



member is vacant since the retirement of Justice (retd.) D. Murugesan in September 2018 (2 years and 7 months), and the position for one non-judicial member is vacant since this position was created through an amendment in July 2019 (1 year and 9 months). NHRC Member Justice (retd.) P.C. Pant was appointed Acting Chairperson on April 25, 2021, as per Section 7 of the PHRA.

The effect of these long vacancies has been pointed out by Justice Pant himself (<https://nhrc.nic.in/media/press-release/unfilled-vacancies-nhrc-and-shrcs-matter-concern-says-mr-justice-pc-pant-member>) and it is clear that with a monthly workload of near 10,000 complaints these vacancies have severely and negatively affected the responsiveness of the institution and its image in the public eye. It also allows for violations to continue and impunity to reign.

Section 4 of the PHRA requires a committee comprising the Prime Minister, Speaker of Lok Sabha, Deputy Speaker of Rajya Sabha, Union Minister of Home Affairs, and Leaders of Opposition in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha to send recommendations to you for appointments in the NHRC. There is no information in the public domain of this committee meeting after April 2019, i.e. for the last appointments made in the NHRC – Justice (retd.) P.C. Pant and Dr. Dnyaneshwar Manohar Mulay.

At this juncture, we note with concern certain media articles attributed to anonymous sources citing names of some recently retired Supreme Court judges as probable candidates preferred by the government for NHRC Chairperson. The suggestion of preferential candidates being considered in the absence of a formal process undermines the PHRA. Section 4 requires an impartial appointment process, based on objective criteria, entrusted to a high-level Committee, to determine the composition of the NHRC as spelled out in the PHRA. Even a minor indication of the government preferring a particular judge may compromise the independence of the judiciary and that of the NHRC.

Appointments to the NHRC must respect the fundamental principles of transparency and adherence to the accepted international standards and norms as laid down in the UN Paris Principles. We believe the prerequisite for the appointment committee to recommend names for NHRC Chairperson and Members is a process whereby it considers all eligible candidates and assesses them on objective criteria and indicators as provided for in the PHRA and consistent with international standards. The committee should strongly consider potential candidates' records, experience, and contributions to human rights.

We point out that the UN Paris Principles on selection and appointment emphasize (a) a transparent process; (b) broad consultation throughout; (c) advertising vacancies broadly; and (d) maximizing the number of potential candidates from a wide range of societal groups. It also considers the pluralistic composition of an NHRC to be fundamentally linked to the requirement of independence, credibility, effectiveness, and accessibility.

NHRC's international review and accreditation reports, undertaken by the Sub-Committee of Accreditation (SCA) of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), have repeatedly in 2011, 2016, and 2017 expressed concern about the lack of pluralism in NHRC. There has consistently been an inadequate representation of women, caste, tribe, and religious communities in NHRC's leadership. These reports also highlight the need for a transparent appointment process – advertisement of vacancies, assessing candidates on clear and uniform criteria, and holding broad consultations. According to the 2017 review report, "the NHRC has advocated (with the government) for changes to the selection process to include requirements to require the advertisement of vacancies and the establishment of clear and uniform criteria upon which to assess the merit of eligible applicants".

We request your intervention with the appointment committee. Considering that the process followed is as important as the outcome, any shortcuts that suborn the process are detrimental to the independence and credibility of the NHRC. We urge that the needed appointments are made at the earliest with no further delay, on the basis of the required process and recommended human rights standards, with all efforts to be inclusive and transparent.

Yours Sincerely,



(Henri Tiphagne)

National Working Secretary

All India Network of NGOs and Individuals working with N/SHRIs (AiNNI)

