



Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
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Nepal

Compilation of information prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

I. Background

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the outcome of the previous review.¹ It is a compilation of information contained in relevant United Nations documents, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints.

II. Scope of international obligations and cooperation with human rights mechanisms

2. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the United Nations country team recommended that Nepal ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.² The Committee and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) recommended becoming a Party to the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.³ The country team and UNHCR recommended becoming a Party to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the Protocol thereto.⁴ The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recommended becoming a Party to the Convention against Discrimination in Education.⁵

III. National human rights framework

Institutional infrastructure and policy measures

3. The Human Rights Committee noted reports of politically motivated appointments of members of the National Human Rights Commission.⁶ Several special procedure mandate holders expressed concern regarding information according to which the process for the appointment of Commission members did not comply with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles).⁷

4. Noting with concern the limited implementation of the recommendations of the National Human Rights Commission, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination



against Women recommended that Nepal provide the Commission with adequate resources to discharge its mandate in compliance with the Paris Principles and follow up on the Commission's recommendations.⁸ The United Nations country team encouraged Nepal to adopt the bill on aligning the Commission with the Paris Principles.⁹

5. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Nepal strengthen the mandate of the National Women Commission, including by establishing offices in provinces, provide it with resources to coordinate policies for the advancement of gender equality and increase the Commission's cooperation with local authorities and civil society.¹⁰

IV. Promotion and protection of human rights

A. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

1. Equality and non-discrimination

6. While commending Nepal for its progressive Constitution, which listed many social and economic rights and the rights of specific groups, the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights noted that by-laws must still be adopted to effectively guarantee those rights. Caste-based discrimination persisted, with prejudices triggering violence. Discrimination was also the most important factor for disproportionate poverty among Dalits.¹¹ Several special procedure mandate holders expressed concern about the alleged lynching of Dalit youths, reflecting caste-based discrimination and violence against the Dalit minority, and about alleged shortcomings in the police investigation.¹²

7. The United Nations country team recommended adopting comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation.¹³

8. Expressing concern at the absence of comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation to protect disadvantaged groups of women facing intersecting forms of discrimination, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Nepal accelerate the adoption of the special opportunity bill and ensure that it covered direct and indirect discrimination in the public and private spheres and intersecting forms of discrimination. The Committee also recommended increasing Dalit women's representation in government, investigating caste-based discrimination, and applying a zero-tolerance policy to discrimination against Dalit women.¹⁴

2. Right to life, liberty and security of person, and freedom from torture

9. Several special procedure mandate holders noted reports received of custodial deaths, overcrowded conditions and lack of access to basic amenities in detention centres, alleged torture, and issues surrounding investigations, which disproportionately affected Dalit persons. They reminded Nepal that States had a heightened duty of care to protect the lives of individuals deprived of their liberty by the State. Loss of life in custody created a presumption of arbitrary deprivation of life by State authorities, which could only be rebutted on the basis of a proper investigation.¹⁵

10. The United Nations country team recommended establishing an independent accountability mechanism to investigate human rights violations by law enforcement agencies and considering eliminating the statute of limitations for torture.¹⁶

3. Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law

11. In 2024, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights welcomed the bill to amend the Enforced Disappearances Enquiry, Truth and Reconciliation Commission Act, aimed at ensuring accountability for serious human rights violations committed by all parties during the civil war of 1996–2006. The Commission would oversee mediation and reconciliation efforts and make recommendations to the Government to provide justice, reparations and support to victims and their families.¹⁷

12. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Nepal ensure access for female victims of the armed conflict to full reparations and the inclusive participation of women in all processes related to women and peace and security.¹⁸

13. Noting the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Commission of Investigation on Enforced Disappeared Persons, several special procedure mandate holders asserted that, since, under international law, “victims of enforced disappearance” encompassed the disappeared person and any individual who had suffered harm directly resulting from an enforced disappearance, including relatives, the actual figure for women victims of enforced disappearance in Nepal was believed to be higher than the statistics of the Commission of Investigation on Enforced Disappeared Persons indicated. They expressed concern about reports of the impact of conflict-related enforced disappearances on the families of the disappeared, and the alleged failure of State authorities to adequately search for the disappeared, undertake effective investigations, ensure redress, guarantee the right of victims to full participation in the transitional justice process, and to bring those responsible to justice. They noted that States had a duty to recognize the particular types of harm that women suffered, and the impaired enjoyment by relatives of their rights.¹⁹

