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MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN
THIMPHU

DIRECTOR

MFA/MD/3/269

26 April 2021

To:

1. Attorney General, Office of Attorney General, Thimphu
2. Registrar-General, Royal Courts of Justice, Thimphu
3. Director General, NCWC, Thimphu
4. Secretary General, NAB, Thimphu
5. Secretary General, National Council, Thimphu
6. Director, Department of Law & Order, MoHCA, Thimphu
7. Executive Director, RENEW, Thimphu

Subject: Report on Sexual Violence in South Asia: Legal and Other Barriers to Justice for Survivors

Dasho/Sir/Madam,

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs would like to inform that Equality Now-an international human rights organisation and Dignity Alliance International-a UK-based charity have recently published a report entitled 'Sexual Violence in South Asia: Legal and Other Barriers to Justice for Survivors'. The report analyses gaps in laws and policies on sexual violence and assesses the role and response of the criminal justice system in addressing the issue of sexual violence against women and girls in six South Asian countries including Bhutan.

As per the report, its findings are based on desk research on applicable laws, existing reports and studies published by international and national human rights agencies, academic journals, NGOs and CBOs. Primary data collection for Bhutan was done through interviews with representatives of NGOs and media as well as 6 survivors of which stories of 2 are highlighted in the report.

A copy of the report is attached herewith. It is also available online at <https://www.equalitynow.org/sexualviolencesouthasia>. This is shared for your information.

Yours sincerely,

(Pema Choden)
Department of Multilateral Affairs