



Verein zur Förderung von
Gesundheit & Bildung
benachteiligter Mädchen und
Frauen

Annual Report 2024



In the mother and baby home

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1. Introduction

In 2024, pro filia was facing a substantial change. At her own request, the long-standing Managing Director gradually gave up areas of responsibility. These responsibilities were taken over by members of the Executive Board. This process should be completed by the 2025 General Assembly of members. To prevent the workload for individual board members from becoming too great, it was decided at the 2024 General Assembly to expand the Board to up to eight members.

2. The problem of girl trafficking

According to the latest Global Slavery Index published by the human rights organisation "Walk Free" in 2023, around 50 million people worldwide are trapped in modern slavery, approximately 10 million more than five years ago. Also, in many areas of Nepal, girls have had almost no value for hundreds of years. They cost money, a dowry is expected for the (forced) marriage, which usually takes place at an early age. Daughters then work in their husband's household and provide support for his parents rather than their own. They often become victims of domestic violence and rape. Around 12,000 - 15,000 Nepalese girls are being sexually exploited in Indian brothels or in the Emirates every year. They are often only between 12 and 16 years old. The vast majority do not survive this time - the girls die because of violence, drugs, and diseases such as AIDS, hepatitis etc.! Because Nepalese girls often have a fair skin tone, they are considered particularly beautiful in India. There is also an increasing shortage of women in India. Girls are often aborted or killed immediately after birth. With fewer and fewer girls being born, while more boys are born, there will inevitably be massive social consequences that we cannot even begin to imagine. There are already 20% fewer women than men in India.

Of the girls sold into brothels, a few can be freed - e.g. through a rescue network set up by our Nepalese partner organisation MAITI in India.

pro filia supports these girls. However, our main focus is to prevent as many girls as possible from being enslaved and to give them the opportunity for a decent life.

Corona has made people in Nepal even poorer. Violence against girls and women is still rising, and the forms of exploitation and abuse are changing. In contrast to previous years, the number of girls being bought and sold by traffickers is decreasing. On the other hand, the number of those fleeing from poverty or domestic violence or who are lured to India or the Emirates via social media - usually with job promises or marriage - is increasing. They then usually cross the official or green borders alone. In addition to the border guards, who cannot be everywhere, a lot of education about the dangers is therefore needed. Unlike in the past, more education must also take place in social media

in future. And it is extremely important that as many girls and young women as possible are offered career opportunities so that they are less tempted by alleged promises of marriage or jobs.

3. Collaboration with NGOs in Nepal

MAITI is still our main contact in Nepal - an NGO (non-governmental organisation) that has been founded in 1993. Its target group are girls and young women who have been freed from brothels or those who are at risk of ending on the streets or in prostitution due to poverty, domestic violence or false promises. We keep close e-mail contact with the local staff and together we plan necessary (re)management measures. By 15th February each year, we are provided with a detailed report of each project as well as the previous year's finances. During our regular visits, we are accompanied by a senior MAITI employee who answers our questions on site. An interpreter is also part of the travelling group so that we can keep up discussions independently of MAITI. The next visit will take place in 2025.



MAITI site in Kathmandu

Since 2020, pro filia has also been cooperating with the NGO INF (International Nepal Fellowship). This organisation has been running hospitals in Nepal since the 1950s and provides training courses for nurse assistants at a hospital in Pokhara. Among other places - pro filia also finances this project with the support of the Egon Schumacher Foundation.



Green Pastures Hospital in Pokhara



and "our" team

4. The pro filia Projects in Nepal

Project 1: Organise awareness campaigns and develop aid networks

The aims of this project are:

- To educate people about the dangers of sexual exploitation in seemingly attractive job offers or promised marriages.
- To inform them about available help in case of domestic violence and the risk of child marriage.
- To improve the re-integration of surviving girls, who have often met with hostility so far.
- To establish a support network for girls.

