

**Human Right Watch submission to the Committee on the Rights of the Child  
for the Pre-Sessional Review of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal under the OPAC**

We write in advance of your upcoming pre-sessional review of the Nepal government's compliance with the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict. This submission highlights the measures the Nepalese government has taken to address the prevention of the use of schools for armed activities.

General Measures of Implementation and Prevention

We commend the government's 2011 declaration of schools as "Zones of Peace" as a means of ensuring that schools are "well-managed and peaceful environments," as well as ensuring their continuous operation without hindrance of learning in order to assure the learning rights of students.<sup>1</sup>

In 2011, Nepal's Ministry of Education issued the Schools as Zones of Peace National Framework and Implementation Guideline to enhance efforts to keep schools free from armed activities and other types of violence by establishing the following conditions: (a) No armed activities in the school premises and in its periphery; (b) No presence of armed group of conflicting parties in the school premises; and (c) No use of school for any armed activities.<sup>2</sup>

*Questions for the Government of Nepal:*

- What measures is the government taking to implement the protections offered in the Schools as Zones of Peace declaration into national legislation?
- What steps has the government taken to implement these protections in the doctrine and policies of the Nepali Armed Forces?

We hope you will find these comments useful and would welcome an opportunity to discuss them further with you. Thank you for your attention to our concerns, and with best wishes for a productive session.

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<sup>1</sup> Decision of the Government of Nepal, May 25, 2011.

<sup>2</sup> Schools as Zones of Peace National Framework and Implementation Guideline, Ministry of Education, promulgated under rule no. 192(3) of Education Regulation (2002), 2011.