

**A concept note on
INVITING PEACE BY CHILDREN...**

LONGEST PAINTING IN THE WORLD

ON PEACE AND CHILD RIGHTS BY CHILDREN

*Smiles in the face of every child, movement without fear and environment for overall development
respecting their best interests; we aspire for it.*

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE

Ratifying UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), global community has shown their commitment in ensuring rights of children. Additionally, ratification of the optional protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict has heightened the commitment of global community against the involvement of children in hostilities and conflicts. The Government of Nepal has also provided its commitment on both however; a decade long conflict had an unforgettable degrading impact to all Nepalese, particularly children. Physically, mentally, psychologically and socially, children had the retarding effect. Many children died while in war, many became disabled and those displaced from their community are still unable to be reintegrated.

In global scenario, in many countries, there isn't the environment of peace and children are directly being affected by conflict. Scenario in Congo, as for evidence, is pathetic where children are directly involved in hostilities. Apart, girl child are prone to abuse, most prominently sexual abuse. Moreover, in the developed countries, cases of violence are increasing and children have become the core victims. In different circumstances, children are unable to survive in peaceful environment and their rights are violated. Ultimately, the best interests of child are not respected.

The significance lies in creating a protective environment to children from conflicts, violence and exploitation that ensure child rights and enhance peace campaign. Awareness and sensitization to the global community can play a prominent role in this regard. Additionally, if it could be done in the meaningful participation of children portraying their aspiration; it would be more pressurizing and making the stakeholders more accountable and responsible. Painting is one of the prominent means in delivering issues related to peace and child rights. Thus, National Initiative for Peace and Child Rights, secretariat at Child Nepal (CN), in solidarity with government agencies, child rights organizations, coalitions and networks has taken initiation in organizing **THE LONGEST PAINTING IN THE WORLD FOR PEACE AND CHILD RIGHTS BY CHILDREN.**

OBJECTIVES

Share message on peace and child rights and sensitize global stakeholders

Defining peace and child rights is challenging since they are the holistic terminologies and encompass manifold entities. Non-violence, harmony, solidarity are the primary fundamentals for peace while child rights concern with all those universal and inalienable rights incorporating the spectrum of human rights-civil, political, economic, social and cultural- that applies to all children and young people under the age of 18. Both the issues of peace and child rights are globally recognized and tremendous endeavors have been put into action in promoting them. However, the scenario is worst in both the issues- wars are still continuing and affecting people, political violence and interference, children being deprived from their basic rights etc. The painting portraying such scenario in Nepal's context will be prepared by the children aspiring for peace and ensured child rights that will be exhibited with wider media mobilization. Since, the painting depicts the collective pressurization and aspiration for peace and child rights from grassroots to international strata that shall ultimately sensitize and tend to be responsible to all the stakeholders.

Promote the message of "Children as Zones of Peace "and protecting children from violence

Children should be made free from any type of violence and forced involvement in such practices should be ceased which is against their rights. However, children are the key victim of violence and conflicts since they are immature mentally, physically, socially and psychologically. The UNCRC-article 38 has provided the rights to protection from armed conflicts and involvement in hostilities. Additionally, UN has adopted the optional protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict in 2000. In the context of Nepal, children had been the core victim during the 10 years long conflict. The civil society movement "Children as Zones of Peace" initiated during the insurgency period with the objective to protect children from the involvement in armed conflict. However, in the post conflict scenario also it places the prominent value in protecting children from different types of violence. So, the painting will be one of the prominent means in disseminating the message of Children as Zones of Peace

TIME FRAME

Inception : 21th Nov 2010
Painting Duration : 10 years

TARGET AUDIENCE OF PAINTING

The campaign is planned in an inclusive nature. So, Children representing from schools, child clubs, rehabilitation centers of street children, children with disabilities, and conflict victim children are the core target audience of this campaign.