***Endorsed by the following organisations***

1. Act Now for Harmony and Democracy (Anhad), Delhi
2. All India Peoples Front
3. AMBEDKAR LOHIA VICHAR MANCH, ODISHA

4. Arasiyal Adhigara Amaippu, Tamil Nadu
5. Arunachal Citizens Right, Arunachal Pradesh
6. Association For Promotion Sustainable Development
7. Association of Women for Awareness and Motivation (AWAM)
8. Baba Ram Karan Das Gramin Vikas Samiti, Uttar Pradesh
9. Banglar Manabadhikar Suraksha Mancha (MASUM), West Bengal
10. CARE, Bangalore
11. CASEEET
12. Centre for Promotion of Social Concerns, Tamil Nadu
13. Centre for Research and Advocacy, Manipur
14. Centre for the Sustainable Use of Natural and Social Resources (CSNR), Odisha
15. Centre for women & Children solidarity Network, Chennai, Tamil Nadu
16. Child Rights Collective Gujarat
17. Child Rights Collective Gujarat (CRCG), Gujarat
18. Citizen for Human Rights Movement, Chennai, Tamil Nadu
19. CITIZEN FORUM, ODISHA
20. Citizen's Right Forum, Trichy, Tamil Nadu
21. Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI)
22. Community Action for Democracy, Manipur
23. Community Network for Empowerment (CoNE), Manipur
24. Dalit Association for Social and Human Rights Awareness (DASHRA), Bihar
25. Dalit Foundation, Delhi
26. Don Bosco, Trichy, Tamil Nadu
27. Dwarka forum
28. Empower India, Tamil Nadu
29. Forum for Promotion of Child Participation (FPCP), Tamilnadu and Pudhucherry
30. Foundation for Education and Development (FED), Jaipur
31. Gandhian unit for integrated development education (GUIDE), Tamil Nadu
32. HAQ: Centre for Child Rights, Delhi
33. Human Rights and Consumer Protection Society (HRCPS), Pudhucherry
34. Human Rights Council, Visakhapatnam

35. Human Rights Defenders Alert - India (HRDA)
36. Human Rights Welfare Organizations, Haryana
37. Human Rights CWA
38. Indigenous Women's Forum of North East India (IWFNEI), Nagaland
39. Indian Social Action Forum (INSAF), Delhi
40. Indian Social Institute, Bangalore
41. Institute of Human Rights Education (IHRE), Tamil Nadu
42. International Foundation for Human Development
43. International human rights association, Tamil Nadu
44. Itinerant People's Rights Organisation (IPRO), Tamil Nadu
45. JAN KALYAN PARISHAD, Uttar Pradesh
46. KHOJ Melghat, Amravati, Maharashtra
47. Lifetide - People's Collective for Water Sustainability, Justice and Harmony,  
Bangalore, Karnataka
48. Lok Bharti seva ashram, Bihar
49. Mahila Dakshta Samiti.
50. mines, mineral & People, Andhra Pradesh
51. National Adivasi Alliance.
52. National Alliance of People's Movements (NAPM)
53. National Confederation of Human Rights Organizations (NCHRO) Madhya Pradesh
54. National Confederation of Human Rights Organizations (NCHRO), Assam State  
Committee
55. National Dalit Movement for Justice -NCDHR
56. National Platform for the Rights of the Disabled
57. Nishant Natya Manch Delhi
58. Odisha Surakhya Sena, Odisha
59. PDSN
60. People for Himalayan Development
61. People's Campaign for Socio-Economic Equity
62. People's Action for Rural Awakening (PARA), Andhra Pradesh
63. People's Commission on Shrinking Democratic Space (PCSDS) Nagaland

64. People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL), Surat, Gujarat
65. People's Watch
66. POWER TRUST
67. Praxis
68. Punjab Women Collective. Punjab
69. Quill Foundation, Delhi
70. Ramkrishan Jha
71. Rastriya Manavadhikar
72. Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims (RCTV), Tamil Nadu
73. Right to Education Forum-Tamilnadu
74. Rural People`s Sangam, Tamilnadu
75. Samakalvi Iyakkam, Tamil Nadu
76. SAMAM Citizen Movement
77. Shakti mission
78. SNEHI -An Organisation for Psychosocial Support and Mental Health Care, Delhi
79. Social Uplift Through Rural Action (SUTRA), Himachal Pradesh
80. Socialist Party (India)
81. Society for community organization Trust, Madurai, Tamil Nadu
82. Society for Education and Development (SEED), Tamil Nadu
83. Society for rights of all women with disabilities, Chennai, Tamil Nadu
84. Tamilnadu Rural Labour Movement (TRLMCTU), Tamil Nadu
85. Tamilnadu Women's Movement
86. Trolley Times
87. Video Volunteers – India
88. Women's Collective, Tamil Nadu
89. Women's Voice, Bangalore

