



Shelter City Initiative for Temporary Relocation for Human Rights Defenders

Collective Campaign for Peace (COCAP) is launching a call for Human Rights Defenders at threat to have temporary shelter in Kathmandu, Nepal.

COCAP would like to offer human rights defenders (HRDs) from Nepal and the South Asia region the opportunity to short-term relocate to Nepal for rest and respite by allowing them to escape an immediately threatening situation from their locality and country through this open call. HRD refers to a diverse group of activists, journalists, academics, writers, artists, politicians, lawyers, civil rights defenders, independent media professionals, civil society members, and others who work to promote human rights and democracy around the world. COCAP provides a safe space for human rights defenders at a time when they are particularly vulnerable and their safety at home is no longer assured.

The goal of the program is to provide up to three-month safe space for a human rights defender, during which time she or he can rest, build capacity, expand her or his network, and raise awareness about the situation in their country. Participants are expected to return to their homes with new tools and energy after the program ends. While temporarily relocated, HRDs will be motivated to be engaged in tasks as per their interest and also to continue their ongoing work. The goal of the program is to provide up to three-month safe space for a human rights defender, during which time she or he can rest, build capacity, expand her or his network, and raise awareness about the situation in their country. Participants are expected to return to their homes with new tools and energy after the program ends. While temporarily relocated, HRDs will be motivated to be engaged in tasks as per their interest and also to continue their ongoing work.

From May 2022, COCAP will host human rights defenders from Nepal and other South Asian countries for three months. We are looking for human rights defenders who are facing physical, mental, or emotional threats, and who could benefit from a short relocation program as they are threatened or under intense pressure due to their work. Please forward this message to any and all interested candidates you may be aware of.

Applicants must fulfill the following conditions:

In order to be eligible for the Temporary Relocation program, you must meet the following conditions:

- The HRD should implement a non-violent approach in his/her work;
- They are threatened or otherwise under pressure due to their work.
- They should be able to be relocated for a period of maximum of 3 months. Limited spots are available for people who are not able to stay for the full 3 months;
- They are willing and able to return to their homes and country of origin after 3 months;
- They are willing to share their experience or about human rights situations in their locality and country to the extent that their security situation allows.
- HRDs from the region who can speak Basic English.
- They are willing and able to come to Kathmandu, Nepal without accompaniment.

Note that additional factors may be taken into consideration in the final round of selection.

COCAP reserves a right to hold, postpone or cancel the temporary relocation activity if any unavoidable circumstances arise because of the Covid-19 pandemic or any other reasons.

Shelter City and COVID-19

Please note that the current situation of COVID-19 may pose certain challenges to the stay of human rights defenders in Nepal in 2022. These challenges can include:

- Limitations and/or changes in the programme that we can offer HRDs during their stay in Nepal;
- New measures and restrictions (including a lockdown) taken by the Nepal government;
- Cancellation of flights to/from Nepal;
- Postponement of return to the home country after 3 months because of travel restrictions;
- Participants might be requested to self-quarantine for 5-10 days upon arrival in Nepal (Shelter City programme will be adapted accordingly) and to take other preventive measures due to COVID-19, including a COVID-19 test before traveling to Nepal as required.

Please consider these potential challenges carefully before applying to the programme.

To apply or submit the application for a human rights defender, please e-mail shelter@cocap.org.np. You will then receive an application form. Application forms must be returned before 25 April, 2022. An independent commission will select the participants.