



# e-Newsletter



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## Consultation on Mid-term UPR Report:

### Institutionalizing HRs achievements is a must: Member Pradhan

**LALITPUR:** NHRC Member and Spokesperson Gauri Pradhan has said that it is deemed necessary to institutionalize the achievements made in the field of human rights.

He made this remark while addressing a consultation program organized on the Mid-term Universal Review Report draft report among the representatives of the government agencies, National Woman's Commission, National Dalit Commission and other key stakeholders including woman and child rights organizations.

He said that NHRC-Nepal is all set to convey to the international community the progress made by Nepal in the field of human rights. Simultaneously, he made it clear that NHRC would not ponder only on the limitations and weak spot of the government initiatives on human rights but would leave no stone unturned to elucidate all the holistic initiatives and achievements made in the human rights sector in the country which would be reflected in the UPR report.

He, however, reiterated that the NHRC, as always, would like to see the mitigation of impunity in the country despite the fact that the almost all governments of the past gave undue passage to the withdrawal of more

than 1000 cases of human rights violation thereby giving further shelter to impunity.

The objective of the program was to have sharing on the NHRC draft report on UPR including the implementation status of the UPR recommendations

particularly in transitional period of the post conflict scenario while having an open discussion on the draft report.

At the program, throwing light on the background of the UPR report, Acting Secretary Bed Prasad Bhattarai said that the Commission, like in the past year, is going to have series of consultations with the state actors, CSOs and NGOs prior to the submission of the report to the UN Human Rights Council, Geneva on the de-facto situation of human rights in the country.

Mentioning the midterm report on UPR already being sent by the 30 nations, he also urged the representatives of the government agencies to send the report from the side of

the Government as soon as possible. The NHRC is ever ready to extend any support needed in this regard, he assured.

In this regard, he unveiled that 55 NHRIs had showed their concern about Nepal's

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Member Gauri Pradhan along with other participants goes through the mid-term UPR draft report while HR officer Basudev Bajagain makes his presentation on the draft report during the consultation held at NHRC



Representatives from the Government agencies including various Ministries attending the consultation on Mid Term UPR draft report held at NHRC

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*Krishna Prasad Adhikari murder case:*

# The Elderly Couple of Gorkha endure Series of Struggles for Justice



Kin of murdered Krishna Prasad Adhikari of Gorkha district fighting their legal battle for justice

**GORKHA:** The rights activists and the intellectual circle of Gorkha district have raised the voice for the justice delivery to the family members of deceased Krishna Prasad Adhikari and legal action against the accused involved in the murder of Adhikari. Late Adhikari was murdered in Gorkha district 9 years ago during the armed conflict period.

This was made known during the monitoring conducted by the NHRC Regional Office Pokhara on the series of struggles of the kin of deceased for justice delivery.

The murder of Krishna Prasad Adhikari unveils the violation of the right to life and right to justice enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights – 1948, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights – 1966 including the Interim Constitution of Nepal – 2007.

Similarly, the withdrawal of cases of human rights violation and crime against humanity of armed conflict period have further stigmatized the victims and thus the right to justice has not been guaranteed as yet, the report says.

## NHRC urges to book the accused of Belbari Incident

**LALITPUR:** The National Human Rights Commission has expressed its deep concern on the incident of inhuman treatment perpetrated on a woman of Belbari belonging to the Dalit community. As per the report, she was physically assaulted and paraded in public.

The Dalit woman, who was said to have been the victim of rape attempt, reportedly endured the physical torment when she registered a complaint against the accused, the report from the NHRC Regional Office, Biratnagar says.

Issuing a press release on the incident, the NHRC has expressed its deep concern and directed its subordinate office in Biratnagar to have monitoring on the incident.

While the monitoring on the incident by the NHRC Regional Office is underway, the police have filed the case against seven people involved in the incident under the public offense act. Six of seven accused have already been arrested, as per the preliminary monitoring report.

The Commission has, therefore, urged the Government to find out the truth and launch a fair probe into the incident. The Commission has also urged the officials involved in the investigation to help book



NHRC Press Release issued on the incident

the accused for legal action, to remain aloof from undue pressure and to remain alert against any legal lacuna for the accused to go scot free.

Furthermore, the Commission has urged the Government to adopt precautionary measures to evade the recurrence of such incidents and to guarantee for the protection of the victims and the witnesses.

## Concern expressed over District Court Order

**BIRATNAGAR:** The NHRC Regional Office, Biratnagar has commenced the investigation on the incident of human rights violation due to the undue dilly dallying of the Nepal Police to implement the Morang district court order issued in favor of Sushila Dahal, 84, a resident of Biratnagar Sub-Metropolis, Ward-4, Morang district.

The Morang District Court had given a verdict in favor of the plaintiff Sushila Dahal in the transaction related lawsuit filed against the defendant, the resident of Biratnagar Sub Metropolis on April 24, 2004. The District court had, through a number of correspondences, given an order to the police administration to apprehend the defendant as he failed to refund the principal money in the stipulated deadline. Following the obliviousness of the Police to make an arrest spree, therefore, the complainant had informed the NHRC with regard to the violation of right to justice, right to property including the right to protection of law.

