

Nepal

**Joint Report of Non-Government Organization
on
Universal Periodic Review (UPR)
(4th cycle)**

Submitted by
Child Centered UPR Coalition

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I. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Child-centered UPR Reporting Coalition Nepal prepared this joint submission. The report preparation process was coordinated by Children as Zones of Peace National Campaign (CZOP), comprising 97 civil society organizations (Annex).

II. METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 This report is the outcome of two national-level consultations and 27 consultations in seven provinces, including child consultations. Altogether 689 participants including 326 children were consulted. Participants were representatives from the National Human Rights Commission, Government, Civil Society organisations including children from remote rural areas, ethnic, religious, linguistic and gender minorities, children living in slum areas, and child care homes.
- 2.2 Separate child consultations were carried out in all seven provinces following child participation standard and inclusiveness.

III. IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF UPR 3rd CYCLE (2021) CHILD RIGHTS RECOMMENDATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT SINCE THE PREVIOUS REVIEW

- 3.1 Out of many recommendations linking children, fifteen recommendations were explicitly on children and child rights. Out of which, five were related to general principles and ten were related to child protection. Out of those five recommendations, Nepal noted the recommendation to establish a special mechanism responsible for independent child rights monitoring.ⁱ The mid-term review conducted by NGO Coalition for UPR-Nepal reported that out of four recommendations on general principles, supported by Nepal, all of them were partially implemented. Out of 10 recommendations related to protection of children against exploitation, Nepal supported all 10 recommendations. Assessment by the coalition considered that 6 (60%) recommendations were partially implemented and 4 (40%) were not implemented.ⁱⁱ

Child labour

- 3.2 Nepal received 18 recommendations related to child labour and all of them were supported.ⁱⁱⁱ These recommendations included intensifying efforts and raising awareness to end child labour including others.^{iv}
- 3.3 The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 2000, has not been amended to make it on par with the Constitution. While the Act prohibits engaging children in hazardous work, it does not address child labourers in informal work, 62.3% of whom work in hazardous conditions.^v The Labour Act 2017, Children's Act 2018, fails to address the issue of child labor in informal work.
- 3.4 The National Master Plan on Elimination of Child Labour 2018-2028 is aimed at abolishing the worst forms of child labour by 2022 and all forms of child labour by 2025. By 2022/23, a total of 14 local levels have been declared child labour free.^{vi} 1.1 million children are engaged in labour and 200,000 children are into hazardous work.^{vii}

Child, Early and Forced marriages

- 3.5 Nepal received six recommendations related to child marriage and all of them were supported.^{viii} Child marriage and forceful marriages are criminal offences as per the National Penal Code 2017.^{ix} In 2016, the Government of Nepal adopted "National Strategy to End Child Marriage" with the vision of ending child marriage by 2030. However, it is yet to prepare the costed-strategy and secure adequate investment for implementation.

Child Trafficking

- 3.6 The Act Relating to Children 2018, the Penal Code 2017, the Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Act, 2007, and the Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Rules, 2008, have prohibited and criminalized human trafficking and transportation. However, Nepal's anti-human trafficking laws are not in line with the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, to which Nepal is a party. With the changed structure of

governance from a centralized to a federal model, the Act does not comply with the new state structure on policy, programs and delivery mechanisms.

Nationality and citizenship

- 3.7 As per the Constitution of Nepal, a person whose “father or mother” was a citizen of Nepal at the time of his/her birth and who has permanent domicile in Nepal gets citizenship by descent. Child of a citizen by birth before the commencement of this Constitution will acquire citizenship by descent when s/he grows up if “both his father and mother are Nepali citizens”.^x This means either of the parents should start the process of acquiring citizenship as early as possible after they got married, if s/he is of foreign origin. A person eligible for citizenship by descent can obtain a citizenship certificate in the name of “his/her mother or father”.^{xi} However, acquiring Nepali citizenship by children without fathers and with parents with naturalized Nepali citizenship especially in the Terai region is still difficult.^{xii}

Establishment of independent child rights monitoring mechanism

- 3.8 Nepal received a recommendation for the establishment of a special mechanism responsible for independent child rights monitoring,^{xiii} but the recommendation was noted, and no such mechanism has been established so far.

