



**HUMAN RIGHTS  
AND JUSTICE CENTRE**



**ANNUAL  
ACTIVITY  
REPORT**

**FY 2022-2023**

Dear friends,  
Namaste!

As we reflect on the events of this year, Nepal grapples with significant challenges in the realms of human rights and justice. The uncertain fate of the proposed bill for amending the Enforced Disappearances Enquiry, Truth and Reconciliation Commission Act (TRC Act, 2014), has left victims in a state of uncertainty. The political shifts, while ushering in change, have perpetuated the continuous underrepresentation of minority groups. This hampers their influence in decision-making, despite them being the majority of victims of gross human rights violations. Instances of presidential pardons and promotions within law enforcement agencies reveal a troubling pattern of impunity, further complicating these challenges.

Amidst these obstacles, HRJC has unwaveringly pursued its mission for justice and accountability throughout the year. With the goal of fostering collaboration and raising awareness about gross human rights violations, HRJC expanded its outreach activities across different provinces of Nepal. This included a local program designed for the general public, reaching a diverse audience through a singular event. Recognizing the importance of early intervention to educate individuals about gross human rights violations, we conducted legal briefings for law students. Additionally, HRJC opened a social media account to facilitate partnerships and broader engagement from individuals of all backgrounds and geographic locations.

To address legal gaps related to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV) issues in Nepal, HRJC recognized the importance of comprehending the legal framework for redressing past violations against CRSV victims. Consequently, we analyzed Supreme Court verdicts, culminating in the publication of a report titled "Judicial Perspective on Cases of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence: A Study of the Case Laws of the Supreme Court of Nepal."

These accomplishments stand as a testament to the invaluable support we've received. On behalf of the HRJC team, we express our deepest gratitude to the resilient victims who have demonstrated unwavering tenacity in the pursuit of justice. To our dedicated well-wishers, your pivotal role in advancing our mission for accountability and justice is truly appreciated. Your enduring support has been our guiding force, and we look forward to your continued alliance in the years to come. Let's work together to create a future that prioritizes accountability, transparency, and respect for human rights.



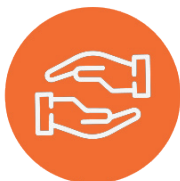
**Kapil Aryal**  
Chairperson



**Salina Kafle**  
Executive Director

Human Rights and Justice Centre (HRJC) is a non-governmental organization, which improves access to justice for victims of human rights violations in Nepal, such as torture, enforced disappearances, extrajudicial executions, and sexual violence. Registered in Nepal since 2017 and based in Lalitpur, it was founded with the support of TRIAL International, a Geneva-based NGO specializing in seeking justice for survivors of mass atrocities.

## CUMULATIVE IMPACT SINCE 2017



**43**

Victims of gross human rights violations received legal assistance.



**377**

Lawyers, human rights defenders, law students, and NGO representatives trained.



**32**

Cases submitted and followed up before national legal avenues and the UN human rights mechanisms.



**20**

advocacy reports submitted to national bodies and the UN human rights mechanisms.

## Thematic Areas

Extrajudicial killings



Enforced disappearances



Conflict-related sexual violence



Torture\*\*



*\*\*Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment*



Our mission is to create a culture of human rights compliance and accountability in Nepal and act as a catalyst for social change based on the principles of justice and substantive equality. We envision a just society where there is easy accessibility to justice for the victims of human rights violations and abuses.

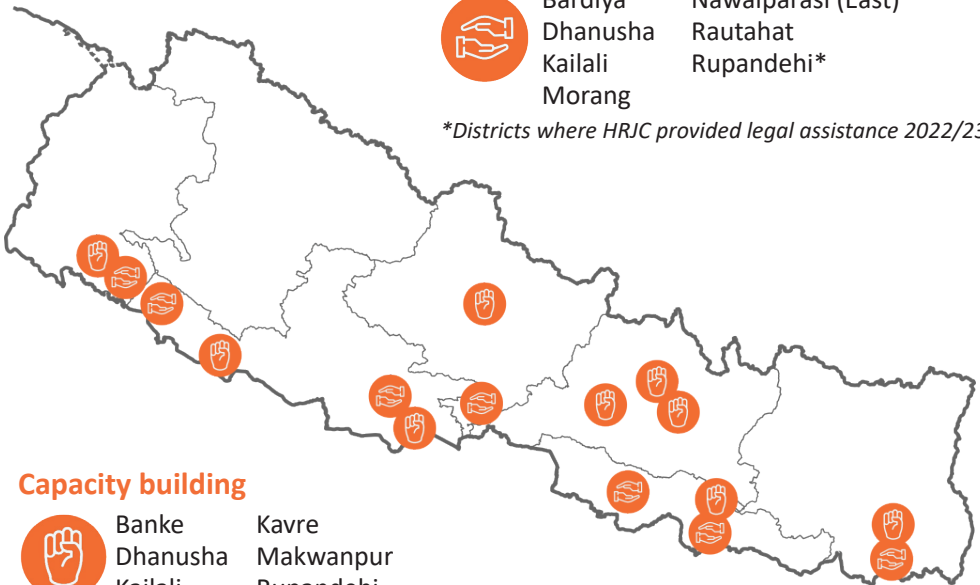
## CUMULATIVE REACH SINCE 2017

### Legal assistance



Bardiya      Nawalparasi (East)  
Dhanusha      Rautahat  
Kailali      Rupandehi\*  
Morang

*\*Districts where HRJC provided legal assistance 2022/23*



### Capacity building



Banke      Kavre  
Dhanusha      Makwanpur  
Kailali      Rupandehi  
Kaski      Kathmandu\*

*\*Districts where HRJC conducted capacity building activities in 2022/23*

*“There is a huge interest from students to learn more about the transitional justice process in Nepal and understand the existing legal, political, and social complexities on TJ and the way forward”*

**Salina Kafle, HRJC’s Executive Director** *impression from her session at the ‘Voices from the Ground’ series, Geneva Academy.*

## Bridging Legal Gaps: Empowering Future Legal Leaders Through Thematic Legal Briefings on Gross Human Rights Violations

### Background:



Established in 2016, HRJC has consistently led the charge in nurturing the potential of young lawyers. The program, "The International Human Rights Litigation Coaching for Lawyers," spans six to eight months, equipping legal professionals with practical skills in both international and domestic litigation. Guided by expert trainers and HRJC staff, 51 lawyers have enhanced their expertise in international human rights litigation and the complexities of gross human rights violations.

