1. Provide examples of the hidden forms of prostitution, and explain to what extent they are recognized and dealt with as such?

In Nepal, Maiti Nepal addresses diverse hidden forms of prostitution, understanding the nuanced challenges within the country. The rise of online exploitation poses challenges in identification, prompting Maiti Nepal to advocate for continuous monitoring of online spaces and collaboration with law enforcement to combat digital exploitation. Forced labor and debt bondage, often leading to prostitution, are countered through comprehensive approaches addressing economic vulnerabilities, awareness campaigns, and support for those affected. Familial trafficking is acknowledged as a deeply rooted issue, prompting Maiti Nepal to advocate for legal measures against familial traffickers and create support systems within families.

Tourism-related exploitation in Nepal's vibrant tourist industry is tackled through advocacy, training programs for hospitality staff, and awareness campaigns for ethical travel. Prostitution in informal establishments like "dance bars" is a concern addressed through collaboration with local authorities and advocating for legal measures. Temporary migrations for prostitution involve advocacy for protective measures, proper documentation, and support networks for migrant workers. Maiti Nepal's multifaceted approach encompasses advocacy, rescue operations, legal support, and rehabilitation, focusing on dismantling structures contributing to exploitation within the Nepalese context. The organization emphasizes ongoing efforts to increase awareness, strengthen legal frameworks, and empower communities to combat these hidden forms, playing a pivotal role in creating systemic change within Nepal.

1. Describe the profile of women and girls affected by prostitution in your country, and provide disaggregated data, where possible.

In Nepal, the profile of women and girls affected by prostitution is diverse, demanding a nuanced understanding of their experiences. Here's an overview:

Age-wise, the involvement spans various groups, with a critical focus on minors. In Nepal, the profile of women and girls affected by prostitution varies across age groups, with a particular focus on those aged 11-25 after minors. In Nepal, many people in rural areas face challenges because they don't have a lot of money. This makes them more likely to be in risky situations, so it's important to have specific plans to help them. Also, some people can't go to school, especially those who can't read or write. This makes them more likely to be in difficult situations, especially if they don't have many opportunities.

People from different ethnic and minority groups are more at risk, so we need to have plans that focus on helping them specifically. When people move from one place to another for work, it can make things more risky for them. We need to understand where they come from and how they move to help them better. People who have survived violence based on their gender are more likely to be at risk, showing how abuse and mistreatment are connected.

Health problems, like HIV/AIDS, can make people more vulnerable, so we need to have a complete plan to help them. The way society thinks and cultural factors also play a big role in making people more vulnerable. We need to be sensitive to these cultural differences when we make plans to help. Maiti Nepal's work is based on understanding these complicated situations. They have plans like awareness campaigns, rescues, and programs to help people recover, all designed to fit the specific challenges in Nepal.

1. Describe the profile of those who solicit women in prostitution and whether such relations are regulated, and provide supporting data, where possible.

In Nepal, individuals who solicit companionship services have diverse profiles, encompassing different ages, occupations, and income levels. Their economic backgrounds differ, with varying capacities to afford such services. Additionally, there may be involvement from tourists or individuals from other countries.

The educational backgrounds of those seeking such services vary, influenced by factors such as age, occupation, and financial status. Legal regulations surrounding these services play a role in shaping behavior. In certain cases, individuals seeking companionship services may be linked to human trafficking networks, emphasizing the complex relationship between seeking such services and human trafficking. Raising awareness about health risks and educating them about the consequences of such engagements can impact their behavior.

Intervention programs targeting individuals seeking companionship services aim to address the demand. Evaluating the effectiveness of these programs, along with education initiatives and rehabilitation efforts, provides valuable insights. Maiti Nepal likely addresses the demand side of such services through legal advocacy, awareness campaigns, and potential engagement with individuals to discourage such behavior. Understanding the holistic profile of those seeking companionship services is essential for tailoring interventions and legal measures within the unique dynamics of the Nepalese context.

1. What forms of violence are prostituted women and girls subjected to (physical, psychological, sexual, economic, administrative, or other)?

In Nepal, women and girls involved in prostitution face different kinds of violence. This includes physical harm like assault, psychological suffering from emotional abuse and manipulation, and sexual abuse, which can be both physical and verbal, from clients and those managing the sex trade.

