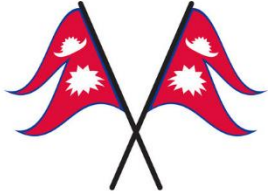


Human Rights Newsletter



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NHRC's Monitoring of House of Representatives Election



The National Human Rights Commission, Nepal has monitored the election of members of the House of Representatives held on March 5, 2026, from a human rights perspective. The House of Representatives was dissolved after the Gen-Z protests on 8th and 9th of September, 2025.

The election was found to have been held peacefully and satisfactorily overall compared to the previous elections. Incidents of serious human rights violations and breaches of the code of conduct were found decreased.

The NHRC has carried out monitoring in three phases; pre-election, during-election and post-election from its central office as well as provincial and branch offices across the country. A total of 80 monitoring teams were deployed outside the Kathmandu Valley, while 21 teams operated within the Valley, including 8 high-level teams and 13 staff-level teams. Monitoring teams were mobilized in 42 districts prior to the election and in 75 districts (excluding Manang and Mustang) during and after the election. The teams comprised NHRC officials, former office bearers and staffs. The monitoring was carried out focusing on key human rights issues,

including citizens' fundamental right to vote, political participation, freedom of expression and the assurance of free and fair elections. The Commission also assessed compliance with the House of Representatives Election Act, 2017, as well as the codes of conduct and directives issued by the Election Commission, in line with national and international human rights standards. The entire electoral process from candidate nomination to vote counting was closely observed.

Based on findings from the monitoring, the NHRC is preparing a consolidated report. The final report will include recommendations aimed at preventing the recurrence of identified shortcomings. In previous elections as well, the Commission had conducted monitoring across all three phases and provided recommendations to the Government of Nepal, the Election Commission, political parties, media and observers to improve the electoral process.

Pre-Election Monitoring



The National Human Rights Commission conducted pre-election monitoring in 42 districts by forming monitoring teams from its central, provincial and provincial branch offices.

During this phase, continuous observation was carried out from the registration of candidacy to the day before the election. The information was obtained through on-site monitoring, coordination and consultations with election officials, security agencies and political parties to assess the state of electoral preparedness. As required, election monitoring desks were also established at the central and provincial offices and media monitoring was conducted based on reports published and broadcast in print and electronic outlets.

Pre-election monitoring has revealed multiple violations of the election code of conduct. Candidates were found to

have failed to fully comply with the code, while the involvement of children in rallies and public gatherings was also observed. The monitoring report documented incidents of threats and physical assaults against journalists. It further noted the unauthorized use of election symbols, as well as the placement of campaign materials and flags on private property without consent. Participation of local and provincial government officials in election campaigning was also reported. In addition, candidates were found to have used more vehicles than permitted, attempted to unduly influence voters and misused social media through party



cadres and supporters. Cases of verbal abuse among political actors were recorded. In addition, voter education was found to be weak, especially among marginalized communities in the remote areas.

However, compared to previous elections, improvements were observed in several areas, including greater mutual respect among political leaders and candidates, enhanced security vigilance by security agencies and better election preparedness by election officials and local administration. Compliance with the code of conduct and the reduced use of children in political rallies and campaign activities also showed signs of progress.

During the monitoring process, NHRC teams held discussions with Chief Election Officers, Head of the government official, and representatives of security agencies regarding election preparations, the status of code of conduct compliance and the overall security situation. The Commission also engaged with political parties, candidates, civil society, journalists and voters to obtain comprehensive information.

NHRC's Consultations with Stakeholders for HR-Friendly Election

The NHRC held a series of consultations with key stakeholders to promote a free, fair and influence-free election with the purpose of ensuring citizens' voting rights. Meetings were conducted on various dates with political parties, security agencies, election observation organizations, media professionals and civil society.

