



PROFILE **(1988-2017)**

HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION OF NEPAL

Human Rights Organization of Nepal (HURON) was established on International Human Rights Day, December 10, 1988 as one of the first Human Rights institution in Nepal. This was grown as the mass-based people's movement to protect and promote human rights through advocacy, lobbying and conflict resolution as well as capacity building and awareness rise. Since its' establishment, HURON is playing pioneering and crucial role in the movement for the restoration of democracy, peace building and human right protection in Nepal. A unique feature of HURON is its membership that represent from all political persuasions. To achieve its goal of helping to ensure the highest possible standard of peoples rights in Nepal, HURON adopted main two strategies: firstly, to develop itself as an independent human rights institution and secondly to serve as a support organization for protecting human rights with the restoration of democracy. In the mean time of establishment the charter or founder members (appendix) of the organization represented a broad spectrum of political opinion in the country and were drawn largely from the educated professional classes consisting of educators, journalists, lawyers, engineers, doctors and other active social and political workers. Currently it has 40,000 members within 75 district office and its chapters.

HURON has been promoting peaceful negotiation since its formation and played a crucial role in the movement for the restoration of democracy in 1990, as well as being key player in negotiations between government and Maoist rebels. This has been in keeping with two of its main objectives, to imitate and support a process of conflict resolution in situation of national concern, and to strengthen the democratic process and culture with institutional capacity building at all levels.

The Human Rights organization of Nepal and its members individually and collectively, were destined to play an effective role in the broad-based pro-democracy movement in the winter and spring of 1990 by acting as a catalyst in mobilizing the educated professional classes. Their participation in the movement on an unprecedented scale motivated the masses eventually to follow their example and thus contributed in no small measure to the success of the movement for the restoration of democracy and human rights in Nepal.

HURON is registered in Kathmandu District Administration Office as a non-political, non-profit making organization of the. It is democratic organization, led by a President. HURON has completed its eleventh national convention after establishment.

MISSION

HURON's mission is to develop as an independent dynamic organization to protect human rights through advocacy, conflict resolution as well as networking and capacity building of Nepalese people. Its evolution over the last 20 years highlights the need for assessment the policies and programs using a wide range of promoting human rights and its positive contribution to nation building.

VISION

The main vision of the organization is to develop the society where there will be an understanding, respect and practice of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the establishment of HURON are to protect and promote human rights through advocacy, lobbying and conflict resolution with focusing the following programs.

- to work for the acquisition, protection and extension of human rights in Nepal while endorsing the case for the universal prevalence of human rights and participating in the international movement to promote human rights everywhere in the world,
- to oppose cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment of prisoners while making efforts for the unconditional release of all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience and for the abolition of all forms of torture and the death penalty,
- to demand the enactment of laws in conformity with the internationally recognized minimum standard for the treatment of prisoners and reforms in the judicial process with a view to ensuring quick, cheap, and impartial justice to the people,
- to strive for attainment and protection of the rule of law in furtherance of the cause of democracy,
- to work towards the attainment of the basic rights of every person to live in dignity and enjoy equal opportunity with fellow human beings and all other rights ancillary to it,
- to secure for the people of Nepal in practice the fundamental right to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association and of forming free trade unions, political parties, class and professional organizations,
- to work for the removal of the practice of having to belong to a particular government-controlled class organization against one's own will in order to run for any elective political office,
- to secure compensation to illegally-detained persons and their dependents in accordance with the internationally accepted practice,
- to seek to provide emotional and material relief to political sufferers,

- to press the Government of Nepal to accede to conventions, covenants and protocols of the United Nations on human rights,
- to cooperate with and to aid national and international groups and organizations and individuals devoted to the promotion of human rights by developing fraternal relations with them,
- to promote studies in the field of human rights and mobilize public opinion in favor of human rights through the publication of printed matter (including bulletins and periodicals), films, cassettes, public lectures, seminars, conferences, meetings, radio and television broadcasts and,
- to carry out any activity whatever to fulfill the stated objectives in furtherance of the cause of human rights.
- to monitor human rights violations and, by networking with other national, regional and international organization.
- to strengthen the democratic process and culture, with institutional capacity building at all levels.
- to initiate and support a process of conflict resolution in situations of nationals concerns.
- to create awareness and to promote strategies to overcome social exclusion.

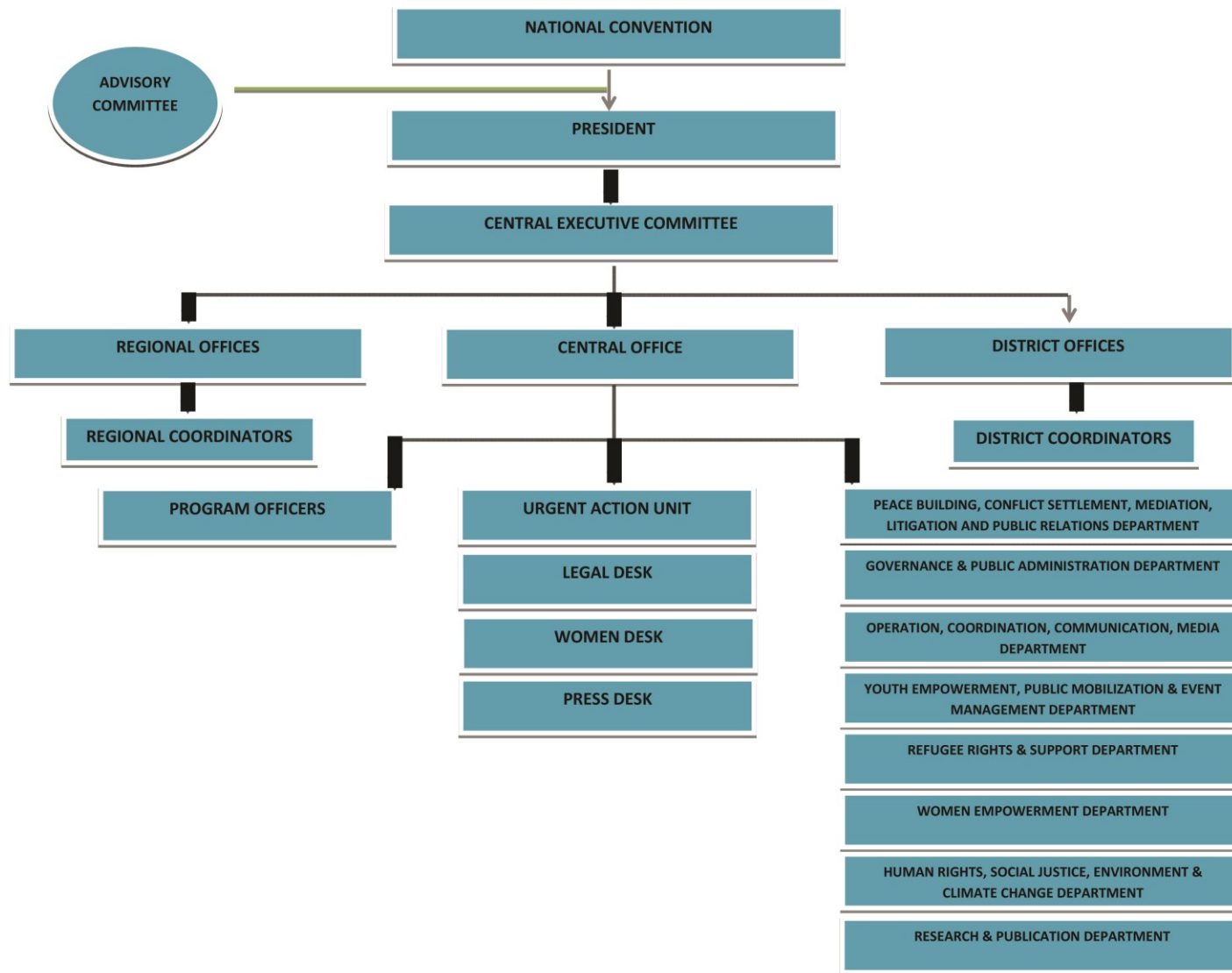
ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

All Nepalese citizens over the age of 16 years are applicable for HURON memberships. HURON has thousands of individual members, above 3000 active members and about 400 life members.

At district level there are local chapters at Village Development Committee (VDC) or Municipality. Since, the statute amendment in 2005 there is a provision in the statute to constitute Human Rights Groups (HRGs) especially intended to extend its memberships in schools, campuses and local communities. Each District Chapter are entitled to send its representatives to the National Council and National Convention which is empowered to pass the policy, budget, plan of action and elect new president and members. The President and five regional coordinators (who are also central members) of the Central Executive Committee are elected every three years at the National Convention. The Central Executive Committee will execute the policy and decisions made by the National Council and Convention held each year and at the interval of three years respectively. The members of the National Convention includes the Central Executive Committee, founder members, active members and delegates from the District Chapter where as the members of National Council are representatives of the District Committee, Central

Executive members and founder members. The president is responsible for appointing other members (according to the statutes; central executive members should not exceed 21 members which should include 25 percent women) to the Central Executive Committee. Additionally, there is a Central Advisory Committee comprising of five people who are, generally, well-known human rights activists and intellectuals who have been made significant contribution to the cause of human rights and democracy in the country.

