



International Dalit Solidarity Network

WORKING GLOBALLY AGAINST DISCRIMINATION BASED ON WORK AND DESCENT



2008  
annual report



# IDSN International Dalit Solidarity Network

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◀ **Dhaka, Bangladesh, September 2007** Celebrate death and mourn the newborn. The lives of Dhaka’s Dalit sweepers are so poor that they have reversed their social functions. Chances of moving up in life are few. The sweeping makes them ill. With no protective gear sweepers often suffer from skin diseases, cholera, tuberculosis and asthma.

► **Dhaka Lahan, Bihar, India, October 2007** Taken captive, stripped naked, beaten and slashed with a knife under both eyes, Sunita Devi, a 35 year old Dalit woman, has paid a heavy price for living in the centre of her town, on land wanted by dominant castes. After ten years the court case is still pending. Sunita thinks the perpetrators are paying off the courts to stall her case until it is too old to process. Impunity for caste-related crimes remains an enormous problem.

## 1 Executive summary

### 260 million reasons why Europe should act

In 2008, IDSN challenged the European Union with the much acclaimed exhibition "We are not untouchable – 260 million reasons why Europe should act" launched at the European Parliament (EP) in June. This event was accompanied by a hearing in the Parliament and a round table meeting with Commission officials, involving researchers on caste discrimination and Dalit leaders from five caste affected countries, as well as Dalit Solidarity Networks.

Groundbreaking national reports on caste based discrimination released prior to the exhibition provided much needed data and a new understanding of the situation of Dalits in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal. The research served as the basis for several alternative reports on the subject to the UN treaty monitoring bodies, presented by IDSN in collaboration with national partners. In the course of the year, IDSN was involved with UN Universal Periodic Reviews of Pakistan, Sri Lanka and India and the review of India by the Committee on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights (CESCR).

Against the backdrop of the research processes and a growing mobilisation of Dalits assisted by development and human rights organisations, exciting developments took place in Bangladesh and Pakistan. The formation of the Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Rights Movement (BDERM) in April was a major achievement. BDERM has already proved itself to have considerable influence with political parties, and has been capable of creating unprecedented media attention to the situation of Dalits.

In Pakistan the media and some politicians took up the horrific conditions of Dalits, which were exposed in the research report "Long Behind Schedule - a Study on the Plight of Scheduled Castes". Following the Universal Period Review of the country in May, the Government of Pakistan for the first time officially recognised that caste discrimination is an issue in the country. Furthermore, organisation of Dalit groups and support organisations into a Pakistan Dalit Solidarity Network took shape and the plight of Dalits became visible to the public.

The declaration of a Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal in 2008 was a turning point in the political history of the country presenting a historic opportunity for Dalits to secure their rights, initially, through the constitution making process. In the Constituent Assembly election Dalits obtained 50 seats out of 601. Dalit NGOs engaged extensively with their new MPs and the political parties, enjoying a much improved

environment for law and policy change. It is IDSN's hope that Nepal will set a positive example, as a state firmly committed to the effective elimination of caste-based discrimination. Not only with the perspective that it will be possible to establish Dalit rights firmly in a new constitution and secure adoption of special legislation, but with the hope that Nepal will become a state capable of effective enforcement of laws for the protection of Dalits and implementation of policies for the improvement of their livelihoods.

In India, status quo expressed itself in continued and escalating violence against Dalits and perseverance of outmoded positions. It is hard to detect any positive change of the political and institutional will to deal effectively with crimes of discrimination, impunity and continued socio-economic marginalisation of Dalits. However, within the framework of corporate social responsibility increased attention by multinational companies to non-discrimination at the labour market, inclusion and special measures was evidenced. A Dalit Discrimination Check, which can hopefully further assist companies in India in developing appropriate policies and procedures, was launched by IDSN in September.

On the international arena, it is a deplorable fact that the Indian Government is not willing, or rather strongly opposed to dealing with caste discrimination as an international human rights problem. This was the position taken already in 2001 at the World Conference against Racism in Durban. But in 2008 it again became painfully clear that India refuses to accept caste discrimination as a serious human rights issue, which must be dealt with by the relevant human rights bodies of the UN.

A continued opposition by India to a UN framework for elimination of caste discrimination, contained in the completed UN Sub-Commission study on discrimination based on work and descent, will seriously impair the space for Dalit organisations, also in other caste-affected countries, to fight for their rights both nationally and internationally. It can be argued, that India could in fact gain considerably from giving its recognition and cooperation, politically and economically, to the issue internationally, as non-recognition might lead to increased pressure and negative effects for India. Besides, India has much to offer to international cooperation on caste discrimination with its model legislation and affirmative action policies, although much less can be demonstrated in effective enforcement of such laws and implementation of policies.

IDSN calls upon the Governments of caste-affected countries to give their official support to the UN



## IDSN highlights in 2008

- Publication and launch of regional research reports and factsheets on caste-based discrimination in Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka
- Examination of India by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)
- Universal Periodic Reviews of India, Pakistan, Japan and Sri Lanka in the Human Rights Council
- Photo exhibition "We are not untouchable – 260 million reasons why Europe should act" in the European Parliament
- Statements in the Human Rights Council and Advisory Committee in support of the Sub-Commission study on discrimination based on work and descent
- Inclusion of caste-based discrimination in several reports and communications prepared by UN Special Rapporteurs, in particular the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism
- IDSN accreditation for the Durban Review Conference
- Danish parliamentary hearing on caste-based discrimination in the Committee on Foreign Affairs
- Finalisation of the Dalit Discrimination Check – an online tool for companies operating in India
- Launch of DSN-UK campaign "Foul Play" against the practice of manual scavenging
- Research study on Dalit rights in Nepal's new Constitution by the Centre for Human Rights & Global Justice, NYU School of Law
- Launch of improved IDSN website as a new resource hub on caste-based discrimination
- The formation of the Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Rights Movement (BDERM)
- The conversion of the National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights in India into four thematic Dalit movements

study and to work together with other states and UN mechanisms to ensure effective follow-up on the UN study and implementation of the recommendations contained in the draft UN Principles and Guidelines. Without such guidelines and enhanced efforts by states, the international community and civil society, caste discrimination stands little chance of disappearing.

Likewise the international community must act on the awareness they have now gained; that something is deeply wrong, inhumane and against the basic principles of human rights; that denial of equality, justice and dignity for 260 million people can no longer be tolerated, and that violence and killings of Dalits and other marginalised groups cannot and should not be accepted as 'an internal issue'.

## 2 IDSN background

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 work of the UN and the EU to recognise the unacceptability of untouchability and other human rights abuses against Dalits and other communities discriminated against on the basis of work and descent.

IDSN's main objectives include:

- Advocating for Dalit rights by influencing the policies and practices of Governments and international bodies and institutions
- Monitoring the enforcement and implementation of measures aimed at combating caste discrimination
- Working towards global recognition of Dalit Human Rights and contributing to the fight against caste discrimination globally, by raising awareness and building solidarity
- Facilitating Dalit rights interventions internationally, including before the European Commission and European Parliament, UN human rights mechanisms, the International Labour Organisation (ILO), and other forums
- Creating and maintaining a resource base that facilitates and strengthens solidarity and representative functions especially at the UN, ILO and other related multilateral bodies, and international financial institutions (such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank)

## IDS<sup>N</sup> members and associates

### National platforms:

- The National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights – India
- The Dalit NGO Federation – Nepal
- The Human Development Organisation – Sri Lanka
- Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Rights Movement
- 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 French Dalit Collectif – France
  - The Dalit Solidarity Network – Belgium
  - (Rafto Foundation – Norway)<sup>2)</sup>

### Associated platforms:

- Dalit Network – Pakistan<sup>3)</sup>

### International associates:

- Human Rights Watch
- The Lutheran World Federation
- 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 World Council of Churches
- The Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative
- Asian Centre for Human Rights

### Research associates:

- Centre for Human Rights and Global Justice, NYU School of Law

IDS<sup>N</sup> bases its work on contributions from members and associates. Joint interventions in the United Nations and the EU constitute a major part of IDS<sup>N</sup>'s activities. The network also produces crucial input in the form of research, planning of strategic interventions and actual lobby actions. Interaction between members bilaterally and in the working groups adds to the dynamics of the expanding network. Currently IDS<sup>N</sup> maintains working groups on the UN, a working group on the private sector, and two ad hoc working groups on Dalit Women and the Nepal Constitution.

IDS<sup>N</sup> has a Copenhagen-based secretariat, which coordinates lobby and advocacy activities in close cooperation with members<sup>1)</sup>. IDS<sup>N</sup> was formally registered as an organisation in October 2003. In 2008, the Secretariat was staffed by four full time staff members: Coordinator Rikke Nöhrind, Programme Officer Maia Ingvardson, UN Programme Officer Gitte Dyrhagen and Communications Officer Kirsten Sørensen.

## 3 United Nations

IDS<sup>N</sup>'s lobby efforts to promote international recognition of caste-based discrimination in various UN human rights bodies in 2008, resulted in one of the most productive years in terms of quantity and quality of written submissions and other interventions. As a consequence caste-based discrimination was addressed at a number of occasions in UN sessions during the year, and states and UN experts showed increasing recognition of the issue and of IDS<sup>N</sup>'s work as a whole. In addition to the strenuous efforts to secure the UN Sub-Commission study on discrimination based on work and descent in the Human Rights Council and its Advisory Committee, IDS<sup>N</sup> facilitated submissions to relevant country reviews for the Universal Periodic Review and to the UN Treaty Bodies in close cooperation with its members and associates. IDS<sup>N</sup> also followed the preparation for the Durban Review Conference securing its accreditation to the conference, and engaging with UN Special Procedures.

### 3.1 UN Sub-Commission study on discrimination based on work and descent

2008 was yet another year of unfinished business in the process of securing the UN Sub-Commission study on discrimination based on work and descent under the reformed UN human rights structure. Despite the fact that the final report was submitted to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) by the two Special Rapporteurs of the Sub-Commission in June

<sup>1)</sup> IDS<sup>N</sup> is not a funding body and is therefore not involved in direct aid or programme support. <sup>2)</sup> The Rafto Foundation is not a member of IDS<sup>N</sup> but an associate in Norway. <sup>3)</sup> Although very active, the Dalit Network – Pakistan has not been constituted as a member of IDS<sup>N</sup> yet.

2007, there was no clarification by the end of 2008 on how the pending Sub-Commission studies will be dealt with by the Human Rights Council (HRC). As highlighted by the President of the Council himself in August 2008, this gap represents one of the last outstanding matters in the institution-building phase of the HRC. It is therefore expected that Council members and the Secretariat will take up this issue in the coming year.

Throughout the year IDSN did its utmost to ensure support to the study by UN member states, experts, civil society organisations and affected groups. IDSN organised meetings between diplomats and civil society representatives from national advocacy platforms, with the broadest regional and gender sensitive representation from the South possible, at each HRC session. In particular IDSN promoted the need for a comprehensive framework to eliminate caste-based discrimination, the draft UN Principles and Guidelines for the Effective Elimination of Discrimination based on Work and Descent (hereafter the "draft UN Principles and Guidelines"), included in the final Sub-Commission report on this topic. During the year IDSN members and the Secretariat interacted with representatives of more than 25 member states, out of which the majority are HRC members, to create more awareness about the issue and to ask for their support to the study. As an outcome of these efforts the cross-regional support base is broadening.