Protection of vulnerable groups

- 3.9 The Act Relating to Children 2018 listed ‘children in need of special protection’^{xiv}; however, offering protection programs is still in progress. The Act should include LGBTQI+ children, children affected by protection issues such as child marriages, child labour etc and the protection services for children with special protection needs should be secured.

Neonatal mortality rates

- 3.10 Nepal received two recommendations on reducing the neonatal mortality rate in the third cycle of review.^{xv} The neonatal mortality rate in Nepal in 2025 is estimated to be 16.6 deaths per 1,000 live births. This is a decrease from the rate of 21 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2022, as reported by the Nepal Demographic and Health Survey.^{xvi}

Education

- 3.11 Nepal received nine specific recommendations related to the right to education in the third cycle of review,^{xvii} and Nepal supported all of them. Most recommendations were related to improving access to quality education and ensuring free and compulsory education.^{xviii} Despite the Compulsory and Free Education Act was enacted in 2018, Nepal’s Ministry of Education is just preparing its implementation Plan of Action, 2025.^{xix}
- 3.12 In the Fiscal Year 2024/25, a budget of about 93 crore Nepali rupees was allocated as scholarships for about five hundred and fifty-three thousand *Dalit* students as beneficiaries.^{xx} Despite the fact of certain improvement in the sector of education, enrollment, participation and retention of children with disabilities are challenging. Most schools are located farther away than the said standard. This affects the access of children, especially by children with disabilities. As a result, enrollment of these children in basic education is very low (0.94%) compared to children without disabilities (97%).^{xxi} School infrastructures, teaching-learning methods and tools are not friendly, especially to such children.
- 3.13 Nepal has managed to achieve gender parity in primary school enrolment; however, there is a high dropout rate among girls in upper grades.^{xxii} While 28.7% of the total literate population aged 5 years and above have completed the basic education level, only 9.5% of such population has completed the tenth grade.^{xxiii}

Ratification of Optional Protocol on Communication Procedure

- 3.14 Nepal noted the recommendation for ratifying the third optional protocol to the CRC on communication procedure^{xxiv} but has not ratified the instrument yet.

Children in Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Frameworks

3.15 Nepal received a recommendation to meaningful engaging local communities, including children, in the development and implementation of climate change and disaster risk reduction frameworks^{xxv}, which was supported by Nepal. The Disaster Risk Reduction National Policy, 2018, addresses the concern of inclusive disaster management that considers, among others, children's access, representation and effective involvement at all stages and infrastructures of disaster risk reduction.^{xxvi} The National Children Policy, 2023 also mentions risk evaluation for children during disasters in one of its strategies.^{xxvii} However, the Children's Climate Risk Index (CCRI)-2023 reports that the children of Nepal are at 'high risk' (6.1), within which the risk due to climate and environmental factors is 'extremely high' (7.5),^{xxviii} making Nepal rank 51st in the list of countries where children are most at risk.^{xxix} A report has identified the absence of a clear climate resilience policy that specifically targets children and young people as a significant gap in Nepal's approach to protecting these groups from disaster and climate-induced risks.^{xxx}

IV. GENERAL LEGAL MEASURES AND HUMAN RIGHTS FRAMEWORK CONCERNING CHILD RIGHTS

4.1 Scope of International Obligations

4.1.1 Nepal ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 14 September 1990.^{xxxi} The provisions of ratified treaties will prevail if the provisions of domestic laws contradict them.^{xxxii}

4.1.2 Nepal also ratified Optional Protocols to the CRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography on 20 January 2006^{xxxiii} and Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict on 03 January 2007.^{xxxiv} But it has not ratified the third Optional Protocol on Communication Procedure.

Recommendation:

- Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on communication procedure.

4.2 Constitutional and Legislative Framework

4.2.1 The Constitution of Nepal 2015 guarantees child rights as fundamental rights for the first time in its history^{xxxv}. Subsequent enactment of the Children Act 2018 and Children's Regulations 2021 incorporates the rights of children and the mandate of child rights structures and protection mechanisms.

4.2.2 Nepal has the National Children Policy 2023, the National Master Plan against Child Labour 2018-2028; and the National Strategy to End Child Marriage 2016.

4.2.3 Despite these constitutional, legal and policy frameworks, the status of Nepalese children remains dismal, as the child rights and protection system is not effective to fulfill children's rights and protecting children from abuse, discrimination, exploitation and violence.