HURON



CONSTITUTION

To work for the endorsement and implementation by Nepal of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on civil and political Rights, and the optional protocol as well as other U.N. charters, covenants on human rights constitution of the HURON is mainly based on the following norms:

- Human rights are the birthright of all human beings; the absence of it gives rise to strife and insurgence among.
- It is imperative to protect the individual and society from repression and prejudice by acquiring, protecting and extending human rights and by collectively opposing domineering measures through efforts at generating popular perception.
- Nepali population, instead of being allowed to enjoy basic human rights, is deprived of the opportunity to exercise in practice even such limited fundamental rights as are particular in the Constitution of Nepal, (The first amendment of the HURON's constitution following the political change in Nepal has deleted this third preamble paragraph).
- The foundation of democracy consists of human rights and the rule of law; in the absence of it participation of public in the development of the country is impossible.
- It is found necessary to form a common organization of those socially conscious and active Nepali's who are truly dedicated to the cause of democracy and share a deep concern for the future of the country.

Financial Resources of Organization

Membership fees, especially from life membership and donations from the individuals, have been the main source of HURON's income. **Nominal institutional support to run the "Urgent Action Unit" is provided by our international partner organization.** From the beginning an important principle was that the organization is financially independent.

National and International Network:

- HURON has 80 chapters in 75 districts in the country. The respective chapters have also established local networking within the human rights organizations and civil society organization to work more effectively in this complicated period.
- Under the initiation of HURON, a coalition of 22 partner organizations was formed, from among the civil society organizations, to launch peace movement.

- Established partnership with an international NGO to lobby and work on human rights issue globally.
- Established working relation with Amnesty International, ICRC and UN on human rights violations.
- HURON initiated to establish unity among human rights organizations of Nepal and called a first meeting on 08 July 2005.

Short term and long term plan:

The short term plan of the organization is to reduce human rights violations and establish peace in the country whereas the long term goal of this organization is to build a culture of human rights and democracy in the country.

First Baptism of Fire

The Human Rights organization of Nepal (HURON) experienced its first baptism of fire when the sign board with its name, hung on the front of its office was forcibly removed from there after about two weeks by a number of policemen with entering the office without any warrant or written permission from. The pictures of the policemen running away with the HURON sign board were published in a section of local press. The office was housed in the residence of its president as no space was available on rent anywhere in the town for the office with the HURON sign board.

HURON had only one alternative to go to court seeking the redress of its complaints. Actually we had appealed with mentioning that it was not necessary for the HURON to register itself under the organization and Association Registration ultra vires Act of panchayati constitution and the sign board was illegally removed. Though the HURON's appeal was partially upheld by the supreme court of Nepal after the party less panchayat system had yielded place to multiparty democracy, the Act still remains in force. But it must be said to the credit of the charter members of the HURON that not a single member left the organization even under the most trying circumstances. The harassment of the president of the HURON continued unabated. He was placed under police watch around the clock and his visitors were questioned and harassed with different ways.

First International Exposure

The President and some of the executive members of HURON were invited by 'Forum of Nepalese People for International solidarity' to address a meeting of Nepalese working in Delhi on 3 May 1989. In this time the HURON team spoke about immense hardships and suffering caused to the people of Nepal by the lapse of trade and transit treaties between India and Nepal in March 1989 with immense Indian participants. The president of HURON had utilized the opportunity by organizing Press conference on Human rights violence in Nepal in 9 May 1989 which was covered by various Indian as well as world media. In the mean time of conference he had criticized the Nepal government for its

arrest under the public Security Act of a number of prominent Nepali journalists and one of the general secretaries of the HURON.

HURON'S ROLE IN PRO-DEMOCRACY MOVEMENT

On the occasion of the inaugural function of the "Political Awakening Week" held by the banned Nepali Congress in 9 to 15 September 1989, the HURON had raised the following three issues at a meeting of the Congress workers and volunteers held at Baneshwar and presided over by their supreme leader Mr. Ganesh Man Singh. Both the acting president of the party, Mr. Krishna Prasad Bhattarai and the General Secretary Mr. Girija Prasad Koirala were also present at the meeting.

- Nepali Congress stands for constitutional monarchy must be made clear to the people that in constitutional monarchy the king is not above the constitution but is bound by it in the same way as the people.
- The question is whether the king is an integral part of the party less panchayat system. If he is a part of it, we are deluding ourselves and misleading the people by professing and pretending that the panchayat system and the monarchy are separate entities.
- What is at issue is the responsibility for Nepal's present economic difficulty. The people must ask themselves whether the miserable state of Nepal's economy is just a result of the situation created by lapse of trade and transit treaties with India in March 1989 or whether it has resulted from an utter neglect of the welfare of the people over the past three decades.

On the last day of the "Political Awakening Week", about 200 people were arrested in front of the main gate of the zonal commissioner's office and taken in batches to the Police Club. Their only "offence" was seeking to present a memorandum to the Zonal Commissioner complaining of the shortage of essential goods and commodities and of the unprecedented rise in prices. All of them were arraigned before the Kathmandu District Court on 18 September 1989. The court released them on bail of Rs. 150.00 each.

After their release all of them marched to the Congress office at Jamal in a procession led by HURON president where they were welcomed by the topmost Congress leaders, Ganesh Man Singh and Krishna Prasad Bhattarai. The president of the HURON, Padma Ratna Tuladhar and Drona Prasad Acharya along with the Congress leaders Ganesh Man Singh and Krishna Prasad Bhattarai spoke to a group of Congress workers and volunteers assembled there. Every one of the speakers deplored the fragmentation of the popular democratic movement and parties and made a passionate plea for national democratic unity on the basis of which alone an effective mass movement could be launched for the restoration of democracy and human rights.

At the end of the "Political Awakening Week" program in September 1989 promised the first glimmer of hope for the pro-democracy movement in Nepal with the Congress-Leftist participation. Mr. Ganesh Man Singh, the supreme leader of the Nepali Congress, asked to the president of the HURON to hold talks with the leaders of different leftist factions and explore the possibility of their joining hands with the Congress in any peaceful movement it may decide to launch for the restoration of human rights and democracy in Nepal. The response of almost all factions of the communist movement with the exception of those, who subsequently formed their own "United National People's Movement", was highly favorable and the president of the HURON reported to Mr. Ganesh Man Singh that they were willing to cooperate with the Nepali Congress in every possible way to make the movement success. At this point, when the president of the HURON had to go to New York to take part in the weeklong program organized by human rights watch from 5 December 1989, Mr. Ganesh Man Singh himself took over the negotiations with the leftist factions.

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH HONORS HURON

All those human rights monitors invited by the New-York based human rights organization to take part in its program were already in New York by 5 December 1989. On the occasion of the 1989 -Annual Celebration, human rights watch had decided to honor ten individuals, two from each regional area covered by its watch committees, for "their courageous work in monitoring, defending and maintaining human rights in their own countries despite what are often very great risks". Among them president of HURON from the area covered by Asia Watch was honored.

PRO-DEMOCRACY MOVEMENT AND HURON'S RESOLUTION

On 30 January 1990 HURON held a meeting of all its office bearers, members of its working committee and advisory panel and other invited members and adopted a resolution which ran as follows:

"This Meeting decided fully and effectively participation in the nationwide peaceful and non-violent movement to be launched by the Nepali Congress in concert with the United Left front and other leftist forces for the establishment of a national government and the multi-party democratic system in Nepal and calls upon all the branches and members of the HURON and all other conscious and enlightened Nepali's to extend their wholehearted cooperation to it because the future of the HURON itself depend on the success of this national movement which aims at the attainment of the primary principles and objectives of the organization.

By the time president of the HURON left for India, quite a few of the middle-level Nepali Congress and communist leaders had already been arrested and some others had gone underground. Most of the active members of the HURON had also withdrawn themselves from the public view and were busy workings in concert with workers of other political

parties preparing the ground for the movement by mobilizing the people in every possible way.

Dr. Devendra Raj Panday, the acting president of the HURON and Mr. Kapil Shrestha, the HURON general secretary, the two office bearers openly functioning, were busy coordinating its activities with like minded organizations and action committees of political parties. Dr. Panday also played an important role in creating a mechanism for coordinating the independent activities of the professional organizations like the Nepal University Teachers Association, the Writers Association etc. actively involved in the movement.

As the movement gained its momentum, the office-bearers of the HURON were responsible for keeping the news media and foreign correspondents regularly informed of what was actually going on in different parts of the country beyond what the Nepal government officially made known to them. A very important role the HURON leadership played was to disseminate the news of the progress of the movement and of the cases of human rights violation, particularly mistreatment and tortures of prisoners of conscience through the international media. In addition HURON responsible persons gave several interviews to the B.B.C, Voice of America, Deutsche Welle, the Singapore Television and several private televisions in Germany.

A highlight of this aspect of HURON's contribution was a clandestine meeting that was arranged between some members of the international press and the victims (and/or their closest relatives) of police brutality from Bhaktapur. Reuters disseminated this information in its dispatch as the first press conference by the victims of brutality.

For feeding the external media with relevant information, the HURON members in cooperation with workers of and volunteers of different political parties created a common pool of information and an underground network for dissemination of news internally and externally. After the topmost congress and communist leaders were placed under detention, the acting president of the HURON had not failed to speak out on the larger issues of human rights and democracy and condemn repressive measures of the government at critical moments during the movement. Press statements were issued regularly. A special letter of request was sent to the US Ambassador which produced a favorable response on 5 March 1990.

Notwithstanding all this, the peaceful and non violent movement after about a month tended to lose its momentum and even began to show signs of petering out. The acting president of the HURON, acting on behalf of the above mentioned Professional Solidarity Group and in consultation with the available political party leaders deemed it fit to test or feel out the likely response of the educated professional classes to the observance of the National People's Unity or Solidarity Day set for 23 March by the Congress and the United Left Front leadership.

