. I had big problems there. After 2-3 days, staffs used to do *khuskhus* (gossip about me). Then I ran away from there. *[FSW Disco Case 4]*
- E#5** She had been brutally raped at work by a group but did not go to a hospital to seek medical attention because if she told them she was raped, "they did the very worst behaviour like I was not a human being of this society because I was a drug user as well as a sex worker. I had some drugs with me also....there would be drama because all people start looking at me. All people know about this [her doing sex work]. So, I usually do not go to hospital." *[FSW Disco Case 3]*
- E#6** One time police caught one of our friends. She was shouting. We went to police station and asked them why they caught her. Then the police kicked her on her stomach badly. Due to which, she had severe bleeding. Then we took her to hospital near Gangabu. The doctors said that we did wrong work; if we did wrong work, they would kick. They did not check properly. We wanted to take an X-ray but they sent us away giving general medicines. We did not go to others thinking that they would say the same things. *[FSW Dance Restaurant Case 4]*

## Police Violence

- E#7** One time I was caught from outside (not from work place). Police threatened me to give them fuck so that they would release me. I did not give them fuck. Instead I gave them money and they released me on the way. Another time, they released me from the police station. When they caught us from restaurant, the owners used to give them money to release. But if we are caught when we are doing sex work, the owners do not do anything. In that situation, police used to ask us either we have to give them fuck or we have to give them money. We choose one of the options to get released from them." *[FSW Dance Case 3]*
- E#8** The incident happened few days ago. There was a policeman who used to come frequently, one or two times in a week for sex. Sometime even as we entered the massage [center] he used to come. One day I told him that we can do it once in a month only. We were there not for our interest so we cannot always do [sex] with him. Then he returned, very angry at going without sex. After that, the police have been visiting 3-4 times every week. I guess that was because of him. They used to come without police siren. They also inquired many things about clients. So clients also become scared to come here. It happens frequently. If police are happy and get bribes, they do not do anything. Otherwise they use to do it frequently. They think that they are in government service. *[FSW Massage Case 5]*
- E#9** Mostly the owners use to scold me. If we do not sleep with the man they told us to go with, they used to say that I was not obeying them. They scolded us with abuses like *randi*, mother fucker, *bhalu*. Sometime I was beaten and hit by their belt also. The security guards also abuse. They are more abusive towards us. When we are ready to go home, then they use to touch in our body, slap in our buttocks etc. One time, I was just entering the bar and the lights had just gone and he was fixing the generator so he just pulled me aside in the dark and fucked me. *[FSW Disco Case 5]*
- E#9** One client told me to go with him. He was a new client. I went with him to a hotel. He beat, hit and kicked me. I fell down. He locked the door from outside and ran away. Sometime clients quarrel and beat also. If fighting occurs, we have to inform the owners. I had returned [empty handed] many times after such fighting. Some clients are the worst. Generally those are from police, orgundas. *[FSW Street Case 4]*
- E#10** They knocked the door of the room in the guest house where I was with a client. They scolded us, calling *usrandi*, *bhalu*. Then they took us to toilet and stripped us. We had two or three thousand rupees with us. The clients had already run away. We thought that they would not catch us because the boys [clients] were not there but they kicked us with their boots and beat us hit by sticks. I had sprained my leg. They took our money also." *[FSW Disco Case 2]*
- E#11** They had beaten us many times. When I was in the police station, they used to beat me when I was rejecting their accusations. Sometime they used to ask me to take off my clothes. One time, I was caught with my client. They did not find condom and they blamed me for hiding the condom somewhere. Then the female police had checked in all my body making me naked. Imagine, how many people were there to look me. Many boys used to laugh at me. Even some police use to tease me saying that I took off my clothes in the station. *[FSW Massage Case 4]*

