

“FREEDOM OF INFORMATION: THE RIGHT TO KNOW”

CCRI Establishes Legal Support Desk to Promote Right to Information

Press Release

May 2, 2010

On the auspicious occasion of May 3, World Press Freedom Day we extend warm wishes and greetings to all. We wish for the successful achievement of this year's theme: "Freedom of Information: The Right to Know".

On this occasion we would also like to remind the commitments that we have made through Article 19 of Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Interim Constitution 2007 to ensure the right to Freedom of Expression. Keeping in mind the degrading situation of Press Freedom, Freedom of Expression and Right to Information in Nepal, we would like to appeal the government, political parties and other stakeholders to work for its protection and fulfillment of national and international obligations.

Freedom of information is the cornerstone of all other human rights and plays pivotal role for the open and transparent government. Similarly, it enhances the participation of citizens in the governance. Democratic participation and government transparency depend on people who are well informed and freedom of information paves the way to obtain information. Despite the constitutional guarantee and enactment of the Right to Information Act in 2007, implementation of this right is very poor.

Citizens' Campaign for Right to Information (CCRI) has initiated advocacy and awareness program for effective implementation of the Right to Information. Under this we are providing trainings to Public Information Officers as well as to the general public; producing radio programs; and have published different advocacy materials. Continuing our efforts, we would like to announce that we have established a 'Legal Support Desk'. With this Desk we aim to support individuals and agencies facing problems on the issues of Freedom of Expression and specially, Right to Information. We support in application filing under Right to Information Law and litigation support afterwards, where necessary. Legal Support Desk has started providing legal support to National Information Commission, Nepal and other individual information seeker.

Having an understanding that to meet the spirits of international and national laws on Freedom of Expression and Right to Information a united voice and efforts are required, we would like to appeal both national and international community to work and expand their practices to meet it.

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(CCRI is registered with the District Administration Office, Kathmandu as a non-governmental organization)