

National Conference of Dalit Women
For
Dignified life, Inclusion and Social transformation
Kathmandu Proclamation
On
Dalit Women's Issues in New Nepal



Kathmandu – May 2011.

Kathmandu proclamation is released with a demand for addressing mandatory Dalit women's issues based on the principle of proportionate inclusion, elimination of all forms of caste, class and gender discrimination, establishing Dalit and Dalit women's rights and to promulgate such provisions in the draft constitution without any delay

Political/ Administrative issues of Dalit women:

- The constitutional and legal provision for proportionate representation of Dalit women in all Government bodies (parliament, government, low court, administrative mechanism, local bodies and social organizations etc.) should be ensured.
- There should be a constitutional arrangement of 20% reservations for Dalit communities and 50% for Dalit women until and unless they have reached the level of other communities in society and the same level of men respectively, in which 20% among women and 50% among Dalits should be reserved for Dalit women. Among the acquired rights, Madheshi Dalit women, Badi, Gandharva along with single women, disabled women, who are kept behind, should be given priority.
- The census should clearly collect data of different sub castes within the Dalit communities. The upcoming census should appoint Dalit women and as enumerators as proportionately.
- Provisions in the new constitution should be included for proportionate reservation system for Dalit men and women to ensure inclusion and proportionate participation in the electoral system
- There should be separate sitting or session in every court to try the cases of untouchability and caste based discrimination. The declaration by the state for forming a "Untouchability Watch Centre" at VDC level, should be formed immediately and executed effectively.

Economic issues:

- Most of the Dalit communities are landless and are deprived from the earning of land resources. Hence, land should be made available to produce livelihoods. Dalit women's equal land rights should also be ensured.

- Arrangement of self employment programmes for economic development and loan arrangements without collateral systems, should be made available to Dalit women and men who wish to conduct micro enterprises.
- Equal wages for men and women for similar jobs must be ensured.
- The state should develop and promote the traditional skill of Dalit communities and should conduct special programmes for them.

Social and cultural issues:

- Eliminate all forms of discrimination, which Dalit women are experiencing through centuries such as untouchability, the dowry system, child marriage, polygamy, in relation to inter-caste marriage, witchcraft allegations, bonded labour, girls/ women trafficking, traditional bad customs and practices and ensure Dalit women's protection and promotion of such protection to be established in the society.
- Stop all forms of violence against women, which takes place due to patriarchal social structures and guarantee the rights to live dignified lives on par with men.
- The state should guarantee the families' protection and social security for inter caste marriages between Dalits and non Dalits and special initiation of justice for Dalit women who are the victims of discrimination in relation to inter caste marriage should be made. .

Education issues:

- There should be free education with scholarship provisions for Dalit girls from primary level to higher education and technical education as well through establishing education as a fundamental right, which should be ensured in new constitution.
- The content promoting caste and gender discrimination in the syllabus should be omitted and caste and gender friendly contents should be included.
- Scientific, employment generating, vocational and technical education, adult and non formal education should be arranged and implemented effectively.

Health issues:

- Ensure the access of health services for Dalit women through establishing health services as a fundamental right and in addition, the state should ensure free health services and treatment for marginalized and Dalit women.
- Ensure the reproductive health rights of women
- There should be special health services and treatment arrangements for marginalized communities.

Legal issues:

- Define untouchability as a crime against the state and a serious social crime and eliminate impunity and there should be hard legal action for perpetrators.
- There should be provisions to get citizenship easily in the name of the mother without any conditions.
- Dalit women's employment should be ensured in the Nepal Army and police.

- Execute the National and International treaties, protocols, and laws to eliminate all forms of caste and gender discrimination in an effective and efficient manner.

The National Conference of Dalit Women from 11-13 May 2011, concluded aforesaid economical, political, social and cultural, education, health and legal issues to be included in the new constitution and request the government, Constituent Assembly, political parties and all concerned stake holders to implement the provisions immediately in favour of Dalit women.