The NHRC has written to the District Police Office summoning an official representative to have discussion at NHRC on the detailed report in connection with the progress made so far for the implementation of the Morang District Court Order within five days of the receipt of the letter.

### Monthly Status (June 15 – July 15, 2013) of the NHRC Decisions

The National Human Rights Commission has, upon finalizing, dispensed the decision over 4 cases on disappearance, 14 cases on ESC Rights, 5 cases on Administrative of Justice, 1 case on women's rights, 4 cases on torture, 1 case on abduction and 1 case related to others this past month .

The recommendation , therefore, have been sent to the concerned for further action on 24 cases of right to life, 8 cases on torture, 4 cases on ESCR, 1 case on CRPD, 3 cases on disappearance and 7 cases on injured.

The complaints pertaining to 2 cases on killing, 1 case on injured, 14 cases on torture, 2 cases on ESCR and 1 case on women's rights have been documented as pending. All the complaints were received by the central as well as the subordinate offices in different phases of time.

## Detainee inflicted with torture dies: Monitoring conducted

**KHOTANG:** Following the complaint on the incident of death lodged at the NHRC, a monitoring team proceeded to the incident spot and conducted investigation. Relatives of the victim Kiran Rai had lodged a complaint at the Commission and the District Administration Office (DAO) stating that the victim had succumbed to torture meted out to him by police. He reportedly died while undergoing treatment.

As per the NHRC monitoring, the victim Kiran Rai of Patheka VDC, Ward – 2 including other three were detained on 5th July, 2013. The detainees including the victim Kiran Rai escaped from the police custody in the pretext of nature call while the investigation was underway, as per the report.

Meanwhile, the search mission deployed by the police learned to have reprehended the accused in a jungle under Bujpa VDC, Ward – 1 of Khotang and took him under their custody. Soon after, the kin of victim Kiran Rai registered a complaint at the NHRC stating that the victim died on 10th July, 2013 due to the torture inflicted on him while in custody, as per the monitoring report.



Human Rights Officers Jiban Neupane during the monitoring on the incident of death in Khotang district

The kin of victim have ruled out the post mortem report performed by a local doctor which reports that he died of pneumonia. Saying that falsified post mortem report being released under police pressure, they have demanded the formation of a probe committee including the independent post mortem at the presence of the Commission.

The NHRC including other state actors such as the officials of the district security agencies, representatives of the district level political parties, relatives of the victim, human rights workers and media

persons held the discussion and created the environment conducive for conducting the post mortem at the presence of the doctor from Health Service Department and the doctors of District Hospital Khotang on July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

Later, the dead body of the victim was handed over to the family. Meanwhile, the post mortem report has been released while the investigation on the incident is still underway. The Commission is all set to look into matter now as to how the case would take its course.

## Stakeholders express worries on the State of Impunity

**ROLPA:** The representatives of the political parties, human rights workers, conflict affected families, and the intellectual circle of Rolpa district have jointly expressed their worries over the existing state of impunity in the country.

The participants of the program entitled the situation of human rights in Rolpa district

and the implementation status of the NHRC recommendations organized by the NHRC Regional Office, Nepalgunj expressed their worries over the persistence of ongoing ill culture of impunity in the country.

They unanimously said that it was unfortunate that the accused person has got the advantage of immunity even after the



HR Officer Ramesh Thapa presenting the paper on the implementation status of the NHRC recommendations and NHRC initiatives for the protection and promotion of human rights.

decision dispensed by honorable Supreme Court. They added that the rule of law and democracy has been made the subject of mockery with the impunity gaining its height due to the political protection given to such persons.

They also expressed their severe anxiety over the procrastination of the implementation of the NHRC recommendations.

On the occasion, the NHRC Deputy Director Murari Prasad Kharel and Human Rights Officer Ramesh Thapa shed light on the implementation status of the NHRC recommendations and the efforts made by the NHRC in the field of the protection and promotion of human rights in the country.



The participants at the program entitled "The mitigation of impunity" organised in Rolpa district

Prison Monitoring :

Rolpa District Prison Needs all-round Improvement : NHRC

**R**OLPA: The physical condition of the prison was found to be acutely in miserable condition as per the monitoring team deployed by the NHRC Regional Office, Nepalgunj.

The team explored the wretched physical condition while the inmates were found to endure the leakage in the roof together with the accommodation problem in the

prison cell where 82 inmates were kept in the space of 35 inmates.

The team has strongly recommended the immediate renovation of the prison to evade any unprecedented incident of natural disaster.

Citing the sudden escape of the fugitives through tunnel on May 21, 2013, the monitoring team has prognosticated the possible recurrence of such incident due to poor physical infrastructure of the prison.

The team also discovered that necessary regular health check up of the pregnant inmates wasn't conducted while on the other hand, the minors were found living with their mothers in the prison.

The monitoring report also unveiled that the regular health check up of the inmates serving their term

wasn't conducted. Similarly, no adequate budget was learnt to have been allocated for the health treatment of the inmates. The inmates had to make personal contribution of donation for the treatment of the inmates if they fall sick seriously, the report says.

The report further says that the inmates were found to be ignorant about the court decision dispensed from time to time. Likewise, legal counselling and access to justice was a far off dream for those who couldn't hire the legal professionals.

