



# CZOP NEWSLETTER

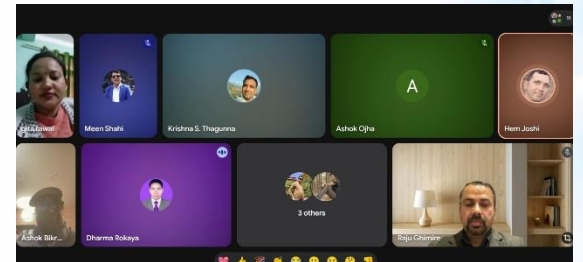
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February-March 2026

## Sudurpaschim Province Committee Formation Completed

February 1, 2026. Children as Zones of Peace National Campaign (CZOP) formed its Sudurpaschim Province Committee on February 1, 2026, in the presence of Central Vice President Hemraj Joshi and General Secretary Raju Ghimire. The committee was formed in accordance with the 2022 procedural guidelines endorsed by the General Assembly.

Ashok Bikram Jairu (NNSWA, Kanchanpur) was selected as Coordinator, with Krishna Singh Thagunna (Saarathi Nepal/SADA, Baitadi) as Secretary. Members include representatives from CDC Doti, DSDf Baitadi, PeaceWin Kailali, NEEDS Kailali, and CRDS Darchula. With this formation, CZOP has successfully established provincial committees in all seven provinces. This milestone strengthens organizational presence at provincial and district levels, enabling more effective coordination, advocacy, and implementation of child protection initiatives across Nepal.



## Discussion on Child Protection in Elections Held in Biratnagar

**February 3, 2026.** CZOP organized a discussion program in Biratnagar on “Child Protection in the House of Representatives Election 2082” in collaboration with Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC) and other partner organizations.

Presenting a working paper, CZOP Chair Tilottam Paudel emphasized the need to immediately stop the use of children in political activities, highlighting its negative impact on children’s mental health and educational environment. INSEC Koshi Province Coordinator Manohar Pokharel shared that incidents of child use and violations of election codes are being documented.

Child Club President Amit Mandal urged all stakeholders to keep children away from election-related activities. Representatives from various political parties expressed commitment to child rights protection and adherence to the election code of conduct.

## Janakpur Program Highlights Child Rights in Elections

February 6, 2026. CZOP organized a program in Janakpur on “Child Rights Protection in Upcoming Elections” in collaboration with Sabal Nepal, INSEC and a network of 16 civil society organizations working on child rights.

INSEC Madhesh Province Coordinator Raju Paswan emphasized the need for political parties to prioritize child rights in their manifestos and strictly follow the election code of conduct. CZOP Chair Tilottam Paudel urged parties not to involve children in campaigns and public gatherings.

National Child Rights Council Madhesh focal person Sanjiv Mahato stressed legal action against parties violating child rights. Representatives from political parties, including Nepali Congress and Janata Samajbadi Party, committed to avoiding child involvement in elections.

A 25-point memorandum was handed over, calling for child-friendly elections, prohibition of child participation in campaigns, and keeping schools free from political activities. Representatives from UNICEF, Save the Children, Plan International Nepal, National Federation of the Disabled, Aasman Nepal, and others participated.





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## CZOP Submits Memorandum to Political Parties Nationwide

**February 6, 2026.** CZOP submitted memorandums to political parties, including Rastriya Prajatantra Party and Janata Samajbadi Party Nepal, urging them to incorporate child rights issues in their election manifestos.

Following these submissions, CZOP expanded its advocacy to all major nine political parties at their central offices in Kathmandu. Similar initiatives were carried out at provincial and district levels. CZOP has emailed the memorandum to all the political parties registered in Election Commission Nepal.

The memorandum emphasized ending the use of children in election campaigns and ensuring that political commitments reflect child protection priorities. This coordinated advocacy effort highlights CZOP's leadership in influencing political accountability for child rights.



## Memorandum Submitted to Political Parties in Gandaki Province

**February 4, 2026.** CZOP, along with others civil society organizations including Child Rights Forum and NGO Federation, submitted a memorandum to five major political parties in Kaski district: Nepali Congress, CPN-UML, Nepal Communist Party, Rastriya Swatantra Party, and Rastriya Prajatantra Party.

The memorandum called on parties to avoid using children in election campaigns and to prioritize child-related issues in their manifestos.

Similar advocacy initiatives were conducted in Koshi, Madhesh, and Lumbini provinces, building on earlier efforts at the federal level. CZOP played a key role in coordinating these multi-stakeholder advocacy efforts across provinces.

## Virtual Discussion on Election Monitoring and Child Protection

**February 11, 2026.** CZOP organized a nationwide virtual discussion on “Child Protection and Effective Monitoring during Elections,” with participation from more than 107 stakeholders.

Participants included representatives from the National Child Rights Council, government agencies, civil society organizations, child rights networks, and development partners.

The discussion focused on strengthening monitoring and observation mechanisms to identify and respond to child rights violations during elections. CZOP emphasized coordinated efforts among stakeholders to ensure effective reporting and accountability.



