

A. STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Vision

Creation of an equitable and legally just society

Mission

LACC will be active in establishing rule of Law, strengthen law enforcement mechanisms and institutions, non-discrimination and inclusive, equitable society for women and children propagating human rights through Legal Aid, advocacy and empowerment

Goal

Protection and Promotion of human rights of women and children by eliminating all forms of exploitation, discrimination and violence.

Strategic Objectives

- ❖ Increase access to justice for sexual gender based violence and civil conflict related rights violations cases of women and children
- ❖ Reduce gender based violence.
- ❖ Improvement in policies and laws for gender equality and eliminate discriminatory laws by influencing legislative reform through drafting and forwarding proposed bills, and extensive lobbying.
- ❖ Increase awareness among policy makers, policy implementers on the rights of women and children and act accordingly
- ❖ Increase awareness among families, communities on the rights of women and children to change their behavior and to respect those rights
- ❖ Increase capacity of lawyers, activists, journalists, leaders and law students to develop expertise and pool of human resources
- ❖ Promotion of a culture of peace through reintegration of conflict affected women and children.
- ❖ Develop critical understanding of the role of law in women's lives through legal research and encourage and prepare women to play a leading role in Nepal's social and economic development

B. Working Strategy:

As a pioneer legal resource organization, it is dedicated to the advancement and empowerment of women, development of their socio-legal status and protection of child rights. LACC provides free institutional legal aid, counselling, mediation services and court representation to the needy women victim of domestic violence and other kind in seeking justice through legal and court procedures.

LACC is committed in achieving its aims through different areas covering policy intervention, human rights training, dissemination of legal information, sensitisation, documentation, fact-finding, research, publications, advocacy campaigns, lobbying, and networking. Besides these LACC has also been involved in drafting of legislative bills and legal publication activities. The organisation works in three levels:

1.1 Policy level

The organisation has been lobbying the Government to meet its obligations under international human rights instruments to which the Government of Nepal (GoN) is a signatory. Collaboration with like minded organisations to influence legislative reform and public policy, conduct research and providing legal inputs, guidance and recommendations to law makers, is yet other endeavour of LACC to pressurise Government for empowerment and equitable development.

1.2 Regional Level:

At the regional level, LACC undertakes its activities such as free legal aid, advocacy cum awareness programmes, sensitisation programmes, workshops, seminars and so on. The other main activity in regional level includes are training, research and publication.

1.3 Grassroots level:

LACC believes that unless and until the grassroots communities are empowered, real and equitable development is far to attain. Thus keeping the motto to uplift the standard of grassroots communities, LACC has been organising various activities from time to time. The activities LACC has been organising in grassroots level are - awareness raising for gender sensitisation, survey studies, Legal publications, Advocacy and training on equal property rights, Advocacy on Millennium development goals, Legal literacy and so on.

C. Our efforts:

Strengthening Access to Justice for poor and marginalize women (Women's Rights Helpline ("WRHP"))

LACC's service of free legal aid to women is provided through its nine helpline centers in districts of Jhapa, Dhanusha, Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Bhaktapur, Kaski, Banke, Surkhet and Kanchanpur. The free legal aid service contains legal counseling, mediation services, paralegal support and legal representation at various courts.

The Helpline directly provides legal advice to all clients and telephone callers. Depending on the seriousness of the cases survivors of sexual domestic violence are referred to the wide array of supportive services provided by the GO's and NGO's. Emergency services such as psychosocial counseling, medical treatment and shelter support are also offered to needy women. If a client faces extreme financial difficulties then financial assistance is also provided to precede the cases at courts.

Legislative Drafting and Advocacy for policy change

As part of its commitment to protect and promote the rights of women and children, LACC work for legislative reforms and formation of new public policies. It pursues this aim through direct involvement in the legislative drafting process: providing legal input, guidance and recommendations for lawmakers, as well as through advocacy activities.



LACC lobbies members of parliament, public policy advisors and government representatives to enact relevant gender friendly draft bills, abolish discriminatory laws, and meet its obligations under the international human rights instruments to which the Nepalese Government is a signatory.

Promoting women's role in peace building process

In this post conflict situation, LACC has been working for sustaining peace in the country. LACC

Interacts with peace committee at district and grass root level and works for capacitating the women members of these committee. Since, women's role in peace process at national level is insignificant, thus, LACC advocates for women's participation in peace building process at national level. LACC has conducted various workshops and sensitization programmes for policy level and implementing agencies at different districts of Nepal regarding implementation of National Action Plan on UNSCR's 1325 and 1820. At grass root level, LACC organizes awareness raising programme to local level community, women's groups and youth groups.

LACC's Chairperson- Associate Professor Shashi Adhikary is awarded with the 'N-Peace Award, 2013' as the 'Role model for peace' for her enduring contribution to maintain peace through her service to women and children in need.