Though the inmates were not inflicted any physical torture, some of the inmates were said to have been suffered physical torment from time to time, as per the report.

The monitoring team comprised the NHRC Deputy Director Murari Prasad Kharel and Human Rights Officer Ramesh Kumar Thapa.



Prison Security Officials of district prison of Rolpa carrying the old fashioned chains and cuffs used for the prisoners



NHRC Officials from the NHRC Regional Office, Nepalgunj interacting with inmates in district prison of Rolpa during the monitoring

Effective Policies urged to combat Food Crisis

**M**UGU: The NHRC Sub Regional Office Jumla organized a workshop program in the headquarter Gamgadhi.

At the program, comprehensive discussions were held on the functions, mandates, duties and jurisdiction of the NHRC, national and international laws related to the right to food, de-facto situation of food security in Karnali Region, monitoring procedures and process of food grains, including present deepening food crisis of food and the measures to be adopted to combat food crisis.

Officiating Head of the Regional Head Rajendra Neupane, Assistant Chief District Officer Toran Parajuli of Jumla district, Field Coordinator of FIAN – Nepal Padam Malla and Advisor of “ Collaboration for Self Esteem’ Prakash Budhathoki facilitated the program.

Speaking at the program, Chief District Officer Hiralal Chaudhary underlined the need to be pro-active for conceiving the plan and policies and their effective implementation with regard to the right to food.

Fifty seven participant comprising the representatives from media, teachers, government offices, judicial and quasi judiciary authorities, civil society academia including the representatives of human rights organizations participated in the workshop.



Participants at a program held on the right to food in Khalanga of Mugu district

# Conflict Victims endure Relentless Plight: Government Slammed

**BARDIYA:** The conflict victims of Bardiya have flayed the government for being acutely oblivion in taking steps towards solving the problems they have been facing for a long time now.

They flayed the government at a program entitled 'Justice Delivery to the Conflict Victims, Implementation status of the NHRC Recommendations and the Role of Stakeholders' organized by the NHRC Regional Officer, Nepalgunj at Rajapur of Bardiya district.

Speaking on the occasion, the conflict victim Manu Tharu said, 'I am the conflict victim and member of the martyrs family. I had sustained a bullet injury during the conflict and I still have five bullets in my body. The ones whom we lost have long gone but who will listen to our plights and grievances?'

He urged for the NHRC support for publicizing the status of the disappeared persons and martyrs family.

Lamenting over the government being tight lipped on the issues concerning conflict victims, another conflict victim Jeetram Tharu said that the government ought to identify the families of disappeared, martyrs, injured and the victims of torture of the conflict period and make arrangement for the relief including justice delivery to the conflict victims without any dilly dallying.



HR Officer Ramesh Thapa along with the representatives of the government agencies and security agencies during the program held on the conflict victims and their plight held in Rajapur of Bardiya district

Conflict victim Heera Chaudhary infuriated for being in plight beyond imagination due to the cause of disappearance of her husband for the last eleven years.

At the program, the conflict victim Padam Chaudhary said that it was a painful irony that the people in power often get immunity whereas the ordinary citizens often meet with ill fate of disappearance, fake encounter on the grounds of nothing. This, he said, has proved that the law is only for weaker section of society.

Yet another conflict victim Rampyari Chaudhary said that the financial condition of the families of the disappeared citizens and those killed during conflict period has been in extremely pitiable condition and thus the government ought to pay attention towards this.

At the program, Kali Chaudhary narrated her plight of being helpless in feeding the family and sending her children to school after her husband disappeared 11 years ago. She added that she had no option but

to push her children into daily wage labor at such tender age for the family survival.

Hem Raj Tharu slammed the government for not taking action against the persons accused of human rights violations. He also expressed dissatisfaction over the inadequate compensation provided to the conflict victims.

At the program, the conflict victims raised their legitimate concern in unison on the issues related to their problems.

Slamming the government for the dispirited notion shown towards the problems of the conflict victims, they said that the government ought to immediately publicize the condition of disappeared citizens, make arrangements for the livelihood of the conflict affected children including their education and financial relief. They strongly demanded to book those involved in human rights violations and take legal action against them.

At the program, the area administration office chief of Rajapur Muralidhar Puri, Superintendent of Armed Police Tirtha Raj Poudel, Police Inspector of Area Police Office Rajapur Raju Thapa, Rajapur VDC secretary Maniraj Poudel stressed on the justice delivery to the victims. Expressing their moral support for the justice to the victims, they committed to have their action from their side as and when necessary.

At the program, Human Rights Officer Ramesh Thapa shed light on the NHRC activities accomplished for the support of conflict victims, the status of the NHRC recommendations sent to the government on the human rights violations and the role of stakeholders in transitional justice including the state obligation on the protection of human rights.

During this program, 150 participants comprising the government officials, human rights activists, media persons including the conflict victims of 11 village development committees of Rajapur area were present.



The members of the conflict affected families look on while the NHRC officials are verifying the documents related to the conflict victims in Bardiya district

## Role of Stakeholders Critical in Safeguarding the Rights of Senior Citizens: NHRC

**KASKI:** An interaction was held on the role of stakeholders in the protection of the rights of senior citizens in Pokhara of Kaski district on July 8, 2013. The program was organized jointly by the NHRC regional Office, Pokhara and Senior Citizens Concern Society – Nepal.

