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Submitted by: Community Self Reliance Centre (CSRC), National Land Rights Forum (NLRF) and Nepal Mahila Ekata Samaj (NMES).

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BACKGROUND

1. Community Self Reliance Centre (CSRC) is facilitating land and agrarian rights campaign together with landless and land-poor communities in Nepal. CSRC educates and organizes people who are deprived of their basic rights to land and empowers them to lead free, secure and dignified lives. CSRC has consistently strived to organize and raise consciousness amongst those deprived of land rights and build public opinion in favor of transformative land reform. CSRC's three decades of work on land rights across the country have produced positive impacts on the lives and livelihoods of landless, land poor and marginalized communities. NLRF is a people's organization uniting those who are deprived of their land rights – bonded laborers, tenants, the landless, farmers, *haruwa*, *charuwa* and small-scale farmers – and mobilizing them to action. Since its establishment in 2004, NLRF has been working towards its vision of a society where all land-poor families live dignified lives. Nepal Mahila Ekata Samaj (NMES) is a network organization of landless & informal settlement women scattered throughout 40 districts of Nepal campaigning from 2000. For the landless women's social, economic, political empowerment and the organization has meaningful participation in the local and national level programs and have been organizing similar programs to it. The organization's central and focused theme is the pain and injustice that the landless, and informal settlement women must face, working in this background and area the organization has been working particularly against the forced displacement and the patriarchal thoughts rampant in the working areas that bring injustice to women.
2. This report examines the current status, progress, and challenges concerning land rights in Nepal. It highlights key issues such as land tenure security for landless and informal settlers; exclusion of landless Dalits; unrealized tenancy rights; cases of forced eviction; and concerns surrounding housing rights, the right to food, and the situation of bonded laborers. The report also addresses matters concerning Indigenous Peoples and local communities of buffer zones, governance of land resources, women's land rights, and challenges faced by Guthi farmers. It incorporates previously issued recommendations (where applicable), assesses the present circumstances, and outlines actionable recommendations for future steps.
3. The previous UPR recommendations have primarily focused on women's land rights, while other pertinent areas remain unaddressed. Nepal has endorsed the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP). However, while Nepal's endorsement signals support for the principles laid out in UNDROP such as the rights to land, seeds, food sovereignty, and decent livelihoods implementation remains limited. There's still a gap between international commitments and domestic policy reforms, especially in areas like land tenure security, recognition of informal tenure arrangements, and protection of rural peasants' rights.

METHODOLOGY

4. This report is prepared through a wide range of sources, including community reports preparing directly work to them by the organisation, academic studies, published reports, books, government websites, and policy documents. Many of the case studies presented are drawn directly from the communities, reflecting the lived experiences of affected land-poor people. As a people's organization and a movement-based collective, our work is rooted in accountability to community members, whose voices remain central to our mission. Their grievances and challenges have been documented through extensive engagement and interactions from the field team. The data used in this report has been sourced either from official government publications or collected independently by our member organizations. It is developed through our collaborative networks and sustained field efforts. The commitment of our organization and field teams, combined with shared information, facilitated effective coordination among the three participating organizations. Our work has been further strengthened by regular field visits, a well-established network structure, and ongoing dialogue, including validation workshops with key stakeholders. These collective efforts created an environment for meaningful exchange and evidence-based contribution to the report.

RIGHT TO ADEQUATE HOUSING

5. Adequate housing for all continues to remain one of the human rights and development challenges in Nepal. As revealed by UN-Habitat's Nepal: Urban housing sector profile, about 10% of people who do not currently have a legally recognized right to the house or land they occupy. Soaring land prices and increasing rural-urban migration have made it difficult for those living in poverty to afford adequate housing, especially in the fast-growing urban areas. There exists a government-run Nagarik Awas Karyakram (People's Housing Program) initiated from 2009. However, its coverage is limited in terms of geography and beneficiaries (Dalits and Muslims households living in poverty and Indigenous Peoples on the verge of extinction).
6. As housing finance offered by banks and financial institutions carries high interest rates, affordable housing is challenging for people living in poverty and with low income. Occurrence of natural disasters and impacts of climate change frequently exacerbate the housing problem in Nepal. According to the 'Multidimensional Poverty Index, 2022', 17.5% of the population is in multidimensional poverty and 17.8% is at risk. The 15th Five Year Plan has set a target of increasing the proportion of the population living in secure housing from 40% to 60%, which indicates that a large portion of the population is still without secure housing. Nepal's Right to Housing Act, enacted in 2018 to fulfill Article 37 of the Constitution, marked progress in securing housing rights. However, it falls short of international human rights standards due to inconsistencies like vague eviction protections

and missing key provisions such as definitions, homelessness prevention, rental policies, and tenure security. Crucially, necessary implementation rules remain undeveloped even seven years later, delaying effective enforcement.

