



# e-Newsletter

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## National Human Rights Commission - Nepal

### 16<sup>th</sup> Int'l Day in Support of Victims of Torture Revamp the Torture Act – 1996: NHRC

**L**ALITPUR: NHRC Chairperson Justice Kedar Nath Upadhyay has said that the common effort of all including the political parties is inevitable in mitigating the culture of torture.

Addressing the program organized at NHRC on the occasion of Int'l Day in Support of Victims of Torture, Chairperson Upadhyaya said 'The Commission had along ago recommended to the Government of Nepal for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to Convention against Torture which will make monitoring and implementation mechanisms stronger and protect against human rights violation.'



The Chairperson stressed on revamping of the Torture related Compensation Act – 1996 in accordance with the international standard in order to give an end to the ill-culture of torture.

Speaking on the occasion, NHRC Member Justice Ram Nagina Singh said, 'The perpetuation of inflicting torture has long been in practice having the very culture of 'first detain and then listen,' among state mechanisms resulting in the unfounded infliction of torture on the citizens.

The perpetration of inflicting torture will continue unless the arrangement of legal provision is made to coerce the perpetrators to make up the compensation and reparation all by themselves, he stressed.

At the program, presenting the concept paper, Surya Bahadur Deuja, Head of Promotion and Advocacy Division said that Nepal is

the party to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment – 1987 and on the other hand, Article 26 of the Interim Constitution of Nepal- 2007 has ensured the right against torture as the fundamental right. Despite this, the provision hasn't been translated into law.

There needs to be due collaboration between the Government, non government organizations, human rights organizations and civil society with regard to the prevention and control of torture in society and to protect the rights for torture victims, he stressed.

Speaking on the occasion, Ram Kumar Bhandari, Chair of the Committee for Social Justice and founder of the National Network of Families of Disappeared said that human empathy is fading away and the torture is becoming a sort of fate for the conflict victims in the post conflict era.

Peace and Reconstruction Ministry is all set to devise the guidelines on torture without involving the torture victims which, he said, would be unfair and thus not acceptable.

He flayed the Government for not implementing the Supreme Court order to sort out the problems related to torture victims. He also remonstrated on the anxiety looming over among the citizens due to the dispirited notion of the government to work upon a number of recommendations sent by the NHRC.

At the program, Srijana Singh, who lost her husband during the conflict period, said that no effort inculcated would yield any better unless the problems of victims is understood and step taken accordingly.

Speaking at the program, Joint Secretary of the Home Ministry Ganesh Raj Karki said that the incidents of inflicting torture is declining gradually with the directives circulated to the police administration to be human rights friendly in recent days.

Mr. Kakri opined that if concerted effort can be inculcated among the NHRC, Home Ministry and other concerned authorities towards collaboration, it would pledge support for the prevention and control of ill culture of torture.

Mahesh Sharma Poudyel, Deputy Attorney General form the Office of the Attorney General said that Nepal being the party to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment – 1987, the Government is Government has always been exerting it's effort in complying with the norms and values of the Convention.

Stressing on the need of adaptation of zero tolerance policy against torture, Mr. Poudyel said, 'If all the state agencies internalize the human rights friendly working procedures in all activities, it will indeed serve to curb the ill culture of torture.

The UN's International Day in Support of Victims of Torture serves as a reminder to people that human torture is a crime.

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## Fill up the Gap between 'Haves' and 'Haves-Not': NHRC



Member Dr. K.B. Rokaya, Ms Serena Pepino (Expert, FAO) Chairperson Justice Upadhyay, Member Gauri Pradhan, Acting Secretary Bed Prasad Bhattarai along with the participants at a program held at NHRC on monitoring on the right to food

**LALITPUR:** The National Human Rights Commission has urged to make the right to food accessible for all the citizens and fill up the existing gap between HAVES and HAVES NOT.

This was pointed out at an interaction entitling “FAO'S Right to Food Guidelines and some information on the importance of monitoring at national level, and about the project's national case study on the right to food” held at NHRC on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2013.

Speaking on the Occasion, Chairperson Justice Kedar Nath Upadhyay said

Effective implementation and monitoring on food policy is necessary to ensure the right to food of citizens.

Elucidating the analytical approach on the situation of food sovereignty in Nepal and the future direction to be taken ahead, Member Gauri Pradhan said that there is a dire need of ensuring right to food of citizens in the first place.

On the occasion, Member Dr. K.B. Rokaya said that the government and the international communities ought to bear the responsibilities to ensure the right to food of the citizens.

At the program, Ms Serena Pepino, Project Officer, Right to Food Team / FAO, Mission to Nepal presented the paper on Right to Food Guidelines and some information on the importance of monitoring at national level, and about the project's national case study on the right to food.

The presentation mainly focused on the efforts inculcated to make up the gap between haves and haves not with the objective to create equity based society.

The program also aimed at making the indicators and benchmarks effective for monitoring on the right to food. As per the guideline 17, States may wish to establish mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the implementation of these Guidelines towards the progressive realization of the right to adequate food.

Responding to the queries and concerns raised during the floor discussion, Ms Serena Pepino said that the chief aspects of the right to food is basically related to the availability of food, well informed consumers, food sovereignty including market, employments and access to the resources.

Adding the issues of political will and development being related to the issues of right to food, she stressed that the government concerned and the policy makers ought to have the obligatory notion towards this.

At the program, Member Gauri Pradhan, Member Dr. Lila Pathak and Member Dr. K.B. Rokaya including the NHRC Department Heads and other staffs were present.

## NHRC Urges Fair Probe into the Incident of Attack on Dalits

**LALITPUR:** The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has expressed its concern through the press release on the attack perpetrated on Dalits community at Pipariya VDC of Dostiya – 8, Rautahat district. The victims were learnt have been attacked by the so-called high- caste for entering into the local Bhagawati temple.

Nepal state has long been recognized as the untouchability free nation. Despite the fact that the Interim Constitution of Nepal – 2007 and the ‘Racial Discrimination and Untouchability (Punishment and Act)’- 2068 have considered discrimination made against any citizen on the basis of caste as punishable crime, it is saddening to witness such abuses perpetrated on the Dalit Community, the press release reads.

In this connection, the NHRC has met with the Chief District Officer, local

security agency, civil society and obtained the information about the incident. Simultaneously, the monitoring team from the NHRC Central Office and Regional Office has been deployed in the incident area.

The NHRC has urged the government to conduct a fair probe into the incident and provide compensation to the victims and their families, provide free treatment to those injured and manage resettlement for those displaced, the press release reads.

Similar, the NHRC has asked the Government and all the concerned stakeholder parties to provide justice to the victims by bringing the perpetrators to book on the basis of truth, and maintain peace and harmony in society with proper implementation of law and order.

