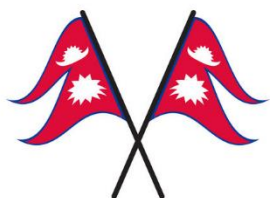


Human Rights News Letter



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NHRC's Participation in the Meeting on the Seventh Periodic Report



H'ble Mem. Dr. Lily Thapa participating CEDAW Meeting

On behalf of the Commission, H'ble Mem. Dr. Lily Thapa has participated in the discussion meeting on the seventh periodic report submitted to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

Addressing the 90th session of CEDAW, she expressed her views on the progress in the implementation of the recommendations made by the CEDAW Committee to

Nepal. In the course of this, she highlighted the issues such as the lack of a clear and comprehensive definition of discrimination in Nepal, the weak implementation of laws against harmful practices like child marriage and dowry, and insufficient support for marginalized women. Additionally, she pointed out the lack of access to reproductive health, legal barriers related to citizenship, discrimination in the workplace, and the challenges faced by women working in the informal sector and foreign



employment, stating that these issues need to be addressed immediately.

She also called for comprehensive legal reforms and full implementation of the recommendations of the National Human Rights Commission and the National Women's Commission, as well as institutional strengthening to

promote women's rights. She urged the CEDAW Committee to pressure for the full implementation of the Convention in Nepal to ensure gender equality and justice.

Consultation Program on the Proposed NHRC Bill



H'ble Mem. Manoj Duwadi addressing the program

The consultation program on the proposed NHRC Bill has been concluded on March 5 in Kathmandu. The program was organized jointly by the National Human Rights Commission and the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers, with the participation of civil society representatives.

society, prominent human rights activists and representatives from professional organizations. Suggestions received during the discussion included recommendations to establish the Commission as an independent, autonomous and competent body in accordance with Article 293 of Constitution of Nepal and the Paris Principles. It is also suggested that the terms and conditions, and benefits of employees working in the Commission should be also addressed in the Bill. In addition, suggestions were made to strengthen provisions related to human rights defenders.

The program also highlighted several issues regarding the functioning of the Commission, including the need for the Commission to provide recommendations on periodic reports that the government submits to international treaty bodies. It was suggested that individuals, bodies or officials who fail to implement the NHRC's recommendations should be taken into account for contempt, that the remuneration of the Chairperson and members of the Commission should be equivalent to that of the Chief Justice and Justices, respectively, under the existing law, that there should be additional provisions regarding human rights defenders, and the NHRC's role in responding to individual complaints referred by the UN Human Rights Committee was discussed.



NHRC Secretary, Mr. Murari P. Kharel welcoming the participants

The program was chaired by the H'ble Chairperson of the Commission, Tap Bahadur Magar, featured a presentation by Shyam Babu Kafle, the Head of the Legal Division, and remarks made by Rajendra Thapa, the Chief of the Human Rights and International Treaties Division of the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers. The event was attended by 106 participants.



Mr. Shyam Babu Kafle, the Head of Legal Division, presenting the NHRC Bill

The consultation program was attended by the President of the Federation of NGOs, senior members of civil

Other suggestions included strengthening the NHRC's coordination and cooperation with NHRIs in other countries. The issue of accountability and impunity in the NHRC's functions, duties and powers was raised, with a call for a fund to provide relief and compensation to victims.

Additionally, it was suggested that the proposed bill must include provisions for the formation of the National Human Rights Service (NHRS), the employees in the Commission should receive service facilities equivalent to those in the civil service, their records should be mandatorily registered in the Department of National Personal Records (Civil) and the bill should ensure the pension benefits for service period of employees who have worked for more than 20 years in the Commission. Other suggestions provided by the discussion were the NHRS should be included in the contributory pension system under the Retirement Fund Act, and NHRC's staff should have access to healthcare services at concessional rates like civil service employees, and NHRS employees



Experts and human rights activists

should automatically receive the equal service benefits provided by the Government of Nepal for civil service employees.

