

## **UNITED NATIONS PEACE FUND FOR NEPAL 'Peace through Justice' Project Grant Fund**

### **What is the fund and who can apply for grants?**

The United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Nepal (OHCHR-Nepal) is implementing a "Peace through Justice" project, funded by the UN Peace Fund for Nepal (UNPFN), which delivers focused rapid-disbursing funds through UN agencies to support the peace process and is financed by contributions from the Governments of Norway, the United Kingdom, Denmark, Canada, Switzerland and the UN Peace Building Fund.

The "Peace through Justice" project aims to provide assistance to the establishment and effective functioning of the transitional justice mechanisms provided for in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, namely the Commission of Inquiry on Disappearances, and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

OHCHR-Nepal requests grant applications from conflict victim groups, civil society organisations, national institutions, and professional associations to implement activities that engage the grassroots level in the transitional justice process and contribute to the work of the Commissions. As past experience has shown, the goals of strengthening democracy and peace are more likely to be achieved with active consultation, and participation of victims groups, civil society and the general public.

Grants will be given to implement larger scale projects of up to \$50,000 per grant, and also to allow organisations operating at the grassroots level (particularly conflict victim's groups) to implement smaller scale projects of up to \$10,000. Project implementation time-lines can be of varying durations, but activities should be completed by 1 September 2010, with a possibility that the project implementation period may be extended in the future.

Consideration shall be given to any project activities that are considered to contribute effectively to the transitional justice process in Nepal. Project areas that shall be considered will include, but not be limited to, the following: strategic workshops for civil society; awareness raising; the production of materials on transitional justice; psycho-social support to victims; victims' documentation; and public Interest litigation (*further details below*).

Special consideration shall be given to organisations representing women or marginalised communities and to activities that include the gender perspective and/or are aimed at the inclusion of vulnerable or marginalised groups.

Organisations are also encouraged to submit joint applications with other partner organisations where applicable.

### **Why is participation in the transitional justice process important?**

Transitional justice is a way to address past human rights violations so that nations like Nepal and their people can move forward towards sustainable peace and reconciliation. It includes a range of approaches that societies undertake to deal with legacies of widespread or systematic human rights abuse as they move from a period of violent conflict or oppression towards peace, democracy, the rule of law, and respect for human rights. Both judicial and non-judicial activities are used during this transition to a durable peace including truth-seeking, ending a culture of impunity, prosecutions, reparations to victims and the reform of institutions.

Nepal made transitional justice a key part of both the Comprehensive Peace Agreement

and Interim Constitution, which envisages the establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission and a mechanism for investigating conflict-related disappearances. As such, the issue is at the heart of Nepal's peace building process and successful transitional justice mechanisms in Nepal will be essential to ending a culture of impunity and supporting a society built on respect for the rule of law and human rights.

These mechanisms must reflect the aspirations, and have the support, of conflict victims and their families and it is important to build the capacity of Nepali civil society, especially victims' groups, so that all can contribute positively. Research in other conflict-affected countries shows that the participation of affected communities is essential and as such all victims, and the wider population, should understand the transitional justice process. Civil society and national institutions will also have a key role in supporting the Commissions once established through ensuring the participation of victims and witnesses in the procedures.

The root causes of conflict in Nepal include discrimination, deep-seated poverty and marginalisation and women and marginalised communities have been worst hit by the conflict. Women were particularly susceptible to poverty and suffering; as well as experiencing direct physical violence, women must also deal with the consequences of what happened to their family members. This project is paying particular attention to the inclusion of women and marginalised groups. Special consideration will be given to projects aimed at ensuring the voices of vulnerable or marginalised groups are properly heard during the transitional justice process. The need for a broad reparations programme that respects, protects and fulfils the rights of women and vulnerable/marginalised groups is also a key aspect of transitional justice.

#### **What type of project will be funded?**

Consideration shall be given to support any project activities that are considered to contribute effectively to the transitional justice process in Nepal. Project areas shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (i) *Strategic workshops for civil society and national human rights institutions* – Workshops will be important in addressing specific needs arising during the process of preparing for the upcoming TRC and Disappearances Commission, provisions for reparations for victims, defining the relationship between the Commissions and civil society, etc. Examples include workshops to discuss the nature of a truth and reconciliation process, the inclusion of marginalised groups, women and children in the transitional justice process, etc.
- (ii) *Awareness raising activities* – Various public awareness-raising activities may be organised, including complementary outreach activities in preparation for the Commissions, particularly activities directed towards women and marginalised groups. Other awareness-raising efforts may include local radio programmes and dramas (broadcasting programmes on topics such as women's participation in the transitional justice process) broadcast in local languages, traditional street theatre dramas, posters, TV programmes, etc.
- (iii) *Production of Materials and Modules on transitional justice* – Various materials may be produced (booklets, posters, CDs, etc.) including gender-focused products. There may also be activities to facilitate discussion with project partners utilising the topics included in the materials to mobilise public opinion.
- (iv) *Psycho-social support to victims* – Civil Society will be crucial in providing support for victims and witness that testify for the Commissions. A project to map support services

will be an important element to be followed by the establishment of a referral mechanism. Funds will also be made available for trainings in psycho-social counselling, travel money to accompany victims and witnesses to hearings and other related costs.

- (v) *Victims' documentation* – Relevant districts would be chosen based on the existence of strong victims' organisations and appropriate geographical spread. Trainers from victims groups may receive training in interview skills and document stories depending on which method is appropriate in the individual case. The stories can be transcribed, edited and published.
- (vi) *Public Interest Litigation* – Grants may be awarded to support public interest litigation actions aimed at combating the culture of impunity and addressing the root causes of the conflict.

### **How can an organisation apply for a grant?**

Grant fund application formats and further information can be obtained from OHCHR offices in Nepal (*details below*). A grant application needs to include a needs assessments (why the project is necessary); the project objectives and the expected outputs/results; details of the specific activities; the implementation time-line; a risk assessment (what could affect implementation of the project); and a budget narrative and detailed breakdown. Background information about the applicant organisation should also be provided.

For grant application formats and further information please contact:  
[ohchr/nepal.pio@ohchr.org](mailto:ohchr/nepal.pio@ohchr.org)

Forms and information can also be downloaded from our website:  
<http://nepal.ohchr.org/en/index.html>

or by contacting an OHCHR-Nepal office in your region:

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OHCHR-Nepal was established in April 2005 following an agreement between the Government of Nepal and United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The mandate of the Office includes monitoring the observance of human rights and

international humanitarian law, advising the authorities on the formulation and implementation of policies, programmes and measures for the promotion and protection of human rights, providing advisory services and support to the National Human Rights Commission, civil societies, human rights NGOs and individuals and submitting analytical reports to the UN Human Rights Council and the General Assembly.