



# A Rapid Scan

Organizations Working on Women and Peace  
in Nepal



United Nations  
Development Fund for Women  
**UNIFEM** 

# A Rapid Scan

Organizations Working on Women and Peace  
in Nepal



UNIFEM Programme Office, Nepal

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# Foreword

It has been important for UNIFEM to undertake this scan for a number of reasons. This is underlined by the fact that each reason is as vital as the other. Increased conflict and insurgency accompanied by a lack of women in decision-making positions in processes of peace-making and nation building; the gendered impact of war on women; the loss of opportunities in being able to transform institutions and structures at the time of re-building, are some of the reasons, for this rapid scan of peace initiatives in Nepal. Most importantly, it is part of UNIFEM's mandate and mission. Committed to advocating for and working towards the realization of women's human rights and human security, our work focuses on promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women, in times of peace as well as conflict.

Responding to the gendered dimensions of both, war and peace, UNIFEM's comparative advantage lies in being able to take issues to the highest level, as it did in 2000 – when it took the issue of violence against women to the UN General Assembly by playing a catalytic role and linking local agendas to the national and international levels. The UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security provides a path breaking instrument for women's inclusion in peace processes and the implementation of peace agreements. Not only does it urge for world action to redress inequities, injustices and violations that are encountered by women and girls in conflict affected areas, but it also emphasizes the important role of women in every stage of peace processes. This includes, peace-making, peace keeping and peace-building, urging the inclusion of gender perspectives in all post-conflict legal, judicial and constitutional processes.

Over the years, UNIFEM has worked in over 20 conflict-affected countries to help bring women to the peace table and strengthen their role in peace-building and post-conflict reconstruction. The focus has been on strengthening the capacity of women's groups, NGOs and networks, so that they can have a greater influence on the formal peace negotiations. Supporting women's outreach and advocacy efforts in order to raise awareness about their rights, UNIFEM also plays the role of a convenor, bringing women leaders and groups together to exchange, share information and experiences and learn from each other on issues relating to conflict resolution and peace building.

In South Asia, UNIFEM is working to bring about an enhanced understanding of the gendered effects of conflict and women's role in peace building, in partnership with NGOs and women's groups in Afghanistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka. In November of 2004, UNIFEM organized a regional round table on "*Women and Peace*" in Kathmandu to create a space for sharing experiences from the field as well as to take stock on the responses being made with regard to peace building and peace making processes. We also sought to learn what strategies were being used by women's groups and NGOs to respond to critical issues in this regard, as well as to identify areas that needed to be responded to. To bring about a gender balance in these processes of peace-making and peace-building, and to take the agenda of women and peace forward in Nepal, UNIFEM built a partnership

with Shantimalika, the first network of NGOs in Nepal working on women and peace. Taking this partnership ahead, UNIFEM and Shantimalika joined hands to organize a first ever national conference on “Women and Peace”, which came up with a 10 point declaration.

This rapid scan on peace initiatives in Nepal is a follow up and a confirmation of our work in this field. It gives me great pleasure to share the process and findings with you. It also includes issues of internally displaced persons, which was identified as an area of key concern, at the national conference. Encompassing information on organizations working on peace initiatives in general and women and peace, in particular, it makes available comprehensive information, which complements and builds synergy with other organizations working on women and peace. The scan locates the issues of women and peace in the larger context of vulnerabilities affecting women, such as feminization of poverty, violence against women, access to gender just governance and leadership building. Equally importantly, it identifies strategic options for future interventions in Nepal.

I take this opportunity to thank the expert consultants, who have worked tirelessly to make this possible. I extend my warm appreciation to Ms. Binda K. Magar from Forum for Women, Law and Development( FWLD) for preparing the scan. It was no easy task, considering the lack of information and data and indeed, the complexity of the issue itself. I would also like to thank Ms. Bandana Rana for editing the scan. To all our partners, within the governments, NGOs, UN agencies, academia and women’s groups, who were patient and took time out to respond and interact, I extend my grateful thanks.

This scan provides an excellent advocacy tool for strengthening gender sensitive implementation of SCR 1325, as well as a rich resource for diverse practitioners. This includes Governments, NGOs, and national and international organizations working on issues relating to women and peace and women in conflict ridden situations. Not only does it add to our learning on the issue, it also provides us with an updated reference point for future efforts. We hope this publication will provoke deepened efforts and commitment, to include women as central, in peace and nation building processes.

**Chandni Joshi**

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# Abbreviations

ASMAN	- Association of Sufferers from Maoist Nepal
AIDS	- Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
BBC	- Beyond Beijing Committee
BDPA	- Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
BPFA	- Beijing Platform for Action
CJC	- Children Justice Center
CAC- NEPAL	- Community Action Center Nepal
CDO	- Chief District Officer
COCAP	- Collective Campaign for Peace
CEDAW	- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CAT	- Convention Against Torture
CVICT	- Center for Victims of Torture
CRC	- Child Right Convention
CWIN	- Child Workers in Nepal Concerned Centre
DYNP	- Displaced Youth Volunteer Program
FWLD	- Forum for Women, Law and Development.
FFP	- Friends for Peace
GDP	- Gross Domestic Production
HIV	- Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IHRICON	- Institute of Human Rights Communication Nepal
HRTMCC	- Human Rights Treaty Monitoring Coordination Committee
IDPs	- Internally Displaced Persons
ICCPR	- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICESCR	- International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights
INSEC	- Informal Sector Service Center
LACC	- Legal Aid and Consultancy Center
LRC	- Law Reform Commission
MoLD	- Ministry of Local Development
MoHA	- Ministry of Home Affairs
MOWCSW	- Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare

MOLJPA	- Ministry of Law Justice and Parliamentary Affairs
NHRC	- National Human Rights Commission
NPA	- National Plan of Action
NPC	- National Peace Campaign
NHRAP	- National Human Rights Action Plan
NA	- Nagarik Aawaz
NCO	- Nepal Children's Organization
NGOs	- Non Governmental Organizations
OTV	- Orphans of Terror Victims
PATH	- Participatory Approach Towards Holistic
PIL	- Public Interest Litigation
SAP- NEPAL	- South Asia Partnership Nepal
SCOP	- Strengthening Civil Society Organization Progress
SARPPP	- South Asian Regional Peoples Policy Programs
SC	- Security Council
SWEP	- Single Women Entrepreneur
UDHR	- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UNIFEM	- United Nations Development Fund for Women
WOREC	- Women's Rehabilitation Center
WRHP	- Women's Rights HelpLine
WHR	- Women for Human Rights

# Summary and Analysis

## 1. Background

The Maoist insurgency that started in February 1996, led to an estimated 12,000 deaths and thousands of displaced individuals and families. Thousands of people have been victims of trauma, forced displacement, and violence. The plight of women and girls was more severe due to gender specific violence and inequalities exacerbated by the conflict.

During conflict women and girls became vulnerable to all forms of violence, particularly sexual violence and exploitation, including torture, rape, mass rape, and trafficking. Similarly, the health consequence for women and girls during the conflict was also enormous. Their vulnerability to HIV and AIDS heightened during the conflict situation. Their health was threatened by inequitable food distribution. They had little access to health services, as health posts also became regular targets of destruction, when infrastructures in general were targeted.

Girls' educational opportunities further diminished because of the need for girls to enter the workforce in order to help support the family. Girls were being married off at increasingly younger ages out of fear of rape ruining their marriage prospects later. With most men migrating out of the country women were burdened with additional and heavy responsibilities. Mothers who gave birth to children of displaced, missing or killed men were unable to confer citizenship on their children, creating a generation of 'stateless children.'

The conflict also burdened internally displaced people including women. Due to discriminatory inheritance law related to property, women became particularly vulnerable when they were driven away from their homes or when a husband or close male relative was killed or injured. Increasing number of widows found themselves without land or income. Unaware of their legal entitlement they often did not get the compensation they were entitled to. Women who were compelled to leave their homes faced tremendous difficulty finding decent employment because of lack of resources and skills. Forced to work in exploitative conditions they were subjected to abuse and trauma.

Despite all the suffering faced by Nepali women during the conflict they are glaringly absent in all peace efforts. Without addressing the gendered dimensions of the conflict and without women's direct, active and proportionate engagement in the peace process there is little hope that a meaningful and lasting peace can be achieved.

## 2. Objectives of the Rapid Scan

Through a Rapid Scan of organizations working on peace in Nepal this study aims to promote the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, CEDAW and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The specific objectives of the study are to:

1. Compile information on organizations working on peace initiatives in Nepal

- in general, and women and peace in particular, with special reference to internally displaced persons (IDPs);
2. Make available comprehensive information so as to compliment and build synergy with other organizations working on women and peace issues; and
  3. Enhance advocacy with government and key stakeholders towards strengthening gender sensitive implementation of peace initiatives.

The scan is based on interviews taken with representatives of GOS, NGOs and different individuals involved in this scan. As the information is collected from Kathmandu only the study should be taken as an indicative scan rather than an in-depth study and analysis of a holistic national scenario.

### **3. Analysis of activities and programs of the Organizations covered by the scan**

A review of the organizational profiles included in the Rapid Scan reveals the following facts:

- Almost all the organizations are involved in advocacy programs at the community to central level on different forms of human rights. At the central level the advocacy programs are geared towards policy change. A significant number of organizations are using international instruments such as the BPFA and CEDAW, in their advocacy programs. However only two organizations mentioned UN Security Council Resolution 1325. Even these have been in limited scale in the form of one time sensitization and development of tool kit. From this it is evident that the knowledge of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 amongst organizations working for women, children and peace is very minimal.
- Most of the organizations working for women and children did not have peace in their objectives earlier. However, with the conflict raging in the areas they worked in they have adjusted their programs to accommodate peace building and conflict issues in terms of providing support services to conflict victims, facilitating their reintegration, advocating for their rights and entitlements, creating safety nets, etc. However none of the organizations profile revealed of programs focusing on strong linkages of conflict with trafficking or HIV/AIDS.
- Most of the organizations do not seem to be working directly with IDPs though indirect support in terms of facilitating their return, providing support services and including them in training and sensitization programs have been mentioned. Only one organization mentioned having special program for youth displaced volunteers. None of the programs have indicated linkage with migration.
- Quite a significant number of organizations seem to be involved in training and capacity building of different sorts ranging from counseling, advocacy, legal awareness, peace dialogue, etc. CEDAW, BPFA and CRC have been used profusely in many training programs. But follow up action on monitoring on how these skills are being used seems to be very minimal.

- Awareness programs are also a part of strategic focus of all organizations. These have taken place in forms of workshops, sensitization programs, seminars, campaigns, rallies, media programs, etc.
- Quite a significant number of organizations working in the area of women and children provide victim support services. Though most of these do not seem to have separate logistic support services for women victims of conflict they have accommodated many women conflict victims in their shelter and support programs. There are however a few shelter and rehabilitation programs for children affected by conflict.
- Though incidences of increasing violence against women and girls including rape, torture, trafficking and other forms of sexual violence have been stated in the report, the organizations profile reveal that there has been no comprehensive review or study on the kinds of violence and its impact on women and girls during conflict.
- Organizations specifically working on peace have resource centers on conflict materials and also have several publications. It would be worthwhile to document all published materials related to conflict and peace building and also to map out what materials and services are provided by the existing resource centers and whom they cater to.
- Negligent number of organizations included in the scan mentioned life skill or income generation programs for conflict-affected people.
- Many organizations work with different partners including the government both at the national and local level. However none mentioned partnership with the corporate sector and the bank.
- NGOs working on women and peace issues do not have comprehensive understanding and knowledge about UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and its implications, especially in the context of peace building and post conflict situation.

## 4. Impact of Armed Conflict on Women and Children

On the basis of interviews conducted during the period of scan and the review of literature, some impacts on women during armed conflict have surfaced, as following;

The Maoist insurgency has seriously affected the lives of women in Nepal. According to a study conducted by INSEC, 748 women were killed by the state party and 163 women by the non-state actors from 13 February 1996 to 31 October 2005.<sup>1</sup>

### **Increase in Violence Against Women and Girls**

During conflict women and girls became vulnerable to all forms of violence. Rape, sexual abuse, and torture promulgated by both warring sides were widespread. Increasing number of women and girls were trafficked out of conflict-ridden areas for sexual and domestic slavery to other parts of Nepal and India.

<sup>1</sup> INSEC updated study, 2005.

### **Impact on Health**

Women became vulnerable to HIV and AIDS as a result of sexual exploitation. Their health was threatened by inequitable food distribution, mental tension and increasing workload. They had little access to health services, as health posts were regular targets of destruction.

### **Increase in the Number of Single Women**

The death of thousands of men from both the Maoist and the security side has resulted in an increase in the number of single women.

### **Increase in the Number of Orphans**

Many girls and boys lost their parents in the conflict leaving them with no support, both parental and financial.

### **Work Load on Women**

Due to the migration of many men from their hometown women were faced with increasing workload having to take full responsibility for all household and public work.

### **Increase in Migration**

Conflict has induced both voluntary and forced migration for many Nepali, including women in Nepal. Women from the villages are migrating to nearest district head quarters, urban towns and are even going to foreign lands in search of employment and security.

### **Girls Deprived of the Right to Education**

Girls' educational opportunities further diminished because of the need for girls to enter the workforce in order to help support the family. In cases where families were able to send their children to districts or further for education this was not considered a possible option for girls because of the security situation. Many girls were forced into early marriage also to escape forced recruitment thus hampering their educational prospects. In addition, the destruction of school infrastructure also limited their access to education.

### **Psychological Impact on Women & Children**

Women had to struggle hard in keeping the family intact with limited resources and heavy workload. They were harassed by the demand of both warring sides for shelter and food and had to face sexual slavery, sexual harassment, rape, and other forms of violence which affected their physical as well as their mental well being.

### **Sexual Exploitation of Women**

With both sides exhorting to sexual exploitation of women and girls as a means of revenge women and girls were attacked in their homes, in the fields or as they moved around for their other daily activities.

## Some Positive Changes

### **Increase in Decision Making Power of Women**

In the absence of men women had to take a leading role at the household level and take critical decisions. This has led to the empowerment of women in rural areas. Consequently, the increase in the female headed households has been noted.

### **Change in Traditional Role of Women**

Women were compelled to come out of their houses and engage in activities previously prescribed for only men, thus breaking the traditional and cultural barriers set up for women.

### **Women Engaged in Combat, e.g. Army Act Changed**

The recruitment of a considerably large percentage of women in the Maoist forces and their active engagement in the forefront of the battle has proven that women can also play a vital role in the armed forces. Subsequently the Military Police Rules, 2058 (2001) has incorporated a new provision of appointment of women as soldiers in the Military Police.

### **Realisation of the rights of the marginalized population, (concept of inclusive democracy).**

The conflict has brought the needs and concern of marginalized population like women, indigenous/ethnic population and dalit in the forefront.

## 5. Government Policies and Programs

Nepal being a member of the United Nations and a state party to the BPFA, CEDAW and UN Security Council Resolution 1325 is obligated to implement the commitments made in these documents. In this regard some of the policies and programs that address the needs of conflict-impacted women are:

- **National Human Rights Action Plan**

Aims to protect and promote the inalienable rights of the citizens and to guarantee human rights according to international agreements entered into by the nation through appropriate policy formulation and program implementation. Its specific objective is to establish peace in the nation and to protect human resource and safety of Nepali people. It also aims to rehabilitate and resettle the victim of conflict and rebuild the conflict damaged physical infrastructure. However, it does not have specific policies and programme on women.

