Press Statement by National Action & Coordinating Group (NACG) Nepal

Let’s Unite to End Violence Against Girl Children!!!

NACG-Nepal condemns the series of violence targeted at girl children in different parts of the country in Nepal in recent times. On the 22th February 2015, an unidentified man hurled the bottle of acid on to three of the adolescent girls Sangita Pulami Magar, Seema Basnet and Hemu Magar while they were in tuition centre located in Kathmandu, in order to prepare for matriculation examination. Hemu has returned to home from the hospital, where as Sangita is struggling with death having sustained deep burn on different parts of body. In addition, Seema is also seriously burnt and getting treatment in the hospital.

Another six year girl is struggling with death in the hospital after being raped at her own house at Bara district on 21st February 2015. She has been brought to Kathmandu as her treatment was not possible in the regional hospital at Birgunj. These are only some of the representative cases in Nepal. In last six months time, more than a dozen rape cases have come into light. In this regard, the innocent girls were not only raped but also in many cases were killed after the incident. In most of the cases the guilty perpetrators could not be arrested for the justice. All these cases have created a sense of insecurity in the society and parents are worried for the protection of their girl children.

We are deeply concerned over the failure of state to give the security to our girl children though Nepal has shown its commitment in national and international level for the protection of them. Nepal has five year plan of action (2014/15-2018/19) for the holistic development of adolescent girls and boys in which it has clearly mentioned a number of measures to make the society a safe place for girl children. These incidents have raised serious question on our vision to see our cities and villages as child friendly places. Here, we strongly demand that the government has to bear all the expenses incurred during their treatment. Along with that, the government has to take the responsibility for their rehabilitation program and ensuring their future study without any interruption. We further demand to ensure the protection of girl children bringing the law against gender based violence immediately. (In this regard the Supreme Court has issued a directive in the name of government to form the law against gender based violence few years ago.)

Threat to the security of girl children is not only a problem of Nepal but also a common problem in entire South Asia. Let’s unite to end violence against girl children!!!

(Kumar Bhattarai)
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