

**RESTLESS  
DEVELOPMENT**  
POWERED BY YOUNG PEOPLE

# Nepal Quarterly Newsletter

**APRIL-JUNE 2021**

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## Online Campaign for PRIDE Month Celebration

To celebrate Pride Month, we along with the volunteers of Youth Take the Lead conducted a three-day-long online campaign focusing on the theme of pride month that was “Thrive with Pride”. The main aim of the online campaign was to celebrate June as Pride Month by sharing case stories, awareness about the issues of LGBTIQ communities, and providing information on the prevailing discrimination, challenges faced by the LGBTIQ community.

The target audience of the campaign was the LGBTIQ community, International Citizen Service (ICS) volunteers, local youth, and other people who come from diverse backgrounds who are active on social media platforms. To mark the starting of the campaign we shared a message from our Hub Director, Kaajal Pradhan, urging everyone to take the lead, promote youth engagement and restore power in building a just society. This was followed by a video message from Kabir Raheman Pariyar, a young LGBTIQ activist, who proudly identifies himself as gay. Furthermore, different heart-touching pieces of literature from the LGBTIQ community were shared and the case story of LGBTIQ was collected. The team shared a total of 4 posts from social media handles of Restless Development Nepal. It was a small step towards bringing awareness and helping people who belong to the LGBTIQ community to live dignified life.

### “IMPOSSIBLE WISH”

Every night I wish I could  
Wake up as a man the next morning  
But no matter how much I wish  
I know it's an impossible thing

Suffocating inside the wrong body  
I drag myself towards another day  
Being lost in dismal thoughts of despair  
My heart sinks in the ocean of dismay

Though I manage to disguise myself  
My voice makes the wrong sound  
While I am trapped inside the wrong body  
I wish my true identity to be found

Even if it's just for a day  
If I were a boy, I wish  
I would do everything I could  
And enjoy the moment of bliss.

-Yesung



**Birendra Chaudhary**  
-LGBTIQ Activist  
Nepal

To all the LGBTIQ people spread around the world who has been advocating and fighting for the rights of LGBTIQ, I want to say that we don't lack power, we only lack the will power, so let's all empower ourselves to come out and speak against discrimination and walk ahead with positive mind set and bring positive changes in the society.

## Young People as Taking Lead

The third cycle of the Youth Take the Lead (YTL) programme 2021, supported by the Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation (NOREC), volunteers from Nepal and from Tanzania are working together to enhance youth leadership and create a positive impact within the organizations and in their communities. The major activities that the YTL team has conducted this quarter are i) National Dialogue ii) Pride Month Campaign iii) Global Dialogue iv) Global Citizenship Toolkit.

Two National Dialogues on “Role of Young People in Exploring Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights” and “Young People Exploring Mental Health Challenges” were conducted to provide a safe space for young people from different parts of the country to discuss relevant issues concerning youths. The recommendations from the dialogue were incorporated in the advocacy plan of the Youth Take the Lead Project.

On the 17th of June, the Youth Take the Lead team conducted Global Dialogue on “Youth Unemployment” with the aim of providing a platform for national and international young people to discuss challenges regarding youth unemployment in their country and share their experience and best practices and work out solutions in their communities. It helped them to gain insight into global challenges and how these challenges are interconnected and learn about best practices of other countries and develop a deeper understanding of their role to advocate on these issues.



# Celebrating Restless Development's Values Champion



Rekha Bhandari  
CnP Officer

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On June 25, 2021 Friday Restless Development celebrated Restless's 10th Values Day – a chance to connect with each other, its values and culture as an agency. This year's Values Day theme was Leadership. All the staff across the hubs came together to celebrate the value day and cheered for this year's Values Champions.

This year's value champion from Nepal was Ms. Rekha Bhandari. Rekha joined Restless Development Nepal in September 2019 as a Communication and Partnership Officer. For nearly two years now, she has been closely working with her team to identify, cultivate and maintain partnership opportunities with various agencies; develop proposals, concept notes and innovative pitches for new funding opportunities; as well as to create, disseminate and evaluate the communication materials for the hub.

Rekha was nominated by her peers as she is 100% professional and collaborative when working. She is the best Values Champion for Restless Development Nepal because she puts effort in everything she does and works with others to achieve the best possible outcome. Rekha always manages to manage some time to guide others and help them whenever needed.

## Anti-racism Work at Restless Development



Restless Development has pushed the boundaries to bring positive changes. We aim to restore the power, providing an alternative to traditional development and power structures. We want to strengthen youth leadership, particularly among those from the majority world and marginalized communities.

In July, we organized an Anti-Racism Working Group comprised of Directors. This group quickly grew its membership to include staff from across the global agency following feedback from staff. This group aspires to provide a secure and collaborative learning environment where staff can openly and critically reflect on their progress or share concerns about areas where we are falling short. They've taken the lead in defining and organizing our anti-racism efforts.

We did listening exercises in our Hubs to better understand racism in and amongst the countries where we work, as well as inside our own agency. We were able to obtain a better understanding of areas that need anti-racist inspection as a result of these exercises. Our Anti-Racism Working Group, which was formed to define and oversee our anti-racism efforts, used the data accumulated to develop a detailed anti-racism action plan, which is being reviewed by staff across the agency.

# YOUTH POWER

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