- E#12** One of my clients called me and I went by taxi. At first there was just the two of us. He was speaking on the phone. I did get suspicious, but thought that since he was my sex partner he would not do anything bad. We reached in the hotel and later on, there was knocking on the door. There were five or six boys. He introduced me with them. The behaviour suddenly changed and they ordered me to take off my clothes, and lie down on the bed. Anyway, they force me to have sex with them. When I refused, they hit me in the stomach, kicked me on my breasts. Forcibly they tried to have anal sex. I used to take drugs at that time. I was sick (need of drugs). I was not smoking from morning. I was feeling pain. I was physically and mentally weak at that time. They raped me. Some of them bit me. They did not give me money. They also grabbed my 600-700 rupees also. Some of them had kicked me before leaving me. Some of them had spitted on my face. I came in conscious after few hours. I wept a lot. They were tearing my clothes like underwear. The hotel owner asked me for money. I did not have money. I had an ID card where I work. I called the owner and he told me that he would send me money. One of the share-holders came with money. He also raped me. As a drug user, I was sick. Besides that I was raped by boys and again raped by the share -holder. I didn't have money even to go to hospital. The share-holder paid the cost of the hotel. **[FSW Disco Case 1]**
- E#13** The restaurant owner used to ask for sex whenever he wanted to do. He did not give any money. If we ask for money, he will fire us from the job. We are compelled to have sex without money." When asked how often this happened, she replied, "He usually asks once in a month. If he cannot get from other girls, he may ask for two times." **[FSW Dance Restaurant Case 3]**
- E#14** Generally, police do not give us money. They use force. We cannot reject them. Otherwise, they used to plant condom in the room and haul us to the police station. We could not check the room and police used to come and caught us saying that we were doing sex work. **[FSW Massage Case 4]**
- E#15** We cannot give them money because there is no business. Even the owner cannot give them. Instead of that, they use to come and have gone after doing (sex) without money. It was happened few days ago. There was a police who used to come frequently. He used to come 1 or 2 times in a week for doing sex. Sometime even we just entered to the massage [centre], he used to come. One day I told him that we can do once in a month only. We were there not for our interest so we cannot always do with him. Then he returned back being angry without doing. After then, police have been visiting 3-4 times every week here. I guess that was because of him. They used to come without police siren. They also inquired many things about clients. So clients also become scared coming to here. It happens frequently. If police are happy and get bribes, they do not do anything [meaning, forced sex]. Otherwise they use to do it [forced sex] frequently. They think that they are in government service. **[FSW Massage Case 5]****E#16** [Police] took us in cuffs.... four of us were kept in a room. Police asked us to do (sex) saying that we were getting fucked in Ratnapark. They had come and done sex with all four one by one. They also asked money from us. I had no money at that time. Then they took my mobile (phone). **[FSW Street Case 5]**

**E#17** I had gone to an agent's home. Police had also been there. I did not know that. They were torturing her. I needed money for drugs. He tried to have sex with me without giving money. He was an upper level staff. When I told him that I would not have sex without money, he forcibly raped me. He physically tortured me also. The agent was also victimized. She was also worried about her getting caught. So, she was also compelled to give them sex without money. They were many. They used to drink alcohol also. They used to ask for bribes. But all of us would not have money to give them. In that case, they used to come once in a week for sex. *[FSW Disco Case 2]*

#### Eviction from rented homes

**E#18** The house owner knew I did sex work because he was my client. When his wife got to know that I was a sex worker, she raised a storm and forced me to leave the rented place, threatening police action. She came to me and shouted in a loud voice. Other people around us also knew about my work. She said that I was wearing nice clothes and changing mobiles because I was a *bhalu*. Other people also hated me. Then I was compelled to leave the room." *[FSW Dance Restaurant 5]*

#### Legal Aid

**E#19** "We cannot eat if we do not work for one day. It is very difficult for us to arrange a free day to get legal support but they used to tell us to see them next day or other day. They did not see our problem the same day." *[FSW Dance Restaurant Case 1]*