



राष्ट्रिय मानव अधिकार आयोग

National Human Rights Commission

केन्द्रिय कार्यालय, Central Office

हरिहर भवन, पुल्चोक, ललितपुर, HariharBhawan, Pulchowk, Lalitpur, Nepal



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Issued by the NHRC on the occasion of International Women's Day, March 7, 2008

National Human Rights Commission

Harihar Bhawan Lalitpur

Press : Statement

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Date: March 7, 2008

Commission stresses for the women empowerment

International Women's Day is observed on the 8th of March every year to mark as a long-term movement for the empowerment of all the women in the world over irrespective of their nationality, caste, language, culture, economical status and political conviction. On the occasion, National Human Rights Commission hereby expresses hearty honor to all the human regeneration dedicated to the women empowerment movement.

This occasion reminds us of the inherent freedom, equality and the essentiality of harmony among all the humankind enshrined in the Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), 1948. Specially, the Article 2 ensures the enjoyment of the right to equality of all human generation. In this regard, the Article 20 of Nepal's Interim Constitution 2006 (2063) has guaranteed the rights with regard to women's health and reproductivity, right against physical, mental or any violent act against women and likewise the women's equal right to the patriarchic properties.

The United Nations has propagated the slogan "**Financing for women and girls**" to mark this great day. Likewise, the Government of Nepal has chosen "**The end of gender violence is today's necessity and the proportional representation of women in the state restructuring**" as the slogan. In reality, the prevalent gender violence based on the tradition, law, religion and discriminatory practices of each community of the world have been the big obstacle against women empowerment and their enjoyment of the right to equality. Therefore, the need of the time is that the nation prompts the special investment on the women and children in order to produce the potential women resources and also for their proportional representation in each national field.

With regard to Nepal being the state party to the "**Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women- 1979**" and its **Optional Protocol 1999**, there hasn't been any significant improvement in the actual status of Nepalese women as such even after 17 years of the ratification of the Convention. The elimination of the discrimination against women and the equality between men and women won't be materialized only with the commitments



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written in the Constitution and Law and therefore the need for the special investment for the gender discrimination is inevitable. It is meaningless to dream the end of gender discrimination and achievement of the objective of women empowerment without the commitment of the Nation in real sense. The NHRC, therefore, on the occasion of International Women's Day, heartily appeals to the government, political parties and all the concerned parties for their active contribution to ensure the active participation of women in the forthcoming CA election to be held on the April 10, 2008, the proportional representation of women in all the fields and levels in order to substantially contribute for the women empowerment.

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Kedarnath Upadhyay
Chairperson