

Asia-Pacific NGOs' Recommendations for WCAR

Background Note:

To prepare for the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerances (WCAR) that will be held in Durban, South Africa, non-government organisations from the Asia and the Pacific region met in Teheran, Iran (18-19 February 2001) and Kathmandu, Nepal (27-29 April 2001) and came up with two main lobby documents.

The first document, the WCAR Asia-Pacific NGO Declaration, explores issues such as globalisation, migration, trafficking in women and children, women in situations of armed conflict, gender and racism intersectionality, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, the refugee situation, rights of Indigenous Peoples, and caste-based discrimination as experienced in the region. It recommends specific policies and languages for input into documents and agreements to come out from the WCAR. The second document is the WCAR NGO Programme of Action, which guides NGOs in their campaign and lobby efforts in the lead up to and beyond WCAR.

The RECOMMENDATIONS portion of the WCAR Asia-Pacific NGO Declaration provides specific suggestions and reaction points to issues confronted by the peoples of the Asia-Pacific region.

For full copies of the declaration and the NGO programme of action, please visit the official website of the Asia-Pacific NGO Coordinating Committee on WCAR <<http://www.hurights.or.jp/wcar/E/TehKatdc.htm>> or the Isis International-Manila Website <<http://www.isiswomen.org>>. Copies of these documents will also be distributed at the parallel WCAR NGO Forum from 28 August to 01 September 2001 in Durban.

RECOMMENDATIONS of the ASIA PACIFIC NGO FORUM Teheran/Kathmandu

The Asia Pacific NGO Forum recognises the urgent need to translate the objective of the Teheran/Kathmandu Declaration by the NGO Forum into a practical and workable Plan of Action. Thus, we urge the governments of the Asia-Pacific region to:

1. Ratify, without reservations, and ensure the implementation of:

- ♦ the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial

Discrimination (ICERD);

- ♦ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW);
- ♦ the Optional Protocol to the Convention;
- ♦ the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (MWC); and
- ♦ the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC);

2. Lift reservations to ICERD, and make a Declaration under Article 14 of the Convention that will enable the filing of individual complaints to the Committee monitoring the

implementation of the Convention;

3. Create temporary special measures— as outlined in Art. 1 (4) of ICERD and Art. 6 of CEDAW—that would create conditions of equality for historically disadvantaged communities, including women, using a perspective that looks at the intersectionality of various forms of discrimination;

4. Implement Art. 6 of ICERD which assures effective protection and remedies to victims of racism and racial discrimination and accept the right to just and fair compensatory measures for victims of racism and racial discrimination;

5. Recognise the key role of the global mass media industry and the Internet in shaping opinions and in inculcating attitudes of tolerance and pluralism; and to provide greater support for community-based media which could give voice to members of disadvantaged communities, including women, and facilitate the flourishing of indigenous cultures;

6. Seriously consider ways and means to mitigate the negative cultural effects of global dominance by the Western-based mass media industry, especially in the light of the recommendations made by the Sean McBride Commission of the UNESCO;

7. Review of all national laws and policies to bring them in line with the principles and values set out in ICERD and other human rights treaties;

8. Ensure that caste-based and other similar forms of discrimination on the basis of descent and occupation be explicitly addressed within the agenda of the WCAR, in order to acknowledge communities that have been subject to perennial and persistent forms of

discrimination and abuse on this basis;

9. Recognise the critical role played by non-governmental organisations and members of civil society, including members of targeted groups, in preventing and combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance and to support their activities in this area with the necessary resources;

10. Initiate a comprehensive programme of work as a global community with a view of:

- ♦ Strengthening the UN system through a radical restructuring that would put an end to the veto power of the Security Council and ensure greater democracy in decision-making processes, greater collective responsibility, transparency and equitable sharing of resources among member states;
- ♦ Pushing Asia and Pacific governments to collectively initiate reforms within the UN structure.

