

Human Rights News Letter



Regular Publication of National Human Rights Commission

Year 2

Vol.4

May 2025

Interaction on Disaster Management and Human Rights



The NHRC Nepal has organized an interaction program on disaster management and human rights under the chairmanship of the H'ble Chairperson of the Commission, Tapa Bahadur Magar on May 11 at the Commission's conference hall.

Participating the program, the government officials, security personnel, experts and representatives of civil society organizations emphasized the need to make adequate preparations for disaster risk reduction and management by learning from past experiences.

Er. Dinesh Bhatta, Executive Director of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority, made a presentation on the government's preparedness. He informed that the response action plan has been in the final stage of preparation and the authority is committed to overall disaster mitigation and management despite limited resources. Similarly, focusing on the theme, Joint Secretary of the Commission Navaraj Sapkota made a presentation. The presentation covered the problems faced by the marginalized groups due to disasters despite the efforts of the government, lack of adequate technology, resources and equipment in the security agencies, and difficulties in effective disaster management.

Addressing the program, Secretary of the Commission, Murari Prasad Kharel stated that the commission had previously recommended necessary actions to the government after monitoring past disasters, adding that the interaction program aimed to ensure the government's preparedness during the pre-monsoon.

The H'ble member of the commission, Dr. Surya Dhungel, stated that despite various efforts by the government, the lives of citizens have not been completely safe. He emphasized that the state needs to be more sensitive as there is a lack of coordination among state bodies. The H'ble Chairperson of the Agriculture, Cooperatives and Natural Resources Committee of the House of Representatives, Kusum Devi Thapa, opined that the risk of human rights violations that may occur after a disaster should be assessed in advance and prepared accordingly. In the program, the H'ble Chairperson of the Commission, Tap Bahadur Magar, recalled that the National Human Rights Commission in Turkey had also taken lessons after the earthquake in disaster management and said that the state should make adequate preparations to protect the lives and property of the citizens.

The program was attended by the chief district officers of all three districts of Kathmandu Valley, the heads of disaster and human rights affairs of all three security bodies, representatives of local levels of Kathmandu and other many government bodies and non-government organizations.

Discussion on the Implementation of the HR Action Plan

Discussion Between NHRC's Sudurpashchim Provincial Office and other NGOs



The Sudurpashchim Provincial Office of the Commission has conducted an interaction program with stakeholders on May 5 with the aim of coordinating, collaborating and facilitating among organizations, working in the field of human rights, regarding the implementation of the Fifth National Human Rights Action Plan of Nepal (NHRAP) and the Action Plan for the Implementation of Recommendations received from the third cycle of Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

The program, held at the office of the Commission, was attended by the United Nations Specialized Agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in the province. The interactive program has led to a common consensus of coordination and cooperation on the following issues:

- a) The organizations will play the role of coordination and collaboration for the effective implementation of the 17 issues covered by NHRAP and the 19 issues covered by the Action Plan for the Implementation of Recommendations from UPR.
- b) The NHRC's Provincial Office will coordinate the meeting of the Provincial Coordination Committee of the aforementioned action plan.
- c) To make the provincial government responsible for the implementation of the action plan as mentioned in the background of the action plan,

to address the budget, policy and program of the government of the Sudurpashchim Province for the upcoming fiscal year.

- d) Regular coordination and cooperation will be established between the Commission and other

organizations for the protection, promotion and effective implementation of human rights issues in the province.

Discussion Between NHRC's Provincial Office and the Provincial Policy and Planning Commission



A discussion program between the Sudurpashchim Province Office of the NHRC and the Provincial Policy and Planning Commission on 'Overall human rights issues of the province and the role of these two commissions in the implementation of the human rights action plan', was held on April 24.

The program was organized with the objective of enhancing coordination and cooperation between the National Human Rights Commission and the Provincial

Policy and Planning Commission in implementing the Fifth National Action Plan on Human Rights and the recommendations received by Nepal from the Universal Periodic Review.