- **Tenth Plan (2002-2007)**

Includes policy to develop programs to provide services to victims of all forms of violence including rehabilitation and re-integration, providing security to displaced women (single women) and initiating income-generating programs.

- **Relief Programs for Conflict Affected Persons (2061)**

This program includes providing financial compensation to families of those who were killed in the armed conflict, relief allowances to handicapped/injured

and elderly and orphans, educational allowances, providing opportunity for Foreign Employment to one of the family members who have been affected by the death of the sole bread winner of the family and running skill based training for conflict affected women.

## **6. Challenges**

- Lack of appropriate legislation to ensure meaningful and proportionate participation of women to address the issue of women and peace
- Inability to continue programs due to lack of fund
- Lack of comprehensive knowledge and understanding on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and thereof lack of capacity to implement the UN Security Council Resolution 1325
- Lack of comprehensive information and disaggregated data on women who have been affected and involved in the conflict

## **7. Specific Recommendations**

- Educate, disseminate and promote UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and its use for effective advocacy and program formulation
- Advocacy for ensuring women's meaningful and proportionate participation in all peace building and post conflict reconstruction processes (Constitution Reform through Constituent Assembly, Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) and Transitional Justice (TJ) )
- Conduct study on DDR, TJ, CR to identify gender concerns and strategies to ensure gender concerns are mainstreamed in the processes leading to DDR, TJ and CR
- Create a National Resource centre to house all resource materials and publications available in Nepal on women and peace.
- Conduct study on the kinds of violence perpetrated on women and girls during conflict and its impact on them (linking it also to trafficking, HIV/AIDS and migration)
- Review the situation and status of IDPs from gender perspective for effective implementations of targeted programme for their resettlement and rehabilitation.
- Promote partnership with corporate sector on disseminating UN Security Council Resolution 1325
- Conduct innovative action research from gender perspectives on different dimensions of conflict and its impact and linkages as a pilot program in a district affected by conflict
- Build capacity of NGOs, Civil society organizations, Government bodies, Media and Non-traditional partners like faith based groups to advocate, disseminate and implement UN Security Council 1325
- Collect (disaggregate) data on women combatants; their ethnicity, previous and existing roles, status, concerns issue expectations etc.

# Introduction

# 1

In February 1996, Maoist rebels started a 'People's War' in Nepal, demanding social, economic, and political reform. Since that time, the Maoists sought to achieve their demands through armed conflict, which was met by violent government backlash. The resulting insurgency, led to an estimated 12,000 deaths and thousands of displaced individuals and families. Thousands of people have been victims of trauma, forced displacement, and violence. The plight of women and girls is more severe than that of their male counterparts due to gender specific violence and inequalities exacerbated by the conflict.

Gender specific violence led to immeasurable suffering of Nepali women and girls during the insurgency. Rape, sexual abuse, and torture by both warring sides were widespread. Sexual violence was used as a tool to punish women for their alleged connection with either side of the conflict. Women, impregnated with children conceived in rape, had little recourse to safe abortion services. Women were often forced to give birth in unsanitary settings because health posts were regular targets of destruction. Women and girls have been trafficked out of conflict-ridden areas only to find themselves victims of sexual and domestic slavery in other parts of Nepal and India. The number of those who have been infected with HIV and AIDS as a result of sexual exploitation during the conflict is yet unknown.

The insurgency also exacerbated gender inequalities, deeply rooted in traditional religious and social practices. With increasingly insecure food supply, women and girls' health was threatened by inequitable food distribution, resulting in malnutrition and severe anemia. Girls' educational opportunities, already less than those of boys, further diminished because of the need for girls to enter the workforce in order to help support the family. Girls with little education and no skills were often forced into exploitative jobs. Because of strong son preference in Nepal more and more daughters, rather than sons, were sent in response to the call for forced recruitment by Maoists. There have also been reports of girls being married off at increasingly younger ages out of fear of rape and forced recruitment ruining their marriage prospects later.

Mothers faced particular hardship. As men and young people migrated out of the country to avoid the conflict and seek opportunities abroad, married women were left behind to care for children and the elderly, creating a heavy burden of responsibility. Moreover as Nepali citizenship can only be passed down through the father, mothers who gave birth to children of displaced, missing or killed men were unable to confer citizenship on their children, creating a generation of 'stateless children. Though the House of Representatives on May 30, 2006 has endorsed a landmark proposal to ensure a woman's right to confer citizenship to her children, this it is yet to be reflected in legislation.

Gender inequalities exacerbated by the conflict also significantly burdened internally displaced people including women. Due to discriminatory laws related to property and welfare, women became particularly vulnerable when they were

driven away from their homes or when a husband or close male relative was killed or injured. Even those entitled to compensation as a result of the loss of a husband who was, for example, a police officer, were often unaware of their legal entitlement. Increasing number of widows found themselves without land or income. Women who were compelled to leave their homes faced tremendous difficulty finding decent employment because of lack of resources and skills. In order to survive and support their families, displaced women were often forced to work in exploitative conditions, subjecting them to abuse and trauma.

Despite all the suffering faced by Nepali women during the conflict they are glaringly absent from national and international peace efforts. A November 2004 scan of consultants working on peace issues in Nepal revealed that all the two hundred consultants were men. In the context of the changed political situation in Nepal, on May 30, 2006 the House of Representatives unanimously endorsed a landmark proposal reserving at least 33 percent of posts in the state mechanism for women. But this has not been reflected in practice. The government did not include any women in all the Committees formed right after this declaration. Women were even excluded from the Committee formed for drafting the Interim Constitution compelling them to come to the streets. Without addressing the gendered dimensions of the conflict and without women's direct and active engagement in the peace process there is little hope that a meaningful and sustainable peace can be achieved.

## 1.1 Objectives of the Rapid Scan

Through a Rapid Scan of organizations working on peace in Nepal this study aims to promote the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1325 and the Beijing Platform for Action which specifically addresses the issue of women, peace, and security. The specific objectives of the study are to:

- Compile information on organizations working on peace initiatives in Nepal in general, and women and peace in particular, with special reference to internally displaced persons (IDPs);
- Make available comprehensive information so as to compliment and build synergy with other organizations working on women and peace issues; and
- Enhance advocacy with government and key stakeholders towards strengthening gender sensitive implementation of peace initiatives.

## 1.2 Methodology

In order to achieve the above outlined study objectives, the following methodologies were adopted;

1. **Review of documents:** Review of policy and literature, published and unpublished documents and programs addressing issues of women and peace in Nepal;
2. **Interview:** Interviews were conducted with a total of 27 individuals representing NGO's, experts and activists working on the issue.

**3. Compilation of organizations profile:** The compilation of a roster of organizations working for peace in general and more specifically those working for women and peace and IDPs.

### **1.3 Limitation of the Rapid Scan**

The study is based on interviews taken with different individuals and on the materials available. Moreover, the information is collected from only Kathmandu based organizations. Therefore, it should be taken only as an indicative scan rather than an in-depth study and analysis of a holistic national scenario.



# State Obligation to Engage Women in Peace Building Process and for their Protection during Conflict

## 2.1. Beijing Platform for Action with the Beijing +5 Political Declaration and Outcome Document

### According to the Beijing Platform for Action:

“Violation of human rights in situations of armed conflict and military occupation are violations of the fundamental principles of international human rights and humanitarian law as embodied in international human rights instruments and in the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the additional Protocols thereto. Gross human rights violation and policies of ethnic cleansing in war-torn and occupied areas continue to be carried out. These practices have created, *inter alia*, a mass flow of refugees and other displaced persons in need of international protection and internally displaced persons, the majority of whom are women, adolescent girls and children, civilian victims, mostly women and children, often become caregivers for injured combatants and find themselves, sole parent, and caretakers of elderly relatives.<sup>2</sup>

Some of the strategies mentioned in the Beijing Platform for Action are:

- Increase the participation of women in conflict resolution at decision-making levels and protect women living in situations of armed and other conflict or under foreign occupation,
- Reduce excessive military expenditure and control the availability of armaments,
- Promote non-violent forms of conflict resolution and reduce the incidence of human rights abuse in conflict situations,
- Promote women’s contribution to fostering a culture of peace,
- Provide protection, assistance and training to refugee women, other displaced women in need of international protection and internally displaced women.

## 2.2 United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) adopted by the Security Council at its 4213<sup>th</sup> Meeting, on 31 October 2000.

Civilians, particularly women and children, account for the vast majority of those adversely affected by armed conflict, including as refugees and internally displaced persons, and increasingly are targeted by combatants and armed elements. The Resolution recognizes the consequent impact this has on durable

<sup>2</sup> Beijing Declarations and Platform for Action with the Beijing +5 Political Declarations and Outcome Document, 2001, p. 83.

peace and reconciliation. It also reaffirms the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building, stressing the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and the need to increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution. It also reaffirms the need to implement fully international humanitarian and human rights that protect the rights of women and girls during and after conflicts.

The Resolution 1325 has also recognized the impact of armed conflict on women and girls and the need for effective institutional arrangements to guarantee their protection and full participation in the peace process that can significantly contribute to the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security.

### **UN SC Resolution 1325**

- It urges member states to ensure increased representation of women at all decision-making levels in national, regional, and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management and resolution of conflict,
- It urges the Secretary-General to implement a strategic plan of action for an increase in the participation of women at decision making levels and in special representation in conflict resolution and peace process,
- It also urges to incorporate a gender perspective into peacekeeping operations,
- It requests the Secretary General to provide to member states training guidelines and materials on the protection, rights and the particular needs of women, as well as on the importance of involving women in all peacekeeping and peace-building measures.
- It also urges the member states to increase their voluntary financial, technical and logistical support for gender-sensitive training efforts,
- One of the important aspects is to adopt the gender perspective when negotiating and implementing peace agreements, addressing the special needs of women and girls during repatriation and resettlement and for rehabilitation, reintegration and post-conflict reconstruction.

## **2.3 Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict, 1974**

The Declaration calls for the protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflict and for the strict observance of the declaration by the Member states to prohibit attacks and bombings on the civilian population, especially women and children. It also stresses that the state party shall take all efforts to ensure the prohibition of measures such as persecution, torture, punitive measures, degrading treatment and violence, particularly to women and children. The Declaration also states that all forms of repression and cruel inhuman treatment of women and children shall be considered criminal. It also highlights that women and children should not be deprived from shelter, food, medical aid or other inalienable rights, in accordance with the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Declaration of the Rights of the Child or other instruments of international law.

# Programs, Plans and Policies of the Government

# 3

## 3.1 National Human Rights Action Plan

The National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP), 2004 was formulated with the participation of governmental organizations, civil societies, labor organizations and social organizations, legal practitioners, journalists, experts and professionals. It was prepared with the aim of establishing a culture of human rights in Nepal. Its key objectives are to protect and promote the inalienable rights of the citizens as established by the Constitution of the Kingdom of Nepal, 1990, to guarantee human rights according to international agreements entered into by the nation through appropriate policy formulation and program implementation.

The national plan of action was developed with the following objectives <sup>3</sup>

- To help establish peace in the nation and achieve political and social balance,
- To give a feeling of personal safety and security to the people and protect inalienable basic human rights,
- To rehabilitate and resettle the victims of the conflict and reconstruct the physical and social infrastructure damaged during the conflict and
- To minimize economic, social, and cultural discrimination and marginalization.

### Some Key action plans are:

- Protect and promote human rights of victims and potential victims of armed conflict through amendment of existing laws and enactment of new laws in conformity with international human rights norms and standards.
- Establish a mechanism for the peaceful and democratic resolution of armed conflict and avoidance of race and gender related discrimination during armed conflict,
- Protection and assistance to the victims of and those displaced by armed conflict for their repatriation and rehabilitation.
- Protection of the victims and potential victims of armed conflict from sexual, mental and physical violence and exploitation.

The action plan was designed for mid-term to long-term in consultation with all the government agencies like the Parliament Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers, MoLJPA, LRC, MoD, MoF, Local bodies, NGO's, MoLD, NPC, NHRC, MoHA, MOWCSW and also the civil society.

## 3.2 Tenth Plan (2002-2007)

There has not been significant improvement in the status of women as expected due to various reasons in Nepal. Traditional outlook of the society towards women is one of the main reasons for this situation. In this regard the welfare approach

is now being gradually transformed to rights based approach by the government in mainstreaming programs. The primary objective of the Tenth Plan is to create an egalitarian society based upon women's right by improving GDI (Gross Development Indicator) and by abolishing all sorts of discrimination against women for the realization of economic growth and poverty eradication goals of the Tenth Plan.

### **Policy and Work Strategy Related to Women**

Under local level programs and women's participation:

- Increase women's access to employment, occupational technology and resource allocation by providing skill oriented training. Self employment oriented jobs will be created for women displaced due to criminal activities as well as single women. Also, women's access to employment opportunities created under targeted programs and micro credit will be extended.<sup>4</sup>
- Undertake necessary steps for socio-economic development of geographically, socially and economically backward women including physically challenged and those victimized by insurgency.

### **Programs for Women**

One of the major objectives of the Tenth Plan is to develop programs to provide compensation, counseling services, medical treatment, legal advice and rehabilitation and re-integration for the survivors of domestic violence, trafficking and other types of atrocities. In addition, programs, such as, providing security to displaced women like widows, orphans and other children and women victimized due to emerging political conflicts, as well as their rehabilitation and income generating programs based upon community will be initiated.<sup>5</sup>

## **3.3 Relief Programs for Conflict Affected Persons (2061)**

### **• Financial Compensation**

Due to the conflict in the country, a large number of people including women and children were being victimized. Some of the major initiatives of the government are; economic support to families of those who were killed in the armed conflict, economic support of Rs. 1 Lakh 50 thousand to families of the civilians who were killed in the armed conflict, financial support of Rs. One lakh to families who were killed by the security personnel and lump sum of Rs. 7 Lakh 50 thousand to families of security personnel who were killed as a result of armed conflict.<sup>6</sup>

### **• Opportunity for Foreign Employment**

The Government provides opportunities for foreign employment to one of the family members who have been affected by the death of the sole bread winner of the family. The government has been able to facilitate the foreign employment of 235 individuals and this program is still continuing. Also, the government facilitates the employment of one of the family member of

internally displaced persons. In this regard the government has successfully facilitated the employment of 5, 45 individuals since 2052.<sup>7</sup>

- **Program for the Orphans**

The Government supports orphans by providing Rs. 1,000.00 per person/ per month which is directly provided to the Bal Mandir. The program is organized under Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare.

- **Program for the Conflict Affected Women**

The government runs skill based training for conflict affected women.

- **Relief Program**

Those displaced people who do not have alternate income source will be provided with training at the centre of the district. Before providing the training the Government provides economic support of lump sum of Rs. 2,000.00 to individuals from families consisting of up to 4 persons in the family. Similarly, Rs. 3,500.00 is provided to persons belonging to families of up to 5-8 members and Rs. 4,500.00 to individuals belonging to a family with more than 8 members. And after receiving the training if they need loan for starting any income generating profession the government makes arrangements for acquiring the loan as well.

