



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 31, 2009

**Contact:** NDI Acting Director Jay Nishaant, 98510-26991, [jay@ndinepal.org](mailto:jay@ndinepal.org); or Program Officer Vickal D Khadka, 98510-10094, [vickal@ndinepal.org](mailto:vickal@ndinepal.org)

### NDI and USAID Host Women's Film Festival

KATHMANDU – The National Democratic Institute (NDI) is pleased to announce the “Women’s Film Festival: In Concert for Change,” a forum to raise awareness on issues facing women across the globe, especially in Nepal, and celebrate women coming together to meet these challenges. The festival, co-sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), will be held at the Hotel Soaltee Crowne Plaza, Tahachal, Kathmandu, on Jan. 31, from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Five documentary films will be featured that address the following topics: human trafficking (*The Day My God Died*), violence against women (*The Witch! Myth or Reality?*), women in conflict (*Widows of War*), HIV/AIDS (*Nyari, Kamala and Aabad*), and women seeking a political voice (*Side by Side – Sierra Leone*). Discussion sessions will follow each film. The event will close with a presentation on women’s issues and constitution drafting.

While 33 percent of Nepal’s Constituent Assembly (CA) members are women, women’s issues in the region continue to be of serious concern. “We hope the festival will raise awareness of the challenges facing women today and provide an opportunity for lawmakers, social activists, journalists, and the international community to revisit women’s roles in civil society and politics from a fresh perspective,” said Jay Nishaant, Acting Director of NDI-Nepal.

The Women’s Film Festival is part of NDI’s efforts to support women’s participation through the Women's Leadership Academy (WLA), which was established to strengthen the capacity of women leaders to participate in the constitution-drafting process. Since 1997, NDI has supported the efforts of women leaders in Nepal. NDI’s programs have served more than 14,800 women candidates and community leaders at the grassroots level and more than 1,700 women who were elected or nominated through local elections. NDI continues to support the Inter-Party Women's Alliance (IPWA) in order to establish its district chapters and build the capacity of newly-elected women CA members through the WLA.