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**The Advocacy Project Peace Fellowship/ Care Women Nepal**  
**Dhankuta & Kathmandu, Nepal**  
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It has been just over 2 weeks since I returned to Europe from Nepal and I still find it difficult to express my immense gratitude for this experience in words. In Nepal, I found myself in situations that challenges me both personally and professionally. I have never felt more joy, or more sadness of the span of 10 weeks. On the one hand, my heart will now always feel somewhat far away. I left it in Nepal and will have to return if I ever wish to take it back. I wish I could have stayed and done more, not only with CWN but also with other organizations such as [Juneli Nepal](#) that address other facets of women's reproductive and sexual health rights. I think I could spend years working in Nepal and it still wouldn't feel like enough given the magnitude of the problems that women confront. I saw and heard of immense injustice and suffering while in Nepal that I was powerless to change.

While being in Nepal and working with Care Women Nepal made it clear how hard positive change is to come by when it comes to securing women's human rights, it also helped me to learn just how much I can achieve in a short period of time. I feel proud about my accomplishments (see below) and infinitely grateful for the support of the Jessica Jennifer Cohen Foundation and The Advocacy Project this summer.

**Accomplishments with Care Women Nepal between May 26<sup>th</sup> and August 1<sup>st</sup> 2017**

1. Created a Memorandum of Understanding signed by both Care Women Nepal and The Advocacy Project. The MOU will acted a road map for my work this summer in Nepal. The MOU also clearly defines and strengthens the partnership first formed in 2014 between the Advocacy Project and CWN. With continual effort on the parts of both AP and CWN I am confident that CWN will deepen the breadth and scope of their reach moving forward, thus enabling them to change the lives of more women in Nepal.
2. A budget was prepared and agreed upon by The Advocacy Project and Care Women Nepal.. The budget includes the cost of one health camp to be planned this summer and held in October. The budget also includes the cost of a hiring a full-time program manager and associate to work for Care Women Nepal to bolster the continuity of CWN's operations and appeal to large international donors (to date, CWN has been operating sporadically, planning several health camps per year). Moreover, the budget includes the cost of surgery for 10 women. Currently, there is a waitlist of 60 women who have been identified at past health camps who are waiting to undergo surgery. One of my goals this summer was to fundraise via Global Giving. To date, I have raised \$2250 of my \$6000 goal. There is still 43 days left to donate as of August 16<sup>th</sup>, and donations can be made [here](#). Just \$10 is enough to provide a woman suffering from the early stages of uterine prolapse relief in the form of a ring pessary.
3. I created a job description for the position of program manager with Care Women Nepal that was disseminated in Dhankuta and Kathmandu. I interviewed 15 applicants for the position and was able to find candidates suitable for both the positions of program manager and assistance program manager. You can read more about the selected candidates [here](#). Full time staff will enable CWN to present themselves as a viable and continuously operating organization to donors moving forward.

4. I have designed and created the Care Women Nepal website, I believe that the site is both informative and user friendly. The website can be viewed at: <https://carewomennepal.org>
5. I have created Care Women Nepal campaign pages that will be used by The Advocacy Project to raise funds for CWN moving forward (and hopefully secure support from large donors such as the UNFPA). The campaign pages will be posted in the coming months at: <http://www.advocacynet.org/care-women-nepal/>
6. I mounted a Global Giving Campaign page for CWN and raised \$2250 to date for CWN. This page can be viewed [here](#).
7. I visited various venues in Pakhribas, Dhankuta to determine an appropriate site for a health camp to be held between October 7<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017 (Iain Guest, Executive Director of The Advocacy Project will come to Nepal at this time to assist). This process involved speaking with the community of Pakhribas and the women whom the next CWN health camp will benefit. I also met with [Dhan Bahador Moktan](#), who has been charged with a managerial role in the planning and execution of CWN health camps in the past, and will be heavily involved in the execution of the next CWN health camp.
8. I developed a surgeries plan for September 2017- March 2018 with the district hospital in Biratnagar. Care Women Nepal has identified 60 women in previous health camps who suffer from severe uterine prolapse. These women have been put on a waitlist for surgery in Biratnagar, Nepal. Care Women Nepal will also hold a health camp for two days at some point between October 7<sup>th</sup> – October 13<sup>th</sup>. It is estimated that at this health camp, an additional 20 women will be identified as in need of surgery to treat severe uterine prolapse. The schedule created accounts for the 60 women previously identified at CWN health camps, as well as the estimated 20 women who will be identified at the camp to be held in October. Care Women Nepal can transport 4 women (as well as 1 loved per woman) each time a trip is made to Biratnagar for surgery. Women will leave Dhankuta on Saturday, arriving in Biratnagar on Saturday morning. From there, women will go through hospital intake procedures, and receive counselling about the specific surgical intervention that they will undergo on the following day. Counselling is crucial as many women have been led to believe that surgery to treat uterine prolapse may result in other serious afflictions such as cancer (a reality I discovered while interviewing the women of Pakhribas). 4 surgeries will take place on Monday. Women will spend time recovering in both the hospital and a hotel that CWN will pay for in the next 4 days that follow surgery. On Friday, all women will be transported back to Dhankuta. Officials at Biratnagar hospital have confirmed the viability of this plan and assured CWN of it feasibility.
9. I wrote a total of [10 blogs](#) and took [150 photos](#) that document the experiences of women experiencing uterine prolapse.
10. I updated the CWN website before leaving Nepal and provided shoulder to shoulder training to CWN's program manager who will take over control of the site. You can see the website in its current state [here](#).
11. I met with a young woman in Kathmandu who is changing the way girls, boys, women and men understand menstruation in Nepal. I believe that she, and the organizations she runs called [Juneli Nepal](#) would be an excellent partner for The Advocacy Project. You can read more about Anjila Khadka Timalisina, her organization and our discussion [here](#).