***Endorsed by the following individuals***

1. Aanchal Sawa, Student
2. Aasha Ramesh, Women's Rights activist, researcher and gender consultant
3. Abhay Pratap singh, Self employed

4. Abhinav Kumar Singh, Social Worker
5. Abhishek Kumar, Human Rights Activist
6. Abhishek Kumar Singh, Social Worker
7. Abhishek Nirmal, Student
8. Abhishek Sharma, Law Student
9. Abhishesh Kumar Singh, Human Rights Activist
10. Abirami. S, Law Student
11. Adikanda Singh, National Coordinator Policy Advocacy
12. Aditi, Student
13. Adv. Ansar Indori, Advocate
14. Agilan, Social worker
15. Agnes Kharshiinh, Human right defender
16. Ajay Sekher. Dr, Educationist
17. Ajeetha .B.S, Advocate
18. Ajit Kumar, Student
19. Akshay, Finance Associate
20. Albert, Missionary
21. Albin John Dass, Law Student
22. Alok kumar Shukla, Teacher
23. Altaf Ahamed, Activist
24. Amit Ambedkar, Social Activist, Lucknow Uttar Pradesh
25. Amit Bhaduri, Professor
26. Amit Kumar, Student
27. Amod Poddar, Engineer
28. Amod Shah, Ph.D Researcher
29. Anand Lakhan, Social Activist
30. Andrew Sesuraj. M , Social Worker and Educator
31. Aniket Singh, Logistics manager
32. Anil, Retd. Govt Officer
33. Anil K Singh, Social Activist
34. Anil Kumar Parashar, Law officer retired
35. Anil Nayal, Social Service
36. Ankit gosain, Fabric unit
37. Anmol Kaushik, Marketing Professional
38. Anthonyraj, Religious Work
39. Antony P M.Dr., Researcher
40. Anusha R, Lawyer

41. Arambam Jimmy Singh, Working as a counsellor in an NGO
42. Arlene Manoharan, Social Worker
43. Arulappa. M, Social Worker
44. Arun Khote, Human Rights Activist
45. Arun Kumar, Retd Professor
46. Arun Pandey, Social Worker
47. Arunagiri, Advocate
48. Arvind kumar, Social Worker
49. Arvind Sivaramakrishnan, Academic
50. Arvind Tiwari. Prof. Dr., Academician
51. Aseervatham, Human Rights Defender
52. Asha Saxena Ahmad. Dr. Doctor; Eye surgeon
53. Ashok Kumar Dayma, Teaching
54. Asir Thanasingh, Social worker
55. Asokan.A, Consumer Rights Activist
56. Aulia Kendra, Activist
57. Avadhoot, Human Rights Activist
58. Avinash Kumar Singh, Social Worker
59. Awdhesh Kumar Pandey, Social Worker
60. Awdhesh Kumar pandey, Social Worker
61. Babulity Limma, Social worker
62. Babulity Limma, Social work
63. Badhu kumar, Farmer
64. Balakrishnan, Social worker
65. Bala Murugan, Social Worker
66. Balasubramaniam. J, Professor
67. Barathwaz, Law Student
68. Bernat.L, Educationist
69. Beulah. S, Teacher
70. Bhanuja sharan lal, Social work
71. Bharath Jeyaraj , Daily work
72. Bipasha Roy, Child Rights Activist, Independent Consultant
73. Bipin Barik, Activist
74. Brahmacharimayum Pushparani, Community Mobilizer
75. Britto MA, Advocate
76. Casimir, Youth Researcher
77. Cedric Prakash, Human rights and peace Activist