## Unhindered Drinking Water Supply Urged

**LALITPUR:** By issuing a press release, the NHRC has said that attention has been drawn to the situation emerged from the hindrance caused to the supply of drinking water by the companies with various demands placed forth.

Such a move to make very essential drinking water supply scarce in market as the matter of bargain is sheer inhumane and downright against human rights, the press release says.

Drinking water supply is associated with the citizens' fundamental human rights and it wouldn't do any better if undue hindrance is caused to the water supply, as per the press release.

The Commission has, therefore, urged the Government of Nepal to give continuity to the smooth and easy supply of drinking water keeping in mind the fundamental rights of the consumers, reads the press release.



## Pay Heed to the Demands of Kamalaris : NHRC



Kamalaris representing the 'Joint Action Committee of the Abolition of Kamalri Practice' at a it-in program held outside the Singha Durbar premises

**LALITPUR:** The NHRC has issued a press release concerning the situation emerged from the scuffle that took place between the representatives of the 'Joint Action Committee of the Abolition of Kamalari Practice' and the police in the prohibited zone outside Singha Durbar premises.

The Commission has, therefore, urged the Government to release the persons taken under police custody during the incident, to make arrangement for the necessary treatment for the injured, to immediately address the legitimate demands of the Kamalaris through dialogue and to increase the number of women security personnel, as per the press release.

The press release further reads that the Commission has accordingly conducted the monitoring on

the incident and obtained the information from the injured participants at Bir hospital, Annapurna Neuro Hospital and Metropolis Police Post of Singha Durbar.

In this regard, the delegation representing the 'Joint Action Committee of the Abolition of Kamalari Practice' had submitted a letter of memorandum to the Commission on April 30, 2013 including the demands to immediately end the incidents of killing, violence and sex exploitation perpetuated on the Kamalaris, the press release urged.

Following this, the Commission has deployed the special investigation missions in five different districts namely Dang, Banke, Bardiya and Kanchanpur, the press release reads.

## Haruwa – Charuwa Knock the Door of Commission for Freedom

**LALITPUR:** A group of Haruwa-Charuwa (Bonded laborers) from the districts of Siraha and Saptari called on the NHRC and presented their Letter of Memorandum to the Commission with due appeal for an initiative towards the direction of their freedom from being the victims of age-old Haruawa and Charuwa culture in Eastern Terai.

The Delegation was led by the Dashan Mandal, Chair of 'Haruwa-Charuwa Rights Forum Saptari – Siraha.'

Speaking to the delegates at the program, NHRC Member Justice Ram Nagina Singh said that the Commission was serious about the problems faced by the Haruwa – Charuwa.

Justice Singh assured of the NHRC initiatives for discovering the remedial solution to the problems upon the complaint along with the authentic documents is registered at the commission.

On the occasion, Member Gauri Pradhan said that the Commission was sensitive towards



Member Justice Ram Nignain Singh and Member Gauri Pradhan along with the Haruwa Charuwa ( bonded labourers) at a program organized at NHRC

the pitiable condition of the Haruwa and Charuwa who were learnt to have been undergoing critical juncture due to the age-old system of Haruwa Charuwa. He also suggested that the Commission would look into the matter with due concern.

The letter presented by the delegates to the NHRC reads 'The Government commenced the process of emancipating the bonded laborers way back in 2000 in mid-western Nepal, Similarly bonded laborers of far western region were assured of their freedom in 2008 whereas the plight of bonded laborers of eastern Tarai is not yet addressed.'

The Delegates had appealed to the Prime Minister including the top brass ministers and high ranking officials but their plead languished in the middle without being addressed, as per the delegation head Dashan Mandal.

The letter further reads 'We work at very low wages. We have been toiling our sweat in the field of landlords on the very

compulsion of the debt that we are burdened on since ages. We do not have our own field to till and the portion of food grain that we receive from the landlord is not adequate for our survival.'

The letter includes various demands including data collection including the status of the 'Haruwa-Charuwa' with the monitoring team deployed from the side of the Government. They have also placed their demands saying that their debts be exempted and their problems be addressed under Labor Act.

Besides the legal battle they sick to contemplate under compulsion, they have collectively put forward their demand for the provisions of tilling land for harvest that can substantiate their livelihood adequately and proportionately to the number of families and the shelter to cover their head.

There are 50 to 200 households leading the life of 'Haruwa-Charuwa' in Siraha and Saptari district alone, as per the data mentioned in the letter submitted to the NHRC.



An eighty two year old victims representing the Haruwa – Charuwa at a program held at NHRC during the submission of the memorandum to the NHRC

## NHRC Urges Dialogue on Political Sphere to give an end to the Bandh Culture

**LALITPUR:** The serious attention of the NHRC has been drawn to the impact left on the life of general people due to the nationwide Bandh (strike) called by various political parties including the CPN-Maoist with a number of political demands raised at the backdrop of the announcement of the date for the second Constituent Assembly election in the country, according to the press release issued from the NHRC Central Office.

In this concern, the NHRC has been urging various political parties and other agitating groups not to bring such harsh program as Bandh to have their demands metted out. This kind of Bandh organized

from time to time only leaves negative impact on the normal life of people causing deprivation of the fundamental right to education and health, freedom of movement including negative impact on economy and development of the entire country. The NHRC has, therefore, urged all the concerned parties to cease the repetition of such program, the press release says.

Likewise The NHRC, through the press release, has urged the Government, major political parties and other stakeholder authorities to create political environment conducive for addressing the demands placed forward by the agitating parties through dialogues and consensus.

## Concern Expressed on the Incident of Milk Adulteration: Consultation held with Stakeholders



Member Gauri Pradhan, Sr. Officer Food Tech. and Quality Control Dept Pramod Koirala, Jt. Secretary of the Home Ministry Ganesh Raj Dhakal and Hasna Maiya Shrestha, Director of National Dairy Board at a program held on the consumers' rights.

**LALITPUR:** The National Human Rights Commission called upon the stakeholders and held a consultation meeting regarding the latest incidents of high level of coliform detected in the milk samples of dairies operating in the valley.

The incident of milk adulteration was made public through the report of Food Technology and Quality Control Department as well as the news report published in various media.

On the occasion, NHRC Member Justice Ram Nagina Singh said that detection of high level of coliform in milk was a serious issue. Expressing his deep concern, Member Singh added that such an issue is related to the right to healthy life of people and thus action must be taken against those milk producing dairies involved in violating the prescribed standard of quality.

At the program, NHRC Member and Spokesperson Gauri Pradhan said that problems seen in the entire process of foodstuff production and processing to distribution should be corrected to ensure the protection of people's fundamental right to healthy food.

Commending the monitoring activities launched by the Food Technology and Quality Control Department in the recent past, Member Pradhan further suggested the department to freely take ahead the effective investigation and monitoring by remaining aloof from any undue pressure.

He also stressed the need of regular investigation and monitoring on the food production system and market monitoring by the stakeholder authorities and publicize the report within specific intervals for safeguarding the people's right to healthy food.