METHODOLOGIES/APPROACHES

Child participation

The painting is planned to be prepared in the child participatory approach where they will portray the pictures for this campaign. More than 20000 children will directly participate in the painting. Objectives orientation of the campaign will be shared to the children before being involved in it. This will create a scenario to paint in a thematic basis- "Peace and child rights", which is the major concern of the campaign. It will further enhance in promoting meaningful child participation.

Youth mobilization

The issue of child rights and peace is also the concern of youth and they will be mobilized from the inception of this campaign. They will be oriented about the objectives of the campaign along with the techniques related to painting. Particularly, the BSW trainees studying in various Social Work Colleges will be mobilized in this regard. They will visit the schools to conduct the orientation among the children and teachers and conduct the overall painting activity in the schools.

Mobilization of district concerned agencies

The campaign will be launched mobilizing the concerned district agencies (both governmental and non-governmental). The initiating organization shall coordinate with the district agencies for launching the program and making necessary arrangements.

International, National and local media mobilization

The campaign will have the impact from international to grassroots level so; media from international to local level will be mobilized for this cause. Regarding national and international media mobilization, media sponsors will be done with some prominent national Television, FM stations and newspapers. Additionally, the initiating organization will initiate partnership with one national television/FM/newspaper for official media partner. Further, local media will be mobilized for pre-

dissemination, while-dissemination and post-dissemination about the campaign in every painting spots of Nepal.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

Launching program

A formal launching ceremony of the campaign will be organized by the initiating organization cooperating with other different organizations working with children and peace along with the supporting agencies. Representatives from the government bodies particularly, Women, Children and Social Welfare Ministry and Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction, child related organizations, networks, child clubs, and schools will participate in the launching ceremony. The program will be organized on the occasion of **21st Int'l CRC Day on November 21st, 2010.**

Orientation workshop to Youths

An orientation workshop will be organized with a group of youths mobilized by the initiating organization to carry out the campaign throughout the country. The orientation deals with the objectives sharing of the campaign, methodologies, impact of the campaign along with the painting norms and techniques. More than 20 youths studying BSW in social work colleges of Kathmandu valley and out of valley will participate in this orientation workshop.

Orientation to children and adults

District level orientation will be organized among children and adults about the campaign in selected painting spots of Nepal. The orientation will have the representation from schools, child clubs, child homes, rehabilitation centers of street children, conflict victim children, children with disability so as to promote inclusiveness and meaningful participation of children. The orientation comprises the objectives sharing and need of the campaign by the youths mobilized by the initiating organization with the support from concerned district agencies. The required materials for painting will be shared to the children.

Painting by children

6500m long painting will be painted by children in all 75 districts of Nepal. The prepared painting will be exhibited in all the regions except Kathmandu after the painting is accomplished.

Painting collection

The initiating organization will collect all the paintings prepared from all the painting spots of Nepal and stitch them and prepare the longest painting on peace and child rights.

Mega Exhibition in Kathmandu

A mega exhibition ceremony of the longest painting will be organized in Kathmandu on the occasion of Int'l CRC Day. It will be a public program where all the organizations and government representatives will be invited to formally inaugurate the exhibition. The longest painting will be exhibited around *Tundikhel, Khulamanch* and *Ratna Park*. It will be open for public to view the paintings. Additionally, the initiating organization will put effort to participate all the children involved in painting from Central Development Region during the exhibition ceremony in Kathmandu. The initiating organization will put effort to participate all the children involved in painting during the regional exhibition from the relevant development regions.

Exhibition in SAARC Countries

The campaign has plan to exhibit the longest painting in all countries of SAARC region coordinating with embassies and relevant organizations.

