

# CZOP NEWSLETTER



Issue 001

January-March, 2025

## Children as Zones of Peace (CZOP)-National Campaign

Children as Zone of Peace (CZOP)-National Campaign was initiated as a movement for the first time in Nepal in 2001 to promote the protection and promotion of children's rights during and after armed conflicts. The campaign was initially a loose coalition of limited organizations working in the field of child rights, including Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), International Non-governmental Organizations (INGOs) and National Human Rights Commission, Nepal Red Cross Society and UNICEF Nepal as observer members. The coalition has been formalized and 97 member organizations have been associated with it from across Nepal under the name 'CZOP-National Campaign' as of 2024. It advocates children as zone of peace and encourages them to refrain from participating in armed or unarmed political movements. It also seeks to ensure that children who are affected by conflict or any emergency receive ample and effective support and relief from civil society.

### CZOP-Involving on the Preparation of Child-Centric Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Report

A compiled report is submitted to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in every four and half years. As in the previous period, CZOP is leading the preparation of the Child-Centric UPR Report the 4<sup>th</sup> cycle. CZOP organized a national-level discussion program on UPR and CRC Status and Way Forward in Nepal on March 6, 2025. Total 124 people representing CSOs working in Human Rights and Child Rights from 41 districts participated the program in Kathmandu. In addition, CZOP organized a meeting with development partners to discuss on the collaborative support for the UPR Reporting Process in Nepalese context. Total 22 people representing development partners and CSOs participated the meeting. The development partners included UNICEF, Save the Children, GNI Nepal, World Vision International Nepal, TDH F, GSIF Nepal, The Asia Foundation, Cel RRD, Kindernothilfe, Child Aid Network Foundation, Anahata Nepal and Alliance 8.7.



### Incident at Jayantu Child Correction Home and CZOP's Response

On March 14, 2025 a violent altercation broke out between children at the Jayantu Child Correction Home in Bake. More than three dozen children were injured and hospitalized, and the ground floor of the building was set on fire by the children. Following the incident, CZOP along with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Nepalgunj office and other CSOs visited the Jayantu Child Correction Home as a part of the monitoring and reporting. In addition, CZOP also issued a press release emphasizing the protection of individuals residing in the child correction home.



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## Men's March for Gender Equality on International Women's Day 2025

On International Women's Day 2025, a Men's March was held in Lalitpur, emphasizing the need for collective action towards gender equality. CZOP along with various Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), participated in the rally, the rally was started from Jawalakhel and completed at Patan Darwar Square with closing meeting. The march highlighted the ongoing fight for a future where everyone, regardless of gender, can thrive. CZOP is advocating for equal opportunities, safety, and dignity for all women and girls.



## CZOP Facilitates Formation of Parliamentary Forum for Child Rights

CZOP has successfully coordinated for the formation of a Parliamentary Forum for Child Rights at the federal level as well as Provincial Level. During this period, three meetings were held and the forum strongly disagreed with proposals to lower the legal marriage age for children from 20 to 18. Additionally, forums have been established in five provinces i.e. Sudurpaschim, Karnali, Lumbini, Madhesh and Bagmati provinces by March 2025. CZOP is planning to form the Parliamentary Forum for Child Rights in remaining Koshi and Gandaki Provinces by June 2025. This forum has become a crucial platform for raising children's voices in the parliament and beyond.

## CZOP Advocates for Defending Marriage Age with Parliamentary Leaders

On January 29, NACG, CZOP, and other CSOs and networks met with Hon. Bimala Subedi, Chair of the Parliament Committee on Law, Justice, and Human Rights, and handed over the memorandum letter to defend the legal marriage age of 20 years. The meeting emphasized the opposition to lowering the marriage age from 20 to 18, and Hon. Subedi responded positively. Additionally, Hon. Sita Rana, representing the Parliamentary Forum for Child Rights met with the Minister of Law Hon. Ajay Kumar Chaurasiya to express disagreement about reducing the marriage age.





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## CZOP Forms Child Advisory Committee and Advocates for Child Rights

CZOP formed the Child Advisory Committee on August 19, 2024 and has consistently sought their advice and involvement in program planning. On February 14, a virtual meeting was held with the Child Advisory Committee, where members shared the work done by child clubs in their communities. The committee also strongly opposed the parliamentary committee's plan to lower the legal marriage age to 18. They have written letters to the government and raised public awareness on the issue.

