

**Tulasha Bastola:**

Reynoldsburg, Ohio

Honorable Chair, Ranking Member, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Tulasha Bastola. I am a wife, a mother of two, and a proud Bhutanese American residing in Reynoldsburg, Ohio.

My journey to the United States began in the early 1990s when my family and I were forced to flee Bhutan due to the government's policies targeting the Lhotshampa community. We spent nearly two decades in refugee camps in Nepal, facing challenging living conditions and an uncertain future.

In 2009, my family was resettled in the United States, where we have worked hard to build a new life. Despite the opportunities we've found here, the trauma of displacement and the longing for justice remain.

I urge this committee to support the resolution recognizing the human rights abuses committed against the Lhotshampa people. Acknowledging these injustices is crucial to healing and ensuring such violations do not occur again.

Thank you for your attention and commitment to human rights.