The methods used include discussions in the villages on market days, organising orientation meetings and interaction programmes with women, educating schoolchildren and training key personnel such as soldiers and police officers. The campaigns are often carried out with the participation of young women who - now employed by MAITI –often have been victims of domestic violence or exploitation themselves or who were rescued from it in time. The awareness campaigns therefore also create jobs for young women who are at risk and have been rescued.



Awareness campaigns among tea pickers



and schoolchildren

Results 2024

- An orientation meeting was held with 40 police officers to ensure continuous good co-operations between border and police personnel.
- The 14th International Women's Day, the 32nd founding day of MAITI Nepal, the day against human trafficking and the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence were organised with a total of around 3,500 participants.
- A one-day “interdialogue” program on human trafficking took place with 43 participants.

Project 2: Border guards

Border guards were often at risk themselves. Often, they are rescued young women who have been trained by MAITI and are employed directly at busy border crossings - mainly to India, but now also to China. Based on their own experience, they approach girls who appear to be at risk directly and offer them immediate refuge, e.g. a shelter. They are almost always part of the associated shelter team. As many as possible young women are needed to do this important work – namely, to protect girls from sexual exploitation.

During the last project visit in 2023, the pro filia delegation once again was amazed about the confidence and authority of the border guards when approaching buses, rickshaws and cars that might transport vulnerable girls. They ask the drivers for their papers and also take girls out of the vehicles. If possible, they try to verify information and details by phone. The border police are always in sight and assist with official tasks - for the border guards a hard job in a noisy and dusty atmosphere. During our project visits, we always found the cooperation between the border police and borderguards to be extremely good. The training of the border police officers - financed by pro filia - is paying off.

Since 2019, pro filia has been funding an observation post with a shelter on the motorway in Kavre, which runs from Dhulikhel in Nepal's East to India.



Border guards in Kavre and at the Indian border

In 2022, MAITI and the authorities also built a surveillance post at a large bus park near Pashupatinagar, close to a previously uncontrolled border crossing to India. Two border guards and border police officers have taken up their work here. This service is also financed by pro filia.



Another checkpoint with a border guard

Results 2024

- In 2024, pro filia financed a total of 15 positions for border guards - two in Kailali, one in Jhapa, two in Tankot, four in Kavre and six in Ilam.
- According to MAITI, each border guard transfers an average of 50 girls/young women per year directly from the checkpoints to an initial support measure such as a shelter or organises their return to their homes. In 2024, around 750 girls were stopped directly at border crossings. Tens of thousands of vehicles were checked - over 23,000 in Pashupatinagar alone and over 44,000 in Kavre!

Project 3: Transit homes

Transit homes offer immediate help to girls at risk directly at the border. They are also a first refuge for girls who have been freed from Indian brothels. Girls and women also find support here in case of domestic violence or after being raped. pro filia financed two Transit homes in Pashupatinagar and Kavre in 2024.



The Pashupatinagar Transit home

The Pashupatinagar Transit home can accommodate 20 girls/young women at a time. Most of them stay for a short time, others for longer – depending on their individual needs. Contact is made with the parents if the girls wish to stay or if they are still minors and have run away. Family discussions are then held to clarify whether the girl should return home or, for example, should be transferred to a rehabilitation centre.

Results 2024 for the Pashupatinagar Transit home

- In 2024, the shelter in Pashupatinagar provided short-term accommodation, legal and psychosocial counselling to a total of 311 girls and women who were at risk of being trafficked at the border.
- 13 girls were rescued from India.
- 17 people were reported missed to the house. Of these, 12 women were found and re-integrated into the family.
- Six cases of rape and 15 cases of domestic violence were reported and followed up by the authorities.

The shelter in Kavre also offers affected girls and young women not only short-term accommodation, but also therapeutic services as well as health and psychosocial counselling. It works closely together with the police and local authorities to promote vigilance at the borders and prevent the trafficking of children and women from Nepal to India and third countries.