Empowering women through leadership development

LACC has been working for empowering women for their better performance and their role is meaningfully justified. It is therefore imperative to expand the base of their knowledge and competence on women's rights, gender justice, and local development and the existing legal provisions and new amended laws. Only through such training and awareness programs, we can help these women leaders to be competent, develop leadership skills and come in par with their male counterparts so that they can influence the deliberations and decisions for securing maximum benefits for women and in favor of gender justice.

Ensuring women's meaningful participation and representation

The Interim Constitution 2007 provided 33% reservation for women candidates in every development mechanism of nation. These provisions have paved way for women in Nepal to reach at least the minimum level in the decision-making process. Thus, women have been elevated to a position that commands power and authority.

Consequently, they can now decide on critical issues affecting women. This has been a very encouraging move on the government's part, setting a new trend for advancement of women. LACC in this regard, advocate the government to implement and ensure the women's representation and participation in the decision-making level and every structure of state mechanism. .

Combating Human trafficking and Safe Migration

LACC works for combating human trafficking through various initiatives. In the policy, level it advocates and lobby for proper implementation of National Action Plan on Combating Human trafficking. In the recent days, migrations both internally and externally are being medium for human trafficking. Thus, LACC advocates for safe migration and works to minimize the risk of trafficking through mobilizing trained networks, strengthening their capacity, raising awareness and providing paralegal services to the survivors of human trafficking. LACC has a wide array of referral networks through which, the survivors are provided various basic services.

Working for : Inclusive Justice mechanism

LACC is working for strengthening the effectiveness, inclusivity and accountability of the formal justice sector in responding to the needs of the Nepali people, including vulnerable and marginalized groups. State justice services do not have sufficient outreach to remote, rural, and often conflict-affected districts to deal with the majority of legal infringements and disputes. Even in those locations where state justice mechanisms are active, the services on offer are rarely available on an impartial basis to all citizens, and there is a lack of clarity over the precise role of the state system in relation to non-state mechanisms for dispensing justice. Thus, LACC works for strengthening and creating relationships between the state and non-state justice sectors, based upon clarity and understanding of roles of each sector; LACC also works to strengthen the capacity of the non-state justice sector to advocate for, support and monitor a more effective, accessible and accountable state justice sector.

Sensitizing/ Raising awareness

LACC has used different strategies to reach out to the concerned stakeholders to sensitize and raise awareness. It conducts various workshops and seminars to reach out to the high-level authorities concerning policies, laws and challenges on women's issue. In the community level, awareness raising programmes, and various outreach programmes are conducted.



Developing human resources through capacity building

As a component to sensitising and capacity building, for different groups of people, LACC has been organising time and context appropriate trainings, workshops/ seminars and gender sensitisation/awareness raising programs.

Trainings:

- ◆ Clinical Legal Education Training for women law graduate
- ◆ Leadership Skill Development Training
- ◆ Community Mediation Training
- ◆ Bar Exam Preparatory Training
- ◆ Entrance Training for Judiciary Service
- ◆ Life Skill Development Training on Conflict Management
- ◆ Training for Counsellor's -Advocate level
- ◆ Training on legal advocacy
- ◆ Training on women's and children's right
- ◆ Training on UNSCR's 1325 & 1820
- ◆ Training on advocacy strategy planning
- ◆ Training on leadership and skill development
- ◆ Training on safe migration and combating human trafficking
- ◆ Political awareness from gender perspective
- ◆ Training on human rights, gender and common principle for informal justice actors

Awareness Raising/Sensitisation Program:

- ◆ Legal and human rights of women and children
- ◆ SGBV issues and Gender sensitisation
- ◆ Millennium Development Goals
- ◆ Constituent Assembly
- ◆ Role of women in Peace building process/Conflict management
- ◆ Leadership and skill development of women in politics
- ◆ Women's participation /representation in every structure of state's mechanism
- ◆ Right to identity (Citizenship by mother's name)
- ◆ Combating Human trafficking
- ◆ Mock Trail

Advocacy/ Dialogue/ Workshops /Seminar:

- ◆ Amendment of discriminatory laws and enactment of gender friendly laws
- ◆ Advocacy through filing PIL cases regarding various women issues
- ◆ Gender Sensitisation workshops
- ◆ Humanitarian Law
- ◆ Improving women's access to justice and judicial system
- ◆ Review on existing and amended laws
- ◆ Millennium Development Goals
- ◆ Status of women survivor and protection and promotion of their rights
- ◆ Implementation of NAP on UNSCR's 1325 and 1820
- ◆ Necessity of 'Fast Track Court'
- ◆ Dialogue on Implementation of 'Continuous Hearing'
- ◆ Strengthening women's participation in government and political structure
- ◆ Advocacy on role of CA members for ensuring women's right on upcoming Constitution
- ◆ Role of local authorities to increase access to justice and on various right related issues



Legal Research and Publications

LACC believes that legal research, survey, data collection and baseline study are crucial means of understanding the situation of women and children in Nepal.