- **Allowances to the Injured/Handicapped**

Allowances of Rs. 500.00 per month are provided to those injured/ handicapped from the conflict through a new program under the Ministry of Home.

- **Allowances to the Elderly People**

The Government has planned to start a new program under the Ministry of Home to help those who are above 60 years of age and are IDP and helpless. Allowance of Rs. 300.00 is provided to only one of the members of the family if the family has more than one person fulfilling the criteria.

- **Educational Allowances**

Educational allowances are provided annually to the children of police personnel who were killed in the armed conflict as follows;

- Rs. 10,000.00 for the Primary Level,
- RS. 12,000.00 for the Lower Secondary Level,
- Rs. 14,000.00 for the Secondary Level,
- Rs. 16,000.00 for Intermediate Level,
- Rs. 18,000.00 for Bachelor Level and
- Rs. 20,000.00 for Masters Level study.

<sup>6</sup> Relief Programs for Conflict Affected Persons (2061). <sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*



# Impact of Armed Conflict on Women and Children

## 4

The Maoist insurgency has seriously affected the lives of women in Nepal. According to a study conducted by Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC) 748 women were killed by the state party and 163 women by the non-state actors from 13 February 1996 to 31 October 2005.<sup>8</sup> Similarly, another study reveals that in a sample size of 142, 69% of women faced human rights violations from the government side and 31% from the Maoists.<sup>9</sup> The impact of the conflict can be seen in the following ways;

### 4.1 Difficulties faced by Citizens due to Armed Conflict

#### ● No Security of Life and Property

The conflict has had a severe impact on the lives of innocent civilians as well as their property. Conflict has claimed the lives of thousands of innocent civilian population. Due to lack of security, people were afraid to travel even within the country due to fear of being killed by either side. On the other hand the state owned property and the property of the general population was also destroyed on a large scale.

#### ● Violation of Human Rights

The human right of people was grossly violated in the conflict situation. . During the emergency, all the constitutionally guaranteed citizen's rights were suspended except for the right to habeas corpus. With the emergency imposed, no voices were visibly heard against the violation of human rights. Media was censored, civil society activities were virtually curtailed or were forced to obtain prior approval from the Chief District Office for organizing any programme. Citizens were deprived from receiving basic facilities such as communication, basic health facilities, drinking water etc. They had to travel hours to reach their destination as the Maoists had destroyed the shortcut roads.

#### ● Internal Displacement

One of the major consequences of the insurgency in Nepal has been the internal displacement of the hundreds of thousands of people from the affected areas. However till date there is no reliable data regarding IDP's who were forced to stay helplessly away from their own native villages. The basic reasons for the displacement are: association of a family member with the insurgents or mere suspicion of such association, sexual exploitation by either party or fear of such sexual exploitation or fear of life resulting from not supporting either party to the conflict, forced recruitment, indiscriminate killing, torture from both parties, disappearance etc.

<sup>8</sup> INSEC updated study, 2005.

<sup>9</sup> Maoist Insurgency and the Human Rights Violation of Women, WOREC.

- **Forced Migration & unsafe Migration**

As a result of the conflict, many people particularly the productive group of youth and men are forced to migrate to foreign lands.

- **Encroachment of Land and Household by the Conflicting Parties**

One of the major impacts of the armed conflict is the encroachment of land and households in many parts of the country.

- **Unemployment**

As a result of the ongoing conflict in the nation, most people were forced to migrate to foreign lands or they were forced to leave their native villages and move to the district center or to Kathmandu Valley, which has resulted, in an increase in the population of Kathmandu Valley. Due to this, the number of unemployed people is increasing day by day.

- **Use of Landmines**

The use of landmines by both parties, the state and the Maoists, was of grave concern in terms of human rights violation. Civilians and children were most severely victimized by landmines. In terms of international human rights law, both parties were violating international law by using landmines as a weapon of war. Landmines left behind in certain areas after attacks had become a threat to the lives of children, with devastating effects on their day to day life even after the war ended.

- **Destruction of Infrastructure**

The most obvious ways in which conflict inflicted economic costs to the nation is through destruction of existing infrastructure such as bridges, telecommunication stations, district health posts, district police stations, village development committee buildings, etc.

- **Economic Burden on State**

As mentioned above, one of the major impacts of the conflict is the destruction of the infrastructure, which automatically increases the economic burden on the nation. On the other hand, there has been adverse effect in development as more budget has been allocated for security costs, severely affecting the budget of the education, health, drinking water and local development sectors. As a result, development expenditure in the social sector is rapidly shrinking.

### Security expenditure (in billions)<sup>10</sup>

Fiscal year	Army	Police (Civil and APF)	Total	% Of GDP
1997/1998	2.68	2.53	5.16	1.78
1998/1999	3.03	2.92	5.95	1.8
1999/2000	3.51	3.32	6.83	1.86
2000/2001	3.90	5.27	9.17	2.33
2001/2002	5.88	7.28	13.16	2.56
2002/2003	7.50	7.59	15.09	3.52

On the other hand there is a decline in the development budget in the social sector in a society with one of the lowest social indicators, which has serious implications with respect to long-term growth and productivity of the economy.

Sectors	FY 2000/2001	FY 2001/2002
Health	Rs. 2.78b	Rs. 2.75 b
Education	Rs. 1.97b	Rs. 1.87b
Local Development	Rs. 4.62b	Rs. 4.15b

#### Slow Development

Due to the diversion of the resources for security purposes the budget allocated for development programs is inadequate. Hence, the development of the nation has been very slow.

#### Increase in Poverty

The conflict has also resulted in an increase in the poverty of the nation. Tourism is one of the main sectors of Nepal's economy but, unfortunately, it has also become one of the areas most affected by the conflict. Similarly, it has also impacted the overall business environment.

#### Brain Drain

Nepal has a long tradition of people going abroad for work. The conflict further encouraged the Nepali people to go and work or even settle down in foreign countries, resulting in an increasing burden of brain drain.

## 4.2. Specific Adverse Impact on Women and Children

### • Increase in Violence Against Women and Children

During conflict women and girls are vulnerable to all forms of violence, particularly sexual violence and exploitation, including torture, rape, mass rape, and trafficking. Similarly, the health consequences for women and girls during the conflict are also enormous. According to INSEC, from 13 February 1996 to 31 October 2005 total of 911 women have been killed by both sides. According to CWIN-NRCIC, in the course of 11 years of armed conflict, it has been reported that: 445 (309 boys and 136 girls) have already died, 522 (318 boys and 150 girls and 54 are

<sup>10</sup> The Costs of war in Nepal, National Peace Campaign, p. 18.

unknown) have been injured, 30,587 children have been abducted (captured and released in many cases) and around 254 children have been arrested by state security force.

From the period of Jan – April 2006, it has been recorded that: 23 children (13 boys and 10 girls) have been killed, 47 children (35 boys and 13 girls) have been injured. Similarly, 514 children have been abducted (captured and released in many cases) by the rebel group and state security forces have arrested 16 (3 boys and 2 girls and 13 unidentified) children. 11 children (7 boys and 4 unidentified) involved in Maoist activities **had** surrendered.

#### ● **Increase in the Number of Single Women**

During the twelve year long conflict many citizens of Nepal had lost their lives . The data available from INSEC shows that from 13 February 1996 to 31 October a total of 8273 persons had been killed by the state (5852 males, 748 females and 1673 sex not identified). On the other hand a total of 4577 persons were killed by the non-state actors (4218 males, 163 females and 196 gender not identified). Hence total of 12,850 people have been killed from both the rebel and the security side. This has consequently resulted in an increase in the number of single women, though there is no exact data reflecting this.

#### ● **Increase in the Number of Orphans**

One of the major impacts of the conflict is the increase in the number of orphans. Armed conflict has deprived young children from their parent's love. They are left without any support. The government also does not have sufficient programs to support these children. There is also lack of specific data reflecting the increase in orphans and their situation.

#### ● **Work Load on Women**

In the situation of armed conflict, many men fled their hometown out of fear of being kidnapped or killed by the armed forces. In these circumstances, women were left behind with full responsibility for the household work. They had to take care of their children as well as the entire household. As a result, it increased the workload of already burdened women.

#### ● **Children Deprived of the Right to Education**

The education sector was affected the most due to the conflict in Nepal. The negative effects range from frequent Nepal bandhs (strikes), to infliction of physical damage to institutions and attacks on teachers and other personnel involved in professional institutions. Many school buildings have been burnt or destroyed. Schools became a sort of battle field between the security forces and the Maoists. Due to the frequent bandhs called by the Maoists, regular classes were affected tremendously. Schools were forced to close frequently and sometimes examinations also had to be postponed.

The constant attack on the education system from both sides stopped many children from going to schools. Many either dropped school or hesitated to join one, especially if the school was not nearby. In many cases they were compelled

to migrate to the district center for education - which however was not a possible option for many students. Many girls were forced into early marriage so as to escape forced recruitment thus hampering their educational prospects. .

#### • **Psychological Impact on Women & Children**

Children have been most vulnerable to the psychological effect of violence. Many have grown up in a culture of revenge and violence. Children are seen suffering from depressive reactions; aggressive behaviour, social withdrawal and fear . The psychological impact on women is also enormous as they had to struggle hard in keeping the family intact with limited resources and heavy workload. Due to the increased responsibility and work burden women are found to be suffering from frustration, depression, anxiety, conversion disorder, psychosomatic pain, shock and fear. They were harassed by the demand of both warring sides for shelter and food and had to face sexual slavery, sexual harassment, rape, and other forms of violence which affected their physical as well as their mental wellbeing.

#### • **Girls Deprived of Education**

As a result of the conflict in Nepal, children were forced to leave school. Some of them mainly boys got a chance to go to the district center and continue their studies. However the victims of this situation were mostly girls as parents were not in favour of sending their daughters to the district center for education. So they were forced to leave their studies and help in the household chores. As a result, their right to education was violated.

#### • **Sexual Exploitation of Women**

Sexual exploitation of women is reported to have taken place rampantly in conflict affected areas. . Both sides exhorted to sexual exploitation of women and girls as a means of revenge. Women and girls were attacked in their homes, in the fields or as they moved around for their other daily activities. There were increasing number of reported incidences of sexual exploitation and sexual violence in conflict affected areas.

### **4.3 Some Indirect Positive Changes brought about by the Conflict**

In spite of the severe impact on the lives of the general masses particularly on the lives of women and children the conflict has also brought about some positive changes:

#### • **Increase in Decision Making Power of Women**

It is generally perceived that women are docile, soft and they are basically meant to play a supportive role in the society and family. But during the twelve years long conflict in Nepal, this traditional perception has been challenged. Women from the rural areas have become more empowered as they were increasingly involved in decision making positions within the family. Women have started to take a leading role at the household level in the absence of male family member.

This is a positive indication leading to the changing empowered role of women within households and outside.

● **Change in Traditional Role of Women**

It is generally perceived that women are meant for doing only house work. It is believed that they can not make any strong decisions nor are they meant for that. In most households women are not allowed to go out for work, they cannot plough the land, and they cannot do the work, which is traditionally set out for males. But with the conflict women have been compelled to come out of their houses and engage in activities normally prescribed for men, thus breaking the traditional and cultural barriers set up for women in our society.

● **Women Engaged in Combat, eg. Army Act Changed**

Women are discriminated against not only in job opportunities but also in wage rates. Most women are confined to the informal sector where wages are low, working hours are longer, working conditions are poor and other compensations are non-existent especially in agriculture and construction sectors. The pattern of labour force employment indicates a large proportion of women working as unpaid family workers, 63% for women and 24% for men.<sup>11</sup> However the recruitment of a considerably large percentage of women in the Maoist forces and their active engagement in the forefront of the battle has proven that women can also play a vital role in the armed forces.

The Military Police Rules, 2058 (2001) has incorporated a new provision of appointment of women as soldiers in the Military Police, which is an opportunity for women who want to serve the nation. It has also increased the avenue of employment opportunity for women.

● **Realization of the Rights of the Marginalized Population (Concept of inclusive democracy)**

The conflict has also brought about the realization that the rights of the marginalized population need to be addressed for the full development of the nation. Voices have been raised for the advancement of the *dalits*, a minority population, for which previously there had never been such active advocacy. It is said that the root cause of conflict, apart from poverty, marginalization, unemployment etc, is the people's desire for change. The conflict has considerably provided the platform for strengthened voices of the poor, disadvantaged and marginalized people This supports the present provision of the constitution that each and everyone is equal and has equal rights as citizens of Nepal.

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<sup>11</sup> An Update of Discriminatory Laws in Nepal and Their Impact on Women, Forum for Women, Law and Development (FWLD) 2004, p.71.

# Profile of the Organizations

# 5

As per the information available, the organizations included in this scan have been categorized into two categories namely;

- 5.1 Organizations Working for Women/Children and Peace Issues.
- 5.2 Organizations Working Specifically on Peace.

## 5.1. Organizations working for Women/Children and Peace Issues.

### 5.1.1 Beyond Beijing Committee (BBC)

#### a. Overview of the Organization

**BBC** was established in September 1995. It mainly targets to implement the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) through various activities and programs at grassroots, national and international level.

#### b. Objectives of the Organization

1. To advance the cause of women and gender justice through the effective implementation of the BPFA and monitoring of the constitutional and legal implementation of the BPFA and CEDAW.
2. To create a lobbying mechanism for gender-justice and advancement in the policy process;
3. To elicit the commitment of NGOs to the BPFA and to ensure their accountability;
4. To hold the government accountable for BPFA national plan of action;
5. To contextualize the BPFA to reflect Nepalese realities through legal and administrative measures;
6. To enhance the systematic advocacy campaign for the adoption of a common Nepali agenda on women rights and gender-justice;
7. To encourage mass media (both print and electronic) to disseminate information on gender issues throughout the country;
8. To strengthen the networking abilities of women's organizations and rights-based groups in order to sustain a unified movement for the advancement of women's status in Nepal;
9. To advocate the enactment and enforcement of laws safeguarding women's equality as well as the introduction of affirmative action incentives and penalties for non-adherence;
10. To create platform to develop activities based on local realities to enhance women's and girl's rights through local members;
11. To advocate and promote women's and youth's health rights at local, national and international level;
12. To work towards universal primary education and the revision of all textbooks to eliminate sex-role stereotyping by 2015;

13. To advance adult legal, economic and political literacy programs to augment basic literacy, in addition to formal and non-formal education on human rights, peace, gender, democracy, development and the environment at all levels;
14. To identify issues of concern regarding the structural, institutional and ideological barriers blocking the realization of women's rights and develop a common vision and understanding;

### **c. Organizational Capacity**

*The organization is headed by Ms. Tulsa Rona and has a total number of 6 staff (4F/2M).*

### **d. Area of Work**

The major area of work is 12 critical areas of concerns identified by the Beijing Platform for Action, especially reproductive health rights and citizenship rights of women and children.

### **e. Major Activities**

Major activities include; training, awareness, advocacy and lobbying.

### **f. Level of Intervention**

BBC works from Village Development Committee (VDC) to national level.

### **g. Organizational Involvement in the Peace and Conflict Initiatives**

The organization specifically focuses on the twelve critical areas of concerns identified by the BPFA which also include the women and armed conflict.