14. Concerned about barriers to women’s access to justice, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Nepal ensure that women had access to affordable or free legal aid services; enhance awareness among women of their rights under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and available remedies, and address the obstacles limiting their access to justice, by facilitating interpretation services and accessibility measures; and provide training for the judiciary and law enforcement officials on women’s human rights and gender-sensitive investigation methods, and address judicial gender bias.²⁰

4. Fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life

15. The Human Rights Committee noted reports that journalists had been charged with criminal offences for covering corruption and reports that Nepali citizens suspected of organizing protests had been arrested for expressing their political opinions. The Committee also noted reports that organizations faced barriers to exercising their right to freedom of association.²¹ The High Commissioner for Human Rights called for urgent investigations into reports of unnecessary and disproportionate use of force by the security forces in September 2025.²²

16. Special procedure mandate holders noted provisions of the National Cyber Security Policy of 2023 that appeared to limit freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association, access to information and the right to privacy. Expressing concern that, through the associated National Internet Gateway, the Government could exercise control over online content and implement unrestricted measures of surveillance and censorship, they urged Nepal to revise the policy, and ensure that the Internet remained a tool to promote freedom of opinion and expression, and freedom of association and peaceful assembly.²³ Noting proposed penal measures for sharing harmful online content, the United Nations country team urged Nepal to ensure the compliance of the social media bill and media council bill with international standards.²⁴ UNESCO recommended decriminalizing defamation and placing it within civil defamation legislation.²⁵

17. While noting with appreciation the issuance of the 2021 Order on Security and Protection of Human Rights Activists, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women expressed concern that women human rights defenders faced restrictions on their freedoms and increased digital surveillance. The Committee recommended that Nepal ensure that women human rights defenders could exercise their rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association free from harassment, surveillance or undue restrictions, investigate and prosecute all acts of harassment, reprisals, gender-based violence and discrimination against women human rights defenders, and provide remedies and reparations to victims.²⁶

18. The Human Rights Committee noted reports that the National Penal (Code) Act, 2074 (2017), contained provisions that criminalized religious conversion and proselytizing, and

that religious minorities had faced restrictions in establishing organizations and holding religious events and had experienced difficulties in purchasing land for burial rituals.²⁷

5. Right to marriage and family life

19. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women noted that, despite the Civil Code setting the minimum age of marriage at 20 years for both women and men, 33 per cent of girls married before the age of 18, and minors who married could be prosecuted; that the Code stated that, if a woman bore a child, she was automatically considered to be married; that, despite the prohibition of unilateral divorce (*talaq*) and dowry, those harmful practices persisted, and children were removed from maternal custody if the mother remarried; that, despite the legal provisions ensuring equal inheritance rights for daughters and wives, customary practices prevented women from claiming their inheritance; and that women lost their family name and address upon marriage.²⁸

20. The same Committee recommended that Nepal set the minimum age of marriage at 18 years for both girls and boys, and abolish the criminalization of minors for under-age marriage; repeal the provisions on automatic marriage and adopt legislation to ensure men's responsibility as fathers regardless of marital status; ensure women's equal rights in marriage and divorce, effectively enforce the prohibition of forced divorce and of dowry, and provide awareness-raising against those practices; ensure that children were not removed from maternal custody only because the mother remarried; enforce the legal provisions on inheritance; and ensure that married women could retain their family name and address.²⁹

6. Prohibition of all forms of slavery, including trafficking in persons

21. The same Committee expressed concern that the legal definition of trafficking conflated trafficking with sex work, that victims of trafficking could be fined if they failed to appear in court, that the draft national policy and action plan on trafficking had not been adopted and about discrimination against women sex workers.³⁰

22. The same Committee recommended that Nepal amend the Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Act and other relevant legislation to criminalize all forms of trafficking in persons, and bring the definition of trafficking in persons into line with international law; adopt standard operating procedures to ensure the early identification of trafficking victims and their referral to appropriate services; accelerate the adoption of the draft national policy on trafficking and the national action plan on trafficking; expedite the formulation of a comprehensive policy, legislative and regulatory framework that ensured the legal protection from exploitation of women who engaged in prostitution and ensured that they were not prosecuted for engaging in such activities; and take measures to protect the rights of sex workers.³¹ The United Nations country team recommended the protection of victims.³²