Interaction Program on the Social Media Bill



H'ble Chairperson Tap Bahadur Magar addressing the program

The NHRC has conducted two rounds of internal and external discussion and interaction programs regarding the Social Media Bill, 2025 that the Government of Nepal has recently presented in the House of Representatives.

In the context of ongoing criticism of the proposed bill within the parliament and among the public, the commission has conducted a separate interaction and discussion program among the employees of the commission internally and with the legal experts and stakeholders to address the issues and jurisdiction covered by the bill.



should not be given to anyone without the permission of the court, that the punishment and fine should be rewritten as they are too severe, that the proposed punishment for users should only be awareness-raising,



and that criminal punishment should not be imposed for civil offenses.



From the discussion, theoretical and policy-level suggestions were also received. Among the suggestions received were that the proposed bill should be regulatory rather than control-oriented; the punishment should be determined according to the degree of offence as the same punishment for all types of users is unjust; the bill does not pay any attention to criminal intent and criminal

acts in determining offence; there should be a provision that the activities of criticizing or publishing about public



officials involved in public responsibility and accountability shall not be considered an offense; the provisions mentioned in the bill do not need to be repeated if they are included in other prevailing laws; and that the definitions of technical terms should be adjusted.

Interactive Program on the ESC Rights of Victims



H'ble Mem. Of NHRC Surya Dungal and Mr. Pradip Shankar Wagle, the Head of the United Nations ESCR Division

In the context of the third amendment to the Transitional Justice Act being passed, the NHRCN has conducted an interaction program in Kathmandu on the implementation status of the economic, social and cultural rights of victimized people during the armed conflict in Nepal.

The program was attended by the Chief of the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Division of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, secretaries of transitional justice mechanisms, government officials from concerned bodies, civil society, human rights activists, representatives from diplomatic missions in Nepal and the victims themselves.

The program highlighted the necessity of identifying and addressing the root causes of conflict to achieve transitional justice, prioritizing the economic, social, and cultural rights of victims. It was emphasized that victims must have access to resources, and in terms of providing justice to victims, the United Nations Basic Guidelines on the treatment and reparations of victims of serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law should be the main basis. Additionally, there were recommendations to give serious attention to the often-overlooked cultural rights.

Study on the HR Situation of HR Defenders



The NHRC has initiated a study on the human rights situation of human rights defenders and journalists. As part of the study, targeted group discussions have been conducted with 274 individuals across all seven provinces.

The discussions focused on the challenges faced by human rights defenders in their efforts to protect and promote human rights, issues related to access to information, and the treatment they receive from state institutions.

Similarly, the discussions also covered the physical, social and online threats, attacks, and harassment faced by journalists while reporting news and playing their role in ensuring justice and rehabilitation for victims of human rights violations.



NHRC team with journalists and HR defenders of Madhesh Province

The study team also obtained information from human rights defenders about the obstacles encountered during the registration and renewal process of social organizations established for the protection and promotion of human rights. Additionally, the team collected information about the challenges faced by

human rights defenders in accessing national and international donor agencies for implementing human rights protection and promotion programs.



NHRC team with Journalists and HR defenders of Bagmati Province

The issues related to professional safety of journalists, and the challenges in the operation of media institutions were also discussed with the journalists.

For the study, a team led by Human Rights Officer Dipendra Singh from the Commission's central office, which included officers Runa Maharjan and Narayan Basnet, visited all seven provinces and held discussions with human rights defenders.

After conducting discussions with human rights defenders and journalists in all seven provinces, a national consultation program on the topic "Human Rights Defenders and Journalists' Status" was organized on February 27 in Kathmandu for further discussions along with various facts received from across the country.



NHRC team with journalists and HR defenders of Karnali Province

The consultation program was attended by 80 participants, including both human rights defenders and journalists. During the discussions, female human rights

defenders and journalists, and sexual and gender minorities working in human rights protection raised concerns about the challenges and barriers they face. They expressed concerns about the impact of professional insecurity, economic instability, and various forms of social, physical and online attacks, which have made it difficult to engage young people in human rights.

