

**IDS**N

**International Dalit Solidarity Network**

**WORKING GLOBALLY AGAINST DISCRIMINATION BASED ON WORK AND DESCENT**



**2011**  
**annual report**



**Cover:** In 2011 the UN OHCHR-Nepal and the NDC launched the *100 Day Campaign Against Caste Discrimination and Untouchability*, using this offline and online fingerprint campaign to collect commitments from across the world to end caste discrimination. UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay speaking at the launch of the 100 Day Campaign in Nepal said, "Nepal has become a leader on the world stage in the fight against caste-based discrimination ... For centuries, millions in Nepal and other countries in this region have suffered as a result of caste discrimination and untouchability. Let us hope that the people of Nepal can turn this page and inspire others to learn from Nepal's experience."



**International Consultation on Caste-Based Discrimination.** Over one hundred Dalit activists and social movement leaders from the caste affected countries of Bangladesh, India, Japan, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Senegal and Yemen, solidarity networks from Denmark, Finland, Germany, Netherlands, Sweden and the UK, members of International Organizations, International Non-Governmental Organizations, and researchers, united for the International Consultation on Good Practices and Strategies to Eliminate Caste Based Discrimination held from the 29 November – 1 December 2011 in Kathmandu, Nepal and launched a Declaration and Global Call for Action alongside a number of recommendations. More information on the consultation and declaration can be found on pg. 15-16. Photo of some of the participants: IDSN.

**IDSN** was founded in March 2000 to advocate for Dalit human rights and to raise awareness of Dalit issues nationally and internationally. IDSN is a network of international human rights groups, development agencies, national Dalit solidarity networks from Europe, and national platforms in caste-affected countries. The network has had a significant impact on the internationalization of caste discrimination as a critical human rights issue. Through engagement with UN, EU and other multilateral institutions, IDSN has successfully lobbied for action oriented approaches to address 'untouchability' and other human rights abuses against Dalits and similar communities, that suffer discrimination on the basis of work and descent. IDSN bases its work on contributions from members and associates. Joint interventions

in the United Nations and the EU constitute a major part of IDSN's activities. The network produces crucial input in the form of documentation, strategic interventions and lobby action and also supports national level lobby. Interaction between members adds to the dynamics of the network.

The Copenhagen-based secretariat coordinates lobby and advocacy activities in close cooperation with members, associates and alliance partners. IDSN was formally registered as an organisation in October 2003. In 2011, the Secretariat was staffed by five staff members: Coordinator Rikke Nöhrind, Programme Officer Maia Ingvardson, UN Programme Officer Gitte Dyrhagen, Communications Officer Maria Brink Schleimann and part-time bookkeeper Ole Westergaard.

**Annual report 2011.** Published by IDSN, International Dalit Solidarity Network, 2012. Design by Maarbjerg Grafisk Design.

4	<b>Executive Summary</b>
7	<b>United Nations</b>
7	Human Rights Council
9	Special Procedures
9	Universal Periodic Review (UPR)
11	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
11	UN treaty bodies and UPR
12	<b>European Union</b>
12	The European Parliament
13	The European External Action Service (EEAS)
13	Council Working Party on Human Rights (COHOM)
13	EC project <i>Ending 'untouchability': European action to eliminate caste discrimination</i>
14	International Consultation on Good Practices and Strategies
17	<b>Private Sector</b>
18	<b>Communication and networking</b>
20	<b>Developments in caste-affected countries</b>
20	India
25	Nepal
28	Bangladesh
30	Pakistan
32	<b>Developments in European countries</b>
32	Netherlands (DNN)
33	United Kingdom (DSN-UK)
34	Finland (DSN-FI)
35	Denmark (DSN-DK)
36	Germany (DSiD)
37	Belgium (SDB)
38	Norway
38	Sweden
38	<b>Organisation, administration and finance</b>
40	<b>Financial Statements 2011</b>
40	<b>Expenditure 2011</b>
42	References
43	Abbreviations

## Executive Summary

### “Walking the talk”

It is often only in retrospect that we see the success of interventions. This is true for Dalit movements and organisations struggling at the local or national level as well as for joint efforts of Dalit human rights defenders at the international level.

The year 2011 has been marked by outstanding developments and progress.

The highlight of the year was the enactment of the Caste-based Discrimination and Untouchability Act in Nepal, which is also the first act in the world specifically prohibiting caste discrimination in both public and private spheres. With this act, the on-going work in the Constitutional Assembly to guarantee Dalit rights in the new constitution and other initiatives, Nepal has taken on a leading role among caste-affected countries in addressing caste discrimination.

This is also reflected at the international level where the Government of Nepal continues to voice support for the draft UN principles and Guidelines for the Effective Elimination of Discrimination Based on Work and Descent. In the context of the Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review of Nepal, the Government accepted a series of recommendations on caste discrimination, which were preceded by constructive engagement with civil society and national human rights institutions.

UN initiatives to address caste discrimination deserve special mentioning here; the UN 'walked the talk' and delivered on commitments to accompany Dalits in their struggle against caste discrimination. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights – Nepal (OHCHR-Nepal) provided support to a number of important initiatives and launched an unprecedented *100 day Campaign Against Caste Discrimination and Untouchability*, in October, together with the National Dalit Commission. In December, the office released a report *Opening the Doors to Equality: Access to Justice for Dalits in Nepal*, recognizing the progress made but also identifying the obstacles preventing victims from accessing the justice system.

The OHCHR furthermore organised a regional symposium on access to justice for victims of caste-based discrimination, with participants from other South Asian nations as well. This event was followed by a Regional Consultation with UN Country Teams on caste-based discrimination.

The year was marked by multiple initiatives bringing together larger numbers of Dalit human rights defenders from the IDSN network and beyond. In June a Decade of Dalit Rights UN Conference initiated by the National

## IDSN Highlights in 2011

**Universal Periodic Review of Nepal; multiple recommendations on caste discrimination accepted by the Government**

**Hearing in the European Parliament on Caste Discrimination in South Asia**

**Publication of IDSN compilation of UN references to caste discrimination**

**Caste-based Discrimination and Untouchability Act, prohibiting caste discrimination in public and private spheres, enacted in Nepal**

**Conference on Decade of Dalit Rights UN, 2011-20: Decisive Decade against Discrimination based on Work and Descent, co-organized by IDSN**

**UN and Independent experts' meeting on strategies to eliminate caste-based discrimination**

**Dalit human rights defenders meet with the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay**

**Main section on Caste Discrimination in Report of UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism**

**100 Day Campaign Against Caste Discrimination and Untouchability launched by OHCHR-Nepal and the National Dalit Commission**

**International Consultation on Good Practices and Strategies to Eliminate Caste-Based Discrimination and launch of Global Call for Action**

**Launch of OHCHR Report *Opening the door to Equality: Access to Justice for Dalits in Nepal***

**OHCHR Regional Consultation with UN Country Teams on caste-based discrimination**

Campaign on Dalit Human Rights – India (NCDHR), and the International Movement against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR) was held in Geneva to review past interventions and set out future strategies. Likewise in June, UN and independent experts met in Geneva to discuss strategies to eliminate caste-based discrimination.

In 2011, eight UN Special Procedure mandate holders expressed concern about the human rights situations of Dalits in their reports and communications and caste-based discrimination was furthermore specifically addressed

in several treaty body and UPR reviews and the IDSN compilation of UN references to caste-based discrimination, published in May, was welcomed as a useful tool for civil society, governments and UN agencies.

As in past years IDSN activities were carried out involving members, associates, allies and other stakeholders, although temporarily IDSN had to reduce the level of activities due to an unexpected funding deficit. Dalit human rights defenders from affected countries took part in or lead meetings with government delegations and officials, UN offices, and parliamentarians in Europe. Dalit Solidarity Networks in Europe continued to raise caste related country and thematic issues with their Government and IDSN supported activities to enhance their communication outreach.

In February, a hearing in the European Parliament on Caste Discrimination in South Asia was organised jointly by the Subcommittee on Human Rights, the Committee on Development, the Delegation for relations with India and the Delegation for relations with South Asia. On this occasion, parliamentarians called for a more robust stand of the EU with respect to caste discrimination, and expressed concerns that “this human rights issue is one of those cases

---

**“Although successive governments have made progressive laws ... the real question is how to implement and enforce these laws effectively.”**

Prime Minister of India, Mr. Manmohan Singh, 17 June 2011

---

in EU external policies when good relations with economic powers get a priority over human rights.” IDSN continued to engage with EU institutions on actions to eliminate caste discrimination and lobbied for inclusion of this human rights problem in the EU human rights country strategies, which were developed over the course of 2011.

On 29 November – 1 December an International Consultation on Good Practices and Strategies to Eliminate Caste-Based Discrimination was organized by IDSN in cooperation with the Feminist Dalit Organization, the Dalit NGO Federation and the Nepal National Dalit Social Welfare Organization. More than 110 participants attended the consultation and preparations were a major undertaking of IDSN in the second part of 2011.

Representatives from affected communities and human rights defenders from eight affected countries discussed good practices and strategies, as well as critical gaps, with members of international organizations, national human rights institutions, NGOs, Solidarity Networks and researchers. Representatives of Government ministries, diplomatic missions and EU institutions also contributed to assessing progress measured against international human rights standards and good practices derived from local, national and international institutions, and various specific country situations.

A Joint Declaration and Global Call for Action to Eliminate Caste-Based Discrimination were issued along with Recommendations on Good Practices and Strategies. Key recommendations include the adoption of National Action Plans on human rights with targeted interventions to eliminate caste discrimination and UN Development Assistance Framework strategies for eliminating caste discrimination.

The lack of protection and enforcement of legislation was a key concern for Dalit movements and human rights defenders and a key topic at the International Consultation. Participants agreed that access to justice for Dalits must be seen in the context of largely dysfunctional systems of justice in most affected countries, which underlines the need for institutional reforms at all levels, including the police.

The UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, Githu Muigai, highlighted the lack of access to

## We will walk with you

Robert Piper, UN Resident & Humanitarian Coordinator, speaking at the National Conference on Dalit Women held in Kathmandu in May

**“On behalf of the United Nations, to express our solidarity with Dalit Women in Nepal. Your cause is a just one.**

**While Dalit women’s literacy rates are a little over half of the already low national average, we will walk with you.**

**While Dalit women giving birth are only half as likely to do so in a health facility, as compared to the already low national average, we will walk with you.**

**While rates of poverty in the Dalit community are half again those of the high national average, we will walk with you.**

**While we still hear stories of Dalit families being forced to use different water sources, or denied access to homes or Dalit students being literally thrown their food by a teacher concerned about ‘contamination’, we will walk with you.**

**Across indicator after indicator, the evidence is overwhelming and uncontested - Nepal’s Dalit community are not getting a fair share of Nepal’s development gains. Not getting equitable access. Not enjoying the same opportunities and rights as others.”**

**School children smile through an open classroom window.** While several windows and doors have been opened in 2011 through important new legislation and engagement by Governments and the UN, equality for Dalits remains trapped behind bars as long as implementation of laws and access to justice for Dalits is severely lacking. This duality of action at the legislative level and the need for reforms of systems of justice and monitoring of proper implementation of laws and provisions have been central to much of the work on caste discrimination within the United Nations in 2011. Photo: Vivien Francis.

justice for Dalits in his report to the Human Rights Council in June. Devoting an entire section in his report to caste-based discrimination, the Special Rapporteur recommends that legal measures be taken hand-in-hand with awareness-raising of the judiciary, the police and civil service.

IDSN strives to give visibility to country developments at the IDSN website and in the monthly newsletter, which continued to increase their outreach. In 2011, IDSN also enhanced its social media profile with the launch of an IDSN YouTube video channel, featuring a collection of videos about caste discrimination ordered in thematic and country playlists; and increased engagement on the IDSN Facebook page and twitter channel. A new introductory video on caste discrimination was produced by IDSN with footage from five caste affected countries.

A survey commissioned by IDSN in seven European countries showed considerable country differences in the public's knowledge about caste discrimination and its consequences. However, the survey showed significant public support to international action to eliminate caste discrimination: 74 % of the respondents believed this is a task for the UN and are also in agreement that it is the

responsibility of companies working in caste-affected countries to take measures to eliminate caste discrimination in their own company and their supply chain, and 67% of respondents believe that the issue should be dealt with by the European Union and EU member states.

These results underpin the *Global Call for Action to eliminate caste discrimination*, issued at the International Consultation, stating that action must be promoted by politicians, and decision makers should add value to the call for "leadership, cooperation and constructive engagement at the local, national, regional and international levels to achieve a caste free world."

A logical next step would be a World Conference on Caste-Based Discrimination, which could pave the way for a UN Convention on Caste-Based Discrimination. The Dalit movement legitimately make their claims to the international community for initiatives and mechanisms similar to those set up in support of the Indigenous People's Movement. Their struggle is no less important.

Rikke Nöhrind  
Co-ordinator

## Caste discrimination affects an estimated 260 million people

Caste discrimination affects an estimated 260 million people worldwide, the vast majority living in South Asia. It involves massive violations of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. Caste systems divide people into unequal and hierarchical social groups. With those at the bottom considered 'lesser human beings', 'impure' and 'polluting' to other caste groups.

They are known to be 'untouchable' and subjected to so-called 'untouchability practices' in both public and private spheres. 'Untouchables' – known in South Asia as Dalits – are often forcibly assigned the most dirty, menial and hazardous

jobs and many are subjected to forced and bonded labour. Due to exclusion practiced by both state and non-state actors, they have limited access to resources, services and development, keeping most Dalits in severe poverty.

They are often de facto excluded from decision making and meaningful participation in public and civil life. Lack of special legislation banning caste discrimination or lack of implementation of legislation, due to dysfunctional systems of justice and caste-bias, have largely left Dalits without protection. Whereas progress has been made over the last decade, with policy development and new legislation in some countries,

fundamental challenges still remain in all caste affected countries.

The division of a society into castes is a global phenomenon not exclusively practised within any particular religion or belief system. In South Asia, caste discrimination is traditionally rooted in the Hindu caste system, according to which Dalits are considered 'outcastes'. However, caste systems and the ensuing discrimination have spread into Christian, Buddhist, Muslim and Sikh communities. They are also found in Africa, other parts of Asia, the Middle East, the Pacific and in Diaspora communities around the world.



## United Nations

In 2011, several strong recommendations were made by the UN human rights mechanisms and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, on the need to enact and implement laws against caste discrimination in affected countries. Caste discrimination was specifically addressed by UN treaty bodies in reviews of Bangladesh (CEDAW), Yemen (CERD and CESCR), Nepal (CEDAW), UK (CERD), as well as in Universal Periodic Reviews of Nepal and Madagascar.

IDSN continued to expand its systematic dialogue with UN Special Procedure mandate holders. IDSN members and associates engaged with mandate holders in the context of country visits or reviews, consultations and strategy meetings. Mandate holders on racism, human rights defenders, torture, slavery, water and sanitation, adequate housing, and right to food, all reflected their concerns on caste related issues in reports and communications in 2011. States and UN experts called for the sharing of good practices on the elimination of this form of discrimination, including the use of the draft UN Principles and Guidelines to effectively eliminate discrimination based on work and descent.<sup>1</sup>

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) played an important role in addressing caste discrimination as a priority on the non-discrimination agenda, both at the country and international level. The launch of the *100 Day Campaign against Caste Discrimination and Untouchability* by OHCHR Nepal and the National Dalit Commission in Nepal illustrated the commitment and one of the innovative approaches pursued by the Office, to address and bring attention to the issue at national and international level.

This year IDSN published a unique, comprehensive compilation of UN observations and recommendations on the issue of caste discrimination and similar forms of discrimination based on work and descent.<sup>2</sup> The publication serves as a key reference and effective lobby tool for national and international advocacy in the future. It was systematically used as part of the regular dialogue, which IDSN maintained with a number of concerned states, UN experts, and UN agencies throughout the year.

## Human Rights Council

Concerns about caste discrimination were expressed in the Human Rights Council (HRC) by states, experts, and NGOs, as a result of IDSN lobby activities and inputs. As part of its



UN programme activities, IDSN engaged with delegations and UN experts to promote the use and follow up to the publication of the draft UN Principles and Guidelines in the HRC.

This resulted in the gathering of an informal group of states, that expressed particular concern about caste discrimination as an international human rights problem in the first half of 2011. These concerns were expressed, among other things, in a written NGO submission prepared in advance of the 17th HRC session.<sup>3</sup> IDSN also ensured a consistent flow of information and recommendations to delegations and experts on how caste discrimination influences other human rights concerns addressed by the HRC, including on the issue of Dalit women and bonded labour, in advance of HRC sessions.

At the 16th session of the Human Rights Council in March, a side-event was organized by the International Movement against Discrimination and Racism (IMADR) in association with IDSN. The purpose of the event was to explore how existing obligations and standards could be better used to promote protection of victims of caste discrimination, including the draft UN Principles and Guidelines.

At the event, Dalit leaders and the Independent Expert on minority issues called on governments, UN agencies, and civil society to advance the global struggle against caste discrimination. They also shared experiences of how to address caste discrimination in a national setting in accordance with international human rights law. In connection with this event, a group of Dalit activists met with the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Kyung-wha Kang. The meeting was held before her visit to Nepal in April, where she urged the Government of Nepal to act to adopt new legislation on caste discrimination.

Some UN Member States and experts voiced their concern about caste discrimination during the regular sessions of the HRC, although not in a comprehensive and systematic way. Efforts to put the issue on the HRC's agenda therefore continued to be part of IDSN's priorities in 2011.

One of the continued goals is the endorsement and adoption of the draft UN principles and guidelines, with the aim to establish a separate monitoring mechanism, by the HRC and ultimately the UN General Assembly. IDSN lobbied for this by preparing inputs to relevant debates in association with members; meeting regularly with state delegations and experts; and facilitating representation of Dalit human rights defenders at the HRC sessions.



**Dalit women in India protest against discrimination.** Across South Asia Dalit women are mobilising to demand their rights. In 2011, At the UN Forum on Minority Issues, Dalit women human rights defenders were invited by the OHCHR to address the human rights situation of Dalit women. IDS-N supported the representation of Dalit women from Bangladesh and Nepal at this event in collaboration with Minority Rights Group International and also facilitated input to the UN Committee on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) review of Bangladesh and Nepal. In the concluding observations on both countries several of the points on Dalit women in the reports submitted were included. Photo: Vivien Francis.