Discussion with Political Parties



The Commission held a discussion program on election-related issues with various political parties on February 2. During the discussion, the Commission urged parties to incorporate human rights-friendly agendas in their election manifestos and to strictly adhere to the election code of conduct. The representatives of political parties expressed their commitment to play their roles in insuring free, fair and fraud-free elections. They also emphasized for the need of NHRC to further strengthen its role in

monitoring human rights during the electoral process.

Discussion with Media Persons



With the aim of disseminating accurate information to public, the Commission organized a discussion program with media persons on February 3. The discussion focused on issues such as digital literacy, technology-based monitoring, adherence to journalistic codes of conduct, the responsible use of social media, prioritizing voters in remote areas, the role of journalists during elections, coordination with security mechanisms and concerns related to threats and challenges faced by journalists.



Discussion with Election Observers

On February 5, the NHRC held discussion with heads and representatives of various organizations to enhance the effectiveness in election observation. The participants highlighted the concerns including the use of abusive language, hate speech, the production and dissemination of content that undermines dignity, misuse of electronic media for campaign purposes, violations of voters' rights to secrecy and privacy through social media, breaches



of the election code of conduct, the spread of misinformation and the issues related to effectiveness of voter education.

Discussion with Security Agencies

The NHRC held discussion with the heads and senior officials of all four security agencies of the

The NHRC issued press releases in different dates relating the issues and with the purpose of ensuring the fair and free election.

Recognizing the critical role of political parties in the protection and promotion of human rights, the NHRC issued a press release on December 29, appealing parties to incorporate human rights commitments into their manifestos and ensure their implementation.

Similarly, additional press releases were issued on January 27, calling for an end to hate speech and the

Government of Nepal on February 16 regarding the preparation of the security arrangements and the protection of human rights in the election.

During the meeting, the Commission received



updates on preparations and measures taken to ensure the safety of voters, candidates, observers, monitors and all employees deployed in the elections.

Despite resource constraints, security officials expressed confidence that they were working with high morale to ensure a successful electoral process.

The meeting was attended by NHRC members, Secretary of NHRC, Lieutenant General of Nepal Army, Inspector General of Nepal Police, Inspector General of Armed Police Force Nepal and the Head of National Investigation Department.

Press Release

strengthening of law and order; on February 2, emphasizing the need for human rights-friendly elections; on February 5, urging compliance with the election code of conduct; and on February 16, calling for adequate security arrangements for the election.



NHRC's Provincial and Branch Office-Level Interactions

In the context of the upcoming elections, all the province and province branch offices conducted interactive programs with the political parties of the province, security agencies, media persons, civil society and stakeholders.

Koshi Province Office, Biratnagar

The NHRC Koshi Province Office organized an interaction program on February 26 with election observers, civil society representatives and journalists on the theme "Human Rights Issues and the Role of Election Observers." Earlier, on February 24, a team led by Office Head Bir Bahadur Budha Magar had separately met and discussed with the Nepal Army Eastern Region Headquarter, Itahari Region Commander, Mr. Gaurav Kumar KC, Chief of Koshi Province Police Office, Biratnagar, Deputy Inspector General of Nepal Police Mr. Binod Ghimire and Chief of Armed Police Force Nepal No. 1 Barah Bahini Headquarter, Sunsari, Deputy Inspector General of Armed Police Manish Thapa. During the in a peaceful and dignified manner.

discussion, the heads of the security agencies informed that they are fully prepared to conduct the election



Koshi Province Branch Office, Khotang



The Koshi Province Branch Office of the Commission, Khotang Office discussed with the officials of the District Security Committee of Solukhumbu on February 26 regarding the preparation and security management of the election.

Similarly, on March 4, an interaction program was conducted in Okhaldhunga with media persons, civil society and observers focusing on coordination and cooperation in ensuring compliance with the election code of conduct and effective election monitoring.

Bagmati Province Office, Hetauda

The NHRC Bagmati Province Office held interactions in Sindhapalchok and Dolakha with Chief District Officers, heads of election offices and other government officials regarding election preparedness, security arrangements and the human rights situation.

Similarly, another discussion was also held with stakeholders on issues, including media persons, civil society, and rights activists, regarding coordination and collaboration to ensure free and fair elections.