The status of the pending Sub-Commission studies was addressed by UN bodies three times during the year: at the 8th HRC session in June, the 9th session in September, and at the 1st session of the HRC Advisory Committee in August. Prior to that IDSN had organised a parallel event on the future of this particular study at the 7th session in March. At the 8th HRC session, the EU group considered taking the initiative of proposing a deferral of three completed Sub-Commission studies to the HRC, including the study on discrimination based on work and descent. This proposal, which intended to ensure that the finalised studies were not lost in the transitional arrangements between the former Commission and the HRC, did however not get through due to lack of clarity on the status of the pending Sub-Commission studies by member states and the HRC Secretariat.

The issue was again raised at the first session of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee, the successor body of the former Sub-Commission, where two recommendations were made on the pending Sub-Commission studies in its final report (A/HRC/AC/2008/1/L.11). During the session Prof. Chin-Sung Chung from South Korea, one of the former Rapporteurs

on the Sub-Commission study and currently a member of the Advisory Committee, argued strongly in favour of support to the study on discrimination based on work and descent.

In follow-up to these recommendations, many states expressed their support at the 9th HRC session to the referral of the Sub-Commission studies. The recommendations of the Advisory Committee will however first be formally considered at the 10th session of the Human Rights Council in March 2009. To ensure that action will indeed be taken, IDSN organised an informal meeting between groups of supportive states in November together with the French mission. It is hoped that the Council will decide to issue the completed studies as official UN documents at the 10th session in March 2009 and request to have them presented at one of its next sessions.

### 3.2 Universal Periodic Review

With the establishment of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism, a number of caste-affected countries were examined by the Human Rights Council in March and May 2008. These reviews have proven to be an effective way of raising general human rights concerns in an open forum, where Governments are asked to reply to critical questions asked by member states in an interactive dialogue. In advance, civil society was able to give inputs to the process by submitting alternative reports to be compiled in a summary of other stakeholders' reports. In association with national advocacy platforms, IDSN facilitated the submission of four reports on caste-based discrimination in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh in 2008<sup>4)</sup>. Despite the lack of strong recommendations in follow-up to the reviews, the result has been increased attention to the nature and scope of caste-based discrimination in these countries, especially in countries where this human rights problem has not been officially recognised.

India was the first country to be reviewed at the 1st UPR session in April. During the interactive dialogue more than ten states expressed specific concern about the situation of Dalits in India, and asked among other things about the state's compliance with the concluding observations of The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) to India in 2007. In a joint appeal, the National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights, the International Movement against All Forms of Racism and Discrimination, the Lutheran World Federation and IDSN appealed to the Indian Government to move away from a state of denial of the scale and seriousness of caste-based discrimination. In the appeal, the

<sup>4)</sup> Download the reports from IDSN's website: <http://www.idsn.org/international-advocacy/un/universal-periodic-review/>



organisations pledged for constructive solutions with the assistance of the international community.

At the 2nd UPR session in May 2008 the Human Rights Council reviewed three other caste-affected countries, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Japan. IDS N was one of the few organisations to lobby for the inclusion of caste-based discrimination in these country reviews. In the case of Pakistan, these efforts led to a change in Government position and a seemingly larger recognition of the issue. During the review, many states expressed concern about discrimination against minorities and three states raised the issue of caste-based discrimination in Pakistan. In response to these questions, the delegation denied the existence of caste-based discrimination and said that there were no Dalits in Pakistan. In the follow-up to the review, however, there was a shift in position of the Government of Pakistan towards the recognition of caste-based discrimination in Pakistan. The head of delegation said that efforts are made to eliminate discrimination wherever it exists and to give maximum support to Scheduled Castes, and that the Government encourages NGOs to highlight the issues of Scheduled Castes and seek redress for grievances.

In the Sri Lanka review, the delegation was also questioned about what the Government had done to combat caste-based discrimination. Unfortunately, the delegation did not respond to this question. In the review of Japan, many states raised questions about discrimination against minorities. Discrimination against the Buraku people, which is a form of discrimination based on work and descent, was nevertheless not explicitly referred to in the debate.

In September, IDS N submitted a joint report on caste-based discrimination in Bangladesh in association with the Bangladesh Dalit Excluded Rights Movement (BDERM) and Nagorik Uddyog for the country examination at the 4th UPR session in February 2009. The compilation of stakeholders' information (A/HRC/WG.6/4/BGD/3) prepared by the OHCHR made extensive references to the recommendations from this NGO report, thereby giving serious consideration to the situation of Dalits in Bangladesh for the first time in UN human rights bodies.

### 3.3 Special Procedures

Several Special Rapporteurs addressed the issue of caste-based discrimination in their annual reports, communications to/from Governments and/or thematic studies in 2008, which again illustrates the growing recognition of this issue by the UN monitoring mechanisms<sup>9)</sup>. Three mandates demonstrated

a particular concern about the issue: the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, the Independent Expert on Minority, and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women.

When Mr. Doudou Diène, the former Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, presented his last report to the Human Rights Council in his capacity as a mandate holder at the 7th session, he devoted an entire section to caste-based discrimination. In the annual report (A/HRC/7/19), he argued that caste-based discrimination was an implicit part of the mandate. This statement was met with strong opposition by the Indian and Nepalese Government at the session. India stated that it completely rejected his approach as "Caste was not racial in origin and that 'descent' as referred to in Article 1 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) only applied to racial descent". Nepal supported this view and stated that "The caste system was peculiar to South Asia and was a product of a 'social division of labour' rather than race, and that there was no 'scientific evidence' to show that caste had anything to do with race". In the interactive dialogue, the National Human Rights Commission of India supported the argument made by the Indian Government. It is yet to be seen how the newly appointed Special Rapporteur Mr. Githu Muigai from Kenya will react to this politically sensitive issue.

An IDS N delegation met with the Independent Expert of Minority Issues in March, where she expressed her concern about the issue and her commitment to investigate it further under her mandate. This was followed up by an invitation to IDS N in connection with the UN Forum on Minority Issues, which met for the first time in December. For this event, IDS N submitted suggestions for recommendations on Dalits' access to education for the thematic debate. The Secretariat also invited IDS N to identify and propose a speaker to elaborate on the situation of Dalits. As a result, Ms. Meghna Guhathakurta, Executive Director of Research Initiatives in Bangladesh and active member of the newly formed Bangladesh Dalit Excluded (Communities) Rights' Movement spoke at the Forum with funding from the OHCHR. Also Anni Namala and Vimal Thorat from India spoke about untouchability practices and discrimination against Dalit children, and the education of Dalit children.

The Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, Ms. Yakin Ertürk, received a number of cases from Dalit women in India, as a result of the work in the Dalit women's working group. The cases have been communicated to the Government of India and will be included in her next annual report to the HRC in 2009.

<sup>9)</sup> See an overview of references to caste-based discrimination by UN Special Rapporteurs on IDS N's website: <http://www.idsn.org/international-advocacy/un/special-procedures/>

► **The photo exhibition** "We are not untouchable – 260 million reasons why Europe should act" was on display in the European Parliament 2-5 June. It opened officially on 3 June with an opening reception attended by about 100 people.

### 3.4 UN Treaty Bodies

In the context of IDSN's work, the main events under the UN treaty body system were the examination of India before the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) in May, and the preparation for the review of Pakistan by the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) in late 2008.

The CESCR examined the Government of India's implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Geneva on 7-8 May. The National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR) submitted a comprehensive shadow report and engaged together with IDSN and other civil society organisations in raising the issue of caste discrimination, with a focus on impunity and non-implementation of laws. Given the large involvement of civil society organisations before and during the examination, the Committee was well informed of the lack of progress in the realisation of the objectives of the Covenant. The Committee expressed grave concern about the manner in which the Indian delegation responded to the issues raised by the Committee. There was almost a systematic refusal to speak about the challenges faced by the state in the implementation phase, which has also been the case in other Treaty Body reviews. In paragraph 14 of the Concluding Observations, the Committee stated the following: The Committee notes with concern the lack of progress achieved by the State party in combating the persistent de facto caste-based discrimination that continues to prevail in spite of the legal prohibitions in place, most notably the 1989 Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. The Committee is particularly concerned by the low rate of prosecution of crimes against persons belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, and that discriminatory attitudes and prejudices in the enforcement of the law, especially by the police, is a serious obstacle in the victims' access to justice.

For the CERD review of Pakistan, which will take place in February 2009, a suggestion for inputs to the List of Issues and a comprehensive shadow report were prepared by IDSN in association with organisations under the newly formed Pakistan Dalit Network. The shadow report, which was a joint collaboration between several national as well as international organisations, included information about the general human rights situation in Pakistan and sections on discrimination against marginalised groups and minorities, including scheduled caste Hindus.

### 3.5 Durban Review Conference

Members and associates of IDSN have since the World Conference against Racism (WCAR) in Durban in 2001 worked to promote international support and recognition of caste discrimination internationally. Despite heavy civil society pressure at the WCAR there was, however, no reference to caste discrimination in the final outcome document, the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA). The WCAR nevertheless marked the occasion on which caste discrimination first made its way into the international human rights agenda. It was therefore logical for the network to raise similar concerns in the context of the Durban Review Conference (DRC), which is scheduled to take place in Geneva in April 2009. The preparatory process leading up to the review conference has however been influenced by a lot of scepticism from many states and international organisations due to the so-called "hijacking" of the agenda by certain regional groups.

When IDSN was accredited for the Durban Review Conference at the 2nd PrepCom session in October 2008, the issue once again got the prompt attention of member states – this time in support of the cause. The Indian Government objected to the application of IDSN, NCDHR and a total of 33 Indian Dalit organisations stating that organisations working for the elimination of caste discrimination should not be allowed to participate in the DRC. At the 2nd Preparatory Committee meeting in October, France on behalf of the European Union argued against this objection and managed after heated negotiations to secure the participation of IDSN and NCDHR in the DRC.

During the two PrepCom meetings in April and October respectively, IDSN took part in a number of joint statements together with NCDHR, The International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR), FORUM-ASIA, and The Lutheran World Federation (LWF). IDSN also provided written input to the contribution by the EU on specific wording and suggested paragraphs in October. As a result, there is one reference to "discrimination based on work and descent" in paragraph 131 based on the contribution by the EU in the 2008 version of the draft outcome document. There are also several references to discrimination based on descent, which includes caste discrimination as affirmed in CERD General Recommendation 29.

Despite the unprecedented attention given to the issue of caste discrimination following the dispute over IDSN's accreditation for the DRC, not much can be expected in

# We are not untouchable

## 260 million reasons why Europe should act

Imagine you were not born free.

Imagine you were assigned to clean dry latrines and sewers, sweep the streets or handle the dead just because of your family lineage. Imagine you were beaten, raped and humiliated because you were regarded as 'dirty' and a lesser human being. And imagine you were perceived to be polluting the classroom and forced out of school.

Today around 260 million people primarily in South Asia, but also in other parts of Asia, the Middle East and Africa are born into a life where they are subjected to dehumanising practices linked to the notion of 'untouchability' and caste discrimination.

The notion of 'untouchability' signifies a practice of strict separation, subordination and exploitation of Dalits – also known as 'untouchables' or 'Scheduled Castes'. It involves strict segregation, modern-day slavery, and other extreme forms of discrimination and violence.

Dalit means 'broken people'. It is the name the 'untouchables' or 'Scheduled Castes' have chosen for themselves to signify a growing movement of empowerment.