11. Invite the CEDAW Committee to elaborate a General Recommendation on the intersectionality between racism and gender;

12. Incorporate a gender perspective into all aspects of the WCAR;

13. Review and reform national laws related to violence against women so that they will also address violence against women based on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and create special programmes to address these problems;

14. Include a perspective on the intersectionality of various forms



of discrimination in all educational programmes, with a special focus on the eradication of stereotypes based on race, caste, sex, descent, national or ethnic origin and other factors;

15. Create special training programmes for public officials, members of the judiciary and the legal profession, and members of law enforcement agencies to make them more sensitive to the intersectionality of different forms of discrimination, with a special emphasis on gender-sensitivity;



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Caste and Racism

16. Enact legislation to combat caste-based discrimination in countries where such legislation does not exist.

17. Take immediate steps to create transparent and effective monitoring mechanisms including the establishment of time-bound programmes to ensure effective implementation of existing legislation banning discrimination on the basis of caste,.

18. Enforce laws to criminalise violence and atrocities committed against members of communities, especially women and children, that experience marginalisation due to caste, descent and occupation;

19. Ensure that members of these communities are protected by law from exploitation of their labour, including the implementation of laws that prohibit child labour, bonded labour and manual scavenging;

20. Implement laws relating to land reform that would guarantee access to and control of land

for these marginalised communities, especially the women;

21. Create and strengthen policies and systems that enhance access of communities to higher government posts, including scientific institutions and the judiciary; and, in the private sector, including multinational corporations;

22. Enhance participation of communities in various government offices, including the law enforcement agencies;

23. Allocate adequate funds for programmes that would uplift the socio-economic status of communities, including educational projects geared towards women;

24. Implement the Resolution on Discrimination based on Work and Descent adopted by the United Nations Sub-Commission on Human Rights in August 2000;

Indigenous Peoples and Racism

25. Assume responsibility for colonial and contemporary injustices including all forms of colonialism by issuing public apologies and providing for reparation/compensation;

26. Adopt the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in its original form before the International Decade on Indigenous Peoples ends in 2004.

27. Recognise in the Declaration and Programme of Action of the WCAR that Indigenous Peoples are "peoples" and this term should be used consistently in all the documents, including NGO documents, maintaining the standard created by the first World Conference on Racism and the CERD Committee.

28. Affirm, in the Declaration, the right of Indigenous Peoples to have control over their territories and ownership of their lands, waterways, and resources, including guarantees that no development should take place in their territories except with their prior and fully-informed consent;

29. Reiterate, in all WCAR documents, the right to self-determination of Indigenous Peoples as articulated in Article 1 of ICCPR and ICESR, *“All peoples have the right of self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development;”*

30. Recognise the identity and rights of Indigenous Peoples and adopt, in agreement with Indigenous Peoples constitutional, administrative, legislative and judicial measures necessary to promote, protect and guarantee the exercise of Human Rights and fundamental freedoms in indigenous communities and repeal discriminatory clauses in Constitutions and laws, including those that deny citizenship;

31. Support and encourage Indigenous Peoples to establish their own political structures in order to achieve effective representation in a democratic and transparent electoral process;

32. Put in place appropriate mechanisms to protect the cultural and intellectual property of Indigenous Peoples and ensure that any use of such property shall be done with the fully-informed consent of Indigenous Peoples and with appropriate benefits and royalties being paid to Indigenous Peoples;

33. Recognise, through legislation, the rights of Indigenous Peoples to assert their identities, maintain, develop and promote their cultures, educational institutions, values, languages and en-

sure that Indigenous Peoples have full access to all broadcast media including, radio and television;

34. Establish independent bodies to investigate the use of armed force, police brutality and militarisation against indigenous communities;

35. Begin the process of demilitarisation in all militarised areas and establish mechanisms to indict the perpetrators of human rights violations against Indigenous Peoples; stop the forced and deceptive recruitment of Indigenous Peoples for armed conflict and support the call for the creation of a Commission on Indigenous Peoples and Conflict Resolution and Mediation as set out in the Resolutions of the “International Conference on Conflict Resolution, Peace-Building, Sustainable Development and Indigenous Peoples” held in Manila last 4-6 December 2000.

36. Recognise and promote the use of indigenous legal systems and administration of justice and ensure that Indigenous Peoples are treated equally before the courts and other bodies administering justice, in particular, ensuring where necessary, that they are provided with adequate legal representation and translation services;

37. Formulate a Plan Of Action to retain and maintain the cultural, religious, economic, political, social, and customary practices of Indigenous Peoples - free from discrimination and racism at the international, national, and regional levels;

38. Condemn and halt the ‘minoritisation’ of Indigenous Peoples through population transfer schemes; establish an independent and competent body with full participation of Indigenous Peoples to resolve the issue of settlers;



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39. Stop the pursuit of the “Development” ideology that is detrimental to Indigenous Peoples;

40. Ensure that Indigenous Peoples shall be free to use their natural resources including biodiversity and genetic resources; ban the appropriation of their resources through the patenting of their human, plant, and animal genetic resources; impose a moratorium on the collection of human genetic materials.