RECOMMENDATIONS

8. The Government should expand the Housing Act to address root causes of homelessness and promote inclusive access to adequate housing for marginalized groups. Legislate clear eviction safeguards and ensure alternative housing or fair compensation for affected individuals. Guarantee safe land access for the landless through coordination between the land commission and local governments.

LANDLESS DALITS

9. The fundamental rights chapter of the Constitution, in Article 40(5), provides that “The State shall provide land on a one-off basis to the landless Dalits in accordance with law.” Given the importance of access to land in fulfilling the rights of communities who have been traditionally discriminated against in a largely agrarian society, Article 40(5) also contributes towards fulfilling the purpose of the right to live with dignity. However, to operationalize this right, there must be a legal definition of landless Dalits, a set of criteria to identify landless Dalit families, determination of the quantum of land necessary to protect landless Dalit families from hunger, poverty and vulnerability to human rights violations, and prescribed procedures for distribution of land. Though the Constitution guarantees equality, freedom, and dignity for all, these rights are yet to be fully realized by Dalit communities (Nepal Human Rights Yearbook 2025, INSEC). The majority of Landless Dalits reside in the Madhesh Province. Only one third of the government offices have started work on the data collection of landless Dalits for receiving land. Some communities such as the Musahar communities do not have citizenship certificates (CSRC field visit report 2025,
10. Organizations working in land rights need better collaboration for meaningful progress. In Madhesh, discrepancies in data collection risk excluding landless Dalits and squatters, requiring verification and inclusion. Errors in forms highlight the need for thorough checks, while district-wide awareness and ward-level mapping are essential for structured planning. The absence of citizenship among some landless Dalits risks their exclusion, requiring targeted inclusion measures. Local governments must speed up the Identification, Verification and recording process, working with district committees to ensure fair representation. After formation of National Land Issue Resolving Commission (NLIRC) in October 2024, 10, 543 landless Dalits; 16617 Sukumbasi; and 191214 informal settlers' data has been collected and recorded from all seven provinces and seventy-seven districts of Nepal. (data received from NLIRC, June 2025)

11. Laxman Nepali (name changed)

Kalika Rural Municipality, Rasuwa

“I am Laxman Nepali, from a family that has lived without land ownership for three generations. Despite residing on public land for over 30 years and repeatedly applying to various land commissions since 1991, we have not received a land ownership certificate. Every time a commission began processing our application, it was dissolved before completion, most recently in 2023. Nepal’s Constitution (Article 40 and 51) promises land and housing for landless Dalits and squatter communities, yet we remain deprived of those rights. Without ownership documents, we face many difficulties and are excluded from basic government services.

I respectfully request that the land we live on be officially registered and a Lalpurja provided to us.”

RECOMMENDATIONS

12. Nepal should ensure the right to food for landless Dalits and extremely poor communities by issuing ration cards until sustainable livelihoods are secured. It should also identify families at risk of food insecurity. Make adequate legal arrangements and take forward the implementation of the provisions to identify landless Dalits and provide them with land for housing as well as sustainable livelihood as promised under the Constitution. Define landlessness and provide an explicit criterion to identify the landless Dalits eligible to receive land from the government. Ensure legal clarity in terms of purpose, type and quantum of land to be provided for landless Dalits within an agreed time frame