They also experience economic exploitation, where they are paid unfairly or forced into financial situations that limit their freedom. Administrative violence involves exploitative practices within the sex trade structure, like unfair rules or manipulation by traffickers. The broader issues of exploitation and trafficking add further abuses, such as abduction or deceit.

Aside from direct harm, these individuals also deal with societal stigma and discrimination, making them more vulnerable. This can lead to social exclusion and mistreatment. Within the justice system, they may face additional challenges, encountering blame or insufficient protection.

Organizations like Maiti Nepal play a crucial role in helping these individuals. We provide support for physical and mental health, legal assistance, and advocacy against the systemic issues these women and girls face. The goal is to protect and rehabilitate them from the complex web of violence they endure.

1. Who is responsible for the perpetration of violence against women and girls in prostitution?

In Nepal, violence against women and girls involved in prostitution is a complex issue with various contributors. This includes clients, traffickers, brothel owners, organized crime, corrupt officials, societal norms, legal problems, economic inequality, cultural beliefs, and the demand for sex services. To address these challenges effectively, Maiti Nepal l works on legal reforms, awareness campaigns, rescue operations, and rehabilitation programs. Their efforts aim to dismantle structures that enable violence within the sex trade and enhance the protection of women and girls in these situations.

1. Describe the linkages, if any, between prostitution and the violation of the human rights of women and girls.

The linkages between prostitution and the violation of the human rights of women and girls in Nepal are intricate. Prostitution, particularly in exploitative conditions, can compromise the right to dignity, physical integrity, freedom from violence, health, education, work, non-discrimination, privacy, an adequate standard of living, legal protection, freedom and security, equality, and participation in cultural and social life. Maiti Nepal, aligning with its mission, likely addresses these linkages through legal advocacy, awareness campaigns, rehabilitation programs, and initiatives to change societal attitudes, aiming to protect and promote the human rights of women and girls affected by prostitution.

1. What links are there between pornography and/or other forms of sexual exploitation and prostitution?

The links between pornography, other forms of sexual exploitation, and prostitution in Nepal are intricate and interconnected. They share commonalities in catering to the demand for sexual content and services, potentially contributing to the objectification of individuals and perpetuating harmful gender stereotypes. Violence, coercion, and exploitative practices present in some forms of pornography and aspects of prostitution can normalize such behaviors. Exposure to these influences may shape attitudes and behaviors related to sexuality, consent, power dynamics, and relationships. The digital era has facilitated connections between pornography and prostitution through online platforms. Legal and regulatory challenges create a complex environment, and vulnerable populations may be disproportionately affected. Maiti Nepal is addressing these linkages through awareness campaigns, legal advocacy, and support for vulnerable individuals in both contexts, recognizing the nuanced interplay between these issues for comprehensive interventions and policy considerations in alignment with its mission.

1. How is the issue of consent dealt with? Is it possible to speak about meaningful consent for prostituted women and girls?

The issue of consent within the context of prostitution in Nepal is complex, involving inherent power imbalances, potential coercion, and socio-economic pressures that may compromise the ability of women and girls to provide meaningful and voluntary consent. Factors such as trafficking, intersectionality, lack of alternatives, exploitative conditions, and emotional impact further contribute to challenges in ascertaining genuine consent. Legal and policy frameworks play a crucial role, with advocates emphasizing the need for recognizing these challenges to uphold the rights and dignity of individuals in prostitution. Maiti Nepal, through its initiatives providing supportive services and exit strategies, focuses on root causes and advocates for legal and social reforms to protect vulnerable individuals and promote meaningful choices, contributing to the ongoing debate about human rights, agency, and societal responsibility.

1. How effective have legislative frameworks and policies been in preventing and responding to violence against women and girls in prostitution?

The effectiveness of legislative frameworks and policies in preventing and responding to violence against women and girls in prostitution varies globally, influenced by factors such as legal variability, the approach towards prostitution (criminalization, decriminalization, or legalization), provision of protection and support services, client criminalization, trafficking laws, non-criminal approaches, community engagement, intersectional considerations, and international cooperation. The impact of these measures is contingent on their enforcement and implementation, necessitating ongoing evaluation and adaptation to the evolving nature of the issue. Maiti Nepal contributes by advocating for measures that enhance the protection and rights of women and girls in prostitution, addressing gaps in legislative frameworks through their advocacy and support services.