Still part of the Hindu, Christian, Buddhist and Muslim communities, the caste system ensures the powerful stay powerful and leaves Dalits without protection.

Caste-based discrimination involves massive violations of basic human rights. Many constitutions of caste-affected countries have outlawed 'untouchability' and other forms of discrimination based on caste, and one country, India, has enacted special laws for the protection of Dalits. However legislation goes unenforced and caste-based discrimination remains one of today's largest human rights problems.

Prati, Bihar, India

Don't cross the bar! The Dalit village of Pratapnagar is a hotbed of caste-based discrimination and violence. The village is a hotbed of caste-based discrimination and violence. The village is a hotbed of caste-based discrimination and violence.

**IDSN**  
International Dalit Solidarity Network

IDSN folder produced for the European Parliament exhibition

terms of actual results and substance from the process. Nevertheless, several missions now know what IDSN stands for and were ready to extend their support to IDSN against the objections made by the Government of India, which is a positive development compared to the first Durban conference.

## 4 European Union

The development of proactive measures and concrete actions within the European Union's spheres of influence to address caste discrimination was continuously lobbied for, influencing the EU to take caste discrimination into the policy and human rights dialogues with affected countries in a systematic and transparent manner and for effectively reflecting the issue at the policy and strategic level, including in development cooperation and trade relations. IDSN pursued dialogues on these issues with Members of the European Parliament, the Commission, the Council and EU member states.

### 4.1 IDSN interventions with the EU in June

In the first week of June 2008, IDSN organised a series of interventions with EU institutions in Brussels under the theme "Caste Discrimination in South Asia". With point of departure in the photo exhibition on caste discrimination sponsored by Margrete Auken (Greens, DK), Jean Lambert (Greens-UK), Claude Moraes (PSE-UK) and Maria Martens (PPE, NL) a well attended hearing in the Parliament was held on 3 June, preceded by a press conference. The following day a three-hour round table session had been organised with eight officials from the European Commission, chaired by EuropeAid Director for Asia, Erich Wilhelm Muller. More than 20 meetings were organised with individual MEPs. Teams also met

individually with mission officials from Slovenia, France, Sweden and the Netherlands, and with the Human Rights Representative, Riina Kionka (European Council), and Mr. Vincent Guerénd, Deputy Head of Commission Benita Ferrero-Waldner's Cabinet.

The IDSN team included researchers and Dalit leaders from India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka and representatives of six Dalit Solidarity Networks in Europe.

In addition, the photographer, Jakob Carlsen, and Dennis Weitering from Fatusch Productions, currently producers of the Dutch documentary on Dalit human rights defenders (Outcast Heroes), took part in the events on 3 June.

In all meetings country situations, the new research on caste discrimination in Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Pakistan, and key issues were covered. The various institutions and individuals were challenged to take effective action within their institutional mandate and scope of work as set out in IDSN's recommendations. A full set of IDSN recommendations to EU institutions is available at [www.idsn.org](http://www.idsn.org)<sup>6</sup>.

The events lifted and enhanced visibility on caste discrimination, creating a deeper understanding by those targeted of the conditions of Dalits. Discussions were held on the manifestations and consequences of caste discrimination from both a human rights and a development perspective and linked to the current responsibilities of the EU.

The interventions have increased the possibility for new initiatives and contributed to paving the way for some of the actions proposed by IDSN to the council and the commission, including the development of a Council policy statement.

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.idsn.org/international-advocacy/eu/recommendations-eu/>

#### 4.1.1 Hearing in the European Parliament

Prior to the official opening of the photo exhibition, a hearing "Caste discrimination in South Asia" was held. The hearing programme included presentations of country situations for Sri Lanka, Nepal, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh (report on the hearing available at [www.idsn.org](http://www.idsn.org)). Around 100 people participated, among them members of the European Parliament, Council and Commission officials, as well as NGOs. Representatives of embassies of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh were also present. The critical questions raised by the audience concerned what exactly the European Union can do vis a vis caste affected countries. Speaking on behalf of the Commission, Mr. Eric Müller, Director of EuropeAid Asia stated clearly that the EU needs "partnership" and the "development of common norms and values" in order to promote the eradication of caste discrimination. In contrast to this, some members of the European Parliament demanded that trade and aid be more conditional. A MEP, Mr. Cashman, concluded the hearing by saying: "Discrimination on the basis of caste must be seen as what it is: A serious human rights violation. I urge the representatives of Governments of caste affected countries, who are present to take back the message that the barbaric practice of caste discrimination has to end".

The hearing was well covered in media reports. Articles and a report on the hearing can be found at [www.idsn.org](http://www.idsn.org).

#### 4.1.2 European Commission Round Table

On 4th June, a round table was held with eight officials from the European Commission, presided by EuropeAid Director for Asia, Erich Muller.

Country situations and main issues were presented by the representatives from South Asia. The team put forward demands for proper consideration of caste dynamics in all EU policies, and especially the recommended process of producing a tool for addressing caste-based discrimination. There was some reluctance towards the idea of creating a set of guidelines in addition to existing ones on other issues. Rather the Commission was of the opinion that the Dalit issue could be dealt with under the "minorities" and "other vulnerable groups" category, an idea that the IDSN continuously challenges. It was pointed out that the Commission's current country strategy papers and other programming documents had very few if any references to caste discrimination and therefore no specific programming measures to address the caste-based human rights violations or to reach Dalits in development efforts. The 2009 CPS review could

open new possibilities, though officials stressed that the country level interaction is central.

Erich Muller suggested an annual dialogue meeting between the Commission and the IDSN to take discussions further on the impact of EU programmes in relation to caste-affected groups, also at country level. The Commission officials further pointed to possibilities of funding of projects on caste discrimination under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) framework, and also welcomed the exhibition in a central Commission building.

The IDSN coordinator later in the year met with officials of the Commission to follow up on issues discussed and ways forward.

#### 4.1.3 European Parliament

In June, meetings had also been requested with members of relevant parliamentary delegations and Committees, including the Foreign Affairs Committee, the Committee of Development, the Sub-Committee of Human Rights and the delegations on India and South Asia. The MEPs generally accepted the relevance and potential effect of having formal discussions on caste discrimination in the committees and most committed themselves to taking the idea forward. Points on dialogues with member MPs from affected countries, and highlighting the issue during visits and missions to caste affected countries were well taken.

The election in 2009 provides an opportunity to seek members' support for fighting caste discrimination in the run up to the election, an initiative that could be taken forward by a group of MEPs.

IDSN worked with MEPs to ensure relevant references in the Draft Opinion of the Committee on Development for the Committee on International Trade on an EU-India Free Trade Agreement. Several questions were raised by different members of Parliament in the course of the year to the Commission and the Council on the topic including how the institutions had followed up on recommendations of the European Parliament's resolution on the human rights situation of Dalits in India, adopted in 2007.

#### 4.2 Other Interventions

##### 4.2.1 EU-India Summit

The EU-India summit took place in France on 29 September 2008. Prior to the summit IDSN contributed to the European Parliament's (EP) deliberations through submissions of text for draft resolutions (on the EU-India Summit) of three political groups. Some groups

added the proposed text to their draft resolutions. However, in spite of this and the IDS N activities that took place in June, the final EP resolution on the EU-India Summit has only marginal reference to Dalits and no reference to the EP resolution of 1 February 2007 on the human rights situation of Dalits in India. However, the debate, which took place in parliament before the adoption of the resolution reflected some concerns on caste based discrimination, notably those raised by the Dutch SP MEP, Erik Meyer.

#### 4.2.2 Orissa violence in India

The Orissa attacks and violence against Dalit Christians<sup>7)</sup> were addressed both in the EP resolution and subject for discussions at the Summit. IDS N had sent several reports and joint statements from the Asian Human Rights Commission, the National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights, and IDS N, to the French Presidency, on the violence in Orissa, underlining the caste dynamics, and requesting that the Orissa case along with other human rights violations, including caste based discrimination, be part of the summit talks. According to press reports, European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso, condemned the attacks and supported the Indian Prime Minister, M. Singh's stand against the violence whilst acknowledging that "It is an internal issue." The acceptance of the "internal issue" argument by President Barroso appears to contravene international human rights law.

#### 4.2.3 Lobby and advocacy support for the draft UN Principles and Guidelines

Lobby and advocacy interventions aimed at enhancing EU's support for the Study on the Elimination of Discrimination based on Work and Descent (containing draft UN Principles and Guidelines for the Elimination of Discrimination based on Work and Descent), remained high on IDS N's agenda. This involved a continuous dialogue with EU institutions and Member States' permanent representations in Brussels, as well as Ministries of Foreign Affairs in capitals and Member States' missions in Geneva. In 2008 IDS N secured the necessary political support, as support to the UN P&G process was decided upon as a joint EU initiative in the Coordinating Committee on Human Rights (COHOM) by the Council.

<sup>7)</sup> For further reports on violence and destruction in Orissa see [www.idsn.org](http://www.idsn.org). What was largely described as Hindu-Christian inter-communal violence covered over underlying caste dynamics, where violence was targeted at Dalits. The state Government failed to control the violence and to arrest the persons behind it.

<sup>8)</sup> To access the web-based version of the tool, select 'HRCA Portal' on the webpage and create a user account. The User Guide provides instruction on how to use the tool.

## 5 Private sector

The Dalit Discrimination Check (DDC) developed by the Danish Institute for Human Rights, Danida and IDS N was launched in Denmark at a meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 5 September, attended by several companies and other involved actors. The Dalit Discrimination Check is a tool developed specifically to help companies prevent discrimination and exploitation of Dalits in their Indian operations and with suppliers. The tool is designed as a comprehensive checklist consisting of self-guided questions and indicators that highlight possible violations. The tool provides simple descriptions of what the components of Dalit discrimination look like in a business context and allows managers to check their company's policies, procedures and performance. The tool is relevant for all companies operating in or sourcing from India and can help companies implement corporate social responsibility principles, such as the Global Compact and the Ambedkar Principles, a set of guidelines for companies to address caste discrimination. The DDC takes its point of departure in the Ambedkar Principles. The Dalit Discrimination Check is available for free and exists in a booklet version and in a web-based version, which can be accessed at [www.humanrightsbusiness.org](http://www.humanrightsbusiness.org)<sup>8)</sup>.

In a meeting with a group of companies hosted by the Confederation of Danish Industries on 23 September, discrimination in the labour market in India was discussed with Indian resource persons, Henri Tiphagne and Ashwini Deshpande. The Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced the DDC on its website and the Minister for Development recommended the use of the check in an interview with a major daily business executive newspaper.

In the Netherlands, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Economic Affairs have also taken a particular interest in the DDC and the Ambedkar Principles.

In November, information about the DCC was sent out to more than 3.000 email addresses worldwide, through the Dalit Network Netherlands. A large number of the recipients were from India and other South Asian countries. The DDC was also published on the homepage of the resource website [www.business-humanrights.org](http://www.business-humanrights.org) and has reached a large number of professionals working with (CSR).

In India, the Dalit Discrimination Check has been introduced to a number of companies, including

most of the multinational companies (MNCs), and The International Labour Organisation, New Delhi, has introduced the check at a meeting with the Ethical Brands Group.

The tool is likely to be of interest to the Global Compact. Communications from companies on progress show that some companies already mention caste, including MNCs in India, Pakistan and Nepal.

The Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and IDSN in cooperation with the Danish Institute for Human Rights have initiated a dialogue with Professor John Ruggie, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on business & human rights to discuss how the DDC, which is based on the human rights compliance assessment model, can be taken into the work on human rights and business at the international level as well as practically for companies working in caste affected countries.

In cooperation with DSN-UK, training materials are being developed to address some of the difficulties faced by foreign companies in addressing this form of discrimination due to cultural barriers and the sensitivity of the issue. The training material will accompany the DDC and is developed for training within MNCs in India and Europe.

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#### **Caste discrimination in a global discourse**

**Caste discrimination is closely related to the hierarchical and hereditary allocation of jobs, by which Dalits are assigned the most menial and dirty jobs with the lowest status, and they are often forced into bonded labour and hazardous industries, and a large number of Dalits, including Dalit children, work under slave-like conditions. In modern economies such as India's IT and industry sectors, discrimination continues to affect the possibilities for Dalits to engage on an equal footing with other groups. It has been well documented that discrimination on the basis of caste is extensive in the hiring process, in possibilities for promotion and in terms of intolerance and prejudices at the work place. With the increasing investments and outsourcing to caste-affected countries, especially India, by transnational companies it is necessary to consider caste-based discrimination as a priority issue in the global discourse on business and human rights.**

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Leaflets on the DDC were distributed by DNN during the international expert meeting in Santiago de Chili on the ISO 26000 Guidance on Social Responsibility for organisations to a large number of international

delegates. Equally if not more important is that efforts to include the issue of caste in the new Draft Guidance have been successful. Not only is caste referred to as prohibited ground for discrimination several times but also the 'untouchables' are specifically mentioned as a vulnerable group that organisations have to consider.

The Fair Labour Association (FLA), a multi-stakeholder initiative comprised of hundreds of companies, who together with NGOs and unions work on improving labour conditions in the international supply chain of several consumer products, was provided with comments on its Code of Conduct and requested to include caste as a ground for discrimination at the labour market by DSN-UK.

A forthcoming ILO Asia Pacific Employment Working Paper on "Dalits and Employment in the Private Sector in India" deals with employment issues of Dalits. The paper, to which IDSN has contributed, provides an insight into the discussion, which has taken place in India since 2003, on how private enterprises can support better and "decent work" employment opportunities for Dalits. While within India numerous initiatives have been taken to eliminate discrimination on the basis of caste, the issue has only recently been presented to the international community. The Government of India is now urging the private sector to take on its responsibility of empowering Dalits socially and economically. Although it has refrained from imposing legislation setting benchmarks for employment of Dalits in the private sector, the Government may not shy away from doing so if it deems it necessary to speed up the pace of elimination of caste based discrimination in the country.

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#### **The ILO Asia Pacific Employment Paper**

**The paper provides basic background information to introduce Indian and foreign entrepreneurs to the social and economic obstacles to the Dalits. It will highlight legislative and policy measures taken by national and international actors, and activities undertaken by the Dalits themselves, judging their acceptability and effectiveness. The paper also presents relevant human rights and affirmative action tools for the private sector including the Ambedkar Principles and the Dalit Discrimination Check.**

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Dalits themselves, judging their acceptability and effectiveness. The paper also presents relevant human rights and affirmative action tools for the private sector including the Ambedkar Principles and the Dalit Discrimination Check.

In 2008, members of the IDS N Private Sector Working group have taken various initiatives in their own national settings.

DSN-UK launched its company report 'Another Apartheid?' on 22 April in the Parliament. Speakers included HSBC India's Head of Corporate Affairs, Malini Thadani, and the Director of the Ethical Trading Initiative, CEO of Tempsolutions Inc. The event was well attended by representatives of UK companies, NGOs and parliamentarians with about 80 attendees in total. DSN-UK is pursuing a dialogue with the UK India Business Council to ensure that caste discrimination is on their agenda in dealings with India and has entered into cooperation with UNITE, the largest manufacturing union in the UK. DSN-UK held a high level meeting with Shell at which they agreed to engage with HSBC on how they have made recruitment policies. Shell further agreed to put a statement on their website saying that Shell does not want to discriminate on the basis of caste.

The Dalit Solidarity Platform, Germany, engaged with a number of German companies operational in India to encourage a study on the staff composition according to caste. Daimler has agreed to conduct a study. A Private Sector seminar scheduled to be held in October in Germany had to be cancelled due to lack of participation by companies, although many had expressed initial interest.

In Denmark two meetings have been held with companies to introduce the DDC; the first one was called by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the second one by the Confederation of Danish Industries and the total number of companies reached was about 20.

Finally a resolution passed by the Dutch parliament carries the provision that every company which receives Government support in any way (subsidies, credits, participation in trade missions, etc.) should either make clear that they are not involved in the violation of fundamental labour rights in their supply chain, or have a public plan of action on how to remedy the violations of fundamental labour rights in the supply chain. This resolution, once turned into practical policy, gives tremendous scope to raise the issue of caste discrimination at the labour market and promote the DDC.

## 6 Networking, campaigning and coordination

### 6.1 Regional research on caste-based discrimination

As an outcome of the regional research project on caste discrimination, hosted by the Indian Institute of Dalit Studies (IIDS) in collaboration with IDS N, country reports on Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Pakistan were made available in May in English and later published in both English and local languages. Based on the reports IDS N produced fact sheets for dissemination to policy makers, Government institutions, diplomats and other stakeholders and introduced the research along with recommendations to a range of institutions and stakeholders. National level launching seminars and workshops have been held in all countries; in some countries with a highly effective mobilising effect, creating visibility and stirring political and public interest. A comparative paper based on the four research studies is under preparation, working papers are being finalised and reports will be published in book form.

A follow up meeting to the regional research on caste discrimination was organised by IIDS and IDS N on 16th December in Kathmandu, with the participation of country researchers, national Dalit platforms, IDS N executive group members, and the Centre for Human Rights and Global Justice. Since the research components of the project are completed with country reports, books and working papers as its outcomes, the meeting focused on reviewing dissemination of reports and impact at national and international level as well as emerging areas of research, and agreed upon the follow up plans for the final phase.

In order to facilitate future academic exchange across the region, a South Asia regional network will be established as a platform for compiling and disseminating information on caste based discrimination to various stakeholders. The network will host a virtual resource centre where members can access, use and upload relevant information. It will function as both resource centre and network of Dalit researchers and researchers on Dalits in South Asia, and further compile and disseminate information on social exclusion for scholars, civil society organisations, advocacy groups and policy makers.

Taking the importance of advocacy and lobbying at the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) level into account, it was decided to extend the

research to Bhutan and the Maldives, within the present project phase, in cooperation with national researchers.

As part of the dissemination of IIDS research on forms and types and changing nature of discrimination, a seminar will be organised in April 09. The seminar has a separate session on Caste and Descent Based Discrimination in South Asian countries. Researchers on the project from Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka will be invited to present their studies.

## 6.2 Photo exhibition “We are not untouchable”

The IDSN photo exhibition “We are not untouchable – 260 million reasons why Europe should act” was first displayed in the European Parliament on 2-5 June. It opened officially on 3 June with an opening reception attended by about 100 people. A folder for the exhibition was handed out to visitors together with country fact sheets on caste discrimination in Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and India.

The exhibition – parts of which can be viewed online at [www.idsn.org/wearenotuntouchable](http://www.idsn.org/wearenotuntouchable) - contains photographs from India, Nepal, Pakistan and Bangladesh by award-winning Danish photographer Jakob Carlsen. National Dalit platforms in the four countries were responsible for identifying locations and organising Jakob Carlsen’s in country travel. The selection of photographs and preparation of text was undertaken by IDSN in consultation with national platforms. Søren Maarbjerg made the graphic design.

The exhibition depicts caste-based discrimination in South Asia through six themes:

- Untouchability/segregation
- Atrocities/emanicipation
- Forced occupations
- Development assistance/disaster relief
- Bonded and forced labour
- Dalit women

In addition, basic facts on caste-based discrimination are conveyed as part of the exhibition, which was approved to carry the logo of the 2008 commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The exhibition is owned by the IDSN network and managed by the IDSN secretariat in Copenhagen. It is meant as a resource that can be drawn upon for work in respective countries and is freely available for IDSN members and others. The exhibition consists of 25 posters measuring 120 x 200 cm each with photographs and text printed on fabric. So-called “open files” are available if exhibitors wish to translate the text into a different language and print a new copy of the exhibition.

After opening in Brussels in June, the exhibition travelled to:

- Norway, where it was exhibited by Rafto in connection with the University of Bergen Summer Research School,
- Sweden, where it was exhibited by DSN-Sweden at the European Social Forum and
- Copenhagen, where it was exhibited by DSN-DK in relation to a hearing in the Danish Parliament

In all places, the exhibition has been very well received and it is now booked for various occasions in European countries in 2009.

## 6.3 New IDSN website

In late 2007 the Secretariat started exploring options for a comprehensive upgrade of its website [www.idsn.org](http://www.idsn.org). There was first of all a need for a more user-friendly website for both visitors and managers, and a website which had more features and capacity, such as an extranet. But most importantly, there was a need to give IDSN a better “face” to reflect the identity and work of the network.

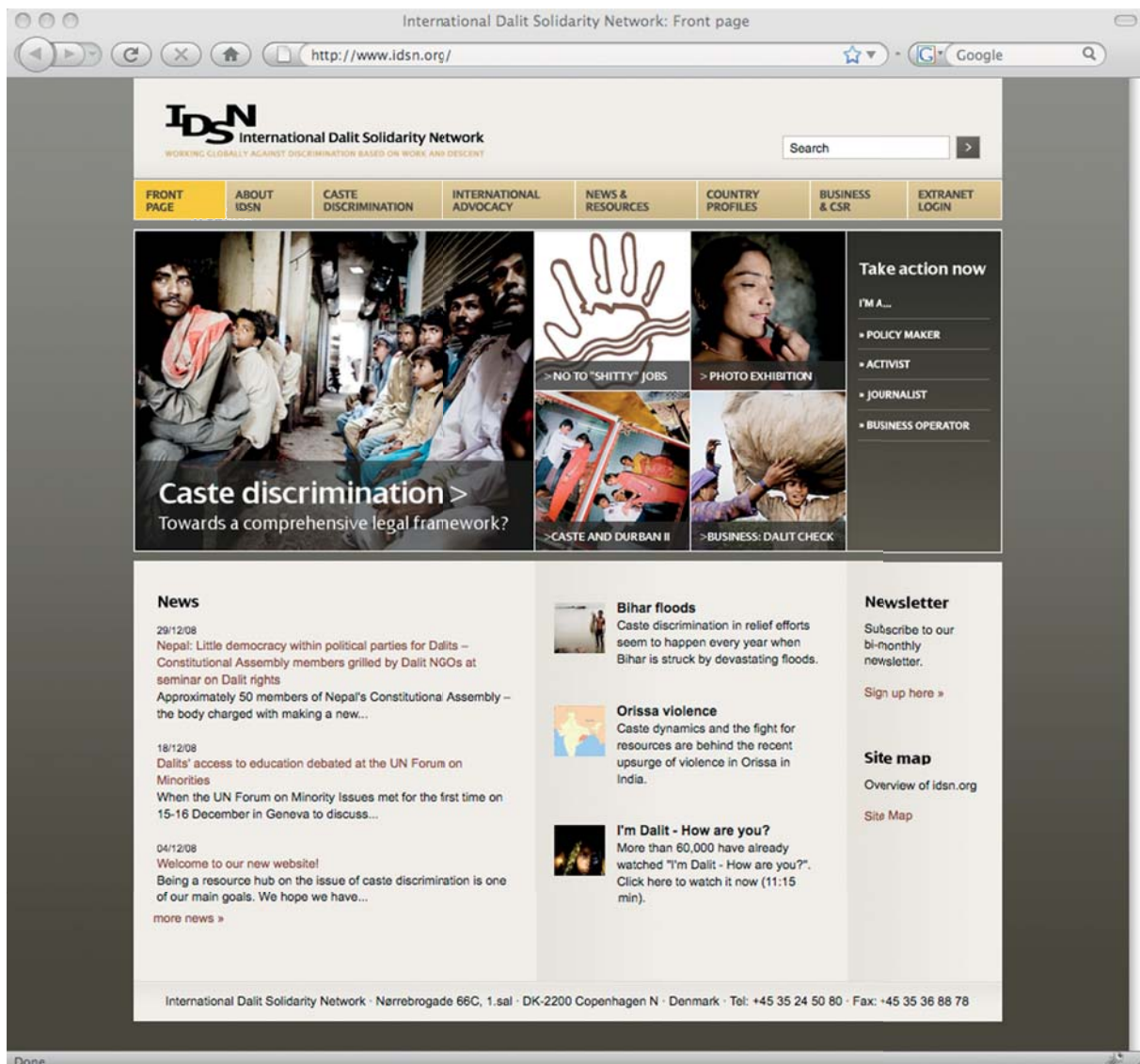
One of the main responsibilities of the Communications Officer was therefore to establish and manage a new website in 2008. This task included preparing a new structure and content, hiring a consultancy firm to make the graphic design and technical set-up, inserting new text on each page, and adjusting new features to the new format. The website was finally launched in early December.

