

**Assembly of General Members (AGM)  
13 April 2019  
A Progress Report**

**Background:**

Global Forum is a global platform to combat against all forms of caste-based discrimination. Caste based discrimination, even in this modern era, has been persisting in different parts of the world as the degrading forms of practice against *Dalits* community who are often identified as marginalized, historically disadvantaged community and backward community that differs by its specific regions or a country. Caste based discrimination has directly impacted more than 260 million Dalit around the globe especially in south Asia. The socio-economic, political and religious reproduction of caste based discrimination has resulted Dalit to fall into least developed human category and survive a servitude form of life.

The basic principles of human rights have guided to respect and promote the fundamental rights of every human being for their freedom and non-discrimination. This principle of non-discrimination has been set up to guarantee the rights without discrimination of any kind which includes not only purposeful discrimination, but also protection from policies and practices which may have a discriminatory effect. Beside that International Convention on the Elimination Racial Discrimination (ICEDHR) is another important landmark to eliminate all forms of discrimination based

on race and color which directly concern to the caste based discrimination. Almost all the south Asian States have already ratified all these international convention and covenant and there are domestic laws in effect to more or lesser degree, however, the data and evidences shows that the enforcement of these instruments are not effective to ensure the rights of Dalits as a results Dalits are suffering from the caste-based discriminations day by day.

In this fragile state, there are several national and international organizations working for the elimination of this sadistic practice; however it has not been effective in its end results. There are very few international organization in order to particularly focus on caste-based discrimination. As the caste based discrimination has been deeply rooted, it requires a blow of national and international action to wipe out it from that society which still practices. Therefore, Global Forum will play a crucial role to advocate the rights of Dalits in national and international arenas through its international solidarity and lobbying programs.

Global Forum with a team of activist and professionals who are currently living in diaspora, with an objective of providing global solidarity against all forms discrimination, has realized the importance to initiate a global action to combat the illicit forms of discrimination. This forum has been providing and seeking solidarity on the rights based movement in global level;

empowering and mobilizing affected community to establish their human rights and social justice; contributing to the policies and program intervention to the National and International governmental institutions particularly to develop that policy/program against Caste based Discrimination; providing humanitarian support to the affected community; Identifying & mobilizing the internal and external resources against the campaign of caste based discrimination related interventions.

In this period, Global Forum has been able to conduct some key program at the national and international level against caste based discrimination and to contribute to bring justice and equality for Dalits which are mentioned as following.

## Major Programs

### Accomplished:

#### **1. Consultation Program on “Ensuring Dalit Rights for Dignity, Democracy and Justice” on the occasion of 52 International Day for the elimination of Racial discrimination on 21 March 2017 Radisson Hotel, Colorado-USA**

This consultation program was organized to inform and sensitize to the participants and guests regarding the context of Dalit movement in Nepal and its initiations towards rights of Dalit, dignity and democracy, conduct the discourse among the diaspora communities, and to create the pressure at the international level to ensure the rights of Dalit and end caste based discrimination.

The program was formally inaugurated by His Excellency Mr. Scott H. DeLisi, former American Ambassador to Nepal. The program was chaired by Tirtha Bishwakarma president of Global Forum. The session was facilitated by Mr. Amrit Bishwakarma, Treasurer of Global Forum and welcome speech and objective highlighted by Arjun Bagale, Executive board member of Global Forum. The program was conducted on two sessions.

All speakers focused on the role of government, political party and civil society to eliminate the caste based discriminating in the society. They added that diaspora community also can play important role to contribute for the elimination of caste based discrimination. As a chief guest, His Excellency Mr. Scott Delisi-Former American Ambassador to Nepal, Dr. Man Bahadur BK, Joint Secretary-Government of Nepal, Mr./Ms. Ivania Rivera, Commissioner-Aurora Immigrant and Refugee Commission, Aurora Municipality, Colorado, Mr. Padam Bishwokarma, President-INLS, Dr. Ramesh Sunar, Intellectual delivered remarkable speech in the program. Likewise, Mr Binod Tripathy, General Secretary-Rocky Mountain Friends of Nepal, Colorado, Mr. Krishna Murari Dhungel, President-INLS Colorado Chapter, Mr. Som Baral, President-Bhutanese Community of Colorado, Mr. Hari Kumar Shrestha, Shankhuwasabha Community, Mr. Jagat Shrestha, President-Prabasi Manch, Colorado, Mr Chandraman Gurung President of Tamu Dhee, Colorado Mr. Gyanendra Gadai, and Navaraj Shrestha Artist Colorado also provided their view in the program.