23. The Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty noted that low levels of land ownership explained the persistence of bonded labour, despite the practice being illegal, and that Nepal should develop public financing mechanisms to protect bonded labourers.³³

7. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work

24. The same Special Rapporteur identified as misguided prioritizing outward migration as a solution to unemployment, rather than domestic job-creation. He noted that Nepal faced three major challenges in employment: pervasive informality, weak enforcement of labour protections resulting from low public budgets in that area, and a lack of minimum wage fixation. The Special Rapporteur asserted that addressing all three challenges, together with a strong job creation strategy, should ensure more equitable working conditions and increased public revenues.³⁴

25. The same Special Rapporteur reported that a reservations policy in place since 2007, providing that 45 per cent of federal civil service positions went to specific disadvantaged groups, had been challenged by a Supreme Court ruling that the reservation system should focus on needs and not ethnicity. The Special Rapporteur recommended that Nepal not abandon the reservations policy, but improve it, by properly considering intersectionality, setting aside positions for candidates from low socioeconomic backgrounds, and investing in

improving the ability of members of disadvantaged groups to compete on an open basis with others.³⁵

26. The same Special Rapporteur stated that more labour and social protections should be afforded to both formal and informal workers, including by increasing the budget for labour inspections, increasing the number of labour inspectors, and improving minimum wage fixation procedures. The Social Security Fund should be expanded to include informal workers.³⁶ The United Nations country team urged strengthening labour inspection and enforcement.³⁷

27. The Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty asserted that gender gaps in the labour market were aggravated by women working as domestic workers, women being overrepresented in the agricultural sector, and only 19.7 per cent of homes or land being owned by women.³⁸ The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women expressed concern about horizontal and vertical segregation in the labour market and women's concentration in lower-paid jobs in the informal economy, the disproportionate burden of unpaid care work on women, the limited enforcement of the principle of equal pay for work of equal value and the significant gender pay gap, the fact that the Sexual Harassment in the Workplace (Prevention) Act applied only to the formal sector, and the lack of measures taken to address the needs of disadvantaged groups of women in the digital economy.³⁹

28. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Nepal take targeted measures to promote women's access to decision-making positions; recognize, reduce and redistribute the burden of unpaid care work on women by providing affordable childcare facilities and care services for older persons; enforce the principle of equal pay for work of equal value; amend the Sexual Harassment in the Workplace (Prevention) Act of 2015 to extend its coverage to the informal sector and ensure that women who were victims of sexual harassment had access to judicial remedies; and ensure equal opportunities for women, particularly in emerging sectors such as the digital economy.⁴⁰

8. Right to social security

29. The Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty asserted that the patchwork of social protection programmes led to inefficiencies, and that only a reorganization of the entire system would ensure that Nepal could achieve its target of 60 per cent coverage. Existing low coverage was caused by lack of citizenship, lack of necessary documents such as birth, death, disability or divorce certificates, lack of information in local languages, lack of timely benefit payments, incompatibilities across benefits aimed at covering different situations of vulnerability, and reported corruption.⁴¹

30. The same Special Rapporteur recommended, as a way of increasing social protection uptake, prioritizing providing relevant information in local languages and deploying social workers to enhance outreach, facilitating the acquisition of critical documentation, improving compatibility between social protection programmes, and monitoring and, where appropriate, penalizing corruption.⁴²

31. While noting with appreciation the adoption of the Integrated National Social Protection Framework of 2024 to increase social security access for disadvantaged women, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women expressed concern at the feminization of poverty and in particular at weak enforcement of legislation on access to credit, land and property, challenges in accessing social benefits and economic opportunities, and the limited access of women to financial services, due to lack of identification documents and collateral and the control of access to land titles by male family members. The Committee recommended that Nepal mainstream gender into the national strategy for social protection and ensure that women had access to adequate social benefits, economic empowerment and social protection schemes, and address barriers to women's economic empowerment and ensure that they had equal access to land ownership, low-interest loans without collateral and other forms of financial credit.⁴³