The Commission is collecting facts and data through targeted group discussions and online Google forms as part of its study on the human rights situation of human rights defenders and journalists.

Discussion Program Held on Minimum Marriage Age



NHRC has organized a discussion program on "Legal Provisions and the Status of Implementation of the Minimum Marriage Age" on February 17 in Lalitpur.

The program was chaired by H'ble. Member of the NHRC, Lilly Thapa, and H'ble. Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Indira Rana as the chief guest. The program was attended by chairpersons and members of thematic constitutional commissions, former ministers of the Government of Nepal, H'ble members of the House of Representatives, representatives of thematic ministries, members of the National Planning Commission, Secretary and staff of the NHRC, officials of the National Child Rights Council, representatives of the Nepal Police Women, Children and Senior Citizens Directorate and representatives of development partner organizations

Monitoring on HR Situation of Chepang Community



The NHRC has conducted on-site monitoring of the human rights situation of the Chepang community. The monitoring team has obtained various information regarding protection and promotion of the human rights of the Chepang community through field observations, key informant interviews and focus group discussions.

Target group discussions have been held in Chepang of Gandaki Rural Municipality of Gorkha district and

Benighat Rorang Rural Municipality of Dhading district. During the monitoring,

The discussions were held with the targeted groups in the Chepang communities of Gandaki Rural Municipality in Gorkha District and Benighat Rorang Rural Municipality in Dhading District. During the monitoring, it has been seen that the state needs to perform more effectively on issues such as child marriage, polygamy, access to education and quality housing.

It has been found that the local community has been affected by air pollution and noise pollution produced by the limestone mining industry. Similarly, it has been found that the Chepang community has been displaced from their traditional settlements in Benighat Rorang Rural Municipality of Dhading district.

The monitoring team also obtained information from local representatives of the concerned local bodies in both districts. Information has also been collected about the

human rights situation of the Chepang community through discussions with media persons from Gorkha.

The field visit was conducted from February 16 to February 20, 2025, by Deputy Secretary Loknath Bastola and Human Rights Officer Kiran Kumar Baram.

NHRC Initiates the Study on HR Situation of Jugi Community



The NHRC has initiated a preliminary study about the human rights situation of the Jugi community under the Newar ethnic group who have been residing in various temple premises (Satalghars) for generations in Nepal.

Monitoring on HR Situation of detainees

A monitoring team deployed from the Koshi Provincial Office of the Commission has monitored various detention centers in Sankhuwasabha, Tehrathum, Dhankuta, Sunsari and Morang districts regarding the human rights situation of detainees in custody.

The monitoring has found that there have been necessary improvements in the detention cells compared to the past. In particular, in most of the detention cells, it has been observed that women, men and children's observation cells have been managed according to the new standards, with the arrangement of adequate lighting, cleanliness, toilets and drinking water. Arrangements have also been made for easy contact with legal professionals to ensure detainees' access to justice, regular health check-ups for detainees, and a conducive environment for family visits and contact. Additionally, facilities for study and recreation, such as libraries,

The Government of Nepal has listed the Chepang community as a highly marginalized indigenous and minority group under the Indigenous Peoples Upliftment Act, 2002. The Chepang community is estimated to number around 74,000 in Nepal.

The monitoring team has initially collected necessary information by making direct field observations regarding the situation of the Jugi community living in the Sattalghar of Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Bhaktapur, Banepa, Panauti and

Dhulikhel. It has been found that the Jugi community members have been living in the Sattalghar for seven generations, in recent times, as the number of family members has increased, they have been found to be engaged in different professions and settling in different places. Some of the people who have been living in Sattalghar for generations have been working as cleaners and caretakers in the temples. Some individuals who have lived there for generations demand to be able to continue their work of cleaning and maintaining the nearby temples as they perform the role of priests. After the monitoring, the Commission will make recommendations to the concerned authorities based on the facts obtained

newspapers, and sports materials, have been made available.

