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National Advocacy to Connecting with Bhutan

*Presented by: Bhutanese Community in Australia,
Melbourne*

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Is Reconciliation for National Advocacy to Connecting with Bhutan an option?

There is no handy roadmap for reconciliation. Reconciliation is a long-term process and it must – and will – continue for many years to come.

Creating trust and understanding between former enemies is a supremely difficult challenge. It is, however, an essential one to address in the process of building a lasting peace. *Desmond Tutu, Archbishop Emeritus*

Reconciliation is a societal process that involves mutual acknowledgment of past suffering and the changing of destructive attitudes and behaviour into constructive relationships toward sustainable peace. *SIDA, Sweden*



What is National Advocacy for Bhutanese Diaspora?

- *Going back to Bhutan permanently!*
- *Seeking justice for ill treatment, torture or harassment!*
- *Democracy & Human Rights!*
- *Recovering the property and land lost in the conflict in 1990s!*
- *Visiting Bhutan to meet relatives and families!*
- *Investing in Bhutan on social and economic development!*
- *Making people to people relationship to foster trust building!*
- *To connect with Bhutanese students & skill migrants out of Bhutan!*



Why National Advocacy for Bhutanese Diaspora?

- *Keep connection with Motherland/Birthplace*
- *Fulfill wish of seniors, elders and others to visit Bhutan*
- *Reconcile the difficult past in positive mindset*
- *Educate our younger generations about our history, origin and connect with their roots*
- *Contribute in the social and economic development of Bhutan.*
- *Establish people to people relationship at all levels through personal, local, and community relationships.*



What Approach can be taken for National Advocacy or Reconciliation?

Positive Diplomacy

- *Through the governments of host countries of resettlement*
- *Through relevant United Nation agencies and donor countries*
- *With the support of influential personalities and friends of RGOB*
- *People to people connection inside Bhutan and diaspora Bhutanese*
- *Telling positive stories about Bhutan and promoting Bhutan as our country of origin*
- *With the support of Indian Government*



What Approach can be taken for National Advocacy or Reconciliation?

Other Approach

- *Campaign on Human Rights violation in Bhutan during 1990s and after, through media*
- *Highlight sufferings in the refugee camp in Nepal*
- *Advocacy through Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and similar organisations*
- *Demonstrations in the host countries and their media on regular basis*
- *Story telling of the individual suffering in Bhutanese prison and atrocities before leaving Bhutan*



Approaches and Strategies for National Advocacy/Reconciliation

- *Global Advocacy (Only Bhutanese or external agencies?)*
- *National, Local and Grassroots Advocacy*
- *Civil society movement (NGOs, community, philanthropy, charity)*
- *United Nations Agencies*
- *Political Advocacy- Bipartisan support, Parliamentary friends of Reconciliation with Bhutan*
- *Bhutanese Diaspora only Advocacy*
- *Academics and high profile personalities- Actors, sports and others personalities*



What is best timeframe for National Advocacy?

- *Short term: 2 to 3 years*
- *Medium term: 5 to 7 years*
- *Long term: 8 to 10 years*

Thank you all