The website was set up with the following target groups in mind: concerned individuals, activists, and network members; policymakers, officials, and diplomats; academics and researchers; journalists and other media persons; and affected groups. One of the most innovative features is the “Take Action Now” menu, which enables these groups to navigate better on the site and to give them the broadest possible introduction to the field.

The new website contains the following features:

- Overview of the nature of caste discrimination and the human rights abuses that inevitably follow, and links to in-depth research and documentation.
- Presentation of the key international processes where the struggle against caste discrimination is being played out at UN and EU level.
- News from our network in caste-affected countries and in Europe.





The new homepage of www.idsn.org

- Tailor-made recommendations for policy makers, activists, business operators and the media.
- CSR-tools for businesses to trace and deal with caste discrimination in direct operations or supply chains in caste-affected countries.
- Video and photographic testimonies of victims of caste discrimination.
- Link to today's news on Dalits and caste discrimination via Google News

#### 6.4 Ad hoc Constitutional Working group on Nepal

In April, the Centre for Human Rights and Global Justice (CHRGJ) at New York University School of Law released a report "Recasting Justice: Securing Dalit Rights in Nepal's New Constitution" which analyzes Nepal's Interim Constitution to inform how the new constitution may be drafted to secure the rights of Dalits in accordance with the country's international human rights obligations. The report's principal areas

of focus correspond with Nepal's international human rights treaty obligations, which include ensuring: non-discriminatory access to citizenship; the right to equality and non-discrimination; civil and political rights; economic, social, and cultural rights; women's rights; children's rights; the right to be free from torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment; and the right to a remedy for human rights violations.

This report is a significant contribution as Nepal prepares its new constitution. Along with the recommendations and analysis of the Dalit movement in Nepal, the report provides Nepalese lawmakers with tangible means to demonstrate the country's commitment to the right to equality under international Law. While the Interim Constitution takes commendable steps toward human rights, significant gaps remain in the protection of Dalit rights.

"The new constitution should act as a roadmap for how Nepal will meet its international human rights obligations," said Jayne Huckerby, CHRGJ's Research

Director, in a press release. "Recasting Justice" was produced in close cooperation with Dalit advocates and members of the legal community in Nepal and dissemination undertaken in cooperation with the Jagarand Media Service, the Dalit NGO Federation and IDSN. The report has been distributed widely including to Constituent Assembly members. At a Dalit NGO Federation (DNF) training seminar for CA members in December, contributions were made by CHRJ, the IDSN coordinator and Dalit leaders from India, incl. NCDHR, among others. At the heart of the debate was the process of influencing the Constitutional drafting process to incorporate all aspects of Dalit rights in the new constitution and take into account "model" constitutions and legislation from other countries.

In December, a joint DNF-IDSN team met with a number of missions and embassies in Kathmandu, leaders of political parties, the Chair of the National Dalit Commission, civil society organisations, UNDP and the Foreign Secretary. The meetings were conducted with a view to explore how best to influence the Constitutional Committee drafting process and the restructuring of the state to secure Dalit rights and meaningful participation in political, economic and social life.

#### 6.5 Dalit Women Working Group (DWWG)

This working group was established in 2007 on the initiative and with the financial support of Cordaid within the framework of IDSN. The group involves Dalit Women Leadership in Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, Malaysia and Pakistan. The aim of DWWG is to enhance Dalit women participation in national, regional and international advocacy, to bring in Dalit women's perspective in advocacy issues and to pursue specific Dalit women interventions. The group also aims to increase Dalit women's participation in IDSN decision-making bodies, to advance Dalit women leadership in interventions and to work on capacity building to enable Dalit women in international advocacy.

In February 2008, a joint strategy meeting with members was held in Kathmandu bringing together Dalit women and women from support groups to share experiences and build solidarity, and to collectively develop strategies for improving the position and realising the rights of Dalit women.

The participants agreed to form themselves into a regional group of Dalit women and the formation was subsequently named the Asian Alliance of Dalit Women. Furthermore, the terms of reference and an action plan for DWWG were defined. As a result, the action plan outlines a range of interventions that can be pursued in various appropriate contexts, i.e. in line with the

mandate and scope of the IDSN DWWG, as Asian Alliance activities, in cooperation with relevant organisations and networks.

On the initiative of the DWWG, 30 Dalit women from seven Indian states were able to take up their cases at national and international level with the help of Justice and Peace Netherlands and All India Dalit Mahila Adhikar Manch (AIDMAM). The women, who had been victims of different forms of violence, had all tried to obtain justice through the regular penal justice system in India without success. Following the compilation of cases, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women was requested to take up the 30 cases in her communications with the Government of India, for the purpose of obtaining justice for the victims. The Special Rapporteur is expected to include these communications in her annual report to be presented to the Human Rights Council in 2009.

## 7 Country developments

### 7.1 Caste-affected countries

#### 7.1.1 National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights – India

National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights went through a wide-ranging restructuring process in 2008 and new leadership was established in mid-August. In the new structure there are four movements: Dalit women, Economic Rights, Civil & Political Rights, and Land Rights. Each movement will function as an autonomous unit and have a General Secretary (full-time) as leader of the movement. The Convenor of each movement will be an honorary person, and each movement will have its own constitution. A coordinating body, the NCDHR Coalition, will bring together the movements and organise joint advocacy initiatives and emerging initiatives. A Constituent Council will ensure that each movement and the coalition have their constitutions in place. This process started in 2008 and continues into 2009.

Some of the main activities of the National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR) in 2008 were linked to a National Consultation held together with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on 3-4 December 2007, where 50 national, regional and state level organisations participated. The aim of the consultation was to strengthen the implementation of the Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes Prevention of Atrocities Act from 1989 and its rules of 1995. The senior member of the NHRC, Mr. R.S. Kalha, chaired the consultation meeting. The result of the consultation was the formulation of 101 recommendations to the NHRC on different aspects of the Criminal Justice

Administrative System and Justice Delivery System, including recommendations on how the NHRC could strengthen it.

In March 2008, NCDHR organised three state level consultations with the NHRC in three atrocity prone states: Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The objectives of the consultations were to establish a mechanism to prevent atrocities in collaboration with the NHRC, to organise similar workshops in 12 other states, to link up different organisations and activists, and to identify well trained activists to monitor follow-up work in selected districts. The consultations were organised together with other Dalit organisations working at state level. Approximately 70-90 human rights activists participated in each of the two-day consultations in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Haryana.

Together with Wada Na Todo Abhiyan (Campaign on MDGs in India), the Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability (CBGA) and other grass-root organisations, the NCDHR conducted a protest rally in front of the National Parliament on 28th and 29th February 2008. At the rally, a memorandum for 'Implementation of Scheduled Castes Sub Plan in the Annual Budget from Centre and State Government' was submitted to the President of India, the Prime Minister of India, two Ministers, and the Chairperson of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes.

Other activities in 2008 included interventions with Centre and State Government on the Schedule Castes Sub Plan, as NCDHR successfully completed the second analysis of the Annual Budget of Centre Government and four state Governments (Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan and Maharashtra). Several lobby meetings also took place with the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Dalit Members of the Parliament and State Governments to realize the Scheduled Castes Sub Plan. As a result of this work, memorandums were submitted to the Centre and State Governments for Dalit Economic Rights.

Together with the Asia Dalit Rights Movement (ADRM), NCDHR helped organise training on 'International Human Rights mechanisms and Advocacy for Dalit Human Rights' in Bangkok in September 2008. NCDHR also organised a visit to India by a high level Dalit delegation from Nepal in September. The main aim was to reinforce Dalits' leadership development, movement and mainstreaming in the constitution-making process in Nepal. The delegation had a series of meetings with Government institutions, Human Rights Commissions, ministries, research institutions, prominent universities, Dalit leaders, media, etc.

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### National study on torture and impunity in India by People's Watch

**A comprehensive national study, "Torture and Impunity in India", was conducted by People's Watch in ten states in India involving the registration of more than 6000 cases. The study was funded by the European Union and the Friedrich Naumann Stiftung für die Freiheit. The study concluded that police torture is a pervasive and insidious practice occurring throughout India, and that police torture is an entrenched system with strong structural ties to class, caste, communal dynamics and political power. The intersection of these factors adversely impacts the most vulnerable section of the population, the Dalits. The study aimed at preventing and reducing torture in India where police abuses remained an entrenched and often routine law enforcement strategy, despite India's status as the world's largest democracy. This was done with the specific objectives of highlighting individual cases, protecting victims of torture, improving institutional response, and working for new anti-torture legislation and commitment to international treaties. The findings of the report underline the necessity of enhancing the Government's efforts to eliminate these threats to fundamental freedoms, not least by ratifying the UN Convention against Torture. When the final report from the study is published in early 2009, IDS N and People's Watch will jointly submit the report and formulate recommendations to the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture.**

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#### 7.1.2 Dalit NGO Federation – Nepal

2008 has been a turning point in the political history of Nepal as the country was declared a Federal Democratic Republic. The Constituent Assembly Election guaranteed 50 Dalit representations out of 601 in the new Constituent Assembly (CA). This is a historic achievement in Nepal. The Dalit NGO Federation (DNF) has contributed to this change, along with the various political parties and other Dalit NGOs in Nepal, through a series of campaigns advocating Dalit rights and by lobbying the political parties to demand proportionate representation in the Constituent Assembly.

One of the most significant activities towards the end of the year was the Constituent Assembly Representatives' seminar in December. DNF organised a national seminar for both Dalits and Non-Dalits, in which national and international level resource persons also participated. The training aimed at raising awareness among the CA representatives of the constitution drawing processes of various countries. The idea was to support the CA representatives in drafting the Nepal constitution, and to exchange views and ideas ensuring common consensus between Dalits and Non-Dalits.