Gandaki Province Office, Pokhara

On February 25, the NHRC Gandaki Province Office organized a coordination meeting with organizations involved in election observation. The meeting decided to establish a secretariat within the NHRC office to facilitate coordination, collaboration and information sharing among monitoring and observation bodies during election.

Participating organizations included the National Election Observation Committee (NEOC), National Federation of the Disabled Nepal, NGO Federation, Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC), General Election Observation Committee (GEOC), Forum for Women, Law and



Development (FWLD) and the Nepal Human Rights Organization.

Lumbini Province Office, Butwal

The NHRC Lumbini Province Office organized an interaction program on “Human Rights-Friendly Elections” on February 11. Participants emphasized for the inclusion of human rights issues in the manifestos of political parties and their evaluation as part of social accountability. They stressed the need to ensure a free, fair and fear-free voting environment. The program was attended by journalists, human rights activists, civil society and election observation organizations.

Similarly, on February 12, a separate interaction on “Human Rights Friendly Elections” was held with representatives of major political parties in the province. The leaders and the representative of political parties showed their commitment for collective responsibility to



ensure election in a transparent, fair and respectful manner.

Lumbini Province Branch Office, Nepalgunj

The Lumbini Province Branch Office, Nepalgunj held a discussion program on “Role of Stakeholders in Human Rights in the Upcoming Elections” on February 27 with the participation from human rights networks, media persons, legal practitioners and human rights activists of Banke district. The program discussed about the status

of election preparations, compliance with the election code of conduct, the use of children in campaign activities and coordination and cooperation with the Commission in protecting the human rights of observers and media persons deployed in election.

Karnali Province Office, Surkhet

On February 1 and 2, the NHRC Karnali Province Office held discussions with members of the District Security Committee in Dailekh regarding the security situation and election activities. Security officials reported that the overall situation of law and order had been satisfactory.

Similarly, discussion was held with legal practitioners, media persons and representatives of civil society regarding the human rights situation and the role, coordination and cooperation of stakeholders in the election.



Karnali Province Branch Office, Jumla

The NHRC Jumla branch office conducted separate discussions with the District Security Committee, media persons and civil society on various dates to assess election preparedness. In addition, a joint team comprising officials from the NHRC, District Administration Office, the Office of the Comptroller of Treasury and Accounts and the Office of the Internal Revenue also visited local levels to assess election preparations and compliance with the code of conduct. Findings indicated satisfactory preparation and adherence to the code of conduct.



Sudurpashchim Province Office, Dhangadhi

The NHRC Sudurpashchim Province Office organized a discussion in Kailali district with NGOs, civil society and legal professionals on the theme “Elections and Human Rights” on February 22. The program focused on the roles of political parties, civil society and legal actors in ensuring free and fair elections and protecting and promoting human rights.



Discussion with Stakeholders by Monitoring Teams

The teams deployed for pre-election monitoring from the central, provincial and provincial branch offices of the Commission conducted field-level discussions with stakeholders in different districts. Through direct interactions, inquiries and discussions with District Security Committees, government officials, politicians, media persons, human rights activists, civil society and the general public, the teams obtained information on





election preparedness, security conditions, voter education effectiveness, and compliance with the code of conduct.

Information was received that election preparations had largely been completed, ballot papers were transported

on time, the code of conduct was generally followed except for minor instances, there was minimal activity to influence voters, and the use of children in political programs was reduced. However, voter education was found to be less effective in remote areas.

Monitoring of Candidate Nomination Registration



The NHRC has regarded the candidate nomination registration process as a critical component of the electoral cycle. Monitoring was conducted by its

provincial and branch offices within their respective jurisdictions, covering the period from the registration of nominations up to the day before the election.

Although there is a need for further improvement in the management of crowd of supporters and party discipline in the nomination registration process, the preparation of the election administration, all-party coordination, presence of security agencies and human rights-friendly approach have been seen as positive.

