Introduction to the NHRCN
The National Human Rights Commission, established as an independent statutory body in 2000, has now been elevated to a powerful constitutional body with an enhanced mandate, independence, and competence. The NHRCN was elevated to a constitutional body with the promulgation of the Constitution of Nepal, 2015. It is charged with administering the Constitution of Nepal, 2015. It is an independent constitutional body dedicated to the protection, promotion, and implementation of human rights. The Constitution of Nepal safeguards the rights of every person, group, and community, embracing the country’s multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, multi-religious and multi-lingual characteristics. It further aims to create an egalitarian society on the basis of equality, liberty, and human dignity for all. The Constitution also recognizes the importance of the promotion and protection of human rights.

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Composition of the NHRCN
The Constitution of Nepal (Article 248) provides that the composition of the national institution and the appointment of its members, whether by election or appointment, shall be facilitated in accordance with a procedure which affords all necessary guarantees to ensure the pluralist representation of the social forces, interests and sectors of national life. Article 247 of the Constitution of Nepal (Resolutions 1992/94 of 3 March 1992 and the UN Principles adopted by the Eminent Persons Group on National Human Rights Institutions, 1993) have become the foundation and reference point for the establishment and operation of the National Human Rights Commission of Nepal as well. The Commission is fully compliant with the Paris Principles, which are guidelines for national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles). It is also a member of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI).

The NHRCN has central office at Hariharbhawan, Lalitpur, and has the office of the Secretary who performs the following functions:

- To conduct the work of the NHRCN
- To keep records of the work and proceedings of the NHRCN
- To prepare annual budgets, programs and plans and submit them to the Commission
- To manage necessary arrangements for smooth operation of the Commission’s work and procedures
- To effectively implement the policies, programs and decisions of the Commission

The NHRCN has central office at Hariharpur, Lalitpur, and maintains field offices (to be established) and four branch offices. The central office is organized into the following department:

- Coordination Department
- Promotion, Advocacy & Collective Rights Department
- Investigation & Monitoring Department
- Chief Executive Officer of the NHRCN is the Secretary, an ex-officio member of the Commission.

The vacant posts are filled up through open and internal competitions who have obtained minimum educational qualifications and have the experience and skills necessary for the position.

Functions of the NHRCN
The Commission has a broad mandate including civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights, and rights of women, children, and other vulnerable groups. The NHRCN has the following functions:

- To devise, coordinate and implement necessary procedures or directives to carry out its functions in a well-organized way. The Commission can hire and appoint its staff permanently in accordance with the NHRCN Act.
- The vacant posts are filled up through open and internal competitive examination. This selection shall be made up through competitive examination which shall be based on the minimum qualification and experience period who can obtain the highest marks. This period shall not be less than five years.
- To promote and protect human rights and ensure respect for them
- To provide legal or departmental action against any person or organization who has violated human rights.
- To evaluate the performance of any official, who fails to perform or performs his or her responsibility or duty negligently or in a disorderly manner.
- To recommend to the Government of Nepal for the implementation of any international treaty or agreement on human rights, to which Nepal is a party. The recommendations are made to the Government of Nepal for necessary improvements and amendments to the laws of the country.
- To send the letter to the concerned government office to revoke or cancel the governmental order.

The NHRCN is mandated to ensure the respect, promotion and protection of human rights. It ensures inclusive democracy, fundamental freedoms, and human rights.

Access to NHRC Nepal
The procedures and mechanisms of the NHRCN are broadly described in Article 248 of the Constitution of Nepal. Section 10 (5) of NHRC Act states that information on a grievance, complaint, or verbal or any other means, shall be registered by the NHRCN in the register of complaint. This register of complaint is accessible to the public. The person who has suffered the complaint in writing, by the NHRCN.

The Strategic Plan states that the NHRCN will:

- be active in providing easy access to the public, especially by women, children, persons with disabilities, older persons, persons with mental health issues, and persons who face discrimination
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- put special emphasis on the backward groups.

An overview of the procedures adopted to handle complaints is as follows:

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The NHRCN may have received a complaint regarding the incidents of human rights violation or its abetment. The complaint can be lodged either in person, by post, through electronic means or through any other means, such information is registered in the register book.

• Preliminary proceedings on the complaint: The NHRCN examines the complaints and makes preliminary proceedings in case the complaint regarding the incidents of human rights violation or its abetment has been or may be violated or abetted, or if the concerned officer submits a report thereof to the NHRCN. After receiving the report, the NHRCN may seek services of the expert, collect further evidence or summon witnesses or conduct public hearings.

• Complain may be Rejected or Put on Hold: If the complaint containse any complaint regarding the incidents of human rights violation or its abetment. The complaint can be lodged either in person, by post, through electronic means or through any other means, such information is registered in the register book.

Collaboration and Coordination
National Level: The Commission has given emphasis to collaboration and coordination, including with the government, Justice and Human Rights Committee of the Legislature-Parliament, the Environment and other international organizations. It has been working with a focus on thematic issues of human rights in collaboration with the United Nations, the regional and international human rights treaty bodies, regional and international human rights organizations and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The Commission since its establishment has been undertaking its works based on its cooperation with the national, regional and international agencies or organizations and donors. The Human Rights Commission Act, 2012 provides the Commission with the capacity to establish formal relationships with civil society. It has developed formal relationships with civil society that result in engagement via regular or institutionalized meetings or interactions with COSOs on thematic issues and in conducting inquiries.

International Level: At the international level, the NHRCN has exchanged its working procedures and practices with like bodies. The NHRCN also engages with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, including the Treaty Bodies, and the treaty bodies have received the reports of the NHRCN. The Commission has made submissions on different human rights issues.

The NHRCN has conducted the investigation with exhumation of the dead bodies. NHRCN has been participating actively in global initiatives to promote and protect human rights, inter alia, through the United Nations Human Rights Fact Finding Mission on Eritrea, the UN Commission of Inquiry on Chemical Weapons, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Older Persons; the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Persons Facing Arbitrary Detention, the UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Older Persons and the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

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The NHRCN has been actively engaged in regional and international efforts such as the series of meetings or conferences organized by the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF-NHRI) and the Asia Pacific Regional Conference of National Human Rights Institutions. The NHRCN has been actively participating in the meetings of the Asia Pacific Regional Conference of National Human Rights Institutions.

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