The newly appointed prime minister lost no time in sending for Dr. Devendra Raj Panday, the acting president of the HURON, who was brought from the Kathmandu Bhadragol prison in a jeep under heavy guards to the prime minister's office in Singha Darbar around 10 A.M. When the prime minister sought Dr. Panday's Co-operation with the new government, the acting president of the HURON flatly denied the possibility of any co-operation until the multiparty democratic process and human rights were fully restored in the country and all the political prisoners were released unconditionally. Dr. Panday also took the opportunity to acquaint the new prime minister with the reaction of his fellow prisoners all of whom were bitterly disappointed at the royal proclamation. Then the newly appointed prime minister sought Dr. Panday's good office in opening a channel of personal communication with Mr. Ganesh Man Singh who was being detained in a hospital cabin with his wife. Dr. Panday told the new prime minister that all that he could do in this respect was to convey his message to Mr. Singh. After spending about an hour with Mr. Singh in his hospital cabin, Dr. Panday came back to Singha Darbar only to inform the prime minister that Mr. Ganesh Man Singh would not even think of meeting with the king, not to speak of the prime minister, until multiparty democracy was concerned. Thereafter the acting HURON president was once again taken back to prison. Meanwhile the people of the Kathmandu valley had reached the limits of their patience and decided to come out in the streets on their own in large numbers from every direction.

The number of those killed during the movement must have reached a figure of five hundred to six hundred because even the then Prime Minister, Lokendra Bahadur Chand, parried the question when specific figures of deaths were mentioned by correspondents. Dozens of truck loads of bodies were reportedly transported to the exclusive military cremation ground for mass cremation. Even bodies of those who had died in the hospitals as a result of bullet wounds were not handed over to their relatives. Under the circumstances the precise number of deaths on 6 and 7 April 1990 will never be known.

DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS RESTORED

After these tragic killings, king Birendra, in consultation with the opposition leaders lifted the 30 year old ban on political parties on 8 April. But his newly appointed cabinet under Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand began to stall on the implementation of the popular 8-point charter of demands put forward by Professional Solidarity Group and endorsed by Nepali Congress and ULF parties which was as follows:

- As the National Panchayat and the president government, formed under the party less Constitution have become inconsistent under the new dispensation announced on 8 April, which removed the party less ness and lifted the ban on all political parties, we demand immediate dissolution of these bodies.
- All the articles, clauses and sub-clauses of the present Constitution of Nepal, which are incompatible with the changed Multiparty Policy prevailing in the country today both in from and spirit, should be repealed immediately.

- Such bodies of the panchayats from the district to the village levels must now be disbanded making such arrangements as are necessary to conduct urgent public business.
- All movable and immovable properties belonging to panchayat and class organization at different levels is nationalized forthwith.
- All political prisoners held during or before the movement should be respectfully compensated and those injured should be provided treatment and financial assistance.
- All the families of those killed during the president movement should be respectfully compensated and those injured should be provided treatment and financial assistance.
- The Constitution Reforms Commission should be constituted with just representation from both the Nepali Congress and the United Left Front.
- Independent enquiry should be conducted on the atrocities perpetrated during the popular movement and the guilty should be punished.

HURON DURING INTERIM PERIOD (UP TO NATIONAL ELECTION, 1991)

At the first executive committee meeting of the HURON held on 18 April 1990 upon its president's return to Kathmandu from India, it was decided unanimously to extend critical and constructive support to the newly formed interim coalition government.

Immediately after the triumph of people power in Nepal, HURON was one of the first organization to moot the suggestion for start collecting funds with a view to providing for the dependents of those who had died a martyr's death and those who were disabled and also to pay for the medical care of those who were injured during the movement. No sooner had the HURON opened a special account in the Bank for donations for this purpose, donations started pouring in from all quarters, individuals, offices and institutions private and public. But there arose practical difficulties with regard to the disbursement and collection of relief funds because of the involvement of a multiplicity of organizations in the enterprise. After providing some relief to the needy on its own for sometime through its own branches in Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur, the HURON supported the initiative taken by the Nepal Federation of Chambers of Trade and Industries of having a common organization for the collection and disbursement of the funds for this purpose.

The HURON held two conferences on what the constitution of Nepal should be like. They were held in the main auditorium of the Royal Academy on 21 May 1990 and on 14 August 1990. The conference on 21 May 1990 was first addressed by some of the

HURON members themselves with considerable expertise in constitution-making. The conference was presided over by the HURON president.

HURON'S ROLE IN ENSURING SMOOTH AND PEACEFUL ELECTIONS

The first meeting of the HURON's Council elected in December 1990 was held in Biratnagar on 25 and 26 February 1991. The Council approved of certain amendments to the constitution and also authorized the president to decide on whether the HURON should accept funds from foreign governments and aid giving agencies for its election related activities. After its business session, the office-bearers of the HURON addressed a well-attended meeting at the Birendra Public Auditorium organized by its Morang Committee.

Later in Kathmandu after several talks with the concerned parties HURON decided not to associate itself with the election observation activities which was primarily funded by external aid giving agencies and also decided not to accept foreign funds for its own election-related work and activities because of their sensitive nature and also because of the then prime minister's own admission at a HURON sponsored all party meeting on 12 March 1991 that the government had no definite policy about the flow of foreign funds for various activities connected with elections.

The following statement issued by the HURON president on 28 April 1991 reflects its attitude on some of the important matters connected with the elections: "As the day of elections fast approaches, there has been a marked increase in the frequency of the incident of violence and murder in the country.

"It is the primary duty of every civilized government to maintain law and order and afford protection to every citizen. But at the same time political parties and workers must also scrupulously observe the code of conduct which the election commission has promulgated in consultation with them. The press and other social and non-governmental organization may help to create an all round atmosphere for peace, prudence and restraint during the election eve when tempers are bound to rise and emotions are apt to run wild in the heat and excitement of the election campaign.

"The Human Rights Organization of Nepal has repeatedly warned the government and the people against the adverse consequences of politicization of the administrative machinery and the criminalization of politics. I am afraid the government has not paid much heed to our timely warnings about these matters and also about the need for the government to form a definite policy regulating the flow of foreign funds for various activities connected with elections. HURON is not opposed to the concept of international observers as such and has already instructed its members and volunteers to extend their cooperation to outside visitors if they seek it. Vigilance, as normally expected of the people at election time, must, however, be exercised by all concerned.

"All said and done, the Human Rights Organization of Nepal has an abiding faith in the innate good sense and collective wisdom of the people of Nepal which will ultimately frustrate the designs of vested interests to disturb the electoral process, and will ensure the holding of elections without let or hindrance".

On the basis of its own analysis of the situation as described above HURON, apart from continuing its own program for voters education as part of its campaign for human rights awareness with the help of its own members and volunteers in the areas covered by its committees, decided also to constitute a special Task Force for Free and Fair Elections (TAFPE) of its members and volunteers with a view to extending cooperation to the Election Commission in ensuring free and fair elections. The TAFPE was at work for a month before elections and held public meetings of candidates, local political leaders voters, administrative and security personnel in charge of elections and the returning officers wherever possible emphasizing their joint responsibility for holding free and fair elections. The discussions at the meetings were found useful by all concerned and were conducive to the building of a suitable atmosphere for peaceful elections. On the Election Day itself, members and volunteers of the TAFPE were out at various polling booths helping the election commission officials conduct the elections in a fair and impartial manner by keeping a watch on the behavior and activities of the voters and the polling agents and representatives of different parties on the spot. Different teams of the HURON's TAFPE from the centre conducted a hurricane tour of selected districts in the hills and the tarai both on the east and on the west.

The HURON held a well-attended meeting on 9 May 1991 in the hall of the Bankers Club at Thapathali in Kathmandu at which both the Chief Election Commissioner and the Election Commissioner were also present. The speakers gave an idea about the HURON's approach in extending critical and constructive support to the concerned agencies involved in the task of holding free and fair elections which was in contrast to the examining and monitoring approach taken by other organizations involved in election observations. The speakers also briefed the meeting of the election-related works the HURON had already accomplished in the districts and was planning to do on the Election Day itself. The Chief Commissioner was highly appreciative of the HURON's work and thanked the organization for its valuable cooperation.

HURON RECONSIDERS ITS ROLE IN THE CHANGED CONTEXT

The HURON continuing to expose human rights violations even after the political change in Nepal will endeavor to act as the voice and conscience of enlightened public opinion in the country. Its intervention is being eagerly sought by the aggrieved parties from different parts of the country and has produced the desired effect in quite a few cases. There has been such a rapid growth of popular interest in the HURON that even with minimal efforts from the centre, it has expanded so fast as to have full-fledged committees in as many as forty districts as listed in the appendix with additional sub-committees in some of them. They are being encouraged to start human right awareness

programs at the grassroots level with whatever resources they can collect locally with a view to inculcating in the minds of people the principles and purpose of democracy and human rights.

The HURON, unlike its counterparts elsewhere, has not been an exclusively elitist organization because it was founded with the primary aim of mobilizing the masses for a broad-based peaceful and non-violent movement for the establishment of multiparty democracy by creating a general awareness of human rights and democracy at a time when political parties were banned and could not function openly. Even in today's changed situation in which political parties are functioning openly in the country, the HURON feels that it has a strong case for continuing its program for political education at the grass roots level on a non partisan basis with the sole purpose of strengthening the basis of a political culture suited to the evolution and growth of civil society and democratic norms and institutions without which the current euphoria about democracy may come to nothing.

However a cursory glance at the important features of traditional Nepali Polity and Society will be enough to convince anyone about the extremely difficult nature of the task the HURON has set before it.

