



# Toward Universal Social Protection

Theme of Health, Social Protection and Equity, WSF2024

Collectively Organized by  
AROSP, ASEC, AMRC, JCYCN, HNN, HNP, INHE, INSP!R, LIGHT HOUSE, NCWR,  
PMRS, PSI, SPCSN, WAYVE



# **A WORKSHOP SERIES ON THE 17<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024 FROM 9:00 TO 17:30**



Face to face at Pacific hotel, Jamal,  
Kathmandu, Nepal and through Zoom



Interpretation English - Nepali, Hindi,  
Bengali, Bahasa and Thai is provided

# **AND A STATEMENT ON THE 19<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY MORNING**

**A**s the world economy produces more, grows at a rapid pace, and generates more and more wealth and profits, the disparity between those at the top of the pyramid and those at the bottom is increasing exponentially. Instead of having more--- since they produce more, work longer hours, and sacrifice more-- -- vulnerable people around the world have less access to healthcare, quality education, civic services, and housing. In a world where work and income are far from secure, the lack of guarantees for access to necessities for workers and their families is a serious and often tragic issue. At least 8 million people die every year just because of a lack of quality health care. Every day in 2020, almost 800 women die from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth. Women undertake unpaid care work three times more than men in Asia and two times globally. The aftermath of Covid 19 has left a multitude of public services workers absorbed by private players especially in health and sanitation in dire straits since they were all hired under sub-contractual outsourcing systems having no guarantee of future employment. Inequality is everywhere and it is in diverse forms. In homes, there are inequalities between boys and girls and between men and women. Equality is not maintained in education, in skill, in education and employment. Women are facing discriminatory behaviours in access to occupation and those women who are in occupation are again struggling with inequalities to access to the financial sources. The gender inequality is fuelling the patriarchies which gathers power with men and forces women to lose making men more powerful and women weaker.

**I**n these circumstances, all working people must be assured of access to comprehensive social protection, including housing and civic services, healthcare, education, unemployment allowance, maternity benefit, child care and pensions for the elderly. In the broad frame of social protection for all, there must be a special focus on the needs of people with disabilities and all attempts to help organise space and systems to help them lead secure and productive lives. And every one should be assured of a decent life right from the womb to tomb.

**T**he workshop series of **"Toward Universal Social Protection"**, starts with a thematic panel discussion then follows up with more specific discussions to highlight the social protection gap and to promote the voice of workers, trade unions, NGOs and activists around the world demanding for universal, comprehensive, inclusive and just social protection.

**W**e expect more than 500 participants from over 17 countries of Asia, Africa and Europe and we hope there will be more friends joining us from other regions.

# ASSEMBLY ON UNIVERSAL SOCIAL PROTECTION

9:00 to 11:00

---

This is a thematic panel on impacts of exclusion of social protection in the lives of vulnerable people and gaps in policy and implementation related to social protection with a diversity of speakers, including representatives from International organizations, workers, trade unions, NGOs and activists from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Thailand, Palestines and other countries.



**Speakers:** Laxman Basnet, SARTUC - SEWA (tbc); Bindu Gautam, CWISH - Workers testimonies from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Thailand, Palestine - Dolma Tamang, CA - Sabreen AbeedAllah, PMRS - Morshed SM, OSHE - Boonsom Namsomboon, HNT - Manjula Pradeep - WAYVE; Rajendra Dahal- PSI - Om Thapaliya, HNN.



**Moderators:** Mabel Au, Hongkong - Md. Harun-Or-Rashid, LightHouse - Manjula Pradeep, WAYVE

# MATERNITY PROTECTION FOR WORKERS IN THE INFORMAL ECONOMY

11:30 to 13:00

---

This workshop will provide the most updated information on social protection-related vulnerabilities of women in the informal economy, especially as regards maternity protection of women in the agrifood sector. Participants also share good practices regarding maternity protection for workers in the informal economy from the countries.



