

बहुसांस्कृतिक मनोसामाजिक संस्था नेपाल (टि.पि.ओ. नेपाल) Transcultural Psychosocial Organization Nepal (TPO Nepal)

Press Release

Every year June 26th is celebrated as "International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. Today is specially celebrated as a day to raise awareness among people on torture, ensure commitment to prevent torture at political level and a day to enhance a sense of humanity. Overall, this day marks justice to the survivors of torture, ascertains their fulfilment and creates a society free of torture.

In context of Nepal, torture has been inflicted in a systematic way from historical era. The laws against torture had been amended for the welfare of victims from 2046 B.S. The constitution of 2072 B.S. has provisioned the right against torture as a constitutional right and torture was defined as a criminal activity for the first time in the history of Nepal. Yet, this is not enough for the justice of the survivors, prevention of torture and the fulfilment of victims. This does not match the international level as well.

Compared to the 10-year long civil war, recently there has been a decrease in the number of reported cases of torture but considering the nature there has been no effective prevention. As the physical, mental and social effect of torture is horrifying, even a single person should not be exposed to such act. In the past 5 years, over 500 survivors of torture have received service from TPO Nepal. In majority of the service users, torture has chronic physical, mental and psychosocial impacts, especially the survivors of GBV who seem to have a more prominent effect. This creates a huge setback in the development of the entire society. If this is not acknowledged on time and as soon as possible, this will be a leading issue which could subsequently be transferred into descendant generations as well.

In context of legal cases related to torture, in any situation there should not be an impunity. But so far, there is no example in Nepal of torture perpetrators being punished according to the severity of the torture. As the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called Tortures must never be allowed to get away with their crimes, and systems that enables torture should be dismantled or transformed. On this date, we appeal everyone to commit to eliminate all forms of torture, ensure to create an environment where the perpetrators are punished as per the severity of the torture inflicted, eliminate any system that motivates the act of torture and provide reparation to the victims of torture.

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