The objective of the program was to have the conceptual clarity in the provisions laid out in the national and international instruments with regard to the rights of senior citizens, to

inculcate the obligatory role play among the stakeholders working in the field of rights of senior citizens. The program also aimed at combating the challenges lying ahead with regard to the protection of the rights of senior citizens and conceiving the future strategies for collaborative initiatives and capacity development in the concerns related to safeguarding the rights of senior citizens.

At the program, Hari Prasad Phuyal, life member of the Senior Citizens Concern Society Nepal, Ek Bahadur KC, Binod Tiwari, Chief Coordinator of the senior citizens concern society Nepal, Kamal Poudel, program host - Radio Sarangkot, an octogenarian form Pokhara, Hari Prasad Kiran Ojha - Senior Citizens Concern Society Nepal offered their comments and suggestions.

During the program, the participants discussed widely on



Inauguration of the interaction program on the rights of senior citizens held in Pokhara

the protection of the rights of senior citizens including the information sharing among the organizations and agencies working in the field of rights of senior citizens, monitoring of the geriatric homes, distribution of the allowances in swift and uncomplicated manner, issuance of identity card to the senior citizens, coordination and collaboration between the NHRC, civil society, stakeholder organizations, NGOs and media for the protection of the rights of senior citizens.

The participants of the program comprised the chiefs and representatives of the NGOs, social workers, intellectuals, chair and life members of the Senior Citizens Concern Society -Nepal and media among others.



Participants of the Interaction Program entitled the 'Role of stakeholders in the Protection of the Rights of Senior Citizens' organised by the NHRC Regional Office Pokhara in Kaski district

## Stakeholders interact on the Human Rights Situation in Pyuthan district

**PYUTHAN:** The NHRC Regional Office Nepalgunj organized an interaction on the human rights situation and the status of justice delivery to the conflict victims in Pyuthan district.

Speaking on the occasion, Kamalmani Kafle, the Chief District Officer of Pyuthan district said that the concerted efforts have been made to enhance the situation of human rights and law and order in the district. He added that the district administration was often alert and carrying out market monitoring but the monitoring missions couldn't turn out to be effective due to the lack of human resources.

Elucidating the significant role of the political parties in the protection and promotion of human rights, Murari Prasad Kharel, Deputy Director of NHRC Regional Office Nepalgunj said that the political parties ought to mobilize their mechanisms in order to enhance the human rights situation in the area.

At the program, lamenting over the dormant situation of relief distribution to the conflict victims, former CA Member

Sita Biswakarma urged the NHRC to take initiatives in this regard.

Speaking on the occasion, Ramesh Kumar Shrestha of Consumer Rights Forum (Pyuthan) said that the prices of daily commodities vary from shop to shop and even the medicine with dates expired have been openly sold in the market. The stakeholders authorities have not shown any attention towards this, he said.

Citing the root causes of rights violation to be the child marriage and the polygamy in the area, Rights Defender Parvati Biswakarma argued that such a practice should be duly checked by the concerned authorities.

Madhu Panthi of Amnesty International (Pyuthan) explored that the violence against women was on the rise alarmingly exceeding the number of violence against women that took place during the conflict period. She also unveiled the incidents of ill treatment perpetuated on the senior citizens, prevalent racial discrimination, criminal offenses and the political cover acquired by the criminals.

Tikaram Pokhrel, the spouse of conflict victim, said that the police showed no interest in registering the case filed against the person who manhandled his spouse.

Speaking on the occasion, the coordinator of local peace committee (Pyuthan) Krishna Ghimire, Deputy Superintendent of Police Iswar Karki, Human rights worker Keshav Bhusal, District Education Officer Rishiram Rijal, media persons Giru Bhandari, conflict victim Mina Giri, Member of Nepal Bar Association (Pyuthan District Chapter) Om Hair Pokharel, district member of CPN (UML) Gagan Singh Kunwar and NHRC Human Rights officer Ramesh Thapa stressed that all should be responsible for improving the human rights situation in the district.

Organized in the district headquarter Khalanga, the program was attended by 84 participants comprising the representatives of the political parties, chiefs of the security agencies, chiefs of the Government agencies, media persons, legal professionals, human rights defenders, the members of the conflict affected families, representatives of civil society, and local entrepreneurs.

## Training on HRBA to Development Continues

**GORKHA:** A two day training was organized on Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) to development among the development actors in Gorkha district on July 6-7, 2013.

The objective of the training was to make the developmental works accessible, public participatory, sustainable and effective. The training mainly focused on helping each developmental program in local level conceive the plans and programs till the time of their implementation based on the human rights and national and international principles for the sustainable development through HRBA to development.

Inaugurated by NHRC Member Gauri Pradhan, the program was chaired by NHRC

Deputy Director Yagya Prasad Adhikari.

Addressing the inaugural session of the training, Member Gauri Pradhan said that the role of state mechanisms is critically important concerning the day to day services provided to the general citizens.

He emphasized that the learning realm of the training should basically help the service providers and the service receivers to have dialogue so that remedial solutions can be found out to the existing problems such as injustice, exploitation and violence, if any.