Such information serves as an important indicator of what needs to be done in this transitional phase in Nepal regarding safeguarding of human rights in this changing social and legal realm.

LACC publishes legal journals and academic books targeting law students, scholars academicians. Such publication encloses articles from experts on various issues concerning legal rights, challenges and their status on implementing phase. For grassroots level, LACC prepares and publishes leaflets containing information about issues such as child labour, child abuse and exploitation, domestic violence, women's rights, marriage, polygamy, women's property rights, battering, abortion, Human trafficking, Domestic Violence Act and many more. LACC has also published 'Let's know Law by ourselves' targeting women's and children's right; which is published in very simple language. Posters on various topics are published for people who are illiterate. The main motive behind all the publication is to raise level of awareness on the consequences of violation of women's and child's right.

For understanding any issues pertaining to the status of women affected from violence and conflict and to assess the status of the right holders is important for designing any project. In this respect, research and review of relevant issues are the crucial means.

Addressing SGBV through various initiatives

Writ Petition:

A writ petition is essentially a court petition for extraordinary review, asking to intervene in certain issue and to institute legal remedy or legal relief. There are many laws which contradict with the provision of constitution and sometimes the fundamental right is violated, and even more sometimes the law does not cover the issue of public interest. In such cases, LACC files writ petition in the Courts on behalf of victim survivor.

Outreach Programs and Mobile Legal Clinics:

LACC conducts outreach programs and 'mobile legal clinics' identifying the most venerable place where the incident of SGBV cases frequently occurs and the most of the time cases are unreported. People from such area are unaware of the legal process and procedure to get their cases reported. Outreach programs and mobile legal clinics target such communities and conduct mobile clinics which is a combination of awareness raising and instant service delivery package. It provides a platform for the disenfranchised and backward communities in the rural area and in their local communities 'a service at their door step to access justice'.

Rescue:

LACC has formed an 'immediate rescue committee' which gets active when there is an immediate need to intervene some cases at any part of the country. When incidents of extreme violation of human rights occurs and when it is reported / informed to LACC, the team visit the place and rescue the survivor of violence. Human rights violated cases regarding race, ethnicity, witchcraft, child marriage, rape, murder and physical violence are mostly reported to LACC. After rescuing the victim, necessary services are provided to survivor.

Scholarship:

In 2001, LACC initiated its 'Education Scholarship' targeting children of women suffering from SGBV cases and child survivor from various forms of violence. LACC provide such children with access to education, which is otherwise denied by the constraint of poverty. By enabling these children to complete higher secondary level, LACC hopes to provide them with greater employment opportunities and a better livelihood in future.

Radio Programme

Most of the women and children are the victims of domestic violence and they are deprived of their rights and they also do no access to justice and other legal facilities. Considering these LACC started Radio programme, disseminating the information of services provided by LACC for helpless women. Radio Nepal, local FM stations from various districts broadcasts radio programmes on women's

and child's issues. The radio aired panel discussion, case studies, views from guest speakers, group discussion, and information about the legal provisions related to violence against women and its remedies. Listening to Radio Programme enormous woman those who somehow deprived of justice or victims landed to LACC /WRHP for free legal support.



Street drama/Role play/Mobile van (documentary) show

LACC organises street drama, role play and mobile van (documentary) show on time and context appropriate topics that aims to raise awareness among the targeted audiences. It mainly focus on the information that needs to be disseminated among the public. Through its medium, public are taken to the main concern of the issue and thus are sensitised on issues such as domestic violence, gender based violence, child right, information about legal remedies, property/inheritance right, citizenship right and so on.

Press meeting

Press meeting is organized to inform the media person / journalists about different activities; such as - to inform general public on issues of discriminatory laws, amended laws, status of women in legal sector and so on. LACC also share its activities organised for women's and children's issues in press meetings. The print and electronic media also telecast interviews and talk programs of LACC's staffs. The press meeting has been useful in creating awareness and among general people.

Affiliation in National, Regional and International Level

LACC coordinates with government agencies and numerous national and regional organizations, networks, committees and institutions, which are working for women's and children rights. Recognizing the importance of the global situation of women and children, LACC collaborates with many international organizations and participates in different forums, conferences and seminars which supplement with specific insights to deal with the women's situation in Nepal more vigorously.

At National level LACC is developing while consolidating its foundation by strengthening alliances and organizational networks. LACC regularly coordinates with GOs and NGOs including DDC, District Police (women's cell), Chief District Officer (CDO office), local NGOs and Human Rights Organisations (VDC secretaries and municipalities, local newspapers and FM radio stations, District Bar Association, and District Courts.