Results 2024 for the Kavre Transit home

- The shelter in Kavre offered help to a total of 542 girls and women. Of these, 12 girls and women received psychosocial counselling.
- In addition, 3 girls/women were rescued from various risky situations and reintegrated in their families.
- 31 cases of missing persons were reported to the House. Of these, 16 women were found and reintegrated into family and relatives.
- Of the 41 cases of domestic violence reported by the shelter, 23 have been investigated and resolved.
- Seven cases of rape were reported, and all perpetrators were convicted.

Project 4: Itahari Rehabilitation Centre

Rescued girls who are unable or unwilling to return home, who are fleeing from domestic violence, who have been raped or who are suffering from extreme poverty are transferred to a MAITI rehabilitation centre on their request. Here, they are prepared for an independent life as much as possible. They take part in vocational training programmes. Courses are offered, for example in

modern agriculture, mushroom farming, cooking, tailoring, hairdressing and e-rickshaw driving! As from 2025, opportunities to do computer work will also be established here.



The Itahari rehabilitation centre

During our visits, many of the girls in our care express concern about their future. Most of them would like to earn their own money so that they can build a decent life for themselves. It is therefore especially important that pro filia does everything possible to provide further training as well as to fund start-ups. So, we help to create jobs or to set-up own small business - see projects 6 and 7.

In 2024, 23 young women/girls received extensive support at the rehab centre. They were able to complete training courses and received a lot of information about their future everyday lives - such as protection against HIV, the risks of early marriage, birth control, women's rights, support options and protection against human trafficking.

Project 5: Mother-baby home

The mother and baby home offers shelter in single pregnant girls and women. Most of them being victims of sexual abuse, rape, domestic violence or false promises of marriage. They can stay here for a longer period of time. They receive psychological and physical care during pregnancy, birth and the first stage of the baby's life. If they wish, they receive training and support in finding a job. However, most of the incredibly young mothers wish to return to their family of origin with their babies. At their request, MAITI initiates contact with the relatives, clarifies the possibilities of a return and accompanies the process as well for some time afterwards.

Suspects such as possible rapists or human traffickers are reported by MAITI and are often sent to prison. Besides the positive effect that rapists are increasingly facing punishment, this approach can also have difficult consequences. For example, a pregnant young girl in a mother and baby home was expected at the mother and baby home, but did not show up. It later turned out that the family had

forced the girl to have an abortion so that the uncle, who had raped her, would not be reported. They wanted to disguise it in the family.

There is virtually no help available in Nepal for this target group, single mothers and their newborn babies. How can a single mother look after herself and her infant after the birth? Traumatized, e.g. after rape, often abandoned by their families and without education or a job, they often have no other choice but to beg or prostitute themselves - and the misery continues from generation to generation! pro filia has committed itself to stop this cycle and to support as many as possible single mothers and their babies by setting up a programme for this group of people. MAITI provided us premises in a house on the premises in Kathmandu for this purpose. The home began its work in May 2019 with 10 places, each for 10 mothers and their babies, and has since been expanded according to need.



In the mother and baby home



Girl is picked up by her brother



Further training for child carers

In 2024, three young women and their children lived permanently in the home. The girls are working and finishing school at the same time and their children are being looked after. There were nine new

admissions. Ten girls from previous admissions were reintegrated into their families. The newborn who was found in a rubbish bin in 2023 was named Shad. He continues to live in the home and is developing beautifully.

In 2024, 27 participants also took part in a one-day training course on childcare.

The young mothers repeatedly express great gratitude for being able to live in safety for a while. They are happy to have regular meals, to socialise with other girls being affected in the same way and they are grateful to receive medical care! When leaving, each mother receives a basic mother-baby kit and sufficient clothing.

Sometimes it shows that some young mothers are unable to accept their baby after the unimaginable situations they experienced. They are also often afraid of being stigmatised as a single mother - a justified fear in Nepal. It takes a lot of time to find satisfactory solutions for mother and child. The aim is always to give both mother and child the chance to live in dignity.