RIGHT TO FOOD

13. The government has failed to implement legal frameworks that ensure and protect the right to food. Issues such as arable land lying fallow, lack of timely access to fertilizers and seeds, and the fragmentation of arable land for housing have contributed to increasing food dependency. Despite the potential for self-sufficiency in essential food items like rice, lentils, oil, fruits, and fish, the situation has not improved, and significant amounts of money continue to be spent on food imports. Migration has left large tracts of arable land in the villages unused. In the hilly districts of Karnali and Sudurpashchim provinces, recurring food shortages, difficulty in accessing food, and the state’s failure effectively manage food availability remain major concerns (Nepal Human Rights Year Book 2025, INSEC)
14. Nepal has committed itself to respect, protect and fulfil a wide range of human rights by ratifying most of the core international human rights treaties including the ICESCR. According to Article 11.1 of the ICESCR, “The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family,

including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions. The States Parties will take appropriate steps to ensure the realization of this right, recognizing to this effect the essential importance of international co-operation based on free consent.” Further, Article 11.2 lays down, “The States Parties to the present Covenant, recognizing the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger, shall take, individually and through international co-operation, the measures, including specific programmes, which are needed

15. The Constitution of Nepal (2015) not only inherits the right to food sovereignty from the Interim Constitution but also protects the right to food and freedom from hunger more comprehensively. Guarantees under Article 36 of the 2015 Constitution include: (1) Every citizen shall have the right to food; (2) Every citizen shall have the right to be protected from the state of being in danger of life from the scarcity of food; (3) Every citizen shall have the right to food sovereignty in accordance with law. As part of the right to health care, Article 35(4) guarantees the right to have access to clean drinking water and sanitation, which is recognized as essential to the realization of all human rights including the right to food. Nepal’s Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Act is a key law supporting access to adequate food and aligning with Sustainable Development Goal 2. It includes provisions for identifying and aiding food-insecure households, protecting farmers’ rights, mandating national food plans, establishing a public food supply system, and criminalizing actions that block access to essential foods, all recognized as positive steps by civil society groups.

RECOMMENDATIONS

16. Insert an explicit provision to clarify nature and forms of access to cultivable land (use rights, control rights, transfer rights, tenancies and communal holdings). Prioritize providing access to cultivable land to peasants and women peasants from Dalit communities and land-dependent Indigenous peoples such as Tharu. Implementation of acts and rules, protection of agriculture land

LEGISLATIVE REFORMS IN LAND GOVERNANCE/ CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL PROVISIONS

17. Since 14th April 2019, Nepal has undertaken a series of legislative reforms to strengthen land governance, enhance land use planning, and streamline the management of state land. The cornerstone of these reforms is the Land Act, 1964 AD which underwent its eighth amendment on 14th). 25, 442 Land certificates have been received in Nepal since 2019 (CSRC data).
18. Nepal’s land governance has evolved through progressive legal reforms. The Land Regulations of 1964 have been frequently updated to improve transparency and management. In 2019, the Land Use Act introduced a structured approach to land categorization for

sustainable planning. To implement it, Land Use Regulations were issued in 2022 and amended in 2023 and 2024. Additionally, the 2022 Policy on Registration, Use, and Leasing of Government Land amended in 2025, replaced the 2014 version, enhancing access, accountability, and efficient use of public land.

RECOMMENDATIONS

19. The government should train and equip local personnel, Raise awareness on land use policies, ensure resources and tools are available and involve communities in planning.

TENANCY RIGHTS (GUTHI)

20. Guthi, a traditional system of institutional land ownership, has created complex challenges in Nepal due to its religious and charitable associations. Characterized by absentee landlordism, it often leaves tenant farmers, known as Mohiyani, without legal recognition or protection. As a result, these tenants face recurring hardships, including evictions, low agricultural productivity, and systemic injustice. In response, many affected individuals and communities have organized protests, demanding equitable land reforms and legal acknowledgment of their rights. Tenant farmers from Swargadwari Guthi in Dang organized a major protest at Maitighar, Kathmandu from February 2 to March 24, 2025, concluding after an agreement with the Ministry of Land Management. Earlier, over 1,000 tenants staged peaceful 31-day protests in Dang in early 2024. As a result, the Guthi Corporation Act of 1976 is being amended, and the protest is currently suspended.

The key demands of the tenant farmers of the Swargadwari Guthi

21. Nepal should legally register land cultivated by tenant farmers under their ownership, especially the 406.36 hectares with established tenancy rights. Unpaid dues like *kut* and arrears should be permanently waived. The evicted tenants of private Guthi lands must have their rights reinstated and rent payments should be facilitated via local ward offices.