## Special Procedures

IDS-N continued to expand its systematic dialogue with UN Special Procedure mandate holders in 2011. The increased attention to caste discrimination by the Special Procedures was addressed by mandate holders on racism, human rights defenders, torture, slavery, water and sanitation, adequate housing, and right to food, in their thematic reports, country visits, communications, and presentations in the UN Human Rights Council and General Assembly.

In connection with the annual Coordinating Committee meeting of the UN Special Procedures in June, a strategic meeting on caste discrimination and the UN was held with a range of mandate holders and other experts. Moreover, several meetings were organized between mandate holders and a large group of Dalit human rights defenders, as well as the UN High Commissioner herself. On this occasion the National Campaign for Dalit Human Rights and IMADR initiated a *Conference on Decade of Dalit Rights UN* to review past interventions, mainly at the UN, and to chalk out future strategies for 2011-2020. The main conclusions and reflections from the conference were included in a declaration.<sup>4</sup>

In January, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Ms. Margaret Sekaggya, visited India. During her visit she met with and raised particular concern about the situation of Dalit human rights defenders and noted widespread deficiencies in the implementation of laws to protect human rights defenders. She will present her recommendations in a mission report to the Human Rights Council in 2012.

The Independent Expert on minority issues continued to actively support the struggle of the global Dalit movement throughout the year. During the 16th session of the HRC, Ms. Gay McDougall moderated the side event on discrimination based on work and descent organized by IMADR and IDS-N. In her annual report she introduced a UNDP resource guide<sup>5</sup> on marginalized communities, including Dalits, prepared in collaboration with the OHCHR. The resource guide illustrates how the issue of discrimination based on work and descent can be mainstreamed into development programming by UN agencies.

At the UN Forum on Minority Issues in November 2011, Dalit women human rights defenders were invited by the OHCHR to address the human rights situation of Dalit women. IDS-N furthermore supported the representation of two Dalit women from Bangladesh and Nepal at this event in collaboration with Minority Rights Group International.

The UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, Mr. Githu Muigai, devoted an entire section to discrimination based on work and descent in his report to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly. The report lists a number of good practices to eliminate this form of systematic discrimination and recommendations for state and non-state actors to enhance these efforts. In the interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur a number of states addressed the issue at the 17th HRC session.

---

**Despite Government efforts to eradicate this type of discrimination through constitutional guarantees, legislation and affirmative action programmes, caste-based discrimination remains deplorably widespread and deeply rooted.”** UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, Githu Muigai.

---

Two caste-affected countries responded to the observations. Senegal said that there was no discrimination based on caste in the country, as described in the Rapporteur's report. India objected to the fact that the mandate considers caste discrimination as part of his mandate; an objection which the Special Rapporteur categorically rejected. Norway however welcomed a stronger international engagement on the issue, and encouraged all governments to enhance efforts and to share best practices to eliminate such forms of discrimination.

In her annual report to the HRC, the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, Ms. Gulnara Shahinian, explored the root causes and factors that lead to child slavery in the mining and quarrying sector – including caste discrimination. In preparation of the report, IDS-N submitted background information and recommendations, as was also done in relation to the report by the Special Rapporteur on racism and other mandate holders. This resulted in a stronger focus on the relation between the theme of the study and the situation of Dalits, and promoted attention to the intrinsic link between caste discrimination and specific forms of bonded labour.

## Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

The UPR mechanism concluded its first cycle in 2011. The mechanism has offered a possibility for increased, broad-based civil society engagement and advocacy at national and international level on serious human rights issues,

**Children playing in an 'Akhdam' neighbourhood in Taiz, Yemen.** The so-called 'Akhdam' community of Yemen continue to face extreme discrimination based on work and descent. In its 2011 review of Yemen, the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) raised concern for the 'Akhdam' stating, "The Committee is concerned that the Al-Akhdam people continue to face social and economic marginalization and discrimination, especially concerning access to employment, conditions of work, extensive level of child labour, extremely high levels of school drop-out, lack of adequate housing, water and sanitation, as well as electricity." Photo: Mathieu Génon, [justdia.org](http://justdia.org)

including for persons affected by discrimination based on work and descent. The UPR mechanism has given impetus to address the issue of caste discrimination in several countries in the first UPR cycle.

During the first UPR cycle, explicit references to caste discrimination and Dalits were made by several states in six country reviews. Explicit UPR references to caste discrimination were made in relation to India (2008), Pakistan (2008), Sri Lanka (2008), Mauritania (2010), Madagascar (2010), Nepal (2011).

During the reviews of Japan (2008) and Bangladesh (2009) references were also made to Hindu minority religions and minorities, which include communities affected by similar forms of discrimination in these countries. In the second and consecutive UPR cycles, which will focus on the implementation of accepted recommendations and developments, IDSN will build on these efforts and continue to promote the issue of caste discrimination in reviews of a wide range of affected countries.

In 2011, IDSN supported the active involvement of Dalit NGOs in connection with the review of Nepal in January, including preparation of a joint NGO submission, briefing papers, and recommendations. The concerted lobby efforts resulted in more than 20 references to caste and Dalits in the outcome document; many of which were accepted by the Government and followed up at national level.

IDSN also played a supportive role in planning and preparing for the submission of NGO reports in relation to the first session of the second cycle (India and the UK). This resulted in the submission of a joint report by IDSN and DSN-UK on caste discrimination in the UK. Furthermore, a national coalition report was submitted by NCDHR in India. Finally, IDSN helped prepare a mid-term assessment of the UPR of Bangladesh.<sup>6</sup>

### Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) made caste discrimination one of its priority areas on the non-discrimination agenda of the Strategic Management Plan (2010-2012). IDSN maintained a constructive dialogue with the OHCHR, in particular with the Asia/Pacific section and the OHCHR Nepal Office. Throughout the year the OHCHR enhanced its political and programmatic work in this regard, both at country and international level. Among other things, the OHCHR-Nepal office issued a report with a strong Dalit focus at the 16th session of the Human Rights Council, and supported

the process to adopt the Caste-based Discrimination and Untouchability Crime Elimination and Punishment Act in Nepal.

The office also published a report on access to justice for Dalits in Nepal and held a stakeholders' meeting in conjunction with the launch of the report in December. On this occasion the OHCHR confirmed that the work in Nepal is "part and parcel" of the global work to combat discrimination, and that caste discrimination remains a "key priority" of the High Commissioner's strategic management plan for 2012-2013.<sup>7</sup>

In September the OHCHR-Nepal Office and the National Dalit Commission launched a 100 Day Campaign Against Caste Discrimination and Untouchability. In the opening statement, under the slogan "I commit to end caste discrimination and untouchability," the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights congratulated the Government of Nepal for its global leadership in the fight against caste-based discrimination, and urged the Government to ensure the proper implementation of the Untouchability Act.

---

**"The national campaign and launch of the OHCHR report is also important for the region, since it engages many participants from neighbouring countries, where caste-based discrimination is an equally important challenge ...the end of this campaign will be the beginning of a next step, a new phase in which we hope our national partners will be able to consider the gaps and recommendations highlighted in the OHCHR report."** Marcia V. J. Kran, Director, Research and Right to Development Division, OHCHR

---

### UN Treaty Bodies

IDSN monitored and supported interventions in five important treaty body reviews of Bangladesh, Yemen, Nepal and the UK in 2011. These reviews led to recognition of the need for special measures to eliminate discrimination and ensure political participation of Dalit women in Bangladesh and Nepal; the socio-economic rights of the Al-Akhdam in Yemen; and need for action to outlaw caste discrimination in the UK, to mention a few recommendations.<sup>8</sup>

In January the UN Committee on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) reviewed Bangladesh. In the Concluding observations, the Committee expressed concern at the lack of information and statistics



on Dalit women and called on Bangladesh to collect such data and take measures to eliminate discrimination against them.

CEDAW also made some action-oriented recommendations to the Government of Nepal as an outcome of its review in July. In preparation of the review, the Feminist Dalit Organisation (FEDO) submitted a lobby brief on the situation of Dalit women in Nepal in association with IDS. The brief included specific recommendations on the need for increasing political representation of Dalit women in the constitutional reform process in Nepal; many of which were taken up in the Concluding Observations.

Yemen was reviewed by two treaty body committees in 2011, despite the lack of clarity on the political situation in the country. The UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) mentioned the Al-Akhdam community in Yemen, who are subject to discrimination based on work and descent, as a serious concern in the Concluding Observations of 10 March 2011.

Similar, though more specific, observations were raised by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) in its May review. In connection with this,

IDS submitted an alternative report in association with the All Youth Network for Society Development in Yemen. In line with these recommendations, the CESCR Committee recommended the Government of Yemen to adopt a national action plan to combat social discrimination and marginalization faced by the Al-Akhdam people, including through legislation and measures to address poverty.

In connection with the CERD review of the United Kingdom in August, an alternative report on caste-based discrimination in the UK was submitted by IDS and the Dalit Solidarity Network UK (DSN-UK). Despite long-term lobby efforts by Dalit organisations in the UK and critical questions from Committee members, the Government failed to acknowledge the need for outlawing caste discrimination in the interactive dialogue with the Committee. In response, CERD issued strong recommendations in the Concluding Observations urging the Government to adopt legislative measures to “provide remedies to victims of this form of discrimination.”

## European Union

IDSN continued engaging with the European Parliament (EP), the European External Action Service (EEAS) and to a lesser extent Council structures, through lobby interventions. IDSN teams of Dalit human rights defenders met with a number of members of the European Parliament (MEPs), and officials of the EEAS in Brussels. At the level of affected countries, IDSN and national Dalit platforms had a constructive engagement with some EU delegations and member state agencies, in particular in Nepal and Bangladesh.

Some EU delegations stepped up country level engagement to address caste discrimination, for example in Bangladesh. According to the EEAS the issue has also been on the agenda in EU seminars and workshops on e.g. social inclusion. EU delegation and EC Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection (ECHO) officials contributed to the IDSN International Consultation on Good Practices and Strategies to Eliminate Caste-Based Discrimination and ECHO officials also engaged in a national consultation in India on the topic of addressing caste discrimination in Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Relief.

### The European Parliament (EP)

On February 28, a joint hearing on caste-based discrimination in South Asia was organized by the Subcommittee on Human Rights, the Committee on Development, the Delegation for relations with India and the Delegation for relations with South Asia. Speakers included representatives of EEAS, IDSN and OHCHR, who all specifically noted the lack of enforcement of laws to protect Dalits in South Asia.

IDSN stressed at the hearing that without a policy and special measures, caste discrimination will continue to 'fall off the agenda', whether in human rights dialogues, or in country strategies and development programming.

Maria Lensu, from the European External Action Service, explained how the EEAS are incorporating caste into various programmes and funding the work of Dalit human rights defenders. MEPs speaking at the session urged the EU to do more, following up with press releases and opinion pieces expressing their position<sup>9</sup>. MEP Peter van Dalen stated, "The Parliament needs to take a much more robust stand. Enough words – it's time for action. We must take action through our External Action Service – they need to make caste discrimination a priority."

Concluding the hearing co-chair Ms Kolarska Bobinska pointed out that this was the first in a series of meetings on caste discrimination and that the next one should focus on what action the Parliament can take. With the EP hearing, a

## MEPs urge the EU to do more to end caste discrimination

Several MEPs issued statements urging the EU to do more to combat caste discrimination. MEP Leonidas Donskis from the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe is one example, stating on his website:

**"Unfortunately, almost non-existent action of the EU with respect to caste discrimination, a serious human rights issue in India, is one of those cases in EU external policies when good relations with economic powers get a priority over human rights,"** wrote Leonidas Donskis, noting that currently the EU and India are negotiating a free trade agreement and India refuses to take into consideration any criticism on caste discrimination. **"Human rights defenders compare caste discrimination to Apartheid, however, the international community reacted to the regime in South Africa much stronger than to caste discrimination, which often lacks long-term and efficient international attention and action. Although the European Union advocates for human rights and democratic values around the world, it has not been active with respect to Dalits' situation. In 2007, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the situation of Dalit human rights, however, it did not contribute to the solution of the problem as the EU has not developed effective measures necessary to address caste discrimination."**

long term lobby objective of IDSN was achieved and IDSN was involved in the organisation of the event.

Briefing notes and recommendations to EP committee members had been submitted in advance of the hearing. In a background note on proposed European Parliament action on caste-based discrimination, a series of concrete steps were outlined related to the relevant committees and delegations of the Parliament. EP resolutions before the Human Rights Council session, should follow up on European Parliament Resolution B6-0021/2007 on the human rights situation of the Dalits in India, and delegation visits to affected countries. Delegation members are called upon to include the topic of caste discrimination and measures to eliminate this form of discrimination in exchange of views with parliamentary counterparts and government officials from caste-affected countries and to meet with representatives from Dalit communities during every parliamentary visit to caste-affected countries.

A comprehensive briefing package<sup>10</sup> was provided to the Delegation for Relations with India before a delegation visit to India in April, with country and issue-based information,

relevant EP resolutions and UN recommendations, recommendations for an EU policy to address caste based discrimination as well as tools for foreign investors to address caste based discrimination as part of their social responsibility and human rights obligations. This delegation was, however, not given the opportunity to meet with affected communities, whereas this was the case during the visit to Nepal by the EP Delegation for South Asia in November.

Prior to the last EU-India Summit, held in December 2010, the Chair of the Delegation for South Asia and four other MEPs from different political groups appealed to EU leaders to address human rights abuses against Dalits at the summit<sup>11</sup>, a call that appeared to have little effect on the agenda. No EU-India Summit was held in 2011.

As part of the work with the EP, IDS-N followed up with a number of MEPs on recommendations for an EU Policy Framework for the Effective Elimination of Discrimination based on Work and Descent<sup>12</sup>.

Finally, IDS-N lobbied for text references on caste discrimination for the European Parliament's Annual Human Rights Report 2010 and the European Union's policy on the matter, the result of which is not known at the time of writing.

### **The European External Action Service (EEAS)**

In the course of the year, IDS-N disseminated briefing materials, as well as electronic versions of key documents, including the IDS-N compilation of UN references to the issue of caste discrimination to EEAS officials working with caste-affected countries and human rights.

IDS-N focused on the need to adequately reflect the situation of caste-affected groups in the EU human rights country strategies, most of which were developed and discussed in the course of 2011. Information was provided to the relevant delegations and EEAS officials in Brussels about key human rights issues affecting Dalits along with recommendations on inclusion of Dalit rights in the human rights country strategies.

Due to the non-public nature of this EU process, it has been difficult to assess to what extent caste-based discrimination has been addressed in the strategies. As the process of developing strategies is meant to involve in-country consultations with civil society, IDS-N and national platforms strongly recommended that representatives of Dalit civil society organisations be part of these as well as other regular consultations.

Finally, IDS-N promoted the use of relevant UN reports and recommendations through contact with EU delegations in caste affected countries and EEAS officials and continued

to lobby for inclusion of issues on caste discrimination in dialogues between the EU and caste-affected countries.

IDS-N also continued to call for EU support for the endorsement and use of the UN P&G through contact with EU and member state missions to the UN in Geneva.

### **Council Working Party on Human Rights (COHOM)**

Whereas IDS-N had expectations for progress of discussion in the Council Working Party on Human Rights (COHOM) on EU action to eliminate caste discrimination, with a point of departure in the COHOM hearing on caste discrimination in 2010, and subsequent discussion of the issue in this forum, it appears that some EU member states hesitate to advance the EU position on this particular human rights issue. It has not been possible to monitor to what extent caste discrimination is included as a topic in human rights and policy dialogues with caste-affected countries, as was decided by COHOM in 2010.

### **EC project "Ending 'untouchability': European action to eliminate caste discrimination"**

A three year project commenced in January under the European Commission grant provision for "Non-State Actors and Local Authorities in Development: Coordination, cooperation and networking activities among European organisations".

The project, which is co-financed by DanChurchAid, provided the financial basis for the International Consultation on Good Practices and Strategies to Eliminate Caste-Based Discrimination held in November in 2011, the organisation of which was a major activity of IDS-N in the second part of the year.

The project also covered production of a new introductory documentary video on caste discrimination, a survey on public knowledge and opinion on caste discrimination carried out in eight European countries as well as support to developing or upgrading websites of Dalit Solidarity Networks.

Work to develop a general framework for elimination of caste discrimination in disaster relief and rehabilitation programmes was also initiated under the project, based on a best practice case study from India<sup>13</sup>

## International Consultation on Good Practices and Strategies

The historic International Consultation on Good Practices and Strategies to Eliminate Caste-Based Discrimination by governments, civil society, national and international institutions and agencies, organised by IDS and co-organized by the Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO), the Dalit NGO Federation (DNF) and the Nepal National Dalit Social Welfare Organisation (NNDSWO) was held in Kathmandu on 29 November – 1 December, with more than 110 participants.

Representatives from affected communities and Dalit human rights defenders from Bangladesh, India, Japan, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Senegal and Yemen discussed good practices and strategies as well as critical gaps with members of international organisations, national human rights institutions, NGOs, Solidarity Networks and researchers. Representatives of Government ministries, diplomatic missions and EU institutions contributed to discussions and the benchmarking of how far initiatives

---

**“As parliamentarians we are trying to develop more of an EU strategy on work and descent based discrimination. We are looking at how the EEAs are raising the issues and will check that action is being taken, including in the human rights dialogues with India. We are also looking at how this human rights issue can be integrated in cross cutting themes, for example women’s issues and labour issues ... This is a common struggle and a specific struggle for Dalit rights. The European Union has a charter of fundamental rights and the first right is the right to live in dignity; this is what we now need to focus on.”** Jean Lambert, Chair of the European Parliament Delegations for relations with South Asia, speaking at the IDS International Consultation.

---

have come measured against international human rights standards and good practices derived from local, national and international institutions, as well as specific country situations.

A Joint Declaration and Global Call for Action to Eliminate Caste-Based Discrimination were issued along with Recommendations on Good Practices and Strategies<sup>14</sup> reflecting the main themes which were discussed in both plenary and in workshops.

The consultation was able to take stock of progress made in strengthening standards and progressive reforms (in some countries) to eliminate caste discrimination, including through constitutional, legislative and institutional measures.

One of the major themes, effective constitutional and legislative frameworks and policies, focused on access to justice for Dalits in the context of largely dysfunctional systems of justice in most affected countries and the need for institutional reforms at all levels, including the police. Key recommendations also included adoption of National Action Plans with targeted interventions to eliminate caste discrimination and UN Development Assistance Framework strategies for eliminating caste discrimination.