In the second session, Dr Man Bahadur Bishwakarma-Joint secretary of Nepal

government presented the situation of Dalit movement in Nepal. Dr. Drona Rasali who currently resides in Canada presented memoire of Sharpeville incident as a historic event against racial discrimination. Dr Ramesh Sunar also provided his views on the issue of caste based discrimination. There was question and answer sessions where participant raised their views and questions after the presentation.

It was a good opportunity for organizing such consultation program on the occasion of 52 international days for the elimination of racial discrimination. This program played vital role to sensitize participants and informed regarding the context and issues of caste based discrimination and untouchability particularly in Nepal and South Asia. Global forum became successful to draw the attention of chief guest, guest and Nepali diaspora communities and institutions those who are working in USA particularly in Colorado for getting their solidarity and support on the elimination of caste based discrimination in Nepal. This program encouraged Global Forum to have such program in getting solidarity and cooperation from international community, diaspora community and local institution and media people in coming days.

## **2. Interaction Program on “New constitution: Opportunity and Challenges for its Implementation” organized on 15 April 2016 Kathmandu, Nepal**

An interaction program was conducted on 15 April 2016 in order to lobby and advocacy for for the rights of Dalit in constitution making process including the

implementation of new constitution. This program was conducted under the chief guest of former constitutional assembly speaker honorable Mr.Subesh Chandra Newang. In the program Dalit senior political leader Mr. Man Bahadur Bishwokarma, Central Member Nepali Congress, and UML standing committee members Mr. Chhabilal Bishowakarma, National Dalit commission member secretary Honorable, Mr. Sitaram Ghale Pariyar, Global forum Chair Tirtha Barma , Vice chair Deepak Bishwokarma, Board member Motilal Nepali, and Sushil Bishwakarma and other civil society leader Bhakta Biswokarma, Gajadhar Sunar, Renu sijapati, Rem Biswokarma, Dr.Yam Kishan, Ganesh Bk Deulal, political activist Laxmi pariyar, journalist Pabitra Sunar, Laxman Darnal, Bisal Khadkathoki, Ashok Darnal were key personal to address the program. Almost 95 respected peoples participated the program.

## **3. Meeting with Political leader in Nepal**

Global Forum organized meeting with Dalit political leader on 12 April 2016 at the Hotel Pagoda Jamal. President Tirtha Barma chaired that program. Man B Biswokarmma from Nepali congress, Chhbilal Biswokarma from CPN UML, Min Biswakarma from Nepali congress, Biswobhakta Dulal from CPN Maoist took part the program. Vice president Mr. Deepak Jung Bishwokarma, Secretariat member Motilal Nepali, Member Shusil Biswokarma also attended the program. Global Forum presented the agendas of Dalit advocacy and collected

feedback from political party leaders. Following were the key feedback and suggestions:

- Initiate policy dialogue at national and international level mainly with international organization, UN agencies, and other development organizations.
- Establish basket fund by Donors achieving our target activities for Dalit dignity and justice.
- Conduct interaction with the political leader, government different ministry.
- Organize round table discussion on proportional representation, inclusiveness in making accountable decision maker for Dalit rights .
- Organise workshop on observations about the interrelations between caste and class dogma for high lighting Dalit emancipation issues.

#### **4. Interaction program with Dalit journalist team in Nepal:**

Global forum organized an interaction program on 25 April 2016 with Dalit journalist of Nepal in order to encourage Dalit journalist primarily to publish Dalit news in different Media. 19 participants from main media group and Dalit journalist association of Nepal attended the program. President-Tirtha Barma presented the Mission of Global forum and presented the international activities for the elimination of caste based discrimination in Nepal. Mr. Motilal Nepali and Shusil Bk explained about the Global forum. President of Dalit

journalist Association Ms Pabitra Sunar explained the situation of her organization. Journalist Laxman Darnal, Biswash Khadakathoki, Ashok Darnal, Gopal Baraily, Buddhdi Biswokarma, Binod Biswokarma and other journalist presented their views.

Feedbacks from the meeting were:

- Global forum regularly keep in touch with Dalit journalist and Association,
- Dalit journalist will play the vital role to cover the Dalit related news at national and international.
- Establish a relationship with Dalit journalist and Global forum to influence the Dalit issues.