The discussion between the two Commissions focused on the thematic presentations made by the Joint Secretary of the NHRC, Prakash Dutta Bhatta.

In the program, the participants emphasized that all three levels of the state should take the action plans as a guide while formulating policies, plans, budgets and programs. The Vice Chairman of the Provincial Policy and Planning Commission, Dr. Jeevan Rana, expressed his commitment to formulate a budget covering human rights issues in the province.

The program was attended by the Vice Chairman of the Provincial Policy and Planning Commission, Dr. Jeevan Rana, the members Sher Bahadur Bhandari, Nrip Bahadur Sunar, Karna Bahadur Kunwar and the Under Secretary Bir Bahadur Dhami.

Discussion Between NHRC's Provincial Office and the Provincial Police Office



A discussion program between the Sudurpashchim Province Office of the Commission and the Province Police

regarding the situation and future course of action of prison and detention reform under the Fifth National Action Plan on Human Rights of Nepal (NHRAP) was concluded on April 20 in Dhangadhi.

Joint Secretary of the Commission, Mr. Prakash Dutta Bhatta, made a presentation on the issues covered by the NHRAP regarding detention and prison reform, and the role and future direction of the responsible bodies assigned for its implementation. Deputy Superintendent of Police, Mr. Ramesh Dutta Awasthi, made a presentation on the status of prisons and detention cells in the province and the areas that need to be improved.

Participants in the program emphasized on coordination and facilitation to fulfil the responsibilities assigned to the bodies responsible for improving prisons and detention centers by the NHRAP. Discussions were also held on the issue of coordination and cooperation on human rights issues in the province. The police officers expressed their commitment to protect fundamental human rights, maintain peace and promote good governance by maintaining law and order under Section 3 (i) of the Nepal Police and Provincial Police (Operation, Supervision and Coordination) Act, 2076 BS.

The program was held at the Provincial Police Office under the chairmanship of Senior Superintendent of Police Prakash Malla, and in the special presence of Joint Secretary Prakash Dutta Bhatta, the Head of the Provincial



Office of the Commission. The program was attended by the Superintendent of Police of Kanchanpur and Deputy Superintendent of Police of Kailali, Police Officials and human rights officers from the Commission.

Monitoring on HR Situation of HIV-Infected Persons



The commission has completed the monitoring of the human rights situation of HIV-infected persons in Dhanusha and Parsa districts of Madhesh Province.

The monitoring team deployed from the Central Office and the Madhesh Province Office of the Commission jointly conducted on-side monitoring from April 14 to 29. During the monitoring, the team monitored the status of services being received by the infected persons from ART centers and obtained information through individual and group discussions with the concerned bodies and the affected persons

Similarly, during the collection of necessary information, a policy dialogue program was held in Janakpurdham of Madhesh Province. The participants of the program raised the issue of discrimination against HIV-infected people by

family and society, in general treatment in hospitals and even during surgery. Discussions were also held on the issues such as health workers showing each other using various excuses and sending them elsewhere, and the lack of attention from all three levels of government to nutrition and treatment of other diseases of the infected persons and their livelihood. Stating that the issues raised in the discussion had drawn attention, Madhesh Province Health and Population Minister Shatrudhan Prasad Singh committed to address the issue in the upcoming budget.

The program, chaired by the Commission's Madhesh Province Office Head Buddha Narayan Sahani and hosted by the Madhesh Province Health and Population Minister, included a presentation by Under Secretary Loknath Bastola and a welcome speech by Under Secretary Jeevan Neupane.



The Commission has prepared a report on the basis of facts and information received from the monitoring and recommended the three levels of government to revise the policies, plans, budgets and programs, increase public awareness, enhance psychological counselling and conduct skill-based programs for the protection of human rights of people living with HIV.

The commission has already made recommendations to the three-tier governments to make necessary arrangements and conduct programs by studying the human rights situation of HIV-infected people in Bagmati, Lumbini, Karnali, Sudurpashchim and Gandaki provinces.

