

## **Mass Gathering on 2 December after the Women Human Rights National Consultation**

### **Introduction:**

After the People's Movement II in April 2006, there has been a rapid political change within the country. The Maoists have joined the government whereas the aspiration of the people to be treated as free citizen of the country and their basic rights fulfilled has demanded commitment from all stakeholders towards creation of a New Nepal. The reformation of Nepal cannot be created without proper representation of people from all the strata and structure of society and also transformation of the existing feudal/ patriarchal, sociopolitical and economical structure of family, community, society and state. This is a complex task and the structural change requires sensitivity and commitment from all stake holders.

The volatile transitional phase has invited absence of law and order, emergence of different splinter groups, increasing fundamentalism and communal violence that has posed high threats to the peace process. These factors also create risks and vulnerabilities on the groups such as Women, Dalits, Disabled, Sexual minorities, Landless, Indigenous, Madhesi, Muslim, Badi, People living with HIV and other vulnerable and excluded groups. These groups have been ignored and discriminated in the society for centuries and still continue to be. Such discriminatory practices have fuelled unrest in country and the continuation of such system has only benefited the emergence of splinter groups along with other groups who are not in favor of the total transformation of the country. The political parties and the government should understand such strong and clear message and the underlying reasons. It is very necessary to recognize that the role and struggle of all marginalized groups during the mainstream people's movement was very critical and decisive. Nepal is a country of minorities and rights of minorities need to be realized with creation of an enabling environment where everyone feels Respected, Understood and their Rights guaranteed. As women constitute 50 percent of total population of the country, it is very necessary to take them as equal rights holder of New Nepal. Women have to face challenges and bear the brunt of various forms of violence inflicted on them by state and non state (family and community actors. Violence against Women (VAW) has been a common phenomenon within all societies however it has further escalated during the transitional phase. Consequently different groups have used women as a tool of revenge with examples that can be taken from the community level. This crucial situation demands a strategic thinking by all groups demanding their rights and to carefully review whether their movement is doing justice to women. The government must rethink their agenda and decision as well.

The government has already set the date of the Constituent Assembly (CA) election however it has already been postponed twice. This is unacceptable to all those who has been actively engaged in different activities for formation of New Nepal. In this context it becomes unavoidable for people of Nepal to come together and pressurize the state to declare the dates of the constituent assembly election and hold elections on the fixed date. Nepal requires total transformation of all structures that cannot be done without a proper and well represented constitution. CA is a tool for this transformation. Those groups represented in constituent assembly, their understanding on the issue and commitment for change is crucial for new constitution as aspired by majority of Nepali people. It will be indeed a historical moment for all the Nepalese however the challenge lays on what issues will be incorporated into the new constitution. The current movement and struggle of the marginalized groups have already set their demands however their struggle has yet to be recognized and institutionalized.

Therefore in the light of this current political situation, the National Alliance of Women Human Rights Defenders (NAWHRD) has decided to organize a national WHRD consultation from 29 November - 1 December in Katmandu.

The solidarity and support to this women's movement will be further strengthened with mass gathering of more than 7000 - 10,000 WHRDs, Women's Group, Human Rights communities, Trade Union, Professionals etc on 2 December that will be marked by reading the declaration, sharing by different community women of their issues and demands and then taking political commitments from the political leaders who will incorporate those points into the new constitution.

This movement will indeed be a unique of its kind as it will generate participation of people working in various issues struggling and demanding for Peace and Stability in the country, total proportionate system of Constituent Assembly Election etc. The strength of this movement will be a reminder to all the Political Parties to fulfill their broken promises.

**Objective:**

- To show solidarity and support to the women's rights movement;
- To seek political commitment from the political leaders to incorporate the issues into the draft constitution;

**Outcome:**

- The political parties, human rights community, individuals, Professionals, media personnel will witness the strength e of mass gathering of 10000 people involved in various movement;
- WHRDs will understand the challenges and strategies of various movement;

**Methodology:**

The following methodology will be followed in organizing the mass gathering.

**Participant:**

There will be around 7000 - 10,000 women from different districts to participate in the mass gathering.

**The selection criteria:**

The selection criteria for the participants attending mass gathering on 2 December are as follows:

- All women attending this mass gathering should be active women being engaged in different advocacy related activities on women rights;
- Activists from self representative advocacy groups will be of priority;
- Women should be ready to take advocacy issues on their rights forward in their own capacity;
- The participants will consist not only the network leaders but other active members as well;

**Event:**

The mass gathering will start from Kalanki, Koteshwor, Sadtobato and Gaushala at 11 AM and merge in Tudikhel at 1 PM.

**PLEASE COME AND JOIN THIS GATHERING TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY!**