Project 6: Training programmes

pro filia finances several training programmes for girls and young women who are at risk or have been rescued. For some time now, young women/girls have been trained at the Itahari rehabilitation centre - e.g. as tailor, weaver, cook, farmer, hairdresser, bag maker and mushroom farmer.

To offer even more girls and young women career perspectives in their own country and thus make them less tempted by seemingly attractive promises from traffickers in India, the training programmes have been constantly adapted. In addition, the aim is not to provide only training in traditional female professions, but to also create professional opportunities that promise more income and lead to more self-confidence.

But MAITI reports that in recent years, more young women/girls want to go abroad to earn a higher income quickly- with all the associated risks such as sexual abuse. Apprenticeships are therefore becoming less appealing to them as in the past. Here we want to clarify with them which training programmes could be attractive for young women, nevertheless. For example, we are considering trainings in the tourism sector, in the hotel or IT business or as a trekking guide. However, the money to support this, must also be available for MAITI.

Project 6.1: Computer training

pro filia has been funding computer training courses in Pashupatinagar since 2013. The programme is offered as a preventative measure: Through this training girls from precarious family backgrounds are better protected from being sold. On the other hand, it also offers rescued young women the

perspective of an independent life. The costs for setting up the computer training room required for the programme, upcoming repairs and the purchase of new computers are covered by pro filia.

A total of 249 young women participated in the training courses since 2013 - 26 of them in 2024.



Computer training

In addition to the computer training, the young women also receive further training on the topic of girl trafficking and available help, to enable them for example, to educate other girls in their villages about the dangers. pro filia plans to offer additional advanced courses in 2025 to increase the young women's chances on the labour market. MAITI is also in favour of this, as the Nepalese administration is increasingly creating computer jobs. That could also be of interest to our trainees. Computer courses should also be introduced in Itahari in 2025, if possible! The decision on this depends on the amount of donations that pro filia receives.

Project 6.2: Training as tailor

In 2024, the Itahari Rehabilitation Centre offered six women basic and seven women advanced tailoring trainings. Sewing machines were given to five women.



Tailor training in the Rehab home

Project 6.3: Training as a hairdresser and beautician

In 2024, five young women received training as hairdresser and beautician at the Itahari rehabilitation centre.



Training as a beautician and hairdresser

Project 6.4: Training as e-rickshaw driver

During our project visits to Nepal, despite all the travelling across the country, we only met a few female rickshaw drivers in one town - and that was in Itahari, where the rehabilitation home that we financed, is located. We saw an opportunity here, to offer young women further training opportunities to broaden their professional spectrum. This was indeed met with great interest. Every year since 2020 - including 2024 - three young women have been trained as e-rickshaw driver - physically less strenuous thanks to the electric motor and reasonably environmentally friendly.

To make sure, the young women can earn money after their training, pro filia supported them with the purchase of rickshaws - see point 7.4!

Project 6.5: Training as a fish farmer

In 2024, 15 people took part in the fish farmer training programme in Pashupatinagar. Fish seedlings were also distributed to the participants under the technical guidance of a fish farming expert.



Training as a fish farmer

Project 6.6: Training as a nurse's assistant

pro filia had been looking for suitable training opportunities in the healthcare sector for some time. In 2019, negotiations were held with the managing director of INF (International Nepal Fellowship) - one of the oldest NGOs operating in Nepal. The INF has hospitals where nurse assistant trainings are provided. A concept for this was jointly developed at the end of 2019 and implemented in 2020.



Nurse assistants during their training

The young women live in a home that specialises in caring for this group of people. The Egon Schumacher Foundation kindly provides pro filia with a considerable proportion of the money for these courses.



