

Project Title: Strengthening the Feminist Movement to Fight against Violation of Rights

Report on

Quarterly meeting with Community Young Women Leaders and Feminist Human Rights Defenders,



Executive Summary

The Nice Foundation successfully organized two quarterly meetings on 25 November 2024 and 8th March 2025 with Community Young Women Leaders (CYWLs) and Feminist Women Human Rights Defenders (FWHRDs), including Persons with Disabilities (PWD) and Transgender individuals. These meetings aimed to build collective feminist leadership, strengthen inclusion, and promote grassroots advocacy by uniting diverse young women leaders from across Nice Foundation's program areas and CSOs.

A total of 62 participants attended the first meeting, including 42 from the Nice Foundation and 20 from other CSOs (2 CYWLs per organisation). The second meeting recorded 42 participants from the Nice Foundation and 20 from the CSOs, demonstrating continued strong engagement across the network.

The meetings focused on critical issues such as gender-based violence, early and forced marriage, the social exclusion of Persons with Disabilities (PWD) and transgender women, and the barriers they face in accessing essential public services and justice. Both quarterly gatherings created safe and inclusive spaces where participants could openly share their lived experiences, voice local concerns, and collectively explore solutions. Through interactive discussions, group work, and joint planning sessions, participants identified key challenges and aligned on shared advocacy goals to advance gender justice and social inclusion in their communities.

The meetings strengthened solidarity among feminist actors and laid the groundwork for a vibrant, community-driven feminist movement at the grassroots level. These quarterly meetings marked a significant step toward building inclusive, intersectional feminist leadership at the community level. The momentum generated will be carried forward through continuous engagement, joint advocacy, and strengthened grassroots action in the coming months.

Meeting Overview

As part of its ongoing commitment to strengthening grassroots feminist leadership and inclusive advocacy, the Nice Foundation organized two quarterly meetings with Community Young Women Leaders (CYWLs) and Feminist Women Human Rights Defenders (FWHRDs), including Persons with Disabilities (PWD) and transgender individuals. These meetings brought together diverse voices from Nice Foundation's program participants and civil society organizations (CSOs) to collectively reflect on community challenges, share lived experiences, and plan coordinated actions to advance gender justice.

Objectives of the meetings:

- To provide a safe, inclusive, and supportive platform for Community Young Women Leaders (CYWLs), including women with disabilities and transgender leaders, to express their lived realities and voice the challenges they face within their communities.
- To enhance the leadership, advocacy, and mobilization skills of CYWLs, enabling them to take active roles in promoting gender justice and social inclusion at the grassroots level.
- To collectively identify and analyze priority local issues, such as gender-based violence, child and early marriage, discrimination against marginalized groups.

Meeting Agenda:

- Welcome and Objective Sharing
- Introduction and Experience Sharing
- Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

- Early and Forced Marriage
- Inclusion and Rights of PWD and Transgender Women
- Barriers to Public Services and Justice

Agenda Details:

Welcome and Objective Sharing The meetings began with a warm welcome from the organizers, who expressed appreciation for the presence and commitment of all Community Young Women Leaders (CYWLs), Feminist Women Human Rights Defenders, including Persons with Disabilities (PWD) and transgender participants. The purpose and objectives of the quarterly meetings were clearly shared to set the tone for open dialogue and meaningful engagement. The facilitator emphasized the importance of creating a safe, inclusive, and respectful space where participants could speak freely about the issues impacting their lives and communities. The meeting aimed to build solidarity among grassroots feminist leaders, strengthen their leadership, and collectively strategize on solutions to address gender-based violence, early marriage, exclusion, and lack of access to public services.



Introduction and Experience Sharing Following the welcome session, participants introduced themselves, representing various unions and communities, including those working closely with the Nice Foundation CSOs. Each participant shared their background, areas of activism, and challenges they face in their respective communities. This session created a strong sense of connection, empathy, and shared purpose among the participants. Many young women opened up about their lived experiences with gender discrimination, community resistance, and social stigma particularly those who are differently abled or belong to the transgender community. The session laid a powerful foundation for the discussions that followed, fostering trust, mutual respect, and a collective spirit of empowerment.

The quarterly meetings provided a critical platform for Community Young Women Leaders (CYWLs), including women with disabilities and transgender leaders, to voice pressing issues affecting their lives and communities. A central theme was the pervasive nature of gender-based violence (GBV), including domestic abuse, intimate partner violence, public harassment, and verbal abuse. Participants highlighted how entrenched cultural norms, fear of stigma, and lack of safe reporting mechanisms continue to silence survivors and hinder access to justice. Early and forced marriage also emerged as a major concern, with participants sharing that many girls are married off between the ages of 14 and 16, often due to poverty and , gender inequality, and social pressure. This leads to increased vulnerability to violence, early motherhood, and loss of educational opportunities. Additionally, exclusion and discrimination against persons with disabilities (PWD) and transgender women were deeply discussed, with participants noting their invisibility in public life, limited access to services, and lack of representation in decision-making processes. The need to build inclusive feminist spaces and improve accessibility and leadership support for these groups was strongly emphasized. A final key concern was the widespread barriers to accessing public services and

justice systems. Participants shared stories of being denied services or treated unfairly due to their gender, identity, or social status. The meetings called for community-based legal literacy campaigns, increased rights awareness, and stronger engagement with service providers to ensure justice and equity for all.

Conclusion

The 1st and 2nd Quarterly Meetings with Community Young Women Leaders (CYWLs) and Feminist Women Human Rights Defenders, including Persons with Disabilities (PWD) and transgender participants, created powerful spaces for shared learning, reflection, and collective planning. These gatherings not only deepened the participants' understanding of the key challenges such as gender-based violence, early marriage, and systemic exclusion but also strengthened their resolve to take unified action. The meetings reinforced the importance of intersectionality, community-led advocacy, and inclusive leadership in building a resilient feminist movement at the grassroots level. Participants left with renewed solidarity, clearer priorities, and concrete action plans to implement in their respective communities. As the movement continues to grow, these quarterly meetings remain essential for sustaining momentum, amplifying marginalized voices, and driving meaningful social change from the ground up.