RECOMMENDATIONS

22. A comprehensive and accurate database on Guthi lands should be developed by the government. Local governments should actively monitor Guthi activities. The responsibility for managing and resolving issues related to Guthi lands should be taken seriously by government bodies.

CONFLICTS IN BUFFER ZONE AREAS

23. IPs, Dalits and Local Communities living near the National Park and buffer zones have problems related to land, forest, water and livelihoods. The Chitwan National Park and

Bardiya National Park and their respective Buffer Zones are part of a network of Protected Areas system, which consists of 12 National Parks, 1 Wildlife Reserve, 1 Hunting Reserve, 6 Conservation Areas, and 13 Buffer Zones extending from lowland Terai to high mountains, covering 23.39 % of the total country's territory. Buffer zones of Chitwan and Bardiya National Parks (CNP & BNP) face deep gender and social inequalities, especially among Indigenous and marginalized women. Over 60% of households heavily rely on forests, but climate change is intensifying their vulnerability through erratic weather, habitat loss, and rising wildfire risks. Conservation-linked opportunities like eco-tourism often benefit elites, while local communities face poverty, insecure land tenure, and poor services. Non-inclusive conservation planning and unequal benefit-sharing worsen the struggles of those most impacted. (Conservation vs. Conflict: Land Struggles in Buffer Zones of Chitwan and Bardiya National Park in Nepal)

RECOMMENDATIONS

24. The state must enact comprehensive and urgent reforms that are necessary. The state must provide the residents with the dignity of a home in the place where they were born, raised, and have lived their entire lives.

TENANT FARMERS (MOHI)

25. The mohi (tenant farmer) issue in Nepal remains complex and largely unresolved, despite decades of land reform efforts. The Land Act of 1964 initially granted tenant farmers the right to claim 50% ownership of the land they cultivated. However, amendments in the late 1990s and early 2000s significantly restricted those rights, often excluding tenants who were unaware or unable to register their tenancy within short timeframes. Many tenants remain unregistered or have informal arrangements that aren't legally recognized, leaving roughly a quarter of land parcels in legal uncertainty. Dual ownership between landlords and tenants still persists, and legal cases to establish tenant rights are often delayed for years. Though the Ministry of Land Management has formed a dedicated unit to resolve mohi-related disputes, implementation on the ground remains uneven. Some local governments have attempted to mediate agreements, but these efforts lack national-level coordination. Meanwhile, many tenant farmers, particularly continue to live without ownership or security (Tenants and Tenancy, State and Assessment, CSRC, ILC and CDS, May 2021).
26. Millions of families in Nepal remain landless due to a range of issues, including informal settlements, trust lands (birta, guthi), tenancy (mohi), bonded labor (haruwa-charuwa, kamaiya, kamlari), and unmanaged habitation. Even families currently using land often lack legal ownership. The legal provisions related to land rights are not being effectively implemented. Many farmers who depend on agriculture do not own the land they cultivate,

while some landowners leave their land fallow. Laws intended to end dual ownership and protect farmers' interests remain largely on paper.

27. The amended (A2) of Section 15 is problematic in the context of tenancy rights. This empowers the government to delist any tenant from the list of tenants if any fact comes to light from any source that the tenant has no longer cultivated the land without specifying a period of time. This does not require taking into account whether the tenant had voluntarily left to cultivate the land. As there is no requirement to follow a due process of inquiring into why the respective tenant was not cultivating the land, such a provision can be easily misused to bypass the tenancy right

RECOMMENDATIONS

28. The government must urgently and decisively resolve the pending issues surrounding tenancy rights (Tenants and Tenancy, State and Assessment, CSRC, ILC and CDS, May 2021). Remove the provision that allows the authorities to delist the tenant from the official record of tenants simply referring to the fact that the tenant no longer cultivates the land without due process.

WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS

29. The previous UPR recommendation was to expedite the appointment of a commissioner on women's rights and provide the National Women's Commission with a complaint mechanism and the authority to issue binding rulings (Guyana). The Commissioner has now been appointed. Women's land rights in Nepal have witnessed measurable progress in recent years, yet deep-rooted structural, cultural, and administrative barriers continue to limit meaningful access and control. The Constitution of Nepal (2015) enshrines equal property rights, granting daughters the same inheritance rights as sons. To support this constitutional mandate, the government introduced land registration tax incentives, offering women a 25–50% discount when land is registered in their name. These financial incentives have been especially impactful in encouraging joint land registration, particularly among married couples.
30. The Joint Land Ownership Campaign through CSRC has led to 10, 493 joint land ownership certificates till date. Additionally, legal reforms and policy directives have ensured mandatory inclusion of women in land use planning committees and local land governance bodies, increasing their participation in decision-making spaces (National Land Policy, 2019).
31. Despite these achievements, access to land by women remains uneven in practice. According to the Nepal Land Information System (NELIS, 2023), while 46.4% of land parcels are registered in women's names, many of these are either small in area or shared under joint

ownership, limiting their use as economic assets. Moreover, only 20.8% of adult women have secure rights over agricultural land, compared to 42.9% of men (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2023).

32. Cultural norms continue to play a constraining role, particularly in rural areas where patriarchal attitudes discourage land registration in women's names. Many women, especially women who have lost their spouses and single women, struggle to assert their legal rights due to the lack of necessary documentation, such as citizenship or marriage certificates, and limited legal literacy (Legislative provisions regulating women's access and ownership of land and property in Nepal, IOM, 2016).
33. These barriers are further compounded by institutional inefficiencies, with complex procedures at land offices dissuading many from initiating or completing land-related transactions. Despite legal frameworks ensuring gender equality, actual practice is still far from equitable. Women without land are often economically dependent on male relatives, which limits their agency and resilience, especially in crises.
34. At 74, Sita BK (name changed) finally became a landowner after a lifetime of struggle. Once landless and labeled a "jungle person," she and her husband built a life from scratch in Setapani, Nawalpur. In 2024, after years of hardship and persistence, Ani and 90 other Dalit families received land certificates, granting them long-overdue security and dignity. Her sons also gained land, and Ani's only regret is that her late husband didn't live to see their triumph.

RECOMMENDATIONS

35. The government should simplify land registration procedures and ensure the availability of necessary documents, like citizenship and marriage certificates are vital steps toward accessibility. The government must also implement awareness campaigns in local languages and mobilize paralegal support networks to assist women through bureaucratic processes. Local governments should prioritize the identification and support of landless or vulnerable women ensuring they are not overlooked in land redistribution or settlement programs.

HARAWA CHARAWA

36. Nepal's Constitution strictly prohibits human trafficking and bonded labor, ensuring no one is subjected to forced labor. It mandates the state to rehabilitate marginalized groups like Kamaiya, Kamlari, Haruwa, Charuwa, Haliya, landless individuals, and squatters by

providing housing, land, or employment, laying a strong foundation for their liberation and dignified reintegration

37. According to report “Tied Hands” by CSRC and Forum Asia, around 60,000 Haliya and over 70,000 Haruwa–Charuwa families were living in bonded labor in Nepal’s eastern Terai. Though the government formally abolished the Haruwa–Charuwa system in July 2022, no rehabilitation or livelihood support was provided to the freed families, leaving them vulnerable despite the legal declaration.
38. Despite limited budget allocations by local and provincial governments, support for Haruwa–Charuwa and Madhesi Dalit families remains inadequate. Freed individuals have yet to receive identification cards, essential services, or reintegration programs, and efforts lack a coordinated national approach.

RECOMMENDATIONS

39. Make fallow land private, public, or institutional available to landless and bonded laborers for at least five years at low rent. Mandate the government to assess and address land access for freed Kamaiyas and Haliyas, and include Kamalaris, Haruwa, and Charuwa in land distribution schemes. Facilitate citizenship, land ownership, and rehabilitation for Haruwa–Charuwa communities still suffering post-emancipation.

