



Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC)

April 8, 2026

Welcoming the Commitment to Apologize to the Dalit Community and Calling for Effective Implementation of Reform-Oriented Programs

INSEC expresses its appreciation to the Government of Nepal for including, in its 100-day action plan made public on March 30, 2026, a commitment to formally acknowledge the injustices and discrimination faced by Dalit and historically marginalized communities from the state, society, and policymaking structures, and to issue a formal apology along with reform-oriented programs within 15 days. The state's acknowledgement of the long-standing structural discrimination and exclusion faced by the Dalit community can be taken as a positive step towards social justice, inclusive restoration, and historical reconciliation. However, there have been numerous instances in the past where such commitments have become ineffective due to a lack of implementation. Therefore, INSEC urges the government to ensure concrete, time-bound, and result-oriented implementation. In this context, INSEC would like to draw the government's special attention to the following:

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- **Formal Apology and Policy Reform:** The formal apology should not be limited to a symbolic gesture but must be linked with policy, legal, and institutional reforms.
- **Practical Reforms and Resource Allocation:** Clear action plans and budget allocations must be ensured to eliminate discrimination and guarantee equal opportunities, as well as access to education, health, employment, and justice.
- **Effective Addressing of Caste-Based Discrimination:** The Caste-Based Discrimination and Untouchability (Offence and Punishment) Act, 2011, should be amended to extend the statute of limitations for filing complaints from the current three months. It must also be ensured that complaints related to caste-based discrimination are mandatorily registered by the police. Furthermore, continuous investigation, prosecution, and punishment of perpetrators must be ensured, along with proper treatment and full reparation for victims.

Oppose Impunity, Uphold Human Dignity !

For Human Rights and Social Justice

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- **Review of Reservations to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965):** The reservations and interpretative declarations made by Nepal upon ratifying the Convention in 1971 are inconsistent with the spirit of the Constitution of Nepal, 2015. The government should withdraw reservations related to the full implementation of Article 4 and to effective remedies and reparations under Article 6. Additionally, Nepal should accept the Committee's jurisdiction under Article 14, allowing individuals to file complaints against racial discrimination.

The Constitution of Nepal, 2015, has already recognized caste-based discrimination as a serious social crime while guaranteeing individual rights. While Nepal has previously stated at the United Nations that legislative reforms would be undertaken only if necessary to implement obligations under Article 4, and that reparations under Article 6 would be addressed through effective restorative measures, maintaining restrictive reservations and interpretations does not align with international human rights commitments. Therefore, these reservations and declarations must be viewed, and steps must be taken to ensure full and effective implementation of all obligations under the Convention.

INSEC also reminds the government that the Committee under the Convention has repeatedly urged Nepal, through its concluding observations and recommendations, to withdraw these reservations and to ensure the right to individual complaints under Article 14. Social justice and inclusion can only be ensured through tangible changes in practice, not merely through policy declarations. Therefore, the government is urged to move forward by effectively implementing its commitments, fulfilling international obligations, and ensuring accountability to affected communities. INSEC also calls for collaboration with civil society, human rights defenders, and all relevant stakeholders to strengthen cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and ensure effective implementation of these commitments.

Bijay Raj Gautam
Chairperson

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