Recommendations:

- Take measures to eliminate discrimination on the basis of sex, gender, sexual orientation and gender identity, caste, class, disability, geographical region and other forms in schools, families and communities.
- Amend the Domestic Violence Act, 2009, broadening the definition of domestic violence, sexual violence and all types of physical and psychological harm against children.
- Amend the Child Labour Act 2000, incorporating measures for rescue, reparation, and reintegration, as well as harmonize national laws criminalizing child labor, also bringing informal sector child labour into jurisdiction.
- Establish an effective child protection system with standard procedures and competent professionals.

4.3 Human Rights Institutions, Infrastructures and Policy Measures

4.3.1 There is National Human Rights Commission, a constitutional human rights monitoring body established as per the Paris Principle. The Constitution provides thematic commissions for Women, Dalit, Inclusion, Indigenous Nationalities, *Madhesi*, *Tharu*, and Muslim.

4.3.2 None of these constitutional commissions explicitly monitor children's rights. However, a commissioner at the NHRC has been assigned as the focal person for children's issues.

4.3.3 The Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens is a focal ministry for implementing rights of children. Many other federal-level and provincial ministries, local government and ward-level authorities have a mandate to work for children.

4.3.4 In absence of local level structures in many municipalities and the full functioning of envisioned authorities like Provincial and Local Child Rights Committees and Child Welfare Officers, child protection has not been prioritized.

Recommendations:

- Develop indicators and procedures of 'best interest of the child' and prioritize targeted programs for children with special protection needs.
- Develop guiding measures for investment in children at all tiers of Government, and allocate at least 10 percent for child protection, and child participation.
- Establish an 'independent' child rights monitoring body.
- Accelerate formulating and implementing provincial and local level strategies and action plans in all provinces and local levels for children's rights.

V. IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS OBLIGATIONS CONCERNING CHILD RIGHTS

Implementation of CRC and CEDAW Concluding Observations

5.1 The concluding observations on the combined third to fifth periodic reports of Nepal (2016) pointed out elimination of all forms of discrimination, stigmatization and social exclusion of Dalit children,^{xxxvi} awareness raising for ending gender discriminatory and patriarchal mindset, consideration of best interest of the child in all decision making, respect the views of children, accelerating efforts to ensure birth registration, citizenship through either of the parents, evaluation of previous work plans, establishment of inter-ministerial coordination and monitoring mechanism, adequate budget allocation, collection of disaggregated data, guarantee of independence of National Human Rights Commission, guarantee of confidentiality and privacy in all phases of court proceedings, training on child rights for all stakeholders, guarantee of quality health services, discrimination against sexual and gender minority children, guarantee of quality education through teacher's training, development of strategy for the inclusion of children with disabilities, restriction on corporal punishment in schools and other inhuman, degrading treatment, restriction on all harmful cultural practices, stringent laws on adoption and alternative care and their effective implement.^{xxxvii}

5.2 CEDAW concluding observation on the seventh periodic report of Nepal^{xxxviii} recommended eliminating all stereotypes and harmful practices against girl child, including child marriage.^{xxxix} Child marriage is still a problem in Nepal, despite the national laws and strategy to end Child Marriage.^{xl}

Recommendations:

- Comply with international human rights obligations and effectively implement recommendations provided by Committees on CRC, CEDAW and CRPD to protect children.

VI. MAJOR AREAS OF CONCERN

A. Right to life: *Sex selective abortion*

6.1 The Department of Health Services reported that a total of 93,463 Safe Abortion Services (SAS) were provided in FY 2022/23, which was an increment as compared to FY 2021/22.^{xi} Around 6% of the women who utilized SAS were below 20 years, suggesting ‘either premarital conception or early marriages leading to abortion’.^{xlii} This data demonstrates ‘only registered cases of abortions and does not capture illegal, unregistered, unsafe abortions’.^{xliii} The National Census of 2021 reports that the sex ratio at birth (SRB) has risen from 99.8 in 2001 to 112 in 2011, with the highest in Madhesh (118) and Sudurpaschim (116) provinces.^{xliv} This is indicative of ‘increasing preference for male children [and] largely due to access to sex-selective abortion’.^{xlv}

With the rise of healthcare services, including clinics, polyclinics, increased access to ultrasound services, and a higher prevalence of routine ultrasonography during antenatal care,^{xlvi} sex-selective abortion is on rise in Nepal. Studies have shown that a substantial portion of the total abortions in Nepal takes place as a result of preference for sons.^{xlvii}

Recommendations:

- Develop specific measures for the effective implementation of restrictions on practices of sex-selective abortion.

