

## **Universal Periodic Review Cycle III Pre-session**

### **(Violence against Women especially harmful tradition against Women and Girl in Nepal, and Women participation in policy level)**

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Excellencies and Respected delegates, Informal Sector Service Center (INSEC), Secretariat of the NGO coalition of UPR, would like to share the status of violence against women and girls. Similarly I would like to share the changed context for women participation in policy level. It is my request you all to pay your necessary attention for recommending the state for protecting the rights of women and girls from violence caused by traditional harmful practices.

The Government of Nepal accepted the recommendations made during UPR second cycle that demands programs, policy/law reforms and accountability of the law enforcement agencies. The male dominant stereotypes, domination of the harmful practices against women, discriminatory mechanisms and inequalities which perpetuate violence against women, weak legislation on domestic violence and gender based violence are the major challenges for Nepali women and girls.

Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC)'s documentation presents the increment of violence from 2909 cases in the reporting year 2016 which reached 3360 in the reporting year 2019. Number of cases increased even after the UPR second cycle review. INSEC further presents that 34 women victimized on 2016 by witchcraft allegation whereas the number almost doubled by 63 on 2018. The urgency for changing the status quo of operational, legal and policy became essential for safeguarding the women and girls from such violence.

Sexual and domestic violence and structural violence against women increased. The severity of the violation of women rights has also been increased. The traditional practices such as: dowry, witchcraft and chhaupadi mostly caused by religious, social, cultural and psychological context always brought physical, mental, sexual, and emotional violence against women. The vicious circle of violence seems never ending. We urge the Nepal Government for its special attention to reduce violence against women and girls to bring the entire alleged to judicial trail.

Although the women participation guaranteed by 33% in the constitution, the political parties and executive platforms are neglecting the constitutional guarantee. Only the local government is unique to ensure the participation measures. There is the practice of putting women in the list of proportional representation. The demand for balancing women's competitive capabilities and constitutional guarantee is also the issue of priority for Nepal to ensure equality.

In this regard, I would like to present the priorities of Nepali civil society for your reference and further procedure.

1. Amend law to ensure the 33% women representation in both the electoral (first past the post and proportionate) process
2. Ensure institutions and mechanisms for implementation of law to end the traditional harmful practices. 3. Train civil society and law enforcement agencies to bring the perpetrator who alleges someone witchcraft
3. Educate children against the traditional harmful practices (chhaupadi, witchcraft and dowry).
4. Amend the Domestic Violence Crime and Punishment Act 2009 and ensure the provisions for protective orders (section 6 of the Domestic Violence and Punishment Act) to provision the immediate protective measures.
5. Guarantee full and comprehensive investigations into cases of killings after rape and ensure that the cases are fully and properly investigated to bring the perpetrators into justice.

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