



## **ALLIANCE FOR PEACE EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT NEPAL (APED-NEPAL)**

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### **Creative Art workshop on violence against children**

Alliance for Peace, Education and Development Nepal (APED Nepal) organized one day creative workshop on violence against children in coordination with Nepal Academy of Fine Arts on occasion of Day of Prayer and Action for Children. 36 children studying in different schools: Himalayan Academy, Gyankunj Academy, Little Angels School, Mangal Higher Secondary school including blind and deaf children studying in Laboratory School and Central Deaf Higher Secondary School respectively. Schools combining religious and modern education such as Gargi Kanya Gurukul and Madarasa Islamiya School had participated in the programme.

The programme was jointly inaugurated by Mr. John Brittain, Chief of communication of UNICEF along with Mr. Kiran Manandhar, Chancellor of Nepal Academy of Fine Arts, Council member Mr. Rabin Kumar Koirala and President of APED Nepal Mr. Dadhiram Khanal. Mr. John Brittain said that still in 21<sup>st</sup> century 27 children are getting married in every 1 minute. He said that Nepal is one of the worst country in the world including that in south Asia where practice of child marriage still continues to this day. He said that different cultural and religious beliefs among people are perpetuating practice of child marriage in Nepal. He urged all religious leaders and people present in the programme to work collectively to stop the violence against children. The first session ended with remarks from Mr. Manandhar and Koirala encouraging children to be confident with their ideas and portray their thoughts clearly in paper with help of brush and color. For nearly two hours, the children were engrossed in art work including deaf and blind children.

In the second session, different religious leaders present in the programme expressed commitment to work collectively to end violence against children. Mr. Naman Upadhyaya, Vachan Shiromani Dinbandhu Pokherel, Mr. Narendra Pande and Acharya Norbu Sherpa were present representing Jain, Hindu, Bahai and Buddhism respectively. Chief guest of the programme Mr. Gauri Pradhan, former member of Nepal Human Rights Commission

said that the problem of child marriage is related with the poverty. He said that the research shows that children, especially girls are more likely to have different kinds of reproductive and mental health problems. Mr. Dadhiram Khanal, president of APED Nepal urged He urged everybody present in the programme including the children to work collectively to end the violence against children. Chair of the programme, Mr. Kiran Manandhar wished the success of the movement to stop the violence against children. The art work created by the children is now being exhibited in Araniko Gallery of Nepal Academy of Fine Art.



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