In the International level, LACC is an active member of 'CEDAW, CRC, 'ICCPR', 'ESCR Committee Network', and is involved in preparing the 'Periodic Report' which is submitted to UN Headquarter, New York. LACC is also working with various other women's network worldwide including, 15+Beijing group and IWRAW

a. LACC's networks:

Women's Empowerment Committee:

Since 2000, LACC has been contributing in empowerment and leadership development of women. The objective of these programs is to prepare women leaders and also to inform women of their basic human rights, constitutional and social rights and why they are entitled to these rights. Emphasis is also placed on developing skills that enable women to be empowered and independent. LACC has formed Women's Empowerment Committee in ten districts of the country, namely Ilam, Sunsari, Panchthar, Syanja, Chitwan, Makwanpur Kanchanpur Banke, Morang and Jhapa.

Justice Facilitation Group

An Inclusive Justice Facilitation Group (IJFG) is established in Panchthar, Sunsari, Kailai and Kathmandu district. The main objective of establishing the JFGs is to lead on strengthening coordination between both state and non-state justice sectors, improving clarity of their roles and responsibilities and leading district

and national level debates that aim to generate proposals to widen access to justice in Nepal. The Inclusive Justice Facilitation Group in Kathmandu plays a coordination and dialogue role at the national level by facilitating lesson learning and the sharing of experiences from across the country, and by helping to build and maintain sustainable networks. It also act as a group of high level 'Inclusive Justice Envoys' who advocate at the highest political level for inclusive and coherent reform processes. The district IJFGs also plays a key watchdog role by monitoring provision of inclusive justice at the community level, while the national IJFG raise any concerns at the national level through their role as 'Inclusive Justice Envoys'.

b. Establishment of Award :

Women Empowerment Award 'Prof. Dr. Shanta Thapalia'

Legal Aid and Consultancy Centre (LACC) is closely connected with Prof. Dr. Shanta Thapalia who is the founder of LACC. She is one of the prominent lady to raise voice for women's right movement in Nepal. She is mostly remembered for her contribution and role played during the women's property right movement in Nepal. She was a Lawyer, an academician, legal activist and gender expert. She devoted most of her life time in serving poor and marginalized women and fighting to protect and promote their rights.



To express gratitude towards her inspiration in the women's right field, LACC has established a trust fund and award in her memory. Thus, every year on the occasion of LACC's annual day, LACC provides the award to a women, who is working to empower women and protect their rights.

Punabati Prasai women Welfare Award

LACC has established a 'Women Welfare Award' which is provided to organization or person working to protect and promote women's and girl child's right in Nepal. The award is distributed annually on LACC's day.

LACC's Governing Bodies:

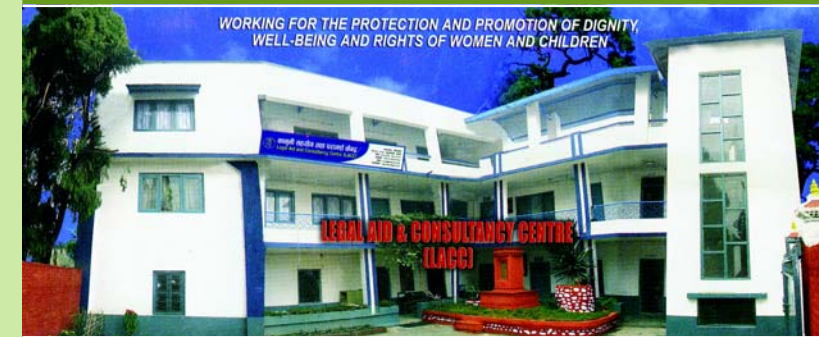
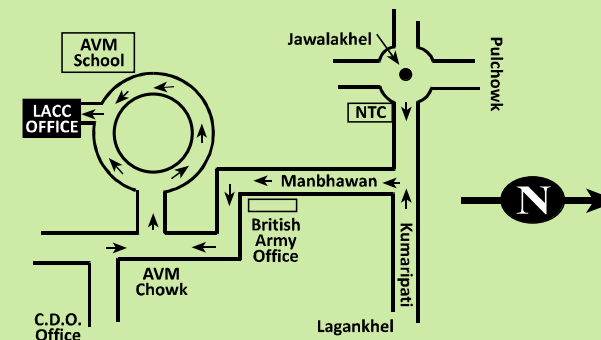
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Location of Head Office: -



LEGAL AID & CONSULTANCY CENTER

Protection and Promotion of human rights of women and children by eliminating all forms of exploitation, discrimination and violence.

LACC, established in 1987, is an independent non-governmental organization which is a pioneer in the field of providing free legal aid and combating gender based violence for promoting women's access to justice. It was founded by an all-women group of attorneys and law professors with the goal of promoting and protecting the rights and interests of women and children in Nepal.



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