**Bihar, India, October 2007** Dalits preparing a deceased man for burial. Everything associated with death is considered 'polluted', so the tasks of preparing the dead for burial is forced on to Dalits as an unpaid job by dominant castes.

DNF also developed the Dalit Agenda after several regional consultations and national seminars with various stakeholders, civil society, political parties, INGOs and the UN agencies. The agenda was published and distributed to stakeholders and disseminated through the Kantipur National Daily Paper. More than 500,000 people have been made aware of the Dalit agenda. The target of DNF is to have the agenda included in the constitution.

In cooperation with the National Forum for Peace and Development, DNF provided Voter Education at community level, beneficial to 16,000 people. Similarly, DNF organised leadership development training in order to prepare potential CA candidates for the Constituent Assembly, along with campaigns in order to make people aware of the importance of voting. The National Election Monitoring Alliance (NEMA) is the largest alliance of Nepalese Federations and NGOs, formed to monitor the election during the Constituent Assembly Election. DNF is one of the members of NEMA and mobilised 1360 election observers in 17 districts who contributed to the execution of a free and fair election.

In cooperation with the National Planning Commission and the National Dalit Commission, DNF launched a major new project this year. The Plan International Project aims at analysing the Government provisions and policies in the 3 year Interim Plan (2007-2009),

annual sector plans and budgets, and to sensitise, communicate and influence Government line agencies to help ensure better implementation of such plans and budgets.

The Government budget for old age allowance has been changed in 2008, taking into account the short life expectancy rate of Dalits. The allowance will now be allocated to Dalits at the age of 60, compared to the rest of the population who will receive the allowance at 70 years of age. This is the first time that Dalits are given old age allowance. Moreover Dalits, who had been provided with free education at primary level only, now get free education for two additional years. Another highly significant Governmental initiative is the abolishment of bonded labour on the basis of a series of campaigns supported by DNF.

In the area of education, DNF has provided 70 Dalit youths with vocational training, who are now able to generate a livelihood income. Around 672 students have benefited from scholarships provided by DNF and several dropout students are now in a position to rejoin school.

In the area of human rights, DNF started a campaign in three districts promoting the rights of the extremely marginalised Terai Dalits in collaboration with Care-Nepal. People are now aware of their rights and can raise



**Mumbai, India, September 2007** Vilas Goekwad, 36, is a sewage worker in Mumbai. He is lowered down into the pipe to clean it with his bare hands. No protective gear is provided by the government to shield him from the human waste. He simply dives in!

their voice to fight human rights violations. Moreover, DNF is also monitoring the human rights violation cases throughout the country and has been mobilising activists in five regions to watch the caste discrimination cases happening in the districts and intervene in the events to bring justice to the victims.

DNF has made several important publications and media initiatives during 2008. A highly significant production of the DNF's network is the documentary "Acchut". The documentary shows the social, political, economical conditions and the violations of human rights of the Terai Dalits. DNF interacted with the media in the hope of raising awareness of the social exclusion of Terai Dalits. As a result several journalists are now interested in exploring the issues of the Dalit community. Moreover, DNF and its network have published a research book on caste discrimination in Nepal, along with news bulletins and the broadcasting of several radio programmes at regional and national level.

### 7.1.3 Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Rights Movement

A national platform, the Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Rights Movement (BDERM), was established in 2008 to cover all Dalit organisations in the country supported by a small secretariat run by Dalits. The Advisory Board of BDERM is composed of key human rights actors, which gives strength and recognition to the platform. After

national level consultations BDERM has also conducted local level consultations to let other Dalit groups know that there is a national Dalit platform. Approximately 300 people were contacted in 2008 to promote awareness about the national platform.

As a result, the platform is now an organisation that people are starting to recognise. It publishes a quarterly newspaper and 2000 copies have been distributed in 64 districts, covering all of Bangladesh. This has tremendous impact. People are telephoning wanting to join the platform. Moreover human rights organisations are increasingly interested and they are submitting applications to become associate members.

BDERM is also recognised by other development NGOs in Bangladesh. Among other things, human rights organisations invited BDERM to join the drafting of a comprehensive NGO report for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Bangladesh in 2009. In addition, BDERM contributed actively to the preparation of a specific UPR submission on caste-based discrimination in association with IDS. The report is based on documentation from the national research project on caste-based discrimination in Bangladesh, and it is therefore the first national report submitted to the UN on this particular issue. In the compilation of stakeholders' information, prepared by the OHCHR, there are several specific paragraphs on Dalit issues based on information from

the two submissions. This report serves as an active input to the review of Bangladesh by the Human Rights Council in February 2009.

At national level, BDERM has organised a housing rights campaign to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. The platform members took to the streets with a rally of 300 people raising their demands before the national elections in December. On this occasion a national human rights conference was planned by BDERM, but it had to be postponed until January 2009. All in all, the platform is a major political achievement; some political parties have even included Dalit issues on their political manifestos, which is a first in the country's history.

#### 7.1.4 Pakistan Dalit Solidarity Network

Many significant events took place in Pakistan in 2008. One of the most significant was the launch of the national report on caste-based discrimination entitled "Long Behind Schedule - a Study on the Plight of Scheduled Castes". On September 5th Pakistan Institute of Labour Research (PILER) and Thardeep Rural Development Programme (TRDP) had jointly organised the launch of the research report. The guest of honour was Nisar Ahmad Khuhro, Provincial President of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP). Nisar Ahmad Khuhro admitted that some form of discrimination had always existed, but the situation was aggravated during General Ziaul Haq's era due to the promulgation of a number of discriminatory laws. The main reason for the enactment of such draconian laws was just to prolong his tenure by creating divisions among various sections of society, on the basis of ethnicity and sects. Nisar Ahmad Khuhro appreciated the efforts of TRDP and PILER, with the support of IDSN and The Indian Institute of Dalit Studies (IIDS), for conducting the research study on caste-based discrimination in Pakistan. Moreover, Manoo Bheel, whose nine family members were kidnapped years back and who had been protesting since then, was also invited. The various speakers urged the relevant authorities to take action for the recovery of his family members.

Another significant event was the February 2008 election in Pakistan that brought the PPP into power. Particularly the poor and marginalised communities have been adherents of the PPP with the slogan *roti, kapra or makan* (food, clothes and shelter). The new Government assigned Dr Khatu Mal Jeewan, belonging to the Scheduled Caste community, as advisor to Chief Minister in Sindh. Similarly Shehbaz Bhatti from the minority Christian community became the Federal Minister of Minority Affairs.

In the course of the year many people of Scheduled Caste working as bonded labourers were freed. The Government is also making plans for the rehabilitation of these freed communities by introducing low cost housing schemes and distribution of land to landless women. Moreover, the Sindh Government formed an independent task force team for the planning and commission of such developments. Encouragingly, Dr Sono Khangharani, director of TRDP, was selected as one of the members of this team.

A series of press conferences on the issue of Scheduled Caste Hindus in Punjab were jointly organised by the Haray Rama Foundation, Scheduled Caste Rights Movement and Hindu Balmik Sudhar Saba. They unanimously demanded that the Government gave representation to an estimated 450,000 people of the Scheduled Caste population living in Punjab in the national and provincial assemblies, and for the restoration of a 6% job quota for the Scheduled Caste community in Pakistan. These issues, among others, were highlighted and got wider coverage through the electronic and printed media.

Member organisations of the Pakistan Dalit Solidarity Network (PDSN), addressing the rights and livelihoods of Dalits, remained in close contact with each other, and kept the PDSN well informed about their activities. All Pakistan Meghwar Council, Thar Murk, Haray Rama Foundation, Hindu Balmik Sudhar Sabah, Bhil Sujab Itahad, Scheduled Caste Educational Association Hyderabad, Scheduled Caste Federation of Pakistan and All Pakistan Kolhi Association of Sindh (AKAS), are all playing a vital role in raising awareness amongst communities in different parts of the country.

In March 2008 PDSN held its quarterly meeting in Mithi Tharpakar. Here Ms. Madhuri shared her progress report from the Dalit Women Working Group meeting held in February in Kathmandu and in the South Asian Women's Consultation held in March in Thailand. She suggested formulating a Dalit Women Working Committee in Pakistan, a suggestion that was unanimously supported by all present. Remarkably, the Committee was formed in September 2008. Initially it has 15 female members from the Sindh province. More members are currently being identified in other provinces.

Several publications on Dalit issues were released in 2008. The book 'Hedha Thian Hanja' written by Dolat Thari contains stories, interviews and case studies of people who fell victims of the most influential and well-known dominant family in Tharpakar. In addition several articles were published on the murder of the Dalit Jadgeesh Kumar, the case of blasphemy in Karachi and stories published in THE NEWS written by

journalist Jan Khaskheli on the issues of the excluded communities Kolhi and Phils, respectively.

Together with IDS N, the network also contributed actively to international advocacy, both in the context of the Universal Periodic Review of Pakistan in May and in preparation of the CERD review of Pakistan in 2009. Moreover, Dr. Sono Khangharani was invited together with IDS N to participate in a meeting of the Pakistan Support Group, which is an informal network of civil society organisations that work through international human rights mechanisms to promote national issues at UN and EU level.

#### 7.1.5 Human Development Organisation – Sri Lanka

In 2008 the Human Development Organisation (HDO) in Sri Lanka worked with advocacy and research activities at national level, and on awareness raising and human rights campaign activities in the regional districts of Nuwara Eliya, Kandy and Kegalle.

The South Asian People's Assembly was held in Colombo in July 2008 in connection with the 15th SAARC Summit. Around 1500 delegates from civil society organisations and various movements had assembled from all South Asian countries to oppose militarisation, nuclearisation and globalisation. In a common demand, they urged for democracy, equality and peace in South Asia. The Asia Dalit Rights Movement (ADRM) organised a workshop along the theme "Caste and Caste Based discrimination in South Asia", where the Dalit representatives demanded increased awareness on the issue of caste-based discrimination and dignity, equality, justice and peace for all.

Throughout the year HDO has supported work and descent based groups like plantation workers, urban health and sanitation workers in obtaining their rights. HDO are also involved in organising contacts and forming groups among urban-based sanitation and plantation workers. HDO is in the process of organising a common platform for different groups of sanitation workers living in the various cities of Sri Lanka. In 2008, HDO was furthermore involved in the community mobilisation of sanitation workers. As an outcome, the organisation established five sanitary workers' groups on work-based discrimination in three districts. The groups discussed matters pertaining to human rights, including labour rights. Moreover, HDO sensitised grassroots-level key leaders to strengthen their participation in local politics. It lobbied the Urban Council towards prioritising the social development of sanitary workers and towards working for the elimination of discrimination against women and men.

HDO also organised a group of Dalits who were affected by the tsunami in Ampara, Eastern Province and provided them with economic support for development of their traditional occupation. In addition, HDO arranged education advancement programmes which were conducted among children of urban workers.

National level research was conducted with the Department of Sociology at University of Peradeniya. In cooperation with the University, a consultation on caste issues was organised where around 50 people participated.

Five HDO representatives participated in, and contributed to, the Regional Human Rights Training Programme organised by the ADRM in Bangkok with the cooperation of FORUM-ASIA.

