



TV

# UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

## UN IN ACTION

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### WOMEN GAIN SEATS IN NEPAL'S ELECTION

#### VIDEO

WOMEN VOTE

VOTER INSTRUCTION

SRIJANA SHRESHTA AT HOME

#### AUDIO

##### NARRATION

Nepal turned a corner in April this year when voters peacefully chose delegates to create a new political system. Women had a big stake in the outcome and took part in record numbers. About one-third were elected. (13)

Community activists like Srijana Shreshta worked in Kirtipur, outside Kathmandu, to ensure that women knew why it was important to vote. (9)

During Nepal's civil war, thousands of women on both sides lost their husbands. Srijana's was shot by Maoist rebels as she and her children looked on. (10)

Widows in Nepal are typically denied property and often brutally mistreated. Srijana and her peers are looking for protection under the new legal system. (10)

SHRESHTA: (Nepalese)

F

SHRESHTA ON CAMERA

*“It is important for women to realize that they have a say in the new constitution.” (5)*

NARRATION

GROUP MEETING

In another village, Ram Devi Tamang also helped to educate female voters. After Ram Devi’s husband died in a motorcycle accident, her in-laws

WOMEN FARMERS

beat her. Now, as an activist, she helps fellow widows gain the support and respect they deserve. (16)

TAMANG: (Nepalese) **F**

TAMANG ON CAMERA

*“The current constitution does not properly address the rights of women. So it’s important for all women to voice their rights.” (7)*

NARRATION

STREET THEATRE

Agencies like the United Nations Population Fund support voter education activities as part of a broader effort to involve women in the peace-building process. To facilitate a fair and peaceful vote, the UN sent a special mission, led by Ian Martin. (16)

MARTIN: (English) **M**

MARTIN ON CAMERA

*“The United Nations, the international donor community is ready, must be ready to come in and enable whatever government is now formed for the period while the constituent assembly is sitting to show the people of Nepal there really is a peace dividend, and that it’s a peace dividend that reaches previously marginalized groups including*

*women.”* (21)

NARRATION

SRIJANA VOTES

By casting ballots, voters hope that a ‘new Nepal’ would bring jobs and social justice. The victorious Maoists will now lead the complex effort to replace

DEMONSTRATION

Nepal’s monarchy with a more equitable government. Women like Srijana will be watching closely. (17)

UN LOGO

This report was prepared by William Ryan and Marc Westhof for the United Nations.