41. Halt activities of transnational Corporations that infringe and exploit Indigenous Peoples’ resources and ensure payment of compensation to Indigenous Peoples for damages caused; establish monitoring mechanisms and regulate activities of transnational corporations immediately;

42. Provide adequate resources for the Permanent Forum On Indigenous Issues, approved by the United Nations General Assembly;

43. Convene an international conference on Indigenous Peoples at the end of the International Decade of the World’s Indigenous People (1995-2004);

44. Ensure immediate payment of retroactive and equal compensation for Indigenous armed services personnel such as the Gurkhas who served in the British army;

National Minorities and Racism

45. Ensure the right to self determination of ethnic and national minorities, along with guarantees of their cultural and linguistic rights;

46. Create laws that will protect members of minority communities, especially women, and put in place mechanisms that can monitor the implementation of such laws;

47. Repeal legislation that renders minority communities stateless and deprives them of their rights as citizens;

48. Promote multicultural policies, including in the education system, in order to combat racist and discriminatory ideologies and values;

49. Ensure the application of humanitarian law in situations of non-international and internal armed conflicts to protect civilians and combatants, including child soldiers;

50. Ensure the full participation of minority communities, including women, in peace processes and in the forging of peace agreements;

51. Adopt measures to combat acts of discrimination and ensure that such crimes are punished. They must include:

- ♦ Exhaustive, prompt and impartial investigation of those responsible for such acts;
- ♦ Punishment, in accordance with law that is compatible with the international human rights norms and measures, for those found guilty of such acts;
- ♦ Adequate protection for victims, be they individuals or groups, of acts of violence and crimes committed due to discrimination on the basis of national, ethnic, linguistic, or religious characteristics. They must also include protection from any inhuman or degrading treatment or any act of intimidation or reprisal for the victim(s) and their relatives, associates and those who defend their rights or participate in the investigation and legal proceedings; adequate compensation must be provided for victims

by the perpetrator and by the State.

Religious Intolerance

52. Review national laws that are discriminatory to religious minorities;

53. Enforce the rule of law in keeping with international human rights standards and international covenants like ICERD, CEDAW and the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination based on Religion and Belief (UN GA No 36/35-25-11 1981), that protect the life, property, freedom of residence, freedom of conscience, belief and worship.

54. Ensure that all educational syllabi, curriculum and textbooks respect multi-cultural, multi-religious and plural societies;

55. Encourage governments to invite the Special UN Rapporteur on freedom of religion and belief to conduct visits to countries where religion-based intolerances and discriminations exist;

People under foreign occupation, refugees, and internally displaced peoples

56. Call for the implementation of the resolutions passed by the United Nations General Assembly (UN GA) and the United Nations Security Council, that affirm the right to self-determination of the Palestinians and the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and to receive compensation;

57. Recommend to the WCAR that, in view of the serious threat to regional and world peace and security, that the problem of Palestine be taken up as the most urgent issue on the global political agenda; and that the WCAR adopt

strategies that could be pursued by the international community, especially the United Nations, for a resolution of the problem;

58. Call for the implementation of the UN General Assembly Resolution on Tibet passed in 1959, 1961 and 1965 affirming the right to self-determination of the Tibetan people and for the creation of mechanisms to address this issue;

59. Condemn the targeting and often, execution, of human rights defenders in the occupied territories of Aceh-Sumatra, Bougainville, West Papua and Tibet;

60. Sign and ratify the UN conventions on Refugees;

61. Call for the creation of an international mandate for the protection of internally-displaced peoples and the provision of services which includes trauma counseling, healing, reconciliation, etc;

62. To actively involve refugees, including women representatives, in the peace process;

63. Call for the creation of mechanisms that would protect and address the needs of victims of ethnic cleansing, genocide, and torture;

64. Call for the creation of mechanisms for the protection and special needs of the victims of sexual violence and exploitation;

65. Encourage host countries with migrant and refugee populations to promote inter-ethnic communities;

66. Enact policies that protect the human rights of refugees and internally-displaced persons, in accordance with the principles of international human rights standards and international hu-

manitarian law;