Cross-cutting fundamental principles were identified as underpinning all thematic recommendations; i.e. non-discrimination; inter-sectionality; effective participation of affected communities in decision making; state accountability and access to remedies for violations of rights; substantive equality and special measures in social, economic and development fields, including through budget planning and equality impact assessments; disaggregated data collection and monitoring; and non-retrogression in realisation of rights.

## No Justice for Dalit Women

Case study from India by Centre for Dalit Rights, Rajasthan, presented at the International Consultation:

**Dalit women are vulnerable to punitive violence when they assert their rights and dignity over resources, public spaces or cultural space. Rights assertions by Dalit women are seen as an affront to the dominant caste, class and gender status and honour. In other words, the process of Dalit women’s empowerment is perceived as a challenge to caste and patriarchal structures and allegedly provides “legitimate” grounds for punitive violence committed by dominant castes.**

**Dalit women are very vulnerable to rape, gang rape, sexual harassment and kidnapping. Numerous rape cases against Dalit women occur every month in Rajasthan. But the conviction rate for Dalit atrocity cases is minimal - less than 3% in the State. They are beaten and abused sexually because of their caste. When Dalit victims go to the police station to complain they are humiliated, refused to lodge the FIR (First Information Report), threatened, misguided and sometimes Dalit women are mentally and sexually harassed by the police personnel.**

**A study of 500 Dalit women’s cases of violence conducted by the Centre for Dalit Rights revealed that the overwhelming majority of cases are not spoken out in public by the women themselves, or not reported by the media, or not registered by the law enforcement authorities, or hidden by the women’s family, relatives and communities, or forced to be suppressed by the perpetrators or his community.**

## Urgent Global Call for Action to Eliminate Caste Discrimination



Participants,  
International Consultation on  
Caste-Based Discrimination  
29 November – 1 December 2011  
Kathmandu, Nepal.  
Photos: IDS.N.

- We make this urgent Global Call for Action to citizens of the world to bring an end to millennia of immense human suffering, resulting from a brutal system of caste segregation, affecting over 260 million people worldwide.
- We support the words of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights: “Other seemingly insurmountable walls, such as slavery and apartheid, have been dismantled in the past. We can and must tear down the barriers of caste too.”
- We call for leadership, cooperation and constructive engagement at the local, national, regional and international levels to achieve a caste-free world.
- We call for the empowerment of individuals and communities facing caste-based discrimination in decision-making at all levels of governance and in the implementation of policies that affect them.
- We declare that structures of caste or analogous systems of inherited status constitute an offence to human dignity, a barrier to equality and a form of apartheid that has been perpetuated in the public and private sphere, largely with limited, or no access to justice for its victims.
- We appeal for effective police reforms for investigations, independent and neutral prosecution mechanisms and an unbiased judiciary that is committed to uphold justice.
- We deplore notions of ‘untouchability’, pollution and caste hierarchy that cause segregation in villages, schools and places of worship, restrict individuals to the most menial and dangerous jobs, and prevent access to justice for crimes committed against affected communities.



Speakers at the closing session of the consultation included Mr. Naryan Kaji Shrestha, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nepal, Morten Jespersen, Danish Ambassador to Nepal and Rory Mungoven, Head of Asia Section in the OHCHR.



Dalit women leaders from Pakistan, Nepal, India and Bangladesh played a crucial part in discussions at the International Consultation.



Ms. Gay McDougall, Professor at Georgetown University and Former UN Independent Expert on Minorities played an instrumental role as moderator of the consultation, and Ms. Jean Lambert, Chair of the European Delegation for Relations with South Asia spoke of the EU's role in combating caste discrimination.

## Main themes addressed at the International Consultation

- **Effective frameworks, policies and institutions for the elimination of caste-based discrimination**
- **Addressing multiple discrimination against Dalit women**
- **Alleviating caste-based discrimination in humanitarian responses**
- **Forced and bonded labour and discrimination in employment**
- **Access to services, resources, and development**
- **Public awareness and campaigning**
- **Civil society strategies**

Considerations on multiple discrimination against Dalit women brought out good practice examples and recommendations, which focused on proportional representation of women of affected communities in decisions making structures, disaggregated data on Dalit women in census surveys and reports on implementation of laws, policies and programmes; and special measures to address intersecting forms of discrimination in education, health, employment and access to land and personal security. Civil society also had its own responsibility for Dalit women empowerment and leadership to look into within own ranks. Empowerment and leadership training has shown some 'good practice' results, and atrocity related litigation cases are proving to be effective.

The thematic discussion on bonded and forced labor and discrimination in employment, led by the UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, illustrated how severely and disproportionately bonded and forced labor impacts on Dalits. Multiple stakeholder initiatives were pointed out as a critical way to ensure, enforce and implement legislation and action plans against forced labour, whereas reservations, quotas and other specific policies of governments, international organizations and companies are recommended to eliminate discrimination on the basis of caste in employment.

The consultation further strongly recommended joint ventures between governments, civil society organizations and the corporate sector to undertake nationwide public awareness campaigns as a means to bring awareness of caste discrimination as a violation of human rights, on

the national agenda and into the private sector and local communities, with the support of the media.

Implementing the responsibility of governments and international agencies to ensure equal access to services, resources and development for Dalits, addressing also the existing gaps and root causes, remains challenging. Specific policies and budget allocations, targeted and inclusive programming, and social equity monitoring are successful instruments, particularly if supported by an inclusive workforce and organizational policies, and close monitoring. However, overall frameworks to guide work are essential.

The need for standards and tools to eliminate caste-based discrimination in humanitarian responses is recognized across institutions and caste affected countries. A draft framework presented at the Consultation suggests policies and guidelines at state and organizational levels, concrete measures to address pre-existing vulnerabilities and tools to avoid 'discrimination by default'. Good practice examples from civil society organisations on the ground include consultation with Dalit communities prior to launching disaster responses and social equity auditing and involvement of Dalit community representatives in decision making and monitoring processes.

Mr. Narayan Kaji Shrestha, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nepal, speaking at the closing session stated: "The opinions, suggestions and joint declaration adopted at this consultation will be very important inputs for us. We would like to reassure you that we will seriously take them into account. CBD and oppressions based on CBD is mainly an issue in South Asia but we need international support and attention. Unfortunately we have not yet brought this issue into the agenda of the UN and progress has not been fully realised due to lack of adequate attention from concerned parties." Expressing his Government's full commitment to the rights of Dalits, the Minister referred to the provisions guaranteeing the rights of Dalits in the upcoming constitution, and caste discrimination and untouchability as crimes against humanity.

Whereas the consultation itself, as remarked by one participant, is a good example of linking the local, national and international level as part of civil society strategies to eliminate caste discrimination, further action can be taken to enhance parallel action and ensure national and local level follow up on UN and ILO recommendations, including compliance monitoring. Alliance building across sectors and constituencies, as well as building leadership capacity of Dalit women and young Dalits, stood out as essential future civil society strategies.

Further information on the Consultation, including a compilation of good practice cases is available at [idsn.org](http://idsn.org)<sup>15</sup>.



## Private Sector

Early in 2011, the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) published the results of a caste census done among a selection of its members throughout India. The first of its kind, the survey shows that Dalits are seriously underrepresented in the workforce in many states compared to their share of the population. While the census shows regional differences with the highest proportionate representation of Dalits in the most industrialised state Tamil Nadu, with a concentration of textile industry, and the lowest in Bihar, there is no correlation between industrialisation and employment of Dalits.

The survey does not differentiate between the types of jobs Dalits fill, which would have given a more accurate picture of the ability of Indian business to give equal opportunities to Dalits. As documented most recently by Professor Ashwini Deshpande in "The Grammar of Caste" published in 2011, Dalits are still disadvantaged in the modern economy solely because of their caste status both in terms of recruitment discrimination at the work place and possibilities of career advancement.

The caste census is, however, a sign of cautious opening of corporate India to look inward, in terms of caste discrimination. The CII also followed up with an encouragement to its members to employ more Dalits, which is a much needed process, as caste discrimination and exploitation of Dalits in the private sector was again documented in a number of reports in 2011.

The ILO Global Report 2011<sup>16</sup> on Equality at Work highlights caste discrimination as a labour issue facing Dalits in South Asia, with specific references to India, Nepal and Bangladesh. For some time, IDS-N has discussed with the ILO in India about the publication of a Dalit resource guide for companies and investors in India. It will reflect current debates on reservations, employment of Dalits and tools to eliminate caste discrimination in business operations, drawing in current developments in India, international and national legislation and existing tools and remedies to counter caste discrimination. Efforts to complete the guide were undertaken in 2011 and it will be published in 2012 as a joint product of the ILO India and IDS-N.

After lobbying by the Dalit Network Netherlands (DNN), a majority in the Dutch parliament adopted a motion on discrimination of Dalits requesting the government to promote that "combating caste-based discrimination becomes an integral part of the CSR policy of Dutch and European companies, including in their supplychain, who are active in countries where caste-based discrimination is practiced." The Minister of Foreign Affairs endorsed the motion.

## The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) highlights caste

From the report on Core Labour Standards in India for the WTO September review of India's trade policies.<sup>21</sup>

**"Indian society is structured across caste lines, even if the Constitution has abolished the caste system. The Dalits, a self-designation for a group of people who are considered to belong to the "lowest" caste face extreme discrimination in several aspects of life, including employment and access to public services. Dalits are also the most usual victims of bonded and forced labour. Many crimes against Dalits, including crimes related to employment, remain unpunished because the authorities are indifferent to Dalits or because Dalits do not report them due to fear of retaliation. Many Dalits are engaged in scavenging manually, a practice which is prohibited under the Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act of 1993. The CEACR "found the continuing existence of manual scavenging, and that it was practiced by municipal employees belonging to particular castes." The CEACR is concerned at the "apparent weak enforcement" of the Act and that "the practice even continues in employment under the Government's authority."**

After engagement by the DSN Finland, The Finnish Business Partnership programme, FinnPartnership, which provides assistance to Finnish business activities in developing countries, now include the Ambedkar Principles and the Caste Discrimination Check in its ethical directions and its material and tool bank for the enterprises. This is in addition to similar recommendations by the Dutch and Danish Governments in their advice to companies operating in caste-affected countries. A number of DSNs also promoted the Ambedkar Principles and the Dalit Discrimination Check in their ongoing work with private companies and other CSR stakeholders.

Appalling conditions in the cotton industry in India were documented in several reports. The report *Captured by Cotton*<sup>17</sup> on the exploitation of girls, primarily of Dalit background, under the so-called Sumangali scheme was published by DNN member The India Committee of the Netherlands and SOMO, Centre for Research on Multinational companies. The report documents that Multinational clothing brands are sourcing from cotton spinning mills in Tamil Nadu that exploit teenage girls, subjecting them to what the ILO terms the 'worst forms of child labour'. The girls are not offered fair wages and work towards a promise of being paid a lump sum, made up of withheld wages, after three years employment. It is not uncommon that at the end of the three years the girls are not paid and have effectively been used as slaves. Even when the girls are paid, the wages are below the minimum wage and the working conditions are so hazardous that many girls must use the money they make to pay for their medical bills.

The report was shared with officials and press contacts of IDSN, particularly through DSNs, who were also part of dialogues on the issue within the Ethical Trading Initiative in the UK, the Netherlands and Denmark. The report was widely covered in national and international media and led to a group of the sourcing companies pledging to work actively for the abolition of the Sumangali scheme and similar forms of labour rights abuse in the affected districts.

Research Associate, the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice, released a report on what they call an agrarian crisis in India where farmers in alarming numbers are committing suicide when they can no longer sustain their livelihoods<sup>18</sup>. The report found that caste discrimination exacerbates the problem and identifies the dominance of the cotton market by multinational corporations and the use of expensive GM cotton seed as key contributing factors.

The International Trade Union Confederation<sup>19</sup>, furthermore released a report referring to vast exploitation of predominantly Dalit and Tribal children under the age of 14 in the cotton industry in Andhra Pradesh. The children produce hybrid cotton seeds and do not receive payment as they are working to pay off family debt. Gross exploitation of children, mostly Dalits, in the carpet weaving industry was also described by the Goodweave campaign in a report from North India<sup>20</sup>. The research found children as young as 10 years of age are coerced to work 16 or more hours a day weaving carpets for export to Europe and North America. All of these children are poor, low-caste or Dalits who receive negligible payment or are exploited through outright bonded and forced labour.

The documentation of labour violations against Dalits produced within and outside the IDSN membership have been shared with officials and individual companies by IDSN and DSN members, as well as communicated through newsletters and websites.

Important new tools made available in 2011 for companies in dealing with caste-based discrimination are the UN-endorsed Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights by Prof. John Ruggie and the revised OECD Guidelines. Both emphasize a pro-active due diligence to tackle human rights violations by companies, in their value chain and in co-operation with their business partners.

A key development in India was the decision by the Indian Government to make it mandatory for all central bodies to make at least 4% of their annual purchases from small scale industries owned by Dalits or tribals. The decision came as part of the new public procurement policy which mandates ministries to make 20% of their purchases from micro and small enterprise. Of this, 20% will be done from companies owned by Dalits or tribals.

## Communication and networking

2011 has seen a flourish of new projects within communication and networking. New websites are being developed for the Dalit Solidarity Networks in Europe, a new introductory video and thematic videos on caste discrimination are being produced, and a public survey was carried out in Europe to measure public knowledge and opinion on caste discrimination.

New developments included an increased focus on social networking tools Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. IDSN also engaged in spreading IDSN and network news on CNN I-Report, Reuters Trustlaw and the Minority Voices Newsroom. This significantly increased the reach of IDSN news and information. The IDSN Facebook channel now has 460 fans, had 75,000 page views in 2011, and a network reach of 210,000. The Facebook page has furthermore been integrated to automatically update the Twitter channel IDSNupdates.

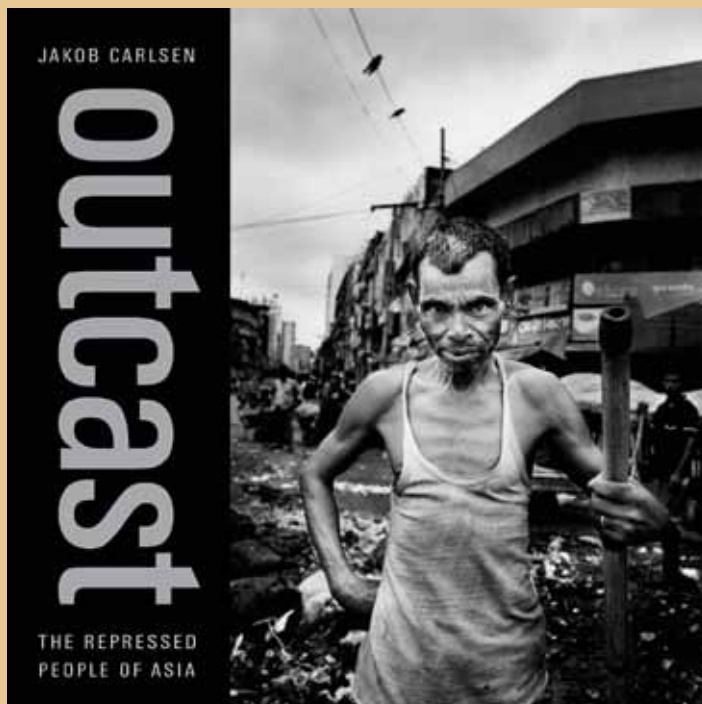
The IDSN website continues to be a very popular source of information on caste discrimination and the amount of unique visitors to the site in 2011 increased by 26% compared to 2010 and the number of page views increased by 12%. Visitors spend longer time on the IDSN website than on other NGO websites that it is benchmarked against through Google Analytics statistical analysis. Additions to the IDSN website in 2011 included expanding the EU section, new issue papers on Dalit women and on access to education, Facebook integration on all key pages and news items, and an improved RSS feed function that enables IDSN news to be fed into social media channels and the website of members and associates.

The IDSN Newsletter was redesigned into a template that made it possible to partially track its use and also integrate social media channels. The monthly newsletter now has over 800 subscribers and the number of subscribers continues to increase. The newsletters are an important record of developments and are also read by non-subscribers who receive news of them through the IDSN website or social media outlets.

IDSN continued to provide informational and analytical news articles on emerging news and events on caste discrimination throughout the year, as well as new tendencies. News and new publications sent to us by members and associates was also communicated through all relevant IDSN channels including the website, newsletter, social media, emails and listservs.

A new arrival on the scene in 2011, was the IDSN YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/idsnvideo](http://www.youtube.com/idsnvideo). This channel

## Groundbreaking Photo book on Dalits in Asia



'Outcast' – the repressed people of Asia', released in May 2011, depicts the destitution, injustice, poverty and exclusion suffered by hundreds of millions of people in South Asia, as well as glimmers of hope and empowerment. The Photographs and stories about Dalits in South Asia were collected by the Danish Photographer Jakob Carlsen, over several trips to the region.

The Photos are accompanied by stories of bonded labour, untouchability, segregation, murder, impunity, child labour, forced prostitution, extreme poverty and much more.

Upon reading the book High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Navi Pillay, commented,

"The book is a wonderful achievement, with powerful images and personal stories, which depict in a most convincing way the destitution, injustice, poverty and exclusion suffered by hundreds of millions of Dalits in South Asia."

The book was also critically acclaimed and the Wall Street Journal wrote:

"Though untouchability has been decried since the start of the Indian independence movement in the 19th century—Gandhi called it 'a heinous crime against humanity'—the practice still keeps many millions in India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal bound to a wheel of grinding poverty. The black-and-white Photographs in 'Outcast: The Repressed People of Asia' are haunting ... Mr. Carlsen found not 'Shining India' but faces burned by the midday sun, glowing with sweat and grease and lined from ceaseless toil."

In 2007, IDS N sent Carlsen to India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan to document the situation of the region's Dalits and many of the pictures taken on these trips, and used in IDS N's work, are part of the book. Distributor: <http://www.forlagetajour.dk>

presents an ever expanding selection of videos on caste discrimination, organised into searchable playlists by country as well as by topic. The channel is the first of its kind to collate videos dealing with caste discrimination, created by a wide array of actors including activists, NGOs, filmmakers, government agencies, broadcast news and more. The collection is a key global source for video material on the issue.

Much effort in 2011 was also spent on planning and pre-production of the new IDS N introductory and thematic videos that form a part of the IDS N EU project "Ending 'untouchability': European action to eliminate caste discrimination," and will be finalised in early 2012. Material for the videos have been curated from a wide array of sources including volunteer video activists, documentary film makers, broadcast media, NGOs, and others such as Witness, UNICEF and the British Embassy in Nepal.

