

POLITICAL COMMITMENT FOR FULL INCLUSIVE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE, MEANINGFUL DALIT PARTICIPATION FOR PROSPEROUS, EQUITABLE AND RESILIENT NATION BUILDING

Kathmandu Declaration, 2017



**Preamble** : Considering fact that one-fourth Dalits of Nepal's population is excluded in political, economic and social fronts due to stratified Hindu caste system,

Respecting contributions made by Dalit leaders and their sacrifice in democratic movements of 1951,1990, a decade long Maoist insurgency and 2006's II People's Movement,

Reiterating stances in implementing constitutionally guaranteed provisions and achievements gained so far in course of institutionalizing Dalit rights i.e. Comprehensive Peace Agreement, 2006's decision to declare Nepal as untouchability free country, decision to declare Nepal as secular state, announcement to develop the country into a federal set up and proportional inclusive provisions adopted in the Interim Constitution,

Acknowledging human rights and as universal and undivided rights of the people and their interrelation, UN charter, Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 1966, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 1966, International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination 1965, Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women 1979, 1926's Slavery Convention, International Human Rights Law 1949 and Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989 and taking unchecked cases of cast-based and untouchability as serious exceptions,

Upholding historic decisions made by Dalit lawmakers as of now in political front and re-evaluating economic-political aspects linked to Nepal's prosperity and equality at a two-day conference jointly held by National Dalit Network, Nepal National Dalit Social Welfare Organization, Jagaran Media Center, Samata Foundation and Federation of Madhesi Dalit Development on December 28 with the slogan of "Commitment for full Inclusive and Social Justice; Meaningful Dalit Participation for Prosperous, Equitable and Resilient Nation Building" in presence of elected Dalit representatives based on proportional representation and Dalit Civil Society leaders,

We promulgate Kathmandu Declaration of Dalit Parliament, five resolutions, seven resolutions of public importance and seven Dalit radiated bill after conducting 11 parliamentary meetings aimed at economic prosperity and equality with social justice. On behalf of one third of Dalit of total Nepali population we express our concerns through this Kathmandu Declaration of Dalit Parliament:

1. We request all the political parties to implement key achievements i.e. federalism, republic state, secularism, inclusiveness and proportional representation as guaranteed by the newly adopted Constitution and translate their commitments of ensuring peace and stable government with social justice that was committed in election manifestos in real practice.
2. We demand proportional inclusive representation of Dalits in organizations of political parties and ensure their leadership in their party statues and formulate code of conduct against cast-based discrimination and untouchability and implement into practice.
3. We strongly demand to operate effective mechanism in central, provincial and local governments, better coordinate among them, monitor the activities to end cast-based discrimination and untouchability practices and implement recommendations tabled at the National Dalit Commission and other concerned authorities. We also demand all levels of government to end of all forms of violence against Dalit women.
4. Establish National Dalit Commission in accordance with Article 255 of Nepal's constitution, Offices of the commission at sub-national level and arrange enough resources and staffers as provisioned in Article 257 of the constitution. Also, we demand to upgrade Dalit Development

Committee and Badi Development Board by delegating full rights for their effective performance.

5. We strongly demand the government and concerned political parties to amend Constitution and make it more Dalit-friendly since Dalits are being excluded taking opportunity of legal lapses appeared in recently promulgated Constitution. It is also demanded to ensure proportional representation of Madhesi Dalit, Dalit women, Badi, Gandharba and Dalits from Karnali as per Article 40 (7) of the Constitution. We also strongly demanded to ensure constitutional and legal provision of ensuring 20% Dalit in total women and 50% women representation of total Dalit representation.
6. We strongly demand all levels of government to acknowledge Article 281 of Constitution and Sustainable Development Goals and formulate time-bound plans and programs and allocate enough budget aimed at improving Human Development Indexes considering gap seen Dalit and other communities. It is also demanded that all levels of government to allocate at least 20% of the total budget for Dalit education, health and employment and additional budget for their empowerment.
7. We demand the government to introduce Dalit-focused programs like One Cooperative One Dalit Settlement and One Dalit Household One Employment. It is also demanded to establish at least a technical school in each rural municipality and municipality and a campus in sub-national level and a university in the center. All levels of government are asked to promote traditional skills and professions and develop them as entrepreneur. Tax should be waived for these industries and cooperatives should provide loan without collateral. Also, we demand to allocate budget to promote and develop skills of Dalit and registration.
8. Based on recommendations made by previous High-level Land Reform Commissions we demand to conduct a nation-wide survey programs and update scientific land reform program to ensure land to landless Dalits. In addition, we also strongly demand to formulate law as provisioned in Article 40 (5) and (6) and ensure Dalit's right to land and housing at the earliest.
9. Implement recommendations of taskforce formed to resolve settlements of freed-Haliyas and agreement signed between agitating Haliyas and the government. We also strongly demand to form a High-powered Commission to ensure time-bound Haliya rehabilitation programs.
10. A report of taskforce formed to study the political, economic and social/cultural suppression and agreement signed between agitating Badi community and the Nepal government should be sincerely implemented.
11. At a time when Nepal government is rehabilitating freed-Kamaiya we also demand to collect details of Kamaiyas working in southern region of the country, liberate them from discriminatory works by waiving loans and arranging adequate land to them and ensure their survival.
12. We draw attention of all local governments to end discriminatory work practices *baligharepratha* (Pay-in-kind system), *dolipratha* and removing or eating carcasses among others and fix scientific wages of contributions made by Dalit and implement it in practice.
13. We demand to analyze poverty and introduce Dalit Concession Card in line to waive at least 20% fee in health and education sectors and services related to livelihood and ensure dignified, well-managed and effective Social Security Programs so that social security program could be more scientific and transparent and Dalit friendly.

14. We draw attention of Nepal government and concerned stakeholders to introduce timely development package to protect Dalits from climate change induced crisis as Dalits are suffering the most due to flood, landslide and other natural disaster in recent days.
15. We demand to ensure easy access to Dalits from across the country including those living in Tarai-Madhes and create employment opportunities by simplifying management of community forest, leasehold forest and private forest. Additionally, we strongly demand to hold consultation with those landless people living in barren lands of forest for long and continue to face problems due to conflicting laws and resolve their disputes with the locals at the earliest.

December 28, 2017  
Tripureshwor, Kathmandu

### **Organizers**

1. Ganesh B.K., Chairperson, National Dalit Network, Nepal
2. Trilok Chandra Biswas, Chairperson, Nepal National Dalit Social Welfare Organization
3. Pradip Pariyar, Chairperson, Samata Foundation
4. Bisheshwor Rajak, Chairperson, Federation of Madhesi Dalit Development
5. Shivaji Gayak, General Secretary, Jagaran Media Center