

UPF Nepal: UN Humanitarian Day in Nepal Honors Public Service

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Kathmandu, Nepal – UPF-Nepal, in collaboration with Nirvana Academy, organized a program to mark UN Humanitarian Day on August 19, 2026 under the theme, "Celebrating Humanity, Inspiring Solidarity: Restoring Trust – What Can Be Done for Peace Now?" The approximately two-hour program brought together 127 participants from diverse sectors of society, including humanitarian and social workers, educators, artists, youth representatives, business professionals, women leaders, journalists, lawyers, community representatives, and peace advocates.

The program commenced with the lighting of a ceremonial lamp by **Hon. Indira Rana Magar**, member of Parliament and former deputy speaker of the House of Representatives. In her keynote address, Hon. Magar emphasized humanity, compassion and unity. Drawing on her experience of serving vulnerable individuals and communities, she reflected on the challenges and responsibilities involved in humanitarian service. She said that humanitarian work is not simply providing assistance during a crisis, but also respecting human dignity, standing with people in difficult moments, and serving others without expecting personal benefit.



The principal speaker, retired **Col. Ratindra Chhetri**, shared reflections from his extensive professional experience on UN peacekeeping missions in several nations and his work during the COVID-19 pandemic in Nepal. He spoke about the relationship between humanitarian responsibility, crisis management, leadership and peacebuilding. He said that difficult circumstances reveal the true character of leaders, and that effective leadership requires courage, discipline, compassion, cooperation, and a commitment to protecting human life and dignity. He added that experiences in crisis situations can become valuable lessons for peace when they are guided by a genuine commitment to humanity.

Mr. Santosh Kumar Paudel, vice president of UPF-Asia Pacific, highlighted the significance of UN Humanitarian Day and discussed UPF's role in promoting peace, humanitarian values, international understanding and cooperation. He linked humanitarian service with the broader vision of creating a culture of peace in which people actively work for the welfare of others.

Shri Krishna Adhikari, regional director of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification South Asia, shared his perspectives on the importance of recognizing shared humanity and common interests as a means of reducing social divisions.



A UPF presentation explained how ethical leadership and service can contribute to building a more peaceful and compassionate society. It introduced UPF's principles and peacebuilding approach, based on developing responsible individuals and families capable of making positive contributions to society. The family and the principle of "living for the sake of others" were presented as foundations for peace, as values such as respect, empathy, responsibility, forgiveness, care, and cooperation are first learned through family relationships.



Ambassador for Peace Awards were presented to ten distinguished individuals for their contributions to humanity, peace, education, leadership and community service. Among the award recipients were **Mr. Nirajan Adhikari**, principal of Nirvana Academy; **Mr. Laxmi Khatri**, chief executive officer of Life Computer Pvt. Ltd.; and **Mr. Subarna Raj KC**, vice principal of St. Xavier's School, along with other distinguished personalities. Mr. Subarna Raj KC expressed his gratitude and stated that the award had provided renewed encouragement to continue working for peace and humanity.

The MC for the program was Miss Grand Nepal **Ms. Urussa Joshi**, who added a vibrant and uplifting dimension to the event, as did an inspiring musical performance by students of Nirvana Academy. Nepal Television was present to cover the event.

Amb. Mahesh Raj Dahal, former ambassador of Nepal to Australia, congratulated the award recipients and expressed appreciation for the humanitarian spirit of the program. He emphasized that Nepal has significant potential to strengthen its international image by promoting its values of peace, humanity, compassion, cooperation and social responsibility.

In his closing remarks, **Mr. Prakash Babu Thapa**, regional director of UPF-South Asia, stressed that peace and unity should not remain merely slogans or abstract ideals but must become part of everyday life and social practice.



The event concluded with a renewed call for individuals, families, educational institutions, civil society organizations, professionals and national leaders to work together to restore trust, strengthen solidarity, protect human dignity, and make peace a practical part of everyday life.