78. Chakradhar Rao. K, Retired Professor & Member, Presidium, All India Forum for Right to Education.
79. Chandranath Dani, Lawyer
80. Chandraprakash Pandey, Student
81. Chandresh, Social Worker
82. Dakxin Bajrange, Film Maker
83. Davis Raja V, SOCIAL WORKER
84. Dayanakani, Social Worker
85. Deben, Teacher
86. Deepak Nikarthil, Consultant
87. Deepak sharma, Student
88. Deepanshu Dubey, Human Rights Activist
89. Devaneyan, Childrights Activist
90. Devasingh Johnson, Social Activist
91. Devi prasad singh, Human Rights Activist
92. Diana Thomas, Social Worker/ Child Rights Professional
93. Digvijay nath Shukla, Human Rights Activist
94. Dinakaran j, Social worker
95. Dinesh kumar Dwivedi, Social Worker
96. Divyesh Murabiya, Activist
97. Ekta Rathore, Lawyer, Ranchi
98. Eldersen, Social Worker
99. Emmanuel David, Human Rights Defender
100. Enakshi Ganguly, Human Rights and Child Rights Activist
101. Epzi Monica, Student
102. Faraz Ahmad, Freelance journalist
103. Felisa Tibbitts, Faculty member
104. Firoz, Teacher
105. Gabriele Dietrich, Professor (retired)
106. Ganesan. G, Child Rights Activist
107. Ganesh Ravi, Activist
108. Gaurav Sharma, DJ, producer, real estate consultant and strategist
109. George MK, Retired Professor of Sociology
110. Gerard Britto, Social worker
111. Goutham P, Student of law
112. Hari Prasanna, Journalism Student
113. Haridoss, Social Worker

114. Harkanwal Singh, Retd. Principal. Engineering College,
115. Harsh, Student
116. Harsh Mander, Human rights worker and writer
117. Hasmah Abdul Manaf, SUHAKAM
118. Hayath Basha. H, Advocate
119. Hiren Gandhi, Activist
120. Ignatius , Social worker
121. Imtiyaz Khan, Human Rights Activist
122. Irfan Engineer, Social activist
123. Ishu Jaiswal, Human Rights Defender
124. Jardis Nazareth, Priest
125. Jayakumar, Social work
126. Jayaram .N, Journalism
127. Jeya Nandana, Activist
128. Jeyakumar M, Computer Technician
129. Jeyaram, Systems Manager
130. Job Varghese, Businessman
131. John Ahmed, Executive member of NCHRO Assam
132. John Kennedy.S.M , Teacher
133. John Michael Raj M, Social Worker
134. John Philip Xavier, Teaching
135. Johnlouis M, Catholic priest
136. Joseph Victor Raj, Social Activist
137. Joy Sebastian, Religious and Educational
138. Julian, Social work
139. Kalpana Purushothaman, Child Rights Activist
140. Kalyani Menon Sen, Independent researcher
141. Kamlesh Tripathi, Social Worker
142. Kaushik. S.S, Police guest faculty
143. Kavi Shankar, Student of Law
144. Kennedy, Advocate
145. Kiran Kumari, Student
146. Kurity Roy, Human rights activism
147. Kirti Tiwari, Business
148. Kosturika Bandyopadhyay, Student
149. Krishna, Student
150. Krishna rao. Ch.S., Veterinary doctor

151. Kshetrimayum Onil, Human Rights Defender
152. Kuhaneswari, Accountant
153. Kulakanta Dandasena, Activist
154. Kuldeep Kumar, Self Employment
155. Kumkum Roy, Teacher
156. Kumud Singh , House wife
157. Kunnel Joshi, Human Rights Defender
158. Kuralamuthan, Social Worker
159. Lalremruata, Social Worker
160. Limanochet Jamir. T,Advocate
161. Lourthu Mary, Teacher
162. Mafiul Hussain , Research Scholar
163. Mahinder Pal, Teacher
164. Maja Daruwala, Advocate
165. Manas Jena, Social Activist.
166. Manimegalai. M, Social Worker
167. Manoharan. K. Ex COMMANDANT. CRPF
168. Manoj Kunar Singh, Farmer
169. Maria James. A, Advocate
170. Martin potsangbam, Working in NGOs
171. Mary Julie , Social worker
172. Masood. S.Q, Social Activist, Hyderabad
173. Mathew Jacob, Researcher
174. Meera, Human Rights Activist
175. Meha Khanduri, Human rights Activist
176. Michaelraj L, Social Work
177. Mijanur Rahman sk, Freelance activists
178. Mohd Ajimuddin Shah, Proprietor
179. Mohd Rameez Raza, Legal Researcher
180. Mohit Singh, Social Worker
181. Monisha Behal, Activist, Assam
182. Mrinalini, Human Rights Defender
183. Mrityunjay Verma, Human Rights Activist
184. Mukesh Kumar, Social Worker
185. Mukesh kumar vishwakarma, Student
186. Mukul Phukon, Social Worker
187. Mukul Phukon, Activist

