



IDSN

International Dalit Solidarity Network

WORKING GLOBALLY AGAINST CASTE DISCRIMINATION

2013
annual report

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. Those at the bottom are 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. Despite policy development and new legislation in some countries, fundamental challenges still remain in all caste-affected countries.

The progress that has been made is, to a large extent, a consequence of the tireless work of Dalit civil society groups in South Asia. They have also – through IDSN and by other means – managed to place caste discrimination firmly on the international human rights agenda. UN bodies and EU institutions are paying increasing attention to this issue.

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 'outcasts'. 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.



Aarti Devi is a 22 year old Dalit woman. Her father fights for Dalit rights in their village. After an upper caste man raped a local Dalit woman, her father went to the police station with two other villagers. The police refused to register the case and instead booked

the three men on false charges. With no recourse to justice, Aarti chose to join the all women Gulabi Gang – also known as the Pink Saris. The gang charged the police station and beat the policeman with bamboo sticks, to force him to register the rape case.

For many Dalit women like Aarti, violence has been used their whole life by men as a way of suppressing them and 'keeping them in their place' both as women and as Dalits. The failure to implement laws meant to protect these women is creating a desperate situation. Suffering multiple discrimination, Dalit women are painfully vulnerable. For example, according to studies, the National conviction rate for rapes against women in India is 26% while the conviction rate for rapes against Dalit women is less than 2%. These statistics furthermore do not reflect the thousands of cases that police refuse to register because of endemic caste and gender discrimination. In 2013, the United Nations and the European Union expressed deep concern for the widespread violence against Dalit women and the extraordinary high levels of impunity in cases involving Dalit women.

Aarti's actions are a symbol of the desperation and disempowerment Dalit women face due to the failure of the institutions and systems meant to protect them. With nowhere else to turn, Aarti has chosen to fight fire with fire. IDSN members and associates in South Asia choose a different path, aimed at creating lasting and sustainable changes through lobbying for political changes, implementation of existing legislation and empowering women through awareness raising, training and legal assistance.

In 2013, Dalit women human rights defenders in the IDSN network worked tirelessly to improve the situation for Dalit women. In India AIDMAM organised a tribunal on violence against Dalit women which aimed to offer an alternative recourse to justice, they conducted fact finding missions in relation to unpunished atrocities against Dalit women and organised meetings, trainings and demanded change. In Nepal, Pakistan and Bangladesh IDSN members and associates worked on publicising cases of atrocities against Dalit women, empowering them and effecting lasting political change to uplift them.

Dalit women from India, Nepal, Pakistan and Bangladesh also participated in the ground breaking Dalit women's side event in the United Nations in June where the High Commissioner for Human Rights spoke passionately for the need to take urgent action on this issue.

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Executive Summary

A core objective in IDSN's advocacy for the elimination of caste discrimination is to influence policy makers and international institutions. In respect to parliamentary action, 2013 became one of the most productive years in IDSN's history; the results constitute years of advocating for the human rights of Dalits and others affected by caste discrimination with EU and UN institutions.

On October 10, The European Parliament (EP) adopted a benchmark resolution on caste discrimination urging the EU to mainstream the fight against caste discrimination in EU legislation, policies and programming documents and to adopt operational guidelines for its implementation.

The resolution sets straight that caste is a ground of discrimination to be recognised and tackled on par with other forms of discrimination, such as ethnicity, race, descent, religion, gender and sexuality, in EU efforts to fight discrimination.

The EP furthermore calls on the EU to conduct dialogues on the topic at the highest level with governments of caste-affected countries, and in international meetings; and to address it in human rights and development agendas, and in EU agreements with third parties.

During the parliamentary debate on the resolution, EU Commissioner Cecilia Malmström stated that caste discrimination is a "high priority for the EU." She listed a number of tools that the EU uses to fight it. However, MEPs insisted that much more should be done to fight caste discrimination, and urged the EU and its member states to promote the draft UN Principles and Guidelines for Effective Elimination of Discrimination based on Work and Descent.

Five other EP resolutions adopted in 2013 contained recommendations related to caste discrimination. This includes a January resolution on violence against women in India, which had numerous references to caste and the situation of Dalit women and noted "the extraordinary high level of impunity" in cases of sexual violence against Dalit women. European Parliament resolutions adopted in December on the financing instruments for European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) and EU Development Cooperation referred to caste discrimination warranting policy recognition on the topic and future financing under these frameworks. Furthermore, the EP resolution on the MDGs and the post-2015 development agenda highlighted caste as a source of inequality, which must be addressed in a new framework.

On several occasions during the year, IDSN representatives met with MEPs and EU officials and felt more assured than ever before that EU institutions are committing to stronger action in EU policies and programmes.

IDSN Highlights in 2013

- **Seven UN experts issue a powerful media statement against caste discrimination and 'untouchability'**
- **The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, issues several strong statements on caste discrimination**
- **UN side event on Dalit women is co-sponsored by five UN member states**
- **Caste discrimination is recognised as a source of inequality in the global discussion on the post-2015 development agenda**
- **UN/OHCHR hosts a South Asia regional consultation on caste-based discrimination**
- **The European Parliament adopts a resolution on caste discrimination**
- **IDSN releases the report 'Equality in aid' on addressing caste discrimination in humanitarian response**
- **The European Parliament adopts legislation for financing the EU Instrument on Democracy and Human Rights, including caste as a ground of discrimination to be addressed**
- **The Indian Parliament passes a new bill against manual scavenging**
- **Twelve-day campaign against caste discrimination carried out by Dalit civil society groups in Nepal**
- **The United Kingdom bans caste discrimination, but implementation of the law is delayed**

The fact that more than 100 MEPs took specific actions related to caste discrimination, beyond voting for resolutions, is a healthy sign of strong political interest, which is noted in caste-affected countries and reported on globally.

In September, IDSN issued a new report "Equality in Aid: Addressing Caste-Based Discrimination in Humanitarian Response" which was well received and supported by a wide range of stakeholders, including ECHO – the European Commission's Office for Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection.

In 2013, IDSN continued its strong engagement with UN human rights bodies. It facilitated representation of Dalit activists and organisation of side-events at sessions of the Human Rights Council (HRC); communicated with Special Procedures mandate holders, treaty bodies and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); and urged states to address the issue of caste discrimination in the Universal Periodic Review process and at HRC sessions.

Overall, the results were very encouraging, as the level of attention to the issue intensified. The UN High Commissioner for human rights, Navi Pillay, continued to make bold statements on caste discrimination, and her office paid even more attention to the issue in its work. In 2013, no less than ten Special Procedures mandate holders made references to caste discrimination, and seven mandate holders issued

a joint media statement, calling on World Governments to end the plight of 'untouchables'. In December, the OHCHR hosted a two-day South Asian regional consultation on caste discrimination in Nepal, with the participation of UN agencies, civil society, national human rights institutions and government representatives. It served as an important milestone in efforts to mainstream the issue of caste discrimination into the work of the UN.

Similarly significant, a UN Guidance Note on Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities took note that, "UN action and policies should reflect the fact that persons targeted for discrimination based on descent, in particular caste-based discrimination and related practices, are in a number of contexts in a particularly marginalized position and in need of focused attention."

Civil society groups, including Dalit leaders and IDS N, have argued for inequality to be a stronger focal point of the post-2015 discussion and pushed for inclusion of caste discrimination in the post-2015 global development agenda. One interim result is that a UN-led public consultation recognised caste discrimination as a source of inequality.

In June, five states co-sponsored a Human Rights Council side-event on "'Dalit women: Working together towards the elimination of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence based on gender and caste,'" co-organised by International human rights groups in association with IDS N. This was a significant step in recognising caste discrimination in the context of the Human Rights Council and it highlighted the need for incorporating Dalit women issues in UNHRC's agenda on discrimination and violence against women.

In numerous events and meetings held in the course of the year Dalit leaders and activists brought in their experience, expertise and recommendations to UN and EU institutions.

The section on developments in caste-affected countries in this report captures some of the efforts, challenges, and progress made; providing a mixed picture of success and failure. Success because Dalit civil society through effective nation-wide coalitions and campaigns have been able to push for new or amended legislation in key areas for the protection of Dalit's civil and political, as well as social, economic and cultural rights; failure because caste discrimination and caste-based violence, followed by impunity, remain endemic. Among the successes attributed to Dalit civil society is the formation of a South Asia Parliamentary Forum on caste discrimination in December.

In Europe, Dalit Solidarity Networks continued their work with parliamentarians and government decision makers, pursued public awareness activities and took the lead in ethical trading initiatives related to caste, business and human rights - with a good deal of success.

IDS N Objectives

- **To work for the global recognition of Dalit human rights and contribute to the fight against caste discrimination by raising awareness and building solidarity.**
- **To advocate Dalit rights - seeking to influence policies of governments and international bodies and institutions and monitor enforcement and implementation of anti caste discrimination measures.**
- **To facilitate Dalit rights interventions at various levels internationally, including at the EU, UN and related transnational forums.**
- **To create and maintain a resource base and forum that facilitates and strengthens solidarity an political action.**

IDS N communication outlets continued to serve the larger network as well as an increasing number of external users, including research institutions. The website and monthly newsletter enjoys growing support and IDS N expanded its use of online media through Facebook, YouTube and Twitter.

While progress and achievements are considerable and while civil society continue to speak out at grassroots, national and international levels and parliamentarians in increasing numbers insist, that caste discrimination should not be left 'untouched', some core and legitimate questions remain unanswered:

Why is caste discrimination still absent from the agenda of the UN human rights council? Is it a lesser human rights cause than the struggle against apartheid and racism? Is it less important than discrimination on the grounds of ethnicity, sexuality, religion or gender?

While declamations on early support to the struggle against apartheid came in plenty last year, when states honoured freedom fighter and world leader, Nelson Mandela, the truth is that support came only slowly and gradually.

In the spirit of Nelson Mandela, and the core principles of justice, equality and non-discrimination enshrined in the Universal Declaration for Human Rights, the world must now commit to ending caste discrimination – with the same resolve with which it fought against apartheid. Dalits and human rights defenders in South Asia struggle for justice with courage and awe-inspiring determination. In this struggle, they deserve nothing less than the unwavering support and solidarity of every human being who believes in equality and justice for all.

Rikke Nöhrhind
Executive Director

SWITZERLAND · In June 2013 Dalit women activists from South Asia gathered at the United Nations for the side event on Dalit women. The High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, Rashida Manjoo, addressed the event. They expressed grave concerns about the continuing atrocities perpetrated against Dalit women and the culture of impunity for violations of the rights of Dalit women. Photo: © IDSN

United Nations

In 2013, IDSN continued its strong engagement with UN human rights bodies. It facilitated representation of Dalit activists at sessions of the Human Rights Council (HRC); communicated closely with Special Procedures mandate holders, treaty bodies and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); and urged states to address the issue of caste discrimination in the Universal Periodic Review process and at HRC sessions.

Overall, the results were encouraging, as the level of attention to the issue increased further. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, continued to make bold and principled statements on caste discrimination, her office paid even more attention to the issue in its work, and no less than ten Special Procedures mandate holders made references to caste discrimination in the course of the year.

In June, five states co-sponsored an HRC side event on “Dalit women: Working together towards the elimination of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence based on gender and caste.” However, the fact that states were unable or unwilling to take the issue forward in the Human Rights Council itself, and specifically to work towards the endorsement of the draft UN Principles and

Guidelines for the effective elimination of discrimination based on work and descent (hereafter the draft UN Principles and Guidelines)¹, remained a cause for serious concern.

Human Rights Council (HRC)

On 4 June, the situation of Dalit women in South Asia came under scrutiny at an HRC side event, co-organised by IDSN. It was the first time that a UN event focused on the *intersectionality* between caste- and gender-based discrimination. A group of nine Dalit women activists from South Asia were present, and three of them addressed the event. So did High Commissioner Pillay and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, Rashida Manjoo – both in written statements.²

Mariem Salem, a parliamentarian from Mauritania and a member of the country’s oppressed Haratine minority, who are descendants of former slaves, testified that Haratine women are subjected to forms of discrimination that are similar to those endured by the Dalits of South Asia.

The German Ambassador, Hanns Heinrich Schumacher warned against using so-called ‘traditional values’ to limit human rights as some UN member states do. “Human Rights, the right to life, the equality of gender, the right to be accepted as an equal human being in any given society, are universal and indivisible,” he said. The speech by Mr Schumacher and the presence of four other co-sponsoring states, Canada, Norway, Finland and Denmark, was an encouraging signal that a number of UN member states with strong democratic records consider caste discrimination an important human rights issue.³

When I was asked to address this meeting, the urgency, the dimension of the problem, the meaning of being “Dalit” and in particular a “Dalit woman”, was not known to me. When I gathered more information, I was shocked. Hanns Heinrich Schumacher, German Ambassador

Following the side event, the four organisers – The International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR), Human Rights Watch, Minority Rights Group International and IDSN – issued a press statement, calling on UN member states to ensure protection of Dalit women and women from similarly affected communities and support efforts to eliminate gender- and caste-based discrimination.⁴

The event constituted the highlight of IDSN advocacy work at the UN in 2013. The group of Dalit women activists

UN action in 2013

- Dalit women side event held at the UN Human Rights Council, sponsored by Germany, Canada, Norway, Finland and Denmark
- Seven UN experts make a joint statement on caste discrimination, ten mention caste in their reports
- UN High Commissioner for Human Rights issues several strong statements on caste discrimination
- CEDAW adopts general recommendation no. 30 stating that Dalit women are at particular risk of sexual violence
- OHCHR hosts a regional consultation on caste discrimination in South Asia
- Caste discrimination recognised as a source of inequality at the UN led public consultation on the post 2015 global development agenda
- Recommendations on caste discrimination are made at the UPR of Bangladesh
- Dalit human rights defender speaks at the UN Minority Forum



Bhagwani Rathore, Pakistan:

– In school, whenever I answered a question, the teacher used to make all other the student realize that something extraordinary or unexpected had happened by saying look... how intelligent the Meghwar girl is... shame on you all.

Asha Kowtal, India:

– The dream for gender equality cannot be achieved in a caste stratified society like ours. Together we need to dismantle institutions that reek of patriarchy and caste to build a better world for all women from margins to the centre, from the poorest to the most empowered women.

Durga Sob, Nepal:

– 49 per cent of Dalit women in Nepal encounter different forms of violence, but only 4.4 per cent of these incidents are reported to the police. Dalit women mostly fear to speak out against the violence that they suffer, not only from the surrounding society, but also within their own families.

Sonu Rani Das, Bangladesh:

– The situation for Bangladeshi Dalits is not good. Most Dalit women are not educated. They are not aware of their rights, so how can they speak about them?

from India, Nepal, Pakistan and Bangladesh had numerous meetings with UN officials and diplomats during their stay in Geneva. One of the participants, Bhagwani Rathore from Pakistan, made the following comment on the importance of international advocacy work: "At least if an issue like caste discrimination is recognised at this level, there may be international pressure on national governments. But there is a long way to go."⁵

This is certainly also the case in the HRC where specific initiatives on caste discrimination are still lacking. Since the publication of the draft UN Principles and Guidelines in 2009, IDSIN has consistently urged states to endorse this comprehensive framework on the responsibility of states and non-state actors to eliminate caste discrimination, and work towards a follow-up mechanism on the issue in the HRC. The intransigence of India continues to be a serious obstacle. In April 2013, the High Commissioner for Human Rights commented on this in a statement given

in South Africa saying, "India peculiarly thinks this word caste belongs to them and I know they have a political position that it should not be raised in international fora." This position unfortunately also affects the possibilities for caste-affected states to take the lead in international efforts to end caste discrimination.

Prior to the three HRC sessions in 2013, IDSIN provided UN member states with specific recommendations on caste-related issues and called on them to raise the issue in the HRC.

The support from a number of significant actors, including the OHCHR and the Special Procedures mandate holders, is of great importance. One of these supporters, the Independent Expert on minority issues, Rita Izsák, gave a video message at a side event on caste discrimination at the HRC session in February and spoke of the 'implementation gap' between laws prohibiting caste discrimination and the reality faced by caste-affected communities. The event

explored how to promote and ensure access to justice for Dalits, and Dalit human rights campaigners discussed the situation in their own countries with a focus on the impunity issue.⁶

Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

Bangladesh, Senegal and Mauritius were reviewed by the UPR mechanism in 2013. The UPR exercise remains a very useful forum for addressing caste discrimination. It increases the attention of non-affected states to the issue, obliges caste-affected states to comment on their own efforts, and promotes closer NGO cooperation at a national and international level.

During the review of Bangladesh on 29 April, two states made specific recommendations related to caste discrimination. Slovenia recommended that the Government adopt an action plan to address the situation of Dalits, and the Holy See mentioned the need to improve the conditions of vulnerable groups, including Dalits.⁷ The Government of Bangladesh only partly accepted these two recommendations, stating that they “enjoy the support of Bangladesh in part where they are in consonance with national policies and laws.”⁸

IDSN finds this wording confusing and has expressed concern over the Government’s subsequent failure to explain why these recommendations have not been fully accepted.