Girls who we selected for the 1-year training programme 2024

Project 7: Job creation

After completing their training, many young women regularly face problems to find jobs that subsequently guarantees a decent standard of living. To offer helpful solutions here, MAITI has developed a concept for job creation. Apart from the support offered to find jobs, trained young

women are to be given the opportunity to earn an income which is sufficient to cover their cost of living, e.g. with start-up financing.

Project 7.1: Writing offices

In 2013, it was decided together with MAITI, to set up typing centres in villages where this service did not yet exist. The offices were staffed with young women who had completed our PC training programme. In addition to services such as writing letters, copying, scanning, etc., information was also provided about human trafficking and protection options.

Eight typing pool offices were installed in 2020. However, with Corona and the subsequent lockdowns the young women could no longer pay the rent or buy new computers to replace their old, irreparable equipment. Six typing pool offices were affected by this crisis - only the offices in Fikkal and the one in Pashupatinagar are still operating. We support these two offices with replacement purchases, when necessary.

According to MAITI, the public administration in Nepal is being expanded and increasingly equipped with computers. We hope that this will also create jobs for our girls.

Project 7.2: Tailoring

From 2015 onwards MAITI planned to set up tailoring workshops, each employing at least four to six young women. They were housed in quite simple, small rooms to minimise rental costs. pro filia provided the start-up funding with the aim, that the tailoring workshops become self-sufficient after about a year. Tailor shops were set up in ten locations. During the Corona crisis, nine tailors quit the premises because they could no longer afford the rent. They are working from home ever since.

As in previous years, five trained tailors were once more equipped with sewing machines to work independently.

Project 7.3: Employment after nurse assistant training

In 2023 and 2024, a total of 6 young women took part in a three-month training programme and 4 took place in a twelve-month programme. We wanted to find out, whether the women who attended for almost a year, had better chances to find a job. After evaluating the two courses in 2023 and 2024, there is no clear conclusion. The four young women who completed 11 months of training found a job afterwards. After the three-month training courses, 1 of 3 girls found a job after the first course and two after the second. We will continue to offer a programme with both options in 2025. We don't have money for more.

Project 7.4: E-rickshaw entrepreneur

Every year, pro filia trains several young women at-risk or those who were rescued to become e-rickshaw drivers. They need their own e-rickshaw so that they can work and earn their own money. Till now pro filia subsidizes the purchase of three rickshaws each year with 75% of the purchase cost. The women finance the remaining 25% with a bank loan, which they pay off with their income. MAITI supported them in applying for the loan. So far, our experience with this model has been good - the first young entrepreneurs now have paid off their entire loan – they can not only live of their income but can also support their families - which is often vital in Nepal. Three young women also received an e-rickshaw in 2024. There are now 15 small businesses! Female customers in particular like to use this service, as they feel safer with a woman as driver.

During the last pro filia project visit, the young women complained that the rickshaw's battery ran flat very quickly and that they had to stop working then. It was agreed that the rickshaws would be re- fitted with two batteries. The costs for this were covered by pro filia in 2024.



E-rickshaw driver with customers



Replacement batteries for the e-rickshaws

5. Planned projects for 2025

pro filia plans to finance the following projects in 2025:

- Awareness campaigns and establishment/maintenance of support networks in the border districts of the shelters and the rehabilitation home
- The salaries of 15 border observers
- The Pashupatinagar and Kavre shelters
- The Itahari Rehabilitation Home
- The mother and baby home
- Training offers
- Job creation by giving support in the job finding or with start-up funding for their own small business, such as the purchase of additional e-rickshaws, computers or sewing machines.

6. Cooperations

In addition to the cooperation with MAITI Nepal and INF Nepal, pro filia in Germany also worked together with the SI (Soroptimist International) Club Münster-Mauritz in 2024. The Soroptimists collect donations for pro filia at various events or support the organisation with campaigns - e.g. at art auctions. The joint work is accompanied by regular cooperation meetings - with two meetings in 2024.

7. Activities in 2024

7.1 Activities 2024 from pro filia

- Prof Dr Ute von Lojewski and Mechthild Spener presented pro filia to the Rotary Club Münster1648.