For hundreds of years, the central government in Nepal was run by a number of interrelated families, with the most influential and powerful of them keeping the position of the chief executives. Centrally appointed governors provided the link between Kathmandu and the rest of the government. The principal functions of the government were to maintain law and order and a semblance of justice within the territory to protect it against encroachment from outside and to raise revenue from the inhabitants of the territory for the services of order and protection.

Revenues realized from the people were not necessarily in the nature of taxes in the modern sense. The system was feudal in nature; land was the primary resource in Nepal, and land grants were made by the central government for services or favors.

Under the circumstances, the question that has been agitating the mind of the HURON most is: Is it necessary for Nepal to go through a vigorous revolution affecting the major aspect of its life and values and in the process experience fundamental changes in attitude before it can attain its goal of democratic modernization?

What is needed in Nepal to reduce the tension and explosiveness of the process of modernization in a gradual but steady transformation of social structure, of loyalties and values, of methods of government and modes of political participation, of prospects for education, skill acquisition and employment? The mere establishment of the legal and administrative structures of a modern government such as a government secretariat, a legislature and a court system, is never enough. These institutions must be related to political processes that make the regime responsive to political forces in the society.

HURON'S NEW POLICY OUTLINE

With the above thoughts uppermost in mind, HURON decided to redefine its future role and on the initiative of its president formed a sub-committee in June 1991 out of its active members Mr. Prakash Chandra Joshi, Mr. Kapil Shrestha and Dr. Rajesh Gautam to draft a New Policy outline which is as follows:

A. Commitment:

- HURON believes that only in a free and multi-party of democratic system political, economic, social, cultural and ecological problems can be resolved amicably through peaceful and non-violent means. The organization therefore is committed to consolidating the multi-party system in Nepal.
- HURON is committed to monitoring the implementation of the constitution and the laws of the land according to their letter and spirit and also to securing the observance of the universally accepted norms of human rights in practice.

B. Spheres of Action

- To strive to consolidate the process of democratic pluralism in the country with a view to attaining to the ideals and standards as laid down in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- To counter effectively any kind of threat to multi-party democracy from whatever sources.
- To monitor human rights violations resulting from the abuse of state power and if necessary, to organize peaceful mass protest to secure the redress of popular grievances against such violations.
- The Endeavour to effect devolution or decentralization of authority at all levels by securing the establishment of institutions of local self-government as a safeguard for the furtherance of human rights and democracy because there is always a risk of the abuse of state authority by the power-that-be.
- To forewarn and forearm the government through generating mass awareness of the danger of blindly following the conventional development model which has failed to ensure ecological safety and has also at the same time failed to safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of deprived and vulnerable sections of society with the possibility of their being denied even natural and social justice in practice.

- As HURON will raise its voice against human rights violations and other excesses perpetrated by governments anywhere in the world and can even organize mass protests against such in human acts of tyranny and brutality, its role is apt to be different from that of a conventional development oriented NGO. And it is for this reason that the HURON is a NGO with a difference and does not as a rule involve itself directly in development works. But under special circumstances in which human suffering on a large scale is a direct result of human rights violations, HURON may undertake humanitarian relief measures.
- To work in tandem with other like minded national and international voluntary organizations (NGOs) for the removal of popular grievances relating to human rights and also for initiating dialogues with the government, if necessary, on matters of public concern.
- To protect the legitimate interests of Nepal's linguistic, religious and ethnic minorities by protecting their identity art, and culture from being engulfed by the impact of blind and indiscriminating modernization.
- To Endeavour for the advancement of the oppressed depressed and deprived sections of people and for their economic and social amelioration through awareness programs aimed not only at publicizing their present plight and grievances but also at making them conscious of their rights and responsibilities with a view to helping them eventually to help themselves.
- To Endeavour for the realization of the rights of women and children in practice as far as possible by undertaking suitable awareness programs for educating society as a whole about their rights and interests thereby enabling those directly concerned to eventually stand up themselves for their cause.

HURON'S ROLE AFTER RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY

Since the restoration of democracy in 1990, HURON has played an active role, in monitoring and advocating for human rights, organizing demonstrations, seminars and workshops, and producing publications. As part of ensuring the democratic process HURON co-chairs the National Election Observation Committee (NEOC).

In Keeping with this philosophy, HURON has recently launched a peace Campaign, prompted by the escalation of violent confrontation in rural areas linked to the Maoist insurgency. This has involved forming a committee of Human Rights Organization to collaborate in approaching the negotiations, organizing demonstrations for peace and appealing on both sides to stop violence and move towards peace.

ON ROYAL TAKEOVER

HURON has officially opposed the 01 February Royal takeover by the King. This has been reiterated at the National Convention of HURON in Nepalgunj with the participation of more than 300 delegates from 65 district /sub district chapters held on 22 and 23 April, 2005 by passing a 17 point resolution as "Nepalgunj Declaration". One of the resolutions (second point of declaration) states that The Royal takeover on 01 February 2005 is a move against the values and principles of democracy and has prevented in the system of protecting and promoting human rights in the country. The conference strongly demanded for the immediate restoration of rule of law and fully functioning democracy in the country.

ROLE AS MEDIATOR BETWEEN THE MAOISTS SISTER ORGANIZATIONS AND GOVERNMENT

Another notable settlement occurred between the Government and two Maoist affiliated Student and Trade Union organizations. These settlements involved ending boycotts of schools, businesses and leading industrial concerns which these Maoist organizations had initiated recently. Part of this process also involved an understanding between the GROUP-4 Falk-Nepal security company (a Danish based enterprise) and the Maoist trade union organization. This understanding allowed the company to continue its business in Nepal. HURON took a leading role in bringing the respective parties together and achieving a successful outcome to the negotiations. These cases are helpful in indicating that it is possible to achieve settlement on some issues between the Government and the Maoists and that there is 'space' for civil society peace movements to operate.

PUBLICATIONS RELATED TO STATE OF EMERGENCY

After 01 February HURON published a booklet "Human Rights in the State of Emergency" which was intended to create awareness among the ordinary citizen and the implementing government authorities about non derogated rights at the State of Emergency as well.

Another publication was "Report on 50 days of Emergency" which related human rights situation in 50 days of emergency.

HURONS ROLE IN THE MEAN TIME OF MAOIST MOVEMENT

HURON opposed the kidnapping and missing of the people from both nations and Maoist Rebels. It mainly concentrated its activities to tract the record of the arrests of the politicians and visited them where ever possible and accessible.

- HURON has filled writ petition in Supreme Court under Public Interest Litigation (PIL) for 433 disappeared people in the end of August 2004.
- After PIL, HURON filed cases in favor of 14 other missing people on habeas corpus and urging the Court to issue order to the government to stop illegal arrests in first week of Oct 2004.
- In January, 19 cases out of 300 disappeared people made public, were filed on habeas corpus to free them from illegal detentions in January 2005.
- HURON also filed writ petitions on habeas corpus for the political party and student leaders and got 30 people released after 01 February 2005.
- HURON play vital role with coordination for the formation of People's Committee for Peace Dialogue (PCPD) that plays the facilitation role to bring Maoist and the government on table, March 2001.
- Actively participated in open dialogue between the Government and the Maoist for the Peace 2002.
- Peacefully settled the ANTUF and FNCCI problems that are the closure of Hotels for more than one month in 2005.
- Help in the mediation between the women activists and the police to avoid the prime casualty.
- Defuse a number of tensions between students and police in different part of the country on various dates.
- Resolved the conflict between untouchables and higher cast people in Siraha.
- Teachers and Journalists conflict with the Government have been resolved with the mediation of HURON.
- The Modality of the Peace dialogue of the different countries have been studied and referred to both warring parties.
- Participation to defuse the on going tension between two parties by making both recognizes the need to release the prisoners from both sides.
- Continue facilitation for the conclusion of the Peace dialogue.
- Trained more then 10,000 democratic cadres on democracy and Human Rights in the different places of Nepal.
- On February 2001 the policy of HURON has been declared on which Prime focus was given to the peace. HURON has developed the ideas for the resolved Maoist conflict in the peaceful manner.
- Launched the open dialogue between the Government and the Maoist for the Peace.
- Mediate on the Jail revolt from Maoists prisoners.
- Mediating and playing vital role on the issue of Kidnapped Policemen from Holleri Village Police Post, Holler, Rukum between Royal Nepal Army and the Maoist rebels.
- HURON had initiated on different issue like the land mine used, children used as militant and torture given to civilian in regards to the insurgency.
- Lobby for the refuge rights as per the Human Rights Charter.
- Before coming to the table for the dialogue 5 point's suggestions presented to the Prime Minister and 7 points suggestions given to the Maoist.

- Formation of People's Solidarity for Peace with more than 35 organizations of Nepal. A peace march called which was held on 61 districts in September 14, 2001. More than Hundred thousands of People came to street to show their solidarity for Peace in Kathmandu.
- Industrial unrest has been resolved through negotiation with owners, Government and the labor Unions.
- Head the fact-finding mission on the so-called witch dispute. A major conflict situation has been resolved in the Mahottari District.
- Mediation for the release of Tibetan Refugee when they were in prisoner at different times while demonstrating for their freedom.

HURON'S ROLE IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NHRC

After the restoration of democracy in 1990 there was not any remarkable progress in the field of human rights. Although the HR acts was published the establishment of NHRC was delayed. For the establishment of Independent NHRC, HURON take initiation with the involvement of other 11 organizations launched the one month programs in Katmandu. Especially the programs were focused on peaceful street protest, corner speech and memorandum to Prime Minister, Chief Justice as well as different party leaders. In the mean time of peaceful street protest police had lathi charge to protester and injured them. So many human rights activist including the vice president of HURON were arrested. HURON also organized one of the national level speech program on Human Rights Council and its Actually the initiation of HURON play crucial role for the establishment of NHRC in 2057.

