



राष्ट्रिय मानव अधिकार आयोग



नेपाल सरकार

महिला, बालबालिका तथा ज्येष्ठ नागरिक मन्त्रालय  
राष्ट्रिय बाल अधिकार परिषद्



कन्सोर्टियम-नेपाल  
Consortium Nepal



GIRLS NOT BRIDES NEPAL  
The Nepalese Partnership to End Child Marriage

# National Assembly of Child Human Rights Defenders Strengthening Child Participation to End Child Marriage

November 23-25, 2024  
Kathmandu, Nepal

## A Call for Action



**CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS**

**National Assembly of Child Human Rights Defenders  
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**A Call for Action**

The National Assembly of Child Human Rights Defenders (CHRD) was successfully held in Kathmandu, with representation from all seven provinces from November 23-25, 2024. As participants of this assembly, we, the children, present the following conclusions from our discussions. These focus on the recognition and protection of child human rights defenders and address the critical issue of ending child marriage, which significantly impacts various aspects of child rights.

We earnestly call upon the government, its agencies, national human rights institutions, civil society, national and international organizations, donors, media, professional associations, political parties, the private sector, child clubs, and all relevant stakeholders to effectively implement and advocate for the following actions, each within their respective capacities.

1. Acknowledge all children who are actively involved, either individually or through child clubs and various organizations, as Child Human Rights Defenders and support the issues they raise concerning protecting and promoting children's human rights, ensuring respect, protection, promotion, and fulfillment of child rights.
2. Minimize risks and provide necessary protection to child human rights defenders as they actively oppose societal malpractices, violence, exploitation, and other violations of child rights while advocating for the rights of affected children.
3. Ensure that information and reports provided by child human rights defenders regarding child marriage and harmful social practices are taken seriously by the police, ward offices, municipal staff, and elected representatives while maintaining the confidentiality of children. Additionally, immediate investigations and actions should be conducted as required, and accessible mechanisms should be established to forward such information to higher-level authorities beyond the local level.
4. Refrain from exerting any political or administrative pressure in cases of child marriage and register such incidents as formal legal complaints, ensuring that legal action is taken in accordance with the law.
5. Address the negative perception some families and communities hold towards child human rights defenders advocating against child marriage and working towards changing such attitudes while ensuring their protection.
6. Regularly raise awareness among adolescents and parents in a language they can understand about the impacts of child marriage, including its effects on children's education, health, career development, and the psychosocial well-being of both young mothers and the children born to them.
7. Ensure that all children have access to quality education, as well as practical and life skills-based education.
8. Raise awareness among children about the potential harms of the internet and online activities, as well as the misuse of social media, and implement measures to control such risks.
9. As incidents of child marriage are increasingly driven by their own desire, it is important to raise child-centered awareness and provide opportunities for children to engage in various creative activities that promote skill development and capacity building.

10. Effectively end harmful practices in society, such as dowry, that encourage child marriage.
11. Political parties should issue directives to all their members and supporters to not engage in or promote child marriage and to actively participate in campaigns aimed at ending child marriage.
12. Each local level should identify children and families at high risk of child marriage in their areas and provide necessary support, including ensuring their educational continuity and livelihood assistance.
13. Incorporate the negative impacts of child marriage into local curriculums designed for schools and ensure their regular teaching. Additionally, make health education a mandatory subject that includes sexual and reproductive health and comprehensive sexuality education.
14. While respecting the confidentiality of children, efforts to end child marriage and highlighting its negative impacts should be prioritized in the media.
15. Community-based organizations such as ward development committees, mothers' groups, and other local institutions should identify families at risk of child marriage and take proactive steps to prevent it from the outset. They should also provide support and protection to child human rights defenders.
16. Children should be encouraged to engage in discussions about the issues related to child marriage among themselves and collaborate with families, communities, and relevant stakeholders to share information and coordinate efforts to find solutions.
17. Programs involving children should be organized in a way that does not disrupt their school education.
18. Increase investment in children by prioritizing children at all levels of the state.
19. Ensure regular monitoring from both local to federal levels regarding the protection of child rights and the effective implementation of child-related laws.
20. Promptly pass and implement the recently drafted the Child Marriage Eradication Strategy 2081 into practice.
21. Mitigate and address the various impacts of climate change on children.
22. Include the advice, suggestions, and expectations of children in the policy-making process related to children.
23. Children representing gender and sexual minorities groups, children with disabilities, economically and socially marginalized groups, and children from indigenous communities are at higher risk of child marriage and various forms of violence. Therefore, special protective measures should be implemented for them.
24. Attention should be given to the mental health and protection of children and adolescents affected by child marriage. Programs aimed at preventing child marriage, including rewarding couples who marry after the age of 20, should be continued and supported.
25. Special attention should be given to controlling the growing trend of cross-border child marriages."

**Signed by the Participants of the National Gathering of Child Rights Defenders (November 23-25, 2024, Kathmandu)**