



Statement by the delegation of Nepal

13th session of UN Forum on Minority Issues

Theme: hate speech, social media and minorities

Panel 4: Towards a safer space for minorities: positive initiatives to address online hate speech: the role of national human rights institutions, human rights organizations, civil society and other stakeholders

Geneva, 20 November 2020

Time: 2mins, Words: 261

Madam Chair,

We appreciate the insightful remarks by the panelists.

We also appreciate the constructive contribution and engagements of civil society in this forum over the past two days.

Discriminatory acts, including the hate speech towards the minorities has been in the global attention.

We believe that active involvement of NHRIs, NGOs, civil societies and other stakeholders including the representatives of minority groups is crucial in implementing initiatives to address hate speech.

The Constitution of Nepal has guaranteed the right to freedom of expression and opinion as well as the right to equality and non-discrimination. No discrimination shall be made on grounds of origin, religion, race, caste, tribe, sex, economic condition, language, region, ideology or on similar other grounds.

Madam Chair,

Nepal is committed to strengthening an inclusive society with affirmative actions and initiatives to protect the rights of minorities and promote their participation in political and public life.

Empowerment of communities, especially minorities, with education and skills, is critical to addressing online and offline hate speech.

The relevant authorities have been carrying out awareness raising activities in close collaboration with the civil society members and relevant stakeholders in safeguarding the rights of indigenous, marginalized and vulnerable groups.

The independent 'A' accredited National Human Rights Commission of Nepal has been undertaking activities with demonstrated commitment to working for the respect, protection and promotion of human rights for all, including the minorities.

Strong and vibrant presence of civil society and media in the country has fostered engaging discussions and ensured a conducive environment towards a safer space for minorities.

I thank you.