Also speaking at the program, Senior Officer of Food Technology and Quality Control Department Pramod Koirala said six different dairies were sealed on June 6 and 7, 2013 after their milk products were found containing high level of coliform.

He also added that, in recent past, a case has been lodged against the six dairies in accordance with the Food Act, 2032 BS and Food Regulations, 2027 B.S.

On the occasion, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Home Ganesh Raj Dhakal said that the Ministry was carrying out market monitoring and more officers are being recruited to make the monitoring mission more effective. He also expressed his commitment to forward the monitoring in sound coordination.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief of Dairy Development Corporation (DDC) Raj Govinda Rajkarnikar said the coliform level in the DDC produced milk has been reduced to zero and sterilization has been given top priority.

Similarly, expressing concern on the incident of the coliform found in the milk samples, Joint Secretary Dr. Prabhakar Pathak of Ministry of Agriculture said that

## NHRC Urges Immediate Rescue of the Disaster Affected Victims

**LALITPUR:** The National Human Rights Commission has issued a press release stating that the attention of the Commission has been drawn to the loss of lives and properties and the situation emerged from it due to torrential rainfall in various parts of the country.

It was learned that around 10 people have lost their lives, hundreds of pilgrims have been stranded on their way to Kailash Mansarovar, the roads have been damaged and the houses along with cowsheds have been swept away due to the monsoon rainfall. Following this, the normal life of the people has been hit hard in the districts including Darchula, Kanchanpur, Dadeldhura, Humla, Kalikot, Achcham, Baitadi, Nawalparasi and Rupandehi, the press release says.

Accordingly the Commission has urged the Government to ensure to make appropriate arrangement for the rescue, relief and rehabilitation of the victims affected from flood and landslide in parts of the country. Similarly, the Commission has also urged the Government to mobilize maximum number of human recourses for the necessary search missions for those disappeared in the deluge, as per the press release.

the ministry was watchful about the tainted agro-products and its impact on the public health. He confirmed that regular monitoring, reporting and the discussion being held on the measures to be adopted to evade the production of unhealthy agro products.

He also added that the training on healthy milk production is held with the objective to pledge support to the movement of healthy milk production.

At the program, Hasna Maiya Shrestha, Director of National Dairy Board elucidated on various causes for substandard quality of milk in recent days.

She said that efforts have been inculcated at the leadership of the Joint Secretary of the Agricultural Development Ministry to form a committee in order to find the solution to the crux of the problem with regard to milk adulteration.

Calling upon the concerned stakeholder authorities to deviate their attention towards maintaining the quality of the food stuffs in order to protect and promote the fundamental rights to healthy food and right to healthy life of people, Member Pradhan adjourned the meeting.

The program was held at the technical and financial support extended from the SCNHR / UNDP project.



## Sound Coordination, Need for the Improvement of the Condition of Mentally ill Persons: NHRC

**LALITPUR:** Rights workers, psychological experts and volunteers working for minimizing mental illness in society have stressed sound coordination to improve the condition of the mentally ill persons.

The participants unanimously pointed out this at a workshop on mental illness organized jointly by the NHRC and KOSHISH Nepal, an organization working in the field of mental health.

Speaking on the occasion, NHRC Member Gauri Pradhan, as the chief guest of the program, said provided that the stakeholder organizations working in the field of minimizing mental illness work in coordination, they would undeniably achieve the targeted goal.

'Today, common effort in this concern is the need of the hour as because the efforts inculcated in the past tended to fade away somehow,' he observed.

Member Pradhan underscored the need of positive change among people in general towards mentally ill persons, appropriate allocation of the government budget and availing of human resources, promulgation of necessary national laws and their timely implementation.

Presenting the paper, the NHRC Head of Promotion and Advocacy division Surya Bahadur Deuja stressed on the need to duly address the Economic, Social and Cultural rights of the people in view of figuring out the core problems faced by mental illness in society.

Enumerating the policy development with regard to the mental illness, complaint registration and monitoring, Mr. Deuja said the coordination is the foremost requisite to work upon the welfare of the discarded citizens such as mentally ill people.

Speaking on the occasion, Matrika Devkota, the Executive Director of the KOSHISH working in the field of mental health, unveiled the fact that the mentally ill citizens have been deprived of necessary treatment in hospitals of the country mainly because of the lack of human resources and adequate budget.

Mental illness being very part of health of a person, Mr. Devkota pointed out on the need to understand the illness caused due to health deterioration of a person.

Citing the context of the closure of the mental hospitals in Europe, he said that rather than opening new hospitals for mentally ill persons there needs additional services to be provided in an integrated manner in the existing hospitals of the country.

At the program, presenting the fact sheet unveiling 67 % to 85% mentally ill persons being deprived of treatment, Clinical Psychologist of the TU Teaching Hospital, Dr. Mita Rana said that those who have been able to get the treatment also lack quality treatment.

She also stressed on annexing the separate unit for the mentally ill persons in hospitals, recruitment of the clinical psychologist in school and colleges, awareness raising program to end hatred feeling towards the

patients and the incorporation of the subject of mental health starting from the curriculum of school level.

Speaking on the occasion, Child Psychologist Dr. Arun Kunwar said that mental illness deteriorates the entire health of a person and thus he/she is made feeble and less productive. This obliquely has negative impact in the overall development of the country.

He observed that the role of sound coordination and collaboration is inevitable among all the concerned stakeholder agencies in order for the multidimensional treatment such as social, psychological and biological treatment of the mentally ill persons.

He also stressed on the arrangement of adequate budget allocation for the mental health treatment in the country.



The only hospital for the mentally ill persons situated in Lalitpur district

## Vigilance over Consumer Rights Violations Urged

**GULMI:** Rights activists and intellectual circle of Gulmi district have urged the citizens of all levels to be vigilant on the protection of consumer rights.

They pointed out this at an interaction program entitled 'Status of Consumer Rights and Responsibilities of the Stakeholders' organized jointly by the NHRC Sub Regional Office and INSEC.

At the program, Human Rights officer Chandra Kanta Chapagain presented the paper on Monitoring Guidelines on the Protection and Promotion of Consumer Rights – 2068 ( 2012 ) adopted by the NHRC.

The program was chaired by the Chief District Officer of Gulmi district in which 60 participants representing from various

NGOs, local media, local entrepreneurs and local residents participated in the program.

Meanwhile, the NHRC team monitored on how the market monitoring conducted by the District Administration Office was going on. The team thereafter drew the attention of the District Administration Office towards the stale and rotten foodstuffs and inedible food products sold in the area.

