



Accountability Watch Committee (AWC)

जवाफदेहिता निगरानी समिति

PRESS STATEMENT

22 June 2020

Appeal to Make the Citizenship Bill free of Discrimination

Accountability Watch Committee is seriously alarmed by the passing of the proposal that “a foreign woman married to a Nepali man has to wait for at least 7 years to get a naturalized citizenship and this provision is not applicable for Nepali women marrying foreign man” by State Affairs Committee of House of Representatives on 21 June 2020 as a provision on the bill to amend Nepal Citizenship Act 2006.

This proposed provision creates a discrimination on the foreign men getting married to a Nepali citizen. Thus the provision is against Article 18 and 38(1) of the Constitution of Nepal, Article 2 and 7 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948, Article 26 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 1966 and Article 2 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women 1979. Furthermore, section 9 of the Nepal Treaty Act 1992 states that Nepalese domestic laws should be consistent to the international conventions to which Nepal is a party and where there are contradictions, international law will prevail over domestic laws. If the proposed discriminatory provision is passed as an amendment to the Citizenship Act, section 9 of the Treaty Act will prevail.

The proposed provision on the bill deepens the discrimination between Nepalese men and women and is against the essence of equality envisioned by the Constitution so such a discriminatory provision creates additional mental pressure, family discrimination, domestic violence, social discrimination and a situation of foreigner. In addition, the administrative hurdles created by the provision will strip people of a lot of already guaranteed rights. Taking these issues into consideration, the Accountability Watch Committee requests the members of all the political parties at the legislature and parliamentarians to amend the bill in a way to create equality between men and women.

From Accountability Watch Committee

(Charan Prasai, Coordinator)

Contact- Om Prakash Sen Thakuri, 9841275732

Members affiliated with AWC:

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Co-Coordinator Govinda Bandi, Founding Coorinator Mandira Sharma, members Prof. Kapil Shrestha, Dr. Gaurishankar Lal Das, Kanak Mani Dixit, Dr. Gopal Siwakoti, Shobhakar Budathoki, Suman Adhikari, Devi Sunuwar, Birendra Thapaliya. Dinesh Tripathi. Omprakash Aryal. Raju Prasad Chapagain, Sabitry Shrestha, Janak Bahadur Raut. Indra Prasad Aryal. Mahamushwor Acharya. Baburam Giri, Rajan Kuikel, Bikash Basnet, Anita Thapaliya. Bhakta Bishwakarma. Pankajlal Karna. Badri Prasad Bhusal. Rukmae Maharjan. Randhir Chaudhary.