



# राष्ट्रिय मानव अधिकार आयोग

National Human Rights Commission, Nepal

केन्द्रिय कार्यालय Central Office

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



Press Note

18 June, 2018

## A Discussion Program on Free Legal Aid Concluded, 18 June, 2018

National Human Rights Commission conducted a discussion program with the stakeholders in the issue of free legal aid on 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2018.

NHRC Chairperson Hon. Anup Raj Sharma opined that free legal aid in Nepal is being improved in comparison to the initial days despite its inadequacy. He also added that the role of Nepal Bar Association is crucial for general public's access to justice.

In the program, the vice - chairperson of Nepal Bar Association Motiraj Gautam including other legal experts opined that the existing Free Legal Aid act of Nepal should be amended to make it relevant to the present situation. Speakers of the program highlighted to make the Free legal service available in the local level for providing *pro-bono assistance* to those in need as the nation has entered into the federal structure, to prepare and implement the integrated policy of free legal aid, and to ensure the effective coordination between the Nepal Bar Association, Courts, Government attorney, Nepal Police and other service providers.

The Commission had conducted the field visit of Rasuwa, Nuwakot and Saptari districts to monitor the implementation status of the provision of legal aid and access to justice mentioned in the Constitution of Nepal, National Human Rights Commission act and the international human rights related laws. Human Rights Officer Shyam Babu Kafle presented the facts received during monitoring that no aspects of foreign employment has been accumulated by the free legal aid, no access of free legal aid and service to the socially disadvantaged people and very low faith of people on free legal aid.

In the discussion program, the Secretary of the Commission, legal professionals and the Commission's staffs were also presented.

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Mohna Ansari  
Spokesperson/member