

## INSEC's Commitment

Its 28 years since INSEC began publishing the Human Rights Yearbook. The main objective of doing so was to keep documentation of Human Rights Violations. INSEC began its campaign for social justice and Human Rights following the restoration of democracy in 1990 and organized record keeping of Human Rights violations were started in 1992. Nepal has undergone major political changes in the 28 years since, which have also been captured by the Nepal Human Rights Year Book.

INSEC's databases and records have not only helped conflict-affected and those injured in different political movements people in seeking justice and reparation, but also continues to be of use to researchers. The Human Rights Year Book also have another key objective -- to continuously raise awareness of citizens about the respect they deserve and to make them aware of their sovereign rights.

The Human Rights Year Books are contemporary records of the changes that have taken place in the country, including all important events. As such they are also of use to the State, and many state agencies have on many occasions used records in the yearbooks as evidence. Further, the acceptance of INSEC yearbooks as factual records by the international agencies is the outcome for the selfless efforts made by the organization and its staffs and people who believe in Human Rights.

In 2019, we recorded more Human Rights Violations than in previous year. Violence against women has increased and so has the number of rape cases reported. Also worrying is the increase in the number of rape of children. This year we also recorded increased domestic violence against women, including some cases of "honor killings".

The Human Rights Yearbook 2020 reviews the Human Rights situation in Nepal in 2019. Efforts have been made to visit the sites of violation to collect information and to cross-check that with State agencies, judicial and semi-judicial bodies. These efforts have contributed towards making the content of the yearbook both impartial and relevant.

This year we continued efforts to observe performance of the Executive, Legislative and the Judiciary at all three levels of governance through a Human Rights lens. We believe this will also assist the government to make amends, where required while also making citizens aware about their Human Rights and responsibilities. We believe the contents of the report will also help towards understanding the situation in terms of separation of powers, and also to assess and analyze the contributions of the Human Rights sector towards strengthening Nepal's democracy.

During data collection and verification INSEC representatives in 77 districts had monitored the District Police Offices and the Women, Children and Senior Citizen Service Center at these offices. It was observed that a majority of the complaints reaching the Service Centers were reconciled, including cases that should not have been reconciled often under the influence of power and money, indicating a disregard for Human Rights and Rule of Law. Similarly, even cases that reached the courts early in the year remained undecided at the end of the year delaying justice for the victims. This was true also in

terms of time taken to resolve cases that could have been decided locally. Delays in decision making by both judicial and quasi-judicial bodies delayed justice for victims.

You have this year's Human Rights Yearbook 2020 in your hands. Bringing information scattered around settlements, villages and urban centers across Nepal is the result of the efforts of many people. We thank INSEC representatives in 77 districts who were responsible for collecting primary data of Human Rights violation and abuses and monitoring the Human Rights situation on the ground. Equally important is the role played by INSEC staffs in processing the information and making it ready for publication. The political parties, administration, judiciary, Nepal Army, Nepal Police, Armed Police Force and civil society leaders also made important contributions to ensure that the information in the Year Book was factual, credible and balanced.

The Royal Norwegian Embassy has been supporting the processes towards producing this Year Book since 1992. Similarly, Bread for the World (BftW) and other donor agencies that supported INSEC's work have also contributed towards its publications and programs. Hence, we thank them all.

Finally, we look forward to get continued support of all of you in our efforts to keep a factual record of the Human Rights situation in Nepal.

**Dr. Indira Shrestha**  
Chairperson