9. Right to an adequate standard of living

32. The Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty reported that the reduction in absolute poverty hid an increase in wealth inequality, a stalling in gender equality progress and an undue weight of remittances and donor funding in alleviating poverty. External debt accounted for a large percentage of gross domestic product, and the tax structure resulted in the poorest quintile of households paying a higher share of income in tax than the wealthier ones.⁴⁴

33. The same Special Rapporteur recommended that Nepal develop an anti-poverty action plan, based on updated and disaggregated data, that included a strategy for increasing employment opportunities and providing vocational training; proposals for by-laws implementing the socioeconomic rights promised in the Constitution; intensification of efforts to combat discrimination, notably through access to free education, protection from discrimination in private employment and better enforcement of the reservations policy to improve the representation of disadvantaged groups; and accelerated implementation of constitutional promises related to land redistribution. He recommended making the tax system less reliant on indirect taxes and fairer towards those on low incomes.⁴⁵

34. The United Nations country team recommended adopting targeted assistance to the most food-insecure households and developing a coordination mechanism to integrate the zero-hunger agenda and harmonize it with the implementation of the Multisectoral Nutrition Plan.⁴⁶

35. The Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty reported that landlessness was both a consequence and a cause of poverty and that landless households found it more difficult to obtain loans from banks, since they could not use land as collateral for credit. Noting that an estimated half of the urban population lived in inadequate housing conditions, he recommended that Nepal implement the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act requiring consultations with citizens prior to eviction.⁴⁷

36. Several special procedure mandate holders noted the alleged threat of forced evictions and home demolitions, without plans for adequate alternative housing, in Thapathali, an informal settlement along the Bagmati River, which could affect up to 17,500 people, in the context of the Bagmati River Basin Improvement Project. They called upon Nepal to halt forced evictions, allow the National Land Commission to complete its data collection in collaboration with the affected community, provide settlement residents with access to sanitation, and take other measures to reduce the alleged pollution of the river.⁴⁸

10. Right to health

37. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women expressed concern about the high rates of maternal mortality; the lack of age-appropriate education on sexual and reproductive health, and limited access to affordable menstrual hygiene products, contraceptives, gynaecological services and mental health services; high numbers of unsafe abortions due to inadequate accessibility of abortion services, despite the legalization of abortion; reports of discrimination, abuse and obstetric violence; limited access to antiretroviral treatment and stigmatization of women with HIV/AIDS; and reported cases of medically unnecessary and irreversible treatment performed on intersex children.⁴⁹

38. The same Committee recommended that Nepal improve women's access to adequate antenatal and postnatal health services; ensure their adequate access to mental health services, and sexual and reproductive health services and information, including safe abortion services; adopt legal and policy measures to protect pregnant women during childbirth, punish obstetric violence and discrimination against women and girls, and strengthen capacity-building programmes for medical practitioners; provide free antiretroviral treatment to all women and girls living with HIV/AIDS, and address the stigmatization of them; and prohibit non-essential medical interventions on intersex children before they could take autonomous decisions and give consent.⁵⁰

11. Right to education

39. Despite the constitutional guarantee of free education up to secondary level, the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty noted reports of illegal fees and struggles to cover school supply costs.⁵¹ While appreciating the plan for the education sector for the period 2022–2032, prioritizing gender equality in school curricula, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women noted the lack of institutional capacity of local governments in the implementation of the Compulsory and Free Education Act of 2018 and the plan for the education sector, cases of dropout among girls due to early pregnancy, child marriage and discrimination against girls with disabilities, and lack of knowledge among pupils about family planning.⁵²

40. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Nepal raise awareness of the importance of girls' education, strengthen the institutional capacity of local governments and ensure the effective implementation of the Compulsory and Free Education Act; address the causes of dropout among girls and discrimination based on gender and/or disability, and ensure that young mothers could return to school following childbirth; ensure that girls with disabilities had access to quality inclusive education, and adopt a national anti-bullying policy; and include in school curricula content on gender equality and sexuality education.⁵³

41. The United Nations country team recommended making basic education free and compulsory, ensuring that education was accessible to all in their mother tongue or a familiar language, passing the new federal education law, and targeting interventions for out-of-school adolescents.⁵⁴ UNESCO recommended guaranteeing in legislation at least nine years of compulsory primary and secondary education.⁵⁵