PEOPLES SOLIDARITY FOR PEACE CAMPAIGN (PSOPEC)

PSOPEC was established in August 2001 under the umbrella of HURON. The 35 various prominent associations and organizations of the country including many other intellectual were involved in it. Nepalese government and Maoist also positive to mentioned committee. HURON had coordinated and frame the programs which are known as Peace Rally in thirteenth September, 2001. It stressed the prevailing cease fire that would be main tend until the peace talk succeeds both government and Maoist. The peace rally was supported by civil society such as teachers, civil servants, employ of different industries, travel and tourism people, engineers, lawyers, human rights activists, journalist, business people, social workers and also common people walked around the city chanting slogans in favor of peace. The mentioned rally was one of the immemorial biggest rally in Katmandu have ever seen in favor of peace organized by non political parties. Such types of rallies were held in 65 different districts all over the country with wishing for success of the ongoing peace talks between government and Maoist.

HURON'S ROLE IN CONSTITUTION ASSEMBLY ELECTION

After several talks with the concerned national parties and intellectual HURON had decided not to associate itself with the election observation activities which was funded by external aid giving agencies and also decided not to accept foreign funds for its own election-related work and activities.

It is the primary duty of every national government to maintain law and order and afford protection to every citizen. But at the same time political parties and workers must also conscientiously scrutinize the code of conduct which the election commission has promulgated in consultation with them. The press and other social organization and NGO's must be involved to create better environment for peace, prudence and self-discipline during the election eve when tempers are bound to rise and emotions are apposite to run wild in the warmth and excitement of the election campaign.

The HURON president had issued statement to reflect its attitude on some of the important matters connected with the elections: "As the day of elections fast approaches, there has been a marked increase in the frequency of the incident of violence and murder in the country.

The HURON had repeatedly warned the government and the people against the adverse consequences of politicization of the administrative machinery and the criminalization of politics. HURON is not opposed to the concept of international observers as such and has already instructed its members and volunteers to extend their cooperation to outside visitors if they seek it. Attention, as normally expected of the people at election time, must, however, be exercised by all concerned.

On the basis of its own analysis HURON had decided that forming a national level committee for monitoring the free and fair election National Election Observation Committee (NEOC, Nepal). Apart from it HURON continuing its own independent program for voter's education as part of its campaign for human rights awareness with the help of its own members and volunteers in all parts of the country. Its members and volunteers were involved with a view to extending cooperation to the Election Commission in ensuring free and fair elections. The NEOC, Nepal was involved for 3 months before elections and held public meetings of candidates, local political leaders voters, administrative and security personnel in charge of elections and the returning officers wherever possible emphasizing their joint responsibility for holding free and fair elections. The discussions at the meetings were found useful by all concerned and were conducive to the building of a suitable atmosphere for peaceful elections. On the Election Day itself, members and volunteers of the NEOC, Nepal were involved in the observation at various polling booths helping the election commission officials conduct the elections in a fair and neutral manner by keeping a watch on the behavior and activities of the voters and the polling agents and legislative body of different parties on the spot. Different teams of the NEOC, Nepal from the center conducted a storm tour of selected districts in all political as well as geographical regions.

COUNCIL ON THE ISSUES OF DISAPPEARANCES CITIZENS

The HURON had issued statement with demanding the publishing the situation of missed people from nations and Maoist rebels. On the basis of 477 registered applications HURON gives the memorandum to PM and had launched various types programs. At the mean time the family members of missed citizens started hunger strike in Katmandu. HURON took a leading role in bringing the respective parties together and achieving a successful outcome to the negotiations. President of HURON mediate between government and families of missed citizens on the issues of publishing the situation of all missed people with forming one commission, which is known as Malegu Council. This is the first council on the issues of missed citizens in Nepal which helps to make more or less responsible to government.

HURON'S ROLE IN LOKTANTRIK MOVEMENT

HURON held a meeting of all its office bearers, members of its working committee and advisory panel. The Meeting strong-willed that HURON will fully and effectively contribute in the nationwide peaceful and non-violent movement to be launched by seven political for the establishment of a national government on the basis of twelve point issues. HURON calls upon all the branches and members of the HURON and all other conscious and open-minded Nepali's to expand their enthusiastic teamwork to it because the future of the HR itself depend on the victory of this national movement which aims at the achievement of the basic doctrine and objectives of the HURON.

HURON had issuing different press releases in different times with demanding the immediate release of all activists of the seven party alliances who were rounded up by police from various parts of the valley for the involvement in movement. It also played the government for prohibiting rallies and mass meetings in valley which are the rights of the people according to the constitution of the country.

As the movement gained its momentum, the office-bearers of the HURON were accountable for keeping the news media and foreign journalists regularly up to date of what was really going on in different part of the country beyond what the Nepal government officially made known to them. A very important role the HURON leadership played was to share out the news of the progress of the movement and of the cases of human rights violation, particularly exploitation and tortures of prisoners of principles through the international media. A highlight of this aspect of HURON's contribution was a underground meeting that was arranged between some members of the international press and the victims (and/or their closest relatives) of police violence. Reuters disseminated this information in its dispatch as the first press conference by the victims of brutality.

For feeding the external media with relevant information, the HURON members in cooperation with workers of and volunteers of different political parties created a

common pool of information and an underground network for spreading of news nation as well as international wide. After the topmost political leaders were placed under detention, the office-bearers of the HURON were to speak out on the larger issues of human rights and democracy and criticize suppressive measures of the government at significant moments during the movement. Press statements were issued regularly. A special letter of request was sent to the honorable UN secretary general.

Most of the active members of the HURON had also reserved themselves from the public view and were busy workings in performance with workers of other political parties preparing the ground for the movement by mobilizing the people in every possible way. More than 100 active members of HURON were arrested and poisoned in the mean time of movement.

When the movement's was in peak then the government had announced Curfew in Kathmandu and different parts of the country. In the meantime of curfew HURON involve in the task of supplying clothes, drinking water, medicine, foods to the prisoners of different custody. It also plays the role of mediator for contact and visit as well as communicates information between prisoners and their family members.

SATYAGRAHA

HURON coordinated a public program 'Satyagraha' on behalf of the civil society on 9 November 2005 from 6:30 am to 6:30 pm sit in whole day fasting for demanding to establish human rights, democracy and peace in the country with the theme ceasefire, peace, rule of law, press freedom human rights and democracy. The issues also raised were respect courts order, stop extra judicial executions, stop disappearances, withdraw media ordinances, accept UN mediation, respect human rights and international humanitarian law, stop extortion and captivity, eliminate all forms of torture and impunity, declare cease fire initiate peace process and stop militarization.

More than 3200 peoples from different sectors showed their solidarity and over 200 organizations expressed their commitment to the program by participating on it. Top leaders of seven party agitating parties also attended the program to express their solidarity.

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN 'URGENT ACTION UNIT (UAU)'

For the immediate and efficient pressurize to the national government and Maoist rebels to save the lives and protect the human rights of the victims a permanent unit which is called 'Urgent Action Unit' has been established with in the HURON central office.

About 859 cases of disappearances by the government and Maoist were registered in HURON office. However, after the establishment of UAU the number of registered alone was 493 (15 May 2004 to September 2005). UAU had developed a complaint format to register complains by the families of the victims. Counseling meetings with family

members of the victims were organized frequently. After receiving the application against security force appeals were forwarded to National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), OHCHR, Defense Ministry, Home Ministry, Human rights Protection Centre at PM Office and Security Force Offices (Army, Armed Police and Police HQs) for their safety and make public their whereabouts on the same day of the application received. On the other hand the cases registered against the rebel, a press statement is issued asking the rebel to abide by the international human rights standards and ensure safety of the abducted people. ICRC, Kathmandu is also reported about the abductions by the Maoists. A press release is also issued on the same day in both of the cases. Then the next step is to report it to Amnesty International headquarter in London and to Working Group for enforced or in volunteer disappearances (WGEID), OHCHR in Geneva of the cases filed against the government and to Amnesty against the Maoists.

HURON'S ROLE TO BOYCOTT STRIKES

Another notable settlement occurred between the Government and two Maoist affiliated Student and Trade Union organizations. These settlements involved ending boycotts of schools, businesses and leading industrial concerns which was caused by Maoist organizations. Part of this process also involved an understanding between the Group-4 Flack-Nepal security company (a Danish based enterprise) and the Maoist trade union organization. This understanding allowed the company to continue its business in Nepal. HURON took a leading role in bringing the respective parties together and achieving a successful outcome to the negotiations. These cases are helpful in indicating at it is possible to achieve settlement on some issues between the Government and the Maoists and that there is 'space' for civil society peace movements to operate.

PEACE MOVEMENT FOR NON-VIOLENCE, RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Social Political and Economic condition of the country is deteriorating every day. The country is severely engulfed in flames of war and peoples are loosing their lives by the incidents of violence terror and destructions resulting from the Maoist insurgency and counter-insurgency operations made by the security forces of the State.

So, to get rid from these heinous activities, a 'Peace Movement' with the wide participation of the peoples of civil societies is urgently felt needed to raise the voice of people for peace. Keeping this in mind, HURON initiated a peace movement with the theme of Non-violence, Rights and Social justice from Ghorahi headquarter of Dang district (the district where the last peace talk broke) beginning from 19th February 2004. This peace movement was envisaged to bring a wave of feeling of peace in the mind of people and bring the warring parties on a table. The peace movement was success to achieve following goals.