Interaction on the Status of Implementation of the Report Recommendations



The NHRC has conducted an Interaction Program among the stakeholders on the implementation of the recommendations of the report prepared by the Commission after studying the human rights situation of the Raute community on May 4 in Lalitpur.

The Commission had made recommendations to the three-tier governments by publishing the Human Rights Situation Study Report-2081 of the Raute community living a nomadic lifestyle in Karnali Province.

At the program, Joint Secretary of the Commission Navaraj Sapkota highlighted the objectives of the program. Under Secretary Loknath Bastola made a presentation regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations of the human rights situation study report on the Endangered Raute community.

The participants of the program emphasized that the state should be sensitive in the implementation of the

recommendations mentioned in the Commission's report. Similarly, it was also emphasized that all the concerned bodies should be more sensitive to conduct necessary programs for the protection of their rights.

It was discussed that the Raute community, who are enjoying a natural lifestyle, has been put at risk due to external interference and association.

The Commission made recommendation to the three levels of governments with a report after conducting an on-site study. The report points out that the population of the endangered Raute community is gradually decreasing (currently 135 people), there is no registration (of birth, marriage and death), there are problems in marriage as young men and women of different clans are not eligible for marriage according to their age, and the entry of new people has led to negative changes in their habitual behavior and lifestyle.

The program, chaired by H'ble Member of the Commission Dr. Surya Dhungel and hosted by Kiran Kumar Sah, the H'ble Chairman of the Federal Women and Social Affairs Committee, was attended by H'ble Member of the House of Representatives Sita Kumari Rana, Secretary of the Commission Mr. Murari Prasad Kharel and Secretary of the Indigenous Nationalities Commission Nurhari Khatiwada. Similarly, representatives of the Office of the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers and concerned Ministries, concerned organizations including the Indigenous Nationalities Upliftment Foundation and employees of the NHRC were present.

Monitoring on the Status of Public Service Delivery

The Sudurpashchim Province Office of the Commission has monitored the status and quality of services provided by various government and public bodies in Kanchanpur district from a human rights perspective on April 30 to May 1.

As per the regular annual program, the monitoring team has monitored the public offices where there are the crowd of service recipients in the districts. The Land Reform and Land Revenue Office, Survey Office, Transport Management Office and the human rights situation of prisoners in the Prison Office were monitored.

The monitoring has found that there is a problem in service delivery due to the absence of even a single officer of the prescribed post in the Land Reform and Land Revenue Office. Despite the provision of information officers in all the offices as per the law, the complaint management could not be effective due to the lack of provision of grievance officers. It has been found that the

offices other than the Transport Management Office are not disabled-friendly, despite the use of the civil charter, the effective service is not available and the civil charter with compensation has not been used.

The monitoring mainly focused on whether the services provided by public bodies are service recipient-friendly or not. Based on the information received in the monitoring, discussions were held with the concerned office heads to reduce the problems and difficulties seen in the service flow. Along with this, discussions and interactions were held with the concerned stakeholders regarding the implementation of HRNAP and the recommendations received from the Universal Periodic Review (third cycle) to Nepal.

The monitoring was attended by the Joint Secretary Prakash Dutta Bhatta and Human Rights Officers Bhupendra Bahadur Dhimi and Daibagya Raj Neupane.

Interaction on Protection of HR against Human Trafficking



An interaction program was held at the NHRC's conference hall on May 2 with the objective of collecting opinions and suggestions from the relevant government bodies for the task of writing a periodic report on the rights against human trafficking.

In the context of increasing cases of human trafficking across the world and its impact in Nepal, the NHRC has started the work of writing a periodic report including the details related to trafficking for the last three fiscal years. In this context, the program was organized with the

intention of preparing the modalities and compiling the dimensions against human trafficking to be included in the report.

