



NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONS **THEIR DAILY STRUGGLES**

Film screening and panel discussion
Free Entrance

Friday, March 17, 2017

18:00–20:00

Théâtre du Grütli

Salle Fonction, Geneva

Film and discussion are in English, French translation
will be made available



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

Mohna Ansari is the first female Muslim lawyer in Nepal and member of the country's independent human rights commission (NHRC). She faces a daily uphill struggle for the protection of human rights in Nepal. A short documentary (20') will portray her work, the challenges she encounters, and the successes the NHRC has achieved. It will be followed by an expert panel discussion with Mohna Ansari. The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) will host the event.

Switzerland has supported the work of numerous national human rights institutions across the globe, from Bolivia, Peru, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and from Afghanistan, to Nepal and Bangladesh. Especially during times of crises, national human rights institutions have to master the difficult balance of being credible defenders of human rights, while remaining trusted partners with access to the highest levels of governments. Criticized by the population for not being effective, by governments for being too adversarial, and by civil society for being too close to governments, they often face the real dilemma of being unable to live up to expectations. If they are too outspoken, they risk budget cuts or appointments that undermine their mandate. If they fail to do so, they lose the trust of the people and as a result their legitimacy. The panel of experts will explore whether these institutions are confronted with increasing difficulties and how donors like Switzerland can best support them.

Panelists:

Mohna Ansari, Member, Nepal Human Rights Commission

Marc Limon, Executive Director, Universal Rights Group

Jean-François Cuénod, Deputy Head South Cooperation Department, SDC

Moderation:

Romaine Jean, Journalist RTS

With introductory remarks by **Jyoti Sanghera**, Chief Asia Pacific Section, UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.