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Respect Court Order on equal rights to sexual minorities: OHCHR

KATHMANDU - While members of third gender community are in the street to exercise their fundamental rights, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Nepal (OHCHR-Nepal), reiterates its call to the Govt. to speed up effective implementation of the Supreme Court verdict of 2007 on equal rights, particularly the issuance of citizenship and identity documents on grounds of equality to members of sexual minorities.

OHCHR is concerned at the serious forms of discrimination and stigmatization faced by members of the third gender in Nepal, and the lack of respect for their human rights by the State. The Office points out that under key instruments and decisions of the UN human rights mechanisms, lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender, metis (LGBTI) and other sexual minorities have the right to non-discrimination and equality.

"In fact, Nepal is to be commended as the only South Asian country to extend equal rights to the LGBTI members via a historic Supreme Court ruling," said Jyoti Sanghera Acting Head of the OHCHR-Nepal.

'My Office has deployed a team of human rights monitors for the first and second day of the protests by members of sexual minority in Kathmandu. Our monitors have reported that the protests are peaceful and the police has acted responsibly", said Jyoti Sanghera, "I call on the Government entities to respect the rule of law by implementing the court order as soon as possible."