Caste-based discrimination was also mentioned in the review of Senegal and Mauritius in the 17th session of the UPR and it was recommended for Senegal to eliminate the caste system.

In June, the All Youth Network for Society Development and IDSN submitted an alternative NGO report for the UPR of Yemen, scheduled for late January 2014. The report focused on the human rights situation of the Al-Akhdam people, a group that faces severe forms of discrimination, exclusion and violence similar to those suffered by South Asia’s Dalit population.

The two organisations urged the Government of Yemen to enact anti-discrimination laws that specifically criminalise discrimination against the Al-Akhdam; and develop measures that ensure access to justice for Al-Akhdam people; a national action plan for the elimination of discrimination against the Al-Akhdam; recognition of their right to adequate housing; physical protection against violence; and free elementary education for Al-Akhdam children.⁹



UN Special Procedures

In May, a group of seven Special Procedures mandate holders issued a significant media statement on the issue of caste discrimination and ‘untouchability’. They noted that “caste-based discrimination remains widespread and deeply rooted, its victims face structural discrimination, marginalization and systematic exclusion, and the level of impunity is very high.”

The experts urged World governments to strengthen protection of the hundreds of millions of people who suffer from this type of discrimination, and to endorse the draft UN Principles and Guidelines for the effective elimination of discrimination based on work and descent.¹⁰

“We will pay specific attention to the particularly vulnerable situation of people affected by caste-based discrimination... No one should be stigmatized; no one should be considered ‘untouchable’.” Joint statement by seven UN human rights experts

The group included the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, Rashida Manjoo, who in the course of one month visited two caste-affected countries, India and Bangladesh. In India, she said that Dalit women experience some of the worst forms of discrimination and oppression.¹¹ IDSN had made submissions on the situation of Dalit women in advance of the visits in cooperation with IDSN members,



BANGLADESH · These Dalit children in Bangladesh are lucky to receive an education in a school set up specifically for them. In most cases, caste discrimination serves as a severe obstacle to Dalit children's access to schooling and prospects for staying in school. In a report focusing on education the UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, wrote that, "the forms of structural discrimination and abuse that Dalit children face in schools are often so stigmatizing that they are forced to drop out."

Photo: © Matthew Becker/Advocacy Project

The problem of discrimination against members of the 'slave caste' in Madagascar was explored by the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, Gulnara Shahinian, in a report from her mission to that country. She noted that those in the lowest castes are "most vulnerable to poverty and slavery-like practices." The Special Rapporteur also stressed that caste discrimination in Madagascar "should be addressed openly". In a separate thematic report, she noted that caste discrimination "plays a role in increasing vulnerability to contemporary forms of slavery."¹⁴

Another UN human rights expert who showed strong support for the struggle against caste discrimination in 2013 was the Independent Expert on minority issues. Apart from addressing the HRC side event on caste discrimination in February, Rita Izsák played a leading role in putting together the joint media statement by Special Procedures mandate holders in May, met with the visiting group of Dalit women activists in Geneva in June, and attended the South Asian regional consultation on caste discrimination in Kathmandu in December.

UN treaty bodies

The treaty bodies monitor the implementation of international human rights treaties by states on a regular basis. They have been instrumental in bringing attention and recognition to the issue of caste discrimination as a global human rights concern.

In January, the Pakistan Dalit Solidarity Network and IDS^N submitted a joint shadow report on Dalit women in Pakistan for the examination of that country by the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The report called on the Government of Pakistan to focus on education, access to basic services, and laws and special programmes to protect Dalit women.¹⁵

In February and October respectively, CEDAW held general discussions on 'Access to Justice' and 'Rural women' with the purpose of developing general recommendations on these issues. For the 'Access to Justice' discussion in February, IDS^N and Minority Rights Group International provided input that included information about the lack of access to justice for Dalit women. Other NGOs and experts made relevant comments about the linkage between caste and gender.¹⁶

who also engaged with the Special Rapporteur during her stay. Ms Manjoo will present her reports from the two South Asian country visits to the Human Rights Council in 2014. She also issued a statement for the side event on Dalit women at the June session of the HRC.

The Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, Mutuma Ruteere, continued his mandate's strong tradition of addressing caste discrimination. In a report focusing on education, he wrote that "the forms of structural discrimination and abuse that Dalit children face in schools are often so stigmatizing that they are forced to drop out."¹² In another report, Mr Ruteere focused on the intersectionality between poverty and racism and highlighted the situation of a few specific groups, including Dalits. He stated that "a disproportionate percentage of Dalits live in abject poverty and face discrimination and exclusion at social, economic and political levels."¹³ In September, upon the conclusion of a mission to Mauritania, the Special Rapporteur urged that country's government to tackle caste-based discrimination.

Focus on religious minorities

The annual UN Forum on Minority Issues in November focused on the rights of religious minorities. Savio Mahimaidass, a Dalit human rights defender from India, spoke of the lack of rights of Dalit Muslims and Christians in his country, as well as the situation of Dalits in Pakistan.

INDIA · The streets are this Dalit man's home. In a joint statement on caste discrimination seven UN experts declared caste discrimination a major structural factor underlying poverty. In another report the UN Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism stated that, "a disproportionate percentage of Dalits live in abject poverty and face discrimination and exclusion at social, economic and political levels." IDSN and its partners lobbied for the inclusion of caste discrimination in the post-2015 global development agenda. Later in 2013, a UN-led public consultation recognised caste as a source of inequality and poverty. Photo: © Anand Deo

IDSN contributed a written submission on the situation of Dalit rural women to the October discussion. This was done together with two partner organisations in South Asia, Navsarjan Trust (India) and FEDO (Nepal). The submission contained a number of recommendations on tackling impunity, improving access to justice, training police personnel, and targeting development programmes for Dalit women.¹⁷

CEDAW adopted the General Recommendation no. 30 on women in conflict situations in October and included a relevant observation on caste. It stated that Dalit women are among the groups "at particular risk of violence, especially sexual violence" in conflict situations and that they are "often attacked as symbolic representatives of their community."¹⁸

A number of IDSN's partner organisations produced caste-relevant submissions to UN treaty bodies in 2013. AIDMAM,

the women's platform of the National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR), made a number of suggestions to CEDAW regarding caste- and gender-based discrimination in India.¹⁹ Some of these have been included in the list of questions posed by CEDAW prior to its examination of India in July 2014.²⁰

Two of IDSN's international associates, Anti-Slavery International and Minority Rights Group International, made a submission on Mauritania to the UN Human Rights Committee that included several questions on caste-based discrimination.²¹

In its 82nd and 83rd session, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination noted concern and recommended for the governments of Mauritius, Chad and Burkina Faso to address caste-based discrimination.

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

For several years, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, and her dedicated staff at the OHCHR have been instrumental in placing the caste issue on the global human rights agenda. In 2013, Ms Pillay made a number of statements referring to caste discrimination.

In late January, at the conclusion of the two-month long march to end manual scavenging in India, the Maila Mukti Yatra, the High Commissioner issued a message of support, congratulating the organisers as well as the participants. She noted that most manual scavengers are Dalit women who face multiple forms of discrimination because of their caste and gender. Ms Pillay focused on this theme again when she addressed a UN side event on Dalit women in June. She noted that the degrading practices of caste discrimination and untouchability are "further amplified by the intersection of discrimination based on caste and gender." In November,



Navi Pillay on caste discrimination

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and her Office play an important role in the global struggle against caste discrimination. Here are some quotes from statements that Navi Pillay made on the issue in 2013.

- **Caste-based discrimination is of immediate concern to my Office, because it is destructive of all we stand for.**
London, November
- **I also call upon member states to take on the challenge of addressing caste-based discrimination and the human rights violations flowing from this seriously and by mobilising all of their relevant institutions to this end.**
Geneva, June
- **India peculiarly thinks this word caste belongs to them and I know they have a political position that it should not be raised in international fora.**
South Africa, April

UN Guidance Note

The UN Guidance Note on Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities recommends that,

"UN action and policies should reflect the fact that persons targeted for discrimination based on descent, in particular caste-based discrimination and related practices, are in a number of contexts in a particularly marginalized position and in need of focused attention."

Prior to its publication, IDSN had lobbied for the inclusion of caste discrimination in the Guidance Note, reiterating that this form of discrimination should be treated on par with other forms of discrimination.²²



the High Commissioner delivered a powerful speech on caste discrimination at a meeting in London, where she urged the British government to implement legislation on the issue.

On several occasions in 2013, Ms Pillay referred to the Guidance Note on Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, which the UN Secretary-General issued in March. On 4 June, she said that the Note encouraged her office's "continuous engagement" in the issue of caste discrimination.

In December, the OHCHR hosted a South Asian regional consultation on caste discrimination. The event took place in Kathmandu, Nepal, and its purpose was to identify opportunities and constraints for UN Country Teams, National Human Rights Institutions and civil society to work on caste discrimination in the region. The consultation was to contribute to the preparation of guidance for the UN system on key challenges, priorities and strategic approaches to combat caste discrimination. As such, it served as an important milestone in efforts to mainstream the issue of caste discrimination into the work of the UN.

Participants included UN officials from the region and Geneva, and representatives from National Human Rights Institutions and civil society in South Asia. Numerous IDSN members and associates were present and IDSN sponsored some participants from India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. A full report from the consultation will be published in 2014.

The post-2015 agenda

In 2013, a breakthrough was achieved in attempts to push for inclusion of caste discrimination in the post-2015 global development agenda, as a UN-led public consultation recognised caste discrimination as a source of inequality. A report from the consultation released in February noted that members of disadvantaged groups, including those defined by caste, "are found more often than not amongst the poorest and most marginalised in any given state."²³

Later in the year, High Commissioner Pillay said that she was "heartened" that the consultation had "acknowledged caste-based discrimination as a source of inequality." Other UN human rights experts also made the case for the inclusion of the caste issue in the post-2015 framework. In their joint statement from May, seven Special Procedures mandate holders expressed their hope that the agenda would include specific goals for the advancement of Dalits, stressing that caste-based discrimination is a major structural factor underlying poverty.

IDSN recommends that caste discrimination be included in the measures and targets proposed to address global inequalities.²⁴ As the discussion intensifies, it remains unclear to what extent the caste issue will be integrated into the post-2015 framework. Civil society groups, including Dalit representatives, have expressed disappointment that inequality has not been a stronger focal point of the post-2015 discussion.

European Union

On 10 October, the European Parliament adopted a comprehensive and strongly worded resolution on caste discrimination. The resolution and the preceding debate constitute one of the highlights so far of IDS's long-standing engagement with EU institutions. All in all, it was a productive year with a further consolidation of relations with Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and parliamentary committees. By the end of 2013, more than 100 MEPs had demonstrated their commitment towards the elimination of caste discrimination. IDS also continued its dialogue on the issue with a number of other EU institutions, such as the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the EU humanitarian office (ECHO).

European Parliament

IDS's close cooperation with the European Parliament throughout 2013 included regular contact and meetings with MEPs, submissions to parliamentary committees and input to parliamentary resolutions. The responses from MEPs were often favourable. Many of them spoke in EP debates, sponsored or co-sponsored motions for resolutions, signed an IDS petition calling for an end to caste discrimination or posted articles and messages on the issue.

IDS continued to make submissions on caste related developments in affected countries and in the UN to Committees and delegations, including the Delegation for relations with India. Some members of the delegation visited India in April and ensured that the question of caste discrimination was brought up in several meetings,



and a Dalit women representative invited to meet the delegation.²⁵

The build-up to the important October resolution on caste discrimination started early in the year. In February, the EP's Committee on Development (DEVE) published and discussed a study that it had commissioned in 2012. 'A human rights and poverty review: EU action in addressing caste-based discrimination' recommended stronger EU action on the issue, including the integration of measures against caste discrimination into policies, strategies and development programmes that deal with caste-affected countries.²⁶



Eva Joly (Greens):

– Despite this declaration, despite the abolition of 'untouchability' in the Indian constitution, despite laws, 260 million people are suffering daily from atrocities committed with complete impunity.



Leonidas Donskis (ALDE):

– If we try to explain away caste-based discrimination using solely religious or cultural specificities, we will betray the people who are suffering right next to us and compromise our commitment to human rights. This is a problem not just of one country, of India, it is a widespread global issue.



Michael Cashman (S&D):

– If we have undertaken all of this work, if we have all of these instruments, and 260 million people are still discriminated against solely on the basis of their caste, we are failing.



Gay Mitchell (EPP):

– Dalit women... are among the most severely exploited, including sexually exploited. They often suffer from sexual violence, sexual slavery, bonded labour, and limited access to food or sanitation. This is in the 21st century.



INDIA · Bindu, a young Dalit girl, sits with her grandmother in what is left of their home. She had incurred the wrath of the local upper castes by refusing an offer from the son of the town leader of 50 rupees (about \$1) for sex. So their house was torched and their belongings thrown into the river. Dalit women and girls are subject to violence and rape at a disproportionately high level due to multiple discrimination. In 2013, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on violence against women in India expressing "deep concern about the widespread violence committed against Dalit women and girls in India, including sexual violence committed by men of dominant castes." It also referred to "the extraordinary high level of impunity" in cases of sexual violence against Dalit women and noted that women and girls affected by caste-based discrimination are particularly vulnerable. Photo: © Pete Pattison

took place on 10 October with a large number of MEPs making thoughtful and well-informed remarks on the issue.

Leonidas Donskis, a Lithuanian MEP who has been one of the strongest supporters of the struggle against caste discrimination, called it "one of the biggest paradoxes of the 21st century." He added that "as the world gets smaller and becomes a common arena of all humankind, as the border between the local and the global fades, as human rights become a universal, not a national affair, hundreds of millions of people still remain robbed of the right to be a human and to enjoy even the most basic human rights."

The resolution calls on EU institutions to recognise and address caste discrimination on par with other grounds of

The study became the starting point of a process that culminated in the October resolution. In July, members of DEVE discussed the need for an EU policy on caste discrimination and concluded that the EU needs to take a much more robust stance on the issue. They called for the recognition of caste as a ground of discrimination which must be tackled together with other grounds of discrimination. MEP Thijs Berman warned that without an EU policy on caste discrimination, it would fall off the agenda.

In September, DEVE unanimously approved the draft resolution on caste discrimination. The debate and adoption of the resolution by the whole European Parliament then

EP resolution on caste discrimination

On 10 October, the European Parliament adopted and debated the resolution on caste discrimination, initiated by the Committee on Development. MEPs from a wide range of parties made insightful remarks on the issue and demonstrated a strong commitment to eliminating caste discrimination.²⁸



Zita Gurmai (S&D):

– Specific guidelines have been published by the UN on the effective elimination of discrimination related to work and descent. I would like to hear from the EEAS how the EU can effectively push for that implementation. I would also like to underline that this is not only a matter for South Asian countries.



Phil Bennion (ALDE):

– In Pakistan, Dalits have limited access to equal and meaningful political participation. I think that is absolutely unacceptable and many of these people, of course, are also religious minorities at the same time, so they are doubly discriminated against.



Lena Kolarska-Bobińska (EPP):

– Actions at the United Nations and elsewhere are not targeted at the Republic of India, but are in fact attempts to help enforce the very principles of the republic, the fundamental principle that all Indian citizens are equal. Indeed, India should be a light against caste discrimination not only for itself but for the world.



Paul Murphy (GUE/NGL):

– The growing number of brave, oppressed caste activists raising their voices shows a way forward ... this barbaric feudal remnant can be consigned to the dustbin of history."



INDIA · Dalits seek shelter under a black sheet of plastic. Caste discrimination often impairs access to disaster relief for Dalits, an issue that the 2013 report 'Equality in Aid' seeks to address. Photo: © Jakob Carlsen/IDSN

discrimination such as ethnicity, race, religion, gender and sexuality; to include the issue in EU legislation and human rights policies; and to raise it at the highest level with governments of caste-affected countries. IDSN welcomed the resolution as an important message to the EU system as well as governments in caste-affected countries.²⁷

During the debate, EU Commissioner Cecilia Malmström claimed that caste discrimination is a "high priority for the EU." She listed a number of tools that the EU uses to fight it, with an approach that "is tailor-made to the countries most affected by this problem." However, many MEPs said that much more should be done to fight this form of discrimination.

The resolution received considerable press coverage, including in *The New York Times*, *The Guardian* and various Indian media outlets²⁹. The adoption of the resolution has also resounded within the UN system. It was commented upon by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Navi Pillay, in her speech on caste discrimination at the House of Lords in the UK on 6th November. IDSN shared news about the resolution through its media outlets and targeted letters to more than 200 UN, EU and government officials, and parliamentarians.

Five other EP resolutions adopted in 2013 contained references to caste discrimination. In January, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on violence against women in India, an issue that was highlighted in the wake of the brutal gang-rape of a 23-year old female student in Delhi in

late 2012. The resolution included numerous references to caste and the situation of Dalit women.