### Monthly Status (May 15 – June 15, 2013) of the NHRC Decisions

The National Human Rights Commission, in course of its action, has made a number of decisions and sent the recommendations to the concerned in the months of May 15 – June 15, 2013. These include 16 cases of right to life, 5 cases of torture, 1 case relating to Economic, Social and Cultural (ESC) rights, 1 case of abduction. Similarly 1 case regarding the policy wise decision has been recommended this past month. Similarly, 2 cases of right to life, 1 case of domestic violence and 1 other case have been dismissed accordingly. 3 cases of torture and 1 case relating to the illegal detention, however, remain pending.

## NHRC holds Meeting with the International Community

**LALITPUR:** NHRC Member Gauri Pradhan expressed his heartfelt thanks to the donors for their continuous support to strengthen the capacity of NHRC including the pertinent human rights concerns in Nepal.

Addressing the meeting held with the international community, Member Pradhan thanked for the compliments and appreciation by the representatives of the donor community.

Talking about the future of the NHRC, Member Pradhan said, 'We are worried about the future of the Commission especially at a time when the moment for the expiry of office term of all Office Bearers including the Chairperson is approaching soon.'

During the meeting, he took this opportunity to mention that the visibility of the Commission is surfaced now with the diverse rights issues taken up in the NHRC pipeline such as women and child rights, Dalit rights, rights of marginalized communities, rights of persons with disabilities and migrant rights. Having annexed with the Collective Rights Division and Gender and Social Inclusion Division under the purview of the Commission, Economic, Social and Cultural (ESC) rights have been the key priorities with the need emerged with the pace of time.

Adding that most complaints are transitional justice related and the TJ related mechanisms such as CoID and TRC, Member Pradhan said it is unfortunate that such an important mechanisms are staggering wearily with no sign of their formation.

With regard to the query on TRC related ordinance, Member Pradhan said that the NHRC has long ago publicized its stance. He informed that the Chairperson has written to the Prime Minister twice regarding the formation of the TJ mechanisms with the NHRC advisory duly incorporated in it. Sadly, the Government has not responded to the NHRC correspondence, he said.

Apropos the Human Rights Service Bill, Member Pradhan said 'I would also like to underline the perennial issue such as the delay in the enactment of Human Rights Service Bill which is intended to address the issues related to the staffing of NHRC. We have had the meeting with the Public Service Commission. The Commission, nonetheless, functions absolutely on the basis of the NHRC Act – 2012, he informed.

He informed that the NHRC is all set to deploy the human resources for the necessary election monitoring from human rights perspective. The NHRC will carry out monitoring concurrently on all three phases of election activities, he assured.

Expressing the contentment with the existing project under the direct purview of the NHRC for the moment, he illuminated that NHRC will be more than happy if the duration for the SCNHR / UNDP project is extended.

At the program, welcoming the guests to the Donors' Meeting organized by the NHRC, Acting Secretary Bed Prasad Bhattarai made the presentation on the NHRC progress with the support extended from the Strengthening the Capacity of the National Human Rights Commission ( SCNHR /UNDP) Project.

In his presentation, Secretary Bhattarai shed light on the key strategic interventions, changes brought about and the follow up impacts in the priority areas. The presentation covered the overall progress through the NHRC fact sheet reflecting the impact indicators. This included the project supported NHRC accomplishments achieved till date. As per the latest updates, the NHRC had accomplished over 6000 of the total 11,000 complaints received so far. Elaborating further, Secretary Bhattarai said that 6000 backlog cases have been reduced. On monitoring side in the last six months, about 115 cases were monitored whereas 83 decisions have been dispensed which include 3 policy wise decisions as well. He went on to update that over 300 collaborative activities were carried out in coordination and collaboration with the Government agencies, NGOs and CSOs. Since the establishment of the Commission, over 650 recommendations on various complaints were sent to the Government, Secretary Bhattarai updated.

'All these activities and endeavors wouldn't have been possible had we not received the support from the SCNHR project,' said Secretary Bhattarai.

Addressing the meeting, Mr. Jorn Sorensen, Deputy Country Director, UNDP thanked Mr. Bed Prasad



*NHRC Acting Secretary Bed Prasad Bhattarai making his presentation during the NHRC meeting held with the representatives of the international community.*

Bhattarai for the comprehensive presentation including the updates on NHRC progress.

Expressing happiness on the positive development made on various perennial issues, he said, 'I would also like to acknowledge the historical achievement of NHRC. It is commendable that the NHRC has continued working intensively and closely with civil society and of course bearing an open attitude to work with developments partners & UN.'

He further said, 'As we see in the fact sheet, over 300 collaborative works have been accomplished. I believe this is needed to push the government for fast implementation of the NHRC recommendations.

'Today we need to use this forum for discussion where are we and where we want to go, because we have noted that SCNHR Project is coming to conclusion at the end of September and I hereby inform that there has been a dialogue among some of the developing partners. In this concern, we are very open to review and see what can be done in collaboration to avail the support to the NHRC particularly in terms of bridging the gap until we have more clear idea where NHRC is going in the years to come, he said.

At the meeting, Ms Mie Roesdahl Conflict Transformation and Human Rights Advisor/ Focal Point of project of DANIDA HOGUE commending the presentation by Acting Secretary Bed Prasad Bhattarai said that it was clear from Denmark side that the support to the NHRC is there in all its endeavors, as always.

She said, 'We have very clearly recognized NHRC's importance and mandates including their implementation for the protection of human rights over the last few years.'

Underlining the direct support as the long or medium term goal, she emphasized the crucial focus on NHRC's sustainable institutional strength.

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# NHRC to take step on Climate Change, Human Rights and Responsibilities

**LALITPUR:** NHRC Member Gauri Pradhan has said that its time now that the environmental issues were treated as integral part of human rights issues.

Speaking at a program entitled Climate Change, Human Rights and Responsibilities, Member Pradhan said at a time when Commission has been working on the economic, social and cultural (ESC) rights with high priority in recent days, environmental rights can't be alienated to be intervened on.

He stressed that all should deviate their attention towards working upon balancing the deteriorating environment thereby keeping in mind the welfare of all humankind and other living organisms.

Speaking on the occasion, NHRC Member Dr. K.B. Rokaya said that mighty nations are more responsible agents for increasing rate of climate change; there is a need to exert pressure on them to make them obligatory to work on the prevention and control of climate change.

He lamented that nations of the third world including Nepal haven't been able to raise the voice in an appropriate way, he said.

At the program, NHRC Acting Secretary Bed Prasad Bhattarai said that the issues concerning the climate change ought to be taken forward as the national agenda.

Underscoring the right to clean environment and health defined as the fundamental rights in the Interim Constitution of Nepal – 2007, he pointed out the need to view the issues concerning environment with rights perspectives.

Mentioning the major initiatives launched with regard to the protection of world environment, he said, 'It's about time to make the issues relating to climate change

as the common interest of all nations around the world.'

On the occasion, human rights officer Surya Bahadur Deuja, Head of Promotion and Advocacy Division said that the NHRC is ever ready to expand its work field including all the rights related to the issues including the environmental issues.

