



UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN NEPAL



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All must respect human rights on Election Day – OHCHR-Nepal

OHCHR-Nepal is urging all Nepalis to use the election ‘cooling off’ period to help ensure that on Election Day, voters will be able to exercise their right to choose their representatives free of intimidation, violence and threats. Voters should understand that – contrary to rumours – their votes on 10 April will be secret.

OHCHR has deployed teams in urban areas, regional headquarters and VDCs throughout the country to monitor the human rights environment prior to, during and after Election Day. The Office is liaising closely with the National Human Rights Commission, UNMIN and national and international observer missions.

Commitments to non-violence and respect for the rights of political opponents made by the leaders of the three major parties of the SPA need to be respected by their supporters – including youth wings – in the most remote VDCs, as well as in the major urban centres.

OHCHR acknowledges the special role of the police in providing security for the elections by upholding the rule of law in a professional and impartial manner. OHCHR will liaise with the police and support them through its advocacy. The Office again urges armed groups to renounce violence and respect the right of Nepalis who choose to participate in this historic election process, including by lifting *bandhs*.

“It is important that the significance and legitimacy of the election not be diminished by violence, threats or intimidation. OHCHR will be monitoring the behaviour of the supporters of political parties, and the results of our observations and investigations into allegations of violations and abuses of human rights will be reported,” said OHCHR Representative Richard Bennett.