It expressed "deep concern about the widespread violence committed against Dalit women and girls in India, including sexual violence committed by men of dominant castes." It also referred to "the extraordinary high level of impunity" in cases of sexual violence against Dalit women and noted that women and girls affected by caste-based discrimination are particularly vulnerable to various forms of sexual violence, forced and ritual prostitution, trafficking, domestic and punitive violence when they seek justice for crimes committed."³⁰

On 13 June, an EP resolution urged the EU to adopt an ambitious position on the post-2015 global development framework. It called for the framework to be underpinned by human rights principles and address inequality, discrimination, gender-based violence and other issues with special attention being paid to the rights of groups such as people suffering caste-based discrimination.³¹ The October resolution on caste discrimination also paid attention to the post-MDG discussion – MEPs urged the EU to promote a caste-sensitive post-2015 development agenda and to "ensure that caste discrimination is explicitly addressed as a major structural factor underlying poverty, and as a root cause of structural inequalities."

On 11 December, the EP adopted no less than three resolutions that included references to caste discrimination. The resolution on the EU's annual human rights report

appealed to the EU to ensure that human rights and democracy are observed in all aspects of its relations with its partners. The resolution stressed the importance of fighting all forms of discrimination, including caste-based discrimination. It also called on the EU to pay particular attention to caste discrimination and to consider urging caste-affected countries to ensure that laws against the caste system are genuinely implemented.³²

Two important resolutions on EU financing instruments for the promotion of democracy and human rights, and development cooperation (DCI) mention caste. The European Instrument for the Promotion of Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) 2014-2020 specifically mention caste as a ground of discrimination to be addressed on par with other forms of discrimination. This is also reflected in The Multi-Annual Indicative Programme for EIDHR 2014-2020 which include wording on “fighting discrimination based on caste, work, descent or gender identity” and hence guarantees that “support will be provided to civil society organizations working for the promotion of those rights and support to programmes and policies also in these areas”.

2013 Resolutions

Caste in European Parliament Resolutions

- **Serious concern for Dalit women was voiced in the EP urgency resolution on violence against Dalit women in India (January)**
- **The EP resolution on the MDGs – defining the post-2015 framework, called on the framework to address caste discrimination (June)**
- **The European Parliament adopted a strongly worded resolution exclusively on caste discrimination (October)**
- **The resolution on the ‘Annual Report on human rights in the world 2012’, called for the EU to pay particular attention to caste discrimination (December)**
- **The resolution on the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) 2014-2020 Financial Framework specifically mentions caste on par with racial discrimination (December)**
- **References to caste were also included in the EP resolution on the European Council financing instrument for development cooperation (DCI) (December)**

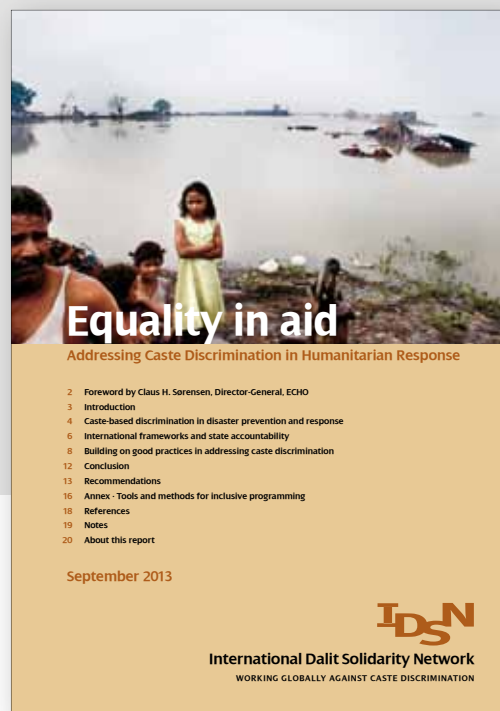
Equality in Aid report

Dalits in disaster situations

In his foreword to the report, Claus Sørensen, Director-General of the EU Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO), notes that “more remains to be done to ensure that equality in humanitarian response overall is achieved”. He adds that the report identifies “clear recommendations for how to achieve this in the context of caste discrimination.”

The report not only offers recommendations and guidelines but also calls upon international level policy- and standard-setting groupings in the field of humanitarian assistance to take action.

The report has been disseminated through direct mail to more than 500 stakeholders in provision of humanitarian assistance and through IDS N’s online channels. Prominent humanitarian organisations have featured the report on their websites and have tweeted about the report. ECHO has supported the promotion of the report and preparation of a joint national launching event (IDS N, ECHO and National Dalit Watch) in Delhi in January 2014, underlining the organisation’s strong commitment to eradicate any form of caste discrimination in humanitarian assistance.



MEPs also continued to ask caste-related parliamentary questions to the EU Commission. In June, for example, Fiorello Provera and Charles Tannock, specifically referred to the UN side event on Dalit women when they asked High Representative Catherine Ashton to explain the EU’s policy on caste discrimination. One of their three questions was “What steps is the EU prepared to take to work with the UN Human Rights Council to persuade governments

in South Asia to adopt improved measures to implement legislation that ensures the rights of Dalit women are fully respected?"³³ High Representative Ashton replied in August, claiming that the EU "is active in the UN context." She also wrote that EU financial instruments target caste discrimination and its effects.³⁴

European Commission/EEAS

Updates on key developments on caste issues in affected countries and the UN were shared with EU officials in meetings and through submissions. These included highlights and recommendations in advance of the EU-India human rights dialogue, eventually held in New Delhi in November, at which the EP resolution on caste discrimination was brought up.

IDSN teams with South Asian representatives met on several occasions with policy, programme and geographical units in Brussels. IDSN staff and Asha Kowtal from AIDMAM in India, participated in the EIDHR Annual Forum in April. Members of the IDSN executive group, including Paul Divakar and Manjula Pradeep from India, and Durga Sob from Nepal met with senior officials and also MEPs in September.

In addition, communication and interaction with EU delegations in some affected countries, for example Nepal, were particularly encouraging, indicating a growing commitment by the EU to tackle caste discrimination at various levels of policy and programming. Cooperation with ECHO is a notable case in point.

In September, IDSN published a report on the situation of Dalits in humanitarian emergencies. 'Equality in aid: Addressing caste discrimination in humanitarian response' argues that Dalits and other groups suffering from caste discrimination are particularly exposed to natural hazards and are likely to be discriminated against when disasters strike and humanitarian aid is distributed. The report contains a comprehensive set of recommendations that would enable humanitarian actors to ensure that Dalit and similarly affected groups are not excluded from disaster prevention and response.³⁵

'Equality in aid' is based on a comprehensive Indian case study which was undertaken by National Dalit Watch and the National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR) in 2012.³⁶ The Indian case study as well as the IDSN report have been produced with financial assistance from the European Union as part of the 2011-2013 European Commission project 'Ending Untouchability: European action to eliminate caste discrimination'. This project has also enabled IDSN to produce two introductory films on caste discrimination and assist Dalit Solidarity Networks across Europe in launching new websites with a common design template.



Private Sector

Dalit Solidarity Networks have been involved in national chapters of the Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) for a number of years, bringing the issue of caste discrimination on to the human rights and business agenda of the ETI members, by highlighting the interrelation between caste and various forms of labour rights violations.

IDSN was involved in the development of a draft international joint position paper on caste discrimination by the Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) involving the ETI UK, ETI Denmark and ETI Norway in coalition with Dalit Solidarity Networks (DSNs) in the UK, Denmark and Norway. This process started in 2012 in the Danish ETI, and the draft prepared by DSN-DK and IDSN was discussed at a meeting in Copenhagen in December 2013.

The ETI UK, Denmark and Norway were present along with stakeholders from the business and academic communities who gave input and discussed options for a paper to emerge as a practical tool for companies. The three ETI chapters will now work towards a final draft and achieving consensus for a joint paper supported by all ETI chapters.

Other DSN activity involved DSN Finland's work with FinnWach on a labour rights report on the company Stora



PAKISTAN · Many Dalits are forced to work in bonded labour, a form of slavery where workers are bound into debt that is nearly impossible for them to repay. Bonded labourers often work under inhumane conditions and with little time off. Dalits are especially vulnerable to bonded labour due to their low status in society and the lack of access for them to other credit systems. Photo: © Jakob Carlsen/IDSN

Slavery emerges at the conjunction of individual vulnerability, social exclusion and failure of rule of law. So it should be no surprise that those countries that tolerate systemic and often institutional discrimination against their citizens on spurious grounds such as caste should also be the ones with the most extensive enslavement of their citizens. Slavery is one of the cruelest manifestations of caste discrimination. Aidan McQuade, Director of Anti-Slavery International

Enso Inpac's two paper mills in Tamil Nadu. The report was published in September 2013 and following the release of the report the company started implementing changes. The company also invited representatives of FinnWatch and DSN-Fi to its headquarters where it indicated its aim of becoming a model enterprise in the field of preventing caste discrimination. The cooperation with FinnWatch resulted in DSN-Fi becoming a member of the organisation.

The Walk Free Foundation released the first edition of the Global Slavery Index³⁷ measuring the size of the modern day slavery problem in 162 countries in terms of the number

of people living in slavery, the risk of enslavement and the robustness of government responses to the problem. Caste systems are present in four out of five countries ranked the worst slavery offenders. India alone accounts for half of the people on the planet regarded as 'modern slaves'.

The pioneering index cites caste and tribal systems as main factors influencing the prevalence of modern slavery in India, singling out Dalits and Adivasis as the most vulnerable: "Poverty and India's caste system are significant contributing factors to its modern slavery problem. Indians most vulnerable to modern slavery are those from the 'lower' castes (dalits), and the indigenous communities (adivasis), especially women and children."

The report furthermore highlights caste as a key factor in bonded labour and slavery in Nepal and Pakistan in areas such as brick making, agriculture, domestic servitude and sexual exploitation. It furthermore points towards caste discrimination as a key hindrance to breaking out of slavery highlighting that denial of access to basic rights and services, such as education, health care and justice exacerbates the vulnerability of Dalits to enslavement. Throughout the year IDSN have disseminated the findings of this and other reports on modern slavery and caste discrimination to the wider IDSN network, the UN, EU and international media.

Communication and networking

Public interest in the issue of caste discrimination as well as IDSN's use of online media increased markedly in 2013, especially on social media platforms such as Facebook and YouTube. Twitter was also a very useful channel for spreading news and information, especially in connection with the historic resolution in the European Parliament in October. Core IDSN communication outlets such as the website and monthly newsletter continued to enjoy growing support.

The number of 'fans' of the IDSN Facebook page³⁸ more than tripled in 2013 from less than 1,000 to more than 3,200 with no less than 934,000 page visits. Updates on this page include news from IDSN and its partner organisations as well as particularly interesting newspaper articles. The 'End caste'-Facebook page³⁹ now has more than 2,700 'fans' – the number was approximately 800 at the end of 2012. IDSN launched this page in 2012 in order to promote the two IDSN short documentaries 'We are not untouchable' and 'Dalit women'.

Both films are available on IDSN's YouTube channel,⁴⁰ and together they generated more than 20,000 views in

2013. The film on Dalit women is particularly popular and averaged almost one thousand views per month last year. Another YouTube favourite is the original IDSN introductory video on caste discrimination, 'I'm Dalit, how are you?', which has now been seen more than 173,000 times in less than a decade.

Screenings of the two most recent IDSN short films continued in various settings around the world. 'Dalit women' was screened at a side event on the same issue at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva in June. A number of Dalit Solidarity Networks across Europe have made versions of the films in their national languages and have shown them at numerous events.

IDSN has more than 200 followers on Twitter.⁴¹ These include journalists from the Guardian, New York Times and The Telegraph, international associates such as Human Rights Watch and Anti-Slavery International, and important international contacts in the OHCHR, the EEAS and the European Parliament.

The IDSN website at www.idsn.org remains a leading global source of information on caste discrimination and the struggle against it. An average of one news story per week was posted on the website in 2013. The number of unique visitors exceeded 30,000, an increase of 29 per



IDSN issued a media advisory and a press release in connection with the European Parliament Resolution on caste discrimination and pitched the story to international journalists. News of the resolution was subsequently published in key international media and national media in the USA, Europe, Asia and the Middle East including the New York Times, The Guardian, The National and The Hindu.



UNITED STATES - This Dalit woman from Los Angeles, California, has started a viral campaign to declare global solidarity with Dalits. She has herself experienced caste discrimination in the Indian diaspora in the United States. Through Twitter and Facebook she is now part of a Dalit women's group in India and together with activists from AIDMAM (NCDHR's women's branch) and IDSN, she is posting news on the fight for Dalit women's rights on #dalitwomenfight (Twitter and Facebook). As Dalit activists are gaining increasing access to social media, IDSN is taking part in facilitating information flow and contraflow across the globe to build solidarity and foster action. Photo: © Thenmozhi Soundararajan/ Dalit Nation

cent compared to the previous year. The number of visits increased by 23 per cent, while the number of page views reached 100,000. The website is broadly used by people from all over the world and visitors include the EU, UN, Governments, leading aid agencies, INGOs and more than 100 universities.

IDSN's e-newsletter continued to provide an important overview of major developments in the struggle against caste discrimination. The newsletter contains a mix of IDSN news stories, other important news, and press clippings from caste-affected countries. It was published 11 times in 2013, including a special edition on Dalit women. The number of subscribers is rising steadily and increased by more than 10 per cent to almost 1,000.

The IDSN secretariat continued to assist journalists covering the issue of caste discrimination, pitch stories to the international media, and issue press releases in connection with particularly important events. At the conclusion of the two-month long march to end the inhuman practice of manual scavenging in India, an IDSN press release praised the organisers and expressed support for their demands.⁴² Following the UN side event on Dalit women in June, IDSN, Human Rights Watch, IMADR and Minority Rights Group International issued a joint press release calling on UN member states to improve conditions for Dalit women.⁴³

The European Parliament's resolution on caste discrimination in October was an important milestone for the international struggle against caste discrimination. Its significance was duly reflected in IDSN's media work surrounding the resolution. The secretariat issued a media advisory prior to the European Parliament's debate on and

adoption of the resolution, and a press release immediately afterwards.⁴⁴ Both were disseminated widely to an international audience.

Twitter also proved a very useful channel for spreading news about the resolution, as IDSN's international associates and Members of the European Parliament retweeted messages on the issue.

The results of IDSN's media work were encouraging, as a number of important media outlets covered the news. The 'India Ink' blog of the New York Times published a lengthy interview with IDSN Executive Director Rikke Nöhrind. The Guardian wrote about the resolution from a bonded labour and slavery perspective, while several Indian publications, including The Hindu, also devoted column space to the event.

Towards the end of the year, dissemination of the EU-financed report on caste discrimination in humanitarian response became an important priority for the IDSN communications officer. 'Equality in Aid' was distributed to a large number of recipients in humanitarian organisations, governments, UN and EU agencies, and the academic world.

Networking within the IDSN and various forms of cooperation between stakeholders in Europe and South Asia maintained momentum with close communication and numerous meetings during the year.

At the beginning of 2013 the IDSN Annual Report 2012 was published and disseminated, and at end of 2013 IDSN collated all the events of the year and collected input from members and associates, to write the 2013 annual report.

INDIA - Dalit women and men in India are protesting, organising and mobilising to push to end violence and discrimination against Dalit women. Asha Kowtal, General Secretary of AIDMAM (holding the microphone in this photograph), has alongside other Dalit women and male leaders been instrumental in pushing for change. Photo: © AIDMAM/NCDHR

Developments in caste-affected countries

South Asia is the region most affected by caste discrimination and 'untouchability' practices. Hence, the most active campaigners for the human rights of caste-affected communities – known across South Asia as Dalits – can be found here, especially in India, but also in Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan. IDS works closely with a number of Dalit rights organisations in these countries.

In 2013, Dalit human rights defenders from across South Asia continued to speak out on the international stage, often as part of IDS advocacy work at the United Nations and the European Union. They also strengthened their cooperation on a regional level.

A significant development in this cooperation was the formation of a 'South Asian Parliamentarians' Forum' which aims to engage government institutions and other actors in the region to address Dalit issues. This happened during a conference on 'Dalit Concerns: Enabling Equity and Inclusion' in Kathmandu in December where parliamentarians from Nepal, India and Bangladesh took part. Other delegates were academics, Dalit human rights defenders, women leaders, human rights activists and government officials.

The Vice-President of Nepal expressed his solidarity and participated at the inaugural session of the conference. Later, a team of conference participants met with the President of Nepal and the Secretary of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and appealed to them to address Dalit rights issues in South Asia.

Later that same month, Dalit human rights defenders from caste-affected countries in the region participated in the UN's South Asian regional consultation on caste discrimination, also in Kathmandu.

A sad example of the similarities between caste-affected South Asian countries can be found in the pioneering Global Slavery Index which was released in October. Both India, Nepal and Pakistan are ranked among the top-five worst slavery offenders together with Mauritania, another caste-affected country. India alone accounts for half of the almost 30 million people on the planet regarded as 'modern slaves'.⁴⁵ The report noted that Dalits are particularly vulnerable to contemporary forms of slavery.

India

The struggle for the rights of India's more than 200 million Dalits made some progress in 2013. Dalit civil society continued to lobby the Government to make legislative changes, and these efforts were partly rewarded, e.g. with the adoption of a new law on manual scavenging. But even in areas where good legislation does exist, lack of implementation – and the resulting impunity – remains a very serious issue.