He unveiled that the NHRC was interested to coordinate and collaborate with all the concerned stakeholder agencies to work upon climate change and its impact on human rights of the people.

Presenting the concept paper, the environment expert Anil Chitrakar as the resource person said "It is high time Nepal embarked upon to grasp the value of ecological services. To forget their value is to thrust the country and its people towards an ecological disaster, a plunge powerful enough to paralyze or crumble all "institutions" we are familiar with. Mother Nature is trying to tell us something very crucial to our survival, and the National Human Rights Commission concurs"

He added that the human settlement would face unprecedented disaster if the snow lakes above would burst due to the over melting of the snow on in the mountains.

'Climate change takes place globally and hence the impact of it would also be worldwide,' he warned.

Adding that the climate change and its impact witnessed in Nepal and its formidable future effect is the consequence of the activities of other nations around the globe, he said that those nations are accountable for any environmental hazard posed in elsewhere and Nepal inclusively.

'Nepal ought to raise its strong voice in international forum so that highly responsible nations for the environmental degradation would be alerted towards their duties and responsibilities,' he said.

He also lamented that though the environmental issues bear the magnitude to a great extent unclear policy and uninformed work



Environmental expert Anil Chitrakar making his presentation at a program held in Lalitpur on the Climate Change and Human Rights

procedures have made such a serious issue literally complex to demystify.

Underlining the need to be responsible on the part of the all the stakeholders and authorities towards the climate change issue; he said that the mass awareness including the policy making is the need of the hour.

Now that the National Human Rights Commission has taken this as a step forward, policy makers and legal bodies must begin engaging themselves for the implications of what climate change means to Nepalis in Human Rights context, he observed.

At the program, presenting the paper, the Environmental Law and Policy expert Chiranjivi Bhattarai shed light on various aspects of national and international laws related to the environment.

He also underscored the need to view the human rights with neo-perspective approach rather than with conventional perspective. He viewed that it's about time now human rights must be looked at with human rights perspective.

The issue of climate change is confined not only in a particular nation but also it is the issue of global concern. Ensuring as an environmentally protected country, therefore, Nepal needs to seize the opportunity to raise its concerns in the international forums, he observed.

The beurocratic culture of transferring the personnel with environment expertise in the ministry elsewhere, the personnel replacing him has often failed to bring the issue strongly in international forum, he illustrated.

On the occasion, the participants of the program including Kosh Raj Adhikari, Bhim Rai, Saurav Dhakal, Laxmi Gautam, Manoj Athpahriya Rai, Om kumar Shrestha, Chatra Shankar, Kabindra Burklakoti, Narendra Khatiwada, Ganesh Oli spoke on the environmental justice, environmental impact assessment, climate change and the rights of indigenous people.



Participants at program held on the Climate Change, Human Rights and Responsibilities in Lalitpur

Far-West endures the plight of Natural Disaster:  
 Reliefs Recommended for Safeguarding the  
 Rights of Victims



The NHRC monitoring team during the on-the-site monitoring at the bank of the Mahakali river

**KANCHANPUR:** Like past years, heavy monsoon rain in the far-west region is reported to have swept away hundreds of houses causing the loss of properties and lives due to the bursting of the embankment along Mahakali River, according to the monitoring report sent from the NHRC Regional Office, Dhangadhi. Citizens' human rights violations have, therefore, turned pervasive this year as well due to the natural disaster.

The report says that on-the-spot monitoring was conducted in the Bhujela Village Development Committee of Kanchanpur district with the objective to discover the problems faced by the citizens due to the deluge.

The monitoring was also aimed at making recommendations to the concerned authorities with regard to the rescue and relief provision to the disaster victims. Also, the team has recommended about the maintenance of authentic data collection of the victims and publicizing of the condition of the relief distribution to the victims.

The data in connection with the victims and relief distribution was collected and sent to the Government for the release of relief

package, but it hasn't been translated into action leaving the victims in plight at lurch, source close to the District Administration Office was quoted as saying.

Meanwhile, it was learned that a lower secondary school in the flood affected area was swept away and the teaching /learning process has been stagnated, the report says.

The recommendations have been made for the relief distribution through one door system to have the smooth operation of the natural disaster control fund and its effective implementation. Also recommended was the establishment of the rehabilitation centers in order to evade the undue occupying of the public properties during the monsoon.

The Interim Constitution of Nepal-2007 including all human rights related international laws have the provision that the state ought to ensure the right to food, clothing and shelter of its citizens. Contrarily, until this day, no provision has been arranged for minimizing the disaster, rapid response to be taken ahead for any unprecedented incidents including the prior circulation of warning to the citizens of disaster prone areas.

Adequate Facilities  
 Urged for the Prison and  
 Detention Centers

**KAILALI:** A workshop entitling regional workshop on detention facilities was organized in Dhangadhi by the NHRC Regional Office, Dhangadhi

The objective of the workshop was to have larger discussion among the chiefs of the prison and detention centers of the area on the provision of facilities provided to these centers.

The workshop also aimed at having discussion whether or not the prison and detention centers were operating in compliance with the norms and values of basic human rights and the prison and detention centers monitoring guidelines accordingly.

During the workshop, the comments and feedbacks were collected from the participants. Most suggestions were based on the recommendations for the improvement of the prison and detention centers to be made to the concerned authorities. At the program, the participants stressed on the necessary coordination and collaboration between the Commission and the concerned prison administration, police and other stakeholders. Above all, the discussion focused on the development of human rights culture.

The participants also had comprehensive discussion on the wretched physical condition and possible natural disaster, lack of human resources, adequate budget allocation, pressure resulted from excessive number of inmates accommodated in the small prison cells, scuffle among the inmates, unprecedented incidents of prison breaking, problem of contagious diseases including the catering of life skill and income generating skill training to the inmates and detainees.

At the program Advocate Yagya Raj Bhatta (CELLARD), Inspector Surya Chand, Chair of District Bar Association (Kanchanpur) Umesh Prasad Bista and the representative of the Suklaphata Sanctuary Office also shared their views and opinion.

The participants comprised the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Inspectors, Sub inspectors, Legal Professionals, the organizations and agencies working in the field of advocacy on behalf of inmates, former prisoners and media among others.

LAHURNIP Delegation visit NHRC



Participants at a program held during the visit of LAHURNIP Delegation at NHRC.

**LALITPUR:** The delegation representing the Lawyers' Association for the Human Rights of Nepalese Indigenous Peoples (LAHURNIP) visited National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and informed NHRC about the violations of human rights of indigenous peoples in various districts of Nepal. During the visit, the delegation had meeting with NHRC Commissioner Gauri Pradhan and had comprehensive discussion in this concern.

The field visit was conducted as part of LAHURNIP's National Level Training on Human Rights Documentation and Advocacy under "Strengthening the network of Indigenous Peoples' Human Rights Defenders for the promotion and protection of human rights of indigenous peoples in Asia" project of the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact.