The video curation work brought with it new networking opportunities and connected IDS N to a number of different actors. Particularly interesting has been the work with the large video NGO, Video Volunteers, whose project IndiaUnheard has hailed much footage on caste issues. Video Volunteers works to create an alternative media

landscape in which community correspondents from disadvantaged communities including Dalits, are producing video content that brings awareness to communities and empowers them to take action. Video Volunteers are a valuable new partner in future IDS N media work.

Creating a template for new websites for the Dalit Solidarity Networks (DSNs) that can integrate IDS N news flow and be easy to setup, use and maintain for the DSNs has also been a priority this year. The template was completed in 2011 and will be adapted and tailored to suit each individual DSN as the new sites are launched throughout 2012, as part of the IDS N EU project.

Another part of the IDS N EU project was a survey on public knowledge and opinion on caste discrimination carried out in eight European countries. The survey provided detailed findings of people's knowledge of the terms Dalit and caste discrimination as well as their opinions when it came to European Governments, companies or the United Nations prioritising taking action on this issue. IDS N will use these findings to further intensify awareness raising work in Europe in 2012 and to strengthen political lobby efforts in the European Countries.

**Kids are eager to engage in the classroom discussions.** Unfortunately the Dalit children in this public school class in India are made to sit at the back of the classroom, must eat their lunch separately from all the other children and are almost never picked to answer questions by the teacher. Enrolment rates are very low among Dalit students and once enrolled drop-out rates are alarmingly high due to discrimination, harassment and socio-economic issues. In 2011 NCDHR and national associates in India continued to work to eliminate caste discrimination in education and cases of Dalit children being segregated at school and being forced to do demeaning chores were documented by NGOs and the media throughout 2011. IDS

also issue a briefing paper on 'Access to Education' highlighting these issues. Photo: Vivien Francis.

In addition to the many new initiatives within IDS

communication and networking work in 2011, IDS

continued to pitch stories to the mainstream international media and issue press releases in connection with relevant news and IDS

events, such as the Hearing on Caste Discrimination in the European Parliament and the International Consultation held by IDS

in Kathmandu. Generally there has been good coverage of the issue of caste discrimination in many key British media including the BBC and the Guardian and North American media are also increasingly picking up on this issue. Of particular interest in 2011, was the Canadian newspaper the Globe and Mail's feature on caste in India including written, Photographic and video reportage that will continue to run in 2012.

In terms of networking and internal communication IDS

has continued to expand and build on its relations and communication with members and associates as well as other actors working on the issue of caste discrimination. The work to strengthen relationships has yielded a wealth of information sharing with some partners and both NCDHR and FEDO have issued regular monthly newsletters in 2011 that IDS

## Developments in caste-affected countries

has spread through its website and newsletters. Several new documentary films and books on caste discrimination were launched in 2011 including Photographer Jakob Carlsen's book Outcast featuring many of the Photos of Dalits in South Asia that he has taken for IDS

In 2011, access to justice was one of the key concerns for Dalit human rights defenders across the caste-affected countries. While in some countries impressive strides were made in terms of legislation and allocations, implementation remains a key problem across the board. Another common focus for the National Platforms and National Associates, was multiple discrimination against Dalit women, and the lack of access to education and basic services for Dalits. While this report focuses on India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan, in which IDS

### India

National Platform members, human rights defenders in Japan, Yemen, Sri Lanka and other caste affected countries also fought against caste discrimination in 2011, and were represented, alongside the National Platforms and associates, at the IDS

International Consultation on Caste-Based Discrimination in Kathmandu. All National Platform members and national associates furthermore took part in the IDS

---

**"In India I heard the testimony of scores of Dalit women who had been beaten, raped or had their families threatened because they were serving local governing councils. I also had the privilege to stand with nearly 1.000 Dalit women as they rallied to declare themselves 'free' of the degrading work of 'manual scavenging'... Those women were raising their voices to claim their rights and dignity and had symbolically burned their manual scavenging baskets. I was struck by their bravery. Many of them had known no other way of life and had no guarantee of an alternative source of income for their families - yet they were making a stand."** Gay

McDougall, Professor at Georgetown University, Former UN Independent Expert on Minorities following a visit to India.

---



world to be a woman. Several media have reported that Dalit women are particularly at risk in India and violence, humiliation, and gender and caste discrimination continued to function as severe barriers to progress for Dalit women.

Across India in 2011 there has seen a strengthening of the Dalit women's movement with collaboration, workshops, leadership training, and the assertion of legal and political rights, empowering Dalit women to stand up against the extreme oppression they continue to face. The National Federation of Dalit Women, Navsarjan Trust and the forum of Dalit women AIDMAM, a part of The National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR), continued in 2011 to work towards the empowerment and protection of Dalit women in India. Dalit women are a cross cutting concern in all activities to counter caste discrimination in India.

The Prime Minister of India, Manmohan Singh, made strong statements in 2011 about prioritizing combating violence against Dalits. The Supreme Court and the Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST) Commission in India, also followed up with strong recommendations to stamp out caste discrimination and bring perpetrators to justice. These statements and rulings reflect that despite efforts to counter caste discrimination made by civil society and the central Government, untouchability and atrocities against

Dalits continue and in some states they are on the rise. In spite of India's legislation to counter caste discrimination, lack of access to justice, lack of implementation of laws and the failings of the police and judicial system remain a serious barrier to progress.

Numerous reports of police violence and brutality and an alarmingly large number of reports on police neglecting to register Dalit complaints, standing by as Dalits are beaten or even murdered, and threatening violence against Dalit human rights defenders were seen in 2011.

While the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has made some recommendations in 2011 to states and police to reopen Dalit cases and to enforce the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Prevention of Atrocities Act (SC/ST

---

**"A large section of Indian society still regards a section of their own countrymen as inferior. This mental attitude is simply unacceptable in the modern age, and it is one of the main causes holding up the country's progress."** Supreme Court Bench of Justices Markandey Katju and Gyan Sudha Misra.

---



Act), the NHRC continues to have severe shortcomings. These shortcomings were documented in a 2011 Report on the Compliance with the Paris Principles by the National Human Rights Commission of India published by the All India Network of NGOs and Individuals working with National and State Human Rights Institutions (AiNNI), including People's Watch – Tamil Nadu, and was endorsed by over 300 NGOs and individuals including NCDHR, Navsarjan Trust and IDSN.

Due to the severe shortcomings of both law enforcement and the judiciary system in India NCDHR, People's Watch and Navsarjan Trust continued to focus much of

their efforts on initiatives such as filing public interest litigation, monitoring the implementation of the SC/ST Act, assisting Dalit victims with legal aid and working to further amendments of the SC/ST Act so that it is up-to-date and can be implemented more effectively. IDSN international associate, the Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) also focused much of its attention in 2011 on the failings of justice in India.

In January 2011, The UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, Ms. Margaret Sekaggya, visited India. In her statement she raised particular concern for the situation of Dalit human rights defenders and noted widespread deficiencies in implementation of laws to protect human rights defenders. She pointed out that the central and state government as well as the National Human Rights Commission must do more to protect the rights of human rights defenders. Throughout 2011, NCDHR's National Dalit Movement for Justice (NDMJ) continued to document cases of threats of physical assault and murder, torture, illegal detention, forced disappearances, illegal imprisonment, surveillance and targeting of family members, and implicating in false cases, against Dalit human rights defenders.

---

**"In India, we have a culture of non-implementation especially when it comes to marginalised communities. This is something which has become stronger over the last 20 years. Discrimination that before was mainly in the society has found ways of cementing itself in the government structures."** Vijay Parmar, National Convenor, National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights

---

**Hundreds of Dalit homes bulldozed without warning.** In March 2011, the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) bulldozed 750 houses in the Gayatri colony - 80% of which belonged to Dalits. No prior notice was given and the residents were not warned of the demolition and were not given any time to collect their belongings from their homes. Despite several High Court orders mandating for immediate provision of basic facilities, such as water, food and sanitation in case of a demolition, Dalit residents were deprived of their fundamental rights. Although residents and Dalit human rights defenders pleaded with the police to respect the High Court, the demolition continued while the residents cried as they saw their homes destroyed. A few months later the Delhi authorities completed yet another unlawful demolition of Dalit homes. Petitions were filed at the Delhi High Court by NCDHR, Human Rights Law Network, and other partners. Photos: NCDHR.

NCDHR and other Dalit organisations including the National Conference of Dalit Organisations (NACDOR), monitored Union and State budget allocations for Dalits closely, documenting the diversion of funds earmarked for Dalits and working to ensure more targeted budgets. The National Advisory Committee (NAC) recommended to the Prime Minister that implementation of provisions for Dalits and tribals must be ensured in order to bridge the gaps on development indicators between these groups and the rest of the population. In order to promote a focus on Dalit rights and provisions for Dalits in future, NCDHR have also made significant inputs to the approach paper to the Government's 12th five year plan.

The National Dalit Watch (NDW-NCDHR) released a report in 2011 documenting that Dalits were unable to access government disaster relief programmes in relief work following the Yamuna floods in India in 2010. Later in 2011 a National Consultation on 'Addressing Caste Based Discrimination in Disaster Response' was organised by a coalition of civil society organisations, together with NDW and Sphere India, with the support of IDSN and the EU. A best practice case study from NDW and a draft general framework on elimination of caste discrimination in disaster relief and rehabilitation programmes, formed the basis for the national consultation.

According to the latest estimates of the Planning Commission Report of 2010, 37% of the Indian population live below the poverty line and between 40-47% of them are Dalits. Poverty in itself is a source of ill health, hunger and deprivation and in 2011, caste discrimination not only exacerbated poverty, but continued to be a severe hindrance to accessing basic services such as health care, water, food, housing and education.

Discrimination against Dalits in health services, both public and private, included many forms of untouchability practices. In 2011 the media reported cases of health workers refusing to give vaccines to Dalit children and turning away pregnant Dalit women from giving birth in clinics. A study published by UNICEF and the Indian

---

**"When public institutions of justice fail, having a law to guarantee non-discrimination of Dalits is of no meaning ... A way to effectively address caste-based discrimination in India is by reforming institutions of justice administration."** AHRC Statement: India: Dalits should save themselves through justice reforms

---

## Police kill six Dalits at gathering

**Police killed six Dalits in a shoot out in September, when Dalits in several thousands gathered to commemorate the assassination of a well-known Dalit leader at Paramakudi town in Tamil Nadu. The police resorted to brutal attacks with sticks and firearms without any prior warning. Six Dalits were killed and many more injured with bullet wounds. IDSN associate, People's Watch Tamil Nadu, immediately launched a fact finding mission into the incident. The report concluded that police were the agitators and to blame for the incident. It also found that several of those allegedly shot dead had in fact been subjected to brutal police torture. Following a High Court hearing on the incident an investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigations is now pending.**

Institute of Dalit Studies<sup>22</sup> found that the consequences of discriminatory practices severely limit Dalit children from accessing health services, and are attributable to the poor health and significantly higher level of mortality of Dalit children. Maternal deaths were also found to be much higher among Dalits than among the general population. The study calls for developing safeguards and codes to check discriminatory practices at all stages of service delivery.

According to the 2011 Global Hunger Index, the food security situation in India is alarming with only 14 countries ranking lower than India on the list. The Asian Legal Resource Centre (ALRC) issued a statement stressing that corruption and discrimination in India, Nepal and Bangladesh are leading to widespread child malnutrition and noted that landless Dalits are particularly vulnerable to the Government failures. Reports furthermore highlighted many cases of discrimination in the provision of Government midday meals in schools and in the public food distribution system.

Beyond the state of housing for Dalits generally being dismally low due to poverty and social exclusion, 2011 saw a wave of unlawful demolitions of Dalit settlements. NCDHR intervened in large scale demolitions and evictions which were carried out by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) affecting more than 6,000 Dalit residents in Delhi, and took part in conducting a mapping of Dalit settlements in New Delhi, to counter future forced evictions and failings to provide compensation or other budgetary rights to urban Dalits. Problems with corporate takeovers of Dalit land also continued to plague Dalit families in 2011.

Dalit children were also frequently treated in a humiliating and degrading manner in schools and in public places, at times accompanied by severe corporal punishment. Reports from Navsarjan trust and the media, have identified numerous practices of caste discrimination in schools including children being made to sit at the back of the classroom or on the floor, being forced to clean school toilets, not having their homework checked by teachers or not receiving school textbooks.

Some of these factors have significantly contributed to the higher dropout rates among Dalit children who face a hostile environment at school. The difference in dropout rates between Dalit youth and all Indian youth has actually risen over the past years. Literacy levels are recorded to be the lowest among Dalit girls at 24%, compared to the national average of 43% percent for the female population. In the Mushahar Dalit community, barely 9 percent of women are literate.

Even for Dalits who manage to progress to study a higher education, the harassment is seen to continue into colleges and universities and a grave consequence of this has been that a disproportionate number of Dalit students have committed suicide, as documented in a 2011 report on caste discrimination in the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)<sup>23</sup> and reports by the media on several other institutions of higher education.

Traditional forced caste occupations, such as manual scavenging, persist in India despite being illegal and the Government and the Prime Minister committing in 2011 to stamp it out before the end of the year. Reports of Dalits working in bonded labour in construction, mining, farming, domestic service and the textile industry also appeared in 2011 and the UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, Ms. Gulnara Shahinian, identified caste discrimination as one of the root causes leading to child slavery in the mining and quarrying sector.

Dalits and tribals in India continue to be the main victims of child slavery and child labour. A report was released in 2011 called *Captured by Cotton* on the Sumangali Scheme where Dalit girls work in bonded labour in Tamil Nadu's cotton spinning mills and the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice, also released a report finding that caste discrimination exacerbates the agrarian crisis in India, which has seen large numbers of farmers commit suicide when they are unable to sustain their livelihoods. Both reports are described in the Private Sector chapter.

The role of Dalit entrepreneurship in eradicating caste discrimination was a strong theme in the media in India in 2011. Following rosy success stories on Dalits who had become billionaires, several Dalit billionaires and renowned economists and sociologists warned that this

did not represent an overall improvement in Dalit access to employment. The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) released the result of the first ever census on caste representation in the private sector revealing that Dalits are seriously underrepresented in the workforces of many states. Even in states where Dalits were more present in the work force, the President of the CII and Vice-Chairman of Tata Steel, Mr. B. Muthuraman, explains that most of the Dalits are employed in very low grade jobs and their numbers in managerial and other higher posts are minimal or negligible.

Tata steel is one of the few firms who have introduced affirmative action policies to try to ensure that their company is more caste inclusive. The CII has called on member companies to prioritise providing jobs for Dalits and chalked out a roadmap to provide job-oriented training to 50,000 Dalits and tribals and employment for them in 2011. Another positive 2011 development is that the Indian Government has made it mandatory for all central bodies to make at least 4% of their annual purchases from small scale industries owned by Dalits and tribals.

2011 has seen significant media attention to caste discrimination in India throughout the year and several new books have been released on the caste issue to much critical acclaim. Publishers include Navayana Press, the World Bank and Routledge. NCDHR also released a startling documentary entitled *Whose money, whose games*<sup>24</sup> on illegal evictions of Dalits and the diversion of funds for Dalits in connection with the 2010 Commonwealth Games and other documentary films focusing on caste discrimination have also premiered in 2011. The Video Volunteers network, continue to focus on caste as part of their IndiaUnheard project and feed these videos into the mainstream media.

During the course of 2011, Dalit human rights defenders from India took part in several events abroad organised by IDSN, meetings at the UN Human Rights Council and UN Minority Forum, a hearing and lobbying meetings in the European Parliament, and other meetings in global contexts.

NCDHR furthermore initiated a *Conference on Decade of Dalit Rights UN* to review past interventions, mainly at the UN, and to chalk out future strategies for 2011-2020. The main conclusions and reflections from the conference were included in the conference declaration<sup>25</sup>. A consultation by NCDHR on the Universal Periodic Review of India coming up in 2012, with the regional level associates took this procedure to a grass root level and encouraged grass root organizations to contribute their inputs to the larger report submitted by the National Coalition for Strengthening the SC/ST PoA Act initiated by NCDHR.



## Nepal

2011 has been a monumental year in the struggle against caste discrimination in Nepal. The Government, civil society, Dalit human rights defenders, international governments and international agencies and NGOs, have all contributed to significant leaps being made towards ensuring and protecting Dalit rights in Nepal. While there is still much to be achieved, particularly within the social, economic and cultural context, the achievements in 2011 are grounds to celebrate the successes of a Dalit movement that has united and worked tirelessly to effect tangible political change.

A prime example of such a leap is the passing of the historical Untouchability Bill<sup>26</sup> prohibiting the practices of 'untouchability' in public and in private spheres. It is the first time that a law, criminalising 'untouchability' practices in the private sphere, has ever been introduced in any country. Dalit civil society organisations including the Dalit NGO Federation (DNF) and the Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO), worked for years to lobby and prepare input and amendments for the bill, and the UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Kyung-wha Kang, also urged the Government to adopt the draft bill during her April visit to Nepal<sup>27</sup> as did the Head of the OHCHR-Nepal, Jyothi Sanghera.

The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights – Nepal (OHCHR-Nepal), has shown unwavering support to the struggle against caste discrimination throughout 2011. Following the January UN Universal Periodic (UPR) review of Nepal, where more than 20 states referred to caste discrimination in their interventions<sup>28</sup> and the Nepal government expressed its support for a number of the recommendations, the OHCHR, national level Dalit organisations and the Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) called for concrete implementation of the commitments on caste discrimination made by the Nepal Government at the review.

In September OHCHR-Nepal teamed up with the National Dalit Commission to launch the *100 Day Campaign against caste discrimination and untouchability*.<sup>29</sup> The campaign was carried out both on the ground, where awareness

---

**“This is the first time ever Nepal has adopted specific legislation for addressing the serious crime of caste-based discrimination and untouchability... It is now vital to ensure effective implementation of this law, taking appropriate measures such as raising awareness of the law amongst the general public and specific training for the police.”** Jyoti Sanghera, Head of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights – Nepal

---



---

**“Three years after signing of the agreement, freed Haliyas [bonded labourers] have yet to receive promised relief and rehabilitation, and have yet to be issued with identity cards ... Consequently, the freed Haliyas continue to face difficulty in accessing basic needs including food, shelter and health services, thus forcing them to live in often deplorable conditions ... The lack of access to alternative livelihoods, as promised in the agreement, has also compelled many Haliyas to continue as bonded labourers with their former landlords.”** The UN International Labour Organization (ILO) and the OHCHR - Nepal and other partners said in a joint statement<sup>30</sup> on bonded labour in Nepal.

