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DOCUMENTATION OF THE RESULTS OF NATIONAL WORKSHOP





NATIONAL WORKSHOP

Women for Human Rights, single women group (WHR) with the financial and technical support of Kurve Wustrow conducted a two days National Workshop on Perspectives of Conflict Affected Women (CAW) and relevant stakeholders on the current issues of the Transitional Justice Process in Nepal and their roles to overcome challenges to achieve sustainable peace. The 2 days National Workshop took place on 19th and 20th December 2018 at Hotel Yellow Pagoda, Jamal.

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Objectives

The overall objectives of the two days National Workshop is to reflect on the current issues of transitional justice process in Nepal highlighting the common issues of Conflict affected people to achieve sustainable peace.

Specific objectives are:

- To bring all relevant actors of Transitional Justice Process together to identify gaps in policy implementation and place forward common and specific issues
- To give platform for all categories of Conflict Affected Women to speak out their concerns
- To present position paper concerning CAW to all the relevant stakeholders

Panel Discussion

- *What are the common issues of CAW that your organization has identified and how their issues have been put forward?* **Suman Adhikari, President, CVCP**

He stressed on the survivors who had to undergo retraumatization and also humiliated because they are caught in the bureaucratic red-tape and also the political interference has hindered the survivors from attaining their rights.

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- *What are the challenges for CSOs to establish justice for CAW and how their issues can be lobbied? Where are we now?* **Om Sen Thakuri, Director, Advocacy Forum**

He spoke about the general problems that women have to face being a woman. The conflict affected women are facing various types of mental trauma and physical illness as an outburst of the long decade conflict. But the government and the commissions have been very much ignorant about their health issues which need serious attention.

Panel Discussion

- *The importance of CAW network and why the network should be led by women?* **Sumeera Shrestha, Member, Nispakchya**

She focused and appealed government to give priority to peace agenda together with the infrastructure development otherwise the issues will disappear and the victims won't be able to get justice.

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- *What points have been incorporated in the revised draft of the amendment bill? In that regards, did you have consultation with civil society organizations and victim community?* **Sita Sharma Adhikari, Under Secretary, Law Reform Commission**

As peace and reconstruction ministry doesn't exist anymore so in such case how this department of home ministry is addressing the issues of CAW and what are the future plans? **Parmananda Ghimire, Under Secretary, Home Ministry**



He concentrated on the various policies of Nepal Government, for injured and disabled people inference to allowances for lifetime depending on the disability ratio.

Ms. Sita Sharma Adhikari highlighted on the roles of Law Reform Commission. As one of the burning issue of Nepal is the transitional justice of Nepal. Therefore, the major current role of the law reform commission is to extend the mandate of TRC and CIEDP commission.



Closing Program/Remarks

Soon after the lunch, the national workshop continued with the closing remarks by Ms. Lily Thapa, Founder of WHR, Mr. Lokendra Mallick, Honorable President of CIEDP; Mr. Surya Kiran Gurung, Honorable President of TRC and Mr. Bhanu Bhakta Dhakal, Honorable Law Minister. Mr. Bhanu Bhakta Dhakal, Honorable Law Minister lit the panas and officially inaugurated the closing ceremony.



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Ms. Lily Thapa moderated the closing session. She stated that, soon after the conflict there were only 12 organizations working in this issue. She pointed out certain points based on the position paper that was developed:

1. Even after more than a decade has passed after the establishment of peace the survivors of conflict have not received justice, thus there is a need for neutral investigation process to achieve justice.
2. Survivors of Torture and Sexual Violence do not fall in the category of Conflict Victims; hence this must be addressed immediately.
3. Even after signing of the Comprehensive Peace Accord, the conflict affected women are still facing the repercussions of the conflict, so immediate investigation must be performed and the rights to justice and compensation must be guaranteed.
4. As the term of Commission for Investigation for Enforced Disappeared Persons and Truth and Reconciliation Commission is about to end, there must be a re-organization and extension of term of both the commission and an effective re-establishment of justice must be brought about.
5. Transparent organizations dealing with common questions must be provided with resources, medium and procedures for the consistent advocacy of issues of conflict affected women from all walks of life.
6. The definition of conflict victims must not consist of the debatable terms like; "armed" and "unarmed" in its amended draft.
7. As there is no precise count of the conflict victims, in the upcoming census the precise and separate count of conflict affected women and men must be tabulated and provided.
8. For those conflict affected women who faced sexual violence like rape might not speak up about the atrocities they faced hence there is a need for special demands to be made respecting their emotions and individuality by conducting activities such as building Peace Memorials which must be done immediately.
9. Initial investigation must be done to provide interim relief, medical support, legal aid and psycho social counseling to the Survivors of heinous crimes like Torture, Rape and other Sexual Violence.
10. Children born out of rape during the conflict should be provided with important vital registration such as birth registration and citizenship.
11. Prompt interim relief should be provided to all categories of conflict victims who were not included in any kind of list by documenting them.
12. The state must take full responsibility for the children orphaned by the internal armed conflict and provide higher education and psycho-social counseling to the conflict affected children.



Bhanu Bhakta Dhakal, Law Minister, Ministry of
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He appreciated the program modality where he mentioned that such kind of program where the key stakeholders as well as survivors are in a common platform to hear about the survivors concerns/issues and equally responding to those concerns.

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He also stated that the two commissions: TRC and CIEDP are autonomous bodies which can independently make decisions and work on their

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No blanket amnesty will be provided to the perpetrators who are accused of heinous crimes such as rape and torture.

Open Discussion

The floor was open to all the participants. Similar queries as above mentioned were raised in the platform by the participants.



Lokendra Mallick, President, Commission on Investigation of Enforced Disappearance. He stated that out of three thousand (3000) cases from 64 districts registered in the commission, 2500 cases were verified and 2149 cases were under investigation and 19 people out of them were searched and found and then removed from the list of disappeared persons.



Surya Kiran Gurung, President, Truth and Reconciliation Commission gave a brief summary of the latest work done from establishment date of the commission to the present day context. In the initial days, many external factors like promulgation of the Constitution of Nepal, election, etc hindered the work of the commissions. Mr. Gurung also admitted that even after the establishment of TRC, they couldn't work properly in proper coordination with the government which in turn has led to prolonged nature of pain and mistrust among the survivors.

National Workshop-Day 2

The closing session was chaired by Ms. Lily Thapa, Founder of WHR; Ms. Dharma Sheila Chapagain, Parliamentary Member and Ms. Kunda Sharma, President of WHR.



Dharma Sheila Chapagain, Honorable Member of Parliament, shared her own experiences from being an active participant in the conflict to being a member of parliament. She even mentioned that whatever the reasons are behind igniting a war, the process of recuperating is the same. Even though there has been immense development in the policy level and in the constitution as well, the survivors and especially the women have been stigmatized due to the patriarchal structure of our society.



She highlighted a broadminded National Reparation Policy is required to promote self respect and self reliance among conflict victims incorporating their sentiments and including measures in education, health, reservation in employment and social security. Then later she opened the platform for open queries to all the participants.

Ms. Kunda Shaarma, President of WHR thanked the participants for their active contributions as well as congratulating WHR for conducting the two days workshop. She also extended her gratitude to all the respected guests, media and who had contributed to make the two days workshop successful.





Outcomes

The major outcomes from two days National Workshop are:



Position Paper submitted to Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs addressing the issues of conflict affected women.



Ms. Dharma Sheila Chapagain, Honorable Parliamentary Member committed to assist single women and conflict affected women to allocate and incorporate budget for them in upcoming national budget and even assured to pressurize parliament to pass bills in favor of conflict affected women.

The program gave an opportunity to conflict affected women to voice out their concerns and issues directly to the key stakeholders relevant to transitional justice process within the same platform.

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Some of the
glimpses of two
days National
Workshop

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Thank you!

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Thank You