## Memorandum Submission to Political Leaders in Hetauda

**February 11, 2026.** CZOP, along with organizations working in child rights, submitted memorandums to political leaders and candidates in Hetauda, Bagmati Province.

Meetings were held with representatives from CPN (Central Member Prahlad Lamichhane), Rastriya Swatantra Party (Advisor Bishnu Dahal), Rastriya Prajatantra Party (Chair Shiva Ram Thapa), CPN-UML (Vice Chair Hidam Lama), Nepali Congress (Spokesperson Arjun Chaulagain), and Chief District Officer Basanta Adhikari.

The memorandum urged stakeholders not to use children in election campaigns and to include child rights issues in their manifestos. CZOP's engagement strengthened advocacy at the provincial level.

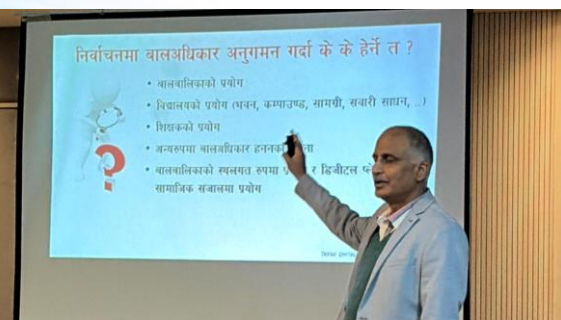


## National Discussion on Child Rights and Election Monitoring in Kathmandu

**February 13, 2026.** CZOP organized a national-level discussion in Kathmandu on child rights protection and monitoring of election code violations.

The program included participation from the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens (Under Secretary Durga Prasad Chalise), National Child Rights Council (Information Officer Ram Bahadur Chand), National Human Rights Commission (Officer Rewa Regmi), and over 50 participants including Election Observer Organization, UN agencies, development partners, civil society networks, media, and children.

Former Executive Director of the Central Child Welfare Board Tarak Dhital presented key issues. Participants emphasized the need for active monitoring before, during, and after elections to prevent child rights violations.



## Stakeholders Urge Alternatives to Using Schools as Polling Centers

**February 16, 2026.** In an interaction program in Hetauda organized by CZOP, INSEC, and Himali Navin Samaj, stakeholders highlighted concerns about using schools as polling centers.

Bagmati Province Deputy Speaker Apsara Chapagain and Hetauda Mayor Meena Kumari Lama emphasized the need to find alternatives, suggesting the use of community buildings.

Participants noted various forms of child misuse in past elections, including involvement in rallies, publishing activities, and logistical roles. Concerns were also raised about emerging digital misuse through social media and AI. Representatives from Nepali Congress, CPN-UML, Nepal Communist Party, and Rastriya Prajatantra Party committed not to use children in elections and signed a joint commitment.



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## Orientation Program for Election Observers Conducted

February 20, 2026. CZOP, in collaboration with INSEC, organized an orientation program for election observers in Kathmandu ahead of the House of Representatives Election 2082.

The program aimed to build the capacity of observers to monitor child rights violations during elections. Observers from Kathmandu Valley participated physically, while others will receive orientation virtually. CZOP emphasized the importance of effective observation to ensure compliance with the election code of conduct and protection of children.



## CZOP Engages Election Commission and NHRC on Child Protection

February 20, 2026. CZOP submitted a memorandum to the Election Commission and the National Human Rights Commission, urging action against the use of children in election campaigns, rallies, and public gatherings.

A team led by General Secretary Raju Ghimire met with Election Commission Legal Officer Mohan Regmi and NHRC Secretary Murari Prasad Kharel.

Following this advocacy, both institutions issued communications to political parties reinforcing compliance with the election code and prohibiting child involvement. This reflects CZOP's effective advocacy at the national level.



## Discussion on Election Code and Child Rights in Karnali

February 24, 2026. CZOP and the Common Campaign for Child Rights (CCR) Karnali jointly organized an interaction program in Birendranagar, Surkhet.

Participants included representatives from the Provincial Election Office, National Human Rights Commission, National Child Rights Council, and civil society.

Speakers highlighted that election codes clearly prohibit the use of children in campaigns. Advocate Keshav Acharya discussed legal provisions, while officials emphasized collective responsibility to ensure child-friendly elections.

CZOP and CCR Karnali stressed the importance of collaboration to maintain schools and children as zones of peace.







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## Nationwide Child Rights Monitoring Conducted During Elections

**March 5, 2026.** CZOP conducted comprehensive child rights monitoring across all provinces before, during, and after the House of Representatives Election held on March 5, 2026.

The monitoring covered both field-based observation and media tracking to identify instances of child rights violations during the election process. CZOP mobilized its networks nationwide to document cases of child involvement in election-related activities and to assess compliance with the election code of conduct.

The initiative aimed to ensure accountability and promote child-friendly electoral practices. CZOP's monitoring efforts contributed to generating evidence for advocacy and policy recommendations to prevent the misuse of children in future elections.



## Press Release: CZOP Raises Concern Over Rising Sexual Violence Against Girls



**Date: March 13, 2026.** CZOP issued a press release expressing serious concern over the increasing incidents of sexual violence, rape, and murder of girls and adolescent girls in Nepal.