New laws are useless unless implemented, as we have seen with previous efforts to ensure protection of Dalit rights. Juliette de Rivero, Human Rights Watch, at UN side event on Dalit women

Other key issues for the Dalit movement were the rights of Dalit women, budget allocations for Dalits and other marginalised groups, and land rights. Despite good news in some areas, caste-based violence and discrimination continued unabated. Atrocities – the term often used for human rights violations against Dalits – included rape, murder, other forms of violence, and numerous forms of discrimination.

The fate of three respected Dalit human rights defenders in early 2013 serves as ample illustration of the perils, difficulties, contradictions and occasional rewards of struggling against caste discrimination and 'untouchability' practices in India. One of the three was murdered; another was refused a passport by the Indian authorities; and a third activist received an award from one of India's leading newspapers.

On 12 February, Chandrakant Gaikwad, a 30-year old Dalit human rights defender from Maharashtra, came under attack by a group of dominant caste men, whose leader allegedly shot him dead. Chandrakant Gaikwad had previously filed a case against the murder suspect for committing a crime against Dalits. Because of this, the suspect had reportedly issued a number of threats against him.

Chandrakant Gaikwad was a volunteer with the National Dalit Movement for Justice (NDMJ), part of the National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR). After the murder, NDMJ General Secretary Prasad Sirivella called him a courageous defender of Dalit human rights. "It is a horrible and senseless tragedy that this honourable and important work has cost him his life," he added.⁴⁶

In early January, the Dutch government presented its annual award, the Human Rights Tulip, to Marimuthu Bharathan, a Dalit human rights defender from Tamil Nadu. The award



jury described him as a “tireless champion of better living and working conditions for his country’s Dalits”. He was, however, unable to travel to the ceremony in The Hague, as the Indian authorities had refused to renew his passport, apparently due to a false murder charge.

Mr Bharathan’s work for Dalit rights in Tamil Nadu has put him on a collision course with the state’s authorities who consistently disrupt his work. His difficulties can be seen in the context of caste discrimination as well as the generally shrinking space for civil society in India.⁴⁷ The Government is increasingly limiting the possibility of civil society organisations to receive foreign funding, thus undermining the work of NGOs, including organisations that struggle for Dalit rights.

On a more encouraging note, the grassroots Dalit organisation, Navsarjan Trust, won the Times of India Social Impact Award for its pioneering work on behalf of the legal rights of Dalits and other marginalised communities in the state of Gujarat. When accepting the award, the organisation’s Executive Director, Manjula Pradeep, said that it honoured “not just Navsarjan, but all of those who fight for the rights of the Dalits and other marginalised communities in India.”⁴⁸

“You are a very stratified society, more so than most others, and the caste system is very entrenched. I do think Indian society needs to be challenged about the Dalits because it ends up affecting your humanity. Desmond Tutu, Archbishop Emeritus and Nobel Prize Laureate⁴⁹

One manifestation of caste discrimination is communal violence against Dalits. On 13 April, 400 members of a dominant caste community attacked the Dalit quarter of the village of Pabnava in Haryana. Having failed to break up an inter-caste marriage between a Dalit man and a woman from their caste, they ransacked the homes of 200 families. Six Dalit villagers were injured in the attack. Many Dalits subsequently fled their homes and were effectively forced to live as refugees.

“The deserted houses in Pabnava are mute witnesses to the gloom and fearful atmosphere that arises in the trail of several such instances of brutal caste violence,” a fact-finding team said after visiting the village. It accused the authorities of providing inadequate safety for the Dalit



INDIA · Uma Devi, aged 60-70, married into manual scavenging at the age of 11 or 12. She collects human excrements door to door in her bucket and carries them to a dumping ground. She has tried to leave the job, taking a government loan to set up a business selling snacks, but no one wanted to buy food from her because of her link with manual scavenging work. In 2013, campaigners working to push for amendments to India's manual scavenging act, to ensure for the proper rehabilitation of scavengers, succeeded in part, when new legislation was passed. Still, much remains to be done for the effective elimination of manual scavenging. Photo: © Poulomi Basu/ WaterAid

villagers and added that the government of Haryana had reacted in a very casual way. It also noted that the state had "earned notoriety for large and gruesome cases of caste violence against Dalits".⁵⁰

Attacks against Dalits are mostly carried out with impunity. On 9 October, the High Court in Patna, Bihar, acquitted 26 men who had previously been sentenced for the brutal massacre of 58 Dalits in Laxmanpur Bathe village in 1997. The two judges rules that the witnesses in the case – there had been 90 of them at the original trial in 2010 – were "not reliable". The acquittals angered and shocked the surviving villagers who expressed fear that the armed men would return.

Acquittals have happened in a number of other massacre cases in Bihar, usually involving killings of Dalits and other marginalised groups by members of 'upper caste' militias: "Almost inevitably, in cases where the victims are poor, landless peasants and Dalits, the perpetrators have remained beyond the reach of law," The Hindu wrote in an editorial.⁵¹

I have had mail from Dalit and Adivasi friends asking why we, the feminist women and men of India, and our Prime Minister and high profile people... do not weep copiously or hold candlelight vigils when they, India's Dalits and Adivasi people, are routinely raped, every single day in our country. I have no answer. I can only hang my head in shame. Mari Marcel Thekaekara, Columnist, New Internationalist

Most of the victims in the Laxmanpur Bathe massacre were women and children. Dalit women are particularly vulnerable to different kinds of caste-based violence and discrimination due to the *intersectionality* of caste, gender and, in many cases, poverty. They face multiple forms of human rights abuses, including sexual violence, bonded labour, and a lack of access to justice.

Since December 2012, public attention to violence against women in India has been higher than usual because of

the savage gang rape, and subsequent death, of a young woman in Delhi. However, the countless cases of sexual violence against Dalit women have only warranted a fraction of that attention.⁵² Campaigners are trying to change this as they seek to highlight the plight of India's 100 million Dalit women on a national and international level.

AIDMAM, the Dalit women's platform of NCDHR, is at the forefront of the struggle for these rights. AIDMAM argued that specific references to the vulnerability of Dalit women should be included in the report of the committee, led by former Chief Justice Verma, that was set up to change legislation on sexual crimes. When this did not happen, AIDMAM expressed disappointment.

Dalit organisations carried out a fact-finding mission to Kandhamal District, Odisha, in January to investigate a number of rapes of Dalit Christian girls. In one horrifying incident, a 13-year old girl was gang-raped and murdered by three young men. The team accused the local authorities of "purposefully neglecting the cases of violence against Dalit and minority girls." It also pointed out that these cases do not "figure in the recent discussions on sexual violence and rape in India."⁵³

Throughout the year, Dalit women activists organised meetings, analysed their situation and demanded change. One such occasion was the first ever Dalit and Adivasi women's congress that took place in Mumbai in February. More than 200 Dalit and Adivasi (tribal) women discussed

India

101 stories of violence against Dalit women

In September, the organisation Dalit Media Watch published a compilation of 101 articles on violence committed against Dalit women during the previous nine months. The articles describe cases



of rape, murder, violent reactions to inter-caste marriages, land grabs, harassment and other forms of abuse against Dalit women and girls. The Indian public has generally expressed little outrage over such incidents. This has prompted the editor of the compilation to ask: "Why do some rapes deserve anger and others do not?"⁵⁵

their common struggles against discrimination, exploitation and marginalisation.⁵⁴

In September, AIDMAM organised a 'National Tribunal on Violence against Dalit Women' in New Delhi. The Tribunal heard more than 45 horrifying testimonies of crimes committed against Dalit women – including kidnapping, murder, assault and rape. These crimes have all been committed with impunity. Hence, a 'jury' was present to allow the victims to seek a parallel course of justice.⁵⁶

India

Gang-raped Dalit girl fights for justice

Haryana became notorious in 2012 due to a series of rapes, many of which were committed against Dalit women or girls. In one of the most infamous cases, a 16-year old Dalit girl was gang-raped by a group of up to 10 mainly dominant caste men in the village of Dabra.

The rapists filmed the gang rape on a cell phone and later circulated the video in the village. When the father of the girl saw the video of what his daughter had to go through he committed suicide. Despite this clear video evidence of the rape the police did not register the case until Dalits arranged mass protests.

In May 2013, four of the accused were sentenced to life imprisonment, while six others were acquitted due to lack of evidence. The rape victim was highly dissatisfied with the acquittals.

Various Dalit women campaigns across the country are regularly monitoring the cases of sexual violence against Dalit women, but unfortunately they always hit a dead end; the dominant caste threats, the inadequacy of the law enforcement agencies and the collusion between the two leaves no hope of justice.

Report from the National Tribunal on Dalit women⁵⁷

The jury spoke of the collusion between the police and other authorities in protecting perpetrators of crimes against Dalit women. It found a number of major issues to be recurrent in the many testimonies, including the failure of existing legislation; the corruption of the existing criminal justice system; the collusion of government health care institutions in protecting criminals; and lack of awareness of new legislation.

The Tribunal took place a few weeks after civil society protests against the authorities' handling of an alleged rape and murder case in Jind, Haryana. A 20-year old Dalit

India

Little help for Dalit acid attack survivor

Chanchal Kumari Paswan, a 19-year old Dalit woman from the village of Chitnawan in Bihar, was sleeping on the roof of her house when four young men from a dominant caste attacked her and poured almost a litre of acid on her face. They had been harassing her for months and had threatened her when she ignored them.

Chanchal Kumari Paswan is now severely disfigured, and without financial support to restore her face she has little hope of pursuing her dream of becoming a computer engineer. "But neither the police nor the government seems serious in pushing my case," she said in July 2013, nine months after the attack.⁵⁹

woman was found dead near a canal on 25 August, the day after she had arrived in Jind to take an exam. Her body reportedly bore marks of violence, but an unprecedented three autopsies have proved inconclusive.

A fact-finding team led by AIDMAM was highly critical towards the investigation of the case. In a report published 10 days after the discovery of the body, the team accused the authorities of following "their casteist and patriarchal biases" and trying to make it look as if the young woman was responsible for her own death.⁵⁸

In November, UN women South Asia launched a joint advocacy campaign in India to end violence against women that "aims to increase awareness on violence against Dalit women and call for solutions to address it on a priority basis." The campaign features a video interview with IDSN associate Dr. Ruth Manorama, President of the National Alliance of Women in India.

Another serious manifestation of discrimination against Dalits, and Dalit women in particular, is manual scavenging – a form of caste-based slavery that forces them to clean out dry latrines with their bare hands. Campaigners against this inhuman practice began the year as they had ended the previous one – on the march. The *Maila Mukti Yatra*, involving thousands of former and present manual scavengers, concluded in New Delhi on 31 January after having crossed 18 states over a period of two months.

Despite prohibition of manual scavenging, the practice is still prevalent... This dehumanising practice is inconsistent with the right to live with dignity. Kumari Selja, Minister for Social Justice, India

At the event marking the final day of the march, three ministers promised that the Government of India would allocate more funds for the welfare and rehabilitation of manual scavengers. UN officials also attended the event, and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, sent a strong message of support to the *Yatra*.⁶⁰

The organisers of the march, Rashtriya Garima Abhiyan, and other groups continued their campaign against manual scavenging throughout 2013. Their efforts were rewarded

in September when the Indian parliament passed a long awaited bill on 'The Prohibition of Employment of Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation.'

Previous legislation on the issue dating back from 1993 had been completely ineffective. Campaigners consider the law a step on the way to eradicating manual scavenging, even though it is weak in some areas. One example is the lack of clear provisions for enforcement of the law in government institutions like the Indian Railways, a major employer of manual scavengers. The law also fails to protect Dalit Muslims and Christians who work as manual scavengers, as it only covers 'Scheduled Castes', the official term for Dalit Hindus, Sikhs and Buddhists.

The most important piece of legislation concerning Dalits in India is the SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act that is meant to protect Dalits and Adivasis against violence and discrimination. For years, a broad coalition consisting of hundreds of civil society groups has conducted a nationwide campaign to secure amendments to, and proper implementation of, this law. By the end of 2013, the Government of India had moved closer to amending the Act.

Another important area with a pressing need for new legislation is budget allocations for Dalits. Huge amounts are set aside in government budgets for social programmes involving Dalits – through the Scheduled Castes Sub Plan – but all too often funds are misused, underused or diverted for other purposes.

In early December, a coalition of various groups advocating for legislation on economic rights for Dalits and Adivasis organised a campaign to put forward their demands. They criticised new draft legislation for not adequately addressing the problems. Asha Kowtal of AIDMAM argued that the new bill should aim at bringing in structural changes and added that there had been "massive diversion and pilferage both at the stage of allocations and implementation".

The movement for Dalit economic rights has gained considerable success at state level by establishing Dalit Budget Resource Centres in nine states to create awareness of various budget schemes for the benefit of Dalits. As a result many individuals have benefitted. The movement is hoping to transfer these gains to the national level.⁶¹

The struggle for Dalit land rights gained some momentum in 2013 with the formation of the National Alliance on

INDIA · The POSCO-India industrial project in the state of Odisha threatened thousands of Dalits with forced evictions to make way for a steel plant and a port. According to the report 'The Price of Steel' published in June 2013, the eviction of many landless labourers from the area will "particularly affect Dalits, who tend to be disproportionately landless." The report's authors have called on the Government of India and South Korean steel giant POSCO to suspend the project. In October, eight UN Special Procedures mandate holders joined that call.

Dalit Land Rights (NADLR). In April, thousands of activists marched in New Delhi to launch a new claim petition campaign aiming at mobilising Dalits in 250 of the country's 680 districts to file land claims. This campaign could reach as many as 2.5 million Dalits – an estimated 80 per cent of rural Dalit households are landless.⁶²

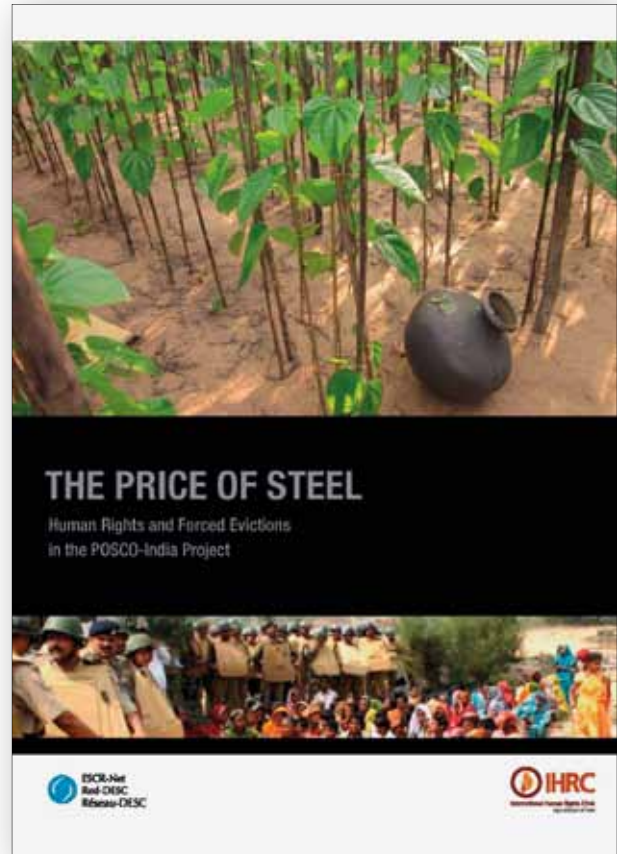
A very serious example of the need for securing land rights for Dalits and other marginalised groups is the POSCO-India industrial project in the state of Odisha. As many as 22,000 people, including thousands of Dalits, are threatened with forced evictions to make way for a steel plant and a port. According to a report published in June 2013, the eviction of many landless labourers from the area will "particularly affect Dalits, who tend to be disproportionately landless."⁶³ The report's authors have called on the Government of India and South Korean steel giant POSCO to suspend the project. In October, eight UN Special Procedures mandate holders joined that call, citing serious human rights concerns.

Land rights were also among the agenda items during the Third National Conference of Dalit Organisations in early December. Thousands of Dalits and other marginalised groups gathered in New Delhi to discuss their concerns. During the Conference, 7,000 participants joined a 'Dalit Dignity March'. The event was organised by the National Confederation of Dalit Organisations (NACDOR) and other groups.

As a society, when we hear about untouchability practices, we should feel outraged, as we would with other criminal acts like murder and rape. It's time we accepted that the practice of untouchability is not the vestigial remains of some backward, social phenomenon or tradition: it's a criminal offence.

Let's start calling it what it is. Stalin K, filmmaker and human rights activist

In 2013, Dalit human rights defenders from India continued to engage in international advocacy work. They provided input for the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, Rashida Manjoo, prior to her visit in April and May, and Dalit women activists met her while she was in India. On the final day of her mission, Ms Manjoo spoke of the



"culture of impunity for violations of the rights of Dalit women".

Human rights defenders from NCDHR, Navsarjan and other Dalit organisations travelled to Geneva, Brussels and Strasbourg to take part in IDS^N interventions. These included the ground-breaking side event on Dalit women during the UN Human Rights Council in June and lobby work leading up to the European Parliament's historic resolution on caste discrimination in October. Organisations like AIDMAM and Navsarjan also made submissions on the issue to UN treaty bodies.

