

## **Statelessness and the plight of women in Nepal**

Nepal has entered into the democratic republic country with an adoption of new constitution in 2015. The constitution is marked as a progressive constitution. The constitution guarantees the civil political and socio economic rights of people in more progressive way. It also guarantees the marginalized people's socio economic rights progressively. The constitution guarantees the right to equality and right to justice as a fundamental right to all citizen. Any forms of discrimination based on the sex, race, gender, caste, physical ability is strictly prohibited by the constitution. However, in reality, women in Nepal have been deprived of enjoying their civil, political and socio economic rights in full felled. Many women in Nepal lack the citizenship, legal identity documents due the discriminatory behaviors from the government's service delivery institutions, and due to the existing patriarchal norms led to the discriminatory practices from the family and society. Because of lack of citizenship, many women have been living as a status of stateless in their own country. Because of lack of citizenship, many women lack the marriage certificates. Because of lack of citizenship and marriage certificates, many women are deprived of accessing other socio economic entitlements. There is a vicious cycle between the violence against women and statelessness in Nepal. This paper will explore the women's struggle to get the citizenship and legal identity documents and its impact on their social, economic and political lives including their rights to nondiscrimination and equality. The paper will be based on literature review, interviews, case studies and the focused group discussions.