12. Development, the environment, and business and human rights

42. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women noted that Nepal was severely affected by climate change, and expressed concern that women were disproportionately affected. The Committee recommended that Nepal ensure that women were equally represented in the development and implementation of legislation, policies and programmes on climate change, disaster response and disaster risk reduction, including by collecting disaggregated data and raising awareness.⁵⁶

B. Rights of specific persons or group

1. Women

43. Noting the persistence of patriarchal attitudes and gender stereotypes concerning the roles of women, and the prevalence of son preference, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Nepal implement the National Strategy against Discriminatory Sex Selection of 2021 to eradicate sex-selective abortions, and take targeted measures, including awareness-raising and paternity leave, to promote equal sharing of domestic and childcare responsibilities, develop a strategy to eliminate discriminatory stereotypes, and provide related capacity-building.⁵⁷ The United Nations country team recommended promoting gender-responsive public finance management.⁵⁸

44. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women noted the high incidence of domestic violence, the absence of comprehensive legislation specifically criminalizing all forms of gender-based violence against women, the high level of technology-facilitated violence experienced by women and girls and the fact that the statute of limitations provided for only two years in which to report rape.⁵⁹

45. The same Committee recommended that Nepal adopt comprehensive legislation to ensure that all forms of gender-based violence against women were specifically criminalized; strengthen the implementation of regulatory procedures to prevent cyberattacks, and ensure that there were mechanisms in place to hold social media platforms accountable and bring online perpetrators to justice; ensure the availability of specialized services for women who were victims of gender-based violence; and repeal the statute of limitations for reporting cases of sexual violence.⁶⁰ The United Nations country team recommended eliminating the

statutory limitation to report rape, and ensuring access to gender-based violence response services and justice.⁶¹

46. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women noted that, despite the criminalization of harmful practices such as *chhaupadi* (menstrual segregation of women), dowry, witchcraft allegations, caste-based discrimination and child marriage, those human rights violations persisted. The Committee recommended effectively enforcing legislation prohibiting harmful practices and reinforcing public awareness-raising.⁶² The United Nations country team recommended effective monitoring of child marriage.⁶³

47. While noting the increased number of women mayors, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women expressed concern about women's underrepresentation in the public service, on company boards of directors and in management positions, and the lack of measures to protect women politicians.⁶⁴

48. The same Committee recommended that Nepal increase its target for the representation of women in decision-making from 30 to 50 per cent, implement a strategy on parity, adopt temporary special measures to ensure equal ranks for women and men candidates on political party electoral lists, targeted campaign financing for women candidates, and increased quotas to reach parity at all levels of government, the judiciary, the public service, the foreign service, academia and international organizations; provide campaign financing and capacity-building to women politicians; provide training for women in private sector management positions, raise awareness among employers on the importance of women's equal representation in leadership positions, and provide incentives to companies to increase the number of women on boards and in leadership; and introduce preferential recruitment of women to the judiciary, public service and foreign service.⁶⁵

2. Children

49. Noting the minimum age of employment of 14 years, UNESCO recommended raising the minimum age to at least 15 in accordance with international human rights law, and ensuring that it was aligned with the end of compulsory education.⁶⁶ The United Nations country team urged harmonizing inconsistent laws on child labour and strengthening related monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.⁶⁷

50. The Human Rights Committee noted reports that the minimum age of criminal responsibility remained 10 years, and reports that some juveniles were being held in pretrial detention facilities together with adults due to the lack of juvenile detention institutions.⁶⁸ The United Nations country team recommended increasing the age of criminal responsibility.⁶⁹

51. The Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty recommended increased funding for child poverty programmes.⁷⁰

3. Persons with disabilities

52. The same Special Rapporteur noted that persons with disabilities were more likely to be deprived under the multidimensional poverty index than people without disabilities. A data gap on this group resulted in a lack of adapted programmes and few policies to protect them from poverty. He asserted that universal design was being ineffectively implemented, even in official buildings and public transport, and recommended investing more to support schools' efforts to provide inclusive education.⁷¹

