

Citizen Appeal

The second wave of coronavirus along with its various variants has hit Nepal resulting in a sharp spike in the numbers of the infected as well as deaths. The daily increase in the infected indicate that we will require oxygen and ICU facilities in greater numbers in the immediate future. In this context, the latest statement from the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) citing “inability to provide hospital beds” has angered as well as worried the general public.

In this regard, on behalf of the general public, we would like to draw the attention of the Nepal government and the respective authorities to the following:

- 1) We express grave disappointment at the lack of government’s proactive action to control and manage the COVID situation during easier times and the defaulting into lockdown as the last resort.
- 2) The government’s statement- “treatment will be scarce with the rise in infection”- is in direct opposition to its constitutional responsibility of ensuring the health of its citizenry through the use of all available means. Such stance from the government has saddened and frightened the citizens.
- 3) We demand that protocols such as the mandatory use of masks and maintenance of physical distancing to control the spread of COVID-19 be strictly enforced. Furthermore, ordinary citizens who do not adhere to the rules need to be made aware of the importance of following these protocols and those in high and responsible positions of the state who flout such protocols need to be fined.
- 4) Provisions need to be made to utilize the health equipment and human resources available in the private and community hospitals for the services to those affected by the virus.
- 5) The increase in the infection rates have spiked up the use of ICU facilities. We demand for additional management of the ICU facilities across the country.

- 6) We request the government to seek help from friendly countries and donor agencies for the immediate arrangement of essential health equipment and materials.
- 7) We ask the government to initiate collaborative efforts to mobilize and encourage the citizenry, organizations, businesses and volunteer organizations in controlling the pandemic.
- 8) We request the local governments to replicate their earlier efforts and proactively conduct activities to diminish the rate of infection. Similarly, we also ask the utilization of local health institutions and the support for those that are negatively impacted by the lockdown.
- 9) We demand the identification and punishing of those who are taking advantage of the crisis to create black markets on health, food and other essential items.
- 10) In this hour of crisis, we call on the National Assembly, the Federal and Provincial House of Representatives, local assemblies and all elected representatives to raise the concerns of the public, demand for proactive government and make the government accountable to its citizens.
- 11) We demand that provisions for PCR tests and at least a week long quarantine facility be made for those arriving at the various border points.
- 12) We demand for relief programs and budget management for the laborers, the poor, marginalized communities and affected businesses that are severely impacted by the lockdown.
- 13) We ask that quarantine facilities and isolation centers be made disabled and gender friendly and that infected women, pregnant women, single women, children, persons with disabilities, chronic patients, senior citizens, sexual minorities (LGBTQIA) be prioritized in treatment.

- 14) We demand that all of the expenditures made for COVID prevention and control by all three tiers of the government be made publicly available and transparent.
- 15) We call upon all citizens to be patient during these difficult times and stay home. Furthermore, we ask to follow all of the precautionary protocols while out in public.

ON BEHALF OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC

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| 1. Prof. Dr. Hemraj Pant, Educationist | 11. Suman Adhikari, Executive Director, National Federation of Deaf, Nepal |
| 2. Jagannath Lamichhane, Activist | |
| 3. Prem Sapkota, Activist | 12. Rem B.K, Executive Director, Jagaran Media |
| 4. Ganesh B.K, General Secretary, FOPHUR, Bajhang | 13. Sanju Sah, Chairperson, Women, Peace and Development Center, Morang |
| 5. Manomohan Swar, Journalist, Kailali | |
| 6. Senior Advocate Ramesh Deb Bhatt, Kanchanpur | 14. Pramesh Mandal, Safe Nepal, Siraha |
| 7. Basanti Chaudhary, Rights Activist, Kailali | 15. Dr. Birendra Raj Pokhrel, Disability and Human Rights Activist, Kathmandu |
| 8. Advocate Ajay Shankar Jha, Kathmandu. | 16. Yamlal Lohoni, President, Rupendehi Trade Association |
| 9. Pradip Pariyar, Executive Director, Samata Foundation. | 17. Deepajyoti Shrestha, Youth Activist, Nuwakot |
| 10. Bhakta Bishwakarma, National Acting President, DNF | 18. Janaki Ghimire Aryal, Lumbini State President, Single Women's Group for Human Rights |