## Prison and Detention Center Monitored: Improvement urged

**SINDHULI:** The NHRC monitoring team conducted monitoring on the prison and detention center situated in Sindhuli district from June 6-8, 2013.

The objective of the monitoring was to find out the de-facto working condition of the prison administration, the documentation maintenance, prison security system, human rights situation of the inmates and detainees including physical condition of the prison and detention cells.

During on-the-spot monitoring, the team met with the Chiefs of various government agencies including the Chief District Officer, Chief of the District Police Office and the prison administration of the Sindhuli and held discussion. The team also met with the inmates serving their term in the district prison and obtained information from them. This was followed by the meeting arranged with the officers of the two area police of the district for the questionnaire session with regard to the de-facto condition of the inmates and detainees under their custody. Meanwhile, the team organized an interaction session with inmates in groups.

The monitoring report unveils that no torture was inflicted on any of the inmates in the

district prison or in the detention centers in the district.

However, the inmates were found to have been subjected to disciplinary action if found involved in violating day to day rules. Likewise, the CDO office was learned to have launched monitoring on the prison and its activities. However, the daily task of the Chowkidar, the guard of the prison, wasn't brought under any vigilance whether or not his conduct tended to have violated the freedom of the inmates, report reveals.

Report further reads that the physical condition of the prison was in rather vulnerable condition. On top of that, the prison cells were observed to have accommodated with more inmates than it could hold.

The prison also lacked the health service due to the lack of the health workers. Not to mention, the inmates were compelled to hire the public transport at their own cost



Human Rights Officer Jivan Neupane conducting the questionnaire session among the inmates of the district prison of Sindhuli district during the prison and detention centre monitoring

in the event of any inmate falling serious ill in the center.

The monitoring team deployed from the NHRC central office has, therefore, made various recommendations on perennial problems faced by the prison administration and the inmates altogether in the district prison. They include the budget allocation for necessary renovation of the existing prison, immediate fulfillment of the post laying vacant in the prison, monitoring on the activities of the Chowkidar, arrangement of the means of conveyance needed for the office at times, development of the prison code of conduct, proper sanitation, installation of complaint box and donation box without breaching the prison law, and annexing of the new prison cells.

## Stakeholders Interact on the Condition of Senior Citizens



NHRC Member Justice Ram Nagina Singh, Deputy Director Dr. Tika Ram Pokhrel and SCNHR National Project Manager Sadhana Ghimire with the invitee key note speakers at a program held on Senior citizens in Kailali district

**KAILALI:** Laid out in priority list of the NHRC Strategic Plan, the NHRC has given impetus to the dialogues and advocacy initiatives on the issue of rights of senior citizens for a long time now.

In this regard, an interaction was held in Dhangadhi on 6th July, 2013. Held at the presence of Member Justice Ram Nagina Singh as the chief guest, the objective of the program was to identify the problems facing the senior citizens and to have larger discussion on the remedial solutions to the problems.

At the training, the discussions aimed at exploring the implementation status of the prevalent Act, Law and International commitments with regard to the issues related

to the senior citizens. The objective also focused on the condition of social and economic rights provisioned for the senior citizens.

During the program the suggestions and feedbacks were collected from the participants with regard to the amendment in the existing law on the senior citizens.

The participants came up with the view on the coordination and collaboration among the organizations and agencies working in the field of rights of senior citizens. They also urged

to make amendments on the laws related to the senior citizens.

At the program, participants opined that the knowledge of senior citizens be exploited for the well being the upcoming generations.

Suggestions were also made on the compulsory issuance of identity card to the senior citizens, provisions of social security allowance at ease, fast track court for the speedy settlement of the property lawsuits filed against senior citizens, establishment of senior citizens welfare fund in every district and village level. The participants simultaneously urged for the effective mechanism to have the implementation and monitoring on the senior citizens welfare fund.

Forty three participants representing from government agencies, NGOs, civil society, organizations working the rights of senior citizens, media among others participated in the training.

Meanwhile, a morning rally was organized on the occasion of Universal Mass Awareness Day against the Abuse of Senior Citizens in the capital. The participants of the rally comprised the NHRC family and various other rights organizations working in the field of safeguarding the rights of senior citizens. The rally took to the thoroughfares of main city from Basantapur and converged into a corner assembly at Ratnapark, Kathmandu.



Senior citizens participating at a morning rally held in the capital on the occasion of Mass Awareness Day against the abuse of senior citizens

## NHRC holds Meeting...

'When I look at the mandates furnished in the new NHRC Act, it is no less than any other institution. The appointment of the new commissioners, however, is critically important in the present context," said Ms Mie.

Thanking the NHRC for hosting the meeting, Ms. Corinne Demenge, Assistant Country Director of Swiss Development Cooperation said, 'Our ambassador has said that the NHRC is a key institution in the present context. So, we would like to continue our support to NHRC in the long run. Having Nepal in Swiss strategy upfront for five years, we really want to work with you. We, however, don't want to run the program for next twenty years.'

She said, 'We would rather like to see the capacity of the national rights watchdog like NHRC strengthened. You can guide us where you think capacity is lacking as to how we can extend our support.'

She also showed her keen interest on the enactment of Human Rights Service Act which is lying in the cabinet level awaiting its enactment.

Expressing her curiosity, she said, 'Should we now push for speedy approval of that act if at all we have the space to speak out for the endorsement of that Act?'

Jan Muller Vangen, Deputy Chief of Mission, Danish Embassy said that he was very much impressed by the NHRC achievement. He said, 'It is tremendous achievement especially when the country is undergoing a politically difficult context besides having a number of challenges lying ahead of it in terms of its institutional development and also collaboration with many external partners.'

Mr. Niels Hjartdal, Programme Coordinator representing the DANIDA HOGUE said, "I am happy to see the performance indicators laid out in the NHRC Progress updates.'

Noting the fact sheet revealing 28% of the total NHRC recommendations taken on board and 17 % hanging on in limbo, he said, 'My concern is that if at all the 17% recommendations includes the vital ones to be implemented by the Government.'

Ms. Tanja Rajamäki, representative from Finnish Embassy, thanking for inviting for the meeting, wanted to know what kind of concrete plans the NHRC has conceived for its future program.

Ms. Peter Allen, the representative of British Embassy expressed his concern whether there is any possibility for the extension of the office term of the sitting Commissioners for the reason that

country is heading towards CA election any time soon.

Responding to the query raised by Mr. Peter, Tek Tamata, Program Analyst of UNDP said that there is no any constitutional provision for further extension of the office term of the Officer Bearers of the constitutional body such as NHRC beyond their tenure. The Election Commission somehow opened the door for such a provision without amending the provisions in Constitution. He, however, made it clear that ordinance for the amendment can only make it possible for the reappointment of the NHRC Office Bearers.

