

"Our collective commitment: Solidarity to end gender-based violence."

# Photovoice

## My Issue, My Voice



OPPORTUNITY VILLAGE NEPAL  
शुभ अवसर ग्राम नेपाल



GOOD SHEPHERD  
INTERNATIONAL  
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**Photovoice “My Issue, My Voice”** is an initiative led by Opportunity Village Nepal with the support of GSIF Nepal. Created by individuals working in the Adult Entertainment Sector, this Photo Voice features photographs they captured themselves, drawings, and personal reflections. It highlights the everyday challenges they encounter in both personal and work life, including:

- Exploitation through unfair labor contracts
- Mental and physical violence in the workplace
- Societal stigma and discrimination
- Lack of effective reintegration policies
- Risks of human trafficking and unsafe labor migration

This Photovoice captures their lived experiences and the pressing concerns they continue to face.



## **The negative social perception towards workers in the Adult Entertainment Sectors (AES).**

***Doma Tamang,  
Januka Khatiwada***

There has been political change in the country, but the way society views the adult entertainment sector and the workers in this field has not changed. We are forced to bear the consequences of this. We use our own skills and abilities to do our work. We are workers, yet fingers are pointed at our character. Based on the nature of our work, we are often denied rental spaces by the house owners. Even if we find a room, once it is known that we are workers from this sector, we are forced to leave.

In the name of changing work, many workers have fallen victim to trafficking, and the majority are at high risk.

There is a need for a shift in the societal perspective towards workers. To minimize such problems, it is important to implement the guidelines that have been issued and ensure the recognition of labor and respect for workers in this sector.

We humbly request that our concerns be heard promptly. Thank you.





# Where is my labor contract ?



**Saraswati B.K**

I have been working in a dohori sanjh (typical Nepali restaurant with live folk singing) for the past five years. I regularly work as a singer. My work usually starts at 6 in the evening and continues until 2 in the morning. Even though I have worked consistently for five years, my employer has never provided me with a contract or ID card. There is no written record of how much my salary is. I have not been paid for past two months.

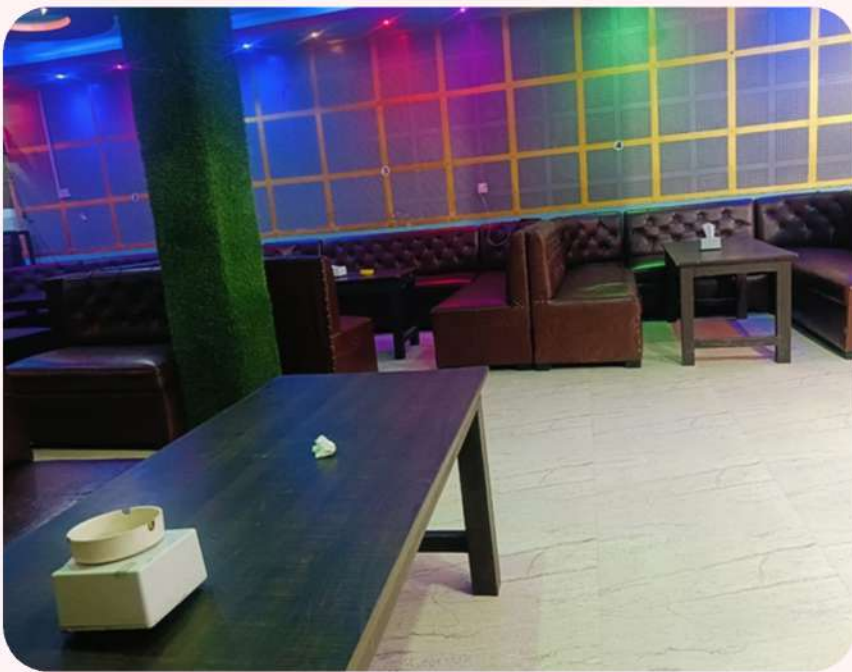
Where should I go to file a complaint? If I go to the labor office, I don't have any written evidence. Should I just stay silent? How can I let go of the hard work I did?? Where should I go?? What should I do??

Based on my own experience, the point I want to raise is: There should be a contract between workers and employers. A labor contract benefits both parties in the long run. It creates an environment where workers can also feel responsible and committed to their duties. The contract would also specify how much salary will be paid for how long the work is done. This would help prevent issues like sudden dismissal or delayed payments, reducing the mistrust between employers and workers.

It is essential to ensure labor contracts for workers in the adult entertainment sector.







## Mental Violence by Employers at the Workplace.

***Chandrika Tamang***

It has been a year since I started working in a Dohori. The work has not been as easy as I had imagined. I am a waiter and my job is to serve the customers. I have been honest with my job. But how can I bring customers into the Dohori myself? My responsibility is to serve those who come at Dohori. However, we are pressured to bring in customers, too. If there aren't enough customers, we are the ones who face the consequences.

