



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



Press release, 26 August 09

OHCHR releases FAQ on discrimination, and ESCR

26 August, Kathmandu,

Today OHCHR-Nepal released a booklet in Nepali titled "*Frequently Asked Questions on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*" (ESCR). The Office formulated it to answer some common questions about the nature and enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights that OHCHR has encountered during its work. The booklet responds in particular to questions about the rights related to an adequate standard of living.

It is widely recognized that deep rooted discrimination, marginalization, exclusion, and lack of democratization are among the root causes of conflict. For the peace process to succeed in Nepal, it is necessary that people's basic needs for food, health, education and shelter, in other words economic, social and cultural rights, are met.

OHCHR is developing some tools to increase awareness about human rights. One tool, released two months ago, was the *FIR comic strip*, which demystifies the procedure of accessing justice, an important aspect of equality. This booklet is a second tool. The Office expects that both tools will be read widely.

The launch of the FAQ on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights included a theatre performance illustrating discrimination and its impact, as well as two dance performances by Nepal B/Boy and B/Girls and artists representing sexual minorities on discrimination faced by different communities and how it impacts negatively on the right of individuals to gain education, health services, employment and so on.

"It is hoped that providing accessible information about ESCR rights, and discrimination will assist partners to address root causes of conflict, and ultimately contribute to lasting peace", said Richard Bennett, the Representative of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Nepal.