67. Ensure that decent resettlement is offered to refugees and internally-displaced persons on merit, regardless of their ethnic or religious background and their family situation;

68. Ensure access to funding and other services for refugees, asylum-seekers and internally-displaced populations in an equitable manner, based on needs and unrelated to cultural, political and economic imperatives;

69. Recognise gender-based violence as a form of persecution and a ground to seek asylum according to the Refugee Convention;

Migrants and Trafficked Persons and Racism

70. Investigate and address the root causes of migration and trafficking including poverty, political and social oppression, ethnic, religious, gender and caste-based discrimination and situations of violence and armed conflict;

71. Recognise the positive political, economic and social roles and contributions of migrant workers; ensure their full political, economic, social and cultural participation as an essential element in eliminating all forms of discrimination;

72. Create institutions and enforcement mechanisms that involve governments, non government organisations and grassroots groups in protecting and preventing racial and gender based violence against migrants and trafficked persons in host and transit countries, in situations of custody and incarceration, and in the context of repatriation;

73. Establish policies that strengthen the accountability of migrant-sending countries, including the monitor of non-state agencies such

as private recruitment agencies and trafficking syndicates;

74. Guarantee the human rights of migrant workers, including the right to vote outside the country at the time of an election and the right to have equal access to healthcare and other social services in the host country;

75. Enact laws related to trafficking that respect the human rights of trafficked persons, including the right to seek legal justice;

76. Recognise the right to compensation for victims of trafficking;

77. Pay particular attention to the human rights of migrants in West Asia, especially the denial of fair trial and the imposition of punishments that are not in accordance with punishments for similar crimes in their home country;

78. Stop all practices of mandatory HIV-AIDS and pregnancy testing and respect the reproductive rights of women migrant workers;

79. Ratify the UN Convention for the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, CEDAW and other pertinent instruments for the protection of basic human rights;

80. Repeal all laws and policies that discriminate against and violate the human rights of migrant workers and their families;

81. Abolish the trainee system, the guarantor system and other related schemes that violate migrant workers' rights;

82. Guarantee due process and equal treatment of migrant workers before the legal and judicial bodies, and grant them access to legal counsel

and due process;

83. Decriminalise and grant legal status to undocumented migrant workers;

84. Develop a comprehensive reintegration programme in the home countries for the productive utilisation of remittances and the development of local economies;

85. Urge China and other countries with internal migrant issues to adopt and abide by international instruments that protect human rights as well as social, economic labour, cultural and political rights;

86. Ensure the protection of the rights of trafficked persons, especially women and children, including the provision of safe and voluntary repatriation, temporary residence, and social reintegration to prevent further stigmatisation and gender, caste based and racial discrimination;

87. Urge sending, transiting and receiving countries to enact measures that would prevent acts of discrimination to trafficked persons especially those with HIV/AIDS;

88. Ensure immediate punitive legal actions and transparent measures to halt the involvement of police, military, immigration authorities and politicians in the trafficking of persons;

89. Demand bilateral agreements between sending, transiting and receiving countries to create measures for the safe and voluntary repatriation, extradition and prosecution of traffickers, and the protection and compensation of victims;

90. Urge sending, transiting and receiving countries to undertake sensitisation through infor-

mation and education of state service providers, police and other law enforcers, prosecutors and judges to prevent further gender, caste based and racial discrimination;

91. Ensure immediate preventive measures and programmes for groups, sectors and communities vulnerable to trafficking, i.e. education, awareness raising, adequate information and economic programmes;

92. Encourage the business sector, in particular the tourist industry and Internet service providers, to develop codes of conduct with a view to protect trafficked persons and high-risk groups. States should encourage the establishment of independent civil society committees to monitor compliance with such codes of conduct.

Country-specific Recommendations

♦ Afghanistan

93. The peoples of Afghanistan are the victims of dual persecution caused by religious fundamentalists: the Taliban on one hand, and the economic devastation caused by UN-imposed economic sanctions on the other. The Afghan peoples, especially women and children, have been made victims of a series of futile 'peace' accords. The unholy nexus between Jihadi squads and Taliban fundamentalists are the cause of gross human rights violations against the people of Afghanistan.

