

Policy Summary

Advocacy Policy and Action Plan

Friends Affected & Infected Together in Hand (FAITH) — Lalitpur, Nepal
 2025–2027 (Action Plan and Results Framework through 2030)

ADVOCACY VISION

A society where marginalized women live with dignity, equality, and freedom from discrimination, supported by rights-based policies, responsive and inclusive practices, and accountable institutions.

8 Guiding principles for advocacy work	5 Advocacy objectives, 2025–2027	3 Core strategies: mapping, audience, pathways	2025–2030 Action plan & results framework horizon
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About this Policy

FAITH is a women-led, beneficiary-led organization advancing the health, rights, and socio-economic empowerment of marginalized women in Nepal, particularly female sex workers, women living with HIV, adolescent girls, and women with disabilities. Advocacy is a core pillar of this mission.

Despite policy gains, systemic challenges persist — including misuse of anti-trafficking laws against sex workers, weak enforcement of gender-based violence (GBV) laws, limited survivor-centered services, and discrimination in healthcare. This policy gives FAITH a structured framework to plan, implement, and review its advocacy work consistently, transparently, and effectively.

Scope

- All advocacy activities at community, local, provincial, national, and global levels.
- All staff, board members, peer advocates, volunteers, and consultants representing FAITH.
- Partnerships, coalitions, and networks where FAITH engages in joint advocacy initiatives.

Advocacy Objectives

- Promote legal and policy reforms safeguarding the rights of marginalized women.
- Strengthen institutional accountability, particularly in law enforcement and health systems.
- Increase public awareness and reduce stigma through evidence-based campaigns.
- Empower community members, especially sex workers and women living with HIV, to lead advocacy.
- Harness ICT and digital tools for legal access, outreach, and mobilization.

Guiding Principles

- **Do No Harm** — avoid exposing women and communities to stigma, backlash, or risk of violence.
- **Human Rights-Based Approach** — frame GBV, sex workers' rights, HIV rights, and women's empowerment as human rights issues.
- **Beneficiary-Led & Survivor-Centered** — those directly affected define priorities and represent their own experiences.
- **Evidence-Driven** — advocacy is built on research, documented cases, and lived experience.
- **Intersectionality** — strategies address overlapping forms of marginalization (gender, caste, class, disability, HIV status, and more).
- **Collaboration & Coalition Building** — work with civil society, women's movements, and networks to amplify impact.
- **Transparency & Accountability** — consult communities and partners, and report progress openly.
- **Rigorous & Adaptive Planning** — use policy mapping, audience analysis, and decision-pathway analysis, reviewed annually.

Advocacy Strategies

Strategy	Focus
Policy Mapping	Identifying relevant laws, institutions, and political timelines affecting women's rights.
Audience Analysis	Targeting primary decision-makers, influencers, allies, and opponents with tailored messages.
Decision-Making Pathways	Mapping how and where decisions are made, and the entry points for FAITH's engagement.

Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability & Learning (MEAL)

FAITH uses a participatory, adaptive MEAL approach tracking both quantitative results (laws amended, commitments made) and qualitative outcomes (shifts in attitudes, empowerment of peer advocates), through:

- An advocacy results framework with clear outputs, outcomes, and impact indicators.
- Policy and legal tracking, stakeholder engagement logs, and community feedback mechanisms.
- Media and digital analytics, annual advocacy reviews, and documented learning.
- A mid-term evaluation (2027) and end-line evaluation (2030), with annual public impact reports.

Risk Management

Risks are grouped into five categories — political, social, legal/security, organizational, and operational — covering issues such as policymaker resistance, stigma or backlash, misuse of laws against advocates, reputational risk, and staff burnout.

Mitigation includes informed consent and anonymization of survivor data, coalition-based and behind-the-scenes advocacy where public action is unsafe, safety protocols and legal aid for peer advocates, digital security measures, psychosocial support, and a quarterly-updated risk register with clear escalation and exit protocols.

Roles & Responsibilities

Role	Responsibility
Board of Directors	Approve advocacy priorities and provide oversight on high-level political and organizational risks.
Executive Director	Represents FAITH at high-level forums; holds overall accountability for advocacy risk management.
Advocacy Officer	Coordinates day-to-day advocacy, leads risk assessments, and maintains the risk register.
Program Officers	Integrate advocacy into thematic programs and monitor safety protocols for staff and peer advocates.
ICT/Digital Team	Develops and manages digital advocacy platforms.
Peer Advocates	Lead grassroots advocacy, participate in public forums, and flag emerging community-level risks.
Partners/Allies	Collaborate with FAITH on campaigns, coalitions, and research initiatives.

Review of Policy

This Advocacy Policy will be reviewed every three years, or sooner if significant changes occur in the policy environment.

This summary is published by FAITH for transparency and accountability. It is a condensed presentation of the internal Advocacy Policy and Action Plan 2025–2027; in case of any discrepancy, the full internal policy document — including the detailed Action Plan, Results Framework, and planning templates (2025–2030) — prevails and is available on request.