



# राष्ट्रिय मानव अधिकार आयोग

National Human Rights Commission

केन्द्रिय कार्यालय, Central Office

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Press Release issued by the National Human Rights Commission on the occasion of the International Day of Mother Languages

## Press Release

21<sup>st</sup> Feb 2008

### NHRC Appeal for the Promotion of Mother Languages

Right to speak and write in mother language is an inherent right of a person. In this regard, the NHRC expresses its respect to all the mother languages spoken within Nepal. The Article 5 of the Interim Constitution of Nepal 2063 has ensured not to hinder the use of the mother languages in the local authorities thereby regarding all the mother languages as the National Language. It has been furnished in the Article 17 of the IC that each community has the right to pursue their basic education in their mother languages and thus the right to protect and promote their own languages and scripts has been guaranteed. Also, it has been mentioned in the article 2 of *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* that no one shall be discriminated on the basis of language.

*International Day of Mother Languages* is observed on the 21<sup>st</sup> of February each year after it was resolved in UN General Assembly on 17<sup>th</sup> November 1999 as the appeal forwarded by the UN body UNESCO. In this regard, the UN is observing the year 2008 as the International Year of Languages with the objective to promote all the mother languages of the world.

Therefore, the National Human Rights Commission heartily appeals to the Government of Nepal and all the concerned to dedicate constructively in the protection and promotion of all the languages spoken in Nepal without any discrimination in order to inculcate the feelings of their languages as National language, including 124 living languages enlisted in the 2000 AD census.

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Bishal Khanal

Secretary