- To bring a change of attitudes in the people and promote awareness to protest all forms of violence in the daily lives of individuals, families and society.
- To educate individuals, families, community groups, education institutions, business community and health sector on the importance of both individual and collective efforts to promote peace and non violence culture in the society.
- To promote alternatives to the behavior of violence and destruction and involve the people of the community, hopefully enabling them with the renewed sense of empowerment and tools to continue in the direction of change and a zero tolerance to all forms of violence and abuse.
- Establish meaningful permanent peace in the country.

INITIATION FOR PEACE MEDIATION:

Two peace processes in the year 2001 and 2003 broke down due to the ineffective and insufficient capacity of the mediators. The armed conflict has increased the mistrust between the two warring parties. The values and principles of human rights and democracy in Nepal have eroded. In this context, peace in the country was another challenge to safe guard human rights and democracy in the country. Hence, to find the sustainable solution to the present conflict and political crisis HURON submitted formal letter to United Nations (UN) Secretary General (SG) Kofi Annan by launching a signature campaign of the human rights organizations and civil society to invite UN through a formal letter for mediation

THIRTEENTH CENTRAL LEVEL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The 13th Central Level Executive Election appointed Advocate, Mr. Indra Prasad Aryal as the new President on September 25, 2015.

- President: Advocate, Mr. Indra Prasad Aryal
- Vice President: Mr. Nanda Kumar Sharma
- Vice President: Mr. Sambhu Kumar Lama
- General Secretary: Mr. Mahamunishwor Acharya
- General Secretary: Dr. Komal Prasad Subedi
- Treasurer: Mr. Mukunda Rijal
- Member: Mr. Khadga Kumar Bista
- Member: Mr. Bijuli Bishwokarma
- Member: Mr. Peshal Kumar Niraula

- Member: Mr. Raj Kumar Raut
- Member: Asst. Prof. Bal Krishna Paudel
- Member: Mr. Krishna Prasad Dahal
- Member: Prof. Dr. Govinda Prasad Dhakal
- Member: Asst. Prof. Kailash Thakur
- Member: Dr. Chiranjibi Bhattarai
- Member: Mr. Jayananda Sharma
- Member: Mr. Narendra Bastola

HURON's ROLE DURING MADHESH AANDOLAN

In the immediate aftermath of HURON Election, the next step was the resolution of contemporary and pressing issue of Madhesh Aandolan. From October 23 to October 27, 2015 HURON President Mr. Indra Prasad Aryal, General Secretary Mr. Mahamunishor Acharya and Senior Member Mr. Govinda Prasad Dhakal and team visited the andolan affected area (Bara, Parsa, Rautahat, Sarlahi, Mahottari, Dhanusha, Siraha and Saptari Districts). During the time of their visit Madhesh andolan was deteriorating and indefinite curfew was clamped. After the visit HURON publicized a report on November 28, 2015 through Reporters Club Nepal.

On 10 November, 2015 HURON organized a program in Hotel Orchid, Tripureshwar regarding country's present crisis and suggested its solution. The program focused on the impacts and causes of conflicts in Madhesh. The program was led by the President of HURON Advocate Indra Prasad Aryal along with different political personalities, including Mr. Mohan Baidhya, Mr. Subash Chandra Nembang, Mr. Pashupati Shumsher Rana, Hridayesh Pathak, Mahesh Acharya, Manish Suman, Raj Kishor Yadav, Laxmi Lal Karna, Ex. Minister Ganesh Shah, Deputy Prime Minister and Social Welfare Minister C.P Mainali, Yuba Neta Rabindra Adhikari, Dhanraj Gurung who also offered their remarks on the Madhesh issue. After completion of the program the recommendation uprooted during the program was submitted to the Government of Nepal. The program was aired on national television and other communication medium. Along with the personalities mentioned above the program was also attended by Prof. Kapil Shrestha and Mr. Charan Prasai.

On January 11, 2016 HURON team met with the Chairman and the Prime Minister Sushil Koirala and submitted the Letter of Memorandum, imploring the solution to Madhesh andolan.

On February 4, 2016 HURON team met with the Home Minister Shakti Basnet to bring to his attention, the inhumane blockade and warned of humanitarian crisis. HURON also solicited for a political solution so people can work to mitigate the devastating impact of the economic crisis.

On 15 April, 2016 HURON President Indra Prasad Aryal and General Secretary Mahamunishor Acharya met with BJP's senior leader Mr. Dinesh Upadhyaya to discuss the relationship between India and Nepal and the current Human Rights scenario of Nepal.

HURON, on 6th Mangshir 2073, met senior politician of Nepali Congress Mr. Ram Chandra Poudel and submitted the Memorandum to address the issues of Madhesh. HURON visited Conflict and Blockade affected Terai Madhesh region (Saptari, Siraha, Sarlahi, Rautahat, Mahottari, Dhanusha, Bara, Parsa and Udaypur) and discussed about the pertaining issues and Human Rights in HURON's district chapters and every District Headquarters.

In the representation of HURON president, HURON team on 20 December, 2016 met Nepali Congress Chairman Sher Bahadur Deuba regarding the issues relating to Madhesh Andolan and appealed to the big parties such as Nepal Congress to play an important role to generate solutions to resolve the issue.

Immediately on January 2, 2017 along with HURON President Indra Prasad Aryal, Mr Mahamunishor Acharya, General Secretary and Dr. Chirinjibi Bhattarai, CCM, and team met Honorable President. HURON submitted the Memorandum to address and to provide solution to Madhesh Andolan without any further delay.

On February 3, 2017 HURON released a press statement to pressurize the release of CK Raut arrested from Dhanusha. Identifying the misinterpretation of the statement, HURON immediately released another statement on 5 February, 2017.

- To readress the misinterpretation HURON President Mr. Indra Prasad Aryal gave an interview to Avenues Television on 6 February, 2017.
- On 5 February, 2017 immediately the organizations notion was cleared by HURON President in an interview with T.V Today.
- In this matter, HURON President spread positive upshot in different communication medium but the matter still remained controversial in different sectors.

HURON has organized numerous District Level-Human Rights Educational Programs and Dialogues with the Government and Madheshi parties, urging both parties to abstain from use of excessive force during the two phases of Madhesh Aandolan.

NIKASH KASARI

In March 14, 2017, HURON conducted a program at Hotel Himalaya in partnership with National Human Rights Commission of Nepal titled “*Nikash Kasari or How to Find Way Out to Resolve Present Political Deadlock in Nepal*”. The program was inaugurated by Mr. Anup Raj Sharma, Chairperson of National Human Rights Commission. A paper presentation was done by Mr. Govinda Paudel, member of National Human Rights Commission.

The round table conference welcomed political and civil dignitaries who were as follows:

- Mr. Sher Bahadur Deuba, Former Prime Minister and Party Chief of Nepali Congress (Chief Guest)
- Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal, Former Prime Minister
- Dr. Baburam Bhattarai, Former Prime Minister
- Mr. Subash Chandra Newang (Former House Speaker)
- Mr. C.P. Mainali (Former Vice Prime Minister)
- Mr. Mohan Baidhya (Party Chief, CPN-Maoist)
- Mr. Sabendranath Sukla (Leader, TaMaLoPa)
- Mr. Anil Jha (Former Minister and Leader, Sadbhawana Party)
- Mr. Rameshwor Raya Yadav (Leader, Loktantrik Forum)
- Dr. Shivaji Yadav (Leader, Sanghiya Samajbadi Forum Nepal)
- Mr. Mahendra Raya Yadav (Leader, TaMaLoPa)
- Mr. Surya Kiran Gurung (Chairperson, Truth and Reconciliation Commission, TRC)
- Mr. Lokendra Mallik (Chairperson, Commission of Investigation on Enforced Disappeared Persons, CIEDP)
- Mr. Sher Bahadur K.C (Chairperson, Nepal BAR Association)
- Prof. Kapil Shrestha (Former President, HURON)
- Mr. Subodh Raj Pyakurel (Chairperson, INSEC)
- Mr. Charan Prasai (Former Acting Head, HURON & Human Rights Activist)

On 9th June, 2017, HURON President Mr. Indra Prasad Aryal and team met with the President of UML Mr. Khadga Prasad Oli and stated his views on Local Level Election and Madhesh Issue. In the process, President of Human Rights Organisation of Nepal Mr.

Indra Prasad Aryal visited 30 districts of Pahad-Terai region. HURON President Mr. Indra Prasad Aryal, requested Prime Minister Mr. K.P Oli to address the Madhesh issue as soon as possible. Prime Minister assured that the government is serious and committed for Madhesh issue.

HURON's ROLE ON TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

Currently, HURON is pressuring Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) to solve the cases without delay which has registered gross human rights violations during the conflict era. In addition to this, HURON and Civil Society Organizations have drafted and submitted an amendment framework to the Prime Minister, Council of Ministers, Parliament and concerned stakeholders.

There are 60,000 petitions registered in Truth and Reconciliation Commission from the conflict victims. Further, 3,000 are complaints are received in Commission of Investigation on Enforced Disappeared Persons (CIEDP). HURON is pressuring these complaints to be dealt with swift justice and not with delays that has been ongoing since the established of these two commissions.

HURON has been advocating is the case of Ganga Maya Adhikari and Nanda Prasad Adhikari. Human Rights Defenders from HURON have been visiting and comforting her after her misfortune which saw her son, 17-year-old, Krishna Prasad Adhikari, murdered by Maoists in 2004 and her husband Nanda Prasad Adhikari passed away, succumbing to hunger strike in 2014.

