



Declaration of the

First National Young Human Rights Defenders Conclave 2026

Recalling the provisions enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and all related international treaties that aim to ensure the protection and promotion of human rights by upholding peace, justice, and equality worldwide,

Taking into consideration the human rights provisions, fundamental rights, and commitments made by the Government of Nepal at both national and international levels as enshrined in the Constitution of Nepal,

Remembering the sacrifices made during various political and social movements across different periods for democracy, human rights, social justice, and prosperity, as well as the expectations of the people and the sacrifices made during the Gen-Z protest of September 8 and 9, 2025,

The First National Young Human Rights Defenders Conclave 2026 (**May 1 and 2, 2026**), jointly organized by Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC), ROYM Nepal, Digital Rights Nepal, National Youth Council, and Visible Impact, with the participation of 210 representatives from all 77 districts of the country, hereby issues the following Declaration:

1. The conclave pays tribute to the martyrs who lost their lives, including those who attained martyrdom during the Gen-Z protest on September 8 and 9, as well as all known and unknown martyrs, and wishes a speedy recovery to those injured.
2. The conclave expresses concern over the government's action of forcefully evicting squatter settlements in the Kathmandu Valley without adequate preparation. Reports indicate that among the thousands of displaced individuals, pregnant and postpartum women, children, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, chronically ill individuals, gender minorities, and Dalit communities have been the most affected. Therefore, the conclave calls upon all concerned stakeholders to ensure dignified, respectful, and human rights-compliant rehabilitation of all landless Dalits, squatters, and unmanaged settlers, including those at high risk.
3. Despite constitutional and legal provisions prohibiting all forms of discrimination and untouchability, it has been observed that Dalit communities continue to face severe discrimination and violence in practice. There have also been instances of false cases being filed in inter-caste marriages and deaths occurring in custody. Therefore, the conclave calls for the effective implementation of the Constitution and laws and demands concrete measures to protect the rights of Dalit and marginalized communities.



4. Expressing concern over the rising unemployment that compels a large number of youths to seek labour opportunities abroad, as well as the increasing trend of migration of educated and young individuals, the conclave makes a special appeal to create employment opportunities within the country and to undertake diplomatic initiatives with destination countries to ensure the protection of the human rights of migrant workers.

5. The conclave expresses serious concern that the impacts of global climate change have placed Indigenous Peoples (IPs), women, children, Dalits, and other marginalized communities at heightened risk. Nepal's Himalayan region has been particularly affected, and environmental degradation has contributed to ongoing natural disasters and poses complex challenges in the near future. Therefore, the conclave strongly urges concrete action on climate justice to address both current and emerging crises.

6. Violence and discrimination against women, girls, and adolescent girls continue to rise in various forms. Access to justice for such violence remains notably weak. Therefore, the conclave makes a special appeal to the Government of Nepal and all stakeholders to take effective measures to prevent violence against women and girls.

7. The conclave expresses concern over the increasing nature of violence facilitated through cyberspace and the widening digital divide. If activities on social media that undermine human dignity are not effectively regulated, they risk fostering disorder in society. Therefore, the conclave calls upon the Government of Nepal to take appropriate decisions regarding the regulation and use of social media, as well as to promote digital equality and digital literacy.

8. In recent times, there has been a noticeable restriction on citizens' rights to freedom of expression and freedom of association. Due to governmental insensitivity, civic space has continued to shrink. Therefore, the conclave draws serious attention of all stakeholders to the respect of civic space and to ensure the protection of freedom of expression and association. It also calls for ensuring the effective protection of these rights and freedoms in the digital sphere as well.

9. The conclave calls for the publication of the reports of the Karki Commission and the investigation committee formed by the National Human Rights Commission regarding the incidents related to the Gen-Z protest of September 8 and 9, and urges stakeholders to ensure accountability and the protection of human rights.

10. Human rights defenders continue to face various challenges, and there are growing complexities in the protection and promotion of human rights. Therefore, the conclave makes a special demand for the enactment of a law relating to human rights defenders to strengthen human rights movements and ensure their safety.



11. The failure to implement the recommendations of the National Human Rights Commission has led to the growth of impunity and has made human rights protection increasingly challenging. Therefore, the conclave calls for the effective implementation of the recommendations of the National Human Rights Commission and other commissions.

12. The conclave observes that the human rights situation of the most marginalized and at-risk groups in society, including children, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, gender and sexual minorities, indigenous peoples, and highly marginalized Dalit communities, remains deeply concerning. Therefore, the conclave strongly calls for the identification, participation, and empowerment of these vulnerable groups, along with the assurance of justice and human rights. Furthermore, it urges the adoption of necessary constitutional and legal reforms to guarantee the rights of these groups and communities, as well as the effective domestication and implementation of relevant international treaties and agreements.

13. The conclave draws serious attention of the federal, provincial, and local governments to ensure employment opportunities, skills development, and access to capital for youth; to formulate youth-friendly policies, programs, and budgets; and to guarantee meaningful participation of young people in the country's development and prosperity.

14. The conclave makes a special appeal to provincial and local governments, as well as other stakeholders, to develop concrete plans and ensure effective implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan, constitutional provisions related to human rights and fundamental rights, and the recommendations received by Nepal through various international treaties, including the Universal Periodic Review.

15. The conclave strongly urges all three tiers of government to take effective measures to address social malpractices and issues such as child marriage, *Chhaupadi*, human trafficking and child trafficking, witchcraft accusations, and the dowry and tilak system, as well as substance abuse.

16. The conclave calls for ensuring citizens' rights to education, health, and employment, and for ending food insecurity in Karnali and other remote regions.

17. The conclave urges the Government to ensure the meaningful participation of marginalized classes, castes, communities, and regions in the process of constitutional amendment and law-making, and to adequately address their concerns.