



## Better Brick-Nepal Standards Committee Biographies



**Lee Swepston (Chair)** is an international labor standards expert with over three decades' experience, including as the Senior Adviser on Human Rights and numerous other senior positions in the International Labour Office (ILO) in Geneva since 1973. Mr. Swepston represented ILO in relations with international organizations on human rights concerns, including for UN treaty bodies, served as Chief of delegation at the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council, and served as the Director-General's deputy representative on international Committees on labor rights. Currently Mr. Swepston serves as a consultant to ILO as well as the Government of Taiwan on the development of international labor standards and country programs. Mr. Swepston has written numerous books and articles on human rights and ILO standards, child labor, freedom of association, discrimination, migrant workers and indigenous and tribal peoples. Mr. Swepston also serves as chair of the GoodWeave International Standards Committee.

**Shyam Prasad Giri** is currently the Project Manager for Vertical Shaft Brick Kiln (VSBK). He also currently holds the position of Senior Vice-President for the Federation of Nepal Cottage and Small Industries (FNCSI), an umbrella organization of Nepalese Micro Cottage and Small Industries. Previously, Mr. Giri was the Executive Director of the Cottage and Small Industry Development Board (CSIDB), Ministry of Industry, Government of Nepal. In addition, he has over 10 years of engineering experience as a Team Member/Team Leader on varying projects. Mr. Giri holds a B.Sc. in Pure Science and MBA from Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal.



**Mathew John**, Director of GoodWeave's Certification Division, heads the organization's supply-chain certification, verification, and worker-organizing activities. He was directly involved in establishing GoodWeave's original supply-chain monitoring system—one of the first labor rights monitoring systems in the world—and, with 30 years of experience in the areas of workers' and children's rights, has devoted much of his life to combating worker exploitation in India and neighboring countries. He has worked for GoodWeave twice: first from 1995 to 1999, and then again from 2008 until the present. In between those periods, he served as the Officer on Special Duty at the Krishnamurti Foundation—India at its Rajghat Education Centre in Varanasi, India, where he led operations.



**Sudhir Katiyar** is the Project Director at Prayas Centre for Labor Research and Action. As the Project Director, Mr. Katiyar works to create a supportive environment for setting up and strengthening workers' organizations/unions. He has focused on supporting migrant laborers in industries ranging from cotton seed farms and ginning factories to brick kilns. Mr. Katiyar has also published several studies, most recently one focused on child labor in cottonseed production.

**Ram Datta Poudel**, Vice Chairperson of Integrated Green Development Nepal, is a seasoned professional with over ten years of experience in the Brick industry. He currently supports Brick kiln operations and provides oversight on both certification and operational issues. He serves also as a representative of GFI's operations in-country.



**Uddhav Raj Poudyal** is an independent consultant and advisor to the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNICEF in Nepal. Most recently he served as Chief Technical Advisor to ILO's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC), on issues ranging from addressing child rights in informal sectors to situations of armed conflict. From 1998-2005 he served as National Project Manager for the UNICEF/ILO joint Bonded Child Labour Project, which worked to prevent vulnerable groups from falling into bondage and trafficking, to prevent children from entering into hazardous work, and to collaborate with employers, workers and nongovernment organizations to document and promote good practices. Previously, he managed programmes for Save the Children UK, including developing programs in health and sanitation, education and income generation for rural communities, as well as work with the Bhutanese Refugee programme in the early '90s.



**David Parker** has pursued dual careers: working as an occupational physician and epidemiologist in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and photographing children working, labor conditions, and public health problems around the world. His work has been widely exhibited in museums throughout North America and he has published three books of photography: *Stolen Dreams: Portraits of Working Children* (1998), *By These Hands: Portraits from the Factory Floor* (2002) and *Before Their Time: The World of Child Labor* (2007). David Parker also founded the Occupational Health Programs at the Minnesota Department of Health and served as director of its Center for Worker Health and Safety, and has written over 75 scientific manuscripts and reports on public health, occupational health and safety, hazardous work and child labor, and is a recipient of the Christopher Award for work affirming the highest values of the human spirit.

**Sundar Pathak** brings more than twelve years of experience in managing, planning, and business relations at a senior management level. Currently, Mr. Pathak is the CEO of Siddhartha Brick Factory and is a Board member of MJP Cement Factory. He is experienced in driving product, process and customer service improvements. Mr. Pathak also holds a B.Sc. in Physics from Trichanchandra College, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal.



**Shusma Pokhrel**, Executive Director of GoodWeave Nepal, has extensive work experience in diversified fields, especially in the development sector. Prior joining GoodWeave, Ms. Pokhrel worked as Director for Family Based Care Program and Advocacy at SOS Children’s Villages for 12 years. She was the National Child Safeguarding Focal Person for SOS Nepal. She also worked with Pro Public as a Field Project Coordinator in Civil Society Anti-Corruption Project for Jhapa District. She has extensive work experience in diversified fields especially in the development sector and was involved in various government and non-government institutions representing her previous organizations. She was also part of Task Force (Advisory Group) at South Asian Coordination Group to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC). Ms. Pokhrel holds a master’s Degree in Business Administration, a Masters in Sociology, a Post Graduate Diploma in Women Studies and LLB from Tribhuwan University.



**Jiyam Shrestha** has more than 18 years of experience working on child protection and rights. Mr. Shrestha joined CONCERN Nepal, a member organization of Brick Clean Network, in 1996 as a Program Officer, and since 2003 has been managing programs focused on child labor in Nepal’s brick kiln industry. Previously he was the Chairperson of Consortium of organizations working for Child Participation and also was the co-chair, and founding member of

National Action Coordination Group (NACG) for South Asian Initiatives to end Violence against Children (SAIEVAC) an Apex body of SAARC. Mr. Shrestha also holds a master’s degree in economics.

#### **Non-Voting Observers:**

##### **Jacob Emont**



**Samjhana Pradhan**, Head of GoodWeave Nepal’s Inspection Team, has been with GoodWeave Nepal for eleven years, and has led the inspections team since 2011. Ms. Pradhan directs a team of inspectors who conduct ongoing surveillance to ensure importer licensees, distributors and retailers adhere to the GoodWeave’s Standard and terms of license agreements. Ms. Pradhan holds a graduate degree in English Literature and Sociology, as well as special course in English as a Foreign Language from Greenwich College, London, United Kingdom. She also holds a pharmacy

diploma degree from The College of Pharmacy Practice, London, United Kingdom and worked in the Pharmacy at Pestle and Mortar, Kensington, London, United Kingdom. Ms. Pradhan joins the committee as a non-voting member.