



Terms of Reference (TOR)

"Facilitation of a Workshop on Memorialization, Reconciliation and Constructive Dealing with the Future in Nepal"

1. Introduction

More than 15 years after the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Accord, the establishment of documentation centres and places for remembering the armed conflict (1996-2006) is still an important shortcoming in Nepal. Conflicting views on historical events are a contributory factor behind the general lack of central government initiatives to set up major memorial sites and documentation centres on conflicts. A diversity of perspectives or victim groups' voices are generally not included. The topic also does not officially appear on the curriculum in schools. However, there is a pressing need for **remembrance¹ and memorialization** both to heal wounds dating back to the time of armed conflict, but also with regard to future generations being sensitized on the issues. In the absence of an adequate government-organized transitional justice process, alternative ways and spaces for transformative justice and reconciliation are needed that help foster social cohesion and create positive peace.

In this context, Women for Human Rights, single women group (WHR) is implementing the Peace Project "*People's Participation in Social Harmony in Nepal*". One of the project's mission is to create spaces for remembering and reflecting on the time of the armed conflict (1996-2006) and on other conflicts and associated non-violent movements in Nepal's past. We believe that the construction of the memorial spaces will satisfy the desire to honor those who suffered or died during conflict, to celebrate the contribution of the concerned people to the peace process and to strengthen social justice and as a means to learn from the events of the past and its root causes address to contemporary issues for a peaceful future.

WHR's activities under the project entail the expansion and installation of such memorial spaces that deal with conflicts and non-violent movements in Nepal's history, building on knowledge and experience gained from other contexts. In presenting the content, a particular focus is placed on avoiding any one-sided depiction of events (which would potentially worsen conflicts – "do no harm") on emphasizing the complexity and multidimensionality of the events and on constructive peace-building dealing with the past. Remembrance and discussion events are then to be held at these centres and at other decentralised locations. These events may take the form of lectures, vigils or workshops, for example, but can also include dialogue-based encounters (e.g. reconciliation between victim groups, ex-combatants, members of the armed forces and the general public). Social cohesion is to be strengthened through inter and intra community exchange going beyond social barriers, ethnic division and political affiliation. Events can also open up spaces for learning how social conflicts can be resolved in a non-violent and constructive way.

2. Rationale to conduct remembrance and reconciliation training

2.1 WHR

WHR has been established in 1994 and has gained extensive experience in working with single women (widows). The organization utilized the experience from their single women groups to expand its activities further into peacebuilding and transitional justice. With the institutionalized transitional justice process failing to adequately deal with cases, non-governmental initiatives will be crucial in leading the way to constructive handling of the past events. Therefore, in the upcoming years, WHR

¹ Remembrance here is used as synonym for memorialization and related concepts. Memorialization generally refers to the process of preserving memories of people or events. It can be a form of address or petition, or a ceremony of remembrance or commemoration



seeks to build a peaceful place to commemorate and acknowledge the suffering experienced by the survivors of Nepal’s conflict era in order to prevent its reoccurrence.

2.2 Objectives of the workshop

The objectives of the workshop are:

- To conduct a participatory workshop on designing, implementing memorial work as a component as a means for the dissemination of peacebuilding narratives and as learning space for dealing with conflicts non-violently.
- Develop a clear roadmap/documentation on the concept of memorial space to be designed at the district level
- To accompany the process of memorialization in the districts beyond the workshop

2.3 Participants

The tentative participant’s number is expected to be 15. The participants will include the representatives from three districts (Kailali, Morang and Surkhet) where the memorial space is to be constructed; WHR central board members and project team members and representatives from the KURVE.

3. Methodology to be used

As stated above, the main goal is to strengthen social cohesion with events carried out at the memorial spaces. In order to allow such meaningful events and processes in the spaces, the spaces have to be anchored in, and owned by those people whose issues it addresses (e.g. female conflict victims). Thus, the process of installing and/or expanding the spaces needs to build on the experiences of the community and facilitate the expression of their concerns. However, while portraying the sufferings, achievements and experiences of a community the space should be open for other perspectives and resonate with people beyond a particular background.

We believe that everything necessary for the memorials (creative ideas, designs, messages to be sent etc.) are already with the participants. The workshop therefore needs to elicit these ideas, take them up and develop them into a concrete and feasible. The table below gives further clarification on an elicit approach for workshops:

Prescriptive approach	Elicit approach
Workshop as transfer of knowledge/skills	Workshop as discovery
Resource: knowledge and skills of trainer	Resource: already exists within context and participants
Training as content oriented with the goal of mastering one approach/technique	Training as process oriented: all participate in model creation
Empowerment as learning new ways and strategies (e.g. for “how to memorialise”)	Empowerment as validating and building from context
Trainer’s role: expert, role model, facilitator	Trainer’s role: catalyst and facilitator
Culture as technique	Culture as foundation and seedbed for solutions and approaches



Participatory approaches such as groups discussions, sharing different examples/cases, plenary sharing, video documentary, should be applied. All the methodology that are relevant to the Nepalese context should be applied during the workshop.

4. Time frame

The workshop is expected to take place with April 2023.

5. Roles and responsibilities

WHR

- As contractor, WHR will prepare the final ToR in cooperation with the partner KURVE Wustrow.
- WHR will invite/coordinate participants for the workshop
- WHR will arrange venue and other logistics for the proposed workshop
- Provision of internally available and organizational material, information and contacts.

The consultant

- The consultant team is responsible to prepare and facilitate the workshop on remembrance and memorialization
- The consultant is responsible to submit a clear roadmap of the memorial space to be constructed at the district level which includes designing of the content and proper documentation in Nepali. The roadmap and the documentation of the memorial space should be relevant to the Nepalese context and with the intense discussion with the district project team.
- Provision of workshop materials, information and other related documents.
- The consultant should backstop the project team (district and central) with their guidance even after the workshop.