

**HR 25 - AS INTRODUCED**

2026 SESSION

26-2505

12/09

HOUSE RESOLUTION

**25**

A RESOLUTION recognizing the Kingdom of Bhutan as responsible for the oppression and forced eviction of more than 100,000 Bhutanese citizens during the late 1980s and 1990s.

SPONSORS: Rep. Budathoki, Hills. 40; Rep. Khan, Rock. 30; Rep. Seibert, Hills. 21

COMMITTEE: State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs

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ANALYSIS

This resolution recognizes the Kingdom of Bhutan as responsible for the oppression and forced eviction of more than 100,000 Bhutanese citizens during the late 1980s and 1990s. This resolution also urges the Kingdom of Bhutan to release all remaining political prisoners and accept the voluntary return of its displaced citizens.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six*

A RESOLUTION recognizing the Kingdom of Bhutan as responsible for the oppression and forced eviction of more than 100,000 Bhutanese citizens during the late 1980s and 1990s.

1       Whereas, the Kingdom of Bhutan was responsible for the oppression and forced displacement of  
2 more than 100,000 Nepali language-speaking Bhutanese citizens, Lhotshampas and Sharchops, in  
3 the 1990s due to their identity, culture, language, religion, and political opinion; and

4       Whereas, many of these individuals experienced unjust detention, torture, and other forms of  
5 human rights abuses; and

6       Whereas, many political prisoners continue to be held in Bhutanese prisons for protracted  
7 sentences; and

8       Whereas, persecuted Bhutanese were forced to cross into Nepal, where some remained for nearly  
9 2 decades in refugee camps; and

10       Whereas, thousands of Bhutanese refugees remain in refugee camps in Nepal, and the Royal  
11 Government of Bhutan continues to deny dignified repatriation to those who desire it; and

12       Whereas, more than 250,000 Nepali-speaking Lhotshampa Bhutanese still inside Bhutan suffer  
13 political, social, and economic oppression as the Royal Government of Bhutan has continuously  
14 refused to reinstate the citizenships that were stripped during the 1990s; and

15       Whereas, such incidences of human rights violations and abuses and extreme acts of violence  
16 perpetrated by any individual actor or state should be condemned; and

17       Whereas, the majority of the Nepali-speaking Lhotshampa, who were refugees in Nepal, have  
18 now resettled in other countries, including Australia, Canada, Denmark, Netherlands, New Zealand,  
19 Norway, the United Kingdom, and the United States; and

20       Whereas, more than 2,000 Bhutanese refugees who were expelled have been resettled in the  
21 State of New Hampshire; and

22       Whereas, although Bhutan and the United States have not established diplomatic relations, the  
23 2 countries maintain warm and productive unofficial ties; and

24       Whereas, the Kingdom of Bhutan has stood with the United States and other like-minded  
25 countries at the United Nations to condemn Russian aggression in Ukraine; and

26       Whereas, the Kingdom of Bhutan is a close Indo-Pacific partner of the United States committed  
27 to upholding the rules-based international order; now, therefore, be it

28       Resolved by the House of Representatives:

29       That the New Hampshire house of representatives declares that the Royal Government of  
30 Bhutan is responsible for the political, cultural, and ethnic oppression of Nepali-speaking  
31 Lhotshampas and Sharchops in Bhutan during the late 1980s and 1990s;

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1           That the New Hampshire house of representatives urges the Royal Government of Bhutan to  
2 conduct a rapid and unconditional release of all political prisoners, whose crime was demanding  
3 democracy and human rights, with due restitution and reparations;

4           That the New Hampshire house of representatives, in a spirit of friendship, urges the Royal  
5 Government of Bhutan to resume discussions with the Government of Nepal on the status of  
6 individuals in Nepal who assert a claim to Bhutan citizenship or residency;

7           That the New Hampshire house of representatives requests the Royal Government of Bhutan to  
8 restore citizenship for all Nepali-speaking Lhotshampas that have had it arbitrarily revoked;

9           That the New Hampshire house of representatives requests the Royal Government of Bhutan  
10 accept the voluntary return of its citizens from the refugee camps in Nepal; and

11           That the New Hampshire house of representatives urges the Royal Government of Bhutan to  
12 enter into a holistic peace-building and reconciliation process and institute an independent truth  
13 commission to publicly investigate any human rights violations and abuses committed during the  
14 1980s and 1990s, publish its findings, and follow through on its recommendations to ensure no  
15 future displacement or oppression of Nepali-speaking Lhotshampas and other minorities in Bhutan.

16           Be it further resolved that copies of this resolution, signed by the speaker of the house of  
17 representatives, be forwarded to the President of the United States and the Secretary of the United  
18 States Department of State.