#### **Contact Address**

Beyond Beijing Committee  
P.O. Box: 4690, Pulchock, Nepal  
Tel: 977-1-5530880/5520054  
Fax: 977-1-5520042  
E-mail: beyondbeijing@wlink.com.np

## **5.1.2 Center for Victims of Torture, Nepal (CVICT)**

### **a. Overview of the Organization**

Founded in 1990, **CVICT** is a Nepali non-profit organization committed to rehabilitating victims of torture as well as advocating for the prevention of torture and the protection and promotion of human rights. Recently, CVICT has identified child victims of conflict as a target group for its efforts.

### **b. Objectives of the Organization**

- To provide comprehensive rehabilitative care and support to victims of torture as well as their families;

- To work on prevention of torture through raising awareness on torture and human rights issues among the public in general and professional groups;
- To promote the expertise in terms of psychosocial care in Nepal for increased access and use of psychosocial interventions;
- To bring about access to justice in community level and peace building efforts in Nepal.

### **c. Organizational Capacity**

The organization is headed by Mr. Bhogendra Sharma and has a staff of 49 individuals. It has two branch offices in Nepalgunj and Biratnagar. Currently Biratnagar branch office is not functioning. It also has 25 lawyers in 25 districts throughout the country.

### **d. Area of Expertise**

Area of expertise includes psychosocial counseling for victims of torture and advocacy to eradicate torture.

### **e. Area of Work**

CV ICT's main focus areas of work include the provision of services for victims of torture and efforts to eradicate torture in Nepal and counseling to the children affected by conflict.

The major activities of CVICT are;

- Comprehensive rehabilitation for torture victims, including the provision of holistic medical, psychosocial and legal services;
- Community outreach services;
- Community mediation program;
- Advocacy and campaigning against torture;
- Capacity building efforts, including training workshops for psychosocial counselors, district lawyers, and community mediators;
- Empowering grassroots institutions including psychosocial service providers and local partner organizations.

### **f. Level of Intervention**

CVICT's work operates at the following levels of intervention

- 1) Micro: Direct service provision.
- 2) Meso: Capacity building among service providers and local partner organizations.
- 3) Macro: Advocacy efforts to eradicate torture.

### **g. Organizational Involvement in Peace and Conflict Initiatives**

CVICT runs two programs, psychosocial training and counseling as well as legal counseling and aid which directly deal with individuals affected by the conflict in Nepal. Although neither focuses exclusively on women victims of conflict or internally displaced persons, both, by the nature of their mandates, serve this population.

### ● **Psychosocial Training and Counseling**

The goal of CVICT's psychosocial training and counseling program is to reduce the emotional distress of torture victims, particularly children who have been affected by armed conflict. Training for psychosocial counselors is intensive and takes place over a period of five to six months.

The **outcome** of CVICT's psychosocial training and counseling program include:

1. Production of skilled psychosocial counselors who go on to serve as community leaders, school teachers, and community psychosocial workers; and
2. Provision of direct services to victims of torture, particularly women and children, who are then able to overcome their emotional distress.

The **challenges** identified by the Training Coordinator with respect to the psychosocial training and counseling program include:

1. Difficulty familiarizing the general population about the concept of psychosocial counseling and how they may benefit from it;
2. Difficulty convincing trainers of the need to conduct long-term (5-6 month) training sessions in order to ensure effectiveness; and
3. Difficulty in finding funding sources.

### ● **Legal Counseling and Aid**

The goal of CVICT's legal counseling and aid program is to help with both the rehabilitation process for torture victims as well as prevention efforts. It also involves a rights-based community mediation program which allows for the resolution of more minor disputes and encourages local involvement in peace-building efforts which is based in three districts: Jhapa, Ilam, and Saptari.

The **outcome** of CVICT's legal counseling and aid program include:

1. Victims of torture are educated about their rights under international law;
2. Rights-based community mediation encourages local involvement in dispute resolution. To date, 646 mediation committees have been formed.

The **challenges** identified by the Legal Coordinator with respect to the legal counseling and aid program include:

1. Having to speak up against the government and security forces who commit acts of torture and difficulty in making them understand the severity of their actions;
2. Advocacy related to the Convention against Torture (CAT). Although Nepal has signed the CAT, it is not a binding law in the country and
3. The number of cases reported by women is very low;

### **Contact Address**

Centre for Victims of Torture, Nepal (CVICT)

P.O. Box 5839, Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel. No.: 977-1-4373902/4373486, Fax: 977-1-4373020

Email: [cvict@cvict.org.np](mailto:cvict@cvict.org.np), Website: [www.cvict.org.np](http://www.cvict.org.np)

## 5.1.3 Child Workers in Nepal Concerned Centre (CWIN)

### a. Overview of the Organization

**Child Workers in Nepal Concerned Centre (CWIN)** is an organization in Nepal that works for child rights. It was established in 1987 by a group of university students. It focuses its activities on the issues of child rights, girl's rights, child labour, trafficking, bonded labour, street children, child abuse and children in armed conflict.

### b. Vision and Mission of CWIN

Its mission is to provide the rights of children to live a dignified life without any discrimination, exploitation and injustice. CWIN works as an advocate being an organization of resources, a community link and network, it promote and protects child's rights.

### c. Objectives of CWIN

The main objectives of CWIN is to help build a national and international child rights movement to eliminate all forms of abuse, exploitation and injustice against children through advocacy, emergency action, social mobilization, alliance building and solidarity in action.

### d. Organizational Capacity

The organization is headed by Mr. Gauri Pradhan and has a total of 126 staff (80 males/43 females) including from the branch offices.

### e. Focus Area of Work

The focus area of work is child rights.

### f. Area of Expertise

Area of expertise is also child rights.

### g. Level of Intervention

Level of intervention ranges from district level to national level.

### h. Major Activities

Major activities include awareness raising program, advocacy, training etc.

### i. Organizational Involvement in Peace Initiatives

#### **Address the Issue of Children in Conflict**

One of the major programs of CWIN is to address the issue of children in conflict. Large numbers of children are facing the unpleasant consequences of ongoing conflict in Nepal. Children have not only lost their lives but also have been injured, arrested, homeless, and displaced. They are deprived of education. Children are psychologically traumatized, forced into hazardous child labour

and child soldiering. CWIN has initiated various activities to address children's issues.

It conducts advocacy programs to urge conflicting parties to stop all forms of violations of children's rights. In addition, CWIN is an integral part of the national campaign on "Children as Zones of Peace". It has also set up National Resource Centre on Children in Conflict to raise awareness, enhance human resources, and disseminate information for reliable information. CWIN provides emergency humanitarian support and education support for children in emergency need so as to ensure education and other fundamental rights of children. It also organizes children's participation by organizing consultations with children on various issues. All the programs have been action oriented focusing on children in armed conflict.

#### **Contact Address**

Child workers in Nepal Concerned Centre (CWIN)  
P.O.Box: 4374, Ravi Bhawan, Kathmandu, Nepal  
Tel: 977-1-4278064/4282255, Fax: 977-1-4278016  
Email: cwin@mos.com.np, Website: www.cwin.org.np

## **5.1.4 Community Action Center-Nepal (CAC-Nepal)**

### **a. Overview of the Organization**

CAC-Nepal is a non-governmental social organization. It was established in 1993. CAC-Nepal's basic principle is based on the conviction that the paramount need is to develop in the people the spirit of working together in partnership to promote sustainable development with special emphasis on women and children.

### **b. Goal**

The main goal of **CAC-Nepal** is to make women and children aware of their legal rights and make them productive members of society based on social justice.

### **c. Vision**

- Women and children of Nepal are food secure, healthy, and living in a physically and socially safe environment,
- All people, irrespective of gender or caste, have equitable access to natural resources and are capable of managing their own destinies. They group together to form self-reliant, equitable, and empowered communities.

### **d. Mission**

Empowerment and development of the community to tackle the problems of women and children. This can be ensured through an effective implementation and strengthening of support service systems. CAC-Nepal works through formal and informal partnerships with communities, local organizations, local and national governments, and the private sector.

### **e. Objectives**

- Empowering women and children,
- Taking action against trafficking and domestic violence,

### **f. Organizational Capacity**

The organization is headed by Ms. Tulasa Lata Amatya and has a total staff of 25 (20F/5 M).

### **g. Organizational involvement in Peace and Conflict Initiatives**

- CAC is a member of Shanti Malika (Women Network for Peace).
- Advocating, supporting and providing advice to concerned offices and organizations on protecting human rights and the rights of women and children,
- Conducting public awareness campaigns at both the national and community levels on the rights and welfare of women and children.

#### **Contact Address**

Community Action Centre-Nepal (CAC)  
Bansabari, P.O. Box 8234, Kathmandu, Nepal  
Phone: 977-1-4375086, 4378025  
Fax: 977-1-4370999  
E-mail: cac\_nepal@cac\_nepal.wlink.com.np  
Cac\_nepal@hotmail.com  
Cac\_nepal@yahoo.com

## **5.1.5 Didi Bahini**

### **a. Overview of the Organization**

Founded in 1991, **Didi Bahini** is committed to involving women in Nepal's development process. Didi Bahini works to promote gender equality in a number of areas including education, agriculture, economic rights, governance, natural resource management, and conflict resolution.

### **b. Objectives of the Organization**

- 1) To work towards equal involvement of men and women in Nepal's development programs;
- 2) To use a participatory learning approach to achieve a world of gender equality; and
- 3) To foster gender sensitive citizens throughout Nepal.

### **c. Organizational Capacity**

Didi Bahini is headed by Ms. Saloni Singh and has a full time staff of 10-12 individuals. It has three branch offices (Kathmandu, Parsa, and Bhaktapur) as well as district learning centers which house gender-friendly resource libraries in Anam Nagar (Kathmandu), Chapali Bhadrakali (Kathmandu), Siddhipur (Lalitpur), Dadhikot (Bhaktapur), and Bahuarwa Bhata (Parsa).

#### **d. Area of Work**

Didi Bahini's main area of work is gender.

#### **e. Area of expertise**

Area of expertise includes gender equality training and advocacy.

#### **f. Major Activities**

- 1) Gender training workshops for facilitators.
- 2) Women's rights advocacy.
- 3) Women's leadership and management development.
- 4) Individual capacity building.
- 5) Organizational development for NGOs and CBOs.
- 6) Good governance and peace building initiatives.

#### **g. Level of Intervention**

Micro (ward): Direct service provision (i.e. rehabilitation program, action research)

Meso (district): Capacity building among service providers and local partner organizations

Macro (national): Advocacy efforts to promote gender equality

#### **h. Organizational Involvement in Peace and Conflict Initiatives**

Didi Bahini is involved in peace and conflict initiatives at both the grassroots and national levels. Their peace work is divided into two types of activities: peace-building activities (restoration) at the grassroots level and peace keeping activities (preservation) at the national level.

#### **Grassroots Level (Rehabilitation Program)**

In 2004, Didi Bahini created a pilot rehabilitation program. The **goal** of the program was to provide holistic rehabilitation services in a safe home for wives of those who have been killed on both sides of the conflict and their dependents. Participants were recruited from five conflict-affected districts by local NGOs and CBOs. Three groups of 20-25 victims spent three months each in the rehabilitation program. During this time they were provided with trauma treatment and counseling, as well as social, political, and entrepreneurial skill training.

The **outcome** of the rehabilitation program

- 1) 45 women and 25 children participated in the program;
- 2) Participants had access to medical and mental health services and returned to their communities with a new network of support from fellow participants as well as local community organizations.

The **challenges** of the rehabilitation program

- 1) Maintaining strict confidentiality to ensure the safety of participants;
- 2) Rehabilitation of victims from different castes, religions, and cultures was difficult;
- 3) Time was short;

- 4) Funding was cut off prematurely. This created problems beyond logistical ones as trust and accountability are key elements of working with this vulnerable population.

### **National Level**

The **goal** of Didi Bahini's national level efforts is to promote the role of women and youth in restoring peace. In February 2004, Didi Bahini launched a peace and development campaign which culminated in December 2004 with a one-day national workshop on the role of women in restoring peace. Didi Bahini also has an active national youth program wherein youth are trained as peace educators and return to their communities to spread peace messages.

The **outcome** of Didi Bahini's national work includes;

- 1) Widespread sensitization on the role of women in peace building and the relationship between gender equality and peace; and
- 2) Skill development among youth leaders.

The **challenges** of the national level peace work include:

- 1) Getting women involved at decision making levels of peace building and ensuring that they are not relegated to their traditionally subordinate roles; and
- 2) Ensuring that peace is established at all levels of society – creating awareness that lack of war alone does not constitute peace.

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## **5.1.6 Forum for Women, Law and Development (FWLD)**

### **a. Overview of the Organization**

**Forum for Women, Law and Development (FWLD)** is an NGO established in May 29, 1995 to work for the protection, promotion and advancement of women's human rights, eliminating all forms of discrimination against women. The Forum uses law as an instrument to address discriminations in women's lives and to promote their human rights. Significantly, FWLD has contributed in ensuring women's right to property, right to reproductive health and implementation of CEDAW and BPFA at the domestic level.

### **b. Vision**

The Forum envisions a world free of social injustice and discrimination, where men and women enjoy equal rights and equal access. A world where there is

equal participation of men and women in every sector of the society be it at home, at workplace or policymaking area.

### **c. Mission**

The Forum aims to achieve this goal by working on changing the discriminatory laws, changing the social and cultural biases and promoting the rights of underprivileged, vulnerable and dominated groups, through implementation of the international human rights conventions, addressing the barrier that denies women's access to development and empowering women to participate in the national development.

### **d. Goal**

- Equal and Just Society

### **e. Strategies**

- Research
- Advocacy
- Public Interest Litigation (PIL)
- Networking
- Public Education
- Media Campaigning
- Fact Finding
- Develop IEC Materials, Training Materials, Advocacy Materials

### **f. Organizational Capacity**

The organization is headed by Adv. Sapana Pradhan- Malla and has a total of 24 staff (13 M/11 F).

### **g. Area a of Work**

1. Domestic Application of International Human Rights Instruments
2. Elimination of Violence
3. Protection and Promotion of Human Rights

### **h. Level of Intervention**

The level of intervention ranges from ward level, district level, and national level to international level.

### **i. Organizational Involvement in Peace and Conflict Initiatives**

#### **1. Raised the issue of Women and Armed Conflict as Emerging Issue in the CEDAW Shadow Report**

FWLD raised the issue of Women and Armed Conflict as an emerging issue in the Shadow Report on the Second and Third Periodic Report of Government of Nepal on CEDAW Convention. The chapter highlighted the situation of single women and the need of clear and specific plans and polices for the protection of the rights of single women. Some of the recommendations made on the issue are; to take obligations by state for protecting women's

rights as detailed under the Geneva Convention, UN resolution 1325 and other human rights instruments. The emphasis should be given to the equality approach for women's involvement and active participation in every process of peace building including representation in peace dialogue committee and human rights monitoring committee from local to national level. The government should elaborate suitable policy and programs for the benefit of women and children affected directly and indirectly by the conflict including speedy compensation for victims etc.

