

GOVERNANCE

ISSUE 194 | NOV 28, 2025

Rising Gender-Based Violence in Nepal: Current Trends and the Path Forward

WEEKLY

As the global 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence began on November 25—this year highlighting the theme “UNiTE to End Digital Violence Against All Women and Girls”—Nepal confronts an escalating crisis of violence against women and girls across both physical and digital spheres. The campaign, running until December 10, calls for coordinated action to create safe online and offline environments for women. Yet, national data shows the urgency of much deeper structural interventions.

In fiscal year 2024/25, violence against women rose by 12%, painting a disturbing picture of widespread insecurity. Over the past five years, an average of 57 women have faced violence each day in Nepal. Simultaneously, cybercrime—an increasingly common form of gendered abuse—has surged sharply. [Nepal Police](#) recorded a 119% rise in cybercrime complaints in 2023/24 compared to the previous year. Women made up 44.32% of victims, with children (3.2%) and LGBTQI+ individuals (3.8%) also disproportionately affected.

Rape cases remain widespread and underreported. Between the fiscal years 2022/23 and 2025/26, a total of 12,059 rape cases were filed. Koshi reported the highest number (2,691), followed by Lumbini (1,971), Madhesh (1,586), Kathmandu Valley (1,566), and other provinces reporting hundreds of cases each. These figures capture only reported incidents—many victims remain silent due to stigma, fear of retaliation, weak institutional responses, and political interference.

Over the years, Nepal has taken some concrete efforts to strengthen protections and responses to gender-based violence. Federal and provincial governments have expanded One-Stop Crisis Management Centers (OCMCs), established women and children service desks, and launched fast-track courts for sexual assault cases. Nepal Police's Cyber Bureau has enhanced technical capacity and launched public awareness campaigns to curb online harassment and abuse. Yet, the numbers continue to reflect a concerning reality.

Gender-based violence in Nepal continues to manifest in its traditional forms—domestic violence, sexual assault, harmful social practices, and everyday discrimination—while also shifting into new digital spaces with modern technologies enabling targeted bullying, online harassment, misinformation, and surveillance of women and gender minorities. These tech-enabled abuses stem from the same entrenched patriarchal norms that systematically disadvantage these groups. Combating GBV requires holistic, sustained government action, including preventive measures, survivor-centered services, stronger enforcement of existing laws, digital safety frameworks, public awareness, and coordinated institutional accountability. Despite some progress, Nepal still has a long way to go in ensuring an equal and GBV-free society. [Read More](#)

Sharing Stories: Gender-Based Violence in the Digital Space

Accountability Lab Nepal ran an online campaign to raise awareness about online harassment and violence, providing a platform for learning and sharing. The campaign encouraged people to share their personal stories of online violence, aiming to create awareness and allow participants to learn from each other's experiences. While the campaign was open to everyone, the shared cases were predominantly related to harassment against women, which reflects the broader reality of online violence.

Here is the [link](#) to experiences shared by the participants.

Governance Issues of the Week

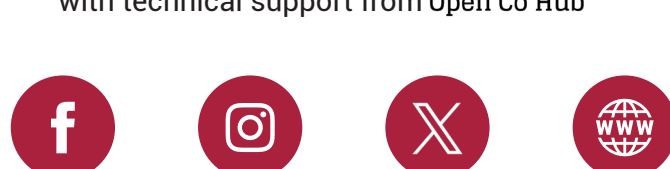
- Government prepares bill to free politicization of universities:** The government is preparing a higher education bill aimed at removing the Prime Minister from the role of university chancellor to reduce political interference in academic institutions. The draft bill proposes replacing political leadership with academic professionals as chancellors. Currently, the Prime Minister serves as chancellor and the education minister as pro-chancellor for all universities except Madan Bhandari University of Science and Technology and the University of Nepal. This structure has long enabled politicized executive appointments. [Read More](#)
- Lekhak likely to appear before Karki Commission while Oli declines:** UML chair KP Sharma Oli, who was prime minister during the September 23 Gen-Z protest in which 19 people were killed in a single day following brutal police suppression, has refused to appear before the Karki Commission. Oli has repeatedly dismissed the probe panel as biased and predetermined. Meanwhile, the home secretary of Ramesh Lekhak's, then the home minister, has said he is willing to testify if summoned, though he has not yet been contacted by the commission. [Read More](#)
- MCC infrastructure construction begins:** Physical infrastructure work under the Millennium Challenge Corporation has officially begun, 2.25 years after the project entered its implementation phase. The program includes building four 400 kV transmission lines spanning 315 kilometers and three 400 kV substations funded by the MCC and the Government of Nepal. Construction on the New Butwal–India border transmission line and the New Butwal Substation started on November 10. The substation contractor has 20 months left, while the transmission line contractor faces a six-month deadline. [Read More](#)
- Kankai Bridge Contract Terminated After 14 Years of Delays:** The government has terminated the contract for the 723-meter Kankai bridge linking Gauriganj Rural Municipality-1 and Jhapa Municipality-2 after 14 years of stalled progress. Despite five deadline extensions, the project reached only 56% completion—more than a decade past the original timeline. The contractor was asked on October 17 to justify why the agreement should not be cancelled, but the explanation was deemed unsatisfactory, leading to termination under the Public Procurement Law. [Read More](#)
- SSF Collects NPR 95.68 Billion in Contributions:** The Social Security Fund (SSF) has collected NPR 95.68 billion in contributions, with around 2.65 million workers currently enrolled. Of them, 649,511 are from the formal sector, 1,996,579 from foreign employment, 799 from the informal sector, and 582 are self-employed. The fund has paid NPR 17.72 billion in claims to 253,143 workers. SSF programs cover medical treatment, health and maternity care, accident and disability support, family-survivor protection, and old-age security etc. [Read More](#)
- EC extends Party registration deadline to November 30:** The Election Commission has extended the deadline for party registration until November 30 to accommodate parties still completing required documentation. So far, 137 parties have been registered with the Commission. Of these, 21 are seeking registration for the first time, while 18 more are currently in the process of completing their applications. The extension ensures all parties preparing for the upcoming elections have adequate time to finalize their registration. [Read More](#)

Nepal Governance Weekly is an analytical update of Nepal's current affairs based on media and real sources mining, to sensitize the communities on hot news on various Political economic governance and policy issues from the perspective of accountability.

Presented by



with technical support from  Open Co Hub



Copyright © 2021 Accountability Lab Nepal, All rights reserved.

Our return e-mailing address is:

nepal@accountabilitylab.org