Together with Women in Governance (WinG), NCDHR has initiated a regional training programme for Dalit and Adivasi Women on UN human rights mechanisms. Sessions took place in Bangladesh and India.

NCDHR General Secretary Paul Divakar continues to play an important role in efforts to include the caste issue in the post-2015 global development agenda. As convenor of the Indian umbrella group, Wada Na Todo Abhiyan, which comprises 2,000 civil society organisations, he has been an active participant in the debate on the future global development framework. In September, Paul Divakar visited New York in connection with the UN General Assembly session. He took part in several high level meetings, including a panel debate, where he stressed the need to address inequality and social exclusion of Dalits and similarly discriminated people.



NEPAL · A mob armed with sticks and stones ransacked a Dalit settlement in the village of Pipariya, Rautahat District. More than 65 houses were damaged, 200 people displaced, and 18 Dalits injured, some of them seriously. The incident was triggered by a dispute over the use of a local temple. Local dominant caste people had refused Dalits to enter the temple on several occasions. When they continued to try to enter, their settlement was attacked. The attack was condemned by a number of European missions in Nepal. Photo: © IDSN

Nepal

The November elections to the Constituent Assembly (CA) dominated the political landscape in Nepal throughout 2013. Dalit civil society groups fought hard to secure a level of Dalit political representation that would match the community's share of the country's population. While the result was somewhat disappointing, it was not as bad as the Dalit movement initially feared. Altogether, at least 40 Dalits won seats in the new CA.

Despite the declaration of an 'Untouchability free nation' and the introduction of legislation against caste discrimination, Dalits continue to be discriminated through the social practices of 'untouchability' and by the larger institutional framework that is expected to protect and safeguard citizens' rights. Human rights violations against Dalits are reported every single day all over Nepal. Dalits are placed at the bottom of all development indicators compared to other caste and ethnic groups.

Hopes were high when the 'Untouchability Bill' was adopted in 2011, but so far the law has proved ineffective as it is not being properly implemented. According to the Asian Human Rights Commission, the police often recommend victims of caste discrimination to enter into an agreement with perpetrators of violations against them rather than follow the legal process. In many cases, crimes against Dalits are carried out with impunity as the authorities neglect to investigate and prosecute perpetrators.

Two cases of serious human rights violations against Dalits – the violent assault on a settlement in Rautahat District, and the brutal attack against two journalists in Morang District – attracted particular attention in 2013.

Sadly, I don't think our society is progressive enough when it comes to Dalits. If the educated masses working for human rights had been progressive, such an event, like what happened in Rautahat, would not have occurred in the first place. Durga Sob, President, Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO)

In June, a mob armed with sticks and stones ransacked a Dalit settlement in the village of Pipariya, Rautahat District. More than 65 houses were damaged, 200 people displaced, and 18 Dalits injured, some of them seriously. The incident was triggered by a dispute over the use of a local temple. Local dominant caste people had refused Dalits to enter the temple on several occasions. When they continued to try to enter, their settlement was attacked.

The police were reportedly unreachable during the four hour long attack and only arrived on the scene 24 hours later. By that time, most of the perpetrators had escaped across the border to India, and only two were arrested.⁶⁵

The attack was condemned by a number of European missions in Nepal. In a statement, they described it



as a “stark reminder that much effort is still needed to overcome the scourge of untouchability and identity-based discrimination.”⁶⁶ They also urged the authorities to implement legislation against caste discrimination and called upon all political parties and civil society to raise awareness of the law and promote social inclusion.

Dalit civil society groups launched protests and demanded that the Government of Nepal conduct a fair investigation into the incident and support the victims. Nine organisations organised a fact-finding mission to the area, reporting that most of the village’s female inhabitants had been sent away for safety reasons and that the remaining Dalit villagers were forced to sleep in the open air due to the damages to their houses. The team was led by Nepal National Dalit Social Welfare Organisation (NND SWO), one of IDS N’s Nepalese partners.

That caste discrimination incidents are regularly reported are evidence that the implementation of the law against it is rather lax, and the perpetrators are not in any way brought to book due to their clout or power. It makes a mockery of our own constitution and the law. Editorial, The Himalayan Times⁶⁴

In another much publicised incident, a mob in Morang District brutally attacked a Dalit woman and a male journalist from the Dalit community. Maya Sarki, a mother of two, had mistakenly accused a local man, Jivan Bhetwal, from a dominant caste of attempting to rape her, but apologised to him when it turned out that he was not the culprit.

The apology was apparently not sufficient for Bhetwal’s relatives, including his wife and mother, and other villagers, who called Ms Sarki to a public place, beat her up, smeared her face with black soot, and garlanded her with shoes and slippers. The angry mob also attacked Manoj Bishwakarma, a Dalit journalist and human rights activist who had tried to help Ms Sarki file a complaint about the rape attempt to the police. Reportedly, a larger group of villagers were cheering while this was happening.

The police were initially reluctant to receive a complaint from the two victims, but following intense pressure from Dalit organisations, including Jagaran Media Center, six of the suspected perpetrators were eventually arrested, while an estimated 10 more fled the village. The suspects have since been released on bail, and the case against them is pending.⁶⁷ The National Human Rights Commission expressed concern over the incident.⁶⁸

Throughout the year, Dalit civil society groups, including the Dalit NGO Federation (DNF), Feminist Dalit Organisation (FEDO) and NND SWO, campaigned for the rights of Nepal’s Dalit community, promoted political, social and economic inclusion, monitored human rights violations, and raised awareness of caste discrimination nationally and internationally.

DNF is the driving force behind a ten-year ‘strategy plan on caste-based discrimination and untouchability’ that is being prepared jointly with the National Dalit Commission and other institutions. The aim is to promote cooperation between governmental bodies and Dalit civil society groups in order to eliminate caste discrimination and ‘untouchability’ practices.

BANGLADESH - Dalit children from a cobbler community study at a community school. A Dalit gaining an education in Bangladesh is rare. Activists are fighting to change this. "We want our children to have the opportunities of education - to be teachers, doctors and engineers - the chances we could never dream of," says Moni Rani Das, Co-ordinator of the Dalit Women's Forum in Bangladesh. Photo: © Matthew Becker/Advocacy Project

DNF has also been part of numerous other initiatives, including lobbying with political parties to ensure proportional representation of Dalits in the CA elections, cooperation with the Election Commission to ensure voter registration of Dalits, and efforts to make the police more sensitive to crimes against Dalits.

On 24 May, a coalition of Dalit civil society organisations embarked upon a 12-day nationwide campaign against caste discrimination and 'untouchability'. Their aim was to mobilise significant parts of society – including non-Dalit civil society groups, political parties, and the media – for their cause. The campaign had three aspects: to celebrate the state's commitment toward ensuring equal rights for Dalits; to appeal to the state and other stakeholders to do more for Dalit rights; and to encourage the effective implementation of the country's anti-caste discrimination law.⁶⁹

At the campaign launch, the Minister for Information and Communications admitted that the implementation aspect of the legislation was 'pathetic' and promised that this would change.⁷⁰

Both the starting date – the second anniversary of the adoption of the 'Untouchability bill' – and the final day of the campaign – the anniversary of the date when Nepal was declared an 'untouchability free nation' on 4 June 2006 – were highly symbolic for Nepal's Dalit movement. The campaign finished off with a rally in Kathmandu with more than a 1,000 participants.⁷¹

From 7-11 December, to mark the 65th International Human Rights Day, civil society organisations led by DNF organised the Human Rights National Magna Meet 2013. For the first time, the programme of this collective civil society event was led by a Dalit organisation. The slogan was "Working Together for Human Rights", and a broad range of human rights issues were covered, including gender, caste discrimination, child rights, LBGT, and disability issues.

The election to the Constituent Assembly (CA) finally took place on 19 November after many delays and a protracted political stalemate. Dalit organisations had campaigned tirelessly for an inclusive CA, but their efforts were undermined by the political parties who showed little interest in promoting Dalit candidates. The largest party, Nepali Congress, did not nominate a single Dalit for 'first-past-the-post' seats where 40 per cent of the 601 CA members were elected, and all in all, only two Dalits won seats through this system.

However, many more Dalits secured seats through the proportional representation system that accounts for approximately 55 per cent of the CA seats. By the end of 2013, 40 Dalits (19 men and 21 women) had won seats in

the new CA, and Dalit organisations were lobbying for a share of the final 26 seats that are allocated through party nominations.

The final number of Dalit seats will probably be slightly lower than in the first CA. In 2008, Dalits won eight per cent of the seats, although this did not match their share of the population (13.6 per cent), it was still an unprecedented number. This time, the number will be around seven per cent, and while this is disappointing, there are also some positives worth noting.

So far, there are 21 Dalit women in the second CA, compared to 24 in the first one. However, FEDO believes that this new group is better prepared for parliamentary work than the previous one whose presence in the CA was not an unqualified success. FEDO focused on political empowerment and participation of Dalit women throughout 2013, and worked to build the capacity of Dalit women and their political parties. This should enable Dalit women to make their presence felt in the new CA.

It is important for Nepal's Dalit women to have a strong voice in the CA, as they remain one of the most marginalised groups in the country. They are subjected to violence and discrimination, have little control over resources such as land, housing or money, are forced into the most demeaning jobs, and are very vulnerable to sexual exploitation.

Dalit women are at the receiving end of violence, whether domestic or social, for two reasons: they are treated as the second sex and belong to the most oppressed social group. Hira Bishwakarma, team leader of a study on Dalit women

According to a study conducted by the Dalit Studies and Development Center (DSDC) on behalf of FEDO, economic empowerment of Dalit women is the key to combating violence against them. Rather than focusing on the lack of effective acts, regulations etc., the report cites poverty, illiteracy and ignorance on the part of both victims and culprits as the main reason behind the prevalence of violence against Dalit women and children in Nepal.⁷²

Dalit human rights campaigners continued to be active on the international stage, taking part in IDS lobby interventions at UN and EU level, and supporting other initiatives such as the formation of the South Asian Parliamentarians Forum that took place in Kathmandu in December.



Bangladesh

In the context of violent political unrest and a sharply deteriorating human rights environment, the Dalit movement in Bangladesh continued its difficult struggle for the rights of the estimated 6.5 million Dalits, one of the country's most marginalised and impoverished communities.

Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Rights Movement (BDERM) is one of the main groups promoting Dalit human rights. In 2013, it mainly focused on lobby and advocacy work with relevant stakeholders – e.g. relevant government departments and ministries, The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and the Law Commission of Bangladesh – in order to secure the enactment of specific legislation against caste discrimination.

Progress was made, as the NHRC and the Law Commission are now jointly working on a law against discrimination and untouchability practices. BDERM had numerous meetings with these two bodies in 2013, and submitted suggestions for a draft 'Anti-Discrimination Act' to the Law Commission on 26 October.

In the Universal Periodic Review session in April, the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh referred to the Dalit issue during her presentation of the human rights situation report on

Bangladesh. But the Government of Bangladesh only partly accepted the specific recommendations of two UN member states to address the Dalit human rights issue.

BDERM continued to lobby parliamentarians. On 9 September, six parliamentarians participated in a consultation on caste discrimination and committed to promote Dalit rights. A further 25 expressed their solidarity in writing or over the phone. Following this consultation, parliamentarians from Bangladesh, India and Nepal took part in the regional parliamentarians' conference in Kathmandu, Nepal, on 8-9 December. The conference led to the formation of a platform named the 'South Asian Parliamentarians' Forum'.

Apart from the generally serious political situation in the country, many other challenges remain for the Dalit human rights movement. These include a lack of political leadership. There are no Dalit representatives in the national parliament, so issues concerning the country's Dalit community are not on the agenda. Though the Government has allocated some funds in the national budget in last three years, these funds are inadequate to meet the needs of the Dalit community.

For the fiscal year 2013-2014, the Government allocated 123.0 million Taka (appr. 1.16 million Euro) for the social

welfare of Dalit communities. The Ministry responsible for implementing the programme ensured BDERM participation in the planning meeting and district level implementation committees. While some development agencies (NGOs) are increasingly allocating development projects for Dalit communities, a collective voice of the different stakeholders for their basic rights is yet to emerge.

BDERM has submitted a memorandum to the Vice-Chancellors of 12 Public Universities demanding special admission *quotas* for Dalit students. Dhaka University authority gave a special admission facility for Dalit students in the academic year 2013-14. In 2012-2013, Jahangirnagar University gave a special admission facility for five Dalit students in a direct response to BDERM lobbying.

As part of its campaign work, BDERM organised human chains and rallies on the International Day for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (21 March) in 27 districts across the country. This campaign helped to create mass awareness of Dalit Human Rights in Bangladesh. BDERM also observed World Dignity Day (5 December) and International Human Rights Day (10 December) in 30 districts across the country.

On 13 December, a media consultation took place in Dhaka. The topic of the consultation was "Dalit Peoples' Poor Socio-economic Condition and Development Crisis". The BDERM leaders focused on the deprived social and economic condition of the Dalit community. The consultation made civil society representatives and journalists more aware about the real conditions of the Dalit community, and they committed to raise their voice for the advancement of the community.

BDERM organised numerous seminars with different partners, including the NGO Nagorik Uddyog, the NHCR and the Law Commission. On 3 February, the two commissions organised a seminar on "Legal Protection to implement Citizen' Rights of Dalit as Marginal Community" with BDERM as co-organiser. A total of 250 Dalit representatives attended the event. The following month, BDERM leaders spoke at a national consultation on "Equal Opportunities for all: Towards an Anti-discrimination Legislation". On 11 May, political activists, civil society representatives and Dalit leaders spoke at a seminar on the issue of special allocations for Dalits in the national budget.

BDERM representatives attended the UPR session on Bangladesh in Geneva on 29 April. A series of lobby meetings were also organised with diplomats in different

states and a Bangladeshi diplomat in Geneva before the actual session. After the review, BDERM, as member of Human Rights Forum Bangladesh (a coalition of 19 human rights and development organizations), organised a daylong seminar on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). The main objective of the seminar was to push the Government for more specific and time-bound commitments and to get acceptance for the pending recommendations (two on the Dalit issue) in the final plenary session in September 2013.

BDERM representatives Sonu Rani Das and Tamana Sing Baraik participated in the 23rd Session of UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland. This session gave them the opportunities to discuss the situation and challenges of the Dalit communities in Bangladesh.

In 2013 BDERM organised 23 district meetings and formed BDERM district committees. BDERM also organised seven divisional meetings in Barisal, Khulna, Dinajpur, Moulvibazar (Shylet), Rangpur, Rajshahi and Chittagong in this year. Divisional level government officers, City Corporation Mayors, civil society members and local Dalit representatives participated in those divisional meetings and spoke on the Dalit issue.

Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Women Federation (BDEWF) – a national platform of Dalit women led organisations – organised the 2nd Dalit women rights conference on 14 December. About 200 Dalit women participated in this conference from across the country.

BDERM also organised training programmes for Dalit leaders, activists and Dalit women. The participants received training on leadership and individual organisational development.

BDERM has also been working through its partner organisations. They organised 89 rights-based awareness meetings in Dhaka, Narayanganj, Moulvibazar, Jessore and Barisal among their community. They are also running 10 informal schools in these areas. Moreover, these organisations provide skills training – such as sewing, bloc-boutique, professional driving etc. Building a strong network among those organisations will make BDERM a bigger movement.

BDERM continued publishing its newsletter covering community news and its own activities. It also published a book on "Dalit Initiatives in Bangladesh" as well as posters and calendars.

Pakistan

The year 2013 was an important one in the history of Pakistan. It was the first time that a democratically elected government completed its five-year term. Despite threats by the Taliban, people went to vote and elected new members of parliament. The transfer of power to the new government happened peacefully.

Unfortunately, the country remained in the shadow of terror throughout the year. The Taliban continued to attack police, para-military forces and common citizens. Violence against vulnerable communities – especially minorities – continued. The worst incident was the attack on a church in Peshawar that killed over 100 Christians. Practices of systematic violence, such as bonded labour which very often involves Dalits, also continued in 2013.

The Pakistan Dalit Solidarity Network (PDSN) carried on its struggle for justice for marginalised communities, particularly Dalits, officially known as scheduled castes. During the election campaign, it held a series of events, highlighting the situation of Dalits, and urging political parties to address their issues and give them due representation.

PDSN also raised awareness through the media of the situation of Dalits took up the issue with official authorities. It paid solidarity visits to affected areas and provided assistance to victims. Network member organisations carried out a number of activities directed at marginalised sections of society.

Unfortunately, the rape of a Dalit woman is considered an act “for granted” because of their inferior social status in Pakistani society, so hardly any action is taken against the influential and wealthy landlords. Scheduled castes are living miserable lives with no protection of their honour and property. Dr. Sono Khangharani, PDSN member

A particularly horrifying case of violence against Dalits was the rape – and subsequent murder – of Kaku Kohli, a young woman from Umerkot district, Sindh province. In October, she and her sister were allegedly gang-raped by the sons of a local landlord. The suspects were briefly detained at the police station, but they were soon freed, and the police took no further action. Six weeks later, on 28 November, one of the rape suspects stopped Kaku Kohli and her mother in the street, held up the young woman at gun point and shot her dead, allegedly asking “how a bloody *Kohli* girl dared go to the police against us.”

