

NEPAL: JUSTICE SHOULD BE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

Photo for illustrative purposes



IMAGINE A WOMAN. Let's call her Thulesa. Thulesa is Nepalese. After her husband passes away, she goes to work to support her two children. One day, she meets another man whom she eventually marries. At the demand of her new husband, Thulesa quits her job to take care of their home. She soon discovers that he is already married to another woman. A violent fight follows. Thulesa's husband beats her and throws her and her two children out of their home. She files a complaint with the police. Nothing happens because her husband has connections to the police.

Following the advice of a friend, Thulesa decides to seek the help of a lawyer. This is a brave decision, because many people in villages are hesitant to speak to lawyers for fear of scrutiny and retaliation. She goes to a "legal clinic" supported by Avocats Sans Frontières. In Nepal, as in many other countries, it is the most vulnerable people, those who are victims of domestic violence, discrimination or forced evictions, whose rights are most often violated. Thanks to these "clinics," these people receive free legal aid provided by local lawyers.

A lawyer trained by Avocats Sans Frontières informs Thulesa of her right to claim maintenance. To access the court, Thulesa must pay the equivalent of €4, an unaffordable sum for her. But, when the lawyer tells her that ASF will pay these legal expenses, Thulesa is able to appear before the judge. As a result of this legal action, her husband stops threatening her. Today, she is waiting for the judge to reach a decision on her rights to obtain housing for herself and her two children.

Lack of information about her rights, inadequate public services, and a lack of financial resources make it difficult for Thulesa and many other women to seek justice. Access to justice is not a luxury and ASF ensures that the most vulnerable people in society are able to surmount the barriers to justice.

Donate €50 so that the most vulnerable people in Nepalese society (lower castes, women and children) can have access to advice from a lawyer in cases of discrimination.

If your donations total €40 in a tax year, you will be able to deduct it from your next taxable income.

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