

Dr. Ruchira Talks of Revisiting Human Trafficking in Nepal After the Earthquake



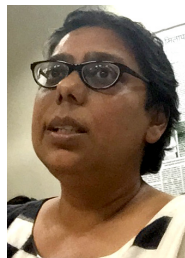
Professor Dr. Ruchira Gupta of New York University, USA and founder of Apne Aap Women Worldwide is also Co-author of a book entitled "As If Woman Matters" with Gloria Steinems.

Dr. Ruchira is an award winning investigative journalist.

Dr. Ruchira Gupta, Professor of New York University, USA addressing ABAN members

Dr. Ruchira Gupta, Professor of New York University, USA talked to Association of British Alumni in Nepal (ABAN) and Center for Investigative Journalism (CIJ)-Nepal gathering on August 29, 2015 at the British Council hall, sharing her experiences of "Re-visiting Human Trafficking After the Earthquake" in Nepal.

Past President of ABAN Ms. Namrata Sharma introduced Dr. Ruchira as founder of Apne Aap Women Worldwide. She has been associated with Nepal for more than 25 years. As an investigative journalist, she was very much interested to expose the sex trafficking in South Asia. She started her work on this from Sindhu Palanchowk and Makwanpur districts of Nepal. She has also edited a book titled "As If



Woman Matters" together with American Journalist and Activist Gloria Steinems.

"The information that girls of 15 years to 40 years age are missing from the villages as they were being trafficked to Mumbai, 1400 kms away changed my life" Dr. Ruchira Gupta said. Some 25,000 Nepali girls are said been trafficked to the brothels of Kantipura, the red-light district of Mumbai. These girls are made to serve 8 to 10 customers every night and have never seen the street for 5 years. This is a deliberate exploitation of human right, a modern day slavery.

Dr. Ruchira found strong link between the trafficker's

ring and the local authorities, obstructing any investigative research. She visited the brothels of Mumbai to prepare a documentary on the story of Maili Tamang and other 22 girls she helped to rescue, who in turn helped to have her life from the attackers.

The dreams of these girls in brothels were education of children, job in office with fixed income and working hours in a peaceful environment, room of their own and they wanted justice for protection from punishment. Dr. Ruchira helped to set up a school in the red-light district, arranged issuance of government ID or citizenship document and 22 of the brokers are in jail now, she said.



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The recent earthquake is another inequality to these most affected poor people of the districts, who have no home or food as basic infrastructures have collapsed and more reason for the brokers to influence the suffering people with greater hopes and promises. Quake victims are more vulnerable to traffickers as the girls are in extreme danger. Winter months are especially hard for them.

Mr. Raghu Pant, Ms. Indira, Mr. Shiba Gaule, Editor CIJ, Dr. Piush Mishra and others raised some questions. In reply, Dr. Ruchira stated that the root cause of girl trafficking is demand through traffickers. So, she suggested to track organized crime network. She also stressed on 3Es: Education, Empowerment and Employment and suggested learning centers with boarding room facilities in most vulnerable areas, vocational training, bank account, identity card etc. among the 10 assets to empower the girls.

Vice President of ABAN Mr. Tulasi Uprety presented a Vote of Thanks to the guest speaker Dr. Ruchira and all those present in the program.
 ABAN President Maheswor Bhakta



Shrestha presented a Letter of Appreciation to the guest speaker Dr. Ruchira Gupta for giving a very enlightening talk on Girl Trafficking from Nepal.



Back to the Beginning of ABAN

ABAN will celebrate its 17th Anniversary in 2016. Now it is time for us to look back on the journey so far in retrospect. Here is how our founders conceived of it and what they aspired of ABAN:



“Since its inception in 1997, ABAN has been working steadily to develop its role in providing a forum for the networking of a vast number of Nepalese professionals trained in the United Kingdom. Various talk programs on the issues and topics of national importance and interest have been held and those have been well attended. There appears to be no dearth of talent among the ABAN members. I would like to assure ABAN of British Embassy’s continued support and cooperation in fulfilling our common goals.” **British Ambassador to Nepal H.E. Mr. Ronald P. Nash**



“The British Council believes that ABAN is a very important organization in fostering mutual understanding and benefit between our two countries. This key group of individuals plays an important role in strengthening existing relationship and developing new ones – partnership no less important in development community than in the world of business”. **Barbara Wickham, Director of the British Council**



“ABAN came into being with well thought out objectives. ...we wished to foster cultural, academic and economic ties between Nepal and the UK. We wanted to help our members in their quest for fruitful careers while working towards national development... we specifically wanted to develop a social network of the potentially huge membership.

