



Joint Statement to the Press

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OHCHR-Nepal and NHRC conduct joint workshop on transitional justice with NGOs representing marginalised groups in the Far-Western Region

DHANGADHI – OHCHR-Nepal’s Far-Western Regional Office, together with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), conducted a workshop on transitional justice today with organisations which represent traditionally marginalised groups in the region. The International Centre for Transitional Justice and the Kanchanpur district Conflict Victim’s Association, formed by Advocacy Forum, contributed their expertise.

The participants were chosen to represent groups most affected by the conflict but which have been largely excluded from any consultation on how the state should properly address the consequences of the conflict, known as transitional justice. The groups at this workshop included women, members of the Tharu community, former Kamaiyas and Dalits. A particular focus was on women’s organisations: all groups were encouraged to send female representatives and more than 75% of participants were women.

Participants were given an opportunity to share their experiences, identify the cause and consequences of the conflict and to explore possible responses in the post-conflict period. As such, the organisations were given the tools to make a meaningful contribution to a national process on transitional justice and to have their voices heard prior to the establishment of any mechanisms, such as a Commission on Disappearances or a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). Participants agreed to explore within their organisations ways to broaden the consultation process at the local level, and to meet again in a week’s time to discuss possible initiatives.

“This workshop gave previously excluded groups, often those most affected by the conflict, the space and opportunity to explore and develop ways to best contribute to a national process on transitional justice,” said Andrew Palmer, Head of OHCHR-Nepal’s Far Western Regional Office. Kosh Raj Neupane, Coordinator of the NHRC for the Far-Western Region agrees, adding: “These groups must be given a voice in establishing future transitional justice mechanisms so that they meet the expectations of those most affected by the conflict and properly address the consequences of the conflict.”

For further information contact:

The National Human Rights Commission, Nepal
Harihar Bhawan, Lalitpur, Nepal. P.O. Box 9182, Kathmandu, Tel: 5010015,
Fax: 5547973, Email: nhrc@nhrcnepal.org, Website: www.nhrcnepal.org

OHCHR-Nepal Far-Western Regional Office
Andrew Palmer, Head of Office, Hasanpur, Dhangadhi, Kailali, Tel: 091-523503,
Fax: 091-526504, Email: apalmer@ohchr.org, Website: <http://nepal.ohchr.org>