---

raising activities were carried out and fingerprints from those committed to ending caste discrimination were collected, and online, via an impressive website where national and global supporters could sign up to register their commitment. The first one to commit online was the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, through a video statement urging that we all stand together to end caste discrimination and untouchability.

Also in September the OHCHR worked with the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the National Human Rights Commission, National Dalit Commission and National Women Commission to improve the conditions of former bonded labourers, pointing out that most of the bonded labourers in Nepal's Haliya bonded labour System are Dalits or tribals. The lack of access to alternative livelihoods, as promised in the Government agreement in 2008, has compelled many Haliyas to continue as bonded labourers with their former landlords, and the UN and its partners strongly urged that the government take immediate steps to rectify the situation.

Following the January UPR review the Nepal Government has on several occasions made its support for the International struggle to end caste discrimination globally. The Prime Minister, Jhala Nath Khanal, called for concerted efforts to put an end to untouchability in a press statement issued on the occasion of Untouchability Eradication Day and said the state is committed to bringing an end to untouchability and all forms of discrimination.

At the national level many concrete steps were taken by the Government of Nepal and state actors in 2011. In addition to passing the Untouchability Bill the Nepal Police has established an Untouchability Surveillance Centre (USC), there is a Home Ministry Centre being established to deal with cases of caste-based discrimination specifically, the government launched the Marginalised, Deprived and Dalit



Class Upliftment Development Committee and in December they appointed Dr. Madan Pariyar, from Samata Foundation, as head of the newly constituted State Restructuring Commission (SRC) in Nepal. Caste discrimination has furthermore been officially set under the Constituent Assembly Committee on Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles.

The OHCHR-Nepal issued an important status report in December entitled *Opening the door to equal justice for Dalits in Nepal*<sup>31</sup>. The report recognizes progress made by Nepal in combating caste-based discrimination but also identifies the challenges and obstacles that continue to prevent victims from accessing the justice system. In connection with the release of the report, OHCHR also organised a regional symposium on access to justice for victims of caste-based discrimination, where challenges, lessons learned and good practices from Nepal were shared with participants from the country and other South Asian nations.

The challenges identified in the report include the low levels of awareness that caste-based discrimination is a crime, lack of appropriate support from law enforcement agencies, and the social and economic factors that further

hinder progress, such as poverty. These challenges were also raised throughout 2011 by several national level Dalit organisation and by a number of International human rights organisations.

In its Annual Report issued in 2011, Human Rights Watch stated that Dalits in Nepal continue to suffer discrimination in economic, social and cultural spheres and that Nepal has yet to implement recommendations made in 2004 by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination with respect to caste discrimination. The Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) issued several statements including calling for Government attention to Nepal's Dalits who suffer from severe food insecurity and poverty and urging

---

**“The adoption of legislation criminalizing caste-based discrimination was a great achievement in 2011 for the Dalit community, who had long been advocating for this legislation. However, this legislation runs the risk of being rendered meaningless, if no tangible rejuvenation of the justice system takes place.”** Asian Human Rights Commission

---

**Dalit women in Nepal rallied, joined together and got creative for their rights in 2011.** The Dalit women movement in Nepal went from strength to strength in 2011 and have shown impressive resilience, initiative and activity throughout the year. In May, The National Conference of Dalit Women organised by FEDO, took place in Kathmandu bringing together Dalit women activists from 75 districts of Nepal, human rights activists, constitutional assembly members, researchers, representatives from UN and bilateral agencies and I/NGOs, members of the media, and international delegates. The conference results are summed up in the declaration entitled the *Kathmandu Proclamation on Dalit Women Issues in New Nepal*. Photo: FEDO.

the government to implement the new Untouchability Act immediately.

DNF launched a census drive to engage the Dalit community in the 2011 Census. DNF lobbied with the Central Bureau of Statistic (CBS) Nepal Planning Commission for the involvement of Dalits in every process of the population census 2011. The 5 points agreement with the CBS and the Planning commission suggested ensuring dalit representation in the monitoring committee and steering committee for the census. As a result, Dalit representatives were represented in the enumerator, supervisor and monitoring teams. The correct registration of Dalits in the census will form the basis for both statistics on caste in future as well as government schemes and legislation. The Center for Human Rights and Global Justice (CHRGJ) also released the statement *Nepal's Human Rights Obligations to Conduct an Accurate & Non-Discriminatory Census*<sup>32</sup>.

The 2011 Nepal Living Standard Survey III, found a decrease in poverty levels in Nepal but also concluded that, "Hill Dalits and Tarai Dalits have the highest poverty level while the Hill Brahmins and Newars have the least." The Nepal Human Development Report released in 2011 likewise found Dalits at a disadvantage when it came to literacy and education, with Dalit women being severely disadvantaged. Statistics in the report cite that only 17% of Tarai Dalit women are literate and only 5.2% of them acquire secondary education.

That threats from state and non-state actors against human rights defenders is directly hampering the country's democratisation and peace process was stressed in the work of The Asian Legal Resource Centre (ALRC) and other organisations who also issued a statement<sup>33</sup> in 2011, highlighting the difficulties faced by Dalit human rights defenders in Nepal when attempting to carry out their work. The statement notes that Dalit women human rights defenders are particularly at risk and are not being recognised, even among the mainstream human rights movement.

Despite the difficulties identified, the Dalit women movement in Nepal went from strength to strength in 2011 and have shown impressive resilience, initiative and activity throughout the year. In March, Dalit women marked the International Women's Day with a Photography exhibition and film screening, the Social Women's Forum with cultural activities and a workshop on "How Dalit people can access the government", and a rally for Dalit rights in the streets of Kathmandu kicked off the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Political parties

and Dalit organisations including FEDO participated in the rally with banners and slogans to urge that Dalit rights be included in the next constitution.

In May, The National Conference of Dalit Women organised by FEDO, took place in Kathmandu bringing together Dalit women activists from 75 districts of Nepal, human rights activists, constitutional assembly members, researchers, representatives from UN and bilateral agencies and I/NGOs, members of the media, and international delegates. The conference results are summed up in the declaration entitled the *Kathmandu Proclamation on Dalit Women Issues in New Nepal*<sup>34</sup>.

In August, FEDO prepared a lobby brief and contributed to the comprehensive shadow report by the Forum for Women, Law and Development (FWLD)<sup>35</sup> on Dalit Women in Nepal for the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) review of Nepal. Following the Review CEDAW urged Nepal to take specific measures to increase the "very low" political representation of Dalit women<sup>36</sup>.

Political representation of Dalits was also at the top of the agenda of the Dalit NGO Federation's (DNF) work this year. DNF engaged in conducting voter education across Nepal and have informed more than 46,000 Dalits of their voting rights. DNF also established resource centers in five regions and provided support to Dalits through an atrocities Help Line and a Dalit Dialogue Centre. DNF engaged in political lobbying including organising campaigns to urge CA members to ensure a Dalit inclusive constitution, lobbying the Finance minister for budget allocations for Dalits and issuing position papers on state restructuring and budgets. DNF also took up the issue of inter-caste marriages and the problems and violence often faced by the couples who engage in them. The continued focus of DNF is on political, social and cultural empowerment of Nepal's Dalits and DNF helped secure funding for a team of Dalit activists to climb Mt. Everest to make a statement about putting an end to caste discrimination, to be organised in 2012.

Beyond the national level work, DNF and FEDO also supported IDS N in international lobby activities throughout 2011 and alongside the Nepal National Dalit Social Welfare Organisation (NNDSWO) they were invaluable co-organizers of the IDS N International Consultation on Caste-Based Discrimination which took place in Kathmandu, Nepal. The Jagaran Media Center (JMC) supported the consultation on media work.

Throughout 2011 there has been a good amount of national level media attention to caste discrimination in Nepal,

**Seeds of hope have been sewn for a better future for Dalits in Bangladesh.** While many obstacles remain for Dalits in Bangladesh in terms of political participation, living standards, access to education and basic services and other rights, the Dalit movement in Bangladesh is growing strong and mobilising – giving a new generation of Dalits a reason to believe that things are changing. Photo: Abir Abdullah/EPA.

especially following key events. There has also been a fair level of international media attention particularly to the issues of bonded labour and education as well as the passing of the untouchability bill. To mention a few, the LA Times, The Guardian, and The BBC, have all published articles on the issue and ABC radio and MediaGlobal also interviewed IDS and UN officials on caste discrimination in Nepal.

Over the past years the Dalit movement has grown stronger and stronger and it was a difficult time for all partners in Nepal and around the world, when the young Dalit leader, Suvash Darnal, co-founder of JMC and founder of the Samata Foundation, passed away in a traffic accident. Several moving tributes were written and the Open Society Institute published a memorial stating, "Suvash's vision of a just and inclusive Nepal for all of its diverse peoples will not die with him. On the contrary, his short but fruitful life will surely serve as an example to all Nepalis working to build that bright, new Nepal that Suvash always knew was close and within reach." The activities and achievements in 2011, are a testament to this.

## Bangladesh

Political lobbying, social mobilisation and networking continued to drive the Dalit movement in Bangladesh forward in 2011. Alongside other Dalit rights movements in Bangladesh, The Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Rights Movement (BDERM), has empowered Dalits to start asserting their rights and inspired and pressured politicians and officials to take notice and make changes.

The impressive accomplishments of the movement were published in 2011 in the form of a 2008-2011 Work Statement from BDERM<sup>37</sup> including background information, goals, activities, documentation, priorities and actions for 2012.

BDERM furthermore published *Dalit Women in Bangladesh - Multiple Exclusions*<sup>38</sup> and together with NGO One World Action published a booklet documenting Dalit lives in Bangladesh entitled *Dalit rights are human rights*<sup>39</sup> depicting the Dalit struggle for dignity in Bangladesh. A print version of the publication was co-sponsored by IDS.

To further its spread of information and advocacy reach BDERM also launched a website on [bderm.org](http://bderm.org) including news, events, publications and information on the movement. The member base of the movement is continuing to grow steadily and BDERM has members throughout Bangladesh. A regular newsletter in Bangla was also disseminated in 2011.

## Now we have leadership, skills, rights and dignity

Mukul Shikder, Chairperson, & Bothanki Solomon General Secretary, BDERM, in the foreword to the *Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Rights Movement Work Statement: April 2008 – June 2011*

Over the past few years the Dalit movement in Bangladesh has gone from strength to strength, and is now a growing and effective force for positive change ... Until very recently, the existence of Dalits and caste discrimination in Bangladesh was denied, and now we see the issue being seriously addressed by both national and international policy makers and practitioners.

Attitudes amongst Dalit communities are slowly transforming, and for the first time in their history people are speaking out and not hiding their identity. As a direct result of our lobbying, Dalits and excluded communities are now included within the national Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper; in the recent election manifestos of all major political parties and in the priorities of the European Commission and other major donors.

A strong national movement has been established, combining community organising with public awareness raising and campaigning, lobbying, legal interventions and international advocacy.

Despite entrenched patterns of discrimination and extreme poverty, a new generation of courageous Dalit leaders and activists are starting to organise their communities and demand justice. What we thought would take generations has started to change in just a few years. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our partners and friends and to encourage your continued support so we can work together to end caste discrimination and untouchability practices in Bangladesh.

Although the Dalit movement has been very successful at raising awareness of Dalit rights in Bangladesh and mobilizing for political change, much work remains to be done as Dalits of Bangladesh are still generally repressed and their living standards incredibly low.

One of the key obstacles to progress that has been identified is that there is a lack of political leadership from the Dalit community and that other political leaders are not focused on Dalit rights. In the last parliamentary election, eight political parties in Bangladesh declared their commitment to developing the Dalit and excluded



communities, but unfortunately no special measures were enacted to follow up on this commitment. Although the constitution prohibits discrimination based on caste, the Untouchability ridden mindset of those implementing government programmes such as the social safety-net programme, continues to hamper Dalit access to this kind of support.

The Dalit movement in Bangladesh lobbied for political action to change this reality in 2011, through organising meetings with MPs, Ministers and relevant commissions to request quotas, a specific law against Untouchability and more priority to be given to the issue. BDERM also lobbied for the specific allocation of funds in the national budget to develop housing facilities for Dalit communities, and the Finance ministry responded by making Dalit specific allocations in the 2011-2012 budgets. The Chairman of the National Human Rights Commission also urged the Government to protect Dalits in a 2011 statement.

Housing for Dalits continued to be a central issue and the Dalit movement lobbied for building new houses and ensuring water and sanitation in Dalit communities through public marches, and mobilizing national level media. This work has already yielded results as authorities have started work for water supply, sanitation and road construction

in the Rainkhola Community in Dhaka and set up a water pump at Gabtali sweepers colony.

Cases of unlawful eviction of Dalit families were also taken up by Dalit human rights defenders and when a Dalit family in Dhaka was evicted from their homes by local land grabbers BDERM immediately investigated and compiled reports that were then followed up by the National Human Rights Commission and District Administrator. After the intervention the family resettled at their own land.

BDERM and other organisations in Bangladesh working for Dalit rights also organised a number of seminars to highlight the issue and inform about how to take action to ensure these rights in Bangladesh. One of these seminars took place as part of the South Asia Social Forum in Dhaka. BDERM furthermore organized a four day programme to highlight Dalit Rights including a colourful rally and human chain to mark International Human Rights Day, a Photo exhibition entitled "The Struggle of Dalits" and the BDERM Annual Council Meeting.

The Bangladesh Dalit Rights Parishad also organised several events to highlight Dalit rights throughout the year and in December 2011 the Manusher Jonno Foundation organised a three day long South-Asian Dalit Conference, bringing



together Dalits from across the region to discuss Dalit Rights.

Social mobilisation continues to be a key tool for the work of the Dalit movement in Bangladesh and campaigns including rallies and human chains with thousands of participants were organised in connection with the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, International Human Rights Day, World Dignity Day and in connection with specific cases of unlawful evictions and rights abuses.

Following a march against a specific case of untouchability, a dalit leader spearheading the protest, Ujjol Das, chairman of a local Bangladesh Dalit Parishad branch, was arrested by the Police on false charges and sent to jail together with his father and grandfather. The Bangladesh Dalit Parishad are pursuing a case against the police on the false charges launched against the Dalit human rights defenders.

Several press conferences were organised to highlight Dalit rights and the activities taking place and national level press continued to cover the Dalit struggle for rights in Bangladesh throughout 2011.

The Bangladesh movement also continued to engage in the global struggle for Dalit rights at regional and international level. BDERM representatives participated in the *Decade of Dalit Rights UN* conference in Geneva in June 2011 where BDERM was a co-organizer, and a new dalit woman leader, Sonu Rani Das, participated in the Fourth Session of the UN Forum on Minority Issues.

Representatives of BDERM also participated in the Nepal Dalit Women Conference in May 2011 and other IDSN events. BDERM submitted several good practice cases on mobilization, building Dalit woman leadership and campaigning for housing rights ahead of the IDSN International Consultation and Tamanna Sing Baraik of the Dalit women Forum presented a compelling case on tea workers in Bangladesh, who are predominantly Dalit.

## Pakistan

The Pakistan Dalit Solidarity Network (PDSN) has been instrumental in raising public awareness of caste discrimination in Pakistan in 2011 and creating a stir in the media. Media reports on caste discrimination have included issues such as bonded labour, untouchability, kidnapping and forced conversions of Dalits. Media have also reported

**Dalit women collect water in Pakistan.** Discrimination against Dalits in Pakistan continues to be widespread. It is witnessed in almost all aspects of life including in where Dalits are allowed to collect water, education, health, political representation, access to justice and more. The Pakistan Dalit Solidarity Network has worked to raise awareness of the situation of Dalits and has also engaged directly in combatting caste discrimination in humanitarian relief work following disastrous flooding in 2011, where Dalits were often found to be excluded from relief operations. Photo: Jakob Carlsen/IDSN.

widely on discrimination in flood relief work in Pakistan following new monsoon rains, causing one of recent history's worst disasters.

Dalit communities were denied access to relief camps because of their caste and were forced to live under the open sky. The President of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardai, has spoken out against this discrimination against Dalits in the on-going flood relief work saying that any discrimination in extending rescue, relief and rehabilitation operations to anyone on the basis of caste is unacceptable. Nonetheless the discrimination continued throughout 2011. PDSN has worked to support Dalit victims of the flooding and bring their plight to the attention of authorities, International NGOs and agencies involved in relief operations.

2011 also saw an increased visibility of Dalit women in Pakistan and Kalavanti Raja joined PDSN as Coordinator of the women's wing of the network. Ms. Raja participated in several events, including the Dalit Women's conference in Kathmandu, a South Asian Dalit conference in Bangladesh, and the IDSN International Consultation on Caste-Based Discrimination and council meeting in Nepal, where PDSN Coordinators also took part. She spoke at several events and monitored Pakistani media attention to the issue of caste discrimination, with regular updates to IDSN on the situation.

Jinnah Institute, a think tank working on minority issues, released a report in 2011 highlighting caste discrimination in Pakistan. According to the report the vast majority of Dalits in Pakistan do not own lands and work on daily wages, a consequence of them not having any permanent settlement. The report said, "One day, they are with one landlord, the next day with another. And this is how they spend a life of debt, with no accountability or education." Their castes have translated into daily life. For instance, Dalits may be restricted to separate water wells in school, "from which also Muslims will not drink."

Dalits working in bonded labour continues to be a central issue in Pakistan. They are often forced to work under terrible conditions in what has been deemed 'modern slavery' with no view to ever repaying their debts. This form of slavery is particularly prevalent in the agricultural sector, construction work, mining and textile industries.

In 2011 it is estimated that there are 7 million Dalits in Pakistan, 3.5 million of which live in the flood prone Sindh province and 70% of Pakistan's Dalits work as agricultural labourers. Dalits in Pakistan may also be victims of kidnapping, forced conversions and forced marriages, which can lead to prostitution after women are abandoned.

---

**"Dalits have been hit hard by the flooding, but because of their caste they are not allowed into relief camps or offered food or water."** Kalavanti Raja, Coordinator of the Dalit Women's Wing of PDSN

---

Discrimination in access to education and health leads to a lack of awareness of basic rights and social mobility. According to PDSN figures, 87% of Dalit women and 63.5 % of Dalit men are illiterate, a significantly higher percentage than the national average. National primary enrollment rate for girls stands at 48% while only 10 % of Dalit girls have had access to primary schooling. Less than 1% of Dalit women have studied up to eighth grade. There is also virtually no Dalit political representation and in 2011, of the 10 Hindu minority seats in parliament none are filled by a Dalit.