According to the findings from the monitoring of the nomination registration conducted on January 20, the following observations were recorded:

Findings from Candidate Nomination Registration

- *The all-party meeting was held a day prior to the nomination process to develop a common understanding on potential challenges, procedures and modalities.*
- *The nomination registration program was peaceful, organized and dignified.*
- *The candidates were provided with clarification on the ambiguities regarding the nomination process, and necessary assistance was provided in filling out the forms.*
- *Special arrangements were made for physically disabled candidates.*
- *The election code of conduct was followed and time was allocated for candidates.*
- *Effective security was managed.*
- *The nomination venues were made well-organized.*
- *Political parties expressed a collective commitment to limit the number of individuals inside the nomination venue to a maximum of ten, and this provision was largely followed. However, in some constituencies, crowd management challenges were observed outside the venues.*
- *In Jhapa Constituency No. 5, tensions arose for some time outside the registration venue due to criticism and sloganeering about each other's candidates. However, the situation was effectively brought under control by security personnel.*



Election Day Monitoring



The monitoring found that the election on the voting day was peaceful overall, except for sporadic incidents, and that citizens were able to freely exercise their voting rights. Monitoring was carried out across 75 districts through 80 monitoring teams outside the Kathmandu Valley and 21 teams within the Valley. The monitoring teams included the participation of the Commissioners, former Commissioners and NHRC officials.

The monitoring found that election was conducted peacefully, fearlessly, and in an orderly manner compared to the previous ones. Despite this, the Commission received 50 complaints alleging human rights violations during the election. Some of the complaints received were related to the Election Commission and have been sent for necessary action.

The monitoring found that voters boycotted voting in some polling centers in Dang, Okhaldhunga, Darchula and Dolakha districts. In addition, voting was temporarily disrupted due to disputes in the polling centres of Malu in Dolakha, Balara and Basbariya in Sarlahi, but was later resumed.

Similarly, at the Shree Bhimsen Basic School polling centre in Simkot 5, Humla, it has been found that the same person voted in the name of multiple people.

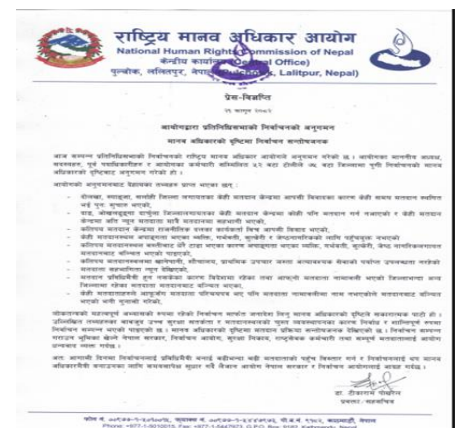
In some polling centers, voters were unable to vote despite possessing voter identification cards as their names were missing from the voter list.



Reports were received that the voting started late due to suspicious object being found in Debar in Jumla, Soru and Guthichaur in Mugu, and Hangpang in Taplejung.

Key Findings from Election Day Monitoring

- Voting was temporarily suspended and later resumed in some polling centers in Dolakha, Syangja, Sarlahi, and other districts due to disputes.
- In certain polling centers in Dang, Okhaldhunga, Darchula, and other districts, no voters turned up, and only a very less number of voters participated in voting in some polling centers.
- Incidents of disputes among political party cadres were reported at some polling centers.
- Some polling centers were not accessible to persons with disabilities, pregnant women, new mothers and senior citizens.



- Due to long distances between settlements and polling centers, vulnerable groups including persons with disabilities, pregnant women, and elderly voters were unable to participate in voting.
- Essential services such as drinking water, sanitation facilities and first aid were insufficient in some polling centers.
- Overall voter participation was found low,
- Voters living abroad and in districts other than their own were deprived of voting due to the inability to make voting technology friendly.
- Complaints were received from some voters that they were deprived of voting because their names were not on the voter list even though they had voter ID cards.