At the program, Member Gauri Pradhan presented the paper on Human Rights Perspectives to Development. Similarly, Deputy Director Yagya P.

Adhikari presented the paper on the HRBA to development whereas Sthaneswar Dawadi, President of Gorkha Bar Chapter made analysis on the NHRC Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders.

Elucidating the concepts of HRBA to Development, Member Pradhan briefed that, upon having HRBA integrated in developmental activities, it ultimately enthruses to brew the culture of human rights in all daily services, helps decentralize and even help sustain unity among diversities. Besides, the approach was to have bottom to top approach rather than top to bottom, people centric, inclusive from exclusive. Not to mention, it inculcates the sense of accountability, equality in inequality, peace, dialogue, rule of law including the widespread sense of positivity in all endeavors.

On the occasion, the representatives of the Government agencies and civil society unanimously viewed that human rights being the stepping stone to development, the development of a place is possible only when the protection and promotion of human rights is placed to the forefront. The role of government agencies and civil society becomes significant in the developmental works and therefore the service providers ought to deviate their attention towards whether or not the problems faced by the service receivers are properly identified in the first place.

Organized at the district headquarter of Gorkha district, the program was attended by sixty participants comprising the chiefs and representatives of the various government agencies, civil society, human rights organizations, district level political parties, human rights workers including media persons among others.

The training was organized at the technical support extended by the Strengthening the Capacity of the National Human Rights Commission (SCNHRC Project).



NHRC Member Gauri Pradhan amidst the participants of the program entitled Human Rights Based Approach to Development organized in Gorkha

## Road Expansion Move should be in Compliance with Law: NHRC

**LALITPUR:** A delegation comprising the residents of Sindhupalchok, Kavre and Bhaktapur presented a memorandum to the NHRC stating their plight due to the encroachment of land covering the area of 31 meters each on both sides of the road belonging to them. They said that the chunk of land on the edge of road has been forcefully taken without and compensation being paid to them.

Receiving the memorandum, the NHRC Chairperson Justice Kedar Nath Upadhyay said that the Commission has always pledged support to the legitimate demands of the citizens. 'The Government ought to make the road expansion drive in accordance with law,' he said.

He added that the Commission would ask the stakeholders in this concern and pledge support in finding the solution towards the problem.

Speaking on the occasion, the NHRC Commissioner Justice Ram Nagina Singh urged the representatives of the delegation to present their demands before the government by following the procedures as per law.

The NHRC Commissioner and Spokesperson Gauri Pradhan suggested that it would be wise to seek legal alternatives for remedial solution to the problem.

He said that the Commission would invite the concerned parties and hold consultation on the concern raised by the Delegation.

While presenting the memorandum, the representatives of the Delegation disclosed that the road expansion drive would pull down three to five thousand houses leaving around 35 thousand households in plight.



NHRC Member/Spokesperson Gauri Pradhan addressing the program entitled "Campaign to end Violence Against Women and Children" organized by UNICEF in the capital

representative Hanaa Singer unveiled that there are about 1,600,000 children in the age group to 5-17 working in various factories, while more than 600,000 are engaged in hazardous works.

The number of girls and women working in the night entertainment industry in Kathmandu is estimated between 11,000 and 13,000.

She added that there is a need to ask children to report on violence against them and make the invisible visible as large number of incidents of such violence go unreported because they take place within walls.

According to the data, 34 percent of women aged between 15 and 49 have experienced emotional, physical or sexual violence at least once since the age of 15.

Nearly 40 percent of survivors of child sexual violence are aged below 18, the study reveals. Annually 12,000 children are trafficked to India, mainly for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

## Abolition of Bonded Labor still a Distant Dream: Gauri Pradhan

**KATHMANDU:** NHRC Member Gauri Pradhan has said though statistics have shown decrease in child labor, abolition of bonded labor is still a distant dream.

Addressing the function organized by the UNICEF in the capital on the launching of a campaign to end violence against women and children coinciding with the initiation of global campaign to eliminate violence against children today, Member Pradhan said it was at least pleasant to learn that, as of now, the number of child labor in Nepal has dropped to 1.6 million.

He lauded the UNICEF initiatives deserve kudos to be in forefront in the child labor abolition drive.

Citing almost two decade long child rights movement in Nepal giving fruit to various other movements, Member Pradhan commended the Shakti Samuha – an organization working for trafficking survivors for receiving internationally prestigious Megsaysay award. He added that it was the matter of pride and honor for those who have been wholeheartedly

dedicated in combating for the emancipation of women and children of enforced labor.

On the occasion, UNICEF Nepal's



NHRC Member Gauri Pradhan, Ms Hanaa Singer UNICEF representative to Nepal ( in the middle), Social activist and singer Ani Choyeng Dolma at a program organized on the launching of the "Campaign to end Violence Against Women and Children" organized by UNICEF in the capital

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### Consultation on Mid-term...

human rights situation during the during the Nepal's UPR session held in Geneva. Of the total 135 recommendation, therefore, the Government of Nepal had accepted 56 recommendations while 15 of them were rejected. Remaining 64 recommendations are under consideration with implementation process commenced on few among them. The recommendations were made on various themes such as constitution making and peace process, transitional justice, child rights, impunity, extra judicial killing enforced disappearance, torture, gender equality and so on so forth.