53. The United Nations country team recommended ensuring accountability and promoting equitable access to healthcare for persons with disabilities, removing barriers such as physical infrastructure, widespread stigma, inadequate registration, limited resource allocation, and lack of access to inclusive services and employment, and aligning the Education Act with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.⁷²

54. Expressing concern that women with disabilities faced discrimination, stigmatization, gender-based violence, barriers to accessing justice and services, exclusion from public life, and medical treatments without their informed consent, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Nepal ensure that women with disabilities

could access justice, inclusive education, employment and health services, and that any treatment be undertaken only with their free and informed consent.⁷³

4. Indigenous Peoples and minorities

55. The Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty reported that national parks and other protected areas in Nepal covered almost one quarter of the country. Most of those areas had been established on the ancestral land of Indigenous populations, many of which had been evicted and had since remained landless.⁷⁴

56. Several special procedure mandate holders expressed concern regarding construction of the Chhaya Centre business complex, reportedly involving violations of the human rights of Indigenous Peoples and other peoples living in the surrounding area, including violations of land and resource rights and cultural rights, acts of retaliation and judicial harassment against human rights defenders and affected Indigenous community members, and lack of access to remedy.⁷⁵ Special procedure mandate holders also expressed concern regarding the construction of the Kathmandu-Terai/Madhesh Fast Track (Expressway) Road Project, reportedly involving violations of the human rights of Indigenous Peoples and communities in surrounding areas, whose free, prior and informed consent had not been obtained, and with impacts on their rights to land, adequate housing and livelihoods.⁷⁶ Special procedure mandate holders further noted reports of threats by government and police officials against Indigenous community members who had raised concerns regarding the environmental and human rights impacts of the Marsyangdi Corridor transmission line project of the Nepal Electricity Authority. They expressed concern about reports of the Government's failure to meet its international human rights obligations to protect the human rights of Indigenous Peoples and communities against abuses by business enterprises operating in its territory and/or under its jurisdiction, the lack of consultations with affected Indigenous communities, failure to obtain free, prior and informed consent, and potential social and environmental damage.⁷⁷

57. The United Nations country team recommended ensuring the meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples when making any decisions affecting their rights over natural resources.⁷⁸

58. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Nepal amend the Constitution to explicitly recognize the rights of Indigenous women, ensure service delivery in rural areas, and ensure that economic activities, climate change mitigation and adaptation programmes and conservation projects could be implemented in Indigenous and protected areas only with the effective participation of Indigenous women.⁷⁹

5. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons

59. The United Nations country team reported that LGBTIQ+ communities faced discrimination, stigma and violence, and urged Nepal to review discriminatory laws and policies, ensuring penalization of violence and the guarantee of effective remedies.⁸⁰ The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Nepal amend the Civil Code to recognize same-sex marriages or unions involving individuals identified as "other", and equalize their rights with those of opposite-sex married couples.⁸¹

60. Several special procedure mandate holders expressed concern that the reported lack of legal recognition of the gender identity of transgender persons based on self-identification could contribute to discriminatory attitudes and increase their vulnerability to violence and degrading treatment. They asserted that States should ensure that all people had access to legal recognition of their gender identity based on the rights to freedom from discrimination, equal protection of the law, privacy, identity, and expression.⁸²

6. Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers

61. Noting that Nepal was a country of origin, transit and destination for migrant women and girls, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women expressed concern about reports of discrimination against women migrant workers and the impunity enjoyed by abusive employers, women migrant workers often having to pay high recruitment

fees, limited pre-departure training programmes, and the lack of programmes for returnee women facing stigmatization.⁸³

62. The same Committee recommended that Nepal ensure that all bilateral agreements concluded with destination countries contained protocols to investigate and prosecute all violations of women migrants' human rights, and provide redress to victims; foster coordination among government agencies, civil society and trade unions to monitor recruitment practices, reduce costs and ensure safe conditions for women migrant workers; conduct awareness-raising campaigns on the risks of being trafficked and provide access to free legal assistance and pre-departure information to migrant women and girls; and provide gender-responsive support to facilitate the reintegration of returning women migrant workers.⁸⁴

63. While commending the long-standing hosting of refugees, UNHCR noted that Nepal lacked a refugee protection framework and that over half of refugees did not possess identity documentation issued by Nepal.⁸⁵ The United Nations country team recommended that Nepal issue identity documentation for all refugees, granting them the right to work, and ensure equal access to public education, health and social protection, issue birth registration certificates without discrimination, ensure respect for non-refoulement and adopt national refugee legislation aligned with international standards.⁸⁶