Post-Election Monitoring



The NHRC team monitored post-election activities, including the transportation of ballot boxes to counting centers, their collection, the vote counting process and the announcement of final results.

The monitoring found that the ballot boxes were transported to the counting centers from polling centers across the country timely and smoothly.

However, in high Himalayan regions and remote hilly areas where road networks are not available, the collection of ballot boxes was somewhat delayed. Similarly, adverse weather conditions caused delays in ballot collection in certain mountainous districts.

In most counting centers, vote counting began immediately after the collection of ballot boxes was completed. However, in some centers, delays occurred due to a lack of political consensus. Overall, vote counting was conducted in a cordial and orderly environment across all counting centers.



During monitoring on March 6, a dispute arose among political party representatives in Lalitpur Constituency No. 2 when 30 fewer votes were found than the number of votes cast from one ward. However, the counting process resumed with mutual understanding among the representatives of political parties.

Notably, unlike previous elections, there were no significant victory celebrations observed by winning candidates or political parties during this election cycle.

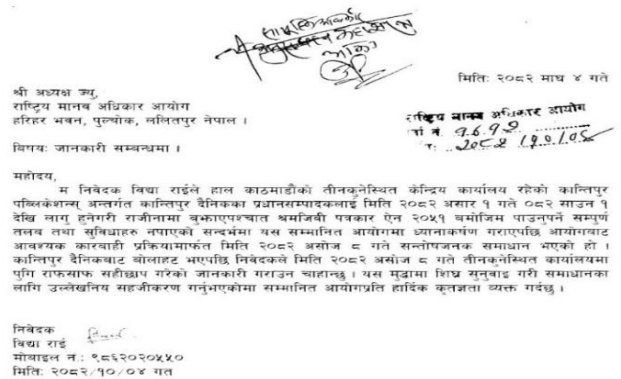


Justice to Media Person at the Commission's Initiative

A journalist, Bidya Rai, has expressed gratitude to the National Human Rights Commission for getting justice at the Commission's initiative. Rai, who had been working as a correspondent for Kantipur Daily for a long time, resigned from her position and repeatedly applied for the benefits guaranteed under the Working Journalists Act, 1991. However, after not receiving the entitled facilities, she filed a complaint with the NHRC on July 30, 2025, seeking protection of her labor rights and justice.

The Commission had studied the petition from the perspective of labor rights under collective rights. After studying the required documents, the Commission held discussions on August 19, 2025, with representatives of Kantipur Publication, including Administrative Head Parmananda Khanal and Legal Advisor Kishor Poudel. The discussion resulted in an agreement to provide Rai with her due service benefits in accordance with the law.

Subsequently, on September 24, Rai formally received her entitled remuneration and benefits. She conveyed her appreciation to the NHRC through a letter, acknowledging the Commission's role in ensuring justice in her case.



Some Representative Pictures of Electin Monitoring-2082 BS









National Dialogue on Suicide Prevention

A national dialogue on “Suicide Prevention and Human Rights” was held in Lalitpur on December 23 in collaboration with the NHRC, Nepal and the Koshis, an organization working in the field of mental health.

The program brought together experts and stakeholders to review the rising trend of suicide in Nepal and to propose measures for its prevention. Participants discussed the causes and impacts of increasing suicide cases in the country and offered recommendations for mitigation.

At the program, Hon. Minister of Health and Population, Dr. Sudha Sharma Gautam stated that suicide is not only a personal or health-related issue but also a serious social and human rights concern. She emphasized that its prevention should be a government priority and that coordination among all concerned stakeholders is essential. She further highlighted the government’s commitment to expanding mental health services, strengthening suicide prevention policies and programs



and making helplines and community-based services more effective.

Hon. Chairperson of the NHRC, Top Bahadur Magar stressed that suicide prevention should not remain



limited to policy discussions but must be translated into practical action. He noted that the NHRC has been continuously monitoring and studying the issue and making recommendations to the government, adding that the dialogue helped establish a more evidence-based and solution-oriented approach.

