



དཔལ་ལྷན་འབྲུག་གཞུང་།

ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN

ཀྲུལ་ཡོངས་ཨམ་སྲུང་ཨ་ལོ་ལྷན་ཚོགས།

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN



Chairperson

Making a difference

2(15) NCWC/LS/2017/ ༠༩

2 February 2018

Circular

The National Commission for Women and Children (NCWC) was established in 2004 as the government machinery for the promotion and protection of the rights of women and children. The Commission was further upgraded to a fully autonomous agency in 2008.

The NCWC has the following vision, mission and objectives:

Vision: *A happy nation of children, women and men living in harmony with equality and respect in all spheres of life.*

Mission: *Protect and promote the rights of women and children through gender responsive and child sensitive interventions.*

Objectives: a) *To review, reform, initiate and support legislations, policies, plans, programs and interventions from a gender equality and child sensitive perspective: and b) To establish a well coordinated, effective and sustainable protection system for women and children in the country.*

In order to fulfill the Constitutional provisions related to women and children and its mandate, the NCWC carries out the following functions:

1. Advise the Government on all legal and policy matters affecting women and children;
2. Review, formulate and recommend for gender responsive and child sensitive legislation, policies, plans and programmes;
3. Work toward prevention of violence and discrimination against women and children; facilitate the redressal of grievances; and improve the conditions of women and children in difficult circumstances and children in conflict with the law;
4. Build awareness to protect and promote the status of women and children to foster wider understanding of their rights and responsibilities;
5. Monitor, evaluate and report on the status of women and children in the country to national, regional and international bodies;
6. Establish an effective and sustainable protection system for women and children and an effective coordination mechanism with stakeholders/service providers;
7. Conduct and support studies on issues related to women and children;
8. Develop and maintain a comprehensive information management system and a well-coordinated system of data collection and analysis; and
9. Build and strengthen capacities towards the effective institutionalization of mainstreaming of gender equality and child wellbeing and protection issues.



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The mandate of the NCWC has been further strengthened with it being identified as the Competent Authority for the following three acts:

1. The Child Care and Protection Act of Bhutan 2011
2. The Child Adoption Act of Bhutan 2012
3. The Domestic Violence Prevention Act of Bhutan 2013

The NCWC is designated the lead government agency for providing reports and following up on the various regional and international conventions ratified by the Royal Government of Bhutan such as the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and its two Optional Protocols on the Sale of Children and involvement of Children in armed conflict; and two SAARC Conventions on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children and the Promotion of Child Welfare in South Asia. The women and children related targets under the National Key Result Areas (NKRAs) of the 12th Five Year Plan are also closely aligned with the country's critical areas of concern, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the concluding observations of the CEDAW and CRC Committees.

The NCWC would like to take the opportunity to inform all Government agencies, Corporations, Private Organizations, Civil Society Organizations, Development Partners and the General Public of its mandate. The NCWC aims to strengthen coordination and collaboration with all key stakeholders and would like to solicit your enhanced cooperation and support in its endeavors towards protecting and promoting the rights of women and children in Bhutan.

(Dorji Choden)

Copy to:

1. P.S, Office of the Prime Minister, Gyelyong Tshokhang, Thimphu.
2. Hon'ble Speaker of the National Assembly.
3. Hon'ble Chairperson of the National Council.
4. All Ministers, Dzongdags, Thrompons and Heads of Autonomous Agencies, RGoB.
5. Secretaries of the National Assembly and National Council.
6. Heads of Civil Society Organizations, Private Organizations and Corporations.
7. Development Partner Organizations.
8. Office copy, NCWC.