



# Ziviler Friedensdienst Civil Peace Service

... strengthens local and national potentials for peace in Nepal

The Civil Peace Service (CPS) has been active in Nepal since 2008 and is currently represented by four German organizations: Bread for the World, GIZ/ZFD, KURVE Wustrow and Peace Brigades International. Funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), they support the peace work of local partners by sending experts and fostering local activities. In their joint country strategy developed for 2021-2025, they have identified the following key strategic themes: Dealing with the past, equal participation of women and marginalized groups in political decision-making processes, strengthening the rule of law and implementing constitutionally guaranteed rights, and overcoming sexualized and gender-based violence. CPS Nepal works with national and international peace experts in cooperation with 20 Nepalese civil society organizations on the above topics.

## The areas of CPS work in Nepal

- Strengthening of women in peace work
- Dealing with the past and reconciliation work
- Peace education
- Theatre for conflict transformation
- Protection of human rights defenders and vulnerable groups
- Support of dialogue and mediation
- Integration of refugees
- Media work and conflict sensitive journalism

## The foundation of CPS work

- Civil conflict transformation
- Non-violence
- Focused on 'positive peace' building
- Civil society engagement
- Long-term cooperation with local partner organisations
- Secondment of professionals
- The CPS is an integral part of German-Nepalese development cooperation



KURVE Wustrow supports its partner organizations in strengthening the capacities of communities, local civil society, regional media, and government institutions for the active participation of women, Dalit, and minority groups in decision-making and social change processes. This includes the formulation and implementation of gender- and socially-inclusive policies. Furthermore, KURVE Wustrow assists partners in supporting survivors of the armed conflict and human rights violations to claim and exercise their rights with nonviolent means. They empower women and marginalized communities in peace work.

CPS/GIZ supports groups of victims and survivors of the conflict to develop their ideas for local memory work, raise their concerns with local government bodies and advocate for the implementation of transitional justice processes. It focuses on mainstreaming conflict transformation methods through capacity development (mediators, dialogue facilitators and trainers for non-violent communication). It promotes creative forms of conflict transformation and supports psychosocial services at the local level. It seeks to enable representatives of marginalized groups including women to amplify their voices about their concerns and to become increasingly involved in decision-making processes.



**giz** Deutsche Gesellschaft  
für Internationale  
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



Peace Brigades International (PBI) supports marginalized Women/Human Rights Defenders (W/HRDs) working for justice for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence and for minority rights. By creating regional and provincial networks, W/HRDs are provided a space for mutual learning and support. Capacity development on issues such as security, mental health, and collective advocacy, as well as mentoring programmes, provide them with the necessary skills and confidence to promote human rights. PBI and its partner organizations build bridges and collaborate with government stakeholders and the international community.

The CPS of Bread for the World supports its partners in establishing methods of non-violent conflict transformation on the community level. The partner organizations are strengthening the capacities of local civil society and government institutions for enhancing dialogue between social, ethnic and religious groups. They promote the participation of Dalit and women in negotiations about development and social change. Furthermore, partners support women and girls in protecting themselves from gender-based violence, making use of their rights and generating their own income. Additionally, Bread for the World supports trainings of journalists from small community radio stations in conflict sensitive journalism.



## STORY OF CHANGE

"After six months of skepticism, people have begun to recognize our contribution to the community," says one of the women peace facilitators. Another: "I was always forbidden to speak as a Dalit woman. Through the training, my ability to speak has completely changed." And another: "There was a big fight in the village about a wedding. By listening to all parties and making suggestions that took everyone's needs into account, we could settle the dispute." Nagarik Aawaz, a partner organization of KURVE Wustrow, has trained many such women, who themselves have experienced multiple forms of discrimination. That's why they are involved in their communities. Dhana Maya Mahato for example explains to a group of Tharu women how society is constructed. They then discuss gender-based violence and what they themselves can do to change it. The NGO has proven since the violent period, despite enormous odds, that it is always possible to resist violence, live values of nonviolence, and use creative means to contribute to peace.