**Speakers:** Supriti Bezbaruah, UK - Surendra Pratap, CWE - Stephen Kidd, Development Pathways - Chandra Firmantoko, ASEC - Primar JARDELEZA, HNPIL - Ramila Chaulagain, HEPON - Krishna Prasad Adhikari, SSF - SEWA (tbc) - Ume Laila Azher, HNP.



**Moderators:** Van Thi Thu Ha, AMRC; Sabrina Abeedallah, PMRS

# GENDER EQUALITY

14:00 to 15:30

---

In this workshop, participants will exchange their experiences of the effect of the inequalities in their social, political, economic and cultural life and discuss the possible measures to promote gender equalities in the Asia region and in the world.



**Speakers:** Om thapaliya, HNN - Sundara Babu Nagappan, INHE - Isabel Otiz, Global Social Justice - Dil Maya Bitalu, Milan Myagdi - Lalita Gharti, Rukum - Mabel, Hong Kong



**Moderator:** Radha Poudel, gender equality network

WORKSHOP 3:

# IMPACT OF PRIVATIZATION ON PUBLIC SERVICES

16:00 to 17:30

---

The workshop will provide the participants with a better understanding of the recent developments in the world of work and its implications to workers and unions, as well as build advocacy and campaigns for public sector workers.



**Speakers:** Godsen Mohandoss, PSI SA - Isabel Otiz, Global Social Justice - Julien Poisser, CSQ - Iqbal Ahmed Detho, Sindh HRC - Banaani Deka - PSI SA - Van Thi Thu Ha, AROSP



**Moderators:** Godsen Mohandoss

WORKSHOP 4:

#SocialProtection4All

#CareWorkMakesAllOtherWorksPossible

#GenderEquality4SocialJustice

#NoPrivatisationOfEssentialPublicServices

#MaternalHealthMatters;

#QualityPublicServices4All

#PeopleOverProfit

# INFORMATION ABOUT CO-ORGANIZERS:



## **Asian Roundtable on Social Protection (AROSP)**

Asian Roundtable on Social Protection (AROSP) is a network focused on learning and mutual support on the thematic issue of social protection for both formal and informal workers. As a regional network, it aims to support and consolidate the regional struggle for social protection for the poor across various sectors in Asia. By December 2023, AROSP had 51 members and associates from 14 countries.



## **Asia Monitor Resource Centre (AMRC)**

Asia Monitor Resource Centre (AMRC), ([www.amrcentre.org](http://www.amrcentre.org)), is an organization founded in the 1980s to support and promote labor rights. AMRC has developed into the largest network of civil society organizations covering social protection, labor rights and occupational safety and health in the region, with 130 members in 18 countries in East, south and southeast Asia.



## **Asian Solidarity Economy Council (ASEC)**

Asian Solidarity Economy Council (ASEC) ([www.asec-sse.com](http://www.asec-sse.com)), established in 2011 is the continental network in Asia of the Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of Social Solidarity Economy (RIPESS). Through training, seminar, consultation, and raising public awareness ASEC promotes the concept and practices of SSE, using SSE Core Features to assess how organizations reflect the principles of SSE and sync to the SDGs as basemap of the organization's development.



## **Jagriti Child and Youth Concern Nepal (JCYCN)**

Jagriti Child and Youth Concern Nepal (JCYCN), [www.jagritinepal.org](http://www.jagritinepal.org), is a CSO, established in 2001 and having over 23,000 child clubs across Nepal. Since its inception, JCYCN has been actively involved in advocating for children and youth rights, promoting child/youth/nutrition-friendly local governance, empowering girls, facilitating youth employment, fostering participation and justice, supporting livelihoods, combating human trafficking, and promoting safer migration.



## **HomeNet Nepal (HNN)**

HomeNet Nepal (HNN), ([www.homenetnepal.org.np](http://www.homenetnepal.org.np)), a nationwide network of informal sector workers was established in 2000 as an NGO and has more than 8 thousand members and more than 40 thousand network members over the country. HNN works for universal social protection and to advocate for the inclusive, decent and sustainable livelihood of the grassroots workers especially women and marginalized workers. It is associated with INSPIR, DPNET, AROSP and gender equality network.