188. Nagendran. A, Advocate
189. Nallaiyanpandi. M, Social Worker
190. Nambi. C, Social Work
191. Nandini, Community Development Worker
192. Nandini Sundar, University Teacher
193. Narayana Rao P, Journalist
194. Narendra Singh Chouhan, Social Worker
195. Narendra. Ch, Senior Journalist
196. Narengbam Prakash, Social Worker
197. Nepram Rchina Chanu, Working in NGO as Counsellor
198. Nidhi Gupta , Social welfare & Environment activist
199. Nirmala Minz, Social Worker
200. Niroja, Social Worker
201. Nivetha. S, Law Student
202. Nupur Dasgupta, Teacher
203. Pag, Teacher
204. Parthasarathy.B, Teacher
205. Parivelan.K.M . Academic
206. Paul Newman, Principal
207. Perumal.P, Lawyer
208. Pingala Maurya, Social Worker
209. Ponraj, Lawyer
210. Prabakar. S, Child Rights Activist
211. Praklash Louis, Activist
212. Pramod Ningombam, Freelance journalist
213. Prathina, Law Student
214. Pravin. J, Student
215. Prem Ram M R, Researcher
216. Prince Singh, Student
217. Princy.J, Social Work Student
218. Priya.M, Child Rights Activist
219. Priyanka Samy, Social Activist, Social Activist
220. Priyanshu Shukla, Captain cricketer
221. Qazi Mujeeb, Account
222. Radha Raman Pandey, Student
223. Raj kumar, Shopkeeper
224. Rajaguru, Student

225. Rajavel Natesan, Educationist
226. Rajavelu, Lawyer
227. Rajendran. R, Retd from BSNL
228. Ram Puniyani, Writer
229. Rama Melkote, Professor [retd] Osmania University, Hyderabad, Telangana State
230. Ramkumar, Accountant
231. Ranjith, Social Worker
232. Ravi, Advocate
233. Ravi Jaitley, Retired
234. Ravindra Kumar Mishra, Social Worker
235. Ravindran, Advocate
236. Renu Khanna , Health rights activist
237. Renu Singh, Social Worker
238. Rimunchung Duroi Chongdur, Social worker
239. Riya Tomy, Social Worker
240. Robert William, Lecturer
241. Roy David.V.S, Social Activist
242. Sadhanatiwari, Human Rights Activist
243. Sahaya Philomin Raj, Advocate
244. SAHDEV PRATAP SINGH, Social Worker
245. Sai Babu.P.C, Retd. Lecturer
246. Sainath. P, Journalist
247. Sakshi Jerath, Student
248. Sampath Kumar, Social activist, Journalist
249. Sandeep Pattnaik, Activist, Bhubaneswar
250. Sangeetha saravanan, Activist
251. Sanjay kumar Tiwari, Social Worker
252. Santhanam, Social work
253. Santhanam A, Advocate
254. Santosh kumar, Social Worker
255. Santosh pandey, Human Rights Activist
256. Sarita singh, Human Rights Activist
257. Sathishkumar, Social Worker
258. Sathya.V, Women Rights Activist
259. Satish Rajkumar, Lawyer
260. Saumya Surbhi, Civil society
261. Saurabh, Human rights c w a

