



## **HURFON**

### **National Human Rights Foundation**

### **राष्ट्रिय मानव अधिकार प्रतिष्ठान**

#### **Preamble**

National Human Rights Foundation (HURFON) was established in order to protect and promote the ideals of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR, 1948), especially focusing to economic, social, political and cultural rights of people. It primarily emphasizes its mission to address the need of human rights education for strengthening the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It has aimed to lead an integrated Human Rights movement with the vision of building mass awareness on **Human Rights For Third Generation** for achieving complete social transformation in Nepal.

#### **Vision**

Establishment of a civilized, peaceful, democratic and sustainable society through integrated Human Rights movements with proper dedication to the ideals of the UDHR and its related covenants and laws.

#### **Introduction**

National Human Rights Foundation (HURFON) was established on February 1997 as a pioneering non-political, non-profit making, independent and democratic social Human Rights organization in Nepal. It upholds the global ideals and values of international solidarity, independence and universality of human rights.

HURFON, a national campaign initiated by human rights defenders, lawyers, gender experts, sociologists and university professors, has been relentlessly working to promote and protect all human rights, fundamental freedoms and institutional democracy since 1997 in Nepal. It is registered with District Administration Office (DAO) Kathmandu and Social Welfare Council (SWC). It has also maintained its working relationship with national and international human rights organizations.

It has undertaken a number of programs in order to safeguard the social justice of people by promoting democratic values in society. The show of solidarity with the displaced people of Bhutan is the major issue that HURFON has been championing since its establishment. It is also working as a major pressure group against the violation of social justice, human rights and democracy system.

It has played a significant role by co-operating the National Committee constituted for celebrating 1998 as the Year of human rights to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the international human rights day in Nepal. Similarly it also confirms its solidarity with the national and international movements directed towards the consolidation of the ideals of human rights and democracy.

Under the chairmanship of HURFON's president, Senior Advocate, Krishna Prasad Bhandari, the senior human rights organizations of Nepal have initiated '**International Campaign on the Transfer of Sentenced persons-Nepal**' with the aims of transferring Nepali sentenced persons abroad into Nepal. HURFON has led the international campaign since its inception in 2003.

#### **HURFON as a Dynamic Institution**

HURFON works for the socially marginalized disadvantaged ethnic minorities, disables and all other people who are deprived of justice and basic needs of life. It nationwide raises its voice against any cases of human rights violation and shows its strong solidarity to enhance democratic procedure for any causes of people.

## **Mission Statement**

As a non-political, non-profit making, independent and democratic social human rights organization, HURFON executes its aims and objectives to establish a civilized, peaceful, democratic and sustainable society by protecting and promoting the causes of human rights and democracy through advocacy, education and training, monitoring and research, seminars, conferences and legal support.

## **Objectives**

1. Strengthen and promote democracy and the rule of law in the country.
2. Ensure the attainment and promotion of peace, good governance, human rights and fundamental freedoms of Nepalese people based on ideals of the international human rights laws and international solidarity.
3. Publish articles and bulletins to strengthen the state of democracy, human rights and peace.
4. Help victims get a prompt judicial treatment from the concerned authorities.
5. Launch human rights education, research and training programs for public awareness and social transformation.
6. Co-operate women, children, disadvantaged ethnic groups, indigenous peoples, disables and minors to make them independent and responsive to their fundamental human rights.
7. Coordinate and co-operate the HMG, CBOs and NGOs to help people in critical conditions such as natural disaster, war and internal violence.
8. Create public awareness for the alleviation of growing environmental degradation through research, trainings and Campaigning.
9. Develop formal working relationship with the global organizations in the country and abroad.
10. Work for the attainment and protection of the fundamental human rights of refugees.

## **Membership**

HURFON, based on its statute, provides the following types of membership to the interested individuals who have completed 16 years of age, irrespective of caste, class, ethnicity, colour and sex, except those convicted of any crimes.

- ❖ Founder Membership. (Only for founder members)
- ❖ Life Membership.
- ❖ Active Membership.
- ❖ Honorary Membership.

## **Organizational structure**

- ❖ General Convention.
- ❖ Central Executive Committee.
- ❖ Central Advisory Committee.
- ❖ Regional Departments.
- ❖ District Chapters/Sub Chapters

## **General Convention/Election**

The General Convention is the apex body of HURFON. The founder members, life members, honorary members, central executive committee members, advisory committee and representatives of district chapters will participate the general convention, which is held every two years with complete democratic procedures. The major documents, programs, budget, audit report and plans and policies of the organization are passed and approved by the general convention.

The elected executive committee through general convention will constitute an advisory committee, which comprises of senior human rights activists and distinguished members of the civil society.

## **Financial Resources**

- ❖ Membership Fees
- ❖ Donation
- ❖ Sale of Publications

#### ❖ Grants

HURFON will accept national and international donations and grants to work for the strengthening of democracy, peace, human rights and education in Nepal.

#### **Auditing**

HURFON keeps its all-financial transactions transparent and are duly audited. The audit report is passed by the general convention and is submitted to the District Administration Office (DAO) and Social Welfare Council (SWC), Nepal.