19. Ravi Thakur, President, Madhesh Human Rights House

20. Jog Bahadur Khatri, Chairman High Court Bar, Butwal

21. Sikendra Paswan, Rights Activist, Bara

22. Shyam Kumari Sah, Women Rights Activist, Siraha

23. Fulmohammad Miya, Activists, Parsa

24. Rajesh Karn, Journalist, Janakpurdham

25. Lakshmi Shrestha, Human Rights Activist, Kapilbastu

26. Sharda Chand, Social Activist, Kanchanpur

27. Ramesh Rai, CPN-UML, District Committee Secretariat Member, Ilam

28. Chakraraj Dahal, Associate Professor, Mahendra Multiple Campus, Dharan

29. Govindaraj Gautam, Vice President, National Consumer Forum, Baglung

30. Tuk Bahadur Thapa, Advocate, Kapilbastu District Bar Unit, Taulihawa

31. Bina Silwal, NGO Federation, Gandaki Province

32. Renu Sijapati, General Secretary, Feminist Dalit Organizations (FEDO), Kathmandu

33. Girdhari Subedi, Sayapatri Samaj, Pokhara

34. Than Bahadur Chhetri, Associate Professor, Tribhuvan University

35. Nir Shrestha, Disability Rights Activist

36. Lokendra Sitaula, Associate Professor, Tehrathum Multiple Campus, Tehrathum

37. Dr. Arjun Aayadi, Associate Professor, Midwestern University, Surkhet

38. Amrit Kumar Bhandari, Syangja

39. Bhrikuti Rai, Co-Producer Bojubjai Podcast, Kathmandu

40. Itisha Giri, Writer / Podcaster, Kathmandu

41. Vidya Chapagain, Journalist, Kathmandu

42. Shubh Kayastha, Civic Activist, Bhaktapur

43. Rukmani Maharjan, Advocate, Kathmandu

44. Santosh Sigdel, Civic Activist,
Kathmandu

45. Umid Bagchand, Journalist, Kailali

46. Amuda Mishra, Human Rights
Activist, Kathmandu

47. Avasna Pandey, Journalist,
Kathmandu

48. Dr. Buddha Bahadur Thapa,
Chairman, Nepal Professors
Association Central Committee

49. Bhavani Prasad Pandey,
Journalist, Rupandehi

50. Gunja Rai, Women's Rights
Activist, Janakpur

51. Kailash Dash, State President,
Nepal National Dalit Journalists
Association, Janakpur

52. Jayakant Goit, Former Teacher,
Saptari

53. Bholu Paswan, Rights Activist,
Saptari

54. Swagat Raj Pandey, Civic Activist,
Kathmandu

55. Khagendra Lamichhane, Writer /
Actor

56. Prakriti Bhattarai Basnet, Activist

57. Samson Karki, Filmmaker

58. Pravin KC, student

59. Deepak Acharya, Businessman

60. Som Niraula, Human Rights
Activist, Kathmandu

61. Shivnath Yadav, Youth Activist,
Birganj

62. Dawa Lhamu Sherpa, Young
Mental Health Activist

63. Suraj Ray, Student / Activist

64. Richa Palikhe, Activist /
Businessman

65. Annie, Activist

66. Niraj Bhari, Publisher

67. Saugat Wagle, Disability Rights
Activist

68. Ananda Mishra, Environment
Activist

69. Parina Chaudhary, Sexual
Minority Rights Activist, Banke

70. Savitra Ghimire, Women's Rights
Activist, Kailali

71. Nirmala Bagchand, Women Rights
Activists, Kailali

72. Tika Dahal, President, Nepal
Disable Women's Association,
Kathmandu

73. Shehnaz Banu, Civic Activist,
Kathmandu

74. Devidatta Acharya, DEC Nepal,
Banke

75. Prabhakar Bagchand, Rights
Activist, Kathmandu

76. Indu Tuladhar, Advocate,
Kathmandu

77. Yograj Sapkota, Human Rights
Activist, Ilam

78. Sushma Barali, Journalist

79. Sangam Sherpa, Businessman

80. Govind Pariyar, Journalist

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May 2, 2021

81. Basanta Chippa, Activist

82. Bhuvan KC, Businessman

83. Nirmal Upreti, Advocate,
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84. Khima BK, Rights Activist, Bardia

85. Neetu Pokharel, Women Rights
Activist

86. Sita Subedi, Disability Women's
Rights Activist, Jhapa

87. Nabin Silwal, Activist, Dhading

88. Ajit Acharya, Human Rights
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89. Sujit Saksena, Human Rights
Activists, Janakpur