1. What measures are in place to collect and analyse data at the national level with a view to better understanding the impact that prostitution has on the rights of women and girls?

Measures in place to collect and analyze data at the national level for a better understanding of the impact of prostitution on the rights of women and girls encompass national surveys and studies, law enforcement data, health and social service records, collaboration with NGOs and advocacy groups, surveillance of online platforms, shelter and rehabilitation programs, victim identification and support programs, exit program data, training and capacity building, and international cooperation and reporting. These initiatives, often involving collaboration between government agencies, NGOs, and research institutions, aim to develop comprehensive, accurate, and unbiased data to inform policies and interventions. Ethical considerations, including privacy, are essential in this data collection process.

1. What measures are in place to assist and support women and girls who wish to leave prostitution?

Measures in place to assist and support women and girls who wish to leave prostitution involve a comprehensive array of services, including specialized exit programs, shelters, counseling, legal assistance, healthcare, job training, education, peer support, community reintegration programs, trauma-informed care, advocacy for legal reforms, awareness campaigns, and access to social services. These initiatives, often provided by governmental and non-governmental organizations, aim to empower individuals, address root causes of exploitation, and facilitate a successful transition away from prostitution. Maiti Nepal, as an example, incorporates these measures in its approach to supporting those leaving prostitution, fostering empowerment and addressing the complexities surrounding their experiences.

1. What are the obstacles faced by organizations and frontline service providers in their mission to support victims and survivors of prostitution?

Organizations and frontline service providers face numerous obstacles in supporting victims and survivors of prostitution, including societal stigma, limited funding, legal barriers, complex trauma, education and employment challenges, reintegration difficulties, coordination issues, the risk of continued exploitation, cultural norms, lack of awareness, trafficking concerns, mental health resource shortages, limited exit opportunities, digital exploitation, and insufficient data. Despite these challenges, Maiti Nepal persist in their efforts, emphasizing the need for a comprehensive and collaborative approach involving various stakeholders to address these obstacles and provide crucial support to those affected by prostitution.

1. What are some of the lessons learned about what works and what does not when it comes to stemming any negative human rights consequences from the prostitution of women and girls?

Learning from past experiences is crucial in developing effective strategies to address the negative human rights consequences of the prostitution of women and girls. Some lessons learned about what works include trauma-informed approaches, holistic support services, long-term exit programs, collaboration and partnerships, legal reforms and decriminalization, education and awareness campaigns, economic empowerment programs, community involvement and empathy, prevention programs addressing root causes, and international cooperation. Conversely, what does not work involves the criminalization of prostituted individuals, limited access to support services, ignoring intersectionality, isolation and stigmatization, failure to address demand, lack of legal protections, short-term support programs, ineffective law enforcement approaches, failure to address systemic inequalities, and lack of international cooperation. Understanding these lessons can inform future policies, interventions, and support systems for better protecting the human rights of women and girls affected by prostitution.

1. Are frontline organizations and survivors' organisations sufficiently included in policymaking at the national and international level?

The extent of inclusion of frontline organizations and survivors' organizations in policymaking at the national and international levels varies, facing challenges such as limited representation, resource constraints, power dynamics, exclusion from decision-making tables, tokenistic involvement, and lack of awareness. However, there are positive developments, including growing recognition, acknowledgment of their expertise on international platforms, advocacy efforts, partnerships and collaboration, an intersectional approach, capacity building, and the establishment of policy platforms for inclusion. Despite progress, ongoing work is needed to ensure consistent and meaningful involvement of these organizations in policymaking, addressing barriers and fostering genuine collaboration to recognize their valuable expertise and perspectives.

1. What recommendations do you have to prevent and end violence associated with the prostitution for women and girls?

To prevent and end violence associated with prostitution for women and girls, a comprehensive approach is recommended, including legal reforms, support for exit programs, addressing root causes, awareness campaigns, access to healthcare, economic empowerment, collaboration and training, strengthening legal protections, targeting demand, survivor-informed policies, international cooperation, education and prevention programs, housing and shelter support, an intersectional approach, and research and data collection. These recommendations aim to create a supportive environment, protect the rights and safety of those involved, and address the systemic issues contributing to violence in the context of prostitution.