#### **Affiliation/Network**

1. Founding Organization - **Human Rights Home (HRH) Nepal**. (HR Home is a common platform for human rights organizations and defenders to facilitate dialogue, collaboration, security, networking and info exchange to secure conducive environment for safeguarding human rights)
2. Member Organization - **Human Rights Treaty Monitoring Coordination Committee (HRTMCC) Nepal**.
3. Member organization - **National Election Observation Committee (NEOC), Nepal**.
4. Member organization - **People's Campaign against Impunity - National Task Force Nepal**.

#### **Activities**

The current activities undertaken by HURFON:

1. Research and advocacy on right to education through **National Campaign for Right to Education (NCRE)**
2. Peace building and social healing programs
3. Advocacy services for conflict - victims
4. Control Arms Campaign (**HURFON is leading The Task Force for the Control Arms Campaign in Nepal**)
5. **Human Rights Monitor** (Quarterly Publications)
6. Human Rights (HR) observation (Based on everyday HR situation of the country)
7. Life Line Initiative and Legal Support for conflict victims.
8. Public awareness campaigns on human rights education, inclusive democracy, peace and good-governance through interaction, workshop, public dialogues, discussion forums, trainings, fact finding campaigns, advocacy, lobby and networking.
9. Campaign for peace, human rights and full fledged democracy. (In co-ordination with Nepalese HR Community and HURFON network)

#### **Control Arms Campaign**

National Human Rights Foundation (HURFON) has initiated a **National Task Force for the Control Arms Campaign in Nepal** in July 2007 comprising senior most human rights defenders and organizations with the aims and objectives of generating solidarity and mass consensus to build a tough **Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)** which would create a legally binding resolution to regulate arms trade and all types of weaponry transactions including sales, import and exports.

The Task Force has undertaken consultation with the leaders of different political parties, speakers and the parliamentarians, held a round table interaction and a signature campaign, collected signatures of parliamentarians on "**Parliamentarians' Declaration**" and submitted to the General Secretary of The United Nations. The Task Force had also maintained its formal working relation with the international organizations such as **Amnesty International, OXFAM and IANSA** towards achieving its mission.

The National Task Force organized a historic round table interaction on "**Role of Parliamentarians for the Declaration on Support for a tough Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)**" on 29<sup>th</sup> July, 2007 in Kathmandu. Fifty seven members of the legislature parliament representing nine major political parties including parliamentary leader of Nepal Communist Party (UML) - Mr. Madhav Kumar

Nepal and the general secretary of Nepali Congress Mr. K. B. Gurung signed '**Parliamentarians' Declaration**' in the program. The National Task Force has been actively working to accelerate the control arms campaign in Nepal since its establishment. **Amnesty International Youth Network, Kathmandu** has been playing a vital role to establish the task force and enhance the control arms campaign from the beginning.

### **National Campaign for Right to Education (NCRE)**

Considering education as the fundamental rights of every citizen irrespective of caste, class, sex, ethnicity, gender, religion and social origin, National Human Rights Foundation (HURFON) has led National Campaign for Right to Education (NCRE) in Nepal which includes the coalition of educational organizations, human rights communities, civil society, trade unions, educationists, youths, education rights – practitioners and activists. NCRE aims at promoting scientific, practical and rights based education system in Nepal through advocacy, publication, research, trainings, lobby, monitoring, networking and exchange programs.

#### **Objectives of NCRE:**

1. Create pressure and mass consensus for transforming the conventional education system into scientific, results based and practical education system.
2. Launch Human Right Education (HRE) program in Secondary and Higher Secondary level throughout the country.
3. Actively work to make people aware that education is the foremost and fundamental right of every citizen regardless of caste, class, sex, ethnicity, gender and social origin.
4. Campaign for the practical execution of the policy of compulsory and free education up to the secondary level.
5. Advocate for the smooth implementation of international commitments made by the state on education.
6. Actively advocate and campaign to improve the status of right to education with regard to the access of *dalits, janajati, madhesi*, indigenous groups, and other socially, economically and politically marginalized people.
7. Carry out study, monitoring, and research on the execution of the strategic action plan of the government to education and put forward effective recommendations on regular basis.
8. Spread the campaign for fundamental right of education and rights based education up to the grass roots level.
9. Advocate, follow up and campaign to introduce gender-responsive and rights based education policy, plans and programs.
10. Develop coordination and coherence with the national and international organizations working for education.
11. Actively work to promote all other aspects of right to education.

#### **Secretariat/Co-ordination of NCRE:**

The campaign is executed on the basis of the mandate and strategic action plan of the National Task Force. National Human Rights Foundation (HURFON) is the co-ordinator and secretariat of the campaign.

#### **Funding:**

The campaign is funded by the following sources:

1. Donation (optional) from individuals and organizations affiliated to the campaign.
2. Donation from donor organizations.
3. Sale of publications
4. Other donations, grants and support

**National Human Rights Foundation**

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**For Contribution**

Should any individual/organization wish to make a contribution/support to uphold the dignified human rights and humanitarian campaign in Nepal, please contact us via email, telephone, fax or directly contribute to our HURFON **Saving Account No 4810017501112, Nabil Bank Ltd, Branch Office Anamnagar, Kathmandu, Nepal.** (SWIFT CODE: NARBNPKA)