



Press Statement

19 June 2023

Expedite Transitional Justice Process to Address the Needs of Wartime Sexual Violence Survivors

On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, Advocacy Forum-Nepal, Conflict Victim Women National Network, Human Rights and Justice Centre, Legal Aid and Consultancy Centre Nepal, Nagarik Aawaz and The Story Kitchen stand in solidarity with all the victims and survivors of sexual violence during the decade-long conflict in Nepal pursuing truth, justice, reparation and guarantee of non-recurrence.

Unlike other violations during the conflict, sexual violence has been unreported or underreported by the victims due to the fear of social stigma, lack of availability of any remedies. Victims of sexual violence continue to be excluded from interim relief programme. Only 310 victims have lodged their complaints at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission so far whereas victim groups have estimated around 3,000 – 5,000 women being subjected to wartime rape and sexual violence. Despite minimal reporting, not even a single case has been investigated by the TRC with the view of providing remedies for victims.

Meanwhile, we welcome the adoption of a National Action Plan II (NAP-II) for the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820, that focuses on relief and reparation for victims CRSV. Learning from the implementation of the NAP I, that left victims without any relief, reparation and justice, the Nepal government should take measures to effectively implement the NAP II by mobilizing all actors including the victims' networks and CSOs as the plan requires to achieve the goal of NAP II. Effective implementation of NAP II also requires amending the laws relating to the transitional justice, adopting policies for relief and reparation, allocation of resources, coordination among different actors.

Thus, we, committed to help the government of Nepal to the effective implementation of NAP – II, urge government to take the following measures to ensure the plan is implemented effectively:

- 1) Amend the TJ law in line with Nepal's international obligation and to make it gender friendly, capable of offering truth, justice and reparation for victims of sexual violence.
- 2) Abolish the provision of statute of limitation for reporting incidents of sexual violence to the authorities.
- 3) Take measure to effectively implement NAP-II, including by putting necessary resources in place.