

JOINT MEDIA ADVISORY



The President to inaugurate a 100 Day Campaign of the NDC and OHCHR to “END CASTE DISCRIMINATION AND UNTOUCHABILITY”

15 September, 2011

KATHMANDU, The President of Nepal, Rt. Honourable Dr Ram Baran Yadav will inaugurate a 100 Day campaign entitled “I commit to end caste discrimination and untouchability” at a ceremony at his office in Shital Niwas, Kathmandu on 16 September. Jointly initiated by the National Dalit Commission (NDC) and United Nations Human Rights Office in Nepal (OHCHR-Nepal), the inauguration will be followed in the afternoon by a National Consultation on the Caste-based Discrimination and Untouchability (Offence and Punishment) Act.

Invited participants during opening ceremony at the Office of the President include the Minister for Local Development Top Bahadur Rayamajhi, members of the diplomatic community, noted comedians Madan Krishna Shresth and Haribansha Acharya and other distinguished guests. At the national consultation, a video message by Navy Pillay, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, will be screened.

The NDC and OHCHR partnered in 2008 to jointly advocate for the swift passage of the draft Caste-based Discrimination and Untouchability Bill, and for its compliance with international standards. Working in collaboration with human rights defenders across Nepal, these efforts were succeeded with the adoption of the new law in May this year. However, the new law now requires effective implementation at the grassroots level, which is a central goal of this campaign.

Throughout the 100 day campaign, until its completion on 24 December 2011, various awareness-raising activities will be organised country-wide in collaboration with Government authorities, Dalit networks, media and civil society organisations. The NDC and OHCHR call on all Nepalis to give their personal commitment to move forward and contribute to rapidly eliminating caste discrimination and untouchability practises in Nepal.

Please visit the campaign website (below) to see how you can commit your thumbprint to support this initiative and to follow the upcoming campaign events!

www.100daysagainstcastediscrimination.com

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