CZOP has been actively advocating for a separate child budget code at the national level, similar to other sectors. This initiative aims to enhance planning and implementation of child rights programs and activities. In partnership with MoWCSC, NCRC, development partners, and civil society networks, CZOP has made significant strides. The draft report for the Separate Budget Code for Children has been submitted to the MoWCSC for review.



### बापु प्रदुषणले बालबालिकाको स्वास्थ्यमा पारेको असर तथा संरक्षणका विषयमा प्रेस विज्ञापित

काठमाडौं उपत्यका लगायत देशका विभिन्न स्थानमा विगत दुई हप्तादेखि देखिएको खतरनाक स्तरको बापु प्रदुषणले सर्वसाधारणमा पारेको असरप्रति बालबालिका शान्तिक्षेत्र राष्ट्रिय अभियान (सिजप)को गम्भीर ध्यानाकर्षण भएको छ । एघार बमालीट्टी इन्डस्ट्रियल मापनअनुसार काठमाडौं उपत्यका बापु प्रदुषणमा विश्वकै शीर्ष स्थानमै रहेको छ । बापु प्रदुषणले बालबालिका, बृद्ध वृद्धा, गर्भवती र सुकेरीमा ठेगै जोखिम गर्दछ । मृदु, मिर्गौला, श्वासप्रश्वास लगायतका दीर्घ रोगी पनि उच्च जोखिममा पर्छन् । यस अवस्थामा बालबालिका शान्तिक्षेत्र राष्ट्रिय अभियान (सिजप) सम्वन्धित सबैमा सावधानी अपनाउन, अतिआवश्यक काम बाहेक घर बाहिर ननिस्कन, बाहिर निस्कदा अनिवार्य मास्क लगाउन, उमालेको मतलालो पानी पिउन, घरबाहिर खेल तथा व्यायाम नगर्न : बालबालिकाको स्वास्थ्य तथा संरक्षणमा विशेष ध्यान दिन हार्दिक अनुरोध गर्दछौ ।

नेपालको मासिकमा २०५२ को आग २० अनुसार प्रत्येक नागरिकलाई स्वच्छ र स्वस्थ वातावरणमा बाँच्न पाउने मौलिक अधिकार छ । तर वर्तमान बापु प्रदुषणको अवस्थाले नागरिकको यस मौलिक अधिकारलाई हल्ला गरेको छ । सयुक्त राष्ट्रसङ्घ बालावस्थासम्बन्धी विकास 'पुलण्डिनी' का अनुसार बापु प्रदुषणले विश्वभर हरेक वर्ष ५० लाख मानिसको ज्यान लिने गरेको छ । काठमाडौंमा बापु प्रदुषणबाट मात्रै आएको घटना सांख्यिक नभए पनि अहिले बस्न नसक्ने अवस्थामा पुगेको देखिने विचारीको साथ रहेको छ । बापु प्रदुषणको कारण आँखा, नास, कान, घाँटी र श्वासप्रश्वासको समस्या लिएर अस्पताल पुगेको बच्चा बढ्दो छ । बापु प्रदुषणले हुपुपतालको सम्भावना बढाउँछ भन्ने अध्ययनले समेत देखाएको छ । तसर्थ नेपाल सरकार र सम्बन्धित सबैले बापु प्रदुषण र यसको जोखिम न्यूनीकरण, जमचेतना, प्रदुषण रोक्नका र स्वास्थ्यको उपकरणहरूको पुर्ब उपलब्धतामा ध्यान पुर्‍याउन अनुरोध गर्दछौ ।

बापु प्रदुषणलाई जनस्वास्थ्य आपत्तकाल घोषणा गरी तत्काल न्यूनीकरणका उपग्रहः कार्यान्वयन गर्न, अनुगमन समन्वयहरूका

## Press Release

Press Release is one of the major tools for advocacy and CZOP is actively engaged in advocating through press releases for Child Rights related issues at local to national level. During this period, total five Press Release issued on Child Rights Related Issues i.e. Closing of School due to the event of political Parties, Gang Fight between two groups in Child Correction Home in Banke, Age Limit Debate on Child Marriage and Teachers Movement and Closing of School and Environment Pollution and Children's Health.