LAND TENURE SECURITY

40. Land tenure security is essential for achieving food sovereignty in Nepal. The Land Reform Act of 1964 initially supported the rights of tenants by recognizing the tenancy system and granting long-term access to land. However, in 1997, the government abolished these provisions in an effort to eliminate dual ownership between landowners and tenants. This reform was never fully completed, which discouraged both parties from making agricultural investments due to lingering uncertainty. Sharecropping remains a widespread tenure arrangement, but it suffers from a lack of legal protection, as agreements are often informal and unwritten. A total of 1, 31, 504 HHs are involved in agriculture, but do not possess land, this means these households are supposed to be involved in sharecropping or renting other's land (National Census of Agriculture 2021/22) Such farmers’ livelihood source is sharecropping, informal tenancy.
41. This allows landowners to end the arrangement at any time, undermining the stability and motivation of sharecroppers. As a result, many cultivable plots are left fallow, posing serious threats to Nepal’s agricultural productivity and food security. Various national and international companies are now interested in and investing in agricultural land, due to which the small farmers are now suffering. Since there is no agreement between the owners and the farmers, there remains the fear of eviction all the time. The interest of third parties such as

the company also leads to food insecurity as they tend to use the land haphazardly ignoring the seasonal agricultural production of crops.

42. Agriculture sustains nearly two-thirds of Nepal's population but was heavily disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns. The sector lacks a unified legal framework, leaving governance to fragmented directives across government levels. Despite widespread agricultural engagement, food security remains fragile, Nepal ranks 147th in the Human Development Index and 73rd in the Global Hunger Index with serious malnutrition rates. Land access is uneven, with most households owning less than what's needed for food security, worsening the crisis.
43. Nepal's Constitution outlines three interconnected state obligations regarding land access for marginalized and discriminated peasants. First, Article 40(5) mandates that land be provided on a one-off basis to landless Dalits in accordance with the law. Second, Article 42(4), along with directives on social justice and inclusion, ensures peasants' right to access land for agricultural use. The state is tasked with identifying and rehabilitating freed bonded laborers such as Kamalari, Haruwa, Charuwa, tillers, landless individuals, and squatters by offering housing, residential plots, cultivable land, or employment. Third, Article 25(4) empowers the state to implement land reform for productivity enhancement, agricultural modernization and commercialization, environmental protection, and planned urban development. These reforms must end dual land ownership, discourage inactive holdings, and prioritize farmers' interests. Importantly, denial of economic, social, and cultural rights has historically contributed to Nepal's armed conflicts and social movements, making land reform a foundational issue.

Recommendations:

44. Local governments should establish and enforce policies that prevent national and international companies from acquiring agricultural land, safeguarding small farmers from eviction. They should also expand farmers' access to public land and prioritize redistributing unused or fallow land especially in hilly regions affected by migration to landless communities, including Dalits. Coordination with provincial and federal authorities is essential to facilitate equitable land use and address both hunger and land abandonment.

EVICCTIONS

45. From 12th to 14th July 2024, a field monitoring was jointly conducted in the areas of Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan City, Bhajani Municipality, Godawari Municipality, and Bhimdatta Municipality in Kailali and Kanchanpur districts. The purpose was to assess incidents where landless and informal settlers—who had been residing in these areas for a long time—were forcibly evicted from their homes. The monitoring also examined the ongoing fear of further evictions and the condition of citizens affected by displacement (press conference in Dhangadhi, July 2024, jointly conducted by Amnesty International Nepal, CSRC, Nepal Mahila Ekata Samaj, Justice and Rights Institute Nepal, JuRI Nepal, Raju Chapagain, Senior Human Rights Lawyer, INSEC).

46. According to the delegation, out of the 13 families evicted from the settlement in the old airport area of Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan City on June 23, 2024, nine families—along with over a hundred others—were forcibly removed from the nearby community forest and surrounding areas on June 24, 2024, with the involvement of the Bhajani Division Forest Office. Lacking any alternative housing, these families have been forced to set up tents and take shelter in the same area. As a result, they are now facing a humanitarian crisis marked by homelessness, food insecurity, and health problems.

Current Update of the residents

47. Residents of Hasanpur faced repeated evictions despite promises from local authorities to cover rent for three months and allocate land through the Land Issues Resolving Commission. These commitments were not fulfilled, leaving families to seek shelter with relatives or improvise temporary housing.