#### **5. Meeting with Dalit Civil society organization;-**

On 28 April 2016 Global Forum organized a meeting with Dalit Civil society organization in Kathmandu. This program aimed to establish good relationship with local Dalit Civil society organization who are working in Nepal. This program aimed to communicate the international activities with these local organizations. President Tirtha Barma, Vice president Deepak jung Biswokarma, Memer Motilal Nepali, Member Shusil Biswokarma participated the meeting from the Global Forum and Civil society leader Mr Padam Sundas, Dr. Yam Kishan, Bharat Nepali, Hira Biwokarma, Ganesh Biswokarma, Bhakta Biswokarma, Rem Biswokarma, Ekraj Lakandry, Dr. Purna Nepali, and other Civil

Society organization representative participated meeting. President Tirtha Biswokarma presented the meeting agenda and relation building between Dalit civil society organization and Global forum. All participants presented their views regarding the agendas. Among all those feedbacks, some feedbacks were such as Global forum should extend its network all over the world; establish a secretariat office in Nepal and develop its clear strategy.

#### **6. Interaction program on "Ending Untouchability and Caste Based Discrimination: The Role of Non-Resident Nepalese"**

Global Forum against Caste Based Discrimination (GFACD) convened an interactive discussion session titled, "Ending Untouchability and Caste Based Discrimination: The Role of Non-Resident Nepalese" on 12 October, 2017 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The program was accomplished amidst a congregation of wider groups of stakeholders that included prominent CSO leaders, Dalit human rights defenders, academia, media, NRN delegates, representatives of political parties together with GFAD leadership. Altogether 102 participants attended the program.

The interaction program was organized on the context of 8th celebration of the Non-Resident Nepalese which is held in every two years. Since NRNs from Dalit community have migrated to worldwide, particularly in the recent years; the central idea of this program was to facilitate discussion on what could be the roles of

NRN Dalits, including NRNs' national and international structures and mechanisms, in ending age-old dehumanizing practices of untouchability and caste-based discrimination against Dalit community of Nepal and elsewhere in the globe.

#### ***Proceedings of the Session***

The four hour long discussion program was organized as split into three main sessions – (i) inaugural and introductory session, (ii) main technical discussion session, and (iii) conclusion session. The entire event was conducted as chaired by Mr. Moti lal Nepali from Global forum, and Hon'ble Asha Koirala – Minister for Women, Children and Social Welfare as Chief Guest. Mr. Tirtha Barma - president of Global Forum as special guest, Padam Bishwakarma vice president of Global Form as guest, Dr. Man Bk secretary of Nepal government, TB Karki NRN advisor as a guest, Navin Bk NRN chaina, Navraj Bk NRN Qatar and other civil society organization participated as guest. Sushil BK – member of Global Forum facilitated the program as a moderator. Padam Bishwokarma delivered welcome remarks and highlighted on the objectives of the program.

Mr. Tirtha Barma (Bishwakarma) president of Global Forum presented entitle a paper on the role of NRNs in ending untouchability and caste based discrimination. The paper also covered discussion on how NRNs could contribute to the overall development of Dalit community of Nepal who lie at the bottom of socio-economic ladder of the country. Mr. Barma argued that NRNA should reform its structures, policies and functioning to make them friendly to 4.5 million Dalits of Nepal, and accordingly it should devise programs and allocate



resources targeting to their all-round progression. Furthermore, he urged that NRNA should turn as a common platform of all – including of the lower and middle class NRNs, not only of a handful of elites and capitalists. Meanwhile, he briefly shed light on the objectives and roles of Global Forum as a global organization dedicated to advocating for the protection and promotion of Dalit's rights, situation and condition. At the end of his speech, Mr. Barma informed that Global Forum would develop a comprehensive memorandum based on the discussions of this interaction program, and present the same to the NRNA's ICC and NCCs in all 77 countries of the world.