It has been found that the building of the Area Police Office, Chainpur, Itahari is dilapidated and inadequate, as the child monitoring and women's detention cells have been arranged at the subordinate police station in Tarahara.

Detainees have complained that the minimum daily allowance for detainees is very low, leading to problems in managing food. In addition, there are problems in identifying the age of detainees, and delays in receiving drug test reports from the forensic science laboratory, leading to extended detention. Police officials say that some detention cells are far from the district court and the district attorney's office, making it difficult to extend detention and seek the services of legal professionals.

Detainees have reported that there have been no incidents of torture or other ill-treatment from the police

in the monitored detentions. Human Rights Officers Sudipti Subedi and Jayant Thapa from the Koshi Province Office of the Commission were involved in the monitoring conducted from February 13 to 19.

National and international human rights laws stipulate that it is the mandatory obligation of the state to make necessary arrangements for the protection and promotion of the human rights of detainees in detention. The NHRC has been conducting regular and emergency monitoring of detention centers and prisons in accordance with the National Human Rights Commission Act, 2012, the Commission's Sixth Strategic Plan (2021-2026), and the Prison and Detention Monitoring Guidelines, 2010.



Court orders in favor of the Commission

Among the cases filed in the Supreme Court and the Administrative Court, two cases in which the National Human Rights Commission was a respondent have

resulted in favorable orders for the Commission during this period. In these cases, Shyam Babu Kafle, the Head of the Legal Division and Sandhya Kumari Pudasaini, the Human Rights Officer, argued on behalf of the Commission.

Monitoring on the Incident of Child Abuse at the School



The Gandaki Province Office, Pokhara of the Commission has conducted on-site monitoring on February 13 to 14 regarding the incident in which the teacher tortured the children studying at Prabhat Academy in Shantinagar of Bhimad Municipality, Tahahu district.

On February 11, 2025, during the monthly examination at the school, Bebish Pariyar, Nasar Nepali, Pramish Pariyar and Saugat Sunar, students of 4th grade, were beaten

A complaint regarding the said incident was registered with the police office by the parents of the victim children

after questioning the teacher. It has been found that the teacher (name has been kept secret) got emotional and caused the incident.



The injured children were taken to a nearby hospital for treatment and their condition was found to be normal during the monitoring. The victim children have stated that the accused teacher had repeatedly made the children dip their hands in hot water, beat them with sticks, and made them pull the sideburns.

on February 12 and has been filed the case in the judicial process.



Since the incident occurred due to the lack of any training programs on teacher about teaching methods and human rights in the school, both the principal and assistant principal of the school had requested the commission's team to provide assistance in facilitating the issue of human rights and child rights.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989, the Constitution of Nepal and the Children's Act, 2018 provide that no child should be subjected to physical, mental or any other form of torture at home, school or in any other

NHRC Initiates Monitoring on Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Rights



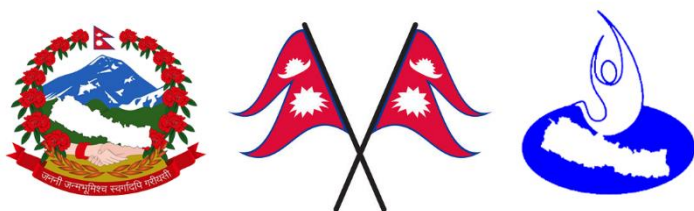
On the occasion of the 115th International Women's Day, the NHRC has launched a monitoring on the status of implementation of the Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act, 2018 in the workplaces.

The team of human rights officers Shaniksha Bade and Barsha Kumari Jha has started monitoring from the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Law on March 4. The monitoring team has found that there is no effective implementation

Although the Act mandates the provision of separate breastfeeding rooms for women working in the workplace and for service recipients, implementation appears to be weak in most public service organizations and government offices. As a result, it appears to have had an impact on service recipients.



as per the spirit of the law. The monitoring will continue in other public service sectors and offices as well, and the Commission will prepare a report and recommend to the Government of Nepal for implementation based on the facts obtained in the monitoring.



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