In the first 1000 days, the membership has interacted socially on a number of occasions. We have bettered our relationship with the British Council and the British Embassy. We have learnt the ongoing development process of Nepal through Talk program. We have had some inputs in the ongoing activities of the British Council providing British education for Nepalese students.

I have little doubt for ABAN to make an impact, the future lies in exploring new ideas and pushing them forward. We have the talent, we have the ambition and diversity and I am certain that ABAN will make an impact.” **Dr. Narayan Bahadur Thapa, Founder President of ABAN wrote in August 2000.**

Welcome to H. E. Ambassador & BC Country Director



John Rankin

His Excellency John Rankin is the British Ambassador to Nepal

Mr. John Rankin was educated at Hutchesons' Boys' Grammar School,

gained his first class honours degree in Scots Law from the University of Glasgow and Master's degree in international from McGill University, Montreal, Canada in 1984.

He practiced as a solicitor in Scotland and was a lecturer in the University of Aberdeen before joining the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. He also served at the Embassy in Dublin and was Consul-General at Boston, USA.

He took up his appointment as High Commissioner to Sri Lanka and non-resident High Commissioner to the Maldives during 2003-2007. He first came to Nepal in 2011.

HE Mr. John Rankin is married to Lesley and they are blessed with a son and two daughters



Jovan Ilic

Country Director, the British Council Nepal. In Nepal since 2010 as Lead on developing and delivering

educational change program through educational reform and social media in the British Council. Head of English and Programs since September 2011 and as Head of Programs since April 2014.

Currently he is responsible for the overall strategic approach of the British Council's education and English operations in Nepal. Current strategic objectives are developing skills of state sector teachers through in-service training, and reform of state examination system from grades 1-12

He is also a **Visiting Lecturer** in Kathmandu University since March 2014. Previously, he served as **Teacher Trainer** in International House London during 2005 – 2011 (6 years).

He completed his PhD in Environmental Philosophy from **Lancaster University** during 1992 – 1998.



Readers, please Note

- **Please attend monthly ABAN Talk program at British Council**
- **You can invite potential members to share their educational and professional experiences with ABANians**
- **Enjoy fellowship and intellectual discourse.**

Newest Life Member of ABAN



Dr. Nastu Prasad Sharma of Mountview Residency, Harisiddhi, Lalitpur has joined ABAN on August 29, 2015 as its Life Member. Dr. Sharma is the newest Life Members of ABAN. Dr. Sharma has completed the Degree of Mater of Public Health from the University of Leeds, UK in 1994/95.



ABAN Calendar of Events 2015

Month of 2015	Main Activities
April 11	Election of 9 th Executive Committee.
April 13	1 st ECM Strategy Meeting
August 21	2 nd ECM Meeting, Formation of Committees
August 29	Talk Program on Human Trafficking by Dr. Ruchira Gupta
September 11	Meeting with the British Council Director Dr. Jovan Ilic
September 22	ECM 3 rd meeting. Audit Reports for 2069-70 and 2070-71
September 24	Talk Program by Dr. Tsering on Support to Earthquake victims
October	Talk Program on Experiences of British Education by Ms. Laxmi Rajak.
October 30	ECM meeting. Advisory Council Meeting on Strategic Plan Cultural Evening Get together and Nepali dinner
November	Talk Program on Mr. Harward Green of Pahar Trust on school building in Nepal. Visit Old Age Home to offer warm clothes
November 27	Executive Committee Meeting (5th)
December	Talk Program by Dr. Swornim Wagley, Honorable Member of National Planning Commission on Nepalese Economy
December 25	Publication of Membership Directory 2016 ECM Meeting

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