B. Right to health, nutrition and development *Access to health services, including mental health services*

6.2 In 2020 and 2021, 79% of live and stillbirths were delivered in health facilities, and 80% of the births were delivered by skilled health service providers.^{xlviii} Despite these improvements, disparity in access to health care exists, mainly defined by socioeconomic status, location and gender-based discrimination.^{xlix} Access to institutional health care remains low for women in the lowest wealth quintile compared to those in the highest.^l Other hindering factors include insufficient drugs, staff unavailability, and facility hours.^{li} Children’s mental health and emotional well-being have not received the required priority compared to the need. National Mental Health Survey 2020 found 5.2% prevalence rate of mental health problems among children aged 13 – 17. In last two fiscal years (2022-24), 1641 children committed suicide which is 11.6% of total suicides committed, and among children, 67% are girls.^{lii}

Recommendations

- Establish a comprehensive mental health and psychosocial support services at provincial and local level with specialized professionals for children.

Nutrition

6.3 Nepal began its first Multi-Sector Nutrition Plan in 2013-2017, which was then continued for 2018/19-2022/23, with the goal of ‘improved maternal, adolescents and child nutrition’.^{liii}

6.4 The percentage of newborns with low birth weight (<2.5 kg) was 12.6 % in 2022/23.^{liv} About 79% of children between 0-23 months old were registered for growth monitoring with an average of 6 visits per child, still way short of the ‘optimum 24 visits’.^{lv} Among them, 3% were reported as underweight. During growth monitoring, 50% of children were exclusively breastfed and 55% were timely introduced to supplementary foods.^{lvi}

6.5 As of 2019, stunting exists in one in three children below the age of five years (32%), followed by underweight (24%), wasting (12%), and overweight (3%).^{lvii}

Recommendations:

- Guarantee access to free healthcare for the effective implementation of laws, policies and directives for children.
- Take measures to ensure immunization without leaving anyone behind, particularly focusing on children at risk and in need of special protection.

Right to education

- 6.6 As of 2021, 28% of the literate population aged 5 years and above have completed primary education, 19.9% completed lower secondary level, 15.4% upper secondary level, while only 9.5% have completed the School Leaving Certificate (SLC)/Secondary Education Examination (SEE) level.^{lxviii} The primary completion rate is high (82%), but decline sharply for lower (73%) and upper secondary education (27%).^{lix} Rural and poor children have lower completion rates than the national average, with urban and richer children holding the advantage, and this gap ‘widens starkly as they progress through the education system’.^{lx} 18% of children do not complete primary level, while this figure is 27% for lower secondary and 73% for upper secondary.^{lxi} The drop-out rate at higher secondary level is more prevalent among female children than male.^{lxii}
- 6.7 There is disparity in quality of education between public and private schools in general. Quality education is expensive and not accessible to all.^{lxiii}

Recommendations:

- Guarantee access to free, compulsory and quality education up to the basic level regardless of geographical location, sex, gender, caste, or class without leaving anyone behind, particularly focusing on children at risk and in need of special protection.
- Guarantee affordable, inclusive and quality higher-level education to all.
- Implement nutritious midday meals up to basic and higher levels in all schools.

C. Right to protection

Crimes against children

- 6.8 In 2022/23, there were 3,510 reported cases of sexual violence, out of which 1,386 involved child victims, mostly girls.^{lxiv} Among the total sexual violence-related cases filed in 2023-2024, the highest numbers of victims (777) were girls aged 11-14,^{lxv} while 91.9% of the accused/offenders were acquaintances. In the same year, Nepal Police recorded 635 cases of cybercrimes against children, and out of the total registered human trafficking cases, 34.3% were girls.^{lxvi}
- 6.9 Although Nepal is the 54th country to fully prohibit all forms of corporal punishment of children in all settings,^{lxvii} it is still prevalent at schools and homes as a means of discipline.^{lxviii} Corporal punishment of students at schools is repeatedly recorded. For instance, a teacher in Tanahun district was arrested for hitting four students with a heated metal spatula on their cheeks as punishment for making noise in exams.^{lxix}

Recommendations:

- Establish and Invest in child protection mechanisms at all levels with adequate child protection professionals to prevent, protect and respond to child protection.
- Enforce laws, policies and programs to address all forms of violence against children including physical, psychological, sexual, and technology-facilitated violence.