7. Stateless persons

64. UNHCR reported that Nepal lacked a statelessness protection framework, while many Nepalis lacked citizenship certificates.⁸⁷

65. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Nepal accelerate the adoption of the citizenship bill and ensure that it addressed all types of discrimination against Nepali women and their children; repeal constitutional articles that prevented Nepali women from transferring citizenship on an equal basis with men to their children; amend the Constitution to ensure that Nepali women had the right to transfer citizenship to their spouse on the same terms as Nepali men, and to remove the penalties for Nepali mothers to transfer citizenship to their children with unidentified fathers; and ensure universal birth registration for all children regardless of the legal status of their parents.⁸⁸ The United Nations country team made similar recommendations, including ensuring timely issuance of legal identity documents, notably birth and citizenship certificates.⁸⁹

Notes

- 1 [A/HRC/47/10](#), [A/HRC/47/10/Add.1](#) and [A/HRC/47/2](#).
- 2 [CEDAW/C/NPL/CO/7](#), para. 57; and United Nations country team submission for the universal periodic review of Nepal, p. 2.
- 3 [CEDAW/C/NPL/CO/7](#), para. 35 (f); and UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of Nepal, p. 4.
- 4 United Nations country team submission, p. 2; and UNHCR submission, p. 4.
- 5 UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Nepal, para. 26 (i).
- 6 [CCPR/C/NPL/QPR/3](#), para. 2 (c).
- 7 See communication NPL 2/2021, available from <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=26341>. See also <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadFile?gId=36171>.
- 8 [CEDAW/C/NPL/CO/7](#), paras. 18 and 19.
- 9 United Nations country team submission, p. 3.
- 10 [CEDAW/C/NPL/CO/7](#), para. 17 (b).
- 11 [A/HRC/50/38/Add.2](#), paras. 19, 20, 22 and 24.
- 12 See communication NPL 4/2021, available from <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=26505>. See also <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadFile?gId=36679>.
- 13 United Nations country team submission, p. 4.
- 14 [CEDAW/C/NPL/CO/7](#), paras. 10, 11 (a) and 47 (d).
- 15 See communication NPL 4/2024, available from <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=29380>. See also communication NPL 4/2020, available from