On August 14, 2016, eleven Human Rights Activists were taken into custody including a number of HURON members and President, Indra Prasad Aryal for protesting against the lack of promised implementation by the Government as part of "Save Ganga Maya" campaign.

Human Rights Defenders from Human Rights Organization of Nepal has been involved in over a hundred activities for the case of Krishna Prasad Adhikari. HURON has been advocating, lobbying, providing legal support, assisting in case registration at Chitwan District Court, issuing Press Statements organizing sit-ins and even protesting on the streets for swift justice against the perpetrators of the murder.

Out of seven petitioners, Indra Prasad Aryal, President of HURON is also one of the advocates, advocating for Ganga Maya Adhikari in her fight for justice and blatant case against what can be considered political impunity for criminal cases.

On June 3, 2016 in the joint initiation of HURON and National Society for Conflict Victims, HURON organized a Comprehensive Discussion Program to discuss about the problems faced by the conflict victims. The Discussion program was attended by Nepal Congress leaders Sher Bahadur Deuba, Mr. K.B Gurung, Mr. Julum Shakya, Mr. Binayadhoj Chandra, Narankaji Shrestha.

On September 8, 2016 the President of Huron Mr Indra Prasad Aryal along with other Human Rights activists Prof. Kapil Shrestha, Subodh Raj Pyakurel, Charan Prasai,

Pusparaj Poudyal, met the Honorable President of Nepal and discussed about the state of Gangamaya's life and justice. Nepal's contemporary issues were also discussed in this meeting.

On November 17, 2016, HURON President Mr. Indra Prasad Aryal along with senior Human Rights Activists, Mr. Charan Prasai, Prof. Kapil Shrestha, Mr. Subodh Raj Pyakurel met with Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal to bring to his attention the current Human Rights scenario of Nepal and urging the government to investigate the case of Krishna Prasad Adhikari and to protect the life of his mother Ganga Maya Adhikari who is on fast-unto-death at Bir Hospital seeking justice for the murder of her son during the decade-long Maoist insurgency.

On February 2, 2017 (Between 9 am to 11 am), HURON opposed wearing black helmet demanding protection of Gangamaya Adhikari's life in front of PM's Office.

On February 16, 2017 HURON presented a letter of memorandum to the Prime Minister Sushil Koirala on the subject of justice to Nanda Prasad and Gangamaya Adhikari.

On 17 November 2016, the President of Human Rights Organization of Nepal, on TV and Radio, expressed his discontent on the SATYA NIRUPAN ability of the current Code of Conduct of Truth and Reconciliation Commission. He also suggested an amendment on the part & Code of Conduct of the Commission and submitted the proposed amendment to the Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal.

HURON FOR ELECTION OBSERVATION WITH CCCE

For the National Elections of 2007 and 2013, we were involved in Election Observation and Monitoring as National Election Observation Council Nepal (NECON) with 3,000 Election Observers participating in national level elections.

At the 2017 Local Level Election almost 4,000 Election Observers are participating. HURON is a member of a Consortium of election campaign in Citizens Campaign for Clean Election (CCCE).

HURON sends Election Observation and Monitoring Reports to the Election Commission with detailed information of Election Cycle i.e. Pre-Election, During Election and Post-Election activities. Along with our Methodologies, Major Findings and Conclusions, HURON also sends our Recommendations and Suggestions to the Election Commission for further improvements strengthening in part of the commission.

As a part of CCCE, we have been organizing and promoting healthy election environment and reporting activities that are against the norms as set by Election Commission, making the elections unbiased and transparent. The activities under CCCE were:

- Voter Orientation and Educational Programs
- Provincial and Local Level Discussions
- Television and Radio Programs
- Public Hearings
- Election Observation & Monitoring
- Election Reporting

HURON's ROLE WITH TIBETAN REFUGEES

HURON has been advocating the re-issuance of Refugee Cards for new born refugees and those who entered Nepal after 1989. HURON advocates for the rights of refugees to be assured in Nepal. Nepal is not a signatory of the 1951 U.N. Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees that ensures the legal status and economic rights of refugees. Nepal hasn't enacted laws in regards to Refugee Rights in Nepal

Based on a study done by Human Rights Organization Nepal (2017), in coordination with all 12 camp in-charges', there are 12,331 Tibetan Refugees without Refugee Cards. Among 12,331 Tibetan Refugees in Nepal and 40% are under the age of 16 Years who are born in Nepal. HURON has been involved with Tibetan Refugees in the following ways:

Capacity Building Programs

For the last three years, HURON District Chapters have been organizing Human Rights Educational Programs in special focus on Refugee & Human Rights, Gentleman's Agreement and The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

These educational programs were conducted by Taplejung, Solukhumbhu, Rasuwa, Gorkha, Sindhupalchowk, Kaski, Mustang, Humla, Kailali, Banke, Rupendehi, Parsa, Morang, Jhapa and Central District Chapters. In 2017, the Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Bhaktapur and Mugu District Chapters are organizing such educational programs.

The target groups of Human Rights Educational Programs are Nepal Police, Armed Police Force, and individuals from Civil Societies, Political Party Members, HURON Human Rights Defenders, Youths and other interested participants. The Nepal Police and Armed Police Forces are given special priorities in the bordering districts of China and India.

Till date, HURON has given such Human Rights Education to more than 1500 participants. Human Rights Experts have been facilitating these programs. District Heads of Police and Administration Departments, and notable Political Leaders are invited to Chair the programs.

Proposed Bill for Refugee Protection Act in Nepal

A proposed act for protection of refugees was drafted by HURON, Legal Department of Tribhuwan University, INHURED International, PPR Nepal & Pro Public in 2011.

In accordance of Article 83(1) of Interim Constitution of Nepal, the proposal was supposed to be enacted by the parliament of Nepal. The proposed act to be called The Refugee Protection Act still remains unattended by the Government of Nepal.

The main sections deal with Eligibility for Refugee Status, Non Discrimination for Refugees, Rights of Refugees, Duties of Refugees, Application of Personal Law, Exclusion from Refugee Status, Access and Control of Camp, Forms and Establishment of Refugee Tribunals, Procedure and Determination of Refugee Status and Special Measures of Mass Influx.

Petitions, Legal Cases & Decisions

HURON has been involved in numerous cases pertaining to the welfare of Tibetan Refugees filing Habeas Corpus on behalf of unlawful detention of Tibetan in Nepal. The main cases which were politically motivated from the part of government are as follows:

On June 22, 2011, 12 Tibetan Refugees were unlawfully arrested by Nepal Police. The police had arrested Tibetan Refugees while that they were organizing religious prayers at Bouddha, Kathmandu. Advocate Indra Prasad Aryal of Human Rights Organization Nepal (HURON) submitted an application for writ of Habeas Corpus to the Supreme Court of Nepal on June 23, 2011. The Supreme Court of Nepal issued an order on July 10, 2011 to release all 12 Tibetan Refugees who were arrested by Nepal Police who were found to not have followed the legal proceedings properly. Also, the Supreme Court sent a memo to Home Ministry of negligence and lack of respect by Chief District Officer of Kathmandu and Deputy Superintendent of Police in this matter.

On March 10, 2011, 9 Tibetan Refugees were unlawfully arrested by Nepal Police. The police had arrested Tibetan Refugees while they were organizing religious prayers at Bouddha, Kathmandu. Advocate Indra Prasad Aryal of Human Rights Organization Nepal (HURON) submitted an application for writ of Habeas Corpus to the Supreme Court of Nepal on March 11, 2011. The Supreme Court issued the order to release all 9 Tibetan Refugees on March 18, 2011.

On June 11, 2008, Nwang Sangmo was unlawfully arrested by Nepal Police in Shankha Park. The police had arrested her from her house, without warrant, in plain clothes on the ground that she was facilitating Tibetan Refugees in organizing anti-China protests. Advocate Indra Prasad Aryal of Human Rights Organization Nepal (HURON) submitted an application for writ of Habeas Corpus to the Supreme Court of Nepal on March 11, 2011. The Supreme Court ordered release of Nwang Sangmo on the grounds that there was lack of evidence from the Nepal Police supporting their claim.

Sonam Khampa (including 23 other Tibetan Refugees) were arrested from September 11 to September 13, 2011 in Humla and Sindhupalchowk districts. They had escaped from Tibet and were on the way to Dharmashala, India. All 23 Tibetan Refugees were in the process of being sent back to the Republic of China by the Government of Nepal. Advocate Indra Prasad Aryal filed for Writ of Habeas Corpus pressuring the Supreme Court to release all Tibetan Refugees. Since the Government of Nepal was scheduled to send back all arrested Tibetan Refugees back to China, the Supreme Court issued an interim order as per Article 41 (1) of Supreme Court Guidelines, 1992 to the Government of Nepal not to hand over the refugees to China. The Supreme Court released all 23 Tibetan Refugees on September 22, 2017. The Nepalese Immigration Department handed over all 23 Tibetan Refugees to United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees (UNHCR).

Apart from these significant cases, HURON also looks into the cases of Tibetan Refugees that are registered in the all Courts of Nepal. HURON has been attending to and providing legal support to Tibetan Refugees over the years.

The Government of Nepal deports Three Tibetan Refugees: On June 2, 2010 two Tibetan men and one Tibetan woman were arrested by Nepal Police from Muchu, Humla district of Nepal. Against the Gentleman's Agreement between the Government of Nepal and United Nations, these Tibetan Refugees were arrested and returned back to Tibet on June 3, 2010. Human Rights Organization of Nepal sent inquiry letters to Home Minister, Hon. Bhim Rawal, Inspector Police General (IGP) of Nepal, Mr. Rameshchandra Thakuri to reveal the state of affairs of these Tibetan Refugees. Human Rights Organization of Nepal appealed to the concerned authorities to show respect towards the refugees and record their situation and treatment by the police personnel. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee (UNHCR) later confirmed the deportation.