Children in correction homes

- 6.10 There are nine child correction homes in operation in eight districts of Nepal.^{lxx} As of 15 July 2024, there were a total of 1381 persons (908 children and 473 persons above the age of 18) in nine correction homes.^{lxxi} Among the children, 887 are boys and 21 are girls. These correction homes are overcrowded and they do not have specific programmes for preventing recidivism.^{lxxii}

Recommendations:

- Ensure effective implementation of diversion practices in child justice, as well as improve the quality and services of child correction centers.
- Ensure restorative and rehabilitative justice approach as an alternative to imprisonment for children accused of criminal offences.

Trafficked children

6.11 As per Nepal Police, 166 human trafficking cases involving 210 victims were registered between July/August 2023 and June/July 2024, out of which 86 belonged to the age group 11-18.^{lxxiii} The incident of trafficking and rape registration has increased by 90% in comparison to the data of 2022-2023.^{lxxiv}

6.12 In Nepal, children living in orphanages,^{lxxv} unregistered children's homes,^{lxxvi} and children subject to vulnerability in other ways, like pandemics or natural disasters, are very prone to trafficking.

Recommendation:

- Amend the HTTC Act, Rules, National Plan of Action against trafficking, in line with the Palermo Protocol addressing the issues of child trafficking, and incorporating the provisions on preventive measures, rescue, reparation, and reintegration.

Child Labour

6.13 According to Nepal Child Labour Report 2021, 15.3% among seven million children between the ages of 5 and 17 were found to be engaged in child labour in Nepal.^{lxxvii} Child labour prevails more among female children (17%) than male children (14%); more in rural areas (20.4%) than urban areas (12.1%); and most among Dalit (19.4%), followed by indigenous *Janajati* (18.1%), Brahmin/Chhetri (14.5%).^{lxxviii}

Recommendations:

- Amend and effectively implement the laws and the second National Master Plan (NMP-II) (2018–2028) and Action Plan to eliminate child labour.
- Launch family strengthening programmes to end child labour.
- Strengthen Child Rights and protection structures at all levels, to prevent and respond to children at risk of abuse, exploitation, neglect and violence, online and offline.

Child Marriage

6.14 According to Nepal Police, in between 2019 to 2024, there were 304 child marriage cases registered for investigation.^{lxxix} Available data on child marriages compared with the registered police cases shows that child marriage cases are highly under-reported. The Census Report 2021 suggests 3 out of 10 women aged 20-24 were married before 18 years.^{lxxx}

Recommendations:

- Make the local child rights and protection structures obliged for case management along with facilitation for filing cases of crimes committed against children, including, child marriage, child labour, abuse and exploitation on behalf of victims.
- Adopt a costed-strategy and action plan to end child marriage by 2030 with adequate resources.
- Raise awareness among children and adolescents of the consequences of child marriage and educate them to marry after 20 years of age.

Birth registration, name and identity

6.15 As per the National Census 2021, out of about three million children of age five years and below, 74% are found to have registered their birth, while 26% are still unregistered, wherein male children surpass females in birth registration by 5.8%.^{lxxxi} This shows huge populations not being registered, and they may be left behind in many other government-provided services and facilities. LGBTQI+ children, particularly transgender and intersex are denied of their identity and registered on the basis of sex assigned at birth.

Recommendations:

- Intensify birth registration of all children, including children without parents, or children born out of wedlock, or children with a single mother.

Child sexual abuse and exploitation

6.16 As per Nepal Police, between July/Aug 2019 and June/July 2024, a total of 1532 child sexual abuse cases were registered, and this trend has only been increasing in the five years preceding 2025.^{lxxxii} A 2024 study shows that children in Nepal are being driven into adult entertainment sectors such as *dohori*, dance bars, massage spas, and snack shops due to pressure to financially support their family, where they are subject to sexual exploitation, excessive hours, and alcohol consumption.^{lxxxiii} The hiring of minors in such sectors ‘is driven by the high demand for young girls, making it a profit-making strategy for business owners’.^{lxxxiv} Cases of pedophilia and child sex tourism are also on the rise in Nepal.^{lxxxv} Cases of online abuse and exploitation of children is on the rise.

