



## Statement on the CIAA and reports on investigation of Social Science Baha (SSB) and Alliance for Social Dialogue (ASD)

The Britain-Nepal Academic Council (BNAC), as a partner organization of the SSB, wishes to express its deep concern about the report in *The Himalayan Times* on 25 September 2016 that the CIAA has encouraged the Social Welfare Council to investigate both the Social Science Baha and the Alliance for Social Dialogue.<sup>1</sup> The BNAC is supported in this by academics from across the world who have experience of doing research in Nepal (see list below).

The CIAA has, of course, every right to investigate whichever governmental body it chooses in its mission to prevent corruption in Nepal. In this context, however, there are certain other points that must be emphasized:

1. The SSB is known for the highest standards of integrity in the pursuit of intellectual interchange and in all its activities. The SSB has played a major role in raising the standards of social science research in Nepal over the past decade through activities such as conferences, public lectures, and other interactions, as well as by means of numerous publications. Many international research institutions have sought to partner with the SSB due to the high calibre of its research outputs.
2. The mission of the SSB is to enable interaction both within Nepal and between Nepali scholars and scholars from outside. It is not a service NGO involved, for example, in poverty relief or health programmes. As a research organization, it is normal that the bulk of its expenditure will be on salaries for researchers, as well as on accommodation and travel to facilitate scholarly exchange. Much of the expenditure, even if it passes through the SSB's books, will have been contributed by participants and partner organizations.
3. The ASD is one of many projects and activities internal to the SSB and not a separate NGO, as mistakenly implied both by the CIAA press release and by the *Himalayan Times* article.
4. We note that the CIAA has already been accused of overstepping its remit by important voices within Nepal, not least in an editorial in *Kantipur* of 28 September 2016.<sup>2</sup>
5. Based on our substantial experience of working together with SSB, including detailed budget oversight of specific projects, we can say unequivocally that we have not experienced any misallocation or 'irregularities'. We have full confidence in the high standards of account-keeping of the SSB.

<sup>1</sup> <https://thehimalayantimes.com/kathmandu/ciaa-seeks-action-social-science-baha-alliance-social-dialogue/>, based on CIAA press release: [http://ciaa.gov.np/images/publications/1474801464press\\_released\\_6\\_9\\_aa.pdf](http://ciaa.gov.np/images/publications/1474801464press_released_6_9_aa.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> <http://kantipur.ekantipur.com/news/2016-09-28/20160928074234.html>. Partial English translation at: <http://www.nepalitimes.com/blogs/thebrief/2016/09/28/blackmailing-academia/>.



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