As for the Project period extension, NPM Ms. Sadhana Ghimire said that the NHRC is starting self assessment soon and that will create a kind of platform.

She added that capacity assessment of NHRC will present the broader scope for development partners to support and strengthen the capacity gaps of NHRC to fulfill its national mandates towards the protection and promotion of human rights.

Member Pradhan concluded the meeting by acknowledging the support extended from the international community through UNDP – Nepal.

## Stakeholders Debate on Existing Law and Policy Gap Related to Dalit

**DADELDHURA:** NHRC Commissioner Justice Ram Nagina Singh has said that the Government has been acutely oblivion in the protection and promotion of human rights in country.

Speaking at the workshop program entailed 'Analysis Of Existing Law & Policy Gap Related to Dalit' in the far western district Daledhura on June 15, 2013, Commissioner Singh said that the human rights communities ought to play significant role to work upon safeguarding the rights of racially discriminated citizens in the country .

He stressed on the role of the local level human rights defenders in particular for the protection and promotion of human rights in the area.

Organized by the NHRC Regional Office, Dhangadhi, the objective of the program was to have a larger debate on the existing Law and Policy gap related to Dalit and to explore the remedial solutions to them.

Commissioner Justice Ram Nagina Singh was the chief guest of the program whereas Chief District Officer of Dadeldhura district Rishi Ram Tiwari, District Police Chief Krishna Prasai, Local Development Officer Tulshi Bahadur Shrestha, SCNHRC National Project Manager Sadhana Ghimire were the guests of the program.

At the workshop, NHRC Deputy Director Dr. Tikarm Pokharel presented the paper on racial discrimination and human rights whereas Program Coordinator Rameswar Jairu of NNDSWO ,Dadeldhura threw light on the situation of the rights of Dalits in Far Western Region through his presentation. Similarly, National Project Manager of SCNHRC Sadhana Ghimire, as the resource person, made her presentation on the thematic Existing Law and Policy Gap Related to Dalit. and Human Rights Officer Pawan Bhatta elaborated the NHRC and Racial Discrimination through presentation.

The participants engaged themselves in groups and had comprehensive discussion

on the remedial solution toward the existing problems of racial discrimination.

During the floor discussion, the groups discussed on the pertinent issues related to the racial discrimination such as the problems faced by the Dalits and their solutions, economic, social and cultural rights deprivation faced by Dalits, complexity and difficulty in implementing the legal provisions among others.

Commissioner Justice Ram Nagina Singh responded to the queries and concerns raised by the participants. With a brief concluding remarks, Commissioner Singh gave away the certificates to the participants of the two day long workshop.

The participants of the program comprised the human rights defenders of Achcham, Doti, Dadeldhura, Baitadi, Kanchanpur and Kailali, chiefs and representatives of the rights organizations working against racial discrimination including the representatives of the local government bodies.



## Program on HRBA to Development Continues

**K**ASKI: Chairperson Justice Kedar Nath Upadhyay has said that the government bodies must pay attention to the protection of human rights on all occasions.

Speaking as the Chief Guest of the program entitled Human Rights Based Approach to Development organized in Pokhara on May 28, 2013; Chairperson said that any work will fetch satisfactory result provided they are accomplished keeping the minority communities, marginalized and backward classes as well as the backward area at the center.

He stressed that human mistakes, if any, should not be dealt with undue torture but should be handled with humane feeling to forward the legal process.

Expressing his view on the fulfilment of the commitment made by the state in the international level, Chairperson said that the citizens' inherent right to food, shelter, education, health and employment must be fulfilled by the state.

The program was chaired by Member Justice Ram Nagina Singh in which Member Gauri Pradhan presented the paper on 'Concept

and Human Rights in Development Activities.' While the NHRC Deputy Director Yagya Prasad Adhikari presented the paper on Human Rights Action Plan of the Government of Nepal.

Delivering the welcome address, Acting Secretary Bed Prasad Bhattarai threw light on the objectives of the program. He said that provided that plan and policies of the local developmental works are conceived incorporating the HRBA to Development till the implementation phase, the developmental activities would be human rights friendly and thus result oriented.

He stressed that since human rights and development are indispensable to each other, integration of HRBA to Developmental activities in line with the international standard would make the process of development sustainable right from the grass roots level.

The Program also aimed at enhancing the coordination and collaboration between the government bodies and the Commission

At the program, while learning on HRBA to Development, the participants came up

with various suggestions and comments. They suggested that the Commission ought to organize the HRBA to development programs in order to boost up the feeling and responsibilities of the local level government agencies. They also emphasized to mobilize the political parties in the rural level so as to inculcate awareness between both the service providers and receivers in the grass roots level about the HRBA to Development.

They also urged the Commission to develop the indicators thereby incorporating the economic, social and cultural rights of the citizens to make the monitoring agencies of the Government efficient.

The participants of the program comprised the representatives of the District Administration Office, Regional Office-Pokhara, District Education Office, District Development Office, Pokhara Municipality, Public Health Office, Armed Police Force, Nepal Police, Office of the Land Revenue, Office of the District Attorney, District Court, Survey Department, Civil Society and Media among others.

## Stakeholders attend Training of Trainers (ToT)



NHRC Member Gauri Pradhan speaking at the inaugural session of the training of trainers on the rights of the indigenous people in Kavre district.

**K**AVRE: The National Human Rights Commission conducted Training for Trainers for the Promotion and Protection of Rights of Indigenous Peoples from 29 June-3 July, 2013.

Inaugurated by NHRC Member/Spokesperson Gauri Pradhan, The training was held with objectives of imparting skills and knowledge on the rights of indigenous people. The training also aimed at enhancing the capacity of human rights defenders and other stakeholders working for the promotion and protection of human rights of indigenous people.

Speaking at the inaugural function, Member Gauri Pradhan shed light on the importance of

the program. He said that NHRC Nepal is always committed to protecting and promoting the rights of indigenous people.

In this concern, he added that the state must address the issues of IPs on the basis of rights based approach. He further said that Nepal is a country of minority communities and it has, as always, taken it as a pride to have unity among diversities. Social harmony and the social cohesion are two exemplary factors that have made the country a unique place to live in. Referring to decade long conflict, he however, mentioned that indigenous peoples along

with Dalits and minorities have been the victims of the conflict. He added that failure to address the issues of indigenous people will push the country into conflict, thus.

Secretary Bhattarai highlighted on the objectives of the training and said that when the turmoil persisted due to the armed conflict in the country, unlike present days, the Commission exerted its effort in looking into the complaints that were related to the civil and political rights. The Commission has, however, started to work upon the ESC rights with priority since long.