262. Saurabh Dwivedi, Student
263. Selvi Nithya, Ph D Research Scholar
264. Senthil, Activist
265. Shalini Gera, Advocate
266. Shampa Sengupta, Social worker
267. Shamsul Islam, Former faculty University of Delhi
268. Shantha Sinha, Advocate of Child Rights
269. Shanthi, Social Worker
270. Shekher parmar, Jai ambay clothing
271. Shiva Shankar, Academic
272. Shiyam Sundar, Social Activist, Educationist
273. Shri prakash Shukla, Social Worker
274. Shrutika, Legal Researcher
275. Shubham, Student
276. Shubham dwivedi, Student
277. Shubhangni Jain, Lawyer
278. Shunmalar, Law student
279. Simon Joseph M. Dr., Asst. Professor
280. Simon Prabakaran, Professionally qualified Social worker
281. Sravondev P A, Advocate
282. Stegana Jency.L.T, Social worker
283. SUBHA SHREE M, Student of Law
284. Subhacine.M, Student
285. Suday kumar, Social Worker
286. Sudhanshu jaiswal, Social Worker
287. Sumitha, Self employed
288. Sunand K Singh, Technical Specialist - Child Protection
289. Sunila Singh, Women Human Rights Activist
290. Sunita, Nurse
291. Suraj, student
292. Surchand, Ngo worker
293. Surendra Pratak, Manwadhikar CWA
294. Sureshkumar. C, Advocate
295. Sureshsundarapandiyam, Reporter
296. Susai, Teacher
297. Swati Singh, Teacher
298. Tani Alex, Researcher

299. Tara Murali, Architect
300. Tara Uday, Dalit Rights Activist, Bihar
301. Tewari.P.C, Advocate
302. Thomas Arockiasamy, Social worker
303. Thomas Pallithanam, Human Rights Defender
304. Thounaojam Anilkumar Singh, Human right activist
305. Uday Kumar, Human Rights Defender
306. Uday tiwari , Accountant
307. Uma Chakravarti, Retired Teacher
308. Uma Sankari, Educator, Human Rights researcher
309. Urvashi chouhan, Social Worker
310. Vanarajan. B.S, Social worker
311. Vasanthi Devi. V.Dr. Former Chairperson, Tamil State Women Commission
312. Velankanni Martin, Social work
313. Venkatachalapathi. B, Human Rights Activist
314. Vibhum shukla , Business
315. Vicky Jaiswal, Human Rights Activist
316. Victor jayaraj. J, Human Rights Activist
317. Vijay Dattatraya Mandke, Journalist
318. Vimal Bhai, Activist
319. Vinayak Rajesekhar, Communications Professional
320. Virgil dsami, Social worker
321. Vishal, Bold fashion. Punjab
322. Vishnu Gajbar, Advocate and Human Rights Activist
323. Vivek jaiswal, Human Rights Activist
324. Walter Fernandes, Researcher
325. Yogendra kumar Singh yogi, Human Rights Activist
326. Yogeshwari Chouhan, Social Worker

**Copies to –**

**Members of the Appointment Committee**

1. Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, Email: [connect@mygov.nic.in](mailto:connect@mygov.nic.in) [narendramodi1234@gmail.com](mailto:narendramodi1234@gmail.com)
2. Shri Om Birla, Speaker of Lok Sabha, Email- [speakerloksabha@sansad.nic.in](mailto:speakerloksabha@sansad.nic.in)
3. Leader of opposition Lok Sabha - Vacant
4. Shri Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of opposition Rajya Sabha – Email- [mallikarjun.kharge@sansad.nic.in](mailto:mallikarjun.kharge@sansad.nic.in)
5. Shri Harivansh, Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha - Email- [hari.vansh@sansad.nic.in](mailto:hari.vansh@sansad.nic.in)
6. Shri Amit Shah, Minister of Home Affairs, Email: [jscpg-mha@nic.in](mailto:jscpg-mha@nic.in) , [amitshah.mp@sansad.nic.in](mailto:amitshah.mp@sansad.nic.in)

**National Human Rights Commission**

1. Shri Bimbadhar Pradhan, IAS, Secretary General, National Human Rights Commission, India Email: [sgnhrc@nic.in](mailto:sgnhrc@nic.in)