## **2. Fact Finding Mission**

FWLD is also a member of Human Rights Treaty Monitoring Coordination Committee (HRTMCC) FWLD has visited many districts for the monitoring of the violation of the human rights specifically of women and children for e.g. Beni visit in 2004, field visit to monitor the blast on public vehicle at Sakhwa in Rautahat district, fact finding on the incidents of shooting by security forces and Maoist in Soyang and Jasbire of Illam districts, Fact finding on the incident of shooting by security forces in the campus premises in Kanchanpur district etc.

## **3. Workshop on Impact of the Conflict on Protection of Women in Conflict**

Workshop on impact of the conflict on protection of women in conflict was organized in 2005 with the following objectives;

- To raise awareness on the increasing Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) situations,
  - To share information; studies, needs assessment undertaken by different actors as well as program activities which include IDP women as beneficiaries in order to understand the activities undertaken for IDP and
  - To strengthen the NGO's/civil society and human rights networking on the issue.
4. FWLD is a member of Shanti Malika (Women Network for Peace) which was established for the sustainable peace in nation and aims to work for the women's equal participation in the peace building process from grass-roots to the national level.
  5. FWLD contributed in development of the leaflet on the UN Resolution 1325 specifically focusing on the transitional justice in the context of Nepal.
  6. FWLD also participated actively in the pressure programmes for the inclusion of the women's in all the committees formed by the government including the peace dialogue.
  7. FWLD, being a member of Shanti Malika contributed in the successful completion of the national conference in August 2005. The main objective of the national conference was to make a strong movement for peace from grass root to national and international levels.

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## 5.1.7 Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC)

**a. Overview of the Organization**

Established in 1990, **INSEC** is dedicated to improving human rights and social justice in Nepal. The organization works to train women, children, and the elderly at the community level, to raise awareness among government and non-government organizations, as well as to monitor and advocate for the signing and implementation of all six major international human rights treaties.

**b. Objectives of the Organization**

- 1) Raise awareness among people, government, law enforcement and other concerned agencies about human rights violations and assure that they act to stop them;
- 2) Ensure that the government promulgates and refines its policies and laws to protect and promote the human rights of its people as per international treaties and conventions;
- 3) Education and training of people, their representatives, law enforcing agencies, and other key stakeholders to take action to protect and promote human rights in the country;
- 4) Create a vibrant network within which a peace building process can take place, including advocacy and conflict mitigation;
- 5) Ensure the enforcement of relevant national laws, rule, and regulations against social discrimination;
- 6) Protect and support people and communities against human rights violations, providing rescue and relief;
- 7) Build the institutional competence of CBOs and other like-minded organizations to work together on human rights, peace building, and policy advocacy; and
- 8) Maintain efficacy through transparent management practices.

**c. Organizational Capacity**

The organization is headed by Mr. Subodh Pyakurel and has a full time staff of 40 individuals in its Kathmandu office. It also has regional staff in all of Nepal's 5 development regions as well as human rights monitoring staff in all of the country's 75 districts.

**d. Area of Work**

Area of work includes the protection and promotion of human rights in Nepal.

## e. Area of Expertise

Area of expertise includes international human rights treaty monitoring and human rights training in conflict affected areas.

## f. Organizational Involvement in Peace and Conflict Initiatives

INSEC's peace campaign has three different components: the formation of women's, children's, and elderly groups in affected communities, training and sensitization of government officials in affected districts and regions, and a campaign to sensitize Maoist leaders. INSEC's peace and conflict staff include 2 people in the central office, 5 at the regional level, 10 at the district level, as well as 1 facilitator and 2 teachers in each participating community. Peace activities are centered in the Mid-Western Development Region of Nepal in the Surkhet and Bardiya districts.

- **Formation of women's, children's and elderly groups in conflict affected areas**

The **goal** of this component of the peace and conflict program is to conduct daily training with individuals affected by the conflict on international human rights law, their rights as citizens, community mediation, and peace building. Adult literacy courses are also provided for those unable to read.

- **Training and sensitization of government officials in affected districts and regions**

The **goal** of this component of the peace and conflict program is to provide training in human rights and international human rights law to government officials in conflict affected areas.

- **Campaign to sensitize Maoist leaders**

The **goal** of this relatively new component of INSEC's work is to create a model for dialogue and peace building with the Maoists. A special peace and education book was designed for the purposes of this program. This model program is taking place in selected villages in Bardiya, Surkhet, Banke, Kanchanpur, and Doti.

*NOTE:* Although INSEC has no formal IDP program, its peace staff has done a great deal of work facilitating the return of IDPs to their home villages in Bardiya and Jumla. By monitoring the plight of displaced persons in their districts and facilitating discussions with Maoists leaders in the IDPs' villages, IDPs have been able to return to their homes.

The **outcome** of the peace and conflict program;

- 1) A total of 279 groups formed, including a total of 5754 individual participants, in the past year;
- 2) 140 victims' children have had the opportunity to enroll in school in the past year;
- 3) 236 IDPs have been able to return to their homes in Bardiya and Jumla in the past year;

- 4) People have been empowered to raise their voices for their own rights. Examples include dialoguing with Maoist leaders about children's right to go to school as well as complaining about the destruction of a drinking water pipe by the Maoists which was subsequently fixed; and
- 5) Other organizations involved in peace and conflict work have benefited through the sharing of materials and curricula that INSEC has developed.

The **challenges** of the peace and conflict program;

- 1) Fear on part of participants that their participation will lead to retaliation from either side of the conflict and
- 2) Ensuring that the concrete needs of participants are met through coordinating direct service work by other organizations.

- **Monitoring of Human Rights Violation**

Monitoring of the human rights violation is one of the activities of INSEC.

- **Provide Secretariat to Human Rights Treaty Monitoring Coordination Committee ( HRTMCC)**

INSEC provides secretariat to HRTMCC which is a coalition of 34 human rights organizations formed on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2003. It is functioning as a joint form for all major human rights NGO's in Nepal effectively coordinating for monitoring and dissemination of information on the status of state obligation to UN human rights treaties nationally and internationally in the form of shadow reports as well as other publications.

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## 5.1.8 Institute of Human Rights Communication, Nepal (IHRICON)

### a. Overview of the Organization

Founded in 2001, **IHRICON** was established to conduct media monitoring and public hearings on children and women in armed conflict. IHRICON has been involved in human rights training for journalists, NGOs, and security agencies as well as initiated district and village level women's working groups that engage in peace and conflict resolution.

### b. Objectives of the Organization

- To conduct human rights training workshops.

- To monitor media coverage of children and women in armed conflict.
- To conduct fact finding missions and research on how the conflict is affecting women and children.
- To foster women's working groups to promote peace in village communities.
- To conduct national advocacy to draw attention to how women and children are affected by the conflict.

### c. Organizational Capacity

Organization is headed by Ms. Shobha Gautam and has a full time staff of 28 individuals working on its peace program (25 women and 3 men). These staff operates in four districts: Sindhuli, Gorkha, Dang, and Kailali. IHRICON's main office is in Kathmandu.

### d. Area of Work

Focus area of work is human rights monitoring, advocacy, and training with a special emphasis on children and women.

### e. Area of Expertise

Area of expertise includes media monitoring, fact finding, and human rights training for different audiences.

### f. Major Activities

- Media monitoring of children and women in conflict issues.
- Human rights training for security forces, NGOs, and journalists.
- Fact finding.

### g. Levels of Intervention

- Micro (ward): Village level community peace workers
- Meso (district): Capacity building among NGOs and security forces working in conflict affected districts
- Macro (national): Advocacy efforts to raise concerns about the violation of women's and children's rights as a result of the current conflict.

### h. Organizational Involvement in Peace Initiatives

- IHRICON's primary peace initiative is a village-based conflict resolution program. The **goal** of the program is to promote peace and involve women in peace building by taking a rights-based approach to conflict resolution. The program operates in four districts (Gorkha, Sindhuli, Dang, and Kailali). Twenty-eight staff (25 F, 3 M), including 20 village peace coordinators, over see the program's 20 women's groups. Women are provided with a human rights training which includes discussion of the nature of peace and how women can be involved in promoting peace. Women in the groups then identify needs at the village level. In some districts, women peace volunteers have negotiated with Maoist rebels for the release of innocent captives. In addition, IHRICON provides training to journalists, security forces, Maoists and local NGOs on human rights

and peaceful conflict resolution.

- IHRICON is also a member of Shanti Malika (Women's Network for Peace) and is serving as its secretariat. It has conducted research on the small arms and is also the member of SASA Net.
- IHRICON has also conducted a media monitoring of the violation of rights of women and children during the conflict.

The **outcome** of the peace program;

- 1) Demonstrated commitment on the part of the community peace volunteers. Volunteers continue their work past their initial two years commitment.
- 2) Rights-based approach to conflict resolution being implemented at the grassroots level.

The **challenges** IHRICON has faced in implementing its peace program;

- 1) Alleviating suspicion of the groups' activities among security forces and Maoists;
- 2) Building credibility among the participants in the program. This was largely achieved by providing control over funds directly to the local level entities; and
- 3) Funding to provide training to new volunteers and follow-up training to those already working in the field. Participants have expressed a particular interest in learning from women peace volunteers in other communities in Nepal as well as abroad.

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## **5.1.9 Jagaran Nepal**

### **a. Overview of the Organization**

Jagaran Nepal was established with the vision of realizing women's rights, sustainable peace, good governance and social justice for the formation of an equitable society in Nepal. In order to achieve this vision, the organization has nine programs that focus on women and children. These programs range from grassroots skill development and human rights training to national and international advocacy for the promotion of human rights and good governance. Jagaran Nepal works directly with women and children victims of the conflict, providing funding, counseling, and training.

## **b. Objectives of the Organization**

- To raise social awareness in the community against gender discrimination, domestic violence, exploitation, and injustice.
- To protect and promote human rights of the women (focus on health, education, culture, politics, etc.).
- To give priority to the development of women's leadership and empowerment in the community.
- To strengthen the democratic system and pluralistic society by increasing women's participation in politics for good governance.
- To advocate at the policy level for conflict transformation, sustainable peace and human rights.
- To launch programs for poor, voiceless, and marginalized citizens, especially conflict affected women.
- To conduct a campaign for primary education for girl children as well as to launch girl child education in remote areas.
- To empower and strengthen women for economic independence, skill development, and income generating activities.

## **c. Organizational Capacity**

The organization is headed by Ms. Sharmila Karki and has a full time staff of 10 people in its Kathmandu office (9 F/1 M). It also has 35 staff members working in 11 districts across the country, 75% of whom are women. District level staffs include human rights activists, lawyers, counselors, and social mobilizers.

## **d. Area of Work**

Area of work is women's rights.

## **e. Area of Expertise**

Area of expertise includes women's right, peace and good governance research, training and advocacy.

## **f. Major Activities**

- Women's empowerment program.
- Girl child education program.
- Women's leadership development program for good governance.
- Advocacy program to assert human rights for women.
- Women's rights program for conflict transformation and sustainable peace.
- Scholarship program for conflict affected children.
- Establishment of human rights based gender resource center.
- Establishment of national and international relationships through networking with human rights and women's rights institutions.
- Establishment of an emergency fund for victims of violence.

## **g. Levels of Intervention**

- Micro (ward): Direct service provision (i.e. conflict affected women's and children's programs).
- Meso (district): Capacity building among service providers and local partner organizations.
- Macro (national): Advocacy efforts to promote good governance and gender equality.

## **h. Organizational Involvement in Peace Initiatives**

Jagaran Nepal has two direct service programs for conflict affected individuals. The first focuses on women and the other on children.

### **CONFLICT AFFECTED WOMEN'S PROGRAM**

The **goal** of the women's program is to empower women who have been affected by the conflict through micro credit loans and training. The two major components of the program are a revolving fund for micro business development and a monthly human rights training course which covers topics ranging from good governance and women and peace to citizenship, legal aid, and women in the media. Four thousand women in 11 conflict affected districts participate in the program.

The **outcome** of the program include:

- 1) Women have been able to independently negotiate for their needs at the local level. For example, when Jagaran Nepal was refused entry into a conflict affected area after the program had already begun, the women demanded they be let in and were successful in restoring the program to the district.
- 2) Local pressure for dialogue and women's involvement in the community.
- 3) Awareness of the need for women's participation in the peace making process.

The **challenges** faced in the program include:

- 1) Pressure from both the government and the Maoists, each of whom think the organization may be affiliated with the other side;
- 2) Gaining consistent access to conflict affected areas is difficult because of the frequency of Nepal *bandhs* (strikes) and road closures.

**NOTE:** Although Jagaran Nepal does not currently have a program geared specifically towards IDPs, it does offer support and counseling services to IDPs in the districts where it operates.

### **CONFLICT AFFECTED CHILDREN'S PROGRAM**

The **goal** of Jagaran Nepal's children's program is to enable conflict affected children to serve as agents of peace. The program runs children's clubs in schools in 7 conflict affected districts, reaching 1,000 children. The children's clubs participate in human rights training. A support fund providing scholarships, school

bags, books, and supplies to children affected by the conflict has also been established.

The **outcome** of the children's program;

- 1) Children's advocacy for schools as "zones of peace";
- 2) Children's participation in art and debate projects which sensitize them to peace at the local level; and
- 3) School fee scholarships provided to 400 children.

The **challenges** Jagaran Nepal has faced in implementing the children's program are similar to the ones faced by the women's program, namely, negative pressure from both sides of the conflict as well as access concerns due to frequent strikes and road closures.

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## **5.1.10 Legal Aid and Consultancy Center (LACC)**

### **a. Overview of the Organization**

Legal Aid and Consultancy Center (LACC) is a non-governmental legal resource organization dedicated to the promotion and protection of the rights of women and children. It was established in 1987.

### **b. Goal**

Work to end all forms of discrimination and violence against women and children.

### **c. Mission**

- To promote and propagate the principles of non-discrimination, equality, social justice and the rule of law enshrined in international human rights instruments, including the Beijing Platform for Action, CEDAW and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- To strengthen law enforcement mechanism,
- To gain the social, political and legal empowerment of women and to ensure their equal participation in all spheres of society,
- To explore how law can contribute for women's subordinate position and also how it can serve as a tools for empowerment.

### **d. Objectives of the Organization**

- To provide free consultancy, legal aid, counseling, mediation, legal awareness and Court representation,

- Advocacy for women and children's right,
- To make women aware on the social, cultural, economic, religious and legal injustices perpetrated against them and to develop their confidence and self-esteem through training, discussion, workshop, publications, empowerment and leadership development training,
- To influence legislative reform that will eliminate discriminatory laws by drafting and forwarding proposed bills and extensive lobbying,
- To raise awareness among lawyers, judicial personnel, police officers, medical professionals, social workers, media, the public and other NGO's of the legal and human rights of women and children in Nepal,
- To work for the elimination of all forms of exploitation, discrimination, violence against women, domestic violence and trafficking in women and children and
- To undertake research, survey, field studies, documentation and publication on the vital issues related to the rights and interest of women and children.

#### **e. Organizational Capacity**

The organization is headed by Prof. Dr. Shanta Thalaliya. It has a total number of 29 staff (24 F/5 M). It has branch offices (with the help-line) in Surkhet, Jhapa and Doti and networking in 7 districts i.e. Sunsari, Chitwan, Kanchanpur, Makwanpur, Sanyanja, Pachthar and Illam.