94. The women in Afghanistan have been particularly targeted by the Taliban. They are subjected to a complete denial of their most basic human rights such as the right to work, receive an education and travel, and are targeted for particular forms of violence in the name of religion. We demand that particular attention be paid to the situation of women and children in

Afghanistan in any measure taken by the international community to achieve peace in that country.

95. We demand the lifting of UN sanctions that have only further devastated an already impoverished people and call on the UN and the international community to assist the Afghani people in their struggle against repressive and fundamentalist regimes in Afghanistan.

96. We demand that the UN focus on disarming all fundamentalist bands in Afghanistan through the deployment of a UN Peacekeeping Force;

97. We also demand that all international pressure be exerted to restore democracy and achieve respect for the basic human rights of the peoples of Afghanistan.

98. We call on the UN and countries such as Pakistan, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United States who every now and then remind the world that the Taliban and Jihadi leaders "are important leaders." We call on aforementioned states to refrain from ignoring the aspirations of the Afghani people for democracy to return to their country.

99. We also call on the international community to push for the Afghanis' right to free speech.

♦ Tibet

100. We recommend that the Special UN Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion and Belief visit Tibet, where people suffer double discrimination: as discriminated and marginalised religious minorities and victims of foreign occupation.

101. We demand a stop to the cultural annihilation of the Tibetan people, through a systematic attack on their monasteries and severe re-

strictions on the age limits for monks to serve, which will result in the shutting down of Buddhist monasteries in Tibet.

102. We also demand that monocultural and hegemonistic practices through the school system and through other state institutions not be used to curtail the religious-cultural freedom of the Tibetan people.

♦ Indonesia

103. We deplore the low health status of indigenous women and children in Indonesia and remind the State that it is responsible for improving this situation. We are shocked that the mortality rate is higher among indigenous women and children because of the lack of health facilities, services and information;

104. We call on the State to acknowledge the rights of indigenous peoples to their lands and resources, and to provide just and adequate compensation where these rights have been and are violated and denied;

105. We demand an end to systemic militarism that serves to discriminate and target religious minorities in Indonesia, especially women of these minorities;

106. We recommend the promotion of inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue to assist the resolution of religion-based intolerance in this country;

107. We call for the repeal of all discriminatory laws that deny or limit indigenous peoples' right to self-determination and urge that the State recognise the equality of customary law with State law;

108. We also call for an indigenous people's rep-

representative to be given the opportunity to participate in political processes and decision-making in the Parliament.

♦ India

109. We are seriously concerned about the upsurge of religion-based chauvinism in India (under the garb of Hindu 'nationalism') that has led to violent attacks, persecution, ghettoisation, and marginalisation of religious minorities in the past few years and that has specifically misused religion and religious symbols for political ends. These movements that have in recent years acquired state power, have influenced state policy and have eroded the democratic and secular values enshrined in the Indian Constitution.

110. We deplore the failure of the government to control groups in civil society that pay allegiance to this strong religion-based nationalism. A sense of fear and alienation in the country's minorities has been perpetrated. State policy including educational syllabi and textbooks has reflected these anti-democratic and anti-secular tendencies, resulting in hegemonistic representations of history and outright hate-preaching. We have noted the state's failure to respect the fundamental rights of all citizens, especially those belonging to the religious minorities, especially at during an outbreak of violence. There has been a collapse of the criminal-justice system, particularly with regards to punishment of the guilty—be they civilians, policemen in uniform or other law enforcement officials—that have further made a mockery of the Indian Constitution.

111. We recommend that the entire international community express concern over the erosion of secular and democratic values of the Indian state.

112. We also recommend that the international

community exercise its influence in containing the forces of religion-based nationalism that are a threat to democracy. They endanger the life, security, equal opportunity in employment and adequate representation and freedom of worship of Indian religious minorities

113. We recommend that the Indian government take cognisance of the consequences of religious intolerance and discrimination and take all steps to ensure that the life, property and the right to freedom of religion and conscience of the minorities are protected;

114. We call for immediate remedial measures, including the prompt punishment of those who are guilty, and the payment of adequate compensation to the victim-survivors when these rights are violated;

115. We urge that educational syllabi reflect democratic principles and pluralism instead of preaching hatred and hegemonistic views;

116. We also call for appropriate legal action to ensure an end to hate speech directed against minorities;

117. We urge the government of India to take all necessary steps to ensure the restoration of the full faith of the minorities in the policies and programmes of the state.



