



# The Healing Power of Stories

The European Union is empowering Nepali female survivors of armed conflict in Nepal to help others like them break the chain of silence and heal from sexual violence and trauma. Through support to the SAHAS project – Sharing and Amplifying Her Allegorical Stories – women who suffered severe human rights violations during the decade-long armed conflict between the government and the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN-Maoist) are able to move past the stigma and speaking out about their struggles. In sharing their narratives, these women are able to gain transitional justice for themselves and help other women tell their story without fear.

## A Survivor- And Women-Centric Approach



SAHAS employs Justice Reporters – women survivors of sexual and physical violence at the hands of Maoist rebels and the government – to collect stories and encourage women in their communities to raise their voices for justice.

**16** Reporters undergo **5** days

of training on collecting oral histories, working in the field, and reporting on gender-based violence and sensitivity.

Up to 2022, justice reporters have documented

**1600**

audio testimonials of women survivors.

SAHAS operates in

**8** Districts across

**4** Provinces in Nepal

## Kathsala: Narrative Therapy & Livelihood Support

**300** women survivors

have been provided a safe space to share their stories through Kathashalas (story workshops), which give these women the confidence to share their experiences with justice reporters.



Katahashala participants have received medical insurance, psychosocial counseling, and work opportunities. Such support offers survivors the chance to reintegrate into society and live a life of dignity and hopefully success.

## Sensitising Media & Society



Sharing the stories of women survivors leads to greater awareness among the public on human rights and post-conflict issues affecting women. SAHAS also engages with media houses and local/provincial governments to produce journalism and laws that support women's right to seek justice.

## Survivors Network for Peace and Justice

Justice reporters and Kathsalas' participants build confidence by speaking out and have become active advocates. Many have joined the

### Conflict Victim Women's Network

an organisation which protects the rights of and seeks reparations for conflict-affected women that SAHAS supports through mentoring and capacity building.

## Achieving Formal Truth Seeking

Starting with personal, one-on-one interactions leading to collective action through network-led advocacy and archived testimonials, SAHAS seeks to inform formal truth seeking processes to ensure that the experiences of women are never ignored or silenced again.



**1600**

audio-recorded stories have been documented by justice reporters up to 2022



#EUwithCivilSocietyNepal

## About the project

Lead implementing agency:  
**The Story Kitchen (TSK)**

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TSK Partners:

Sathi Foundation Nepal (SFN), Sunsari Nepal, Friends of Youth Voices (FOYVA), Siraha Nepal, Ideal Women Development Center (IWDC), Chitwan Nepal, Vijay Development Resource Center (VDRC), Nawalpur, Nepal