



## **CSOs and NGOs working for the Rights of Migrant Workers<sup>1</sup>**

**Name of Organisation:** Pourakhi, Nepal, 2003

**Website of Organisation:** <http://www.pourakhi.org.np/>

**Facebook of Organisation:** <https://www.facebook.com/Pourakhi/>

**Organisation of DTP Alumni Y/N:** Yes

Pourakhi which mean 'self-reliant' in Nepali; it is a member based organisation which advocates for the rights of migrant workers and their families. It is a leading organisation for individuals who migrate abroad for employment from Nepal. It was originally an organisation which advocated for the rights of women who returned to Nepal after migrating abroad for employment.

Since 2003, Pourakhi has become a leading organization for individuals who migrate abroad for employment. Pourakhi has established several programs to address the issues of pre-employment, pre-departure, employment and post arrival support programs. A popular program has been the Shelter House Facility, established in 2009. The Facility aims to provide a safe space for women who return to Nepal and are not able to join their family and community. Other programs include their financial literacy program for women about how to best utilise the money earned abroad in Nepal; an entrepreneurship program, which is a skill based on how to open, manage and build a business; advocacy programs with the government and education programs for children of migrant workers.

Pourakhi provides financial support to needy families of migrant workers through a Child Education Fund to support at risk children and their education. The organisation also provides officers at the Foreign Employment Information Booth, operated by the Department of Foreign Employment. The officers of Pourakhi provide information and assistance to departing and returning migrants as well as distribute material about safe migration, refer returning migrants to relevant support structures in migrants, identify women in need of shelter and other support and direct them to Pourakhi shelter and coordinate with airport authorities, police and DOFE to assist migrant workers in need.

Pourakhi also provides a paralegal service which is limited to migrant workers and their families, potential migrant workers who are involved in fraudulent contract, migrants who have died or experience any other form of exploitation in the migration cycle. Furthermore, Pourakhi hosts a bi-monthly radio program that covers a variety of topics for prospective migrants and the family members of people already working abroad in partnership with AWO International, with the assistance of Radio Nepal. The program raises awareness of the legal process of migration, potential challenges in destination countries, information on policy/law and stories from returned migrants.

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**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/Pourakhi/>

*Profile written April 2017*

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<sup>1</sup> The Diplomacy Training Program (DTP) is an NGO affiliated with the Faculty of Law at UNSW in Sydney. Since 1990, It has provided training to over 2800 human rights defenders and community advocates. These individuals work for a wide range of organisations working to promote shared values of human rights – in different ways. This profile is part of a series developed by DTP ([www.dtp.unsw.edu.au](http://www.dtp.unsw.edu.au)) to illustrate the richness and diversity of the organisations working to promote human rights more broadly.