Recommendations:

- Amend and Strictly Implement the Child Labour Act 2000, Criminal Code Act 2017, Comprehensive School Safety Guidelines including a Child Protection Standard with measures of addressing corporal punishment, bullying, sexual abuse in schools, a complaint-handling mechanism, case management and a referral system.
- Integrate skills and knowledge of online child protection in school-level education curriculum.

Street children

6.17 Nepal’s National Report on Children 2024 does not provide exact data of street children but provides that 2349 children were rescued and provided protection between 9 May, 2016 to 15 July, 2024.^{lxxxvi} More children are believed to be waiting for rescue from the street. The Five-year Strategic Direction (2020-2025) of the National Child Rights Council has envisioned making Kathmandu Valley a city with zero street children. Tangible results of government initiatives are yet to be seen.

Recommendations:

- Accelerate taking action as per the five-year strategic direction to end children living in streets.
- Intensify implementing its programs for street children with comprehensive child protection strategies.

Children without parents and quality of child care homes

6.18 Out of the total children population of Nepal, 17.1% live only with their mother, and 1% live only with their father.^{lxxxvii} As per the 2021 census, 7331 children aged 10 to 14, and 67,974 children aged 15 to below 19 are the head of the family.^{lxxxviii} As of July 2024, there are 10,882 children staying in 396 Child Care Homes in 46 districts of Nepal.^{lxxxix}

6.19 Many of these child care homes are running in financial constraint, compromising quality of care the children should receive.

6.20 Unregistered children’s homes, illegal orphanage,^{xc} low monitoring and unchecked voluntourism as a source for funding child care homes have made children at these places very prone to trafficking and exploitation.^{xci} Nepal has also seen a trend of parents, out of economic despair to support their children, falsifying the documents and claiming their child to be an orphan to enroll in child care homes.^{xcii} These cases often involve middlemen who bring children as orphans from various parts of Nepal, especially, the far-western remote hills, to urban cities like Kathmandu and Pokhara.^{xciii}

Recommendations:

- Enforce the Act Relating to Children 2018 to make sure of deinstitutionalization of children and strengthening alternative care systems.

- Take actions towards family reintegration of children who have family members but are living in childcare homes.
- Undertake periodic monitoring of all childcare homes, ensure minimum standards, and investigate all cases of violence, abuse and exploitation of children staying in these homes.

Children with disabilities

6.21 Children with disabilities, such as autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, and psychosocial including profound and severe disabilities lack access to education and adequate social protection. Children with psychosocial and other severe disabilities are often chained, incarcerated, and treated in inhuman ways.^{xciv}

Recommendations:

- Develop community-based support systems for children with disabilities and guarantee their access to early identification, education, health services, and protected dignified life.
- Strengthen accessible legal and policy support mechanisms to address all forms of violence, neglect, institutionalization, and other forms of barriers against children with disabilities and promote access to disability-inclusive social protection programs.

Children in disasters and emergency

6.22 Nepal is prone to disasters like earthquakes, flooding, landslides, and others. The CCRI-2023 of UNICEF reports that the children of Nepal are at ‘extremely high risk’ due to climate and environmental factors.^{xcv} The frameworks to respond to children in such situations are very limited.

Recommendations

- Develop preparedness and response mechanisms for children in emergencies.

D. Right to participation

6.23 The Constitution of Nepal and the Act Relating to Children 2018 guarantees the right to participation of children in the decision-making processes. However, in the absence of regulation and procedure, child participation process is in limbo. There are 19,904 school-based child clubs in operation in the country.^{xcvi} Children are participating in various social activities through school-level and municipality-level clubs; however, child participation in decision-making is not an established systematic practice.

Recommendations:

- Develop guidelines, programmes and measures for investing in children’s rights and participation.
- Ensure meaningful child participation during formulation and implementation of policies, programs, and fiscal budgets at all tiers of the Government.

ⁱ 159.205, Estonia

ⁱⁱ NGO Coalition for UPR-Nepal, Nepali CSO’s UPR Mid-term Review Report, 2021.

ⁱⁱⁱ See, A/HRC/47/10/Add.1 - Para.6; Recommendations by Holy See, Malaysia, Panama, Croatia, Belgium, Italy, Kazakhstan, Liechtenstein, Marshall Islands, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Spain and Egypt.