Hon. Member Mihir Thakur highlighted that suicide prevention requires long-term social investment and that preventive measures must reach local governments and communities. He emphasized that from a human rights perspective, ensuring access to services, equality and dignity is essential, and clarified that all institutions have a shared responsibility to implement the suggestions received from the discussion in practice.

According to presentations presented on behalf of the Ministry of Health and Population and the Nepal Police, most suicide cases involve hanging, with the majority occurring inside homes. The highest suicide rate was recorded in Koshi Province. Around 60 percent of suicide cases involve males, with the most vulnerable age group being 18–25 years.

Participants also concluded that suicide is not solely the result of mental illness but also the failure of treatment, respect and social support systems. Major contributing factors identified in the program include poverty, debt, unemployment, gender-based violence, family breakdown, academic pressure, alcohol abuse, social stigma and limited access to mental health services in rural areas.

Consultation Workshop Against Child Marriage



The NHRC, Nepal has recently organized a provincial-level workshop on the issue of underage marriage in Birendranagar, Surkhet. Inaugurating the program, the Hon. Minister for Social Development of Karnali Province, Ghanshyam Bhandari emphasized that child marriage has become a serious social problem and such initiatives can provide positive outcomes and serve as a foundation for the protection of humanity.

Chief Attorney of Karnali Province, Krishna Bahadur Hamal, noted that the lack of a strong policy prohibiting marriage under the age of 20 has caused significant hardship for many. He stressed that marriage, physical relations and childbearing are distinct issues, and warned

that laws which suppress personal autonomy or create unintended criminalization make it difficult for the state to manage social consequences effectively.

NHRC Secretary Murari Prasad Kharel highlighted the rationale behind the formation of the National Inquiry by the Commission and urged all three levels of government to implement programs aimed at reducing child marriage. Similarly, speakers including Secretary of the Ministry of



Social Development Dholak Raj Dhakal, expert Dr. Anita Ghimire, and the Head of the Commission's Karnali Province Office Ramesh Kumar Thapa shared their views



on the current situation of child marriage, its impacts and challenges, legal provisions in place, and necessary future legal and policy reforms.

The program was attended by stakeholders including political parties, security agencies, representatives of

government and non-government organizations, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, child club representatives, civic leaders, women and child rights activists, religious leaders, civil society members, journalists and media professionals.

Monitoring of Human Rights Situation in Prisons



The NHRC Nepal has conducted nationwide monitoring of prisons and detention centers following reports published in various media regarding the escape of prisoners from various prison offices in the country during the Gen-Z protests.

The reports indicated that prison management had been affected, raising concerns about the human rights situation of remaining inmates. In response, the Commission collected information and mobilized all its provincial offices to assess the human rights conditions of prisoners across the country.

The Koshi Provincial Office of the Commission has monitored the human rights situation of prisoners in the district prisons of Jhapa, Morang and Sunsari districts. A team of Human Rights Officers Chiranjivi Koirala and Tulsia Karki observed the prison infrastructure, management and the condition of prisoners on site. In the meantime, the team has also held discussions with prison authorities and inmates.

The monitoring found that the situation arising from the Gen-Z demonstration has not directly created any problems in the internal security or the management

disruptions in the prison, and that regular coordination are being carried out by the District Security Committee.

It was found that the date of entry and release of the prisoners were properly maintained, Details of injured, sick and diseased prisoners/detainees were documented, and health check-up records are maintained regularly. Similarly, coordination with legal practitioners and legal aid lawyers was maintained to ensure access to legal services. Transfers of inmates were properly recorded and updated through the prison information system.

However, the monitoring identified structural challenges in ensuring human rights standards in prisons. These included overcrowding beyond capacity, lack of proper classification of inmates as required by legal and human rights standards, outdated infrastructure, and weaknesses in crisis management. It was also found that basic human rights training for prison staff was insufficient. Additionally, there was no proper system to separate convicted prisoners from detainees, and although a mechanism exists requiring notification to the NHRC within 24 hours in case of inmate deaths, it has not been effectively implemented.