Following this incident, PDSN issued a statement which was published in leading papers. A delegation was sent to the area to meet the victim’s family and offer them support. As a result of PDSN’s efforts, the suspect has been arrested, and PDSN is providing legal assistance to the victim’s family.⁷³

Another violent incident was the desecration of the body of Bhooro Bheel, a Dalit folk singer killed in a road accident, in Badin District of Sindh Province in October. A mob of Muslims led by a religious clerk dragged his body from the grave and dumped it on a road nearby. They claimed that the burial of a Dalit man would pollute the graveyard.

PDSN released a statement, and Dalit activists went to the area to support the community. They were followed by a three member PDSN fact-finding mission that visited the affected area and produced a report which clearly indicated the level of violence against Dalits. After the mission, a civil society delegation including PDSN members paid a solidarity visit and held meetings with local political leaders. This resulted in the arrests of the responsible people and the announcement of land for a separate graveyard for scheduled castes.

PDSN took up the issue of rising violence against Dalits at different levels and wrote letters to human rights bodies, including the official Human Rights Commission in the province of Sindh. PDSN also raised issues faced by Dalits in a meeting with the law minister who informed the delegation that a four member committee has been formed to work on laws that can benefit Hindus, particularly Dalits.

Prior to the elections in May, PDSN organised a series of dialogue events to raise Dalit issues and urge political parties to address them. The first event titled ‘Upcoming elections and representation of scheduled castes in the assemblies’ was held at Hyderabad Press Club on 27th March. Participants demanded equality for scheduled castes and urged political parties to include Dalits on their lists of candidates.⁷⁴

Another event was held the same month in Mithi, the main city of Tharparkar, which is home to a large number of Dalits. Four candidates from political parties took part in this event, including a member of the largest party, the Pakistan People’s Party. They pleaded to protect the rights of scheduled castes if elected. This was the first event in the area, during the election campaign, that exclusively highlighted the issues of scheduled castes and other vulnerable groups. Similar events took place in Mirpur Khas and Sanghar, two other districts with a sizeable Dalit population.

PDSN also held a series of press conferences in Karachi, Hyderabad, Mithi and Sanghar in which problems of

INDIA · The hand of a brick kiln worker trapped in modern-slavery. In 2013, the Walk Free Foundation released a global index on modern slavery. According to the index, India alone accounts for half of the people on the planet regarded as 'modern slaves'. Caste systems are present in four out of five countries ranked the worst slavery offenders and the index cites caste and tribe systems as main factors influencing the prevalence of modern slavery in India, singling out Dalits and Adivasis as the most vulnerable. Many Dalit Solidarity Networks in Europe worked to raise awareness of the vulnerability of Dalits to modern slavery and to push for better opportunities for Dalits to gain proper employment in the private sector. Photo: © Pete Pattison

scheduled castes were raised in relation to elections, and political parties were urged to give due representation to Dalits and resolve relevant issues, including discrimination, housing and bonded labour. PDSN also raised the issue of equality in one-to-one meetings with candidates when they visited Dalit villages.

The Scheduled Castes Rights Movement, a PDSN member, also organised a series of events including public meetings in Rahimyar Khan and other cities of southern Punjab province where issues of Dalits were raised and highlighted ahead of the elections.

More than a dozen Dalit candidates contested the elections. Most of them were independent candidates without political party affiliation. The one exception was Mr Gian Chand, an active PDSN member who contested a seat for the Pakistan People's Party. He secured 38,000 votes but lost by a small margin.

Another active Dalit candidate was Vero Kolhi, a released bonded labourer who ran in Hyderabad against a former minister. She lost, but showed great courage and determination in running against a powerful politician. PDSN offered financial and moral support to her and other Dalit candidates.

Although a fair number of Dalits contested the elections, not one was able to win a general seat. However, one Dalit has a reserved seat for minorities in the National Assembly, and two have similar seats in provincial assemblies.

Dalit activists and PDSN members organised a long march from Mirpur Khas to Hyderabad to raise the issue of violation of rights of Dalits. Besides such direct activities by the network, member organisations of PDSN also remained actively engaged in activities and actions that focused on minority rights in general and rights of Dalits in particular.

As in previous years, PDSN was involved in international work through IDS. In January, PDSN and IDS submitted a joint shadow report on Dalit women to the UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). PDSN members took part in various UN events, including the side event on Dalit women in Geneva in June, and the South Asian regional consultation on caste discrimination, which was organised by the OHCHR and took place in Kathmandu in December.

Developments in European countries

In 2013, the United Kingdom became the first European country to legislate against caste discrimination. This historic move came about after years of tireless lobbying and campaigning by a number of civil society organisations, including the Dalit Solidarity Network UK (DSN-UK).

Across Europe, other Dalit Solidarity Networks (DSNs) continued to raise awareness of caste discrimination as a serious human rights issue and lobby their governments and politicians to take action against it. It is often difficult for them to operate in a political environment that mostly gives priority to trade relations with India, rather than the human rights of Dalits. Some DSNs have, however, achieved good results – not least in contributing to IDS's lobby work prior to the European Parliament's resolution on caste discrimination that was adopted in October.

Members of the eight European DSNs took part in a number of IDS events during the year. In June, they all met in Copenhagen to discuss strategies and exchange information about their work. In December, three of them were involved in a meeting, also in Copenhagen, on caste discrimination in global value chains. The event was organised by the Danish Ethical Trading Initiative.

Netherlands (DNN)

Despite some encouraging remarks by the Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs in the budget session of December 2012 and positive – though short and restrained – answers to various parliamentary questions in 2013, it seems that the Dalit issue is now receiving less priority from the Ministry.

This trend became particularly visible after the National Dutch human rights award was given to a Dalit activist from Tamil Nadu who is – falsely, say human rights organisations – accused of murder. The award winner, Dalit human rights activist Marimuthu Bharathan, could not be present at the award ceremony in January, as he was not given a passport by the Indian authorities. The DNN coordinator read out part of the acceptance speech on his behalf. The award ceremony received substantial publicity in the Dutch media,⁷⁵ and the Chair of the Jury, Cisca Dresselhuys, noted in her speech that "the Indian government was not really happy with the message. [...] There was a warning that the good relations between The Netherlands and India could be significantly harmed if the award went to Mr. Bharathan".⁷⁶

On a more positive note, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Frans Timmermans, did discuss the Dalit issue with his Indian counterpart during a visit to India in November. The Dutch government is also supporting some Dalit-related projects.



There is also increased attention to Dalits as a discriminated and exploited group in the supply chain of Dutch and multinational companies. This issue was highlighted in various meetings in The Netherlands, Norway and Denmark with DNN participation, and also covered in media reports on labour rights violations and discrimination in the garment and seed industry in India. The co-ordinator of DNN briefed around 30 companies participating in a trade mission to India that also brought up the Dalit issue. There will probably be more opportunities in the coming years to bring up the Dalit issue in relation to one of the Dutch human rights priorities, including human rights defenders, position of women, child labour and – not the least CSR and fundamental labour rights.

In 2013, DNN continued its political advocacy and lobby toward the Dutch Parliament and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through letters and meetings with a number of MPs and officials from the Ministry. The work has resulted in various parliamentary questions, remarks during parliamentary debates and responses by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Two series of parliamentary questions raised the issue of sexual violence against Dalit women and the shrinking space of civil society in India. Mr Timmermans answered that his government was “making efforts to ensure that the topic discrimination based on work and descent continues to receive attention on the agenda of the EU and UN.” He also expressed support for the resolution of the European Parliament on violence against women in India.

In another written question regarding a new policy paper on human rights, Parliament asked how The Netherlands would “give priority to the roughly 300 million Dalits (‘outcastes’), especially in South Asia, who are victims of violations related to all these issues, as the Parliament has also expressed in its resolution of 29 June 2011?” The answer was rather restrained: “National legislation for the protection of Dalits is sufficiently available, but following up of this legislation often still runs into inadequate local implementation especially in rural areas. The recently adopted resolution about the position of Dalits gives clear recommendations for the EU human rights policy.”

There was continued media attention to the issue of bonded labour and exploitation of (mainly) Dalit girls in the Indian textile and garment industries. The latest media publication in 2013 was a long investigative article in the progressive US Magazine ‘Mother Jones’ (circulation in print: more than 200.000) – to which DNN member the India Committee of the Netherlands (ICN) and its partners in Tamil Nadu contributed. The caste element of the exploitation was highlighted in this article.

A large number of articles were published on DNN’s Dutch and English website www.dalits.nl. Many of these were translated from articles published by IDSN. DNN briefed several journalists on the Dalit issue and published an opinion article. The website had 61,030 visits, an approximate rise of 12 per cent compared to 2012. Information on Dalits was distributed regularly to around 6,000 organizations, policy makers and persons



internationally and in The Netherlands through ICN's India Newsletter. The English version was published 13 times in 2013 and the Dutch version 18 times.⁷⁷

DNN focused specifically on the issue of Dalit women in public meetings, articles, letters to Parliament and in interaction with MPs and journalists. A Dalit woman who has worked in a spinning mill and is now an activist against the Sumangali system of bonded labour spoke at a meeting organised by ICN. DNN is finalising a Dutch language brochure on violence against Dalit women.

Work on the issue of CSR and Dalits continued in 2013. DNN coordinator Gerard Oonk was the keynote speaker at a seminar in Oslo on labour and caste, and he spoke at a meeting in Copenhagen on Dalits and CSR and a seminar in Brussels on slavery and labour rights. ICN and DNN also included the issue of caste discrimination in a number of publications and activities around supply chains of both the textile/garment and the seed industry in India.

ICN/DNN has contributed to IDSN activities in the context of the EU and UN lobby/advocacy work by regularly informing Dutch MEPs and other EU officials about the Dalit issue and by carrying out lobby activities in the Human Rights Council with the IDSN team.

In 2013, DNN made a Dutch version of the IDSN introductory film on caste discrimination, 'We are not untouchable'. The network published reports, brochures and around 50 articles on the Dalit issue.

United Kingdom (DSN-UK)

Key activities of DSN-UK in 2013 included advocacy and campaigning in the UK Parliament; working with the corporate sector in the UK and internationally; international work through IDSN; and raising awareness through the media and promotional events.

In April 2013, caste discrimination was outlawed in the UK as the Government tabled a last-minute amendment to the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Bill. This step activated Clause 9(5)(a) of the Equality Act to finally legislate against caste discrimination.

This historic move was preceded by a major parliamentary standoff, during which the House of Lords voted twice for legal protection of Dalits who live in the UK. After a political tug-of-war between the two houses of Parliament, the government was forced to rethink, knowing that any further delays would jeopardize the entire legislative process. Hence, the Dalits and the campaigners who have worked alongside them for many years were able to celebrate the government's change of heart, as it agreed to 'activate' the Ministerial power in the Equality Act 2010.

The Bill was formally approved on 29 April, and the caste discrimination legislation was to be activated two months later. However, the UK Government succumbed to pressure from the anti-legislation lobby and agreed to a lengthy and unnecessary consultation period before implementation of the legislation. The proposed timetable for the consultation will run through to the summer of 2015 – and probably after the next general election. This unprecedented consultation period means that the Government can repeal the legislation before it is implemented.

DSN-UK will continue the battle for equality in the UK, with the support of many parliamentarians. DSN-UK Director Meena Varma coordinates the All Party Parliamentary Group for Dalits, whose members have led on the debate in both the House of Lords and Commons.

During a visit to London in November, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, said that "strong, swift implementation" of the amended Equality Act 2010 was needed to wipe out the "insidious stain" of caste-based discrimination and protect the tens of thousands of people in the UK from traditionally lower status Asian backgrounds.

The long-running case of *Begraj v Heer Manak Solicitors*, which raises issues of alleged caste discrimination, collapsed in very unusual circumstances. Caste discrimination was one of many claims in this case. Vijay Begraj, a former practice manager at the Coventry solicitors firm Heer Manak, and his wife Amardeep, a former solicitor at the same firm, are contesting their case at a Birmingham employment tribunal. The hearing commenced in August 2011. In an unexpected twist, the case collapsed in February 2013 on a technicality



UNITED KINGDOM · Anti-caste campaigners protest in the streets of London. Photo © DSN-UK

and may now be subject to a retrial. In November, the couple attained a hearing at the High Court. There is still no news of the outcome of their appeal.

As the priorities of the Department for International Development (DfID) have changed immeasurably in the past two years, DSN-UK has engaged less with this body than previously. The planned withdrawal of DfID funding for India from 2015 will leave the poorest and most marginalised people, including Dalits, with even less access to the benefits of living in the world's second fastest growing economy.

DSN-UK raised the issue of caste discrimination in Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh in meetings with officials of the UK Government.

DSN-UK continued to work through the board of the Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) on labour rights issues involving Dalits in sourcing countries. There is now more understanding that international brands must address the caste issue in order to address labour rights issues in supply chains in India.

The ETI has a Base Code based on international labour standards. As part of this Code, members agree not to discriminate on the basis of *caste* and other norms. This is, however, very difficult to verify, and many companies report that there is no caste-based discrimination. In the Indian context, this is simply not a possible outcome.

Since 2011, the ETI has begun to implement new ways of tackling key sectors in key sourcing countries. DSN-UK leads ETI's work in addressing labour rights in the Rajasthan stone quarries and is also active in efforts to end the Sumangali scheme of bonded labour in Tamil Nadu.

DSN-UK continues to play an active support and lobby role alongside other IDSN members in advocacy work at the United Nations. DSN-UK also took part in IDSN lobby work leading up to the European Parliament's resolution on caste discrimination in October.

At the Communion Service held in the House of Lords' chapel on January 23 during the Christian Week of Prayer, the Lords chaplain invited Dalit activist, Elizabeth Joy, to

lead the service. Her account moved many of those who attended.

Due to the legislative process, there has been worldwide media interest in the issue of Dalits in the UK with more than 250 mentions. The media in India and Nepal have been particularly interested – the DSN-UK Director recently gave a long interview to the Times of India's main correspondent. She also gave a series of BBC live interviews before the rallies held in Parliament Square. Other coverage has included the BBC Asian Network and the Hindu newspaper. The DSN-UK Director is also a regular tweeter @DSNUK.

DSN-UK and IDSN partnered with Human Rights Watch and other NGOs for the screening of the epic documentary *Jai Bhim Comrade* at the Human Rights Watch Film Festival in London in March.⁷⁸

Belgium (SDB)

The most visible activity of Solidarité Dalits Belgique (SDB) in 2013 was the presentation of the IDSN photo exhibition at Brussels Cathedral in September. SDB also continued to raise awareness of the Dalit struggle for human rights at the political level and among the Belgian public.

The photo exhibition in the St Michael and St Gudule Cathedral lasted 10 days and presented the Belgian version of the IDSN exhibition '260 million reasons to act'. Several thousand visitors to the Cathedral had the opportunity to see the exhibition and become aware of the inhuman practices imposed on Dalits throughout South Asia. The same exhibition was presented on five different occasions during the year, e.g. in a municipal library and secondary schools.

A round table discussion organised by SDB with representatives from IDSN and Dalit human rights campaigners from India and Nepal also improved the awareness of the Belgian public of caste discrimination and the struggle for Dalit human rights in South Asia.

Late in the year, SDB was involved in a cultural event in Brussels, featuring photographs of Dalit villages in Tamil Nadu and Bihar. The photo-exhibition "*Dalits: the untouchable truth*" was part of "*Let's Art India*", an alternative contribution to the official international arts festival "*Europalia India*" in the centre of Brussels.

Direct relations between the Belgian authorities and South Asia are usually very limited. Prior to a rare visit to India by a high-level economic delegation in November, SDB lobbied the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to introduce the Ambedkar Principles to the delegation. However, the Ministry claimed that the principles went "beyond pure economic dimensions and contains a position that is not for them to endorse."

Regular updates on the website www.dalit.be and occasional radio interviews with SDB members presented main developments in the struggle for Dalit human rights at the national and international level.

Denmark (DSN-DK)

The Dalit Solidarity Network in Denmark took part in two public debate events in 2013. Under the auspices of ActionAid Denmark's Global Platform, a public event with workshops and various activities was held in September, and DSN-DK hosted a workshop on progress and future perspectives in the fight against caste discrimination. The Danish version of the IDS film 'We are not untouchable' was shown at the workshop. The event inspired Copenhagen University students to arrange a well-attended debate meeting on caste discrimination later in the year – DSN-DK was represented in the panel along with three academics.

A long-standing constructive dialogue with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs continued. Before an official visit by Denmark's Minister for Development Cooperation to Nepal, DSN-DK and Nepali Dalit organisations jointly raised key concerns and recommendations in a letter to the Minister, who later confirmed that the topic had been addressed in high-level meetings.

DSN-DK was pleased to see a strong focus on Dalit issues in the renewed programme strategy for Danish development cooperation with Nepal.

DSN-DK continued its work with MPs, Danish media, students and researchers, who increasingly seek information on caste discrimination.