^{iv} Ibid.

- ^v Ibid, p. 35.
- ^{vi} Government of Nepal, 'The Sixteenth Plan 2024/25-2028/29', *National Planning Commission*, May 2024, p. 73.
- ^{vii} Ibid.
- ^{viii} See, A/HRC/47/10/Add.1 - Para.6. Recommendations were made by Finland, Burkina Faso, Holy See, Kazakhstan, and Egypt.
- ^{ix} National Penal Code 2017, section 173.
- ^x Constitution of Nepal, art. 11(3).
- ^{xi} Ibid, art. 1.
- ^{xii} Rupa Gahatraj, 'Children with absent fathers struggle for citizenship', *The Kathmandu Post*, 15 February 2023, available at <https://kathmandupost.com/province-no-5/2023/02/15/children-with-absent-fathers-struggle-for-citizenship>, accessed on 15 April 2025.
- ^{xiii} A/HRC/47/10/Add.1 - Para.26, Recommendation by Estonia.
- ^{xiv} Act Relating to Children 2018, section 48.
- ^{xv} A/HRC/47/10/Add.1 - Para.6; Recommendations by Mauritius and Myanmar.
- ^{xvi} <https://www.who.int/nepal/news/detail/07-04-2025-nepal-marks-world-health-day-with-renewed-commitment-to-maternal-and-newborn-care#:~:text=In%20his%20presentation%2C%20Dr%20Bibek,threaten%20those%20hard%2Dwon%20gains.>
- ^{xvii} A/HRC/47/10/Add.1 - Para.6; Recommendations by Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Finland, Holy See, Mauritius, Norway, Turkey, France.
- ^{xviii} Ibid.
- ^{xix} <https://risingnepaldaily.com/news/50875>
- ^{xx} 'Description of Dalit Students Scholarship Accepted under the annual program of FY 2024/25', *Ministry of Education, Science and Technology Nepal*, 2081 (March 2024), available at <https://shorturl.at/OTNGe>, accessed on 15 April 2025.
- ^{xxi} 'Situational Analysis of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Nepal', *UN Nepal*, November 2022, p. 13, available at https://unprpd.org/new/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Situation_Analysis_CountryBrief_Nepal-75b.pdf, accessed on 15 April 2025.
- ^{xxii} 'Defending girls' right to education in Nepal', *UNESCO*, 20 April 2023, available at <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/defending-girls-right-education-nepal>, accessed on 15 April 2025.
- ^{xxiii} Government of Nepal, 'National Population and Housing Census 2021', *National Bureau of Statistics*, 2021, p. 227.
- ^{xxiv} A/HRC/47/10/Add.1 - Para.11; Recommendation by Mongolia (159.4).
- ^{xxv} A/HRC/47/10/Add.1 - Para.6; Recommendation by Fiji (159.50).
- ^{xxvi} National Policy on Disaster Risk Reduction 2018, *Government of Nepal*, para 7.21, p. 14-15.
- ^{xxvii} National Children Policy 2075, *Government of Nepal*, strategy 12.4.9.
- ^{xxviii} 'The Climate Crisis is a Child Rights Crisis: Introducing the Children's Climate Risk Index', *UNICEF*, New York, 2021, available at <https://www.unicef.org/media/105376/file/UNICEF-climate-crisis-child-rights-crisis.pdf>, accessed on 15 April 2025.
- ^{xxix} The Children's Climate Risk Index (CCRI)-2023, *UNICEF*.
- ^{xxx} UNICEF et al, 'A Report on Impacts of Climate Crisis and Environmental Degradation on Children and Youths in Nepal', 2023, Kathmandu, available at <http://unicef.org/nepal/media/21471/file/CDCCFinalreport.pdf>, accessed on 15 April 2025.
- ^{xxxi} 'Ratification Status for CRC-Convention on the Rights of the Child', *United Nations Database*, available at https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?Treaty=CRC&Lang=en, accessed on 15 April 2025.
- ^{xxxii} Treaty Act 1990, section 9(1).
- ^{xxxiii} 'Reporting Status of Nepal', *United Nations Database*, available at https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/Countries.aspx?CountryCode=NPL&Lang=EN, accessed on 15 April 2025.
- ^{xxxiv} Ibid.
- ^{xxxv} Constitution of Nepal, art. 29.
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