## 7.2 Dalit Solidarity Networks

### 7.2.1 Dalit Solidarity Network UK

The Manual Scavenging Campaign "FOUL PLAY" launched by the Dalit Solidarity Network UK (DSN-UK) was one of the highlights of the network in 2008. In July 2008, DSN-UK launched the campaign demanding an end to the practice of manual scavenging by the time of the Delhi Commonwealth Games 2010. The campaign draws attention to the Games' vision and logo of Equality, Humanity, and Destiny. The campaign is intended to raise visibility of Dalits and manual scavenging in India and encourage action to promote their rights and security, and it will be DSN-UK's core campaign until 2010.

Another event was the Anti Slavery Discrimination Campaign, which was launched at the Amnesty Human Rights Action Centre in July in London. The discussion focused on the effects of discrimination and social exclusion on indigenous peoples and Dalits. DSN-UK was one of the main speakers together with others from Anti Slavery, Minority Rights Group and Amnesty International.

With regard to lobbying private sector organisations, DSN-UK launched its company report "Another Apartheid?" on 22 April in the Parliament. Speakers included HSBC India's Head of Corporate Affairs, Malini Thadani. Rob Marris, MP and trustee of DSN-UK, chaired the meeting and introduced the report. Other speakers include the Director of the Ethical Trading Initiative, CEO of Tempsolutions Inc based in the USA who has already introduced Affirmative Actions Policies into this company. This event was well attended by representatives of UK companies, NGOs and parliamentarians with about 80 attendees in total. Copies of the report have been sent to Members

► **Displaced people from Alardane village, Bihar, India, October 2007** On the road to nowhere. The Dalit communities in Bihar live in low-lying areas more prone to flooding and are worst affected. Their mud houses are of poorer quality and easily destroyed by rains and floods. Government aid often consists of compensation for lost assets, but Dalits rarely have any. Instead they need help to re-establish their livelihood, but it is not forthcoming.

of Parliament and other Government officials and departments.

DSN-UK is making contacts at the UK India Business Council to ensure that caste discrimination is on their agenda in dealings with India. The Council was launched in Parliament on 25 March 2008.

UNITE, the largest manufacturing union in the UK, continued to support DSN-UK in 2008. It opened up a dialogue with the AXA CEO, Henri de Castries, who agreed to look at signing the Ambedkar Principles. As a result of this, AXA UNITE members wrote a letter to the AXA UK management requesting they boycott the AXA Indian operation over its failure to address caste discrimination or enter into dialogue with the local trade union. A petition to get the company to sign the Ambedkar principles was also organised by local union representatives.

By lobbying the UK parliament caste discrimination was kept high on the political agenda thanks to active campaigning by DSN and its network members. Parliamentary questions about caste were raised in the Houses of Parliament – both the Commons and the Lords. DSN-UK maintained and strengthened their relationship with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Department for International Development (DFID), taking part in events in the UK and in India. Lord Hylton recently asked a written PQ (8/10/08) on 'What action the UK is taking to implement the UN Principles and Guidelines?' DSN-UK is still awaiting the Government response.

DSN-UK actively supported IDSN's initiatives in relation to the EU and various UN agencies. As a follow up to the Human Rights Council Meeting in Geneva, DSN-UK engaged with the FCO to get the UK mission in Geneva to raise the issue of the Principles and Guidelines. A representative of the Ministry also came to the screening of 'The Worst Job in the World' and invited DSN-UK to participate in a small exhibition on 1 December.

DSN-UK is part of the IDSN Executive and Private Sector Groups and will take the lead on design and development for a training package for companies in India to highlight the Dalit Discrimination Check.

### 7.2.2 Dalit Network Netherlands

A very positive outcome of the work of the Dalit Network Netherlands (DNN) in 2008 was the qualitative shift in the Dutch Government's policy towards caste discrimination. The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs clearly stated in a letter to the Parliament that the UN Principles and Guidelines are one of its main priorities

in the Human Rights Council. The Dutch Government also gave a statement at the Human Rights Council calling discrimination based on work and descent an "outrageous phenomenon". In the same statement the Dutch delegation welcomed the pledge by India that it would abolish manual scavenging by 2009 and encouraged them to "Implement these measures as soon as possible". Dalits are also mentioned as a specific target group in the Dutch Human Rights Strategy. In addition the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Economic Affairs have shown an interest in the Dalit Discrimination Check and the Ambedkar Principles. Chances are that they will be taken up in the context of a trade mission to India in February 2009.

The above was the outcome of a number of interventions and meetings, ranging from letters to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, visits with guests from caste-affected countries to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a DNN action plan against caste discrimination based on Dutch human rights policy and a number of meetings. DNN also participated in two meetings organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on human rights in South Asia and the policy towards India respectively where the caste issue was raised.

DNN member ICN (The India Committee of the Netherlands), facilitated the inclusion of references to caste discrimination and 'untouchables' in the Draft of the international ISO 26000 Guidance. ISO 26000 is the authoritative Guidance Standard on Social Responsibility for all organisations worldwide, expected to be finalised in 2010.

From a broader angle DNN member ICN lobbied with several parties in Parliament on a motion on respect for fundamental labour rights, including non-discrimination. Nearly all members of the Dutch Parliament supported this motion. The motion states that every company receiving Government support (subsidies, credit, trade missions etc.) should either document that it does not violate fundamental labour rights, including in its supply chain, or present a time-bound plan of action. This motion gives DNN tremendous scope to raise the need to fight caste discrimination with both Government and companies.

Another major event initiated by DNN in 2008 was the launch of the documentary "Outcaste Heroes" produced by Fatusch Productions in close co-operation with DNN and IDSN. The launch was followed by, among others, a panel discussion attended by a Member of Parliament and a representative from a garment company sourcing in India. DNN is currently working on a plan for larger distribution of "Outcaste Heroes" in the Netherlands. Parts of the documentary were also shown at the "Right





Now Festival" celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, followed by a debate with Dalit women activists Ruth Manorama and Jyothi Raj. DNN members Cordaid, Justitia et Pax and CMC, having a strong focus on Dalit women, took the lead on this. Several DNN members have also participated in the first meeting of the Dalit Women Working Group in Kathmandu. With support from DNN member ICCO, the 'Lawyers' National Campaign Against Untouchability' (LANCAU) Nepal will support research on 'Bureaucratic Barriers to Elimination of Untouchability in Nepal'.

### 7.2.3 Dalit Solidarity Network - Sweden

During 2008 the Dalit Solidarity Network – Sweden (DSN-S) continued to increase public interest in the Dalit issue through its collaboration with public schools and universities. In September an information tour with eight schools was accomplished, and an evening seminar was held with participants of Amnesty International, among others. Guest speaker was Ms Jayshree from the Netherlands with the attendance of between 40 and 90 participants at each meeting. The seminars were built on Jayshree's presentation in connection with the film "India Untouched – Stories of a People Apart".

In December, Ms Jayshree was the guest speaker at a seminar at the Department of Political Science at Stockholm University discussing a study on Panchayati Raj and Dalit Women. Ms Jayshree also represented DSN-S at the European Social Forum in September. Also in December, Tony Fernandes of Justitia et Pax discussed a possible joint project between research centres in Sweden and India with the Department of Political Science at Uppsala University. Moreover, DSN-S spoke about democracy and human rights with focus on Dalits and Dalit women at the Theological College in Stockholm.

Two of the laureates of the 2008 Right Livelihood Awards, popularly known as the Alternative Nobel Prize, were Krishnammal, 82, and Sankaralingam Jagannathan, 95, and their organisation LAFTI (Land for the Tillers' Freedom). The couple has spent a lifetime fighting for the rights of the deprived, especially the Dalits, by ensuring that thousands of acres of land were distributed to landless Dalit labourers in India's southern state of Tamil Nadu.

With regard to the political lobbying of DSN-S the network has met with representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Law and Human Rights Departments, and the Human Rights Ambassador, on three occasions. Furthermore, Sweden has adopted

a new development strategy with regard to the developing countries, in which India is no longer a prioritised nation. The impact of DSN-S network activities has had the desired effect that Sweden at least initially has acted supportively, which can be a point of departure for future commitments.

### 7.2.4 Rafto Foundation - Norway

Following NCDHR's awarding of the prestigious Rafto Human Rights Prize in 2007, the Rafto Foundation has in accordance with its tradition and aspirations tried to exploit the momentum created by the award to provide some additional support for the work done by the NCDHR and the IDSN. The aim of this engagement has been to establish a Norwegian branch of the IDSN. The Rafto Foundation hopes to be able to secure the funds, manpower and organisational support necessary for establishing such a branch in 2009. In the meantime, the foundation is honoured to count itself among the organisations associated with the network.

As a follow-up to the Manual Scavenging Campaign launched by DSN-UK on 14 April, the Foundation sent an information package to the Norwegian press agencies to raise the issue of manual scavenging and the failure of the Indian Government to enforce its declared policies regarding its eradication. Excellent media coverage was secured in the local newspaper "Bergens Tidende", which is read by all professional politicians nationally in virtue of its dominant regional position.

In July, the Foundation organised a public debate relating to a cooperative project launched by the University of Bergen, the Norwegian School of Economics, and others, at an international summer school in Bergen. The idea was to use this event to draw experts on the issues of economic human rights and Dalits to the country, and to use this event to explore the possibility of establishing a Norwegian DSN. The Foundation was able to secure participation by the leader of the conservative opposition party Erna Solberg and representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs among others. Speakers included NCDHR Convenor Paul Divakar, Professor Surinder Singh Jodkha of the Indian Institute of Dalit Studies, Professor Thomas Pogge from Yale, and Director of Amnesty International's Asia Division Sam Zia-Zarifi. This was followed by a roundtable debate and a workshop with the representation of religious, humanitarian, academic, and rights advocacy organisations about strategies for Dalit solidarity work.

The Rafto Foundation also exhibited posters from the IDSN Exhibition "We are not untouchable" during and after the summer school and the workshop at the

University of Bergen. A poster from the exhibition was also present at a smaller poster wall during the visit of the Crown Prince Haakon Magnus and Crown Princess Mette-Marit, accompanied by the Rector and other dignitaries of the university and the City.

Another promising event in 2008 was a meeting with representatives of the Section for Human Rights and Democracy and the Section for Asian Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs together with representatives from NCDHR and IDS N. Several areas of ministerial activity were suggested at this meeting. Among these were the development of a White Paper on CSR, the development of a Comprehensive Country Strategy for India, and finally possible initiatives to be taken by the Norwegian representative in the Human Rights Council. Moreover, the new Ambassador Ann Ollestad, in place at the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Delhi, indicates a stronger interest in taking a human rights approach to various aspects of the work for which the embassy is responsible in India.

#### 7.2.5 Dalit Solidarity Network – Denmark

The Dalit Solidarity Network – Denmark (DSN-DK) maintained close dialogue with Danish politicians, officials and journalists and specifically lobbied for more concerted political attention to caste discrimination. On different occasions, visits were organised with guests from caste-affected countries to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and parliamentarians.

On 24 September, the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Danish Parliament hosted a hearing on caste discrimination with speakers from India; Ashwini Deshpande, Professor of Economics, and Henri Tiphagne, Director of People's Watch (India), and from Nepal, Durga Sob, President of the Feminist Dalit Organisation in Nepal. Former Sub-Commission Expert and Special Rapporteur on Discrimination based on work and descent, Professor Chin-Sung Chung addressed the audience on the current status and perspectives for the United Nation's involvement in the issue of Caste Discrimination. The hearing was attended by more than 100 people from a cross section of society and ministries. At the hearing, DSN-DK presented a position paper with recommendations to the Danish Government; suggesting that caste discrimination becomes a focus area in Danish Human Rights Policy, along with an increased focus on caste discrimination in bilateral and regional cooperation, promotion of corporate social responsibility (CSR) in the context of caste discrimination, and enhanced research, education and information on caste discrimination. In light of this request the Foreign Affairs Committee addressed two

questions to the Minister for Development. The DSN-DK position paper is available in English at [www.dalit.dk](http://www.dalit.dk).