In connection with the European Parliament's resolution on caste-based discrimination, DSN-DK distributed information to media outlets, officials and all members of the Danish Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee and the European Affairs Committee. The resolution and the issue of caste discrimination were highlighted in print media and IDS Executive Director appeared on national TV three times. An important development in terms of media attention is that caste issues are taken into analysis of other subjects, such as slavery or gender violence.

Work through the Danish Ethical Trading Initiative continued. DSN-DK met with key stakeholders and representatives of ETIs in Norway and the UK to discuss a draft position paper on caste discrimination. The discussion at the meeting presented options for completion of the document with operational pointers for companies, with a view to making a joint paper for the different ETI chapters.

The organisation The Swallows awarded DSN-DK the Swallows Prize (Svaleprisen) for "commitment and work for the elimination of caste-based discrimination". Representatives of DSN-DK received the prize at the 50th anniversary celebration of The Swallows.

Finland (DSN-Fi)

The Dalit Solidarity Network in Finland continued its political lobbying efforts in 2013 with some very positive results. The highlight was undoubtedly Foreign Minister Erkki Tuomioja's announcement that Finland would take active measures to fight caste discrimination. Another important development was the cooperation with the leadership of the big paper industry company Stora Enso which promised to improve its policy on Dalits.

The Foreign Minister's statement came in October at a panel discussion on the caste issue during the Development Week of the University of Helsinki Students' Union. Erkki Tuomioja also promised to include caste discrimination in the agenda of his next visit to India. His discussion with MP Annika Saarikko and Editor-in-chief Tapani Ruokanen was one of two panel discussions organised by DSN-Fi during the Development Week, one of the network's main activities in 2013.

Anti-discrimination and stronger participation are central in the Finnish policy, and most vulnerable groups require special attention. There is every reason to include Dalits as a distinctive group.

Erkki Tuomioja, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Finland

DSN-Fi believes that Mr Tuomioja's statement was influenced by the European Parliament's resolution on caste discrimination in October. In a small country like Finland, a 'new' theme can become important if raised from many directions at the same time.

General awareness of the situation of Dalits seems to be increasing in Finland. India hit the headlines in the beginning of the year because of the gang-rape incident in Delhi. The attention of the media focused on the sad conditions of Indian women, and a number of articles mentioned the particular problems of Dalit women.

In January, DSN-Fi provided recommendations for the bilateral development negotiations between Finland and Nepal in Kathmandu. In the final document, there were several mentions of Dalits and caste discrimination.

That same month, DSN-Fi board member Minna Havunen spoke at an NGO hearing arranged by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to prepare for Finland's new international human rights strategy. She called for inclusion of Dalits to the list of most vulnerable groups.

In March, the DSN-Fi chairperson Mikko Malkavaara gave an overview on caste discrimination and the situation of Dalits to the Employment and Equality Committee of the Finnish

Parliament. This happened prior to the Committee's trip to India.

In September, a group of 11 Finnish NGOs, including DSN-Fi, published a joint document on the UN Millennium Development Goals and the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The signatories demanded that the Finnish government pay particular attention to caste discrimination.

Another positive result of DSN-Fi's lobby work in 2013 was further signatures by Finnish Members of the European Parliament for IDS-N's petition to end caste discrimination. Eight out of 13 Finnish MEPs have now signed the petition.

An investigative report by FinnWatch about labour rights at the company Stora Enso Inpac's two paper mills in Tamil Nadu, India, was published in September. DSN-Fi contributed to the parts of the report that concerned caste. Following publication, DSN-Fi endorsed the recommendations of FinnWatch and urged companies operating in India to be more aware of caste-based discrimination.

At the time of field research for the report in April–June 2013, the company had not taken active measures to improve conditions of female and Dalit workers. After the report was published, Stora Enso began to implement several improvements. The company also invited representatives of FinnWatch and DSN-Fi to its headquarters where it indicated its aim of becoming a model enterprise in the field of preventing caste discrimination. The parties agreed on a follow-up meeting in the spring of 2014.

The cooperation with FinnWatch resulted in DSN-Fi becoming a member of the organisation. DSN-Fi was also accepted as a member of Kepa, the umbrella group for Finnish civil society organisations that work with development cooperation or are otherwise interested in global affairs. With a membership of around 300 CSOs Kepa is an important factor in Finland.

The Finnish version of the IDS-N exhibition featuring photographs by Jakob Carlsen was on public display four times at different venues.

Norway (DSN-Norway)

In 2013, the Dalit Solidarity Network in Norway continued its lobby activities and added corporate social responsibility (CSR) to its portfolio. A positive reply from the Minister of Foreign Affairs to a parliamentary question on caste discrimination was a very important development.

As in previous years, the Norwegian Forum for Human Rights submitted a joint statement to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) addressing five country situations and five thematic human rights issues of importance at the UN; caste discrimination was one of these issues. The forum is a

joint coalition working on human rights issues where several DSN-Norway members are active participants.

In February, DSN-Norway and Stalin K, Indian filmmaker and activist, had a meeting with the Norwegian Parliament's Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defense, represented by MP Peter Gitmark from the Conservative party. Stalin K described caste discrimination as a "global challenge that requires a global response".

"The apartheid regime in South Africa provoked strong reactions from the international community – the struggle against caste discrimination deserves the same level of attention." Stalin K speaking in Norway

In March, DSN-Norway and Initiative for Ethical Trade (IET) organised a seminar on CSR and caste discrimination in Oslo. The seminar titled *Better Business without Caste Discrimination* included keynote speakers Dr. Surinder Jodhka, Professor of Sociology at JNU, New Delhi, Dr. Christodas Ghandi, a leading civil servant from Tamil Nadu, and Gerard Oonk, Coordinator of the Dalit Network Netherlands. The seminar was the first initiative to engage Norwegian companies and branches of the Norwegian state facilitating economic activity on the Indian sub-continent. A report from the seminar and the activities surrounding the seminar is available on www.dalit.no.

In addition to the CSR-seminar, DSN-Norway and Dr. Christodas Ghandi had meetings with an MP from the Christian Democrats, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), as well as Norwegian investors. The meeting with the MP resulted in a written question to the Minister of Foreign Affairs presented in Parliament.

The Minister's answer was in many ways a breakthrough in DSN-Norway's advocacy efforts. The Minister said that Norway is of the opinion that the caste system must be abolished and that he greatly appreciates the information the MFA receives from DSN-Norway. The Minister also said in a meeting with the Rafto Foundation (member of DSN-Norway) shortly afterwards that he would address caste discrimination with the Indian Minister of Foreign Affairs during a forthcoming visit to Norway.

In August, DSN-N was invited to meet with the MFA again to provide policy input and information on how it would like to see Norwegian authorities address caste-based discrimination. The conclusion from the meeting was that there was now a political will to address caste-based discrimination. DSN-Norway believes that this is a result of advocacy work during the past two years.

In October, the Norwegian voters elected a new conservative government; DSN-Norway is expectant that the new government will continue supporting the struggle against caste discrimination.

Sweden (DSN-S)

In 2013, the Dalit Solidarity Network in Sweden (DSN-S) became a formally registered organisation. DSN-S continued to cooperate with the Friends of Village Community Development Society (VCDS). This organisation consists of teachers, who during their studies have spent time with a Dalit NGO in the south of India and financially support evening schools for Dalit children. The teachers are well aware of the Dalit question and thus make up a resource in spreading information on the issue.

As in the previous two years DSN-S, in cooperation with VCDS, participated in the annual Human Rights Forum, which this year took place in Stockholm. At a one-hour seminar, they provided information about the caste system and the struggle to eradicate caste-based discrimination, and screened the film 'We are not untouchable'. P. K. Mahanandia, who originates from Orissa, spoke about his experience as a Dalit child.

In February, a book 'From Delhi to Borås' written by Per J. Anderson was published. The first chapter is about P. K. Mahanandia's childhood. The book has been widely distributed.

In 2012, a leading Dalit activist, Ruth Manorama, visited Sweden and had a meeting with four parliamentarians together with three scholars from different universities in Delhi and Mumbai. In 2013, three of the parliamentarians visited Ms Manorama in Bangalore, India, and also had meetings with some Dalit politicians.

The Swedish MEP and former Minister for Development Cooperation, Alf Svensson, made a strong statement on caste discrimination in March. Referring to the report to the European Parliament on caste-based discrimination, he said that future EU cooperation with India must prioritize efforts against this form of discrimination.

The Swedish government, though, remains silent on the issue. DSN-S is concerned that the government seems to give lower priority to human rights in its foreign policy.

In 2014, DSN-S will organise an art exhibition in Stockholm in August-September, featuring paintings by Dalit artist Savi Sawarkar. He will be invited to Stockholm for the occasion. The network plans to arrange a seminar in connection with the exhibition.

Organisation, administration and finance

Council

The 10th IDS Council meeting took place in Geneva on February 25-26, 2013, gathering 30 representatives from Dalit platforms, Dalit Solidarity Networks (DSNs), international and national associates of IDS. While most of the meeting was dedicated to strategy discussions, it also provided space for sharing information on developments and planning of core interventions. The strategy discussions were informed by the Executive Group's (EG) strategy meeting (September 2012) and further input from members. The Council decided to maintain the current core programmes of IDS, and further consider regional approaches by the Dalit movement in particular at the South Asian level and strengthening of the links between international and national level work.

The Dalit Solidarity Network-Norway (DSN-N) was welcomed as a new member to IDS and its coordinator, Sandra Petersen, Director of the Norwegian Human Rights Fund, was elected to the Executive Group.

Executive group (EG)

As from February 2013, the Executive Group has the following members:

- Manjula Pradeep, Navsarjan Trust, India – Co-convenor
- Meena Varma, Dalit Solidarity Network, UK – Co-convenor
- Paul Divakar, National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights, India
- Durga Sob, Feminist Dalit Organisation, Nepal
- Sandra Petersen, Dalit Solidarity Network, Norway
- Rikke Nöhrind, IDS, Ex-officio member

Gerard Oonk of the Dalit Network Netherlands finished his long-term service to the EG, receiving much appreciation for his highly valued contribution.

The EG held its bi-annual meetings in February in Geneva and in Brussels in September, respectively. On both occasions, meetings were linked to lobby interventions and solidarity events.

ECOSOC

ECOSOC consultative status provides NGOs with access to various UN bodies, including human rights mechanisms. Since IDS first submitted its application for this status to the Committee on NGOs in 2007, IDS has received 62

written questions from one member of the Committee, namely India, resulting in continuous deferral of the application by the Committee on NGOs.

This continued and deliberate obstruction of the granting of ECOSOC consultative status to IDS-N, on no legitimate grounds whatsoever, amounts to exclusion and reprisal against a civil society organization hindering its legitimate work with the UN.

The European Parliament resolution⁷⁹ adopted on 10 October, 2013 *“stresses the need to promote an enabling environment for civil society and human rights defenders working with people affected by caste discrimination in order to ensure their security and avoid any impediments to, or stigmatisation or restriction of, their work; stresses that such an environment should include access to funding, cooperation with UN human rights bodies and Economic and Social Council (Ecosoc) accreditation”*.

The EU through its member states in the Committee on NGOs can play an important role and take immediate steps to counter any further unjust obstruction of IDS-N engagement with the UN.

Secretariat

In the beginning of 2013, the Secretariat was staffed by Executive Director Rikke Nöhrind, Programme Officer Maia Ingvardson, UN Programme Officer Gitte Dyrhagen, temporary Communications Officer Kim Wiesener and part-time bookkeeper Ole Vestergaard. In April, Ms. Dyrhagen went on maternity leave and subsequently found other employment after seven years with IDS-N. In July, Mr. Vestergaard retired after 4 years with IDS-N and was replaced by Peter Søby Pedersen. Communications Officer Maria Brink Schleimann returned from maternity leave in September, and Kim Wiesener took on a number of temporary tasks till the end of the year. For 6 months, the office benefitted from having a full time programme assistant employed under a state subsidized scheme, however, due to funding constraints it was not possible to employ a replacement for the UN Programme Officer.

Also this year, staff travelled extensively, including to Nepal, Geneva and Brussels, for meetings, networking and lobby interventions, most of which involved IDS-N members, associates or other alliance partners from South Asia.

IDS-N staff members, along with representatives of other human rights groups and professions in Denmark and other European countries, continue to be denied access to India, due to visa restrictions imposed by the Indian Government.

Finances

IDS-N was very pleased to welcome the Swiss organisation HEKS as a new donor in 2013. With a contract effective from mid-year, the HEKS support was an important contribution to sustaining our core programme along with the long-standing valued partnerships of DANIDA, Bread for the World, ICCO, the Open Society Foundation, CCFD, and DanChurchAid, the latter co-financing a project grant from the European Commission.

Budget management is challenged by the uneven phasing and granting procedures of donor agencies that make long term planning more difficult, however, with stringent budget monitoring and management, IDS-N got through 2013 with a high level of activities and solid outcomes. A small balance was carried forward at the end of the year.

However, securing adequate and long-term financial sustainability for IDS-N's core programmes remains a priority and a challenge.

Following an annual revision of its three year programme proposal in March, the 2014-2016 proposal was submitted to bilateral donors, INGOs and funding associations. It is hoped that the pivotal role IDS-N plays in the global struggle to end caste discrimination – and the broad recognition of outcomes and results created – will enable long term funding to maintain and develop the activities of the organisation.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2013

Profit and loss

(Details in note 1)	2013 DKK	2013 EURO	2012 DKK
Opening balance	616,418.62	82,740.75	927,161.66
Income			
Admin for EU/DCA project			77,865.82
DanChurchAid	375,023.37	50,338.71	219,460.37
Bread for the World 2013	722,179.90	96,936.90	742,152.00
Bread for the World for use in 2014	223,431.00	29,990.74	
Membership fees recd. for DSN-DK	51,873.60	6,962.90	52,950.00
Danida	1,000,000.00	134,228.19	1,000,000.00
HEKS	413,868.90	55,552.87	
CCFD	109,159.15	14,652.23	163,270.80
ICCO	223,395.00	29,985.91	222,609.00
FinnChurchAid			148,700.00
Open Society Institute			559,385.00
European Commission	548,952.72	73,684.93	548,053.37
Other Income	2,047.57	274.84	
Interest	896.44	120.33	1,423.79
Total	3,670,827.65	492,728.54	3,735,870.15
Expenditure	3,794,122.09	509,278.13	4,046,613.19
Balance	493,124.18	66,191.17	616,418.62

Balance statement

(Details in note 1)	2013 DKK	2013 EURO	2012 DKK
Assets			
Cash at bank at 31.12	1,040,944.45	139,724.09	913,581.59
Rent deposit	35,829.00	4,809.26	25,029.00
Petty cash	11,344.40	1,522.74	13,235.75
Outstanding accounts	46,618.65	6,257.54	23,550.06
	93,792.05	152,313.62	975,396.40
Liabilities			
Balance Master Card account	-11,539.09	-1,548.87	-17,933.45
Compulsory holiday payment fund	-273,893.30	-36,764.20	-275,206.50
Outstanding accounts	-356,179.93	-47,809.39	-65,837.83
	-641,612.32	-86,122.46	-358,977.78
Balance carried forward	493,124.18	66,191.17	616,418.62

The balance carried forward includes an amount of 223,431 DKK received late in December 2013 from BfdW for use in 2014.

The financial statements are presented in Danish kroner.

For reasons of comparison, amounts in Euro are presented, using a fixed exchange rate based on a monthly average from www.inforeuro.eu: 7.45

Hence, some discrepancies may appear compared to actual amounts received in Euro.

Note 1

Profit and loss	2013 DKK	Core programme DKK	EU project DKK	DSN-DK DKK	Reserve DKK
Opening balance	616,418.62	449,794.23	-179,344.94	58.30	345,911.03
Income					
Admin for EU/DCA project					
DanChurchAid	375,023.37		375,023.37		
Bread for the World 2013	722,179.90	722,179.90			
Bread for the World 2014	223,431.00	223,431.00			
Membership fees recd. for DSN-DK	51,873.60			51,873.60	
Danida	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00			
HEKS	413,868.90	413,868.90			
CCFD	109,159.15	109,159.15			
ICCO	223,395.00	223,395.00			
FinnChurchAid					
Open Society Institute					
European Commission	548,952.72		548,952.72		
Other Income	2,047.57	2,047.57			
Interest	896.44	896.44			
Total	3,670,827.65	2,694,977.96	923,976.09	51,873.60	
Expenditure	3,794,122.09	2,784,041.80	958,570.17	51,510.12	
Balance	493,124.18	360,730.39	-213,939.02	421.78	345,911.03

Balance statement

	2013 DKK	Core programme DKK	EU project DKK	DSN-DK DKK	Reserve DKK
Assets					
Cash at bank at 31.12	1,040,944.45	744,583.04	2,123.62	574.22	293,663.57
Rent deposit	35,829.00	35,829.00			
Petty cash	11,344.40	11,344.40			
Outstanding accounts	46,618.65	46,618.65			
	93,792.05	93,792.05			
Liabilities					
Balance Master Card account	-11,539.09	-11,539.09			
Compulsory holiday payment fund	-273,893.30	-273,893.30			
Outstanding accounts	-356,179.93	-192,212.31	-163,815.18	-152.44	
	-641,612.32	-477,644.70	-163,815.18	-152.44	
Fund balance brought forward			-52,247.46		52,247.46
Balance carried forward	493,124.18	360,730.39	-213,939.02	421.78	345,911.03

The balance carried forward includes an amount of 223,431 DKK received late in December 2013 from BfdW for use in 2014.