### **HomeNet Pakistan (HNP)**

HomeNet Pakistan (HNP), established in 2005, is a membership-based network of 365 home based worker's organizations, demonstrating about 55,000 women members from all over Pakistan. HNP strives to empower home based workers to realize their economic, political and social rights through the strengthening of their respective organizations, adoption of fair trade practices, resulting in the improvement of their working and living conditions.



### **International Network for a Human Economy (INHE)**

International Network for a Human Economy (INHE) is made up of organizations and individuals working in four continents for the development of societies and a world where every person can live in dignity. Their action in the perspective of the human economy, a process and a set of principles of organization of societies. Organizations and individuals participate in INHE to publicize their work, interact with other members, and learn from each other's experiences.



### **INSP!R Nepal**

INSP!R Nepal is a multi-stakeholder network of 19 Nepali trade unions and civil society organisations promoting the right to social protection since 2021. It has two leads, including SPCSN with focus on non-contributory social security for child allowances, elderly and access to health, and ITUC-NAC for the contributory Social Security Fund.



### **Light House**

Light House ([www.lighthousebd.org](http://www.lighthousebd.org)) is a non-profit organization working for rural and urban assetless poor, marginalized and high risk population particularly the landless, homeless, sex worker, drug users, men who have sex with men and Hijra with transgender, distressed, school dropouts, child labor, Adibashi and other disadvantaged adults and children in Bangladesh. Its interventions include human rights, social security, voter awareness & good governance, gender issues, HIV/AIDS prevention, Climate change, poverty reduction and alternative livelihood.



### **National Campaign for Women's Rights (NCWR)**

National Campaign for Women's Rights (NCWR), a loose network from 2009 and formally registered as an NGO in 2023 with nearly 10 thousand individual members. It is fully committed to ending all forms of violence and harassment against women and girls. It is focused on the empowerment of rural and grass-root women for their equal access to assets and income, participation and representation in social, cultural, economic and political spheres.



### **Palestinian Medical Relief Society (PMRS)**

Palestinian Medical Relief Society (PMRS) (<https://pmrs.ps/>), a grassroots movement founded in 1979 by a group of Palestinian doctors and healthcare professionals seeking to supplement the inadequate health infrastructure caused by Israeli military occupation, has become one of the largest health related NGOs in Palestine, aiming to improve the health, wellbeing, and resilience of all Palestinians by providing quality primary health care services, mobilizing the community, and advocating for accessible quality health care and prevention for all.



### **Public Services International (PSI)**

Public Services International (PSI), (<https://publicservices.international/>), an independent global trade union federation (GUF) works in cooperation with the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and the Council of Global Unions to defend and promote rights and interests of public sector employees on the principle of solidarity. It promotes universal access to quality public services and upholds democratic, human, labor and environmental rights worldwide, advocates for social justice through the United Nations system, and in partnership with other labour and civil society allies.



### **Social Protection Civil Society Network (SPCSN)**

Social Protection Civil Society Network (SPCSN) (<https://spscnnepal.org>), established in Nepal in 2012, comprising 21 national and international NGOs, is dedicated to advocating for the rights of the most vulnerable groups in Nepal, including children, the elderly, people with disabilities, trafficking survivors, those with HIV/AIDS, single women, and the landless. The network has a rooted foundation nationwide.



### **Wise Act of Youth Visioning and Engagement Foundation (WAYVE)**

Wise Act of Youth Visioning and Engagement Foundation (WAYVE), ([www.wayve.net.in](http://www.wayve.net.in)), is a national organization, established in 2018, working for the rights of marginalized communities in India addressing issues of structural inequalities against Dalits, Tribal and religious minorities ensuring social justice and dignified life. WAYVE collaborates with like-minded organisations nationally and internationally to conduct action-research and organise advocacy campaigns on the livelihood and dignity issues of targeted people.