- <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=25644>, and <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadFile?gId=35958>.
- ¹⁶ United Nations country team submission, p. 6.
- ¹⁷ See <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/08/nepal-turk-welcomes-adoption-transitional-justice-law-calls-victim-centred>. See also communication NPL 1/2023, available from <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=28079>. See further communication NPL 1/2022, available from <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=26967>.
- ¹⁸ CEDAW/C/NPL/CO/7, para. 15 (b) and (c).
- ¹⁹ See communication NPL 3/2023, available from <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=28664>.
- ²⁰ CEDAW/C/NPL/CO/7, paras. 12 and 13.
- ²¹ CCPR/C/NPL/QPR/3, paras. 20 (b) and (d) and 21.
- ²² See <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/09/nepal-turk-appalled-protest-killings-says-violence-not-answer>.
- ²³ See communication NPL 2/2024, available from <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=28875>.
- ²⁴ United Nations country team submission, p. 3.
- ²⁵ UNESCO submission, para. 29.
- ²⁶ CEDAW/C/NPL/CO/7, paras. 32 and 33. See also communication NPL 3/2024, available from <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=29268>.
- ²⁷ CCPR/C/NPL/QPR/3, para. 22. See also communication NPL 5/2022, available from <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=27595>. See further <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadFile?gId=37320>.
- ²⁸ CEDAW/C/NPL/CO/7, para. 52 (a)–(d) and (f).
- ²⁹ Ibid., para. 53 (a)–(e) and (g).
- ³⁰ Ibid., para. 28.
- ³¹ Ibid., para. 29.
- ³² United Nations country team submission, p. 7.
- ³³ A/HRC/50/38/Add.2, paras. 37 and 85 (d).
- ³⁴ Ibid., paras. 16 and 40.
- ³⁵ Ibid., paras. 24–27.
- ³⁶ Ibid., paras. 89 and 91.
- ³⁷ United Nations country team submission, p. 9.
- ³⁸ A/HRC/50/38/Add.2, para. 46.
- ³⁹ CEDAW/C/NPL/CO/7, para. 38.
- ⁴⁰ Ibid., para. 39.
- ⁴¹ A/HRC/50/38/Add.2, paras. 68–71.
- ⁴² Ibid., para. 90.
- ⁴³ CEDAW/C/NPL/CO/7, paras. 44 and 45.
- ⁴⁴ A/HRC/50/38/Add.2, paras. 3, 15 and 18.
- ⁴⁵ Ibid., paras. 18, 84 and 85.
- ⁴⁶ United Nations country team submission, p. 8.
- ⁴⁷ A/HRC/50/38/Add.2, paras. 29–34.
- ⁴⁸ See communication NPL 6/2022, available from <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=27805>.
- ⁴⁹ CEDAW/C/NPL/CO/7, para. 42.
- ⁵⁰ Ibid., para. 43.
- ⁵¹ A/HRC/50/38/Add.2, para. 55.
- ⁵² CEDAW/C/NPL/CO/7, para. 36.
- ⁵³ Ibid., para. 37 (a)–(d).
- ⁵⁴ United Nations country team submission, pp. 10 and 11.
- ⁵⁵ UNESCO submission, para. 26 (iv).
- ⁵⁶ CEDAW/C/NPL/CO/7, paras. 50 and 51.
- ⁵⁷ Ibid., paras. 22 (a) and (b) and 23.
- ⁵⁸ United Nations country team submission, p. 4.
- ⁵⁹ CEDAW/C/NPL/CO/7, para. 26.
- ⁶⁰ Ibid., para. 27.
- ⁶¹ United Nations country team submission, p. 7.
- ⁶² CEDAW/C/NPL/CO/7, paras. 24 and 25. See also United Nations country team submission, p. 5.
- ⁶³ United Nations country team submission, p. 5.
- ⁶⁴ CEDAW/C/NPL/CO/7, para. 30 (b) and (c).
- ⁶⁵ Ibid., para. 31.

- ⁶⁶ UNESCO submission, para. 26 (vii) and (viii).
- ⁶⁷ United Nations country team submission, p. 5.
- ⁶⁸ [CCPR/C/NPL/QPR/3](#), para. 23 (a) and (c).
- ⁶⁹ United Nations country team submission, p. 6.
- ⁷⁰ [A/HRC/50/38/Add.2](#), para. 91.
- ⁷¹ *Ibid.*, paras. 64–67.
- ⁷² United Nations country team submission, p. 11.
- ⁷³ [CEDAW/C/NPL/CO/7](#), paras. 48 and 49.
- ⁷⁴ [A/HRC/50/38/Add.2](#), para. 38.
- ⁷⁵ See communication NPL 2/2023, available from <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=28174>. See also communication NPL 1/2021, available from <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=26282>.
- ⁷⁶ See communication NPL 1/2024, available from <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=28833>. See also communication NPL 1/2021.
- ⁷⁷ See communication NPL 2/2022, available from <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=27256>. See also <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadFile?gId=37061>.
- ⁷⁸ United Nations country team submission, p. 12.
- ⁷⁹ [CEDAW/C/NPL/CO/7](#), para. 47 (a)–(c).
- ⁸⁰ United Nations country team submission, pp. 11 and 12.
- ⁸¹ [CEDAW/C/NPL/CO/7](#), para. 53 (f).
- ⁸² See communication NPL 4/2022, available from <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=27310>.
- ⁸³ [CEDAW/C/NPL/CO/7](#), para. 40.
- ⁸⁴ *Ibid.*, para. 41 (a) and (c)–(e).
- ⁸⁵ UNHCR submission, pp. 1 and 2.
- ⁸⁶ United Nations country team submission, p. 13. See also UNHCR submission, pp. 3 and 4.
- ⁸⁷ UNHCR submission, pp. 1 and 2.
- ⁸⁸ [CEDAW/C/NPL/CO/7](#), para. 35 (a), (b), (d) and (e).
- ⁸⁹ United Nations country team submission, p. 4. See also UNHCR submission, pp. 4–6.
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