### Identifying Challenges:



Within this initiative, HRJC uncovered a significant knowledge gap among participants, especially in understanding gross human rights violations during the internal armed conflict (1996-2006) and its aftermath. Young coaching lawyers face barriers in accessing educational resources, impacting their understanding of international standards and Nepal's obligations. This is more acute in regions with ongoing human rights violations, especially outside the capital, Kathmandu.

### Proposed Solution:



In response to this critical need for early intervention in legal education, HRJC introduced an innovative initiative in 2022—legal briefings. These sessions aim to educate law students about gross human rights violations, fostering engagement in discussions on transitional justice, the complexities involved, and the implementation of decisions by legal authorities. In the past year, HRJC successfully conducted legal briefings for 52 law students across two provinces in Nepal.

HRJC's outreach aims to inform aspiring legal professionals about violations through a free legal briefing program. The program, accessible and free of charge, eliminates financial barriers, and HRJC's staff actively engage with students during college visits, fostering discussions on vital human rights topics. With the rise of law courses in Nepal's universities, HRJC plans to expand its legal briefing initiatives, reaching law students in diverse provinces to promote collaboration, awareness, and a passion for championing human rights in Nepal's legal landscape.

**LEGAL ASSISTANCE**

18

**Legal counselling** provided in 2022/23 to victims of gross human rights violations



- 2 Cases litigated** by HRJC before national bodies in 2022/23
- 2 Strategic litigations** before national legal avenues
- 1 Case litigated** by HRJC before international bodies in 2022/23
- 1 Complaint** to the national authorities



**Banke and Rupandehi**  
Districts of the victims

**ADVOCACY**



**3 International webinars** with a representative of the UN human rights mechanisms



**1 workshop** with quasi-judicial bodies on implementing decisions of the UN Human Rights Committee.



**1 report** published on the thematic area of gross human rights violations.



**2 panel discussions and 1 local radio program** on thematic issues of gross human rights violations and implementation of the UN Human Rights Committee

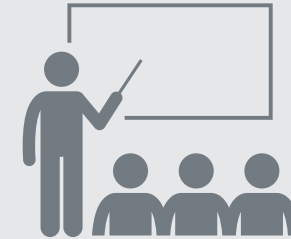


**4 strategic closed-door meetings** with national authorities on implementing decisions of the UN Human Rights Committee

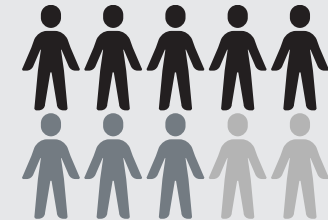


**4 comprehensive reports** submitted to national bodies and UN human rights mechanisms.

**CAPACITY BUILDING**



**1 six-month coaching and 1 two-day training on international human rights litigation** for lawyers and **4 legal briefing** for law students



**Beneficiaries:**  
**16 lawyers and 53 law students**



**Districts:**  
Kathmandu, Kaski and Kavre districts

# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

HRJC's impact in 2022/23 is made possible by the generous support of MISEREOR and TRIAL International. Thanks to the donors.

31% HRJC/TRIAL International

69% MISEREOR

**NPR 11,706,342.22**

**Total revenue**

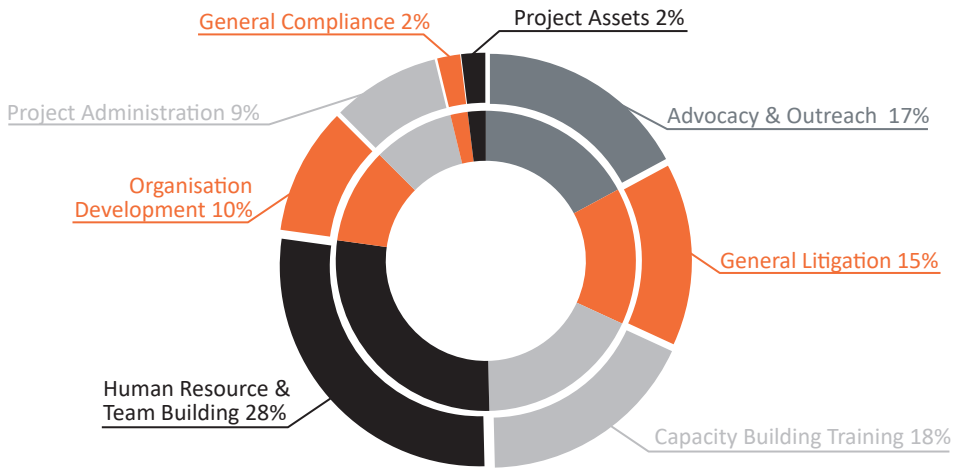
**2022/23**

**NPR 8,644,536.48**

**Total expenses**

**2022/23**

## 2022/23 Expenditure overview



### SUPPORT OUR WORK! DONATE!

Human Rights and Justice Center  
Sunrise Bank Ltd  
0020388247701001

### VISIT US

Jwagal-10, Kupondole,  
Lalitpur, Nepal

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