During the program, Human Rights Officer

Basudev Bajagain presented the highlights of mid-term UPR draft report.

On the occasion, representatives from National Women's Commission, Poverty Alleviation Fund, Nepal Foundation for Development of Indigenous Nationalities (NEFDIN), National Planning Commission, Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers, Ministry of Defence, National Dalit Commission, Central Child Welfare Fund, Ministry for Peace and Reconstruction, Ministry for Women and Children, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs including Ministry for Law and Justice shared their comments and feedbacks on the necessary revamping to be made on the UPR draft report shared by the Commission.

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a

unique process which involves a review of the human rights records of all UN Member States. The UPR is a State-driven process, under the auspices of the Human Rights Council, which provides the opportunity for each State to declare what actions they have taken to improve the human rights situations in their countries and to fulfil their human rights obligations.

NHRIs consisting of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), National Women's Commission (NWC) and National Dalit Commission (NDC) had jointly prepared and submitted the UPR report. Likewise, a joint delegation of all the three NHRIs led by NHRC Member/Spokesperson Gauri Pradhan had participated in the UPR session held in Geneva on Nepal from January 25-27, 2011.

## Stakeholders in West Attend Workshop on HRBA to Development

**KASKI:** National Human Rights Commission Regional Office of Pokhara has conducted two days workshop entitled Human Rights Based Approach to development on July 4-5, 2013. The main goal of program was to garner the culture of human rights and to link human rights issues with larger development of the nation.

The participants of the program comprised the representatives of the government agencies, Civil Society, Political Parties, Non-government Organization and Media among others.

At the program, the participants expressed their concern on the issues related to the public services and other human rights



Mr. Yagya P Bhandari, NHRC Deputy Director of Regional Office Pokhara making presentation on the HRBA to Development at a workshop held in Lamjung

issues. The participants were of the view that the development is the backbone of nation, which is interlinked directly or indirectly with human rights issues.

of human rights keeping the deprived class and communities at the pinnacle. It was also discussed at the program that plans and policies have to be effectively implemented with the follow monitoring conducted. The conclusion was, therefore, drawn that Government agencies can play vital role for the development process and integration of HRBA to developmental activities in line with the international standard would make the process of development sustainable right from the grass roots level.

Organized at the technical support extended form the Strengthening the Capacity of the National Human Rights Project, the workshop was one of the series of the programs incessantly held in the districts of West.



Mr. Baburam Bhandari, CDO of Lamjung District presenting the paper on the Good Governance and overall situation of human rights at a workshop held in Lamjung

During the program, having gained the insights on the issue at the workshop, the participants unanimously opined that human rights and development are complementary to each other. The stakeholder authorities ought to deviate their attention towards enhancing the enhancing culture

## Advocacy on the Rights of Senior Citizens taps Impetus

**Nawalparasi:** The NHRC Sub Regional Office, Butwal organized a seminar on the rights of senior citizens and the role of stakeholders at Bhumahi, Nawalparasi.

Speaking on the occasion, NHRC Deputy Director Dipak Jung Dhvaj Karki stressed on revamping of the Senior Citizens Act-2006 in order to encourage maximum utilization of the Act for overall welfare of the senior citizens.

At the program, Advocate Saraswati Sharma and Human Rights Officer Chandra Kant Chapagain presented the separate papers. Chaired by the Senior Citizen Chudamani Bhattarai of Ram Nagar VDC, the program was attended by 42 participants comprising the local level senior citizens including the representatives from officials of a Paralegal Committee, social workers and the officials of the community reconciliation center among others.



Senior citizens participating at the seminar organized for the rights of the senior citizens in Nawalparasi

## Stakeholders discuss on CA Election and Human Rights



Ghanashyam Bhandari Chief of district election commission office, Hon. Dilli Raj Acharya Kaski Justice of the appellate court, NHRC Deputy director Yagya P. Adhikari among other representatives at a program held on the CA Election and Human Rights in Pokhara

**KASKI:** A workshop on forthcoming Constituent Assembly (CA) Election and Human Rights was organized in Pokhara on July 23, 2013. The objective of the program was to have larger discussion on the interrelation between human rights and election with main focus on free and fair election to meet the aspirations of the Nepalese Citizens.

Since the CA Election was envisaged by and large to ensure democratic rule of law, to ensure proportional representation in all the bodies of state, to institutionalize the people's sovereignty and to create an atmosphere for all the citizens to exercise equal rights, the workshop also focused on building the environment conducive for holding the election having human rights of the general citizens at the pinnacle.

At the program, NHRC Deputy Director Yagya Prasad Adhikari presented the paper on the Relationship between Free and Fair Election and Human Rights. Mr. Adhikari threw light on the exercise of adult franchise rights in accordance with the international standard. Similarly, he also enumerated the virtuous lines enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights -1948 and International

Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) to which Nepal is a party.

On the occasion, Justice of Appellate court - Kaski Dilli Raj Acharya, as the chief guest of the program, said that all the Nepalese people are anxiously looking forward to having the much awaited CA election. Holding

the election with due process and procedure, therefore, is the only way out to meet the aspiration of the citizens, he said.