Untouchability practiced against Dalits in Pakistan was also the subject of a new documentary film released in 2011 by the Interactive Resource Centre (IRC) in Pakistan. The Film depicts caste discrimination in access to water, health care, housing, work, political representation and land rights. It is furthermore stated in the film that the majority of Dalits do not even own identity cards, restricting them from taking out loans to buy property or establish a business or even buy household fan.

Due to the political tensions in Pakistan and the restrictions placed on human rights defenders, who often work in constant fear of violent reprisals, working conditions for PDSN and its partners continue to be very difficult. In May, the Asian Human Rights Commission, issued an urgent appeal when a human rights defender was booked on murder charges for raising the cases of Dalit and stories of police torture and fake charges are not uncommon. Nonetheless, organisations focussing on Dalit rights are slowly emerging, and in 2011 called for policy legislation, land reform, the implementation of the Bonded Labour Act and the practice of non-discrimination in all service delivery.

**Young Dalit girl works in the hand woven carpet industry in Pakistan.** Across South Asia Dalits continue to be key victims of child labour and bonded labour. In 2011, several Dalit Solidarity Networks addressed caste discrimination in employment and the private sector, with a particular focus on the textile industry and cotton production. The DSNs continue to promote the use of the Ambedkar Principles, the Dalit Discrimination Check and key ILO reports and recommendations on countering caste discrimination in the labour market. Several DSNs also work with national level organisations such as the Ethical Trading Initiative to ensure inclusion of Dalits in guidelines and recommendations. Photo: Jakob Carlsen/IDSN.

## Developments in European countries

In 2011, Dalit Solidarity Networks (DSNs) across Europe continued to engage in lobbied politicians, institutions and the corporate sector to take action against caste discrimination. Significant achievements were made on all these levels and all the DSNs took part the planning meeting for the IDSN EU Project *Ending 'untouchability': European action to eliminate caste discrimination*, held in Copenhagen in early 2011. The EU project will give DSNs a further boost in their lobbying work and awareness raising activities and includes new websites being developed, a new introductory film on caste discrimination, and the production of lobbying materials for MPs and MEPs. A public opinion survey on knowledge and opinions on caste discrimination in DSN countries was also carried out in 2011, the results of which have been described in the Executive Summary. While this report focuses on developments in DSN countries, IDSN continues to engage with a wide range of European countries on the issue of caste discrimination.

### Netherlands (DNN)

2011 yielded impressive political results for the Dalit Network Netherlands (DNN). Following DNNs lobbying efforts the Dutch Parliament adopted a motion<sup>40</sup> in June, requesting the Minister of Foreign Affairs to actively combat caste-based discrimination. An almost two-third majority of the Dutch Parliament supported the motion. The Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs said that he will integrate the requests into his policy.

The motion has been followed up by parliamentary questions on its implementation as well as the implementation of a motion on the EU-India free trade agreement (in which Dalits are also very prominently

mentioned). In his reaction to the questions the Minister said he had raised the Dalit issue with the Indian government during his visit to India in July 2011.<sup>41</sup>

The motion came at a crucial time when the Netherlands was witnessing a weakening of the role of human rights policy in comparison to other priorities, especially the emphasis on furthering Dutch economic interests in the world. This has been reflected in the approach of the Dutch government to India, where the government initially dropped caste discrimination from its list of human rights priorities. The motion served to restore this priority in Dutch foreign policy. Although the Foreign Minister's endorsement of this motion was a step in the right direction MPs and DNN will continue to follow up on this.

DNN-member, India Committee of the Netherlands (ICN) and SOMO released the report *Captured by Cotton*<sup>42</sup>, exposing the situation of South Indian Dalit girls and young women, working under unacceptable conditions in the so-called Sumangali schemes, as also described in the Private Sector chapter. The release of the report evoked many responses from businesses and politicians, and was given a great deal of media coverage<sup>43</sup>. Parliamentary questions were also raised on the issue. As a result The Minister for Trade discussed the matter with companies and with his Indian colleague who agreed to work together on it. The Dutch Embassy will follow up on the issue and seek co-operation with other embassies. The issue is now also being taken up by a range of companies and ICN and SOMO will be closely monitoring and actively following up on this, together with organizations in India.

Important new international agreements were reached in 2011 on the role of business in furthering human rights including the *Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights* and the revised OECD Guidelines. In The Netherlands these new guidelines are taken very seriously

#### Motion adopted by a 2/3 majority in the Dutch Parliament in June 2011 and endorsed by the Dutch Minister for Foreign Affairs

- Requests the government to raise the issue of caste discrimination in the EU and all relevant international fora, including in the negotiations about the EU-India free trade agreement, UN organizations (including the ILO), the World Bank and the IMF;
- Requests the government, in co-operation with Denmark, to continue to raise the issue of caste-based organization in the Human Rights Council, including by speaking out on and gaining support for the adoption of the draft UN Principles against Discrimination Based on Work and Descent in the UN Human Rights Council;
- Requests the government to promote that combating caste-based discrimination becomes an integral part of the CSR policy of Dutch and European companies, including in their supply chain, who are active in countries where caste-based discrimination is practiced;
- Requests the government to continue the funding of the International Dalit Solidarity Network.





by government, employers, unions and NGOs and can function as an instrument to address caste discrimination. The International Trade Union Confederation also released a report on core labour standards in India, which DNN distributed to its network and Dutch MPs. The report was used twice in questions raised in the Dutch parliament.

In addition to its intensive work in the political and corporate arena, DNN continued to raise awareness generally about caste discrimination in 2011 and engage its broader network through the website, and its national and international mailing lists, as well as engage with the media.

The DNN website,<sup>44</sup> has been regularly updated with new information, updates and articles. A series of articles written for the website by well-known journalist and media campaigner Mari Marcel Thekaekara, in particular on the situation of Dalit women and Dalit girls, were launched on the website in 2011. The website is very popular having more than 47,000 visits in 2011, that is 15% more than in 2010 and a 20% increase in page views at 150,000.

DNN also produced a small portable exhibition with five roll-out banners on iron feet and a large one of 25 large banners. The exhibitions were made with Photos taken by Jakob Carlsen for IDSN.

In addition to the extensive national level work DNN also contributed substantially to international Level work and networking. DNN participated in the conference on *Decade of Dalit Rights UN* and in the hearing on caste-based discrimination in the European Parliament, working with IDSN in the preparations for the hearing. DNN also continued to contribute to IDSN's work with information sharing, support, and strategic input and continued its work in the IDSN executive group.

The effectiveness of DNN and the level of contribution to the work of IDSN was also reflected in an external evaluation of DNN completed in 2011. Findings were overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the effectiveness in lobbying and information sharing and the networks substantial contributions to the work of IDSN.

### **United Kingdom (DSN-UK)**

The Dalit Solidarity Network – UK (DSN-UK) worked in 2011 to eliminate caste discrimination on a global level, as well as within the South Asian diaspora in the UK itself. The network continued to focus on political lobbying, lobbying the corporate sector and playing an active role in international work.

---

**“I have seen many slums from my time visiting Africa and Asia, but the numbers of people packed into a very small area without proper sanitation here is very shocking.”** Former British UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown after a 2011 visit to a Dalit neighbourhood in New Delhi

---

Several UK politicians have taken an active stance against caste discrimination in 2011 including MPs, MEPs and members of the House of Lords. DSN-UK coordinates the All Party Parliamentary Group for Dalits (APPG), which has 20 members from all parties and both Houses. The APPG continues to call for the activation of the clause in the UK Equality Act to outlaw caste discrimination, and pressure from NGOs working on caste discrimination in the UK, politicians and Lords continues to build. During the course of 2011, there have been 3 debates on Human Rights and caste discrimination in the UK parliament.

A meeting on the issue was held at the House of Lords to respond to the 2010 publication of the NIESR report on caste in the UK<sup>45</sup> and more than 80 people attended representing various Dalit national and community organisations.

Caste discrimination within the UK, and the pending activation of the caste clause in the Equality Act, was also brought onto the agenda of the UN CERD committee in its review of the UK in 2011. DSN-UK and IDS submitted an alternative report<sup>46</sup> to CERD calling on the Government to take immediate action to adopt the proposed amendment to outlaw caste discrimination in the Equality Bill 2010, and requested the Government to take specific measures to eliminate this form of discrimination in accordance with CERD General Recommendation 29.

The UK delegation responded that there was “no consensus” on the need for prohibiting caste discrimination in the UK. Furthermore, the Government had “not made a decision” on the findings of a government-commissioned report, which concludes that caste discrimination exists in the UK.

The UK Government’s failure to acknowledge the need for outlawing caste discrimination was a big disappointment to the Dalit community groups present at the review, which have fought for years to introduce caste in UK anti-discrimination law. Despite the Government’s resistance, however, the CERD Committee recommended, in its concluding observations<sup>47</sup>, that the UK Government prohibit caste discrimination and provide remedies to victims of this form of discrimination.

DSN-UK and IDS furthermore prepared a joint submission on caste-based discrimination in the UK, and submitted it to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, in advance of the Universal Periodic Review to take place in 2012. The report contains information about discrimination against Dalits in the UK, and recommendations on action to be taken by the Government to prevent and eliminate this form of discrimination effectively.

During the course of the year a number of UK Members of the European Parliament also came out with strong

statements against caste discrimination including the Chair of the European Delegation for Relations with South Asia, Ms. Jean Lambert and Vice-Chairman of the European Parliament’s Development Committee, Mr. Nirj Deva.

Work to raise awareness of caste discrimination within the corporate sector continued in 2011. DSN-UK remained very involved in the work of the Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI). The ETI engaged in mapping out the regional and socio/cultural context around their programmes in 2011 which gave DSN-UK the opportunity to work on more issues with the ETI and carry more influence with regard to the issue of caste discrimination and labour rights in the South Asian context.

ETI is now in the process of designing a programme of work which will address all areas of concern, including the implementation of the minimum wage, safe working conditions and freedom of movement. DSN-UK has strongly urged for the caste dimension to be included and play a lead NGO role in this work.

DSN-UK engaged in a number of events to highlight caste discrimination across the country including speaking at two events; The ‘Water Rights, Water Wrongs’ event and the ‘Unclean Beings’ symposium – an all-day event with many high profile speakers at a major exhibition and venue in London.

Throughout 2011 DSN-UK also continued to raise awareness of caste discrimination through the media. The first caste discrimination lawsuit was launched in the UK, and this was given wide media attention. DSN-UK and its partners offered comments and support for this case, which is pending till 2012. The caste dimension in the CERD review of the UK was also featured on several radio programmes and DSN-UK gave interviews to the BBC and other interested media. The Guardian, BBC and Telegraph continued to feature articles on caste discrimination in 2011 and a visit by Former British Prime Minister Gordon Brown to a Dalit neighbourhood in Delhi was also covered in the media.

As part of the IDS network DSN-UK continued to engage in international level work in 2011. DSN-UK Director, Meena Varma, is the Chair of the IDS Executive Group and is actively involved in IDS work. DSN-UK participated in the Conference on Decade of Dalit Rights UN in Geneva and took part in the hearing on caste-based discrimination in the European Parliament and other IDS events.

### **Finland (DSN-Fi)**

Campaigning with partner organizations and lobbying politicians, NGOs and the private sector have been the focus of the Dalit Solidarity Network in Finland in 2011. DSN-Fi has furthermore strengthened its own structures and networks and developed its information work.

In 2011 DSN-Fi was officially registered and its bylaws accepted by the National Board of Patents and Registration of Finland. The membership of the association rose to around 50 by the end of 2011 and mailing lists have almost 300 subscribers. The DSN-Fi annual meeting was a great success and raised the number of board members from five to seven.

In the beginning of April, DSN-Fi invited journalists and Finnish human rights organizations to a morning coffee event in central Helsinki. Possibilities of joint campaigning and cooperation in advocacy work were discussed with representatives of Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission, The Finnish NGO Foundation for Human Rights KIOS and newspaper Kotimaa.

DSN-Fi maintained good contacts to key journalists who covered the issue and DSN-Fi members also gave presentations on caste discrimination and published articles on the human rights of the Dalits in Finnish media. In 2011, DSN-Fi started planning for the construction of the DSN-Fi website and Facebook was also broadly used by the DSN-Fi as a campaigning, awareness raising and networking tool and has yielded impressive results.

The most effective campaign concerning Dalits' rights was arranged by the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission FELM. The theme of FELM's annual Equal Share Fundraising campaign in September was Voice to the Voiceless. The human rights of Dalits in Nepal were the focus and Facebook was the key outlet for this campaign. FELM had asked some well-known persons, politicians and pop artists, to lend their Facebook profile to be taken over by real Nepalese Dalits to depict their life stories and struggles. As a consequence hundreds of ordinary Finns followed their example, also replacing their profiles with that of a Nepalese Dalit, which in turn could be viewed by tens of thousands of contacts. Many of the DSNFi members supported the campaign by giving their Facebook profiles over to the campaign. It is likely that this campaign resulted in a level of exposure to Dalit issues, not previously seen in Finland.

During the one week campaign almost 7000 signatories were collected for an appeal to be given to the Minister for International Development Heidi Hautala, including the recommendations prepared by DSN-Fi. Following the campaign, FELM arranged a seminar entitled Stop Caste Discrimination at the Finnish Parliament where IDS-N coordinator Rikke Nöhrilind was one of the key-note speakers. This well-attended seminar was opened by the chair of the Finnish parliament's human rights group. In the seminar DSN-Fi presented Finnish results of the IDS-N opinion survey on caste discrimination in eight European countries. According to the survey, Finland was among the most knowledgeable of caste discrimination. In Finland 74

percent of all respondents had seen, heard or read about it, and 57 percent of them knew that caste discrimination is a global human rights issue. On the other hand knowledge about the Dalits is low also in Finland where only 7 percent of all replied that they know who Dalits are.

The board members of DSN-Fi also had a possibility to meet representatives of Finnish human rights NGOs like Amnesty Finland at the seminar. Discussions gave reasons to deepen cooperation with the NGOs and the vice chair of the Finnish Social Democrat Party.

Minister for Development and former Chair of the European Parliament Sub-Committee on Human Rights, Heidi Hautala, met with DSN-Fi in November to discuss Dalit human rights ahead of her trip to Nepal. She promised that Finland would exercise an active policy against caste discrimination and this would be included in the action plan of the government.

DSN-Fi sent a letter to the Minister of Employment and Economy prior to his trip to India and provided input to the Finnish government's development policy action plan. The network furthermore created contacts with the Finnish Business Partnership Programme, Finnpartnership, which provides advisory services for the business activities in developing countries. The Ambedkar Principles and the Dalit Discrimination Check have been added to its ethical directions and its material and tool bank for enterprises. DSN-Fi has also cooperated with Finnwatch, on its India report and the role of Finnish companies in combating caste discrimination in operations in caste-affected countries. Finnwatch monitors operations of Finnish companies in relation to human rights.

DSN-Fi has kept good contact with IDS-N throughout the year, paying several coordination visits to the IDS-N secretariat in Copenhagen. Members of the network also visited several Dalit communities and a Dalit organization in Nepal ahead of the IDS-N International Consultation.

## Denmark (DSN-DK)

DSN-DK pursued a regular dialogue with officials of the Foreign Service and politicians about developments internationally as well as nationally in caste-affected countries. Denmark has continued to play a role in raising the issue in the UN context, including in connection with the Nepal UPR in January.

Through membership of the Danish Ethical Trading Initiative (DIEH), DSN-DK has been able to engage with companies and other stakeholders on CSR obligations in relation to caste issues. At the General Assembly 2011, the DIEH decided to amend its Guidelines on Ethical Trade so that discrimination on the basis of caste is specifically addressed. In connection with the release of the report *Captured by*

**Manual scavenging, or the manual removal of human waste, is a caste-based occupation "reserved" for Dalit women.**

The 2011 ILO Global Report on Discrimination, *Equality at work: The continuing challenge*, highlights caste discrimination in South Asia as a major contributing factor to the persistence of terrible working conditions and degrading occupations. The report finds discrimination traps successive generations of Dalits in traditionally caste assigned occupations such as manual scavenging. Several Dalit solidarity networks have highlighted this report in their lobby work and in caste affected countries the struggle against degrading caste-based work continues. Photo: Safai Karmachari Andolan (SKA).

*Cotton* on exploitation of Dalit girls in the Indian textile industry, described in the Private Sector chapter earlier, DSN-DK participated in the DIEH dialogue with affected companies.

DSN-DK was also represented in the panel of speakers in a seminar on India in connection with the annual general meeting of the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Forum, which is the largest network of CSR professionals in Denmark. This was a good opportunity to engage with companies, employers' organisation, NGOs and CSR consultants and to promote the IDS tools the Ambedkar Principles and the Dalit Discrimination Check.

DSN-DK also responded to a number of requests for contacts and resources from students, researchers and the media, and has also been able to give presentations on request.

At the 2011 General Assembly, a new policy for member contributions was decided, and the annual fee for organisational members of the network now contribute equally to the DSN-DK budget, whereas one organisation previously carried the main load. The increased involvement by other organisations is welcome, however, the change also means a decrease in the available funding and thus also the staff time available.

**Germany (DSiD)**

The Dalit Solidarity network in Germany (DSiD) continued in 2011 to focus its efforts on raising awareness of caste discrimination in the German public and political spheres and engaging in specific projects and partnerships in caste-affected countries to further Dalit rights.

Based on its analysis that the efforts undertaken by IDS at international level need to be accompanied by strong Dalit movements and campaigns within India, DSiD cooperates directly with NGO's and Dalit-networks in India on a project basis.

In 2011 DSiD continued to focus its activities on the Campaign for Electoral Reforms in India (CERI), land rights and sustainable electricity solutions to benefit Dalit households.

In October, 2011, an international colloquium of electoral experts took place in Berlin in order to develop the cornerstones for a draft of a "tailor-made" electoral system for India, which can serve as a basis for the discussions with parliamentarians, which DSiD will be a part of in 2012. The 20 experts from Norway, the Netherlands, Germany, New Zealand, India and Nepal met for 2 days and agreed to key cornerstones for a Proportionate Electoral System in India.

A position paper which elaborates all cornerstones and describes the reasoning behind the change of the

electoral system will be presented to the public on 10th of February 2012. The Chief Election Commissioners of India and Nepal have agreed to be present, representatives of two main Muslim movements, some party leaders and parliamentarians as well as leading journalists from India.