COLLABORATIVE ACTION

The initiating organization anticipates the collaborative action with following agencies:

- Government ministries and bodies
- UN Agencies
- Bilateral Donors
- I/NGOs and their networks
- Corporate Sectors
- International, National and local media
- Professional artists/art networks and organizations

MAJOR AREAS OF SUPPORT AND COOPERATION

- Sponsor to launching ceremony, 5 major painting events and exhibition ceremonies.
- Management of canvass, paints and brushes, Banner
- Travelling cost (bus fare/air tickets)
- Hall management
- Promotion of the event through local, national and international media
- Snacks management for children and organizers during the event
- Management of remunerations for personals involved
- T-shirts/caps/bags for the program
- Media Advocacy (Program live, News dissemination, Documentary preparation)

EXPECTED IMPACTS

The campaign shall have a massive impact among its stakeholders from global to community level as follows:

Global stakeholders

1. United and coordinated for collective action in promoting child rights and peace initiatives.
2. Become a pioneer country in promoting child participation
3. Influenced and encouraged global political commitments and accountability

Nepal Government Policy making stakeholders

1. Sensitized policy making actors for positive law enforcement on child rights and peace
2. Motivated the policy maker and planners in child friendly government policies and programs

Non-state actors

1. Enhanced accountability and responsibility for promoting peace and lessening child rights violations
2. Sensitized to carry out strategic intervening programs on child rights violations and conflict management

Community stakeholders

1. Become aware about the essence of peace and child rights
2. Motivated towards community interventions towards conflict and child rights violation cases

Children

1. Enhanced child participation in promoting peace and child rights campaign
2. Portrayed experiences regarding conflicts and child rights violations encountered

Longest Painting for Children's Rights to Quality Education

Right to education is one of the prominent rights of children as enshrined by UNCRC and ensured by Government of Nepal. Quality education is the only means for children to be a competent citizen of the nation. However, in our context, there lies the access gap for quality education. Children from urban areas get easy access to quality education while rural children even do not have access to school. So, Nepali children are still far behind gaining education in enhancing their best interests.

Longest Painting national campaign advocates for children's rights to education in meaningful participation of children. Since the painting is focused in promoting child rights, children portray the gap in enjoying their education rights by themselves. Also, education thematic based painting events will also be conducted in different districts of Nepal which shall further help in portraying access gap among children in education. The paintings will be exhibited in all regional level and mega exhibition will be held in Kathmandu. Government representatives and wider public shall view the pictures which make them accountable in ensuring children rights in Nepal. Further, the painting will be nominated for Guinness Book of World Records which advocates children's rights to education in International strata. In addition, both national and international media coverage on painting events, case stories and children's experiences for their rights to education will be disseminated which also advocates in creating access towards quality education for children.

Longest Painting for Children's Rights to Health

There has been lot of child deaths due to lack of proper health services and access, particularly in rural communities of Nepal. Still Nepal has very high infant mortality rate which shows that government is still discarding children's rights to health. On the one hand, families are not aware about children's rights to health and on the other; there is no easy access to health services to children in rural communities as compared to urban areas. It is thus, very important to make government body and concerned line agencies accountable towards this issue.

Longest Painting provides platform for children to portray the paintings of their health rights. It includes access to free immunization/vaccination, medicines and other health services to children. In addition, children also portray the challenges they encountered for health services which can be their own or of their relatives or friends. There are lots of child deaths in different districts of Nepal due to ignorance and traditional beliefs- visiting witch doctors rather than in health centers for any sort of health problems, due to which children die due to very normal disease. So, the national campaign predominantly advocates for health rights of children.

Longest Painting to aware children on HIV and AIDS

HIV and AIDS is vulnerable to everyone and children can also be the prone of this incurable disease if they remain unaware about it. Pregnant mother having HIV will affect the newly born baby and the child does not get his/her rights to survive. In addition, children up to 18 years age are always vulnerable to HIV and AIDS since they involve in various hazardous activities and even immature sexual activities. It is thus significant to aware children about it.

Among the various issues on child rights, issue on HIV and AIDS will be prioritized by this national campaign. In Nepal more than 75000 people are HIV victims and among them 13000 are children as reported by UNICEF's "Increasing Vulnerability of Children in Nepal". So, painting events will be carried on HIV themes in different districts that shall make children themselves aware and also pressurize government bodies and other relevant agencies to be more accountable to control HIV infections among children in Nepal.