

Respected chair,
Chief Guest, Honorable Minister Vidyadhar Mallik, Ministry of Federal Affairs
and Local Development, Government of Nepal
Your Excellency, Charge d'Affaires a.i. Norwegian Embassy,
Former UN Assistant Secretary General, Mr. Kul Chandra Gautam
UNICEF Nepal Representative, Ms. Hanaa Singer
Distinguish Delegates,
Participants,
Media persons,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to express my sincere gratitude and thanks to beloved Children who are participating in the conference from different districts, Municipalities, and NGOs for their valuable inputs.

I am highly delighted to be part of the 3rd International Conference on CFC, in our hometown and capital of Nepal, Kathmandu.

This conference aims to balance both academic perspectives with hands on practical knowledge of issues on the ground, bringing academicians and practitioners together on the same platform so that we can generate new knowledge and practice in the area of Child Rights and Governance. We have carefully designed the classic format of “paper presentations” which is matched by practical workshop and mini trainings where the participants will have the possibility to explore and reflect the depth of the subjects being discussed. We are sure that your expertise and knowledge on child related issues will offer valuable insights and incredible added value to the discussions to be held during the 3 days regional conference.

I am confident that the CFC approach will generate ideas for society leading to decent living, quality and healthy life with harmonious relationship among the humankinds.

NSSW was very much thrilled to organize this conference in Nepal and today the dream has come true after the long time tireless efforts and generous support from the CFC Asia Pacific Network. I would like to extend my hearty appreciation to Prof. Dr. Karen Malone for her valuable ideas to organize this conference in Nepal. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development for accepting our proposal to take lead role in this conference on behalf of the government of Nepal. And also I would like to appreciate the constructive support from UNICEF Nepal without which this conference could not have been successful. I would also like to appreciate for the role of ENNAGE, my colleagues of NSSW, all delegates from home and abroad, key note speakers, paper presenters, academicians, civil society representatives, Journalists, and volunteers.

As we know CFC is an advanced human civilization development system consisting of all child rights, dignity, governance, and privileges but I feel sorry to say that these all components of CFC have been facing threat by our habits, activities and policies. We are witness that many children have been facing problems unable to practice their rights on health, nutrition, participation, education, and mental and physical development because of our faulty practices. The growing tendencies of deprivation, discrimination, marginalization, unchecked migration, unplanned growth of the cities are found to be unfavorable condition for overall development of the children.

I believe that this conference will be a mile stone to pave a way forward for creating a common understanding for the well-being of children. The time has demanded us to shift the thinking paradigm appropriate to the needs of the society and specially the children. By the realization of the situation the Government of Nepal, UNICEF Nepal, international and national organizations, freelances, Civil society organizations, academic institutions and social work practitioners have come together for sharing the experiences to exchange learning and practice for better future. I believe, together we can make the difference.

Last but not the least, the participation of the experts, academicians, intellectual persons and practitioners in this conference will achieve the desired objectives.

While we are conducting this grand conference, millions of people have been affected by the natural disaster in the western part of Nepal and North Part of India. This is the high time we social workers should think to show our empathy to the affected people.

I again, would like to extend my cordial thanks to all of you and special thanks to all international delegates and wish you all have nice stay and meaningful outcome of this conference.

Thank you.