Presentation at the Rotary Club Münster 1648

(from left: Prof Dr Ute von Lojewski/pro filia, Caroline Brand/Rotary, Mechthild Spener/pro filia)

- They also presented the work of pro filia to the **Rotary Club Münster-Himmelreich** and the **Zonta Club Münster**.
- In 2024, **Doppelkopf evenings** were once again held in aid of pro filia - on 22 March and 8 November 2024, which resulted in donations totaling around €800.



Doppelkopf evening 2024

- **Kreuzviertelfest Münster 2024:** The Kreuzviertelfest took place again on August 24/25, 2024. At the pro filia booth, many visitors were informed about our work, donations were collected, and new members were recruited.



Cross Quarter Festival 2024

- The **NRW tax administration** also entitled pro filia for being a receiver of allocated fines in criminal tax proceedings. A total of 5,000 € was transferred to us in 2024!
- pro filia organised a **flea market** at which almost €500 were donated.



Flea market (from left: B. Wierling, C. Wellemeyer, K. Mohs)

- On the occasion of **birthdays and weddings**, pro filia received around €10,000 in donations!
- The highlight was the **7th pro filia art auction** in 2024! On behalf of 36 artists, the 7th art auction was held on 17th November 2024 in the ideal premises of Münster University of Applied Sciences, MSD. More than 300 interested people visited the exhibition and the subsequent auction. This time the auctioneers were the Zucchini Sistaz. With a lot of verve, humor and persuasiveness they encouraged everybody to purchase the art. A total of 73 of 81 pieces of art were sold - a great success!



Sending out invitations and posters for the art auction

(from left: B. Brixius, M. Spener, Prof. Dr Ute v. Lojewski, Dr J. Feldkamp)



The Zucchini Sistaz as auctioneers (Photos FH Münster/Katharina Kipp)



Great interest in presentation....



....and auction!



(Photos FH Münster/Katharina Kipp)



Zucchini Sistaz in action!

- Dr Johanne Feldkamp, the initiator and long-standing managing director of the association, was appointed honorary chairwoman of pro filia.



from left: M. Spener/Chairwoman of the Executive Board, Dr J. Feldkamp

7.2 Activities for pro filia

- Numerous **boule tournaments** were organised by Konrad Averbeck in 2024 with proceeds of €3,360. This year the highlight was the tournament behind the castle with 96 players participating!



Konrad Averbeck organised the 2024 boules tournament behind the castle

- The **9th Yoga Summer** organised by leben & reisen: Yoga took place from 7 June to 6 September 2024 every Friday afternoon at 5.30 pm on the Aasee meadow next to the Wewerka Pavilion. This summer, four sessions were cancelled due to rain. Nevertheless, Ilona Tertilt and Dagmar

Merfort were able to hand over around €1,800 to pro filia afterwards! The yoga teachers kindly donated their working hours free of charge! The Yoga Summer will also take place again in 2025!



from left: S. Deniz/yoga teacher, C. Wellemeier /pro filia, D. Merfort /leben&reisen

- **Bankhaus Lampe** donated € 2,000 to pro filia.



from left: M. Spener/pro filia, K. Dreps/Bankhaus Lampe

- Tina Reuther and Isabelle Feix raised €3,000 with a **book and CD sale**, which they transferred to pro filia.
- Thanks to a grant from Rotary International, which was co-financed by the **Rotary Club Münster-Rüschhaus** for pro filia, a good €10,000 was raised. These funds will be used for various measures at the Itahari rehabilitation centre.
- The **Egon Schumacher Foundation** also donated € 5,000 to pro filia in 2024. This was used to finance part of the training course for young women in Pokhara to become a nurse assistant.
- Since 2020, the **Adolph Kolping Vocational College Münster** has been running a **school project** in favor of pro filia. Students from three parallel classes chose our organisation as their social project and were very committed to collecting donations. An extensive meeting was also held in

2024 at which the work of pro filia was discussed in detail and the pupils handed over €1,460 to pro filia. They had raised this money through various activities such as the sale of homemade artwork, clothes etc.



