

TOUCHSTONE GALLERY

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Wed-Fri 11.00-5.00 • Sat-Sun 12.00-5.00

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Annex A at Touchstone Gallery

April 1 – May 2, 2009

Photography Exhibit Helps to Reveal Social Discrimination in Nepal

Opening Reception: Friday, April 3, 6 – 8:30 pm

*Come mingle with organizers, artists and supporters over
some wine and cheese.*

**Clean Hands Project Reception will include
Nepali music performance:**

Friday, April 17, 7 – 9 pm

*Come mingle with organizers, artists and supporters over
some wine and cheese and Nepali music.*

Thirteen Nepali Dalit journalists will have their photographs exhibited at Annex A at Touchstone Gallery from April 1 – May 2, 2009 at 406 7th St NW 2nd Floor Washington, DC.

All of the featured journalists participated in *The Clean Hands Project*, an initiative that trained Nepali Dalit journalists in photojournalism and videography. The project supplied journalists with professional photography equipment as they documented activity throughout the Dalit community. The project has helped to raise awareness of Nepal's current transformation and the Dalit Movement within that change.

The Dalit movement, which strives for equality among all peoples, has been steadily growing since democracy took root in Nepal in 1990. The recent collapse of Nepal's monarchy, the formation of a new government, and the rise of private media have ushered in exciting opportunities in the movement toward freedom of expression for all populations.

As members of the Nepali constituent assembly draft a new constitution for the country, Dalit activists are working to promote equality for all Nepalese. Until now, visual media has not played as notable a role as other forms of communication in mobilizing the public. The work of journalists in *The Clean Hands Project* is paving a new way, exposing the power of visual media to inspire action.

The Clean Hands Project was organized by media activists Jes Therkelsen and Phoebe Gilpin, with the collaboration of the Jagaran Media Center in Nepal and the Advocacy Project in Washington DC. "The immediacy of visual media and its ability to elicit emotion makes it such a powerful tool for advocacy," Therkelsen says. "Distances that were once unfathomable can now be crossed in an instant."

Composed by Clean Hands Project

For more information about the Clean Hands Project: <http://www.cleanhandsproject.com>

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