



## **Immediately Address Serious Concerns of Conflict Victims Regarding the Selection Process of Officials for the Transitional Justice Commissions**

**Kathmandu, 6 May 2025**

We, the undersigned human rights organizations, express our full solidarity with the public “warning” and concerns expressed by the conflict victims on 30 April 2025 regarding the recently advanced process to select officials for the transitional justice commissions. Victims have voiced strong disagreement with the process.

Conflict victims are the primary stakeholders in the transitional justice process. It is a well-established and practical truth that such a process cannot succeed unless it is victim-centered. It is no small matter that 36 organizations representing the entire victim community have united to declare that they do not accept ownership of the selection process and this is a serious issue. We are deeply concerned that, despite the Comprehensive Peace Accord of 2006 promising to establish a transitional justice system with guarantees of truth, justice, reparation, and non-recurrence, the state has failed to fulfill this commitment for nearly two decades.

In this light, the disappointing execution of the most recent selection process is troubling not only for the victim community and civil society but for the entire nation. Victims and civil society have consistently emphasized what must be done to ensure the legitimacy and credibility of this selection. Specifically, they have repeatedly stressed the need to integrate consultations with victims into the core of the selection process; to clearly define and publicly disclose the methods, processes, and criteria for evaluating candidate suitability; to ensure objective evaluation based on these criteria; to conduct mandatory background checks before shortlisting candidates; and to ensure transparency through practices such as public hearings.

We would like to remind the authorities that if the current two-month timeframe proves insufficient to ensure a credible process, the law allows the government to remove obstacles and extend the duration as necessary. However, the repeated inclusion of the same individuals in the name of official selection, the formation of a recommendation committee along the same old lines, the continuation of a non-transparent, mechanical, and ritualistic process, the failure to actively search for suitable candidates, and the tendency to nominate candidates based on political power-sharing arrangements—all these factors have eroded the trust of the conflict victims in the selection process.

If this controlled and superficial process continues, we strongly urge everyone not to underestimate the possibility of the conflict victims moving forward with a proposal for an alternative, citizen-led Truth Commission under their own leadership and initiative.

Therefore, we appeal to the Government of Nepal to take all necessary and appropriate steps to meaningfully address the serious warnings, concerns, and demands of the conflict victims through genuine consultation, dialogue, and discussion, and to ensure the credibility of the selection process. Such steps may include: temporarily postponing candidate presentations and publishing a revised schedule; consulting with the victim community and, under the committee's initiative, identifying additional suitable candidates for the posts of Chairperson and members, then publishing a revised shortlist that includes their names; ensuring representative participation of victims, civil society, and media in the presentation phase to maintain transparency; and, if needed, invoking the legal authority to remove obstacles and extend the committee's term.

Advocacy Forum-Nepal

Amnesty International Nepal

Accountability Watch Committee

Informal Sector Service Centre

Judicial and Rights Institution Nepal

Human Rights Organization of Nepal

Legal Aid and Consultancy Centre Nepal

Human Rights and Justice Centre

Voices of Women Media

Collective Campaign for Peace