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♦ Pakistan

118. Religious minorities in Pakistan are marginalised and disenfranchised through various forms of statutory and structural discrimination. The system of separate electorates is designed to keep religious minorities politically, economically and socially disempowered. They are barred from holding public and judicial offices. The Ahmadis are prohibited from professing, observing and preaching their faith under pain of severe punishment. A draconian piece of legislation, the Blasphemy Law, violates the human rights of minorities. Apart from blatant social discrimination, extremist Islamist groups in many other ways harass minorities.

119. We, therefore, demand the repeal of laws that discriminate against the basic human rights of religious minorities including the abolition of the system of separate electorates and the blasphemy law;

120. We demand an end to the persecution of all religious minorities;

121. We demand administrative and legislative measures to root out religious hatred from edu-

cational curricula, and all forms of mass media;

122. We demand that the government of Pakistan employ all resources to curb militant and extremist groups that are involved in promoting religious hatred not only within Pakistan but elsewhere in the region.

♦ Nepal

123. We demand that the kingdom of Nepal recognise its multi-religious composition and accordingly, grant minority religious communities their basic human rights;

124. We call for the granting of equal legal rights to all members of religious minority communities within the kingdom of Nepal to enable them, among other things, to purchase and own land for the purpose of building their religious and educational institutions, places of worship and burial grounds.

125. We also call for the declaration of holidays representing important days and festivals for the religious minorities in Nepal and the inclusion of these days in the list of official, government holidays;

126. We call for the opening up of government jobs, including those in the army and in the foreign service, to all peoples living in the kingdom of Nepal without any discrimination on the basis of religion, race, caste, gender and ethnicity;

127. We demand that official recognition be given to the languages and cultures of minority communities and that all necessary arrangements be made to promote, preserve and develop them;

128. We call for legal and administrative measures that will address the areas of discrimination that religious minorities face in employment and other areas of public and private life;

129. We call for the formation of a Waqf Board for the Muslim minority community in Nepal;

130. We also call for the urgent creation of a Minority Commission that can review, monitor and ensure the protection of the rights of religious minorities in Nepal.

♦ **Bhutan**

131. Through the implementation of various racially discriminatory policies, including the 'One Nation One People's Policy' of 1990, the Royal Government of Bhutan has rendered more than one sixth of its population refugees and infringed on the cultural expression of the Nepali speaking Lhotsampa population in the south. The census policy of 1988 revoked the right to citizenship of tens of thousands of southern Bhutanese citizens who were forced out of the country and who now live as refugees in UNHCR camps in and outside of Nepal and India. Religious freedoms of the Sarchhops or the eastern Bhutanese people have been suppressed and the government is implementing a scheme of resettling northern Bhutanese people in lands belonging to refugees. This deprives them, upon repatriation, the right to restitution of their ancestral/original lands and other property.

132. Ongoing bilateral negotiations between the governments of Bhutan and Nepal have led to the verification of Bhutanese refugees but it ignores the fundamental issue of racial discrimination which made them refugees in the first place;

133. The Bhutanese government also continues the practice of racial discrimination in employment and the granting of social welfare facilities like education and health.

134. The government of Bhutan has suppressed the struggle of the Bhutanese people against a racist and undemocratic system.

135. In view of this situation, we urge the Royal Government of Bhutan to:

- ♦ stop the implementation of its "One Nation One People Policy" and grant various ethnic groups the freedom to practice their own religion, culture and language and tradition;
- ♦ modify its retroactive and racially discriminatory 1985 Citizenship Act so that no Bhutanese citizens who were legal Bhutanese citizens prior to its implementation are deprived of their right to citizenship;
- ♦ stop religious and other discriminatory practices against the Sarchhops and other minorities in its territory;
- ♦ stop the resettlement of northern Bhutanese people in lands belonging to refugees and to relocate the new settlers;
- ♦ intensify the process of verification and facilitate an early repatriation of all the Bhutanese refugees to their original homes and hearth;
- ♦ stop discriminatory practices in the form of forced retirement of Lhotsampa and Sarchhops civil servants, denial of opportunities to marginalised groups and restore social welfare facilities such as education and health; and,
- ♦ Release all political prisoners who were detained for having opposed the racist policies.

Teheran 18-19 February 2001/ Kathmandu, 27-29 April 2001