The NHRC Bagmati Province Office also observed similar conditions in prisons and detention centers in Chitwan and Makawanpur districts. The monitoring found that during the Gen-Z protests, inmates and detainees escaped from several prisons and detention centers in these districts. While some later returned or came into contact with authorities, others remained unaccounted for.

It was found that 742 prisoners and 440 male prisoners from Bhimphedi Prison of Makawanpur district were escaped during the Gen-Z protests. Additionally, 19 detainees escaped from police detention centers—15 from the Area Police Office, Tandhi, and four from the Area



Police Office, Bhandara in Chitwan. Similarly, the monitoring has found that 72 of the 94 juvenile detainees held in the Juvenile Correctional Home, Makawanpur, escaped by breaking the locks after the relatives of the children came and pelted stones at them after the Gen-Z protest. Some of the escaped inmates, detainees, and

juveniles have since returned to contact, while others remain unaccounted for.

The NHRC team reported that despite these incidents, the overall situation in prisons and detention centers at the time of monitoring remained normal.

Study on the HR Situation in Buffer Zone Areas

The Commission has conducted a study and monitoring of the human rights situation of communities living in buffer zone areas in districts including Bardiya, Banke, Saptari and Sunsari. During the study, the NHRC team employed field observations, surveys, interviews, focused group discussions, consultations and interactive sessions as part of its methodology.

Information was collected from indigenous and local communities, women, Dalit groups, children, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, relevant stakeholders, park authorities, local administrations, provincial and local governments, security personnel, conservation committees and civil society representatives.

The preliminary study has found that there are structural, policy-level and implementation-related challenges in maintaining a balance between national park conservation efforts and human rights protection in

buffer zone areas. Despite significant success in biodiversity conservation, local indigenous peoples and marginalized communities are facing multiple problems.

The study found that human-wildlife conflict has significantly affected livelihoods, health, food security and overall living conditions of residents in these areas. Although compensation and relief mechanisms exist, they were found to be insufficient, delayed, and not sufficiently victim-friendly, thereby adversely affecting local communities.

Furthermore, the study highlighted weak community participation, limited transparency and inadequate accountability in buffer zone management. It also found that rights related to traditional land use, natural resources and cultural practices have not been effectively ensured in practice, despite being recognized in principle.

3rd Conference of Environmental HR Defenders

The third conference of environmental human rights defenders has been concluded by issuing a declaration on December 12, jointly organized by the National Human Rights Commission and Changuarayan Municipality, Bhaktapur.

Inaugurating the conference, Mayor of Lalitpur Metropolitan City, Chiri Babu Maharjan stated that the event would contribute to the implementation of citizens' fundamental rights to a clean and healthy environment. Emphasizing cooperation and coordination between the three tiers of government for a safe, clean and healthy environment, he also expressed his commitment to hold the fourth conference in Lalitpur Metropolitan City.



NHRC Secretary Murari Prasad Kharel highlighted that environmental issues are not merely technical concerns but also fundamental human rights issues. He reiterated the Commission's commitment to safeguarding citizens' rights to a clean and healthy environment through effective implementation of its mandate.



During the program, environmental experts Bhushan Tuladhar and Bhola Bhattarai presented working papers, while NHRC Under-Secretary Loknath Bastola and Human Rights Officer Kiran Kumar Baram facilitated thematic sessions.

The conference was attended by all local levels of the Kathmandu Valley, government agencies working in the field of environment, NGOs, media personnel, and environmental activists.

Consultation Against Human Trafficking

A team of the Commission, including experts, has concluded a consultation in Dhangadhi, Kailali on September 4 to collect necessary suggestions with the aim of finalizing the national report against human trafficking.

The consultation workshop was held under the chairmanship of Lilly Thapa and the chief guest of the Minister of Internal Affairs and Law of the Sudurpaschim Province, Mr. Hira Singh Sarki. The program was also attended by the Chief of the District Coordination Committee, Chief District Officer of Kailali, Chief of Sudurpaschim Province Police Office, as well as representatives from various government and non-government organizations and survivors.