The participants of the program suggested that since Nepal is not only a source and transit country but also a



destination country from the perspective of trafficking, the periodic report to be prepared by the Commission should include domestic legal arrangements, data collection, victim-friendly investigation and action

procedures based on the recommendation of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and international legal documents, and suggestions have been presented to make the report simple, accessible and implementable.

At the same time, the participants stressed the need to enhance the capacity of the police and personnel working in those areas as the Palermo protocol will be approved at the federal level but its implementation will be conducted at the provincial and local levels. They were of the view that participatory efforts of all levels and bodies should be made, laws should be perfected to make the three levels of government responsible, the basis for the identifying the victim should be determined. Similarly, emphasis was placed on the need to develop a single-door system to collect fragmented and integrated data on incidents of misuse of technology and children and adolescents working in the entertainment sectors. The participants also pointed out that the government's mechanisms should be made more active to ensure the rights of workers who have gone to foreign employment, the functioning of the fund under the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens should be simplified and streamlined to rescue those in trouble from foreign employment, the effectiveness of the anti-trafficking

committees at every district and local level should be reviewed.

The program also discussed issues such as recent marriage to Chinese nationals who have been subjected to violence, the problems of children born to sexual violence abroad and problems in obtaining citizenship, the under-reporting and filing of complaints about human trafficking cases, ensuring victims' access to justice, foreign labor exploitation, etc.

The program was chaired by Dr. Lily Thapa, the H'ble Member of the Commission, and attended by the H'ble President of Law Justice and Human Rights Committee Bimala Subedi and the H'ble President of Women and Social Affairs Committee Kiran Kumar Sah. Similarly, the Secretary of the Commission, the representatives from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Ministry of Women and Children Senior Citizen, National Planning Commission, District Court, Office of the Attorney General, Nepal Rastra Bank, OCMC of the hospitals, Child Search and Rescue Centre were also present.

Monitoring of HR Situation in Bardiya and Dang



The Lumbini Province Branch Office of the Commission has monitored the human rights situation in Bardiya and Dang districts from April 14 to 21. The monitoring was focused on issues such as the quality of services provided by public bodies, the basic needs of people's livelihood and access of citizens to available goods and services.

Although the human rights situation in both districts was found to be normal overall, it was reported that the number of drug traffickers and users, as well as the cases of human trafficking and smuggling along with illegal

migration abroad is increasing. Of late, it has been found that some local governments have formed local committees to work against human trafficking as social media and digital platforms are being used as suitable means of tempting young girls and enforcing them in human trafficking.

Similarly, due to the lack of regular market monitoring by the responsible bodies, the monitoring team was complained that the prices of consumer goods vary from shop to shop, and the sale of expired non-food items is increasing. Although there is festival-oriented monitoring from government bodies, regular market monitoring is not being carried out. It has been also reported that there is more emphasis on response than preparation for disaster risk management, and there is a lack of proper

coordination between and among concerning bodies in this regard.



At the same time, it has been found that even in the last year of the implementation of the Fifth National Action Plan on Human Rights, the concerned bodies are not sufficiently aware of this. The number of prisoners in detention cells and prisons in both districts has been found to be more than the capacity. Due to the lack of free medicines in government hospitals, the beneficiary is forced to go to private health institutions. It has been found that it is difficult to easily obtain all types of health services through health insurance. Complaints have been received that the citizen charter is not being used properly in public service providing bodies and that employees are not being service recipient-friendly.

During the monitoring, the team collected information through qualitative methods including on-site monitoring, direct inspection of services provided by public service providers, interviews, inquiries and discussions with government officials, service recipients, civil society,



human rights defenders and human rights activists based on a checklist. Based on the information received during the monitoring, a report has been prepared and submitted to the Commission for decision. The monitoring team included human rights officers Dwarika Kumari Adhikari, Dhanraj Shahi and Dayaram Pathak.