While working in the adult entertainment sector, we are constantly pressured to bring in more customers to increase business. When the business doesn't go well, the owners vent their anger on the staff, they get irritated, and they scold us. We are forced to endure such behavior.

How long must we tolerate this situation? When will the directives for this sector finally be implemented? Are we, the workers of this sector, not considered workers too? Who will answer this??



# After Returning from Abroad.

**Ritu Nesur**



In search of opportunities, I went to India from Nepal. Through social media, I came into contact with a person. Lured by promises of good work and high income, I was easily drawn in. Carrying the dream of foreign employment, I ended up in a miserable condition in India. Eventually, with the coordination of various organizations and the Embassy of Nepal, I returned to Nepal. However, after returning from India, I realized that my family's and society's perspective towards me had changed. I was treated as if I had committed a crime.

We are not weak. Circumstances brought us to such a state. Those who are rescued from vulnerable situations and returned to villages and communities need more love and support. But when society and family themselves hold a negative perception of us, it sometimes leads to feelings of not wanting to live anymore.

There must be a change in behavior towards returnees. A long-term reintegration policy is needed. Shouldn't we be allowed to live with dignity??







## Adult Entertainment Sector and Foreign Employment – A Choice or a Compulsion?


***Radha Giri***

Workers in the hospitality and adult entertainment sector are being forced to go abroad. I have been working in a Dohori Sanjh (typical Nepali restaurant with live folk singing) for the past eight years. Every day, I see many planes flying overhead from my workplace, and I wonder when I will get to fly. But then I remember the pain and struggles my friends have faced abroad and I feel afraid.

There is no recognition of our labor - we are not paid according to the work we do. Customers often try to lure us with promises or inappropriate offers. We are made to work without any formal contracts. These conditions push us to seek opportunities abroad. We have no social security. If something happens to us, there is no one to look after us. These uncertainties compel us to leave the country.

Workers who travel on visit visas without labor approval are at even greater risk of human trafficking. They are promised one job but forced into another, taken to a different location than agreed, denied salaries, refused return when they want to go home, their passports are withheld, and they suffer both mental and physical abuse.

It is necessary to break the chain of trafficking hidden under the guise of foreign employment and ensure safe migration and dignified foreign employment opportunities.





# Negligence in Occupational Safety and Hazards.

***Dikshya Lamsal***  
***Akriti Dahal***



We have been working in a banquet hall for the past one and a half years. Due to difficult circumstances, we ended up working in a banquet because it was easy to get hired. However, the actual working environment was far from what we had imagined.

Despite working continuously for 16 - 17 hours a day, our earnings are very low. The working conditions are poor, and even the food we are provided is substandard. Our food is either leftovers from a week or two or burnt lentil soup. On top of that, there is no fixed time for snacks; sometimes, we don't get to eat at all. Now you tell us, how are we supposed to work under such conditions?

Just imagine the impact this has on our health - especially since most of us working there are under the age of 18. We're forced to work in unsafe and unhealthy conditions.

We don't know if the sector we work is entertainment sector or not, but just like in any other workplace, attention must also be paid to the workers in this sector.

Otherwise, who will listen to our problems? Don't we have the right to work with dignity - with proper health and safety measures and fair working hours?





**Good Shepherd International Foundation Nepal (GSIF Nepal)**, established in 2018, is a branch of the Good Shepherd International Foundation. It supports the mission of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd in Nepal through a human rights-based approach, focusing on girls, women and children affected by poverty, exploitation, and violence. Guided by four of the Congregation's position papers - Trafficking, Migration, Girl Child, and Prostitution, GSIF Nepal works in collaboration with implementing partners to bring positive and sustainable change.

**Opportunity Village Nepal (OVN)**, founded and managed by the Good Shepherd Sisters, is one of GSIF Nepal's key implementing partners. It is dedicated to empowering vulnerable children, youth, and women through protection, rehabilitation, and educational support. OVN operates a **Child Protection Home** in Pokhara, Kaski District, where it provides shelter, formal and non-formal education, psychosocial care, and reintegration support for children who are survivors of trafficking or at high risk.

Together, GSIF Nepal and OVN implement **Anti-Human Trafficking** projects in three provinces of Nepal, addressing both **internal and cross-border trafficking**. The internal anti-human trafficking project, implemented in **Bagmati and Gandaki provinces**, focuses on preventing trafficking, especially in the adult entertainment sector, and supporting survivors through shelter, psychosocial counseling, vocational and job-oriented training, and economic empowerment initiatives such as self-help groups and cooperatives. Awareness campaigns and local advocacy efforts are also carried out in communities to prevent exploitation and promote protection.

The cross-border anti-human trafficking project operates in **Rupandehi District of Lumbini province** near the Indo-Nepal border. It focuses on rescuing and repatriating trafficking survivors, especially girls and women, in collaboration with local authorities, Indian counterparts, and border security forces. A safe home near the border provides temporary shelter, food, legal support counseling, and vocational training for survivors. The project also engages in border surveillance, community awareness, and partnership-building to strengthen anti-trafficking efforts on both sides of the border.



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