*Total outreach program is in 10 Districts.*

#### **f. Area of Expertise**

Area of expertise includes the legal service, helping, meditation, and focus on victim of violence.

#### **g. Major Activities**

- The Women's Right Help-line (WRHP).
- Children's Justice Center (CJC).
- Training, Workshops and Seminars.

#### **h. Level of Intervention**

The level of intervention is from district level to national level.

#### **i. Organizational Involvement in Peace and Conflict Initiatives**

Though the organization does not have any particular program for peace or conflict, it provides legal services to victims of armed conflict.

#### **Contact Address**

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## 5.1.11 National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)

### a. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of Nepal is an independent and autonomous statutory body established in the year 2000 under the Human Rights Commission Act 1997 (2053 BS). It has a separate sphere of responsibilities in the constitutional legal system of the country.

### b. Mission

To develop a culture of human rights in the country by taking a leading role as an independent and impartial national institution for the protection and promotion of human rights in accordance with universally recognized human rights principles.

### c. Vision Statement

We envision a Nepalese society where all the people enjoy their rights equally with freedom and social justice, and where impunity is not allowed to prevail.

### d. Strategic Objectives

1. To contribute to the peace building process by ensuring that the parties to the conflict are fully in compliance with the international standards for human rights and humanitarian law.
2. To promote, monitor and enforce the guarantee of fundamental rights of the people with focus on the right to life, liberty, justice and equality.
3. To advocate right to food, health, shelter, education and work as the fundamental rights of the people with special attention to improving the human rights situation in the most underdeveloped regions of Nepal.
4. To help improve the legislative and regulatory mechanisms for control and cessation of (a) domestic and dowry related violence against women and (b) trafficking in women and children.
5. To help improve legislative, monitoring and enforcing arrangements for the elimination of violence against children in the form of trafficking, abuse, exploitation and the use of children in conflict.
6. To improve the extent to which international treaties and conventions on human rights are ratified, domesticated and implemented in Nepal.
7. To promote, develop and provide education, information and advice about human rights.
8. To transform the image of the organization by increasing its efficiencies and acceptance across all sections of Nepalese society.

### **Contact address**

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## 5.1.12 Nepal Children's Organization (NCO)

### a. Overview of the Organization

**Nepal Children's Organization (NCO)**, a child-right-welfare social organization popularly known as Bal Mandir. It was founded under the patronage of Her Majesty the Queen Mother was established in 1964. It has been continuously working in the field of well-being of the homeless, parentless, abandoned and disadvantaged children and organizing various programs to protect their rights.

Presently, NCO is running 10 children's homes with about 550 children aged 0-22 years and has 75 district committees and more than 3,852 voluntary members across the country. NCO has broadened its areas of work with self-motivated responsibility of protecting entire concerns associated with children who have suffered the horrors of war, community violence and intolerance and develops peace and reconciliation with the help of multinational volunteers.

### b. Objectives

- To give protection to the needy children.
- To rescue children who are in vulnerable condition.
- To provide them care, love and education for better future.
- To protect child rights and avoid any type of child exploitation.
- To create necessary environment and opportunities for the physical, mental and vocational development of the children.
- To operate child-care centers in every districts.
- To revive hope and faith in children towards a positive life.
- To rehabilitate the hopeless and depressed children in society.
- To bring awareness against the ill treatment of the children.
- To give orientation in respect of child education, health care and nutrition etc.

### c. Organizational Capacity

The organization is headed by Mrs. Reeta Singh Baidya with 67 staffs at the central office.

### d. Major Activities (Programs)

1. Sponsorship.
2. Adoption.
3. Community Educational Scholarship.
4. Children's Homes.

### e. Organizational Involvement in Peace and Conflict Initiatives

One of the specific areas of NCO work is providing support to the conflict affected children. There are 10 children's homes with the facilities of educational materials, library room, in-door and outdoor games. In Dhangadi and Kapilvastu conflict affected children are being supported.

### ● **Conflict-Affected Children's Home**

NCO is running two conflict-affected children's homes in Dhangadi and Kapilvastu under the program of Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare since 2003.

#### **Bal Griha Kapilvastu**

Bal Griha Kapilvastu is a home of conflict-affected children. It is for the children who have suffered the horrors of war as well as violence. It includes the children from the six districts; Pyuthan, Rolpa, Rukum, Dang and Arghakhachi. There are presently 69 children (31 girls: 38 boys) from the age of 4-15 years. The organization is headed by Mr. Ram Prasad Aryal and there are 7 staffs at the Bal Griha.

#### **Objectives**

- To rescue children from violence.
- To provide shelter to the victimized children.
- To educate them.
- To revive their lost hopes and spirits with care and love.
- To build their bright future.
- To make them self-reliant.
- To rehabilitate them in the society.
- To raise fund for their educational investment.

#### **Immediate Plan**

- To build up a hostel for children in order to provide congenial environment.
- To build up a children's park and play ground.
- To set up a children's library.
- To set up a medical room.

#### **Future Plan**

NCO has a future plan to rehabilitate the conflict-affected children and work with their families who are in very poor conditioned to make a modern facilitated building in an area of 27 Ropani provided by the Government.

#### **Challenge**

Lack of adequate finance has become one of the most challenging factors.

#### **Bal Griha Dhangadi**

The Bal Griha Dhangadi includes children from six districts; Achham, Bajura, Kailali, Baitadi, Jumla and Kalikot. Presently, there are 74 children (15 girls: 69 boys) between the age of 4-15 years. The organization is headed by Mr. Min Bahadur Kunwar and there is 6 staff in the organization (2 F/ 4 M).

#### **Home for Jail Children**

NCO also runs the Child Protection Home (CPH), a home for prisoner's children which is situated at Shiphali.

**Contact Address**

Bal Mandir, Naxal, P.O.Box: 6967, Kathmandu, Nepal  
Tel: 4411202, 4410844, and 4419219 Fax: 977-1-4414485  
E-mail: info@nconepal.org  
Website: www.nconepal.org

## 5.1.13 Sancharika Samuha

**a. Overview of the Organization**

**Sancharika Samuha (SAS)**, was established in April 1996 from the inspiration and encouragement derived from the Fourth World Women's Conference in Beijing and with the objective of addressing the Section J "Women and Media" of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA).

**b. Mission**

Creation of a gender equal society.

**c. Objectives**

Enhancing the capacity of media for promoting equity and equality based development.

**d. Organizational Capacity**

The organization is headed by Ms. Babita Basnet and has a staff of 5 (4 F/ 1M).

**e. Area of work**

- Empower women in the field of communication and media,
- Set up forum to share experiences and information,
- Discourage the negative portrayal of women in media and other fields,
- Carryout campaigns and advocacy programs that have direct impact on women and children,
- Organize training program and seminars to upgrade the capacity of media professionals, particularly women,
- Network with national and international organizations having similar objectives and activities,
- Produce radio/TV spots and documentaries highlighting women's issues,
- Establishment of an information resources center on gender and media and
- Advocacy for equality through research and media campaign.

**f. Outreach of the program**

It presently has more than 100 general members of print and electronic media from all over the country and three regional branches in the western, eastern and mid western regions of the country.

## **g. Services**

- Media management and relations during national and international conference.
- Coordinating national and international workshop.
- Rapporteurship and report writing.
- Translation and interpretation services.
- Training and orientation on improving media relations.
- Organizing press conferences.
- Organizing media campaigns and outreach programs.
- Audio visual production.
- Moderating and facilitating programs.
- Media monitoring and documentation on any theme or issue.
- Media review and research

## **h. Activities**

- Advocacy and awareness raising.
- Capacity building.
- Networking.

## **i. Organizational Involvement in Peace and Conflict Initiatives**

Sancharika Samuha has organized several sensitization programs focusing on the different aspects of conflict, Resolution 1325 and collected case studies on the sexual exploitation of women in conflict situation.

**Sancharika Samuha is a member of Shanti Malika** (Women Network for Peace) which was established for the sustainable peace in nation and aims to work for the women's equal participation in the peace building process from grass-roots to the national level.

### **Contact Address**

Sancharika Samuha  
P.O. Box: 13293  
Ekantakuna, Jawalakhel, Lalitpur  
Tel No: 0977-1-5538549/5546715  
Fax No: 0977-1-5547291  
E-mail: [sancharika@wlink.com.np](mailto:sancharika@wlink.com.np)

## **5.1. 14 SAATHI**

### **a. Overview of the Organization**

SAATHI is a non-government development organization established in 1992 and has been working for the empowerment of women and children through the promotion of gender equity and equality based development.

## **b. Mission**

- Economic empowerment of the civil society - focusing on promoting the livelihood of people.
- Enhancement of social cohesion - promoting integration and harmony among the diverse socio-cultural population.

## **c. Specific Objective**

- The elimination of injustice and all forms of violence against women in Nepal and the provision of support to victims and their children.
- The elimination of violence and injustice against children and the provision of support to victimized and needy children.

## **d. Organizational Capacity**

The organization is headed by Ms. Pramada Shah and has a staff of 72 (70% Female and 30% Male). Including the staff in its offices in mid western and far western region.

## **e. Major Areas of Interventions**

- Training
- Awareness
- Advocacy
- Care & Support

## **f. Major Strategic Approaches**

- Capacity building
- Policy research and advocacy
- Resource generation initiatives
- Linkage, alliance and networking
- Social development actions
- Development support communication focusing on VAW

## **g. Major Programs**

- Research on different dimensions of violence against women
- Shelter for women and children victims of violence
- Immediate relief, medical and logistic support to women victims of violence
- Formed a national alliance of organizations working on VAW (saathi serves as the secretariat)
- Advocacy for domestic violence bill
- Media and awareness programs on 16 days of activism on VAW since 1997
- Cross Boarder Trafficking Program

## **h. Organizational Involvement in Peace and Conflict Initiatives**

- **Peace and Governance Program**  
Through the Peace and Governance Program, regular interaction/dialogue process has been initiated (established) at the district, regional and national levels. These processes were initiated in response to deal with the difficulties faced by development interventions at the local level as a result of the Maoist insurgency. The program provides a platform for civil society organizations to share experiences and consolidate efforts to deal with the situation.  
The program advocates for equal participation of women in politics especially focused to peace building.
- Conducted Income generation training for women in conflict.
- Created a safe environment for women and girls working in cabin restaurants who have been displaced by conflict
- Provided care and support to women and children in conflict

### **Contact Address**

SAATHI

Ekantakuna, Lalitpur

Post Box No: 7770

Tel: 977-1-5554543 / 5554560

Fax: 977-1-5554560

Email: vaw@saathi.wlink.com.np

## **5.1.15 South Asia Partnership Nepal (SAP-Nepal)**

### **a. Overview of the Organization**

South Asia Partnership Nepal (SAP-Nepal) is a non-government development organization and has been advocating for the social, political and economic enhancement of the Nepalese people since 1985. SAP-Nepal started its development journey as an international organization in 1985 and transformed into a facilitating organization in 1989.

### **b. Mission**

- Creation of critical mass for good governance - the essence of this mission is socio-political empowerment enabling a critical mass of citizens.
- Economic empowerment of the civil society - focusing on promoting the livelihood of people.
- Enhancement of social cohesion - promoting integration and harmony among the diverse socio-cultural population.

### **c. Objective**

The main objective of the organization is to build the capacity of grass-roots level NGO's.

#### **d. Organizational Capacity**

The organization is headed by Mr. Tirtha Prasad Gyawali, and has a staff of 18 (4F/14M).

#### **e. Major Areas of Interventions**

The interventions of SAP-Nepal are implemented through the following program divisions

- Human Development Foundation
- National Peace and Governance Foundation
- Mutual Development Foundation

#### **f. Major Strategic Approaches**

- Capacity building
- Policy research and advocacy
- Resource generation initiatives
- Linkage, alliance and networking
- Social development actions
- Development support communication

#### **g. Major Programs**

- Strengthening Civil Society Organization Program (SCOP).
- South Asia Regional People's Policy Program (SARPPP).
- South Asia Human Development Forum.
- Participatory Approach toward Holistic (PATH) Development.

#### **h. Organizational Involvement in Peace and Conflict Initiatives**

- Peace and Governance Program  
Through the Peace and Governance Program, regular interaction/dialogue process has been initiated (established) at the district, regional and national levels. These processes were initiated in response to deal with the difficulties faced by development interventions at the local level as a result of the Maoist insurgency. The program provides a platform for civil society organizations to share experiences and consolidate efforts to deal with the situation.

#### **Contact Address**

SAP-Nepal  
SAP-BHAWAN, Babarmahal, Kathmandu  
Post Box No: 3827  
Tel: 977-1-223230/223050/242845  
Fax: 977-1-241338  
E-mail: [sap@ngdo.wlink.com.np](mailto:sap@ngdo.wlink.com.np)  
Website: [www.sapnepal.org](http://www.sapnepal.org)

## 5.1.16 Women for Human Right (WHR)

### a. Overview of the Organization

A woman for Human Right (WHR), Single Women Group is a non-governmental organization established in 1994. WHR has been formed to address the rights of Single Women in Nepal. It is providing services to the needy single women and their children facing difficult circumstances.

WHR passed a national declaration to use the word “Single Women”, instead of widows. The change in the terminology has been effected since the word “widow” in Nepali society is viewed with disdain, including humiliation and agony.

### b. Objectives of the Organization

- To raise the social and economic status of Nepalese Single Women and their families,
- To mainstream the rights of Single Women in development, humanitarian and peace building initiatives,
- Undertake advocacy to ensure meaningful participation of Single Women at the decision making levels in all spheres of social, economic and political life,
- To enhance the capacity of Single Women, in order that they are their own “agents of change”, and to develop their confidence and self-esteem.

### c. Activities of WHR

#### Social empowerment

- WHR advocates eliminating the social ostracism of Single Women so as to incorporate them into the social mainstream.
- WHR rehabilitate and reintegrate single women in the society.
- WHR runs an open forum for Single Women every last Sunday of the Nepali calendar, where they can share feelings and experiences through discussion.
- WHR offers counseling services and legal awareness to the abused Single Women and their children,
- WHR has built up a “network” in various districts and has been able to form Single Women Group in 42 VDC of 26 districts of Nepal in order to bring positive changes among Single Women through *Sahayogi Saathi* (social mobilisers).

#### Education

- WHR supports the needy children of Single Women by providing scholarship,
- WHR provides non-formal education to Single Women and their children.

#### Economic Empowerment

- WHR runs saving/credit program called “Adhar” assist the needy Single Women to obtain micro credit to start income generating activities,

- WHR has formed the “Single Women Entrepreneur Group (SWEPE)” for Single Women to promote to find a market for the products made by Single Women in Nepal.
- WHR is running “Single Women Corner” to promote small scale business of Single Women,
- WHR conducts various training keeping in view the resources of the districts.

### **Empowerment for peace**

Publications, seminars and conferences are aimed towards women’s participation in the peace movements so that their voices are brought to the fore. This way WHR seeks to promote women from passive beneficiaries to active participation.

### **d. Training provided by WHR at different districts**

#### **Sahayogi Saathi**

Sahayogi Saathi was to mobilize Single Women group effectively, to encourage Single Women to join Single Women and raise awareness in their communities in order to reduce negative attitudes towards Single Women.