Fund balance brought forward: Transfer between programmes due to balance at 31 December 2013.

The reserve includes funds to cover legally binding employer obligations

EXPENDITURE 2013

	Budget DKK	Expenditure DKK	Budget EUR	Expenditure EUR
Communication, networking and coordination				
General staff expenses				
Staff training	10,000	9,429	1,342	1,266
Insurance	15,000	21,481	2,013	2,883
Other staff expenses	25,000	31,441	3,356	4,220
Holiday allowance	40,000	-1,313	5,369	-176
Finance officer	30,000	34,734	4,027	4,662
Maternity leave payment	150,000	149,291	20,134	20,039
Subtotal	270,000	245,062	36,242	32,894
Office costs				
Rent	120,000	121,160	16,107	16,263
Office supplies	26,000	21,873	3,490	2,936
Postage and freight	15,000	15,581	2,013	2,091
Hospitality expenses	2,600	2,861	349	384
Telecommunication	15,000	14,359	2,013	1,927
Materials/memberships	2,500	1,990	336	267
Equipment	52,774	16,993	7,084	2,281
Bank	19,000	10,471	2,550	1,405
Office cleaning	9,188	10,125	1,233	1,359
Salaries administration	8,000	6,135	1,074	823
Audit	29,954	30,042	4,021	4,032
Subtotal	300,016	251,588	40,271	33,770
IT				
IT service	25,000	36,263	3,356	4,867
MS IT service	16,278	17,577	2,185	2,359
Software license	30,900	31,979	4,148	4,293
Subtotal	72,178	85,819	9,688	11,519
Total office costs and administration	642,194	582,469	86,200	58,145
Communication				
Website	4,500	7,126	604	957
Tech. Assistance website	5,000	5,250	671	705
Publicity & Publications	80,000	76,873	10,738	10,318
Travel	20,000	20,077	2,685	2,695
Communications officer	260,484	272,027	34,964	36,514
Subtotal	369,984	381,352	49,662	51,188
Governing bodies				
Travel, executive group meetings	20,000	19,628	2,685	2,635
Venue/lodging, executive group meetings	25,000	26,829	3,356	3,601
Travel, council meetings	58,019	60,019	7,788	8,056
Venue/lodging, council meetings	115,439	117,714	15,495	15,800
Subtotal	218,458	224,190	29,323	30,093
Programme management and implementation	404,203	439,058	54,255	58,934
Total communication, networking and coordination	1,634,839	1,627,069	219,441	218,399
UN Programme				
UN Human Rights Council				
Interventions for universal periodic reviews				
Travel, affected country reps	18,009	18,009	2,417	2,417
Travel, secretariat	2,214	2,214	297	297
Food	7,056	7,056	947	947
Accommodation	12,348	12,348	1,657	1,657
Subtotal	39,627	39,627	5,319	5,319
Interventions at Council sessions				
Travel, affected country reps	65,000	52,877	8,725	7,098
Travel, secretariat	15,000	14,926	2,013	2,004
Food	50,500	38,827	6,779	5,212
Accommodation	75,000	45,694	10,067	6,133
Subtotal	205,500	152,324	27,584	20,446
Special Procedures				
Travel	20,000	21,204	2,685	2,846
Accommodation	15,000	0	2,013	0
Food/consumption	8,000	0	1,074	0
Subtotal	43,000	21,204	5,772	2,846

	Budget DKK	Expenditure DKK	Budget EUR	Expenditure EUR
ECOSOC application	20,000	0	2,685	0
UN follow up/capacity building	28,026	28,026	3,762	3,762
UN Research & support	10,000	8,596	1,342	1,154
Programme management and implementation	364,134	450,156	48,877	60,424
Total UN Programme	710,287	699,933	95,341	93,951

EU Programme

	Budget DKK	Expenditure DKK	Budget EUR	Expenditure EUR
Lobby interventions				
Travel, secretariat	6,000	0	805	0
Food	2,275	3,089	305	415
Accommodation	4,500	6,844	604	919
Subtotal	12,775	9,933	1,715	1,333
Programme management and implementation	380,477	413,288	51,071	55,475
Total EU Programme	393,252	423,220	52,785	56,808

Private Sector

	Budget DKK	Expenditure DKK	Budget EUR	Expenditure EUR
Promotion activities	0	0	0	0
Travel	5,000	5,471	671	734
Subtotal	5,000	5,471	671	734
Programme management and implementation	25,415	28,348	3,411	3,805
Total Private Sector	30,415	33,819	4,083	4,539

Summary core programme

	Budget DKK	Expenditure DKK	Budget EUR	Expenditure EUR
Networking, Coordination and Communication	1,634,839	1,627,069	219,441	218,399
UN Programme	710,287	699,933	95,341	93,951
EU programme	393,252	423,220	52,785	56,808
Private sector	30,415	33,819	4,083	4,539
Total programmes	2,768,793	2,784,042	371,650	373,697

Share of salaries funded under separate EU project

	Budget DKK	Expenditure DKK	Budget EUR	Expenditure EUR
Communications officer	320,000	272,027	42,953	36,514
Finance officer	26,902	34,734	3,611	4,662
Coordinator	144,626	144,815	19,413	19,438
Programme officer	103,030	103,083	13,830	13,837
Total EU funded salaries	594,559	554,659	79,807	74,451

Project activities funded by the EU

	Budget DKK	Expenditure DKK	Budget EUR	Expenditure EUR
Other human resources (per diems and other travel costs)		9,472		1,271
Costs and services				
Production of video on cbd in South Asia		1,514		203
Development & promotion of humanitarian guidelines		18,750		2,517
Opinion survey		162,500		21,812
DSN meeting		9,728		1,306
EU campaigns with DSNs		135,927		18,245
Total costs and services		328,419		44,083
International Travel		66,020		8,862
Total project activities		403,911,46		54,216

DSN-DK (funded separately)

	Budget DKK	Expenditure DKK	Budget EUR	Expenditure EUR
DSN-DK general expenses		2,394		321
Programme management and implementation	50,831	49,116	6,823	6,593
Total IDSN-DK	50,831	51,510,12	6,823	6,914

Summary total expenditure

	Budget DKK	Expenditure DKK	Budget EUR	Expenditure EUR
Total core programme	2,768,793	2,784,042	371,650	373,697
Salaries funded under separate EU project	594,559	554,659	79,807	74,451
Project activities funded by the EU		403,911		54,216
DSN-DK	50,831	51,510	6,823	6,914
Grand total	3,414,182	3,794,122	458,280	509,278

Endnotes

- 1 Download the draft UN Principles and Guidelines here: <http://bit.ly/1iQGzX>
- 2 (a) Navi Pillay's statement: <http://bit.ly/LPujG8>
(b) Rashida Manjoo's statement: <http://bit.ly/1jpN6XL>
- 3 Report from the side event: <http://bit.ly/1gfXnSv>
- 4 Press release: Take action to improve conditions for Dalit women: <http://bit.ly/1h3CA8f>
- 5 Dalit women raise their voices in the UN (IDSN news story): <http://bit.ly/1fSU4Z>
- 6 Dalits affected by 'implementation gap' (IDSN news story): <http://bit.ly/1kvxYrS>
- 7 UPR Bangladesh: Dalits need protection (IDSN news story): <http://bit.ly/1gfYXUy>
- 8 Bangladesh government response to UPR recommendations: <http://bit.ly/1f9hz59>
- 9 Joint NGO Submission for Yemen UPR: <http://bit.ly/1kvy8j2>
- 10 'Continued plight of the untouchables': <http://bit.ly/1eNjIR4>
- 11 India statement by Rashida Manjoo: <http://bit.ly/1gfZGFd>
- 12 UN expert: Education system fails Dalits: <http://bit.ly/1fFzRu>
- 13 The Special Rapporteur's report (A/HRC/23/56): <http://bit.ly/1f9hZIG>
- 14 Slave castes suffer in Madagascar (IDSN news story): <http://bit.ly/1eJaehQ>
- 15 Dalit women in Pakistan... (IDSN news): <http://bit.ly/1dB0sq5>
- 16 IDSN input to the CEDAW general discussion on 'Access to justice': <http://bit.ly/1lVnaFd>
- 17 The situation of Dalit rural women (joint NGO submission to CEDAW): <http://bit.ly/1bNo0gD>
- 18 CEDAW General Recommendation no. 30: <http://bit.ly/1iQAvt5>
- 19 AIDMAM Submission to CEDAW: <http://bit.ly/1loPZpX>
- 20 CEDAW – List of issues and questions to India: <http://bit.ly/1fSR99q>
- 21 Submission on Mauritania to the UN Human Rights Committee: <http://bit.ly/1glUHLB>
- 22 UN Guidance Note on Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities: <http://bit.ly/1nPkivR>
- 23 Caste inequalities recognised in post-2015 development agenda (IDSN news story): <http://bit.ly/1bNopj9>
- 24 See <http://bit.ly/MEU50L>
- 25 See <http://bit.ly/1glUKx8>
- 26 Study: The EU should be caste-inclusive (IDSN news): <http://bit.ly/1ehxayU>
- 27 Read more about the resolution: <http://bit.ly/1bj0lBo>
- 28 Read a transcript of the debate: <http://bit.ly/1glVjak>
- 29 EP Resolution links and references <http://bit.ly/1jprZQq>
- 30 To read the full text of the resolution, see <http://bit.ly/1jpS46Q>
- 31 Read the full text of the resolution: <http://bit.ly/1ft22li>
- 32 Read the full text of the resolution: <http://bit.ly/1dbW8E1>
- 33 Read the questions here: <http://bit.ly/Nt3Or0>
- 34 Read the reply here: <http://bit.ly/1kvBx1g>
- 35 Click here to download the report: <http://idsn.org/EqualityinAid>
- 36 Click here to download the case study: <http://idsn.org/HumanitarianResponse>
- 37 The 2013 Global Slavery Index: <http://bit.ly/1glVYbX>
- 38 See www.facebook.com/dalitnetwork
- 39 See www.facebook.com/endcaste
- 40 See www.youtube.com/idsnvideo
- 41 See <https://twitter.com/idsnupdates>
- 42 See <http://bit.ly/1jpSLwL>
- 43 See <http://bit.ly/1h3CA8f>
- 44 See <http://bit.ly/1gg8Mlh>
- 45 See the Global Slavery Index: <http://bit.ly/1glVYbX>
- 46 Dalit human rights defender murdered (IDSN news): <http://bit.ly/1lVxdKu>
- 47 Dalit award winner is refused passport (IDSN news): <http://bit.ly/1kvCaYR>
- 48 Dalit NGO Navsarjan wins award (IDSN news): <http://bit.ly/1fyGfRz>
- 49 India is a very stratified society, says Tutu: <http://bit.ly/1aNw1UA>
- 50 Pabnava fact-finding report: <http://bit.ly/1lVxvR5>
- 51 Acquittals in massacre case shock Dalits (IDSN news): <http://bit.ly/MEVYKX>
- 52 What about sex crimes against untouchable women? <http://bit.ly/1h3LbIb>
- 53 See <http://bit.ly/MEW4Sw> and <http://www.countercurrents.org/cc140113C.htm>
- 54 See <http://bit.ly/1lVyAZu>
- 55 See <http://bit.ly/1npnsjB>
- 56 Dalit women desperately seeking justice (IDSN news): <http://bit.ly/1glXMKY>
- 57 See <http://bit.ly/M579MS>
- 58 Strong Dalit protests over Haryana death: <http://bit.ly/Nt7nyd>
- 59 Nobody wants to help us because we are Dalits: <http://bit.ly/1ggaqTX>
- 60 Scavengers' march sends message of hope (IDSN news): <http://bit.ly/1jpSLwL>
- 61 Campaign to stop Government shortchanging Dalits (IDSN news): <http://bit.ly/1kvCXZB>
- 62 Dalits launch land rights campaign (IDSN news): <http://bit.ly/1bj38A1>
- 63 See The Price of Steel (report): <http://bit.ly/1dt1giR> and the accompanying press release: <http://bit.ly/1iQHZipx>
- 64 More action needed (Himalayan Times Editorial): <http://bit.ly/1iQHlcz>
- 65 See 'AHRC – The State of Human Rights in Nepal 2013', pp. 22-23
- 66 See EU statement from 10 June 2013: <http://bit.ly/1ggbhmv>
- 67 'See AHRC – The State of Human Rights in Nepal 2013', pp. 21-22
- 68 See <http://bit.ly/1f9ngQq>
- 69 See campaign appeal: <http://bit.ly/M57ZJA>
- 70 See Nepal: Dalits campaign for equal rights (IDSN news): <http://bit.ly/1lVATMa>
- 71 See campaign report: <http://bit.ly/1bEBSQD>
- 72 See <http://www.dalits.nl/pdf/130705e.pdf>
- 73 See PDSN press release: <http://bit.ly/1loWPM6>
- 74 Dalits demand representation (IDSN news): <http://bit.ly/1lVBj56>
- 75 See <http://bit.ly/1kvDLO6>
- 76 See <http://bit.ly/1fT7vii>
- 77 See <http://bit.ly/M58vaj>
- 78 View the trailer for Jai Bhim Comrade: <http://bit.ly/LPCy5c>
- 79 Read more about the resolution: <http://bit.ly/1bj0lBo>

Abbreviations

AHRC	Asian Human Rights Commission	FCRA	Foreign Contribution Regulations Act (India)
AIDMAM	All India Dalit Mahila Adhikar Manch (Dalit women's platform)	FEDO	Feminist Dalit Organization (Nepal)
APPG	All Party Parliamentary Group for Dalits (UK)	HRC	(UN) Human Rights Council
BDERM	Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Rights Movement	HRW	Human Rights Watch
BDEWF	Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Women's Federation	ICCO	Interchurch Organisation for Development Cooperation
CA	Constituent Assembly (Nepal)	IDSN	International Dalit Solidarity Network
CCFD	Development NGO of the French Catholic Church	IMADR	International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism
CEDAW	(UN) Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women	MEP	(EU) Member of European Parliament
CERD	(UN) Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	NCDHR	National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (India)
COHOM	(EU) Working Party on Human Rights	NDC	National Dalit Commission (Nepal)
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility	NFDW	National Federation of Dalit Women
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency	NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
DCI	(EU) Development Cooperation Instrument	NHRC	National Human Rights Commission
DEVE	(EP) Committee on Development	NHRI	National Human Rights Institution
DIEH	Danish Ethical Trading Initiative	NNDSWO	Nepal National Dalit Social Welfare Organization
DNF	Dalit NGO Federation (Nepal)	OHCHR	(UN) Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
DNN	Dalit Network Netherlands	PDSN	Pakistan Dalit Solidarity Network
DSN	Dalit Solidarity Network	PILER	Pakistan Institute of Labour Research
DSN-DK	Dalit Solidarity Network Denmark	PoA	Act Prevention of Atrocities Act
DSN-FI	Dalit Solidarity Network Finland	PMARC	People's Media Advocacy and Research Centre
DSN-Norway	Dalit Solidarity Network Norway	SCRM	Scheduled Caste Rights Movement (Pakistan)
DSN-S	Dalit Solidarity Network Sweden	SC/ST	Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes
DSN-UK	Dalit Solidarity Network UK	SDB	Solidarité Dalits Belgique
EC	European Commission	UN	United Nations
ECOSOC	(UN) Economic and Social Council	UPR	(UN) Universal Periodic Review
EEAS	(EU) European External Action Service	VCDS	Friends of Village Community Development Society
EG	Executive Group	VP/HR	Vice President/High Representative
EIDHR	European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights	WGHR	Working Group on Human Rights in India and the UN
EP	(EU) European Parliament		
ETI	Ethical Trading Initiative		
EU	European Union		



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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 – Sweden
- The Dalit Solidarity Network – Belgium
- The Dalit Solidarity Network – Finland
- The Dalit Solidarity Network – Norway

IDSN associates

National associates

- 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
- Franciscans International

Research associates

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



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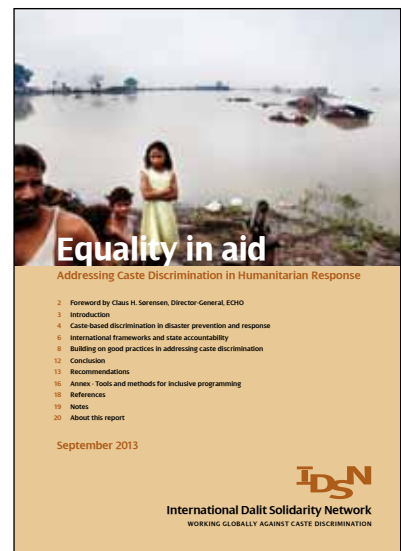
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View a selection of videos on caste discrimination on youtube.com/idsnvideo



EQUALITY IN AID REPORT · A new report reveals that Dalits are particularly vulnerable to disasters before and after they strike. Available at www.idsn.org

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 internationalisation 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 lobbying. 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.