Participants shared concerns that trafficking activities in Sudurpaschim Province often occur through two major border points—Gadda Chowki in Kanchanpur and Gauri Phanta in Kailali—where victims are taken across the border for exploitation, forced labor and in some cases,

illegal medical procedures such as egg extraction from young girls.

Prior to the consultation program, the team had held group and individual discussions with officials of government offices and activists working in the field of human trafficking prevention in Kailali and Kanchanpur districts from September 2 to 4 and had collected relevant data through these interactions. The team included Hon. Member of the commission Dr. Lily Thapa, Writing expert Dr. Govinda Subedi, Head of the Collective Rights Division Loknath Bastola and UNODC representative Reena Pathak.

During the field visit, the team also inspected border checkpoints, monitoring centers established to prevent trafficking, and rehabilitation shelters, and held discussions with affected individuals as well.

The Commission had already held such consultation seminars in other provinces to collect the content and necessary facts to be included in the report.

Discussion on Draft Report against Human Trafficking



The NHRC in collaboration with the United Nations Development Project (UNDP), has concluded a

comprehensive discussion on the preliminary draft of the National Report against Human Trafficking, 2026 on November 3.





During the program, participants emphasized the need to align Nepal's efforts with internationally accepted standards under the Palermo Protocol through effective practical implementation. They highlighted the importance of studying and analyzing emerging patterns of trafficking, particularly new methods of exploitation and enticement using digital platforms, online media, and social networks. Participants also stressed the need for evidence-based reporting, contextual understanding of cases, and policy formulation grounded in verified and shared facts.

Further suggestions included preparing the report in simple and accessible language, strengthening awareness programs in schools, communities, and local governments, dismantling criminal trafficking networks, and ensuring effective protection and support for victims.

The program was attended by Hon. Member of the Commission Dr. Lily Thapa, Secretary of the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens Laxmi Kumari Basnet, Deputy Attorney General Lok Raj Parajuli, Acting Secretary of the NHRC Dr. Tikaram Pokharel, subject expert Prof. Dr. Govinda Subedi and others.

Discussion on Study Report Related to Women's Rights



A discussion program on the draft study report regarding the implementation status of laws and policies related to the rights of single women was held on September 6, 2025. The program was organized by the National Human Rights Commission in collaboration with the Women for Human Rights, Single Women Group (WHR).

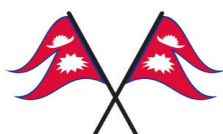
The program, held at the NHRC meeting hall, focused on key issues presented in the draft report prepared by Associate Professor Dr. Vishnu Basyal. These included international and national legal provisions and their implementation status, Supreme Court decisions, existing

legal gaps, and the impact of such gaps on the lives of single women.

The program, chaired by the Honorable Chairperson of the Commission, Top Bahadur Magar, was attended by Hon. Member Dr. Lily Thapa, Hon. Member of the National Women's Commission, Krishna Kumari Khatiwada, Secretary of the NHRC, Murari Prasad Kharel, Associate Professor Dr. Bishnu Basyal, officials of WHR and NHRC staff.

The program was begun with welcome remark by Head of the Gender and Social Inclusion Division Gita Kumari Dahal and was facilitated by Human Rights Officer Madhu Sunam. Participants provided constructive suggestions for improving the draft report.

The NHRC had earlier conducted monitoring in Kailali, Kanchanpur, Morang, Sunsari and Jhapa districts, and the draft report was prepared based on findings collected from these field visits.



Editorial Team

Kailash Kumar Siwakoti
Netra Bahadur Gautam
Pawan Bhandari

National Human Rights Commission Nepal
Hariharbhawan, Pulchok, Lalitpur

Phone No: +977-01-5010015
GPO Box No:9182, Kathmandu, Nepal.
Email: nhrc@nhrcnepal.org
Website: www.nhrcnepal.org