He also urged all the political parties to pave ways in reaching the consensus for the enjoyment of people's right to vote during the forthcoming CA election scheduled to be held in November, 2013.

On the occasion, an election related documentary on the overall election scenario beginning 1950 AD was screened by the District Election Commission Office- Kaski.

At the program, presenting the paper on the CA Election, Ghanashyam Bhandari, Chief of District Election Commission Office, informed about the election process being in full swing and called upon all to participate in the election without any confusion.

At the program, Assistant CDO of Kaski district Arjun Kumar Sharma, president of Appellate Court Bar Unit Mukunda Raj Poudel, President of Kaski Bar Unit Kamal Prasad Aryal, Coordinator of Civil Society Network for Peace Bishnu Prasad Baral, Senior Human Rights Activist Teknath Baral, President of Federation of Nepalese Journalists - Kaski Chapter Badri Binod

Pratik, Woman Human Rights activist Nanda Kala Nepali, General Secretary of National Heritage and People's Rights Protection Committee Ram Bahadur Poudel, representative of Nepali Congress Krishna Prasad Timilsina, representative of CPN (UML) Liladhar Poudel, State Committee Member of CPN (Maoist) Umanath Sharma and the president of National Democratic Party Kaski Jaylal Pun shared their views.

The participants opined that since there is no any recourse of election now, it should be held in a peaceful and in an environment free from fear. Since election would be impossible without all party consensus, it is vitally significant that the election is held with due consensus reached among all parties, they urged.

Citing the electoral procedures such as the development of election code of conduct pursuant to the election law, the participants also expressed their enthusiasm for exercising their adult franchise rights. However, they also expressed anxiety over the security of the voters following the possible violation of their right to vote.

The participants of the program comprised the chiefs and representatives of the organizations and agencies of the district, chief of District Election Commission Office, media persons, human rights workers, representatives of the district level political parties including the civil society members among others.

The Constituent Assembly comprised of a unicameral body of 601 members constituted as a result of the first ever CA election held in Nepal on April 10, 2008. Following its unprecedented dissolution on May 27, 2012 without brewing any result concerning the framing of the new constitution, the government has yet again decided to hold election amidst ongoing political rift.



Participants representing various government agencies, civil society, media and legal professionals including the senior human rights activists among others at a program organized on the CA Election and Human Rights in Pokhara

## Integration of HRs Education in Informal Education Stressed

**SINDHUPALCHOK:** The NHRC held an interaction on the integration of human rights education in informal education in Sindhupalchok district on June 25, 2013. Having the objective to build the policy level foundation for integration of human rights education in informal education, the program was organized in coordination with the Informal Education – Sanothimi and District Education Office Sindupalchok. The program was first of its kind conducted in

guest, the session kicked off with the remarks delivered by the DEO Gautam. Rishiram Poudel and the former chair of the Federation for Nepalese Journalists district chapter Sindhupalchok also delivered their speeches during the inauguration of the program.



HR Officer Samjhana Sharma presenting the paper on the integration of human rights education in informal education NHRC initiatives organized at Barabise of Sindhupalchok district

During the program Chaitanya Niraula District Joint Secretary of Informal Education Program, District Education Office, Sindhupalchok made the paper presentation on the achievement made by the Government of Nepal in the informal education sector and the challenges lying ahead in the field of informal education initiatives.

Meanwhile, HR Officer Samjhana Sharma threw light on the NHRC and NHRC initiatives in the field of human rights education.

Upon the presentation by the resource persons, broad discussions were held on the role of the informal education in garnering the culture of human rights in society. The participants also debated on the existing problems and challenges in the field of informal education. Also, they provided

their suggestions and comments with regard to the integration of human rights education in informal education sector of the country.

The participants unanimously urged the NHRC to organize the prototype programs in other parts of the country in order to evoke the awareness on human rights education among the stakeholders and the people in general. They stressed on the involvement of the students, parents, monitoring agencies and the communities to embark upon having the human rights education integrated in the informal education sector.

The participants also insisted on to exert concerted effort for reviewing the syllabus related to the informal education and recommend whether or not the same is human rights friendly. Also, the participants emphasized on strengthening the capacity of the stakeholders including the human resources involved in the informal education sector.



Woman participants at a program entitled the integration of human rights education in informal education organized Sindhupalchok district

the first phase following the consultation with the stakeholders associated with the informal education in local level.

Inaugurated by Geha Nath Gautam, the District Education Officer as the special

## Ensure the ESC Rights of Women: Woman Human Rights Defenders

**BUTWAL:** The woman human rights defenders of Lumbini zone have stressed on further initiatives to be taken up by the state to ensure the economic, social and cultural rights of women.

The participants drew this conclusion at a workshop entitled ‘Monitoring on the Women’s Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of Women’ organized by the NHRC Sub Regional Office, Butwal.

At the program, the participants stressed on the policy formation and budget allocation on the basis of the indicators regarding the situation of economic, social and cultural rights of women. They also emphasized on the monitoring mechanism to have gender based auditing on whether or not the budget is allocated under the heading of the Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) to development and also whether or not the budget is allocated from gender perspective.