The main technical session then was opened up seeking comments, feedback, inputs and suggestions on the paper, as well as inviting participants to raise their concerns and queries if any. Quite a number of participants namely Saru Sunar, Tej Sunar, Mohan Bishwakarma, Yuba Raj Darnal, Bhakta Bishwakarma, Trilok Chand Bishwas BK, Chakraman Bishwakarma, Bhadraman Mote, Devika Mijar, Bishwas Khadhokhi, Rajan Bishwakarma, Rajendra Bishwakarma, Hira Bishwakarma, Sitaram Ghale Pariyar, Dhan Bahadur Mijar, Ekraj Lakandri, Bharan Nepali, Sahek Bishwakarma, Gopal Bishwakarma, Ganesh Kaliraj, among others took floor to offer their comments and provide insights on the possible roles of NRNs in abolishing untouchability and caste-based discrimination. Meanwhile NRN delegates Mr. Navaraj BK (Qatar), Mr. Nabin Bishwakarma (China), Ms. Anita Pariyar (Sri Lanka), were invited to put their opinions on the central topic of the discussion program. Similarly, a few members of Nepalese intellectual, government office holders, and leaders of

Dalit civil society organizations namely Dr. Taralal Shrestha, Dr. Man Bahadur Bishwakarma (Joint Secretary of the Government of Nepal), and Mr. Ram Lakhan Harijan (Chair of Dalit NGO Federation) took time and floor to speak on the agenda of the day. Mr. TB Karki who had nominated candidacy for the position of Chair of NRNA in its forthcoming election, as a key speaker, was invited to deliver his speech around commitments and responses to the concerns of the participants.

The entire program was aired live through radiohimalaya.com – an online radio network, as volunteered by Mr. Buddhi Bishwakarma, Coordinator of the radio. *(Please see annex for specific agendas presented to NRNs)*

## 7. Strategy Development Meeting

Global forum with an aim to develop and finalise its global strategy organized a strategy development workshop on 28 December 2017 at Hotel Ashoka, New Banesor. Dr. Man Biswokarma presented a draft strategy of Global forum as export. Mr. Hira Biswokarma, Dr. Yam Kisan, Bhakta Biswokarma, Renu Sijapati, Tej Sunar, Dr. Nirmal Biswokarma provided their feedback to finalize global forum 5 years strategy paper. President Tirtha Barma, Members Motilal Nepali and Shusil BK participated and contributed to finalise the strategy paper in this workshop.

### **8. Celebrated 53th International Day for the elimination of Racial Discrimination, 2018**

On the occasion of 53<sup>rd</sup> International Day for the elimination of racial discrimination Global Forum is organized an interaction program on “International legal provisions to eliminaten caste- based discrimination” in Colorado, Hotel Yak and Yati, USA. The main objective of that program was to sensitize and bring together local organizations regarding the international provision on caste based discrimination. Program was chaired by Tirtha Biswokarma president of Global Forum and facilitated by Amber Hajariya secretary of Global Forum. Mr. Amrit Bishwakaram welcomed all guests. Mr. Gambetta Richardo head of the International Refugee and Immigration city of Aurora addressed some issues of racial discrimination and cased based discrimination among immigration community. Mr Arjun Bagale from Global Forum presented the international Legal provision for the elimination of caste based discrimination. Mani Dahal Manager of Sustainable development of African community Center, Deepak Sunuwar from Rocky Mountain friends of Nepal, Narayan Sherestha-Nepali Ghar, Pawan Bishwakarma Nepali student Association CU boulder, Chandraman Gurung, DEE Colorado, Shyam Sherestha-INLS Colorado, Yamuna KC from NRN Colorado, and other guests provided their solidarity to end the caste based discrimination.

### **9. Presentation in Global Conference on “Imagining Caste and Religion in south Asia”**

Brandeis University Boston, USA organized a 3 days long Global Conference on 28-30

April 2017 and invited Global forum to present the Caste based Discrimination in Nepal and Role of international community. Global Forum president -Tirtha Biswokarma presented situation of Dalit in Nepal and role of diaspora community. Global forum extended its network from this program with many Dalit organizations working in USA. They were interested to know about the condition of Dalit community in Nepal. Ms Jebaroja, PhD-President of Dalit Solidarty forum USA, and lecture of Rutgers University, Rajesh Sampath-Associate Professor, University of Brandeis, Anupama Rao-Associate Professor Brandeis university, Conference Chair – Laurence Siman, Professor International Development Brandeis University, Arun Goutam from Canada commented on the presentation.

### **10. Nepal Chapter Formation**

On December 12 organized a meeting in Kathmandu Hotel Aryal to form the Global forum 25 people from different organization and meeting decided to form a chepter of Global forum for coronation the other organization in Nepal.

