



## FUNDERS AND PARTNERS

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*SFCG Nepal has worked with a number of local partners organisations which include national and local media production organisations, local FM radio stations, national and local youth organisations and non-governmental organisations (NGO). Some of the current partners include: Antenna Foundation Nepal, New World, Far Western Media Development Centre, Human Rights and Legal Protection Service Centre, Association of Youth Organisation Nepal, Youth Action Nepal, Youth Initiative, Youth Networks for Peace in 5 districts, Samagra Jan Utthan Kendra and a number of local FM stations.*



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## UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCES, ACT ON COMMONALITIES

Search for Common Ground (SFCG) is an international non government organisation that has been working in the field of conflict transformation and peacebuilding since 1982. SFCG currently works in more than 20 countries across five continents.



## OUR MISSION AND APPROACH

SFCG's mission is to transform the way the world deals with conflict: away from adversarial approaches, towards cooperative solutions. Our common ground approach seeks to bring people together from across dividing lines and promote solution-oriented dialogues and co-operative actions.

## OUR CORE PRINCIPLES

SFCG's programmes are guided by the following set of core principles.

- *Conflict is both normal and resolvable.* While conflict is inevitable, violence is not. Conflict is a product of human diversity and can be either positive or negative. When approached cooperatively, conflict can lead to great progress.
- *Common ground is not the same as compromise.* Finding common ground does not mean settling for the lowest common denominator. It means finding a higher denominator; ultimately, discovering shared humanity.
- *Conflict can be transformed.* Beyond helping to resolve specific disputes, our goal is to shift the way people, communities, and societies view one another and deal with their differences so that they resolve their problems in a cooperative manner.
- *Peace is a process.* Peace is not an event. The most effective way to make and build peace is to commit to a long-term process and find solutions that maximize the gain of all involved.
- *Humankind is interdependent.* The world is increasingly becoming interdependent and vulnerable. Security increases as people and nations feel more secure.

COMMON GROUND  
 JUSTICE  
 PEACE  
 COOPERATION  
 DIALOGUE  
 TRANSFORMATION  
 HUMANITY  
 COMMITMENT  
 COMMUNITY  
 PARTICIPATION  
 EMPOWERMENT  
 EMPATHY  
 SYNERGY  
 RECONCILIATION

## OUR TOOLBOX

We use a wide range of tools and methods to bring people together from across dividing lines so that we can work cooperatively. Our toolbox includes media - radio, television, films and magazines; mediation and facilitation; training and coaching; work with community organisations; sports; drama; and music.





## SEARCH FOR COMMON GROUND IN NEPAL

SFCG has been working in Nepal since 2006 with the overall objective **to support the peace process**. Using the common ground approach with youth, civil society organisations, media, and other key stakeholders, SFCG works with local partners to:

- Increase local ownership and participation in the transition to peace and democracy;
- Involve multiple stakeholders, particularly those who have been traditionally marginalized, in democratic processes at local and national levels;
- Strengthen inter-communal relations across ethnic, caste, geographical, and political lines; and
- Promote reconciliation to reweave the fabric of society that has been torn apart by war.

**“WE DECIDED TO ORGANISE A PEACE MARCH ON 26TH JANUARY, 2009. THE PARTICIPATION WAS SURPRISINGLY OVERWHELMING; ELDERS WERE EXCITED, THEY CAME FORWARD IN ORGANISING. THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY 400 PEOPLE, WHICH INCLUDED MADHESI, PAHADE, MUSLIMS AND MANY OTHER MINORITY GROUPS. WOMEN AND CHILDREN ALSO CAME FORWARD TO JOIN HANDS WITH US. DISPLAYING PLACARD, CHANTING SLOGANS OF PEACE, AND PLAYING PEACE SONG IN THE BACKGROUND, IT REMINDED ME THAT THERE IS HOPE IN THIS COMMUNITY TO SURVIVE PEACEFULLY. I FELT THE TIME AND ENERGY INVESTED TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN YOUTH AND ADULT HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL.”**

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Chairperson of youth club in Ghoganpur VDC, participant in SFCG Youth Program.

## PROGRAMMES

SFCG Nepal’s approach is to combine media and communication campaigns with community peacebuilding. The media programs, which have nationwide reach, thus reinforce the work of peacebuilders at the local level. Community peacebuilding programmes focus on sixteen districts including Dang, Salyan, Rolpa, Rukum, Jumla, Bardiya, Kailali, Doti, Accham, Barjura, Surkhet, Sankhuwasabha, Siraha, Saptari, Dhanusha and Mahottari.

