



UNITED NATIONS
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FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN NEPAL



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OHCHR-Nepal hosts discussion on ending impunity for sexual violence

Today, OHCHR-Nepal hosted a panel discussion on challenges and recommendations on ending impunity for acts of sexual violence committed against women. The panel took place in the framework of the yearly campaign *16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence* (25 Nov. - 10 Dec.). Its theme was End Impunity – Rape is a Crime.

The panel's objective was to discuss how current laws can be better implemented, how society can challenge obstacles that prevent women from stepping forward to talk about their experiences and claim justice, and how to better support victims of sexual violence.

Panelists included the Hon. Kedar Nath Upadhyay, Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission; Dr. Renu Rajbhandary, President of the Women's Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC); Dr Sudha Sharma, Director, Maternity Hospital; Mr. Keshav Prasad Baral, AIG, CID, Nepal Police and Mr. Narendra Pathak, Deputy Attorney General.

The high-level panel will be broadcast during the *16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence*.

“I want to stress that violence against women is in no way a private matter, and it cannot be explained away as being determined by cultural and traditional factors, and therefore somehow allowed or at least unavoidable,” said OHCHR-Nepal Representative Richard Bennett. “It has to be recognized that the main cause of gender-based violence is gender inequality and any effort to reduce gender-based violence must address gender inequality.”