#### **Legal Volunteer**

10 Single women were trained as Para - Legal volunteers from 4 districts. These legal volunteers raise awareness about the legal rights of women and children, build their confidence, and support them emotionally. They also raise awareness on child rights, child labour and issues related to trafficking and provide legal help and assistance to any needy single women.

#### **Psycho-Social Counselor**

10 Single Women were trained and mobilizing as psycho-social counselor in various districts. Most Single Women are seriously distressed by the dual effects of losing a husband and having to cope with earning a living for themselves as well as their dependents.

#### **“Chahari”, second home for Single Women**

It is also a training center of WHR opened at Naxal, Kathmandu. It facilitates the training programme to the Single Women from the districts. 56 single women have been provided with various skill developments training and counseling. Legal cases of single women have been dealt with. Along with Single Women their children have also been given various skill training.

### **e. Future Strategies**

- Reach to every districts of the country and empower Single Women in all aspects of life.
- Establish a Regional Center Office of Single Women in five Development Regions,
- WHR has envisioned being a shade of inspiration, solace and hoping to Single Women by making “*Chahari*” a second home for them.

- Develop widows, protocol based on CEDAW and Beijing Platform for Action.
- Work on Post Conflict situation of Single Women and their family.

#### **Contact Address**

Women for Human Rights  
 Single Women Group (WHR)  
 Bhagwatisthan, Naxal, Kathmandu, Nepal  
 P.O. Box: 8973 NPC 427  
 Tel: 977-1-4446020  
 Fax: 977-1-4413868  
 E-mail: csw@mail.com.np  
 Website: www.whr.org.np

## 5.1.17 Women Security Pressure Group

### **a. Overview of the Organization**

Women Security Pressure Group is a non-political organization. It has worked strongly to change the discriminatory laws related to women and pressurize the concerned stakeholders to punish those who have indulged in violence and injustice towards women and for the equal participation of women in decision making level.

### **b. Goal**

To fight against all kind of oppression, discrimination and exploitation against women and create an equal and just society free from exploitation.

### **c. Objectives**

- To create public awareness and pressure against exploitation, oppression and violence against women,
- To network with different organizations

### **d. Organizational Capacity**

The organization is headed by Ms. Sahana Pradhan and has a staff of 2 (female).

### **e. Major Activities**

- Awareness and sensitization programme
- Create pressure to the government and political parties for the participation of women in various level of power structure.

### **f. Organizational Involvement in Peace Initiatives**

- Organize rallies on peace and human rights.
- Pressurize government to take action against violence against women.
- Formation of district level pressure groups.

- Women Security Pressure Group is also a member of Shanti Malika (Women Network for Peace).

**Contact Address**

Women Security Pressure Group  
 Dilli Bazar, Kathmandu, Nepal  
 Tel: 4419845, Fax: 4419845  
 Email:wspg@mail.com.np

**5.1.18 Women’s Rehabilitation Center (WOREC)**

**a. Overview of the Organization**

**WOREC** is a non-government social organization established on April 1, 1991. WOREC addresses the issues of unemployment and violence against women and children. Also to resolve the major socio-economic, cultural and human rights problems prevalent in the communities and protection of human rights at the community level.

**b. Mission**

To contribute for creating an equitable society based on social justice and human rights.

**c. Vision**

To play the role of active national NGO in the prevention of trafficking in women and the promotion of women’s rights and the right of marginalized communities.

**d. Objectives**

- To animate, empower, mobilize and strengthen the local community-based organizations and population groups for planning, implementing and monitoring development programs.
- To improve and consolidate the organizational structures and leadership qualities of local community-based independent democratic organizations and leaders.
- To implement the integrated program of development education and advocacy on the issues of trafficking and violence against women and children, women’s health, women’s human rights and social justice.
- To make grassroots people, particularly women children and marginalised groups, aware of their human rights.
- To work for preventing trafficking in women and children.
- To launch community-based rehabilitation or reintegration programs of socially rejected discriminated, and marginalized rural women, including the survivors of trafficking or HIV/ AIDS.
- Strengthen functional networking on women’s and child rights at various levels.

- To improve the nutritional and livelihood security of rural women, children and disadvantaged population groups; and make this security sustainable by networking with mobilizing local women's groups, CI/Dos, other civil society groups and local governance bodies.
- To improve the health status of women, children and other members of the communities through its self-help approach and the promotion of traditional knowledge about herbal remedies.
- To bring about substantial changes in the skill, household income and livelihood of rural communities through small farmer-centered bio intensive farming system program.
- To facilitate the exploration of location-specific, off-farm income generation opportunities through skill training and the promotion of micro-enterprises.

#### **e. Strategic/Directions**

- Collective empowerment and social mobilization.
- Advocacy for social justice, equity, peace and reconciliation.
- Sustainable resources management and livelihood.

#### **f. Organizational Capacity**

The organization is headed by Ms. Renu Rajbhandari and has a total of 200 staffs including district staffs.

#### **g. Outreach of the Organization**

WOREC has been implementing various community-based programmes in the following districts and VDCs/municipalities. The districts are Udayapur, Mustang, Siraha, Morang, Sunsari, Dhanusha, and Rupandehi.

#### **h. Organizational Involvement in Peace Initiatives**

Advocacy for social justice, equity, peace and reconciliation

- To make grassroots people, particularly women children and marginalized groups, aware of their human rights,
- To work for preventing traffic in women and children,
- To launch community-based rehabilitation or re-integration programmes for socially rejected, discriminated, displaced, and marginalized rural women, including thw survivors of trafficking or HIV/AIDS and armed conflict,
- Strengthen functional networking on women's and child rights at various levels as well as on farmers' rights.

#### **Contact Address**

Women Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC)  
 Balkumari, PO Box 13233, Kathmandu, Nepal  
 Tel: 977-1-2123124, 2123136, Fax: 977-1-5544574  
 Email: worec@wlink.com.np  
 Website: www.worecnepal.org

## 5.2 Profile of the Organizations Working Specifically Focusing on Peace

### 5.2.1 Collective Campaign for Peace (COCAP)

#### a. Overview of the Organization

**COCAP** is a national network of Peace and Human rights organization in Nepal. It was born out of a national symposium on conflict transformation and peace building in June 2001. It was originally conceived as a loose, informal forum for information sharing among participation of the symposium.

#### b. Mission

To Contribute to the promotion of culture of Peace and Justice in Nepal by mobilizing a well –coordinated network of socially committed and financially transparent civil society organizations from across the country

#### c. Organizational Structure

The board consists of nine members as representatives of various organizations five of the members are male while four are female..The professional staff consists of four members in which two are male members and two are female members. Interns are altogether twelve, seven are male members and five are female members.

#### d. Types of Activities

COCAP is engaged in broadly two types of activities. COCAP, as a collective, undertakes national level advocacy and dialogue on human rights, peace and democracy issue as non-funded, volunteers initiatives. Secondly, the COPAC secretariat in Katmandu facilitates coordination, information sharing and capacity building of member organization located in different part of the country

#### e. Volunteer Participation

Promotion of voluntarism among youth in the movement towards peace and human right has been one of the key components of COCAP. There are two types of volunteers working with COCAP, office volunteers that help in daily activities and event volunteers who come together to assist in organizing and executing special events, such as rallies, seminars or speaking events.

#### f. Organizational Involvement in Peace and Conflict Initiatives

- **Civil society roundtable for mainstreaming human rights in the peace process**

COCAP, in coordination with the Federation of Nepalese Journalists, organized round table meeting of civil society organizations with the aim of mainstreaming human rights issues in the peace negotiations.

- **Protest against involuntary disappearance**

COCAP and its members organized protest rallies on 27 August 2003 against the growing trend of involuntary disappearance by the government security forces and the Maoists. The first of such event in Nepal. Protest rallies were organized in Kathmandu, Kapilbastu, Dang, Biratnagar, Kaplibastu, Baglung, Nepalgunj and Butwal on the same day. Ironically, the protest rallies began one hour after the cease-fire between the government and the Maoists broke. These rallies helped bring the issue of disappearance into the national agenda, and were widely covered by the national and international print and electronic media.

### **Planned Activities**

- Improving coordination and communication among members and enhancing their capacity for peace advocacy.
- Establishment of a peace resource centre.
- Publication of six-monthly Peace and Human Rights Journal in Nepali.
- COCAP will mobilize local resources and volunteers for peace promotion. This will include organizing Occasional Discussion Series on Conflict and Human Rights; organizing and participating in Peace and Human Rights rallies, workshops and seminars; issuing press statements; networking and lobbying nationally and internationally for advocating just and sustainable peace in Nepal.

### **Contact Address**

COCAP

Anamnagar, Kathmandu

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Tel: 977-1-4265143/4260498

Fax: 977-1-4260498

E-mail: [info@cocap.org.np](mailto:info@cocap.org.np)

Web-site: [www.cocap.org.np](http://www.cocap.org.np)

## **5.2.2 Friends For Peace (FFP)**

### **a. Overview of the Organization**

Friends for Peace (FFP) is a non-governmental, organization established in May 2004 with a view to facilitate research in the fields of conflict transformation and to contribute to future peace process in Nepal.

### **b. Vision**

The vision of FFP is to be a leading national, independent research organization with the capacity to provide need-based information, knowledge and expertise on conflict transformation in order to contribute to sustainable peace in Nepal.

### **c. Mission**

The mission of FFP is to create a forum in which issues related to conflict in Nepal can be researched, debated and understood, and more informed debate and dialogue generated for a political settlement.

### **d. Objectives**

- The main objective of FFP is to establish a credible knowledge base that provides technical expertise on issues of concern for future peace negotiations and wider peace process. It also hopes to facilitate greater participation of civil society organizations and individuals in bringing about a peaceful resolution to the Maoist insurgency.
- To organize interactions among civil society, politicians, media persons and other individuals in order to better understand and address conflict-related issues.
- To equip the library with relevant books, periodicals, magazines, journals, newspapers and reports that will assist with the development of expertise for future negotiations.
- To facilitate greater exchange of ideas through seminars, conferences, public forums, informal discussions, international exchange and other interaction programmes.
- To synthesize national, regional and international experiences, expertise on conflict transformation and peace building.
- To establish links with a range of national and international organizations to facilitate the development of relevant and timely research.

### **e. Major Areas of Research**

- Peace Process: Under which three major areas has been identified for the research; comparative peace process, media response to conflict and documentation of local peace initiatives.
- Security sector reform.
- International relations.
- Post conflict transformation.
- Conflict and development.
- Gender and conflict.

### **f. Activities**

- Conduct research on various issues.
- Research activities are being carried out on the topic of comparative study of other conflict ridden countries, documentation on peace initiatives and media response to conflict.
- Security sector reform aiming to generate awareness and facilitate debate on democratic control, transparency and accountability of the security sector.
- Researches are also being undertaken on effects of open boarder and conflict, water resources sharing between Nepal and India, proliferation

of small arms and light weapons and India's possible role in future peace process.

### **Major Programs**

- Future Negotiation: Challenges and Opportunities conducted on June 27, 2004.
- An interaction program on the experience in conflict transformation and peace negotiation on July 1, 2004.

### **g. Organizational Structure**

- It is a member based organization regulated by eleven member governing board consisting of people of high social standing working in the field of law, human rights, ethnicity, gender, peace and development. It also has a board of advisers providing necessary guidance and timely advice to the organization. The Chairperson of the organization is Mr. Laxman Prasad Aryal.

### **Contact Address**

Friends for Peace  
117/36, Puja Pratisthan Marg, Purano Baneshwor  
GPO Box No: 11033 Kathmandu, Nepal  
Tel: 977-1-4480406  
Fax: 977-1-4472798  
E-mail: info@ffp.org.np  
Website: www.friendsforpeace.org.np

## **5.2.3 Nagarik Aawaz (NA)**

### **a. Overview of the Organization**

Nagarik Aawaz (NA) meaning "The Voice of the Citizen" was established on July 17, 2001 as a platform for concerned development professionals and organizations that felt the need to act together towards peace. NA consists of mainly volunteers contributing their skills, time expertise and resources to ground NA.

### **b. Goal**

To work to bring about a more peaceful environment in which effective economic, social, and political development can occur in Nepal.

### **c. Objectives**

- To sensitize and create awareness concerning individual and collective responsibility in conflict resolution and peace-building efforts through networking and advocacy.
- To create forums to raise public voice and option against all forms of violence through survivor testimony, public polls, and knowledge generation and dissemination.

- To develop skilled human resources in peace building and conflict resolution.
- To provide support to NGOs conducting relief work in the affected areas, through networks and related forums.
- To provide skill-based training to people adversely affected by the conflict and encourage their participation in peace building activities.
- To provide practical and emotional support to people affected by the conflict.

#### **d. Organizational Capacity**

The organization is headed by Ms. Rita Thapa. At present there is 9 full-time staff. There are also three volunteers from displaced families, supporting the daily office works.

#### **e. Activities**

##### **1. Bi-Monthly Interaction Forums**

It is organized to share the experience of the conflict affected person and to educate others about the conflict. The specific objectives are:

- To share, generate and disseminate information on conflict and peace building
- To provide a trustworthy forum for thoughtful analysis and communication

##### **Outcomes so far of the program;**

- 54 such interaction programs have been conducted.
- A booklet on learning and experiences gained until 50 interactions was published on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> interaction program.
- Bi-weekly peace vigils that take place after each interaction program.

##### **2. Displaced Youth Volunteer Program (DYVP)**

NA initiated DYVP program in September 2003 with 2 volunteers which increased to 20 youth volunteers in the year 2003-2004.

##### **The main objectives of the program;**

- To develop the necessary and practical skills of the youth volunteers
- To broaden the youths understanding of development and peace building
- To provide emotional and psychological support to the youth volunteers

##### **Outcome so far**

- 23 displaced youths have graduated from this programme, helping them to understand organizational and computer skills and improve English language.
- The second batch DYVP, initiated in August 2004, has been able to include 15 displaced youths and the third batch initiated from January 2005 includes 22 displaced youths.

- NA is obtaining funding from the donor agencies within Nepal and internationally to initiate DYVP for the displaced youths who are needy and interested to participate in the program.

### **3. Shanti Sahayog Bhanca**

NA initiated **Shanti Sahayog Bhanca** a weekly “soup kitchen “to feed the hungry as to generate support from the local community. The volunteers visit local shops to collect donations of rice and vegetable which they can cook and vegetables which they cook and serve at Shanti Sahayog Bhanca on Thursdays.

#### **Objectives**

- To provide displaced and homeless people with fresh, hot and nutritious meal once a week
- To involve the community in a good cause
- To empower and emotionally heal the DYVP youth volunteers

### **4. Shanti Counseling Center**

Emotional and psychological healing is an essential part with the displaced youths and families, NA works with traumatized people. It started its own free counseling center from January 2005.

#### **Objectives**

- Providing long-term emotional and psychological healing to the NA displaced youth volunteers, to help them make a transition from anger/revenge to forgiveness
- Making necessary referrals for serious cases requiring intense professional care and extending counseling service to the displaced communities at large, by helping with necessary strengthening and
- Extending required capable human resource in the area of counseling.