The organization called for urgent attention from the government and concerned stakeholders to address these alarming trends. CZOP emphasized the need for effective legal action, protection mechanisms, and preventive measures to safeguard children, particularly girls, from violence.

The press release highlighted the importance of accountability and the role of state institutions in ensuring justice and protection for victims.

## CZOP Participates in Solidarity Protest Against Gender-Based Violence

**March 13, 2026.** CZOP actively participated in a solidarity program held at Maitighar, Kathmandu, organized by various civil society organizations and networks against increasing violence, rape, and murder of girls and adolescent girls.

The program brought together multiple organizations advocating for justice and protection of children and women. CZOP expressed its solidarity and reaffirmed its commitment to advocating for child rights and protection from violence.

Participants collectively called for stronger action from the government to prevent such incidents and ensure justice for victims.





## Joint Memorandum Submitted to Home Ministry Demanding Justice



**March 17, 2026.** CZOP, in coordination with the National Network of Women Human Rights Defenders and more than 25 organizations working in human rights and child rights, submitted a joint memorandum to the Home Ministry.

The memorandum was presented to the Home Secretary and spokesperson, demanding impartial and speedy investigation of rape and murder cases and strict legal action against perpetrators.

Key demands included ensuring confidentiality and protection of victims, providing security to affected families, and arranging immediate relief, compensation, and psychosocial support.

This joint initiative reflects CZOP's collaborative advocacy approach to ensure justice and protection for children and survivors of violence.

## Discussion on Child-Responsive Budgeting Held at Singha Durbar

**March 17, 2026.** A discussion program on identifying child-related expenditure activities for the Fiscal Year 2083/84 was organized by the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens at Singha Durbar, Kathmandu, with participation from CZOP and other stakeholders.

Chaired by Joint Secretary Chakra Bahadur Budha, the program included 35 participants from various ministries, development partners, and child rights organizations. The discussion focused on implementing the Child Responsive Budget Code Operation and Management Procedure, 2082.



Participants emphasized the need to clearly identify and categorize programs with direct, indirect, and neutral impacts on children. The ministry urged timely coordination and submission of relevant data to ensure effective implementation of child-responsive budgeting. CZOP's participation contributed to advancing advocacy for child-focused public expenditure.

## Parliamentary Forum Submits Memorandum on Child Protection in Sudurpaschim

**March 19, 2026.** The Sudurpaschim Province Parliamentary Forum for Child Rights submitted a memorandum to the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Law, expressing concern over rising incidents of sexual violence, rape, and murder of children and adolescent girls.

Led by Coordinator Hon. Lalita Sunuwar, the forum, with participation of other parliamentarians, called for impartial investigation, strict legal action against perpetrators, and legal support and compensation for victims and their families.

The initiative highlights growing institutional attention to child protection issues at the provincial level.





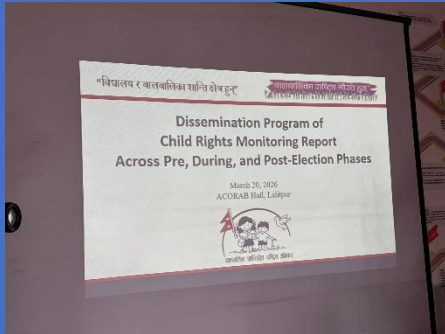
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## Study Shows Continued Use of Children in Elections

**March 20, 2026.** CZOP published a monitoring report revealing that the use of children in election activities continued during the House of Representatives Election 2082.



According to the report, 286 incidents were recorded before the election and 19 after the election. Children were involved in activities such as rallies, carrying party flags, chanting slogans, distributing materials, and participating in cultural programs.

The report was presented at a program in Lalitpur with participation from the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens, National Child Rights Council, National Human Rights Commission, and media representatives.

Stakeholders emphasized the need for stricter legal provisions and stronger enforcement to prevent child misuse. CZOP highlighted the importance of learning from these findings to improve future electoral practices.

## Press Release: CZOP Urges Government to Retain Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens

**March 26, 2026.** CZOP issued a press release urging the government to retain the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens amid discussions on reducing the number of ministries.

In the statement, CZOP Chair Tilottam Paudel emphasized that any decision to dissolve, merge, or rename the ministry would have serious long-term implications for child rights protection and promotion.

Highlighting that children constitute approximately 33.84% of Nepal's population, CZOP stressed that the institutional structure dedicated to this significant population group could negatively impact policies and programs related to children.

CZOP called on the government to make careful and informed decisions, ensuring that child rights remain a national priority.



## Congratulations to the Newly Formed Government

Children as Zones of Peace National Campaign (CZOP) extends its sincere congratulations to the Right Honorable Prime Minister and the newly appointed Council of Ministers formation of the new Government of Nepal on March 27, 2026.

CZOP welcomes this new leadership and expresses its hope for a strong commitment toward safeguarding and promoting child rights across the country. We look forward to constructive collaboration with the government to ensure that children remain at the center of policies, programs, and governance.

CZOP wishes the new government a successful tenure in advancing inclusive, child-friendly, and rights-based development in Nepal.