Nepal Police Disrupts conduction of Primary Election to elect Tibetan Refugee Representatives: On October 3, 2010, Nepal Police under the pretext of anti-China movement around Kathmandu disrupted Tibetan preliminary polls and confiscated thousands of ballot boxes filled with votes. Tibetan Refugee Welfare Office informed Human Rights Organization of Nepal (HURON) of the incidents around Kathmandu and urged the support of HURON in retaining back the confiscated ballot boxes. HURON immediately sent a letter to National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) for support on this matter. Letters of Concern were sent the Government of Nepal to release the ballot boxes.

Tibetan Refugees go on Hunger Strike in Nepal: On July 26, 2010, Tibetan Refugees from seven refugee camps went on Hunger Strike demanding refugee cards and relief materials. Human Rights Organization of Nepal (HURON) sent letters of concern to Home Minister, Hon. Bhim Rawal and National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to look into their genuine demands and provide health facilities to the peaceful protesters. On July 29, 2010 UNHCR Country Representative, Ms. Stephane Jaquemet & HURON

President, Mr. Sudip Pathak discussed the ongoing hunger strike and confirmed UNHCR would provide support to Tibetan Refugees under distress. HURON issued a Press Release citing the support.

Letter of Thanks from United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Nepal: On October 2011, in apropos to release of 23 Tibetans from Immigration Detention Center, Reference No. 068-WH-0021, UNHCR Country Representative, Ms. Stephane Jaquetmet extended her warmest appreciation to Human Rights Organization of Nepal (HURON); in particular, President, Mr. Sudip Pathak & Advocate, Mr Indra Prasad Aryal of securing the release of all Tibetan Refugees. The appreciation to HURON staffs that were supportive of Tibetans under detention at Department of Immigration was also mentioned who were vital in quick release. Ms. Jaquetmet thanked HURON for the assistance in this matter as individual communications with various high level Nepalese officials were vital for the release.

Nepal Police interrupts 82nd Birthday Celebration of the Dalai Lama in Kathmandu: On July 5, 2017, HURON issued Press Statement concerning its displeasure over not allowing Tibetan Refugees to organize cultural program in Kathmandu. HURON members had held what was supposed to be a successful discussion with the Prime Minister, Mr. Sher Bahadur Deuba, Secretary for Ministry of Home Affairs, Mr. Lok Darshan Regmi and Chief District Officer of Kathmandu, Mr. Bal Krishna Panti only days prior to the birthday celebration of the Dalai Lama to let the Tibetan Refugees observe their pious day. During the birthday celebration at a Gumba in Swyambhu, Nepal Police, inconspicuously sneaked in the venue and directed the celebration to be stopped.

Letters, Correspondence, Press Releases & Appeals

HURON has been issuing Letters, Press Releases' and Press Statements' to the Government of Nepal, demanding fair treatment of Tibetan Refugees in Nepal.

Human Rights Organization Nepal and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHRC) has been in interaction over the years in the matter of Tibetan and Bhutanese Refugees with both parties issuing Letters, Press Releases' and Press Statements' pertaining to the welfare of Tibetan Refugees.

Human Rights Organization Nepal and Tibetan Refugee organizations have also been in interaction over the years. HURON has been acting the part of mediator and advocating for the rights of Tibetan Refugees at their behest. The Tibetan Refugee Welfare Office has also been offering their grievances with HURON whenever issues pertaining to Tibetan Refugees surface in Nepal.

Also, HURON has been lobbying for the right of Tibetan Refugees to conduct their programs of religious and cultural importance. HURON Members have also regularly visited the Prime Minister's Office, issuing Memorandums and Press Statements. Human

Rights Defenders have been lobbying and advocating refugee rights of such matters by pressuring the Ministry of Home Affairs and District Administration Offices to refrain from interfering from such festivities of public affection to Tibetan culture.

HURON is committed to the predicament of Tibetan Refugees in Nepal, voicing its concern for the humanitarian treatment in Nepal, assuring basic human rights and improving the living conditions inside and outside the camps in Nepal. HURON has been lobbying for the re-issuance of Refugee Cards and more importantly to establish provisions in the law to guarantee that Tibetan Refugees are not left behind and treated as second class citizens in our New Nepal. HURON pledges itself to continuing voicing its concern for Tibetan Refugees in a state where it is getting harder to advocate for their cause.

HURON IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

On November 28, 2016, General Secretary, Mr. Mahamunishwor Acharya and Economist, Mr. Bhim Prasad Bhurtel presented a paper on Human Rights, Sustainable Development and Leadership. The paper dealt with the issues of inclusive economic growth, distribution and legal issues pertaining to human rights in juxtaposition with sustainable development.

The program was attended by Nepal Congress Leader Shashank Koirala, Ex. PM. Dr. Baburam Bhattarai, Mr. Subash Chandra Nembang, Mr. Narayankaji Shrestha, Mr. Mohan Baidhya, Mr. Ramsaran Mahat, Mr. Janardan Sharma, Mr. Pashupati Shumsher JBR, the then Minister of Tourism Jiwan Shahi and 2 dozen notable personalities. The program was conducted as a Central Program on the 68th International Human Rights Day. The paper made recommendations to the Government of Nepal by analyzing the patterns of economic development and factors affecting human rights in development issues.

HURON IN NATION WIDE HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

On October 12, 2015, Monday, HURON organized a program on the subject of Crisis Management and Human Rights. The Chief Guest of the program was Law, Justice and Peace Minister Hon. Narahari Acharya. The program was attended by more than three dozen participants from different background

HURON has begun organizing One Day Educational Programs, coordinated by Mr. Sambhu Lama in 18 district chapters for target groups of: Nepal Police, Armed Police Force, and individuals from Civil Societies, Political Party Members, HURON Human Rights Defenders, Youths and other interested participants. The Nepal Police and Armed Police Forces are given special priorities in the bordering districts of China and India.

The Capacity Building Programs have special focus on Human Rights in Law, Humanitarian Law, Human Rights and Fundamental Rights, Human Rights in

Constitutions of Nepal, Refugee & Human Rights, Gentleman's Agreement and The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

These educational programs have already conducted by Taplejung, Solukhumbu, Rasuwa, Gorkha, Sindhupalchowk, Kaski, Mustang, Humla, Kailali, Banke, Rupendehi, Parsa, Morang, Jhapa, Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Bhaktapur and Mugu District Chapters.

Till August, 2017, HURON has given such Human Rights Education to more than 1500 participants. Human Rights Experts have been facilitating these programs. District Heads of Police and Administration Departments, and notable Political Leaders are invited to Chair the programs.

HURON WITH CONTEMPORARY ISSUES OF NATIONAL INTEREST

On August 24, 2015 HURON issued a press release condemning the barbaric attack that took place in Tikapur of Kailali District, taking life of 7 Policemen and a 2 year old child during the unfortunate event. HURON also submitted a worksheet to reset the social good-faith that was lost during the event, to which government showed no interest.

On January 8, 2016, in the joint initiation of NASAL and HURON, we distributed winter kit in Sunakhari, Dolakha district to the children affected by earthquake.

On 22 April 2016, the Commission of Investigation on Abuse of Authority (CIAA) ordered the arrest of Mr. Kanak Mani Dixit. HURON pointed out that Kanak Mani Dixit's arrest is a clear case of vendetta, the manner and timing of his arrest seems to indicate this is a case of intimidation tactics. HURON raised its serious concerns for the arrest of Kanak Mani Dixit and presented an argument in Supreme Court and different communication media.

HURON President Indra Prasad Aryal expressed his discontent on the CIAA President Lok Man Singh Karki during interviews with different T.V and Radio channels. On the side of HURON, President of HURON Mr. Indra Prasad Aryal expressed his argument during the case hearing. Lok Man Singh Karki was sacked from the post on 21 October 2016. In a landmark verdict, the Supreme Court on 8 January 2017 disqualified Lokman Singh Karki as the Chief of the Commission for Investigation of Abuse of Authority.

In an administrative intervention at Satlok Rampaldas' ashram at Haryana in India in 2016, a few Nepali citizens were injured and a few jailed. HURON sent a letter to pressurize for releasing those jailed and the President of HURON also communicated this intent at a program organized by Nepal Tourism Board, Bhrikuti Mandap.

On July 2016, HURON established libraries in 10 schools in Chitwan and distributed books amounting to Rs. 4 Lakh in each school. HURON is searching for donors to help provide additional books to schools.

On 10 September, 2016 HURON was re-listed in every District Administrative Office after the irregular communication between HURON and HURON's district chapter.

On December 12, 2016 HURON's President Mr. Indra Prasad Aryal and General Secretary Mahamunishor Acharya and team met Gajendra Narayan Singh in Sagarmatha Zone Hospital to demand improvement of Hospital facilities and overall health care facility and demanded for the protection of life of Mr. Bikas Tiwari who went on a hunger strike. The then Minister of Health felt under pressure and fulfilled the promise and protected the life of Mr. Tiwari by breaking his hunger strike in front of HURON and other active members.

HURON also drew attention of the government on deteriorating health condition of Dr Govinda KC, demanding reforms in Nepal's medical sector. HURON urged all the concerned authorities through various medium (Television interview, memorandum) for a serious attention to Dr KC's life.