### **5. Immediate Relief Support**

NA provides immediate relief support to those people who are affected by conflict, people who are financially or physically weak or unable, that includes widows, orphans, aging parents and girls who do not receive financial help from their extended families or neighbor, political parties and government. This support is provided financially through NA's “Sahara Kosh” and it is a fund formed through individual donations to provide immediate relief to those adversely affected by the conflict.

#### **Objectives**

- To provide immediate livelihood support to the most vulnerable people affected by the conflict.
- To provide for the medical costs of those affected by the conflict in a timely way.
- To connect the most needy of people affected by the conflict with the appropriate support organizations.

## **6. Documentation of News and Articles Related to the Present Conflict in Nepal**

NA records all conflict-related news, taking articles and published material from the leading newspapers, i.e. The Himalayan Times, Kantipur and Kantipur etc. The compiled articles provide information, on addressing issues taken up by the government and the concerned parties.

### **Objectives**

- To keep a record of the effects of conflict on people and the country.
- To use the record as resource and reference material in the work of peace building.

## **f. Institutional Support to Organizations working for those adversely affected by the Conflict**

NA has supported Orphans of Terror Victims (OTV) and the association of Sufferers from Maoist Nepal (ASMAN) for their institutional/operational costs for one year and presently is supporting the Memorial Academy for Freedom Fighter

### **Objectives**

- To support the institutional growth of organizations working with people adversely affected by the conflict to allow them to be more efficient and effective.
- To encourage the efforts of these organizations in conflict transformation and peace building.

### **1. Sahakarya Shantiko**

Sahakarya Shantiko was formed with minimal donor support focusing on reweaving safety nets at the community level by encouraging the local people. Seven reputed NGOs working in seven districts have been chosen as partners.

### **Objectives**

- To create social safety nets by mobilizing community people.
- To establish a support system within the community for the most needy of people affected by the conflict.
- To mobilize local communities for peace-building initiatives.
- To document the whole learning process by adopting an overarching communication strategy.

### **2. Research on Conflict Widows**

The research was conducted with the following objectives

- To investigate the conditions of women widowed as a result of the insurgency
- To assess the physical, psychological, social and economic situation the conflict widows are facing
- To suggest areas of support and possible policy changes that could be provided by the government political parties, donors, the private sector and concerned individuals

### **3. Conflict Analysis and Peace Building Workshop**

A 3-day workshop was conducted in August 2002 and experts from Sri Lanka also participated in the workshop.

### **4. Transit Center for Displaced People**

NA works collaboratively and strategically in alliance with the Association of Sufferes from Maoists Nepal and South Asia Partnership/Nepal (SAPAN) to run a transit center for the displaced, including people from all political parties, members of civil society, and Maoists. The main objectives are:

- To provide immediate temporary relief (shelter, food, and emotional support) to the most vulnerable displaced people of the present conflict.
- To develop an organic and self-sustainable transit center for temporary relief that could act as a model for others to replicate.

#### **Contact Address**

Nagarik Aawaz, PO Box 9041, Ekantakuna – 13, Lalitpur

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## **5.2.4 National Peace Campaign**

### **a. Overview of the Organization**

National Peace Campaign is a non-governmental, non-profit, and non-sectarian educational organization committed towards promoting peace and conflict resolution in South Asia through education, research, training and diplomacy. It was established in 1999. NPC perceives the problem in South Asia as a common threat to peace in the region. Primarily focusing in Nepal, the program of the NCP will aim at creating a peaceful society in the South Asian region.

The NPC was established with the vision of building a peaceful, democratic society in Nepal in order to fully realize and respect peace, justice and human rights. The NPC envisages a need for an action-oriented movement for a peaceful community, an equitable social system and a respectful life for South Asia in particular and the world in general.

### **b. Objectives of the Organization**

The main objective of the organization is to work to establish a culture of peace; and to establish a center for peace studies, which will conduct both short-term and long-term courses on peace and conflict resolution that will contribute to achieve the NPC's ultimate goal of free and prosperous human life in a peaceful and just world. It also seeks to work as a support institution to all activists, groups and local and regional organizations and help them in capacity building, training and service delivery.

### **c. Goals of NPC**

- GOAL 1: Establish formal (academically accredited) courses on peace studies.
- GOAL 2: Establish a peace library to fulfill the information needs of peace studies for students, scholars and human rights activists in the region.
- GOAL 3: Conduct training, seminars, meetings, and research publications on peace building and conflict management, human rights, social development and democratization.
- GOAL 4: Promote and facilitate efforts for peace and conflict resolution in Nepal and the Subcontinent.

### **d. Strategies to Fulfill the Goals**

- Strategies for Goal 1: *Establish formal (academically accredited) courses on peace studies.*
- Strategies for Goal 2: *Library Establishment:*
- Strategies for Goal 3: *Conduct training, seminars, meetings, and research publications on peace and conflict resolution, human rights, social development and democratization:*
- Strategies for Goal 4: *Promote and facilitate efforts for peace and conflict resolution in Nepal and the Subcontinent:*

### **e. Organizational Capacity**

The organization is headed by Mr. Shiva Hari Dahal. NPC has 4 full time staffs.

### **f. Ongoing Programs**

- A cross party approach to conflict resolution

### **g. Programs Conducted**

- Seminar on democratic issues.
- Seminar on fail negotiation: lessons learned and challenges for the future peace talks.
- Seminar in North Ireland.
- Workshop on transformation of state.
- Seminar in Sri Lanka.
- 3 district level workshop on conflict transformation and peace building.
- Participatory workshop on internal armed conflict and peace building.
- ToT follow-up workshop.
- ToT in conflict transformation and peace building.
- 5 day workshop on conflict resolution and peace building.
- FACT FINDING MISSION TO NEPAL.

**Contact Address**

National Peace campaign

P.O. Box: 10101

Thapathali, Kathmandu

Nepal Tel: 977-1-4215142/4215143

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Email: [campaign@wlink.com.np](mailto:campaign@wlink.com.np), [peacecamp@wlink.com.np](mailto:peacecamp@wlink.com.np)

Website: [www.campaign.org.np](http://www.campaign.org.np)

## 5.2.5 Shanti Malika (Women Network for Peace)

### a. Overview of the Organization

Shanti Malika (Women Network for Peace) was formed after a consultation of about 150 women rights activist's groups in March 2003 in Kathmandu after realizing that even during the peace talks there were no women present or participating either from the Maoist's side or from the government side for peace negotiation process. The struggle of day-to-day survival, social injustice and discrimination, illiteracy and unemployment are some of the reasons that prevent women from actively participating in peace building. Irresponsible politics gender injustice is also one of the reasons for the non-participation of women in peace process of Nepal. Women do not lead any of the political parties of Nepal and have never headed the government. This absence of women in peace negotiations may well have been a contributor to their failure. Therefore, in the current talks, and for the sustainability of peace in general, women should be included in the peace process.

After that Shanti Malika realized that the women activists in peace building have as yet been unable to influence the peace agenda in Nepal and they are ignored or undermined by all sector as peace workers. Shanti Malika working for women's empowerment, initiated discussions to identify strategies for a women-led peace movement, which would be inclusive and representative of Nepalese society. After a series of meetings with representatives of its organizational members, Shanti Malika identified the need to share its ideas with a wider group of women and men, who were committed to the need for women's leadership for peace in Nepal. Now Shanti Malika is committed to make a real Malika from grass root to international level.

Shanti Malika realized that the ideas of all women (and men supporters of women and peace) have not been debated thoroughly. Also, women activists need to build trust among them for the movement to progress further.

Thus Shanti Malika envisages a nation wide movement that brings in a gendered lens to look at the significant role of women in peace building.

### b. Objectives of the Organization

- To initiate for peace by creating public pressure to end the existing violence and massacre,

- To create pressure for equal participation of women in all the process of policy formulation including the peace dialogue of the country,
- To universally expose women working for peace in the country,
- To create comprehensive public opinion in favour of peace to initiate successful peace dialogue,
- To play a significant role for creating peace agreement and for the inclusion of women agenda in the agreement,
- To prioritize the women's issue including women's participation during the conflict and during the reconstruction and rehabilitation after the conflict,
- To do advocacy for the inclusion of women in all the sectors by identifying the imperative of democracy, human rights and press freedom for peace and development of the nation and
- To initiate for the justifiable peace by eliminating legal and social discrimination.

### c. Focus Area of Work

1. **Research:** It will be conducting research on conflict and women related issues comprehensively and separately to assist peace process.
2. **Capacity building:** Malika has been involved in organizing training, interaction, consultation, workshop and conferences to create awareness including capacity building of the women working for peace especially for mediation, monitoring, facilitation for the dialogue and to implement the various aspects of UN Resolution 1325.
3. **Formation of Network:** Malika shall constitute its network from grassroots to international level.
4. **Pressure and Demonstration:** Malika has been organizing rally, demonstration, dharna, street drama, movement, *dohori* song competition as per necessity for the fulfillment of its objectives. Realizing the importance of the media in the peace making process, the peace movement and media will be taken simultaneously.

### Core Group Members:

Ms. Rita Thapa- Nagrik Aawaj  
 Ms. Shobha Gautam, IHRICON/Nepal  
 Ms. Sharmila Karki, Jajaran Nepal  
 Ms. Indu Aryal, ABC/Nepal  
 Adv. Binda K. Magar, Forum for Women, Law and Development (FWLD)  
 Ms. Saloni Singh, Didi Bahani  
 Ms. Sumnima Tuladhar, CWIN  
 Ms. Shamhja Shrestha, INSEC  
 Ms. Babita Basnet, Sancharika Samuha

Ms. Tulsā Lata Amatya, CAC/ Nepal  
Ms. Sarada Pokhrel, Women Security Pressure Group  
Ms. Mohini Maharajan,  
Ms. Laxmi Neupane, SAP/Nepal  
Ms. Durga Sob, representing the Dalit Community  
Ms. Subhechha Rana, SAATHI  
Ms. Shobha Basnet, SAMANATA  
Dr. Aruna Upreti  
Ms. Sujata Thapa  
Ms. Stella Tamang representing Indigenous Groups.

#### **d. Major Activities**

- Institutional Strengthening (Secretariat at IHRICON)
- Sharing and learning workshop with WISCOMP
- National Consultation on women and peace
- Declaration of Women and Peace published
- Developed a Tool Kit on UN SC Resolution 1325
- Peace Rally and Demonstrations

#### **Contact Address:**

Shanti Malika Secretariat  
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GPO Box 5188, Anamnagar, Kathmandu, Nepal  
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Email: [ihricon@mos.com.np](mailto:ihricon@mos.com.np)  
Website: <http://www.ihricon.org>



**List of Key Informants**

1. Hon'ble Bijaya Shrestha, Member, National Planning Commission
2. Mr. Avinash Rai, Programme Officer, Child Workers in Nepal Concerned Centre (CWIN)
3. Mr. Bal Krishna Dangol, Deputy Director, Nepal Children's Organization (Bal Mandir)
4. Mr. Bishwa Nath Upadhyaya, Former Chief Justice, Supreme Court
5. Mr. Chhabi Lal Panta, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home
6. Mr. Indra Prasad Adhikari, Director (Community and Humanitarian Values), Nepal Red Cross
7. Mr. Jagdish Dahal, Peace Programme Director, Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC)
8. Mr. Madhab Poudyal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Law Justice and Parliamentary Affairs
9. Mr. Ram Prasad Aryal, Head, Nepal Children's Organization, Kapilvastu
10. Mr. Ram Prasad Sapkota, Center for Victims of Torture, Nepal (CVICT)
11. Mr. Ratna Bagchand, President, LANCAW
12. Mr. Shyam Sundar Sharma, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare
13. Ms. Shobha Gautam, President, Institute for Human Rights Communication, Nepal (HIRICON)
14. Ms. Ambika Pokharel, Programme Officer, Peace Campaign
15. Ms. Anjana Shakya, Executive Director, Beyond Beijing Committee (BBC)
16. Ms. Babita Basnet, General Secretary, Sancharika Samuha
17. Ms. Bidhya Chapagain, Coordinator, HRTMCC, INSEC
18. Ms. Chattra Gurung, Vice President, Legal Aid and Consultancy Center (LACC)
19. Ms. Jyoti Poudel, Women's Rehabilitation Center (WOREC)
20. Mr. Bijaya Prakash Guidel, Programme Manager, Collective Campaign for Peace (COCAP)
21. Ms. Lily Thapa, President, Women for Human Right (WHR)
22. Ms. Rita Thapa, Chief Executive Officer, Nagrik Aawaz
23. Ms. Roshan Lopchan, Friends for Peace
24. Ms. Sabitri Thapa, General Secretary, Women Security Pressure Group
25. Ms. Saloni Singh, President, Didi Bahini
26. Ms. Sarmila Karki, President, Jagaran Nepal

Questionnaire for the Organizations Engaged in Women and Peace in Nepal

Name : .....  
Designation : .....  
Organization : .....  
Address : .....  
Tel No : .....  
Fax No : .....  
E.mail : .....

1. What are the goals and objectives of the organization? When was it established?

.....  
.....

2. What is the size (capacity) of the organization? Who heads this organization?

.....  
.....

a. Number of staff (ratio of male : female) .....

b. Number of branch offices (including field sites), which are the networks

c. Total outreach of the programme. ....

d. Main focus area of work. ....

e. Area of expertise.....

f. Major activities:       Training     Awareness     Advocacy  
    Other programmes

g. Level of intervention:     Ward level       District Level  
    National Level

3. What are the problems in relation to armed conflict in the present situation? What is the main area of intervention needed in the current situation?

- Immediate and
- Long term.

.....  
.....

4. What is the impact of armed conflict on women and children?  
.....  
.....
5. What are the initiatives taken by the organization in relation to peace in Nepal?  
(Peace project goals, where the programs take place, how many male and female are involved in running them and how many men, women and children are served by them, names of other organizational partners, how it is benefited to the women in general etc.)  
.....  
.....
6. Does the peace work you are involved in address the needs of women, in particular? If so, how?  
.....  
.....
7. How do you identify intervention? Whom do you involve in programme identification, formulation and in its implementation? (men, women or both)  
.....  
.....
8. Does the peace work you are involved in address the needs of internally displaced persons and women, in particular? If so, how?  
.....  
.....
9. What are some of the challenges you have faced in implementing your peace initiatives?  
.....  
.....
10. Have you involved women in general or internally displaced people in your peace initiatives? What is the reason for being IDP?  
.....  
.....
11. What outcome have you seen as a result of your peace initiatives?  
.....  
.....

12. Are there any other voices you believe should be involved in peace efforts that are currently not involved? If so, how might we get them involved?

.....  
.....

13. How can we increase participation of women in the peace process? Do you feel women are/should be involved in the peace process and why?

.....  
.....

14. What needs to be addressed for improving peace in Nepal in general and addressing the need of women in particular by-

a. Government

.....  
.....

b. NGO's /civil society

.....  
.....

c. INGO's

.....  
.....

d. UN

.....  
.....

e. UNIFEM

.....  
.....

f. If any

.....  
.....

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*UNIFEM is the women's fund at the United Nations. It provides financial and technical assistance to innovative programmes and strategies that promote women's human rights, political participation and economic security. Within the UN system, UNIFEM promotes gender equality and links women's issues and concerns to national, regional and global agendas by fostering collaboration and providing technical expertise in gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment strategies.*

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