SRHR and GBV Training Workshop to NHRC's Officials



A three-day residential training workshop on 'Strengthening Accountability and Protection of Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) and

Gender-Based Violence (GBV)' for the staff of the Commission has been concluded. The program was jointly organized by the Commission and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

The training was organized with the objective of enhancing the institutional and human capacity of the Commission in cases of human rights violations, providing theoretical and practical skills for investigation, monitoring, documentation and reporting in a gender-sensitive manner, and further promoting the campaign against gender-based violence while protecting sexual and reproductive health rights. The training was focused on ensuring accountability and responsibility for incidents of gender-based violence and women's sexual and reproductive health rights from a gender-transformative and victim-centered perspective.



Presiding over the inaugural session of the training program, Secretary of the Commission, Murari Prasad Kharel, stated that the training would be helpful in enhancing the skills of investigation, monitoring and reporting incidents of sexual and reproductive health of women and gender-based violence. Kamala Khatri Bista of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) said that since women's sexual and reproductive health has been a sensitive issue, the investigation officers should always

conduct investigation keeping this sensitivity in mind. Geeta Kumari Dahal, Head of the Gender and Social Inclusion Division, delivered a welcome speech highlighting the objectives of the program. The program was facilitated by Human Rights Officer Saniksha Bade.

The training covered the topics such as national and international legal systems, conditions, practices and challenges related to sexual and reproductive health rights. In addition, the role of the Commission in protecting women's reproductive health rights, gender-friendly and victim-oriented monitoring, and protection of SRHR during disasters and risks. Issues such as race, gender, disability, and the impact of socio-economic factors on access to sexual and reproductive health services were also discussed.

The training, held in Nagarkot from May 5 to 7, was attended by 32 officers from the NHRC's central office.

Monitoring on the Status of Implementation of UPR Recommendations



The Gandaki Provincial Office of the Commission has monitored the status of implementation of the recommendations received by Nepal from the third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in various districts within the province from April 24 to May 4.

The monitoring was conducted in the local levels of Tanahun, Gorkha, Lamjung and Nawalparasi districts. The information was obtained through on-site monitoring and discussions with the concerned bodies and stakeholders regarding the plans, policies and programs prepared in

relation to human rights. Human Rights Officers Tanka Prasad Khanal and Saroj Gauli were deployed for monitoring.



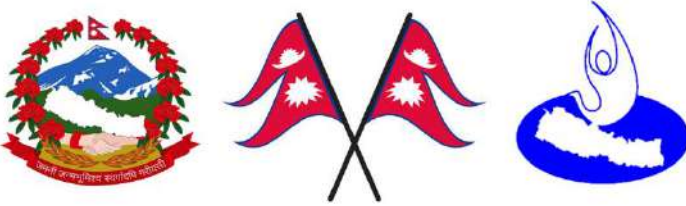
Out of the total 233 recommendations received by Nepal in the third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), Nepal has accepted 196 recommendations. The Government of Nepal is in the final stage of implementing the Fifth National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) for the protection and promotion of human rights. This action plan has given the role of a monitor to the National Human Rights Commission.

Supreme Court Order Favors Former NHRC Staff

The Supreme Court held a hearing on May 13 regarding the writ petition filled by former security guard of the Commission, Kaushal Prasad Singh, demanding the service benefits entitled to him after retirement.

The order issued after the hearing stated that the service benefits to which he is entitled under the laws should be provided. Singh had joined the Commission on January 18,

2010 and retired on December 16, 2016. He had filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court on September 25, 2019 making the Commission a defendant as the Ministry of Finance refused to release the service benefits he was intitled to as per the rules. The head of the Law Division Shyam Babu Kafle advocated the case on behalf of the Commission in the writ petition.



Editorial Team

Kailash Kumar Siwakoti
Netra Bahadur Gautam
Pawan Bhandari

National Human Rights Commission Nepal
Hariharbhawan, Pulchok, Lalitpur

Phone No: +977-01-5010015
GPO Box No:9182, Kathmandu, Nepal.
Email: nhrc@nhrcnepal.org
Website: www.nhrcnepal.org