Citing this program as the first of its kind held in Lumbini zone, they further stressed on organizing such program on the ESC

rights in parts of the country.. At the program, intensive discussions were held on various subjects which included the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights -1966, International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination- 1965, Concept of Gender Equality, national and international monitoring system, Right to Reproductive Health of Women, the role of NHRC in the protection and promotion of ESC Rights, monitoring on the state policies adopted with regard to the rights of women, plan, policies and program, budget and integrating HRBA to development.

During the training, the sessions were facilitated by Advocate Dinesh Tripathi, Advocate and Coordinator of Advocacy Forum (Kapilvastu) Om Prakash Aryal, Public Health Specialist Ganesh Bhattarai,



NHRC resource persons including the Deputy Director Dipak Jung Dhway Karki along with other participants at a training entitled on ESC Rights held in Butwal

NHRC Deputy Director Dipak Jung Dhway Karki, Human Rights Officer Chandrakant Chapagain including and Chair of Creative Nepal (Rupandehi) Rima BC.

Twenty five participants comprising the representatives of human rights organizations, civil society, legal professionals, media persons including the woman human rights defenders from the district of Gulmi, Rupandehi and Palpa took part in the workshop.

## News in Brief

## Stakeholder Representatives trained on Fair Trial and Human Rights



Resource person and the participants at training held on Fair Trial and Human Rights in Kaski

**KASKI:** The NHRC Regional Office Pokhara organized two day training on human rights and fair trial in Pokhara on July 14-15, 2013.

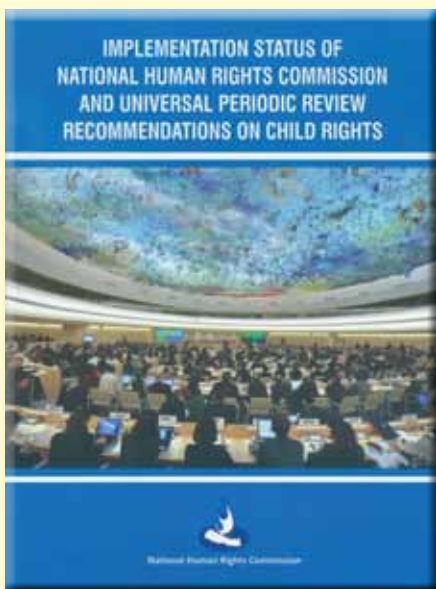
At the program, Justice of the Appellate Court Pokhara Dilli Raj Acharya presented the paper on the 'Right to Fair Trial: From Trial to Verdict' while the NHRC Deputy Director Yagya Prasad Adhikari presented the paper on Rights of Victims and the Responsibilities of the stakeholders. Another presentation he made was on Declaration for the Protection of Victims Rights-1985. Similarly, former secretary of NHRC Bishal Khanal made his presentation on the efforts made in the international level for the judicial remedies and another presentation on concept and values of HRBA.

The participants of the program comprised the representatives of the civil society, human rights communities, media, and academia including the staff members of the NHRC.



Hon. Justice Dilli Raj Acharya of Appellate Court giving away the certificates to participants of the training on Fair Trial and Human Rights in Kaski

## Report released on UPR Recommendations on the Rights of Child



**LALITPUR:** The NHRC released the report on the implementation status of the UPR Recommendations on the Rights of Child.

Releasing the report, NHRC Member Gauri Pradhan said that it is deemed necessary that the provisions laid out in the International Convention on the Rights of Child -1989 (CRC) have to be translated into actions without any due reservation.

Underscoring the need for the improvement of the rights of child, Member Pradhan said that inception of the Child Rights Commission has become inevitable.

On the occasion of the book releasing, Ramesh Dhakal-Joint Secretary of the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers, Tarak Dhital, the Executive Director of the Central Child Welfare Committee, Child Rights Expert Kapil Aryal, Biswa

## Students Oriented on the Rights of Child

**KATHMANDU:** The students of Janauddwar Secondary School of Harishiddi, Kathmandu attended orientation program on the rights of child. The program was organized by the NHRC.

At the program, discussions were held on various child rights topics including the introduction to NHRC, child rights provisions laid out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Need of child rights friendly teaching environment in accordance with the virtuous lines enshrined in the national and international human rights documents, the role of stakeholders in the protection and promotion of child rights including the complaint registration procedures in the event of the child rights violation among others.

The resource persons comprising the human rights officers duo Samjhana and Suresh Malla facilitated the orientation sessions. The duo threw light on the basic aspects of child rights. They also provided the information about the NHRC initiatives in the field of child rights.

Rabi Khanal the principal of the Janauddwar Secondary school said that the program as such has been successful to enthuse and inculcate spirit the students and teachers towards human rights, to be sensitive not to cause the violation of human rights of others while enjoying their own.

65 participants comprising the principal, teachers and students took part in the orientation program.



A girl child speaking on the occasion of the report release on the implementation status of the UPR recommendations

Mani Poudel, Manu Phuyal, Human Rights Officers duo Shree Ram Adhikari and Manju Khatiwada shed light on the various dimensions of the child rights.

Published by the National Human Rights Commission, the report is inclusive of 39 child rights related recommendations based on the complaints registered in different phases of time.

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