

Joint Press Statement

Kathmandu, 20 July 2022

Rectify the Flaws in the Amendment Bill on Transitional Justice Law.

We the undersigned human rights organizations express full solidarity with the valid and serious concerns expressed by the victims' community on the "Bill for the Amendment of the Investigation of Enforced Disappeared Persons, Truth and Reconciliation Commission Act, 2071 (2014)" that the Government of Nepal registered in the parliament on 15 July 2022.

We believe that despite positive provisions including reparations, the amendment Bill contains many provisions that violate the victim's right to an effective remedy. Amnesty to those involved in serious violations of human rights and international crimes including murder, torture, rape, and other forms of serious sexual violence, war crimes, and crimes against humanity is not acceptable under national and international law. Thus, the categorization of violations in the Bill is not acceptable. Earnest effort is required from the Government and the political parties to prevent explicit or implicit immunity from criminal accountability for those involved in serious violations of human rights and intentional crimes.

Therefore, considering the sensitivity of the Bill, we call on 1) the ministry to re-work on the Bill to ensure that the Bill complies with national, international law and the decisions of the Supreme Court of Nepal, and the aspirations expressed by victims during the consultations 2) the sovereign institution of the people's representatives, the Federal Parliament not to pass the Bill as the law without ensuring that the Bill does not violate national and international law and aspiration of victims 3) political parties of Nepal to play constructive roles helping parliament to pass the law following inclusive process 4) UN and Nepal's international development partners not to legitimize and support any process that undermines international law and further impunity in Nepal.

Endorsed by:

Organizations			
1	Accountability Watch Committee (AWC)	2	Advocacy Forum-Nepal (AF)
3	Alliance for Social Dialogue (ASD)	4	Amnesty International Nepal

5	Blue Diamond Society-Nepal	6	Centre for Legal Studies (CLS)
7	Civil Rights Association Nepal (CIRAN)	8	Collective Campaign for Peace (COCAP)
9	Conflict Victim Women National Network (CVWNN)	10	Conflict Victims' Common Platform (CVCP)
11	Conflict Victims' National Alliance (CVNA)	12	Conflict Victims' Society for Justice (CVSJ)
13	Democratic Freedom and Human Rights Institute (DFHRI)	14	Discharged People's Liberation Army Nepal (D-PLAN)
15	Forum for Restorative Justice	16	Forum for Women, Law and Development (FWLD)
17	Himalayan Human Rights Monitors-HimRights	18	Human Rights and Justice Centre (HRJC)
19	Human Rights Foundation (HURFON)	20	Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC)
21	International Institute for Human Rights, Environment and Development (INHURED International)	22	Justice and Rights Institute Nepal (JuRI-Nepal)
23	Law and Policy Forum for Social Justice (LAPSOJ)	24	Legal Aid and Consultancy Centre Nepal (LACC)
25	Nagarik Aawaz (NA)	26	National Alliance of Women Human Rights Defenders
27	National Network of Disabled Conflict Victims	28	National Network of Families of Disappeared (NEFAD)
29	Nepal Law and Policy Centre	30	Nepal Peacebuilding Initiative (NPI)
31	Peace Envisioners	32	Public Defender Society of Nepal (PDSN)
33	Tarangini Foundation	34	Terai Human Rights Defenders Alliance (THRD Alliance)
35	The Story Kitchen	36	Transcultural Psychosocial Organization Nepal (TPO)
37	Voices of Women Media (VOW Media)	38	Women for Human Rights (WHR)
39	Women's Rehabilitation Center (WOREC)		