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Universal periodical review

Nepal

Right to life (CCPR 6)

and other related human rights issues

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***“We understand the right to life as being the right not to be killed,
but also as everyone’s responsibility not to kill others”.***

1° Introduction

The Center for Global Nonkilling has a unique mission that is both inspirational for individuals and transformative for societies: To promote change toward the measurable goal of a killing-free world by means open to infinite human creativity in reverence for life. To make every person a center for global nonkilling requires innovative research, global education & training, as well as a monitoring program that measures progress and reveals the way forward.

The Center for Global Nonkilling has ECOSOC special consultative status since 2014.

2° Notes from first UPR cycle

CGNK notes that during Nepal’s first cycle of the UPR, the right to life has only been mentioned in relation to extrajudicial executions (various recommendations) and briefly in relation with the quality of life in relation to gender equality (rec. 106.22) and to dignity of life in relation with poverty (rec. 106.43).

CGNK wishes by this present contribution to broaden the approach to the right to life, to include the promotion of the right to life as a whole, the recognition of the right to peace as needed for the fulfillment of the right to life and regarding the prevention of suicide.

CGNK notes with great pleasure the will of the Nepalese authorities to institutionalize peacebuilding (§104 of the UPR 2011 final report) and the establishment of a ministry of peace and reconstruction.

3° The right to life

The interim constitution provides for the full protection of life and forbids death penalty (article 12.1). The Center for Global Nonkilling encourages the Republic of Nepal to go further in its future constitution and to declare therein that the country “celebrates life as a necessary means for happiness and fulfillment, for the achievement and respect of all the human rights of each and everyone”.

4° Suicides

Enhancing a good quality of life for all is a prerequisite to diminish suicide rates. Various reports¹ state that the number of suicides is high in Nepal, especially among women. Suicide is a health and well-being issue and should in no case be criminalized. Nepal should, as seems to be the need, change its legalization accordingly. Moreover further research should be done on the causes of suicides and national mechanisms and infrastructures should be developed and implemented to prevent suicides, to help those who attempt it or might attempt it, as well as their relatives.

5° The right to peace

The Center for Global Nonkilling, in order to enhance quality of life and good relations between people, social groups and institutions encourages Nepal to guarantee, as a human right in its constitution, the right to peace and to live in peace. Such a right will favor reconciliation and harmonious living between the various groups composing the diversity of the Nepalese society².

6° Conflict prevention mechanisms and violence prevention policies

Such a human right to peace will also favor conflict and violence prevention mechanisms and policies, and promote peaceful conflict solving methods³. The rewriting of the constitution should be an occasion to provide for ombudsmen and mediation procedures as well as for governmental policies for the prevention of violence⁴.

7° Truth and reconciliation

Celebrating life and preparing a good life for the future may imply dealing with the past. Providing peace, redress and out of experience sufficient mechanisms (including tools for the progress of human rights), for the prevention of future similar losses and casualties, is a State duty. As it upholds the cause of the respect for life and the achievement of a life in dignity, the Center for Global Nonkilling encourages all the people of Nepal as well as their authorities' to consider the past in humane and constructive way and thereafter, free from past grievances, to look at the future in a creative and fulfilling way.

¹ Summary of statistics and references from Wikipedia. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_suicide_rate.
Jill Benson, *Suicide prevention in Nepal: a comparison to Australia—a personal view*, Published in *Mental Health Family Medicine*, 2008 Sep; 5(3), pp. 177–182 available here: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2777576/>, retrieved 23rd of March 2015.
IRIN, humanitarian news and analysis, *NEPAL: Why are so many women killing themselves?*, 21 January 2010. Available at <http://www.irinnews.org/report/87823/nepal-why-are-so-many-women-killing-themselves>, retrieved 23rd of March 2015.
ShangaiDaily.com, *Nepal lacks preventive measures despite rise in suicide rates*, 28th of October 2014. Available here http://www.shanghaidaily.com/article/article_xinhua.aspx?id=249252, retrieved 23rd of March 2015.
Kirra Hughes, *Female Suicides in Nepal and in the USA*, published on Peace Voices, August 30, 2013, <http://www.peacevoice.info/2013/08/30/female-suicides-in-nepal%E2%80%95and-in-the-usa/>, retrieved 23rd of March 2015.
² More on the UN right to peace at the Human Rights Council : <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RightPeace/Pages/WGDraftUNDeclarationontheRighttoPeace.aspx>
³ See in annex our oral statement at the Open Ended Working Group of Human rights council on the 30th of January 2015. suggest adding our declaration made on the 30th of January at the open ended working group on the right to peace.
⁴ Regarding violence prevention, among other measures, we congratulate Nepal for signing the “Geneva Declaration on armed violence and development”. <http://www.genevadeclaration.org>