48. On 8 May 2012, the Nepalese government evicted 994 people including 401 children from 248 homes and a school in Thapathali, Kathmandu, as part of the Bagmati River corridor project. Residents were removed without time to gather belongings, prompting public outcry. A decade later, in November 2022, new eviction notices were issued, again targeting informal settlers, this time coinciding with the national elections. The community continues to live in fear of displacement. (NMES field report, 2022)

49. In Bhajani, nearly 100 individuals faced harassment from the Forest Division. Despite some residents being detained, they refused to abandon the area. To this day, they continue to reside there, surviving in temporary shelters they have constructed themselves, in the absence of any viable alternatives (based on the conversations with the members of the District Land Rights Forum Kailali).

50. The Land Issues Resolving Commission sincerely urges all parties not to engage in actions such as displacing anyone without an alternative, depriving them of housing and land rights, alienating them from their livelihoods, or forcibly evicting them until the process of identifying and managing landless Dalits, Sukumbasi, and informal settlers - as defined by the eighth amendment to the Land Act. Furthermore, the commission requests positive contributions to quickly bring these issues to a legitimate conclusion by providing appropriate cooperation in the identification and management process. (reference- From the LIRC press release (Land related Act Amendment 2075 states that the Landless Dalits need to be provided land within three years).

51. In Siraha District's Lahan Municipality (Ward 1), the landless Dalit community of Matiharwa—primarily from the Ram and Sadaya groups faces increasing threats from both municipal authorities and dominant caste elites (notably Chaudhary). Roughly 100 households, comprising around 1,910 people (90% Madhesi Dalits), have been living under constant fear of eviction.
52. Tensions escalated after a nearby road was built, with landowners labeling the community's homes as "grumpy houses" and demanding eviction. Residents faced repeated forced removals, including the arrest of a man with a disability, while women struggled to safeguard their homes. Despite lacking alternative shelter, families returned and expressed willingness to relocate if provided with suitable housing. This was observed during a field visit by NMES on 28 October 2024.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

53. Forced evictions must be completely stopped unless proper alternatives and arrangements are ensured. So, if there will be absence of alternatives then '*No Eviction*' statement has to be declared by the government. The state has made constitutional and legal provisions to allocate land to landless Dalits and informal settlers as a one-time measure. The government must make the legal provisions accessible and straightforward.

54. Enact the "Farmers' Empowerment and Agriculture Promotion Act" to fulfil the following objectives:

- *Achieve self-reliance in food through farmer empowerment and promotion of agriculture.*
- *Regulate subsidies, discounts and concessions in the agriculture.*
- *Create legal basis for marketing of agricultural product and development and operation of farmer oriented agricultural market system.*
- *Ensure farmers' access to arable land, other productive resources and agricultural infrastructure.*
- *Protect farmers from exploitative practices including middlemen (Broker), sharecropping (Adaiya Bataiya).*
- *Provide a legal basis for operationalization of minimum support price system and ensure certain level of income security to the farmers.*
- *Restructure the incumbent Farmer's Commission into a Federal Farmer's Empowerment Commission entrusted with the statutory mandate to provide policy advice to the government on agricultural development and promotion of farmers' rights.*
- *To guide the farmer's right to choose and to participate in decision making process related to the agricultural system.*
- *Make three tiers of governments responsible towards paying special attention to protect the rights and interests of the farmer and empower them by making.*

- *Provide a legal environment to secure the status of food self-sufficiency in the country by regulating import and export of agricultural products.*

CONCLUSION

55. Based on constitutional provisions to end dual ownership and absentee landlordism, issues related to *birta*, *guthi*, and *mohi* systems must be resolved immediately. Farmers who are cultivating land should be granted land ownership certificates unconditionally. Article 37 of the Constitution guarantees the right to housing, stating that every citizen shall have access to appropriate housing. However, since landless Dalits and informal settlers do not own land, the state has repeatedly carried out forced evictions against them. The issue of landlessness must be addressed with greater protection, and evictions without alternatives must be explicitly prohibited. The state must prioritize skill-based training, grant programs, livelihood support, employment generation, and targeted health insurance for landless, Dalit, and marginalized communities to promote inclusive development and social equity.

ANNEX 1

This joint contribution has been prepared by the following organizations and persons, with their emails (by alphabetical order):

1. Community Self Reliance Centre (CSRC) landrights@csrcnepal.org
2. National Land Rights Forum (NLRf) lyam.nlr@gmail.com
3. Nepal Mahila Ekata Samaj (NMES) bhagavati.ed.nmes@gmail.com

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