Photo: Clemens Rossmann

## STORY OF CHANGE

Suman Basnet from Karnali Province is one of 31 Justice Reporters in 18 districts across Nepal who continue to amplify the stories and voices of women from the armed conflict. Justice Reporter is a survivor-to-survivor and women-to-women approach for oral history documentation in truth-telling and healing pioneered by The Story Kitchen (TSK) in 2015. Suman explains: "I like that by creating these safe spaces, we open the path to conflict-affected women's healing. We are not just collecting stories but are also helping turn tears into happiness and grief into strength." Of her own journey from being a conflict victim to being a Justice Reporter, she reminisces, "I am someone who has only passed grade three. When collecting and writing these stories, I felt like I had gotten another chance to study. The storytellers expressed immense happiness upon hearing the stories I wrote which chronicled both their pain and resilience. It made me realize that I can now write this well despite little formal education. I feel proud of myself."



Photo: Shaileshwori Sharma

## STORY OF CHANGE

The Peer Learning Network (PLN), an initiative of PBI's partner organisation COCAP, is empowering women and gender minorities in Madhesh Province on their transformation path from being victims towards becoming defenders. Therefore, the Peer Learning Network (PLN) has become a safe and supportive space for Women/Human Rights Defenders and survivors of human rights violations throughout Madhesh Province. By enhancing their skills on gender issues, holistic protection, networking, and advocacy, the PLN initiative is increasingly able to raise their concerns with relevant authorities and other stakeholders to empower women, increase their visibility in public discourse, and build trust within communities. While many of the women used to work in isolation, through the PLN they now receive mutual support and organize joint advocacy formats, such as on the occasion of International Women's Day and 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.



## STORY OF CHANGE

Nirmala, a 25-year-old from Nepal, endured a challenging life. Growing up in a struggling family, she worked as a housemaid and faced domestic violence after marriage. A man lured her into a trap, leading her to an Indian brothel where she suffered illnesses, including tuberculosis. A chance encounter with a fellow Nepali led to her rescue by Change Action Nepal, a partner of CPS Bread for the World. She reported her trafficker, emphasizing the need for harsh penalties and anti-trafficking education. Nirmala returned to Nepal, divorced her abusive husband, learned valuable skills, and obtained her citizenship with support from Change Action Nepal. She now works as a head at a safe house and serves as a board member.



## Partner organizations

- Women for Human Rights, Single Women Group
- Nagarik Aawaz
- Advocacy Forum
- Bikalpa Gyan Tatha Bikas
- Support Nepal
- Center for Dalit Women Nepal

## Working Focus

- Empowerment for rights of marginalized groups
- Support for dealing with the past, memorialization and non-repetition
- Enforcement of women's rights and overcoming gender based violence
- Capacity building in methods of conflict transformation and peace building

## Team

- 1 national
- 2 international (including coordinator)



## Partner organizations

- National Network of Disabled Conflict Victims and other victim and survivor groups
- All People's Development Centre
- Human Rights Forum Nepal
- Pro Public
- Kopila Nepal
- The Story Kitchen
- Mandala Theatre

## Working Focus

- Dealing with the past, memorialization
- Methods of conflict transformation (dialogue, theatre, non-violent communication)
- Peace education and conflict-sensitive media
- Mental health and psycho-social support
- Human rights

## Team

- 7 national
- 6 international (including coordinator)



## Partner organizations

- AMARC Asia-Pacific
- Change Action Nepal
- Interfaith Peace Federation Nepal
- Sansthaगत Bikas Sanjal
- United Mission to Nepal

## Working Focus

- Dialogue work and conflict-sensitive journalism
- Capacity building in project management
- Establishing local, national and regional networks
- Ending gender-based violence
- Women's empowerment and meaningful engagement in sustainable peace building
- Positive peace building

## Team

- 4 international (including part time coordinator)

**Brot**  
für die Welt

## Partner organization

- Collective Campaign for Peace
- Madesh Human Rights Home
- Advocacy Forum

## Working Focus

- Monitoring human rights violations and security incidents of human rights defenders
- Capacity building in protection strategies for human rights defenders
- Strengthening the voices of women and marginalized human rights defenders
- Ending gender- and caste-based violence
- Promotion of minority rights

## Team

- 1 international (coordinator)

**pbi**  
making space for peace