

# THE HINDU

---

[News](#) » [National](#)

## "Extend SC status to Dalit Christians, Dalit Muslims"

Anita Joshua

Armed with written commitments made by practically every party except the BJP, the National Council of Dalit Christians (NCDC) on Thursday demanded that the government extend Scheduled Caste status to Dalit Muslims and Christians.

Referring to a petition pending in the Supreme Court, the NCDC said the matter was being unduly delayed because of "indifference" on the part of the Union government, which has not given its reply for over a year and a half.

Meanwhile, "the National Commission for Scheduled Castes has recommended that SC status must be extended to Christians and Muslims of SC origin. The National Commission for Minorities, too, has supported the demand," Delhi Archbishop Vincent Concessao said here, briefing the media on behalf of the NCDC.

A dozen State governments and Union Territories have, according to NCDC, recommended to the Centre that SC status to be extended to Dalit Muslims and Christians. Besides, the Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh Assemblies have passed resolutions to this effect.

Further, the NCDC pointed out, the Congress brought the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders Amendment Bill in 1996 for extending SC status to Dalit Christians on the ground that change of religion had not altered their social and economic conditions.

Keywords: [NCDC](#), [BJP](#), [Scheduled Castes](#), [the National Commission for Scheduled Castes](#)

Printable version | 2009-11-20 19:19:10 | <http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article43981.ece>

© The Hindu