As in previous years DSiD took part in arranging the 'India Seminar in Bad Boll' this year on *Climate Change – Indo-German Energy Dialogue // Working energetically for renewable Energies und Climate Protection*, intended to shed light on the consequences of climate change on the poor in India and particularly the Dalits. Discussions yielded concrete examples and it became visible how activities to fight climate change can be well combined with developmental programmes such as non-grid solar-panels for basic electricity for Dalits. These programmes are intended to improve living conditions but also create jobs in the localities. It was discussed, if and how such programmes could be made national or at least state-wide.

DSiD also engaged in the climate change related activities under the *Clean Development Mechanism* that have materialised in a project, with which 12.000 Dalit houses will be equipped with solar-panels, batteries and bulbs. DSiD views this project as a model to show that local energy production can be very effective to cover the most immediate energy needs of the poor, thus combining 'development' and ecological concerns. As soon as there are some practical experiences available with this project DSiD plan to lobby for this approach with the central and state governments to make it a government programme.

Work on suggestions for changes in the "Land Acquisition Bill" in India, submitted by the Central Governments for comments by civil society, and other projects, also formed part of DSiD's 2011 work.

In co-operation with BDERM and a local consultant DSiD commissioned a study on the situation of Dalits in Bangladesh ("mapping"). The study is supposed to prepare the ground for a more close and coordinated cooperation of the European resource agencies in support of the work with the Dalit organisations and –networks there.

As is tradition, DSiD staged an "Indian Village" event at the Protestant Church Convention in Dresden, Germany. Visitors were invited to "visit" the village in pairs (one as Dalit, the other as a "dominant-cast" person), the Dalit person was discriminated in the way which is well known from village life in India while the dominant caste person was treated preferentially. Many visitors were shocked at the differential treatment and asked with disbelief, whether the situation is still that grave.

DSiD engaged in some preliminary talks with possible "co-sponsors" with regards to having a hearing within



the German Parliament on the Human Rights situation in India, with a particular emphasis on the situation of Dalits. The idea is supported by three members of the Human Rights Committee of the Parliament and also by the German Institute for Human Rights. The DSiD Coordinator furthermore participated in the India- and South-Asia Desk-officers meeting of APRODEV, presenting a brief report about the essentials of IDSN and DSiDs work.

In terms of international political lobbying, DSiD supported the activities of IDSN by mobilizing the German government, particularly for the efforts to mobilize support in the UN Human Rights Council for the UN Principles and Guidelines on caste discrimination. The DSiD Coordinator also took part in events co-organised by IDSN including the *Decade of Dalit Rights UN* held in Geneva.

### **Belgium (SDB)**

The Dalit Solidarity Network (SDB) in Belgium has focused its worked in 2011 on the issues of manual scavenging and access to land. After internal capacity building of the SDB members, the network has participated in the dissemination of the ILO report on manual scavenging among the Belgian

media and population. As land tenure remains one of the critical issues to improving the living conditions of Dalits in South Asia, SDB contributed to the awareness raising process initiated by Indian social movement Ekta Parishad in Belgium.

While the negotiations for a new federal government in Belgium have taken most of the year 2011, SDB has maintained and strengthened contacts with parliamentarians and members of the administration that will help in 2012 to further influence the political work in Belgium.

A common public event on Dalits in South Asia, with a particular focus on India and Bangladesh, was jointly organized by SDB, Miteinander Teilen and the local section of the Green Party and SDB has made several contacts with members of the federal parliament. SDB also strengthened contacts with the federal administration and conducted an education campaign in secondary schools.

SDB has furthermore continued the publication of the e-magazine "Flash Dalit" and is in the process of launching its own Website, based on the template provided for the DSNs by IDSN.

## Norway

An initiative to establish a Dalit Solidarity Network-Norway has been discussed throughout the year by the Norwegian Human Rights Fund, Norwegian Mission to the East, Rafto, the Church of Norway Council on Ecumenical and International Relations, and FIAN Norway. To learn more about the network, three of these organisations made a visit to the international secretariat of IDSN in Copenhagen. They also had meetings with Vincent Manoharan and Paul Martin Chandran during their separate visits to Oslo. A draft mandate for the network will be presented to a wide range of Norwegian NGOs at the beginning of 2012.

The Norwegian forum for human rights is an umbrella organisation that once a year submits a joint statement to the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs addressing five thematic human rights issues of importance at the UN. In 2011, caste discrimination was one of these issues<sup>48</sup>. The Norwegian Government made an intervention at the 17th session of the Human Rights Council with strong support to the work to highlight caste discrimination done by the UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. This is Norway's most significant intervention at the UN related to human rights violations against dalits.

DSN Norway also began preparations for creating a website based on the template provided by IDSN.

## Sweden

Although DSN-Sweden is no longer formally registered, there is a group of committed individuals that engage regularly in the Dalit cause and continue to spread news through information mailing lists and organise events.

During the autumn of 2011 those involved in the Dalit Solidarity work in Sweden collaborated with two organizations; Friends of Village Community Development Society (VCDS) and the Swallows India Bangladesh in Lund. VCDS is a co-partner in the IDSN EU Project, through which DSN-Sweden will be setting up a website, holding a seminar with invited resource persons from South Asia, and promoting and adapting to local language the introductory video on caste discrimination made by IDSN. DSN-Sweden has collaborated with the Swallows in hosting Dalit activists from Tamil Nadu, who during their time in Lund participated in the seminar *Violence, Caste discrimination and Resistance - The situation of Dalits in India*, organized by SASNET connected to Lund University, and in Stockholm informed students at three secondary high schools on the same subject.

DSN-Sweden have met with the chair for the Swedish Parliament's Swedish-India Society, who is interested in

supporting the idea of a seminar on India and the caste issue, primarily intended for Members of Parliament and government officials.

A leading educational association (ABF) has in collaboration with interested individuals taken the initiative for a study circle on India involving ten meetings during spring 2012. The intention is to give a broad understanding of India and an important part being issues around the caste question, movements and international advocacy.

## Organisation, administration and finance

### Council

IDSN held its 9th Council meeting on 1 and 2 December in Kathmandu in connection with the International Consultation on Good Practises and Strategies to Eliminate Caste-Based Discrimination. On this occasion IDSN extended meeting participation to allow for observers. These observers included Dalit Human Rights Defenders from India, Nepal, Pakistan and Bangladesh as well as affected community representatives from Yemen and Senegal, who had participated in the consultation.

At the council meeting the Dalit Solidarity Network – Finland was formally welcomed as a member and the International Centre for Ethnic Studies (ICES), Sri Lanka, as a research associate.

In addition to reviewing IDSN's work and strategies for future interventions, Council discussions focussed on follow up to the International Consultation, Dalit women representation in the Dalit movement and ways to further integrate dimensions of multiple discrimination against Dalit women in the general work. Advancing young Dalit leadership, in particular Dalit women, in international lobby and advocacy work was agreed as an area of joint responsibility for the IDSN secretariat and organisations in the Council.

### Executive group

The Executive Group met twice during the year. In 2011, the members of the Executive Group were:

- Manjula Pradeep, Navsarjan Trust, India – Co-convenor
- Meena Varma, Dalit Solidarity Network, UK – Co-convenor
- Durga Sob, Feminist Dalit Organisation, Nepal
- Vijay Parmar, National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights, India
- Gerard Oonk, Dalit Network Netherlands
- Bijo Francis, Asian Human Rights Commission, Hong Kong
- Rikke Nöhrind, IDSN, Ex-officio member

**In 2011, IDS N received financial support for its core programmes from six international NGOs, some of whom also contribute to substantive work as part of the Dalit Solidarity Networks in the Netherlands, Denmark, Finland and Germany. Furthermore, grants from the EU, the Open Society Foundation, and the Danish and Dutch Ministries of Foreign Affairs have been vital support for IDS N's programmes.**

Vijay Parmar was replaced by Paul Divakar from the National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights at the Council meeting in December 2011.

Dalit Solidarity Networks (DSNs), international associates of IDS N and also international organisations belonging to DSNs, played important roles in many ways with their support to the Dalit movement, promotion of policy demands and awareness raising. Many also participated in the IDS N International Consultation on Caste-Based Discrimination.

## ECOSOC

IDS N first submitted an application for ECOSOC consultative status to the Committee on NGOs in 2007. Since then, IDS N has received 56 written questions from one member of the Committee, namely India, resulting in continuous deferral of the application by the Committee on NGOs. All questions have been answered fully and without delay. The continued questioning and subsequent deferral of IDS N's application give rise to a number of questions and concerns regarding the working methods of the Committee on NGOs.

## Secretariat

In addition to the regular staff Rikke Nöhrind, Maia Ingvardson, Maria Brink Schleimann, Gitte Dyrhagen, and Ole Westergård (part time), Kim Wiesener covered for Gitte Dyrhagen for the first three months of the year before her return from maternity leave. Veronika D'Anna joined the secretariat as an intern from September-December. She has been a great help in supporting programme areas and in particular the organisation of the International Consultation. Also students Tina Søndergård Madsen and Charlotte Lazarus provided valuable assistance to the secretariat as volunteers taking on ad hoc assignments.

During the course of the year and as part of lobby interventions and networking, which in most cases involve IDS N members or associates from South Asia, staff travelled extensively, including to Geneva and Brussels. The coordinator visited Nepal twice during the year and programme staff participated in the International Consultation.

## Finances, fundraising and perspectives for 2012-2014

The international economic crises of recent years have impacted the funding scenario of IDS N and securing crucial funding to support IDS N programme activities remains challenging, despite the vital role that IDS N plays in the global struggle towards ending caste discrimination.

The year opened with a projected coverage of the budget through existing contracts with DANIDA, ICCO, the Open Society Foundation and CCFD, in addition to a three year EC grant co-financed by DanChurchAid. A substantial three year grant was furthermore committed by one donor.

However, in April, IDS N was unexpectedly faced with a substantial financial deficit as the three year grant commitment mentioned above was suddenly withdrawn for reasons beyond IDS N's control. In order to cope with the situation a 'minimum budget' was introduced reducing the level of activities, and fundraising efforts were stepped up. An additional grant by Open Society Institute helped tremendously in securing a reasonable operational budget for IDS N. Towards the end of the year contracts with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Bread for the World were entered extending into 2012. As a result IDS N carried through activities in 2011 at a satisfactory level, and at the time of writing, the organisation has secured contracts and funding commitments which cover most of the 2012 budget.

The three year project grant by the European Commission, co-financed by DCA, commenced in January with the project title *Ending 'untouchability': European action to eliminate caste discrimination* under the grant provision for "Non-State Actors and Local Authorities in Development: Coordination, cooperation and networking activities among European organisations". The project offers excellent opportunities for strengthening IDS N and DSN European level work and provided the financial basis for the International Consultation on Good Practices and Strategies to Eliminate Caste Discrimination held in November, 2011. The grant covers some of the core costs of the secretariat and includes support to additional activities carried out by DSNs.

We are immensely grateful for the contributions of all donor agencies; we value the long term partnership enjoyed with some, as well as the additional provisions and new funding relations with others. The partnerships with funders extend beyond the financial support. Their commitment and actions to support initiatives in various institutional and country settings are highly valued, creating relations and opportunities for broad as well as longer term cooperation to secure both political and civil space to pursue the joint cause to end caste discrimination.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2011

### Profit and loss

(Details in note 1)	2011 DKK	2011 EURO	2010 DKK
Opening balance	2,087,866.45	280,197.88	267,324.84
<b>Income</b>			
Admin for EU/DCA project	94,568.21	12,691.33	
DanChurchAid	275,414.00	36,961.38	252,909.13
DCA - received for DSN-DK			147,090.87
Membership fees recd. for DSN-DK	52,700.00	7,072.50	8,000.00
Danida	1,000,000.00	134,202.97	1,000,000.00
Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs	259,850.50	34,872.71	260,477.00
CCFD	163,820.80	21,985.24	163,444.60
ICCO			892,656.00
Cordaid			743,377.60
FinnChurchAid	148,838.00	19,974.50	148,754.00
Open Society Institute	624,896.00	83,862.90	218,044.00
European Commission	273,328.82	36,681.54	1,139,410.56
Other Income	21,127.44	2,835.37	4,100.01
Interest	2,186.70	293.46	1,196.45
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,916,730.47</b>	<b>391,433.89</b>	<b>4,979,460.22</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
	4,077,435.26	547,203.92	3,158,918.61
<b>Balance</b>	<b>927,161.66</b>	<b>124,427.85</b>	<b>2,087,866.45</b>

### Balance statement

(Details in note 1)	2011 DKK	2011 EURO	2010 DKK
<b>Assets</b>			
Cash at bank at 31.12	1,169,059.56	156,891.26	2,245,543.10
Rent deposit	24,000.00	3,220.87	24,000.00
Petty cash	5,991.95	804.14	5,792.54
Outstanding accounts	2,135.06	286.53	70,777.15
	1,201,186.57	161,202.80	2,346,112.79
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Balance Master Card account	-19,167.05	-2,572.28	0.00
Compulsory holiday payment fund	-225,375.42	-30,246.05	-250,506.60
Outstanding accounts	-29,482.44	-3,956.63	-7,739.74
	-274,024.91	-36,774.96	-258,246.34
<b>Balance carried forward</b>	<b>927,161.66</b>	<b>124,427.85</b>	<b>2,087,866.45</b>

The financial statements are presented in Danish kroner. For reasons of comparison, amounts in Euro are presented, using a fixed exchange rate based a monthly average from [www.inforeuro.eu](http://www.inforeuro.eu): 7.4514. Hence, some discrepancies may appear compared to actual amounts received in Euro.

### Note 1

<b>Profit and loss</b>	2011 DKK	Core programme DKK	EU project DKK	DSN-DK DKK	Reserve DKK
Opening balance	2,087,866.45	756,971.91	1,139,693.54	17,724.00	173,477.00
<b>Income</b>					
Admin for EU/DCA project	94,568.21				94,568.21
DanChurchAid	275,414.00		275,414.00		
DCA - received for DSN-DK					
Membership fees recd. for DSN-DK	52,700.00			52,700.00	
Danida	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00			
Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs	259,850.50	259,850.50			
CCFD	163,820.80	163,820.80			
ICCO					
Cordaid					
FinnChurchAid	148,838.00	148,838.00			
Open Society Institute	624,896.00	624,896.00			
European Commission	273,328.82		273,328.82		
Other Income	21,127.44	21,127.44			
Interest	2,186.70	942.26	1,244.44		
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,916,730.47</b>	<b>2,219,475.00</b>	<b>549,987.26</b>	<b>52,700.00</b>	<b>94,568.21</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
	4,077,435.26	2,568,473.19	1,445,542.67	63,419.40	
<b>Balance</b>	<b>927,161.66</b>	<b>407,973.72</b>	<b>244,138.13</b>	<b>7,004.60</b>	<b>268,045.21</b>

### Balance statement

	2011 DKK	Core programme DKK	EU project DKK	DSN-DK DKK	Reserve DKK
<b>Assets</b>					
Cash at bank at 31.12	1,169,059.56	580,881.61	344,776.95	69,924.00	173,477.00
Rent deposit	24,000.00	24,000.00			
Petty cash	5,991.95	5,991.95			
Outstanding accounts	2,135.06	2,135.06			
	1,201,186.57				
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Balance Master Card account	-19,167.05	-19,167.05			
Compulsory holiday payment fund	-225,375.42	-225,375.42			
Outstanding accounts	-29,482.44	-28,669.94	-812.5		
	-274,024.91				
Pending transfers		68,177.51	-99,826.32	-62,919.40	94,568.21
<b>Balance carried forward</b>	<b>927,161.66</b>	<b>407,973.72</b>	<b>244,138.13</b>	<b>7,004.60</b>	<b>268,045.21</b>

- The balance on the core programme is made up of contributions from ICCO, received in 2010 for use in 2011-12, as well as funds received from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2011 for use in 2012.
- Fund balance brought forward: Transfer between funds due to balance at 31 December.
- The reserve includes funds to cover legally binding employer obligations.



