

National Human Rights Commission of Nepal



**Remarks by Hon. Commissioner of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of Nepal,
Ms. Mohna Ansari, on the occasion of 19th Session of Committee on Convention on the
Rights of the Disabled People (CRPD), 19 Feb. 2018 Geneva, Switzerland**

Hon. Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

Distinguished delegates,

It's my honor to be here, on behalf of the National Human Rights Commission, Nepal (NHRC-Nepal), in the 19th session of the CRPD Committee. NHRC-Nepal is the independent national human rights institution in Nepal, accredited with A status. I would like to remind once again, NHRC-Nepal has already submitted a comprehensive report to the Committee which reflects overall situation of CRPD implementation in Nepal. The act of the Government of Nepal is appreciative to the positive steps taken so far for protecting and promoting the rights of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) since the ratification of CRDP. However, there are still plenty of places to improve.

The Constitution of Nepal is progressive in terms of ensuring rights of the citizens including person with disabilities. The Legislature Parliament has endorsed new law in relation to Rights of the Person with Disabilities in 2017 which is very closer to be compatible with the Convention as the Bill was reviewed by the NHRC. Both the Constitution and Law have ensured right to life, equality and non-discrimination, equal protection of law, especial rights of women, children and senior citizens, freedom of movement, right to free education, free medical facilities, freedom of opinion and expression, freedom from torture and personal integrity, social security, employment opportunity, access to justice echoing CRPD provisions.

In reality very few PWDs know their own rights and the facilities the government is providing to them. There is deeply rooted stereo-typed concept in the society towards PWDs which has contributed in discriminatory practices towards them. There is still misconception existed within Governmental Authorities that PWDs are neither rights holder, nor stakeholders for them. This is the reason most of the government service centres, even the newly constructed, are inaccessible for PWDs. Because of the unfastened constitutional provision with regard to the

participation of PWDs in the political sector, there is very few number of PWDs elected in the recently concluded Federal Election. Regarding the access to justice, due to the absence of interpreters in the Courts very few victims with multiple disabilities e.g. deaf persons have access to justice as they are unable to express their sufferings to the authorities including the court. Inaccessibility of essential medicines even in the public hospitals caused problems in the treatment of PWDs. The PWDs who represent the weaker sections of the society e.g. Dalit, poor and marginalised, comparatively, women with disabilities have been facing violation of multiple rights.

Therefore, NHRC Nepal reiterates to increase the efforts of Nepal government to protect PWDs rights endorsing laws and policies compatible to the Convention to address the intersectional issues of the community with disabilities. To carry out the effective awareness campaign widely to prevent PWDs from discrimination, violence, abuses and injustices. The human rights based approach shall have to be applied in the process of infrastructure development and urbanization process so that the PWDs rights are respected and protected. Endorsing Rule as per new legislation should be the top priority of government.

Finally, collaborative efforts among government agencies, National Institutions, NGOs, CBOs and even the donor agency can play pivotal role in creating awareness as well as imparting skills/knowledge in the area of disability. So, Let's join hands and put our arms around the world to respect for the protection of rights of PWDs.

Thank you!