During the inauguration program Mr. Bed Bhattarai, Acting Secretary of NHRC,

Ms Sadhana Ghimire, NPM of SCNHR, Ms Shanti Rai, President of LAHURNIP, Superintendent of Police from Kavre district Mr Kamal Gharti, Chair of NBA, Kavre District Court, Mr Navaraj Badal, Chair of NGO Federation, Mr Krishna Chandra Acharya and Mr Pradeep Bajracharya- representative from NFDIN delivered the words of felicitation and wished success of the program.

The participant of the training comprised 28 participants representation from NHRC, NEFIN, NFDN, Nepal Police, NBA, HR organizations, traditional IPOs, representatives from MoFALD, MoLJCA, MoSFC among others.

Training was facilitated by different resource persons namely Dr. Mukta Singh Lama, Dr. Sumitra Manadhar Gurung, Mr Mohan Bhurtel from TITI, Mr Mahendra Prasai, Mr Shankar Limbu from LAHURNIP, Mr Ram Maden from NFDIN, Ms Amanda Cats Baril from UNDP, Ms Bharati Pokharel and Ms Anshu Gurung from ILO, and Mr Surya B. Deuja and Ms Manju Khatiwada from NHRC.

The five day long training also passed the joint resolution in order to have lobbying and advocacy and to mount pressure on the government and political parties thereby evoking their common understanding for addressing the issues of IPs.

During the panel discussion, Mr Nagendra Kumal, Chairperson of NEFIN, Mr Shanker Limbu from LAHURNIP, Chair of NWC Ms Seikh Chand Tara delivered their perspectives for the promotion and protection of the rights of IPs.

## NHRC to Set up Offices in all 75 Districts

LALITPUR: The National Human Rights Commission has made the preparation including the concept paper for setting up of its offices under its purview in all seventy five districts. The main objective of the expansion of its offices is to raise awareness of human rights among the local level citizens, to protect and promote human rights of people and to increase the public access to the Commission with regard to the issues concerning human rights violations and abuses.

The Commission has dispatched a letter including the concept paper to the Office of Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers notifying about its endeavor to gradually set up the contact offices in all seventy five districts.

In this regard, the Commission had reached the policy-wise decision on March 11, 2013 with regard to setting up of its offices throughout the country.

At present, the Commission has its Central Office, Regional Offices and Sub-Regional Offices in nine different districts. The Regional Offices are in Biratnagar, Janakpur, Nepalgunj and Dhangadhi respectively whereas the Sub-Regional Offices are in Butwal, Jumala and Khotang.

The letter sent to the Office of the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers states that, establishing its offices in all the districts across the country, the Commission believes that it can pledge support to address the spirit of the National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) introduced by the Nepal Government and the local level issues of human rights violations and abuses with prompt effect.

## Corporal Punishment in Schools Denounced

KASKI: The NHRC Regional Office Pokhara held an interaction program entitled minimizing corporal punishment in schools in Pokhara.

At a time when the incidents of corporal punishment are pouring in one after another in media, the program aimed at focussing on creating child rights friendly environment in schools.

At the program, Yagya Prasad Adhikari, NHRC Deputy Director, Surya Bahadur Gurung, Nawaraj Paudel, Amar Singh Higher Secondary, Bhadrakali Lamichhane principal of Tal Barahi Higher Secondary School, Biswa Raj Bastola, Principal of Bhaskar Memorial Boarding School, Bishnu Baral-Chairperson of Network of Civil Society and Shiva Chapagain

expressed their views on the issues. They also made their observations on the implementation of the provision set forth in the Child Rights Act and Convention on the Rights of Child.

Similarly, Regional Office Pokhara has conducted a child rights related program entitled Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in light of corporal punishment on students in Mangladoya Secondary High School, Chuwa VDC, Pravat District on 18 June, 2013.

Seventy participants from cross section of the society and academia including teachers of public and private schools, Chairperson of Guardian Association, represent of civil society, Officer of District Child Committee, child rights activists representing various rights organizations, NGOs, journalists, civil society members participated in the program.

## Security Personnel trained on Fair Trial

KASKI: Three day training on Fair Trial concluded in Pokhara on June 23, 2013. Forty Inspectors and Sub Inspectors posted in various police offices of Gandaki Region took part in the training.

Organized by the NHRC Regional Office Pokhara, the training aimed at honing the knowledge and skills of the personnel of the state security agencies with regard to the person's right to fair trial. During the training, the trainees were encouraged to sustain the civilized justice system thereby creating the conducive environment for the victims as well as the person accused of crime with regard to their right to fair trial in practical term.

The objective of the training also focused on the coordination and collaboration between the Commission and state security agency in order to adopt justice based system and give impetus to it in the matters concerning the fair trial.

Constitutional experts Bhimarjun Acharya and Dr. Bipin Adhikari provided the training as the resource persons while Justice Dilli Raj Acharya of Appellate Court, Advocate duo Lal Prasad Lamichhane, and Damodar Adhikari, Inspector Chandra Gurung including the NHRC Deputy Director Yagya Prasad Adhikari also facilitated the training.

## Social Mobilizers undergo Human Rights Training

KANCHANPUR: The NHRC Regional Office Dhangadhi conducted two day training among the village level mobilizers.

One of the objectives laid out the NHRC work plan is to enhance the capacity of the social mobilizers on the pertinent human rights concerns associated with the developmental activities in the area.

In this regard, the social mobilizers participated in the training in which the sessions on human rights education, rights friendly duties and responsibilities of the citizen individuals were held. They also enhanced their knowledge and skills on the facilitation of the local level training to the Dalits, indigenous populace including marginalized and backward communities in the area.

The training was provided by the NHRC Regional Director Dr. Tikaram Pokharel, Human Rights Officer Jhankar Bahadur Rawal, and the resource person of COCAP, Kanchanpur Bhuwan Kunwar. Upon the completion of the training, the trainee social mobilizers were given away the certificates.

## Media Persons trained on Human Rights Reporting

SIRAHA: National Human Rights Commission organized a three day long workshop on 'Human Rights Reporting: Challenges and Opportunities' at Lahan of Siraha district.

At the workshop, the participants had comprehensive discussions on wide areas of human rights including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR); functions, duties and mandates of the NHRC, the state role on the protection and promotion of human rights, journalism code of conduct, freedom of expression and the limitations, protection of journalists and human rights defenders including the use of human rights friendly language.

NHRC Director Subaran Karmacharya, Journalists duo Mahendra Bista and Ananata Raj Luitel, Communication Officer Yam Bahadur Dura and Ajit Thakur provided the training.

Twenty seven journalists representing from the districts of Siraha, Saptari, Udaypur and Rautahat participated in the workshop.

## National Human Rights Commission

Harihar Bhawan, Lalitpur, Nepal

Phone: 00977-1-5010015 (Hunting Line)

Fax: 00977-1-5547973, 5547976

Email: [nhrc@nhrcnepal.org](mailto:nhrc@nhrcnepal.org)

Website: <http://www.nhrcnepal.org>