**EXPENDITURE 2011**Budget Expenditure  
DKK DKKBudget Expenditure  
EUR EURBudget Expenditure  
DKK DKKBudget Expenditure  
EUR EUR**Networking, coordination and communication**

## General staff expenses

	Budget DKK	Expenditure DKK	Budget EUR	Expenditure EUR
Staff training	23,000	23,975	3,087	3,218
Insurance	7,000	14,649	939	1,966
Other staff expenses	7,000	3,812	939	512
Holiday allowance	0	-25,131	0	-3,373
Finance officer	0	5,959	0	800
Communications officer	229,921	231,288	30,856	31,040
Paternity leave payment	11,670	11,670	1,566	1,566
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>278,591</b>	<b>266,222</b>	<b>37,388</b>	<b>35,728</b>

## Office costs

	Budget DKK	Expenditure DKK	Budget EUR	Expenditure EUR
Rent	98,880	96,400	13,270	12,937
Office supplies	25,000	24,320	3,355	3,264
Postage and freight	12,000	15,029	1,610	2,017
Hospitality expenses	3,000	2,315	403	311
Communication	20,000	17,909	2,684	2,403
Materials/memberships	1,000	2,409	134	323
Equipment	35,000	30,921	4,697	4,150
Office cleaning	14,163	18,473	1,901	2,479
Salaries administration	5,000	5,317	671	714
Audit	27,000	23,750	3,623	3,187
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>241,043</b>	<b>236,845</b>	<b>32,349</b>	<b>31,785</b>

## IT

	Budget DKK	Expenditure DKK	Budget EUR	Expenditure EUR
Website	4,000	0	537	0
Technical assistance website	10,000	851	1,342	114
Norriq Netpartner IT servers	12,000	4,156	1,610	558
MS IT service	26,676	26,676	3,580	3,580
Software license	29,000	34,429	3,892	4,620
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>81,676</b>	<b>66,111</b>	<b>10,961</b>	<b>8,872</b>
Publicity & Publications	70,000	91,721	9,394	12,309
Bank	12,500	11,530	1,678	1,547
Travelling	20,000	22,146	2,684	2,972

## Governing bodies

	Budget DKK	Expenditure DKK	Budget EUR	Expenditure EUR
Executive group meetings, travel	75,000	21,784	10,065	2,923
Executive group meetings, venue/lodging	25,000	7,579	3,355	1,017
Council meetings, travel	60,000	0	8,052	0
Council meetings, venue/lodging	60,000	16,868	8,052	2,264
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>220,000</b>	<b>46,231</b>	<b>29,525</b>	<b>6,204</b>
Programme management and implementation	451,378	474,447	60,576	63,672
<b>Total Networking and Co-ordination</b>	<b>1,375,188</b>	<b>1,215,253</b>	<b>184,554</b>	<b>163,091</b>

**UN Programme**

## UN Human Rights Council

## Interventions for universal periodic reviews

	Budget DKK	Expenditure DKK	Budget EUR	Expenditure EUR
Travel, affected country reps	18,199	18,199	2,442	2,442
Travel, secretariat	5,430	5,430	729	729
Food	7,292	7,292	979	979
Accommodation	10,965	10,965	1,472	1,472
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>41,887</b>	<b>41,887</b>	<b>5,621</b>	<b>5,621</b>

## Interventions at Council sessions

	Budget DKK	Expenditure DKK	Budget EUR	Expenditure EUR
Travel, affected country reps	17,000	14,687	2,281	1,971
Travel, secretariat	24,208	21,254	3,249	2,852
Food	14,758	8,824	1,981	1,184
Accommodation	36,092	25,825	4,844	3,466
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>92,058</b>	<b>70,590</b>	<b>12,354</b>	<b>9,473</b>

## Special Procedures

	Budget DKK	Expenditure DKK	Budget EUR	Expenditure EUR
International travel	20,000	69,214	2,684	9,289
Accommodation	20,000	26,492	2,684	3,555
Food/consumption	11,000	18,311	1,476	2,457
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>51,000</b>	<b>114,017</b>	<b>6,844</b>	<b>15,301</b>

## UN Treaty Bodies

	Budget DKK	Expenditure DKK	Budget EUR	Expenditure EUR
Travel, affected country reps	16,500	0	2,214	0
Travel, secretariat	3,000	2,211	403	297
Food	5,000	1,563	671	210
Accommodation	10,000	2,561	1,342	344
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>34,500</b>	<b>6,335</b>	<b>4,630</b>	<b>850</b>
Programme management and implementation	472,338	539,461	63,389	72,397
<b>Total UN Programme</b>	<b>691,783</b>	<b>772,289</b>	<b>92,839</b>	<b>103,643</b>

**EU Programme**

	Budget DKK	Expenditure DKK	Budget EUR	Expenditure EUR
Lobby interventions				
Travel, affected country reps	12,000	1,838	1,610	247
Travel, secretariat	9,000	7,618	1,208	1,022
Food	13,446	9,509	1,804	1,276
Accommodation	16,450	9,027	2,208	1,211
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>50,896</b>	<b>27,993</b>	<b>6,830</b>	<b>3,757</b>
Programme management and implementation	426,064	449,447	57,179	60,317
<b>Total EU Programme</b>	<b>476,960</b>	<b>477,439</b>	<b>64,009</b>	<b>64,074</b>

**Private Sector**

	Budget DKK	Expenditure DKK	Budget EUR	Expenditure EUR
Promotion of the DDC and AP	5,000	17,520	671	2,351
Travel	5,000	0	671	0
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>17,520</b>	<b>1,342</b>	<b>2,351</b>
Programme management and implementation	85,648	85,972	11,496	11,538
<b>Total Private Sector</b>	<b>95,648</b>	<b>103,492</b>	<b>12,838</b>	<b>13,889</b>

**Summary IDSN core programme**

	Budget DKK	Expenditure DKK	Budget EUR	Expenditure EUR
Communication and networking	1,375,188	1,215,253	184,554	163,091
UN Programme	691,783	772,289	92,839	103,643
EU programme	476,960	477,439	64,009	64,074
Private sector	95,648	103,492	12,838	13,889
<b>Total programmes</b>	<b>2,639,579</b>	<b>2,568,473</b>	<b>354,241</b>	<b>344,697</b>

**Salaries funded under separate EU project**

	Budget DKK	Expenditure DKK	Budget EUR	Expenditure EUR
Human Resources				
Communications officer	229,921	231,288	30,856	31,040
Finance officer	77,482	47,675	10,398	6,398
Coordinator	140,080	140,512	18,799	18,857
Programme officer	101,257	101,689	13,589	13,647
<b>Total EU funded salaries</b>	<b>548,740</b>	<b>521,163</b>	<b>73,642</b>	<b>69,942</b>

**DSN-DK (funded separately)**

	Budget DKK	Expenditure DKK	Budget EUR	Expenditure EUR
Other DSN-DK expenses	0	10,575	0	1,419
Programme management and implementation	25,314	52,844	3,397	7,092
<b>Total DSN-DK</b>	<b>25,314</b>	<b>63,419</b>	<b>3,397</b>	<b>8,511</b>

<b>Summary IDSN core programme</b>	<b>2,639,579</b>	<b>2,568,473</b>	<b>354,241</b>	<b>344,697</b>
<b>Salaries funded under separate EU project</b>	<b>548,740</b>	<b>521,163</b>	<b>73,642</b>	<b>69,942</b>
<b>DSN-DK</b>	<b>25,314</b>	<b>63,419</b>	<b>3,397</b>	<b>8,511</b>
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>3,213,632</b>	<b>3,153,056</b>	<b>431,281</b>	<b>423,149</b>

**Project activities funded by the EU**

Other human resources, pr. diems. incl. for int. consultation	15,491	68,697	2,079	9,219
---	--------	--------	-------	-------

## Costs and services

	Budget DKK	Expenditure DKK	Budget EUR	Expenditure EUR
Production of video on cbd in South Asia	130,375	108,127	17,497	14,511
Development of humanitarian guidelines	193,700	58,744	25,995	7,884
Opinion survey	149,000	163,750	19,996	21,976
Consultation in Nepal	41,348	71,935	5,549	9,654
EU campaigns with DSNs	74,514	74,699	10,000	10,025
<b>Total costs and services</b>	<b>588,937</b>	<b>477,255</b>	<b>79,037</b>	<b>64,049</b>
Travel, incl. international consultation	307,452	279,734	41,261	37,541
Bank charges	0	4,126	0	554
Administration	104,260	94,568	13,992	12,691
<b>Total project activities</b>	<b>1,016,140</b>	<b>924,379</b>	<b>136,369</b>	<b>124,054</b>

<b>Total expenditure including EU funded projects</b>	<b>4,229,773</b>	<b>4,077,435</b>	<b>567,650</b>	<b>547,204</b>
---	------------------	------------------	----------------	----------------

## Endnotes

- 1 The UN Principles and Guidelines for the Elimination of Discrimination Based in Work and Descent: <http://idsn.org/international-advocacy/un/un-principles-guidelines/>
- 2 The IDSN UN compilation on references to Caste-Based Discrimination: [www.idsn.org/uncompilation](http://www.idsn.org/uncompilation)
- 3 Written statement prepared for the 17th HRC session by IMADR in association with IDSN: <http://bit.ly/IMADR-IDSN-Statement>
- 4 See the Declaration from the Conference on Dalit Decade UN 2011-2020: <http://bit.ly/decade-un-declaration> and Report: <http://bit.ly/decade-un-report>
- 5 UNDP Resource Guide: <http://bit.ly/UNDP-Guide>
- 6 UPR submission: <http://idsn.org/international-advocacy/un/universal-periodic-review/>.
- 7 Speech by Marcia Kran, Director of Research and Right to Development, OHCHR (14 December 2011)
- 8 Find all submissions and references on IDSN's website: <http://idsn.org/international-advocacy/un/un-treaty-bodies/>
- 9 MEPs speak out against caste discrimination: <http://bit.ly/MEPs-speak-up>
- 10 EP hearing briefing pack and references: <http://bit.ly/EP-Briefing-Pack>
- 11 Joint letter by MEPs ahead of EU-India Summit: <http://bit.ly/MEP-Joint-Letter>
- 12 Recommendations for an EU Policy Framework for the Effective Elimination of Discrimination Based on Work and Descent: <http://bit.ly/EU-Policy-Recommendations>
- 13 Addressing caste discrimination in Humanitarian Response – Caste study on India by NDW: <http://bit.ly/w230kb>
- 14 Joint Declaration and Global Call for Action to Eliminate Caste-Based Discrimination and Recommendations on Good Practices and Strategies <http://bit.ly/ICDeclaration2011>
- 15 Further information on the IDSN International Consultation <http://idsn.org/idsn-consultation/>
- 16 ILO 2011 Global Report: <http://bit.ly/ILO-2011-Report>
- 17 Capture by Cotton: <http://www.indianet.nl/pdf/CapturedByCotton.pdf>
- 18 CHRJ Report on Agrarian Crisis in India: <http://www.chrgj.org/publications/docs/every30min.pdf>
- 19 ITU report: <http://bit.ly/ITU-Report>
- 20 Account of Dalit children exploited in the carpet industry: <http://www.goodweave.org/index.php?cid=125>
- 21 Recommendation - 12. Special measures and strict law enforcement should be employed in order to eliminate racial discrimination against Dalits and other members of Scheduled Castes and Tribes: <http://bit.ly/ITU-Recommendation12>
- 22 Study by IIDS and Unicef on caste discrimination in health care: <http://bit.ly/Caste-Health>
- 23 Report on caste discrimination in the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT): <http://bit.ly/IIT-CBD>
- 24 NCDHR Documentary film 'Whose Money Whose Games': <http://bit.ly/NCDHR-Documentary>
- 25 Conference on Decade of Dalit Rights UN Declaration: <http://bit.ly/decade-un-declaration>
- 26 Untouchability Bill passed in Nepal: <http://bit.ly/Untouchability-Bill>
- 27 Press Release from the Deputy High Commissioner following Nepal visit in April: <http://bit.ly/DepHRC-PressRelease>
- 28 UPR - many caste references in Nepal review: <http://bit.ly/Nepal-UPR-References>
- 29 100 Day Campaign Press Release: <http://bit.ly/100DayCampaign>
- 30 ILO and partners statement on bonded labour: <http://bit.ly/Bonded-Labour-Statement>
- 31 Opening the Doors to Equal Justice for Dalits in Nepal – OHCHR Report: <http://bit.ly/Equal-Justice-Report>
- 32 Nepal's Human Rights Obligations to Conduct an Accurate & Non-Discriminatory Census: <http://bit.ly/CHRGJCensusReport>
- 33 Statement from ALRC on Dalit Human Rights Defenders in Nepal: <http://bit.ly/ALRC-HRD-Statement>
- 34 Kathmandu Proclamation on Dalit Women Issues in New Nepal: <http://bit.ly/DalitWomenDeclaration>
- 35 Brief for CEDAW situation of Dalit Women in Nepal: <http://bit.ly/CEDAW-Brief>
- 36 UN Committee urges Nepal to increase political participation of Dalit women: <http://bit.ly/CEDAW-Recommendations>
- 37 Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Rights Movement Work Statement April 2008 – June 2011: <http://bit.ly/BDERM-Report>
- 38 Dalit Women in Bangladesh – Multiple Exclusions: <http://bit.ly/Multiple-Exclusions>
- 39 Dalit Rights are Human Rights (Bangladesh): <http://bit.ly/Dalit-Rights-Bangladesh>
- 40 DNN Press Release including the Motion: <http://www.dalits.nl/pdf/pb110701e.pdf>
- 41 Answers to questions to the Dutch Minister for Foreign Affairs in July 2011: <http://www.dalits.nl/pdf/kv111123e.pdf>
- 42 Report Captured by Cotton: <http://www.indianet.nl/CapturedByCotton.html>
- 43 List of press clippings on the report Captured by Cotton: <http://www.indianet.nl/captured-by-cotton.html>
- 44 DNN website: <http://www.dalits.nl>
- 45 NIESR Report on Caste in the UK: <http://bit.ly/NIESR-Report>
- 46 Alternative report submitted to CERD by DSN-UK and IDSN: <http://bit.ly/UK-Cerd-Report>
- 47 CERD Concluding Observations on UK Review: <http://bit.ly/UKCERD-Concluding>
- 48 Recommendations to the Government of Norway on human rights at the United Nations in 2011 from the Norwegian NGO forum: <http://bit.ly/Norway-NGO-Recommendations>

## Abbreviations

<b>AP</b>	Ambedkar Principles	<b>HRC</b>	(UN) Human Rights Council
<b>AHRC</b>	Asian Human Rights Commission	<b>HRW</b>	Human Rights Watch
<b>ALRC</b>	Asian Legal Resource Centre	<b>ICCO</b>	Interchurch Organisation for Development Cooperation
<b>BDERM</b>	Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Rights Movement	<b>ICERD</b>	International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
<b>CA</b>	Constituent Assembly	<b>IDSN</b>	International Dalit Solidarity Network
<b>CERD</b>	(UN) Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	<b>IMADR</b>	International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism
<b>CERI</b>	Campaign for Electoral Reforms in India	<b>ISO</b>	International Organisation for Standardisation
<b>CESCR</b>	(UN) Committee on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights	<b>LWF</b>	Lutheran World Federation
<b>CHRGJ</b>	Center for Human Rights and Global Justice	<b>MEP</b>	(EU) Member of European Parliament
<b>CII</b>	Confederation of Indian Industry	<b>MLA</b>	Member of Legislative Assembly
<b>COHOM</b>	(EU) Working Party on Human Rights	<b>NACDOR</b>	National Conference of Dalit Organisations
<b>CSR</b>	Corporate Social Responsibility	<b>NCDHR</b>	National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights
<b>DANIDA</b>	Danish International Development Agency	<b>NDC</b>	National Dalit Commission
<b>DDC</b>	Dalit Discrimination Check	<b>NDEW</b>	National Dalit Election Watch
<b>DEVE</b>	(EP) Committee on Development	<b>NDW</b>	National Dalit Watch
<b>DFID</b>	(UK) Department for International Development	<b>NFDW</b>	National Federation of Dalit Women
<b>DNF</b>	Dalit NGO Federation	<b>NNDSWO</b>	Nepal National Dalit Social Welfare Organization
<b>DNN</b>	Dalit Network Netherlands	<b>OHCHR</b>	(UN) Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
<b>DSiD</b>	Dalit Solidarität in Deutschland	<b>OWA</b>	One World Action
<b>DSN</b>	Dalit Solidarity Network	<b>PDSN</b>	Pakistan Dalit Solidarity Network
<b>DSN-DK</b>	Dalit Solidarity Network Denmark	<b>PIL</b>	Public Interest Litigation
<b>DSN-FI</b>	Dalit Solidarity Network Finland	<b>PILER</b>	Pakistan Institute of Labour Research
<b>DSN-UK</b>	Dalit Solidarity Network UK	<b>SC</b>	Scheduled Castes
<b>EC</b>	(EU) European Commission	<b>SCP</b>	Special Component Plan
<b>ECOSOC</b>	(UN) Economic and Social Council	<b>SDB</b>	Solidarité Dalits Belgium
<b>ECHO</b>	(EU) European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department	<b>SKA</b>	Safai Karmachari Andolan
<b>EEAS</b>	(EU) European External Action Service	<b>TDRP</b>	Thardeep Rural Development Programme
<b>EG</b>	Executive Group	<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>EP</b>	(EU) European Parliament	<b>UNHCHR</b>	UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
<b>ETI</b>	Ethical Trading Initiatives	<b>UPR</b>	(UN) Universal Periodic Review
<b>EU</b>	European Union	<b>WCC</b>	World Council of Churches
<b>EuropeAid</b>	EU Development Agency	<b>WGHR</b>	Working Group on Human Rights in India and the UN
<b>FEDO</b>	Feminist Dalit Organization		
<b>FTA</b>	Free Trade Agreement		



## International Dalit Solidarity Network

Fælledvej 12, 3rd floor  
DK – 2200 Copenhagen N  
Denmark  
Phone +45 60 43 34 32  
[info@idsn.org](mailto:info@idsn.org)  
[www.idsn.org](http://www.idsn.org)

### IDSN members

#### National platforms:

- The National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights – India
- The Dalit NGO Federation – Nepal
- Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Rights Movement
- Pakistan Dalit Solidarity Network

#### Dalit Solidarity Networks:

- The Dalit Solidarity Network – UK
- The Dalit Solidarity Platform – Germany
- The Dalit Network – Netherlands
- The Dalit Solidarity Network – Denmark
- The Dalit Solidarity Network – Finland
- The Dalit Solidarity Network – Sweden
- The Dalit Solidarity Network – Belgium

### IDSN associates

#### Associated organisations:

- The Dalit Solidarity Group – Norway
- Rafto Foundation - Norway
- Feminist Dalit Organisation – Nepal
- National Federation of Dalit Women – India
- National Conference of Dalit Organisations – India
- Navsarjan Trust – India
- People's Watch – India

#### International associates:

- Human Rights Watch
- The International Movement Against all Forms of Discrimination and Racism
- Anti-Slavery International
- The Minority Rights Group International
- The Asian Human Rights Commission
- The Robert F. Kennedy Foundation
- ICMICA/Pax Romana
- FORUM-ASIA
- The Lutheran World Federation
- The World Council of Churches
- The Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative
- Asian Centre for Human Rights

#### Research associates:

- Center for Human Rights and Global Justice – USA
- International Centre for Ethnic Studies – Sri Lanka



[www.idsn.org](http://www.idsn.org) is a unique source of information for global news, resources and background on caste discrimination.



Keep track of IDSN on facebook:  
[International Dalit Solidarity Network \(IDSN\)](https://www.facebook.com/idsn)



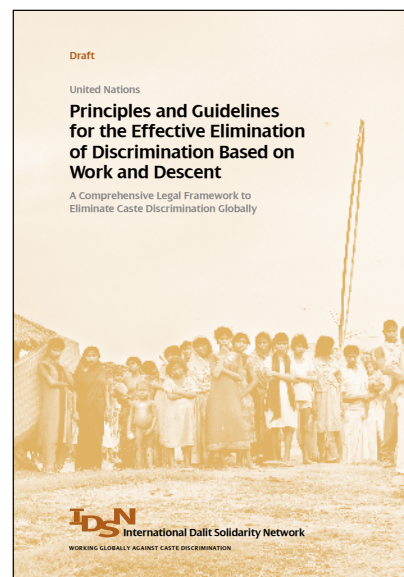
You can register to receive the monthly IDSN newsletter on [www.idsn.org](http://www.idsn.org)



Stay updated with IDSN's twitter feed on [twitter.com/idsnupdates](https://twitter.com/idsnupdates)



View a selection of videos on caste discrimination on [youtube.com/idsnvideo](https://youtube.com/idsnvideo)



The draft **UN Principles and Guidelines for the elimination of caste discrimination** is a significant document which IDSN has decided to print in a user-friendly format and distribute for international advocacy purposes.