### MEDIA PROGRAMMES

Using methodologies which have been tried and tested in conflict zones throughout the world, SFCG uses media programs to encourage solution-oriented dialogue, cooperative problem solving, and foster new models of participation and leadership. In partnership with Antenna Foundation Nepal, New World, Far Western Media Development Centre and FM stations across the country, we support the production of original radio dramas, talkshows, magazine programs and television drama.

Our programs include: *Naya Baato, Naya Paila (New Path, New Footprints)*, a radio soap opera broadcast nationally about the role of youth in peacebuilding, *Sunau Bolau (Let’s Listen, Let’s Talk)*, a program produced by children from diverse backgrounds and designed to give children a voice (AFN); **F** (Wider Earth), a franchised radio talk show with both regional and local versions, which aims to strengthen interethnic cooperation and dialogue on issues of concern to people in marginalised communities (NW, FMDC, various FM stations); *Sangor*, an innovative weekly radio drama in Maithili (NW); and *Sajhedari*, a radio magazine focusing on improving relations between local government and citizens (NW/ NGCPP). 2010 will also see the launch of a TV drama *‘The Team’*, part of a 10 country initiative that uses football to promote good governance, cooperation and inclusive leadership.

### MEDIA FOR PEACEBUILDING NEPAL

Journalists can play a key role reducing violence and promoting peace in times of transition and conflict. SFCG runs a comprehensive training and coaching program that equips radio producers, presenters and journalists across the country with skills to produce programs or articles that promote non violent problem solving.

### COMMUNITY PEACEBUILDING

SFCG Nepal is working with a range of key stakeholders at the community level, including leadership development of youth, capacity building of civil society and supporting the return and reintegration of Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups. The community programmes compliment and reinforce the messages from our media programmes.

Our community programmes include **Youth Leadership Development for Community Peacebuilding** which identifies “multiplier youth” from diverse communities, brings them into a dialogue and leadership development process and provides support for youth-led organisations to implement peacebuilding activities at the local level. **Civil society-capacity building on peacebuilding** builds the capacities of civil society organisations to develop conflict transformation and youth focussed programs.



**“I AM SURPRISED TO KNOW THAT WE CAN DISCUSS AND DECIDE TOGETHER WITH ADULTS. I ALWAYS FELT A SENSE OF INSECURITY TO TALK TO THEM; TODAY I HAVE REALIZED THAT TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.”**

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A 19 year old female participant of SFCG Youth Program

## PEACE SONG

*“Now on my heart, I write New Nepal”*  
- Lyrics from *Ma Timro Aankhama peace song*

In the year leading up to the 2008 democratic elections, Nepal’s peace process hung in the balance. Ethnic, political, and communal clashes were common as agitating organisations took advantage of the power vacuum to increase their position at the table.

Four months before the elections, SFCG and partners worked with renowned Nepali folk music band Kutumba to create a peace song. Ex-combatants from both sides of the conflict, current leaders of political and agitating organisations, peacemakers, and the famous poet and lyricist Viplob Pratik were invited to participate in a dialogue process to discuss what needed to happen for Nepal to come to peace.

As the dialogue process took place hostilities between the various groups dissolved, and the workshop resulted in two songs that wove the musical traditions of the various ethnic groups of Nepal together into a unified call for peace. Two weeks before the elections the songs were performed to a packed house in Kathmandu and broadcast on national radio and TV.

Listen to the songs here: [http://www.sfcg.org/programmes/Nepal/nepal\\_comm\\_campaign.html](http://www.sfcg.org/programmes/Nepal/nepal_comm_campaign.html)

**“BEFORE LISTENING TO THE PROGRAMME [NAYA BATO NAYA PAILA], I USED TO THINK POLITICS IS A DIRTY GAME AND I WANT NOTHING TO DO WITH IT WHATSOEVER. BUT AFTER LISTENING TO THE PROGRAMME AND HEARING THEM TALK ABOUT THE WRITING OF THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION, I HAVE COME TO REALIZE THAT WE CAN PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROCESS AND THAT WE HAVE A ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY TO DO SO.”**

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A young regular listener of Naya Bato Naya Paila