- Coordinator- Mr. Mohan Bishwakarma
- Co-ordinator – Eka raj LAKandry
- Secretary- Hasta B RAsaily
- Treasurer – kamala Biswokarma
- Member Bijaya Ghimire
- Member Anup Kamal Bishwakarma
- Member – Yubraj Darnal
- Member -Jayram Kaliraj

## Conclusion and Way Forward

Global forum against caste discrimination is an international forum which is playing important role gradually at the national and international level. In this period, from its inception Global Forum organized several consultation, interaction and discussion program both at Nepal, America, Australia and UK. These programs have been vital to sensitize policy makers, political parties including other general members associated in different agencies at the national and diaspora level. However, there is a lot more roles to play which has not been possible due to limited resources and commitment from all the members. In days ahead, if we commit our self we can achieve a lot more in terms of eradicating caste based discrimination from the globe by ensuring targeted program at the national and international level.



Annex-1

List of Members

**Council Members**

1. Mr. Tirtha Biswokarma
2. Mr. Padam Bishwakarma
3. Mr. Deepakjung Bishwakarma
4. Dr. Mom Biswokarma
5. Mr. Amber Hajariya
6. Mr. Amrit Bishwakarma
7. Mr. Arjun bagale
8. Mr. Motilal Nepali
9. Mr. Susil Bk
10. Ganesh Pariyar
11. Ms Bidhta poudel
12. Mr. Deepak Sunuwar
13. Mr. Suresh Mijar
14. Mr. Ghanashyam Bishwakarma

**New Members**

1. Mr. Nabin Bk, Chaina
2. Ms. Anita Pariyar, Srilanka
3. Ms. Sita Bishwakarma, Australia
4. Mr. Aakash Baral, Japan
5. Mr. Deepak Sunuwar

6. Mr. Min Raj Biswokarma
7. Mr. Navraj Bk, Qatar
8. Mr. Mohan Biswokarma, Nepal
9. Mr. Ekarak Lakandry, Nepal
10. Mr. Hasta Rasaily Nepal
11. Mr. Kamala Biswokarma, Nepal
12. Mr. Yubraj Darnal, Nepal
13. Mr. Anup Kamal Bishwakarma, Nepal
14. Ms Bijaya Ghimire, Nepal
15. Mr. Jayaram Kaliraj, Nepal
16. Mr. Rabin Rasaily

**Advisors**

1. Mr. Dharma Biswokarma
1. Mr. Scott Delecy
2. Dr Ramesh Sunar
3. Mr. Krishna sob
4. Dr Bishnu maya Pariyar
5. Dr. Drona Rasaily

**Non-updated Council Members**

1. Mr. Dharma biswokarma
2. Mr. Gopal Biswokarma
3. Mr. Krishna sob
4. Mr. Bisnu RAsaily
5. Mr. Dilip Nepali
6. Mr. Purna baraily
7. Mr. Riz Baraily
8. MR. Narendra Diyali

### Annex 2

#### List of Specific Issues presented to NRNs

- Dalit NRN associations should create opportunities to raise funds internationally and work in Nepal.
- Promote inclusion and representation of women and Dalit in NRN's structures in line with the constitution of Nepal.
- NRNs cannot do everything. Expect from NRNs in accordance with our needs, and their capacities.
- Develop NRNA as a common platform of all, not only of the capitalists.
- View NRNs as a vehicle to industrialize, modernize and universalize traditional skills of Dalit community. Seek role in promoting economic viability, to come out of poverty trap.
- NRNs should cooperate, and channelize fund to enhance educational abilities of Dalits, help them to elevate their educational, economic and livelihood opportunities.
- Seek support of NRNs in enabling intellectual capacity of Dalits.
- Financial support from NRNs is the main expectation of Dalit movement.
- NRNs should foster internationalization of Dalit movement.
- Amend NRNAs constitution to make it inclusive and representative in line with the constitution of Nepal both at ICC and NCC levels.
- Hit in 20:20 vision to ensure Dalits representation in all structures of NRNA.
- Establish Dalit wing in the NRNA structures and functioning.
- Organize commercial fairs to sell goods, services and products of Dalit community.
- Establish international museum of Dalit community.
- Establish Dalit help desk in NRNA structures.
- Motivate each NRNs to sponsor one Dalit student. Support to Dalit children directly for their higher education.
- NRNs should help to build capacity of domestic civil society organizations.
- Establish Dalit entrepreneurs association within NRNAs operation.
- NRNAs should influence the government of Nepal.