

## Notes from the Chairperson

*The Informal: South Asian Journal of Human Rights & Social Justice* is a peer-reviewed research journal focused on human rights and social justice. It evolved from INSEC's regular periodical, *The Informal*, which began in 1998. Since its inception, *The Informal* has addressed critical issues such as bonded labor among agricultural workers and human rights during Nepal's armed conflict (1996–2006). Throughout 34 volumes, the periodical has consistently discussed accountability, justice, women's roles in peacebuilding, and the plight of internally displaced people.

Moreover, the journal has meticulously documented the social, political, economic, and cultural rights situation, as well as the transitional justice process in Nepal, providing expert analysis and case documentation. It has chronicled Nepal's socio-political history, struggles, and achievements in democracy, peacebuilding, human rights, and social justice. As this periodical transitions into *The Informal: South Asian Journal of Human Rights & Social Justice*, it will continue to use its earlier title for brevity and will uphold its legacy while expanding its focus to the broader South Asian region.

*The Informal* aims to present diverse perspectives, expert analysis, and ongoing dialogues on human rights and social justice across South Asia. It will publish well-researched, thought-provoking articles, seeking contributions from scholars, human rights defenders, and policymakers. Positioned at the forefront of human rights advocacy, it will foster rigorous intellectual pursuits based on empirical research.

As an international, not-for-profit, blind peer-reviewed journal, *The Informal* will generate knowledge from South Asia's rich socio-political interactions. It will provide an open-access platform for academia, activists, teachers, students, and community members to feature scholarly works, including research articles, reviews, and perspectives on democracy, governance, and people's participation. The journal aims to promote critical thinking to realize human rights principles within the South Asian context, addressing advancements and challenges in human rights and social justice amidst the global context. It will be published annually in print and electronic forms on the 16th of Shравan in the Nepali calendar.

Finally, we trust the scholarly articles published in this issue will illuminate avid readers and researchers. With your feedback, we hope the journal will evolve into a dynamic platform for productive dialogues on human rights and social justice.

Kundan Aryal, PhD

Chairperson

INSEC