Cheque handed over at Adolph Kolping Vocational College

from left: Mechthild Spener/pro filia, Anika Franz and Berenike Silge as students

- Jürgen Sager organised **musical performances** in 2024 again. The proceeds were donated to pro filia.



Musical performances in the retirement home

7.3 Activities planned for 2025

- Presentations of pro filia in clubs throughout Germany
- Information booth at the Kreuzviertel Festival in Münster in August 2025
- The 10th Yoga Summer
- Two Doppelkopf evenings at the „Bunter Vogel“ in Münster
- A project visit to Nepal

7.4 Thanks to supporters and sponsors

We would like to thank Manfred Bröker for translating the annual report into English. In general, pro filia can only carry out its activities with the help of many volunteers and sponsors. For example, approximately 60 volunteers are needed for the three days of the art auction - setting up, organising and dismantling. And really: volunteering as many as these is an encouraging experience.

We would also like to thank the Zucchini Sistaz for their inspiring performance as auctioneers.

A sincere thank you to all our members and supporters and the sponsors for their commitment.

8. Situation of the pro filia Association at the end of 2024

8.1 Members

At the end of the year, pro filia had 261 members! The 2024 general meeting took place on October 9, 2024.

8.2 Finances

The two cash auditors, Martina Richter and Christel Wellemeyer, audited the 2024 annual financial statements for 2023 and found them to be correct. The members approved the actions of the Executive Board at the general meeting on 9.10.2024. The Münster tax office also granted another notice of exemption on 11.07.2024.

In 2024, MAITI received 190,000 € from pro filia. The money for the INF had already been transferred in 2023 for two years. pro filia transferred about 80,000€ for 2025 already in 2024 - thus securing the first instalment for 2025. Administrative expenses totalled about 1,330 €. All administrative costs were paid from board donations or sponsorship. The detailed balance sheet for 2024 - like the balance sheets of 2008-2023 – and all donations above 1,000 Euro in 2024 were published on our website as "Transparent presentation of our work / Declaration of commitment".

8.3 Executive Board and Management

At the 2024 General Meeting and in accordance with the new Articles of the Association, the pro filia Board were re-elected for a two-year term. The 8 Board Members are Christel Wellemeyer, Monika Geise, Prof Dr Ute von Lojewski, Ina Specht, Brigitte Wierling, Jan Sprünken, Bernd Brixius and Mechthild Spener (Chairwoman of the Board). Dr Johanne Feldkamp will stay as Managing Director until the General Meeting in 2025. After this she will still accompany the association's work. As

initiator of pro filia and due to her 16 years of service she will continue as Honorary Chairwoman. The next Board election will take place at the General Meeting in 2026. Martina Richter and Friedhelm Kahrs-Ude were unanimously elected as cash auditors for 2024.

8.4 Outlook

In Nepal, long-standing poverty has increased even further. Following the terrible earthquakes in 2015, the Corona pandemic and the mudslides triggered by massive floods in 2024 the situation even got worse. At the same time, domestic violence, child abuse and the number of forced and child marriages are increasing. The need for support is growing and we hope that we will be able to continue funding our projects in 2025.

pro filia has the following plans for 2025:

- All projects from 2024 will continue to be supported in 2025. We even hope to offer additional programmes such as advanced computer courses.
- The Rotary grant will be invested in Itahari in close coordination with MAITI.
- In autumn 2025, the cooperation with the NGOs in Nepal will be deepened in a new project visit on site and our special appreciation for the partner organisations will be expressed.

We wish all pro filia supporters all the best for the year 2025!

February 2025

For the pro filia team

Mechthild Spener
Chairwoman of the Board pro filia

Dr Johanne Feldkamp
Managing Director pro filia