In his concluding remarks, the Vice-Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Karsten Lauritsen, underlined that caste discrimination truly is a huge human rights issue which deserves much more attention, and that the Danish Government could not accept the position taken by some countries that caste discrimination be treated as an 'internal issue'. A report of the hearing is available at [www.dalit.dk](http://www.dalit.dk). DSN-DK had secured space for the IDS N photo exhibition in Parliament at the day of the hearing.

In connection with the hearing, DSN-DK had arranged a series of meetings for the invited speakers with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the press, and the Danish Confederation of Industries, among others. On 25 September Henri Tiphagne spoke at a public meeting on torture and caste discrimination, hosted by the Danish Rehabilitation and Research Centre for Torture Victims, the Danish Institute for Human Rights and DSN-DK.

Danish TV News ran a feature on caste discrimination, focusing on how caste discrimination keeps Dalits outside the mainstream economic development. Henri Tiphagne was interviewed for this news programme. During the same week Rikke Nöhrind was interviewed several times for radio news programmes.

DSN-DK continued its efforts to raise awareness about caste discrimination, in particular through the national media. In response to the ongoing conflict in Orissa, the Danish Christian newspaper ran an article on violence and caste in Orissa. Most recently, "Weekendavisen" published an article written by Gitte Dyrhagen on caste discrimination in the context of the Durban Review Conference.

The daily business executive newspaper Børsen, brought an interview with Ashwini Deshpande, Professor of Economics, from India, on the occasion of her visit to Denmark. The article focused on caste discrimination in the Indian labour market and introduced the Dalit Discrimination Check (DDC). The Minister for Development, Ulla Tørnæs, was quoted giving her strong recommendation of the DDC to the corporate sector.

The Confederation for Danish Industry invited Danish companies to a meeting with Ashwini Deshpande and Henri Tiphagne on the issue of caste discrimination in the labour market in India. The meeting also discussed recommendations for Danish companies to secure non-discrimination in their operations.

IDS N-DK furthermore provided specific input to forums addressing the ongoing EU-India Free Trade Agreements



**Mura, Nepal, November 2007** A sex worker, mother of three and community leader involved in improving the lives of the Badi community, Gomati Nepali, 28, is busy. Poverty makes Nepali Dalit women easy targets for trafficking along the Nepalese-Indian border, so Gomati fights for equal access to land, Dalit participation in the constitutional assembly and better education.

(FTA) negotiations and made a submission to the draft Danish Civil Society Strategy with a view to promote a Dalit perspective and relevant measures. This prompted follow-up questions from the Foreign Affairs Committee to the Minister for Development.

A Danish version of the IDSN photo exhibition is being prepared. The exhibition will be offered to libraries and other institutions and organisations.

#### 7.2.6 Dalit Solidarität in Deutschland – Germany

In Germany the political climate for addressing caste discrimination has improved quite significantly since the German Chancellor Angela Merkel took an interest in the Dalit issue during a visit to India in late 2007 and raised it in a meeting with the Indian Prime Minister M. Singh. As an example, Germany's mission to the UN in Geneva has given more priority to the Dalit issue since then, this has become apparent during the UPR sessions and in their support to the Sub-Commission study on discrimination based on work and descent.

It is felt in the Dalit Solidarität in Deutschland (DSiD) that the frequent visits to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and to the Human Rights Committee in the German Parliament have created a certain impact. The Human Rights Committee has become active on its own, e.g. by asking the German Government to give a report on their

overall activities concerning caste-based discrimination, and some individual members promote their "Dalit demands" to Government representatives, whenever they visit India or meet their colleagues.

In early 2008 a meeting took place with the Human Rights Envoy of the German Government, with the South Asian Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and with members of the Human Rights and Development Committee of the German Parliament (Bundestag) in preparation for UN events such as the UPR exercise and the review of India by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR). These meetings were organised together with representatives of IDSN, NCDHR and the Adivasi-Koordination Germany. In effect, the parliamentarians asked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to give a report on the activities of the German Government regarding the Dalit issue. Before the CESCR review the German Committee Member, Mr. Riedel, was contacted by the network and interacted with Dalit representatives before he raised some critical questions at the session about the situation of Dalits.

On the occasion of Ambedkar's birthday in April, it was proposed to have a common European action in the "solidarity countries" on the issue of manual scavenging. DSiD therefore organised a small demonstration in



**Freed Hari Camp (Human Rights Commission of Pakistan's camp for freed bonded labourers), Sindh, Pakistan, April 2008** These girls are free to practice their dancing skills for an upcoming wedding. They are lucky. Their parents were freed from forced or bonded labour and now they live in a camp that has been established for former bonded labourers. Had their parents not been freed, these girls would have grown up in slavery. As a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Pakistan has a duty to ensure that children are not subjected to economic exploitation and that their fundamental rights are respected. Thousands of other girls are waiting to be freed, so they can dance too.

front of the Indian embassy in Berlin with the help of its Berlin based members and NCDHR members. When the embassy was asked to give an appointment to receive a common memorandum, they hesitantly agreed to receive it. Later the network learned that a colleague had received a phone call from the Indian Ministry of Home Affairs searching for information about his activities and connections to DSiD. They indicated that there was no need to have such a demonstration, as the Indian Government wanted to tackle the issue more seriously. In July, the Indian Government declared an end to manual scavenging by the end of 2009.

In September a DSiD delegation together with the Catholic Bishop of the Bherampur Diocese met with members of the Human Rights Committee of the German Parliament to raise their concern about the anti-Christian pogroms in Orissa. The response from the members was quite strong.

In December DSiD and two Dalit representatives met again with members of Parliament to urge for their support for an EU election observing delegation for the forthcoming National Elections in India. It is strongly felt that an international observation would be more effective than national observers only.

The network also undertook media work in Germany on the caste issue, particularly by publishing the "Dalit Info" quarterly in the 'Südasiens - magazine' and sending other information via the network's list serve. A Dalit literature seminar was organised by the Academy of Königswinter with the contribution of DSiD in 2008. In September 2007 a seminar was organised on the topic of "The Himalaya of Duties – the Indian Religions and the Human Rights", and it will be published in early 2009. This will be one of the very few German publications available on the Dalit issue.

In its activities DSiD has focused on supporting Dalit movements within India, as a more intensified campaigning strategy is needed to create a tenable pressure on the Indian Government, both at national and state levels. Two campaigns have been developed together with Indian partners so far:

- Campaign on Electoral Reform in India (CERI). The preparation for this campaign started back in 2006, when one Dalit activist came to Germany and did an intense study on the Proportionate Representation (PR) in electoral systems. The study served as a basis for an international conference, which took place in August in Bangladesh. The conference is a starting point for the

CERI-campaign, which aims at spreading the message that a PR-based system would allow a much more genuine political participation of Dalits.

- Manual Scavenging (Safai Karamchari Andolan): Support is provided to conduct "strikes" in some Indian towns and districts to eradicate this degrading and inhuman practice. The idea is to train manual scavengers in other skills, which will provide them with an alternative living.

#### 7.2.7 Solidarité Dalits Belgique

The Belgian network Solidarité Dalits Belgique (SDB) has continued its public awareness raising by publishing three issues of the electronic newsletter Flash Dalit during 2008. The January issue mainly focused on the issue of land, including a presentation of the Janadesh Rally in India. The June issue presented the Dalit initiatives, as well as the difficulties the Dalits face, in the education sector. The third issue, published in November, brought the Belgian population's attention to the severe violence experienced by Dalit Christians in Orissa, India, as well as describing the increase of religious intolerance in South Asia, of which Dalits are too often the main victims.

In addition, the Belgian network has engaged in other awareness raising activities, and supported students and teachers in introducing the Dalit question in Secondary Schools.

While the network has not yet reached its full potential, the members are confident that 2009 will bring new challenges and opportunities to support the Dalits in their struggle for safeguarding their rights.

#### 7.2.8 Dalit Collectif France

The French Dalit network was able to organise only a few activities in 2008 due to the lack of adequate resources to secure consistent lobby efforts, including the lack of active involvement of organisations and individuals in the network. As France took up the EU Presidency in the second half of 2008, it was particularly important to create good relations with the French officials, as they were representing the European Union at a crucial stage in IDSN's lobby work both at EU and UN level. In February, the French network, which was represented by the Comité Catholique contre la Faim et pour le Développement (CCFD), facilitated meetings between IDSN and the human rights officials in the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Based on these meetings, IDSN was able to develop a close relationship with the Ministry and its mission in Geneva. This benefitted IDSN's work tremendously throughout the year. In March, CCFD invited Paul Divakar of NCDHR to

speak on the occasion of its Lenthen Campaign. During his visit, he shared his experience as a Dalit human rights defender with more than eight presentations and debates in France. This action helped enhance the comprehension and sympathy for the Dalit issue within the French public opinion. In March, the French network, again represented by CCFD, participated in IDSN's Council meeting in Geneva together with other DSN representatives and IDSN members.

## 8 Organisation, administration and finance

### 8.1 Council meeting

The annual IDSN Council meeting was held in Geneva in March in connection with the 7th session of the Human Rights Council, which served as an occasion for IDSN members and associates to meet with diplomats and UN officials and to follow the proceedings of the session. The meeting re-confirmed IDSN policy and strategic direction and served as a planning forum for the remaining part of the year for the respective programme areas. The meeting called for a strengthening of the role of Dalit women in IDSN, also at its governing bodies (through the initiative of the IDSN Dalit Women Working Group) and for broad-basing cooperation at the level of affected countries and in IDSN working groups. Finally, the Council welcomed the Asian Centre for Human Rights as a regional associate to IDSN.

### 8.2 Executive Group

Following the Council's decision, as from March the Executive Group (EG) of IDSN was expanded with one more member. Current members are:

- Gerard Oonk (IDSN Co-convenor and Coordinator of DNN)
- Vincent Manoharan (IDSN Co-convenor and NCDHR representative)
- Meena Varma (Executive Director of DSN-UK)
- Tirtha Bishwakarma (General Secretary of Dalit NGO Federation Nepal)
- Manjula Pradeep (Director, Narvsajan Trust – India and Co-convenor of the IDSN Dalit Women Working Group)
- Bijo Francis (Senior Advisor, Asian Human Rights Commission)
- Rikke Nöhrind (IDSN Coordinator – ex-officio member)

The Executive Group met twice during the year; the last meeting was held in Kathmandu in December.

### 8.3 Secretariat

With commencement in March as communications officer, Kirsten Hjørnholm Sørensen gave her very valuable contributions to IDS N including developing a new website. Unfortunately, Kirsten resigned at the end of the year. A new communications officer will be on board from 1 March. In September, IDS N increased staff resources, mainly for its UN programme, by securing full time employment of Gitte Dyrhagen.

Anna-Karin Johannsen temporarily replaced Maia Ingvardson, who went on maternity leave in mid December.

Ole Vestergård, a part time bookkeeper, has assisted the secretariat since February.

A part time Brussels based consultant was hired in January to support IDS N's EU work, however, due to unforeseen circumstances services had to be terminated after a few months. EU work was therefore undertaken by the secretariat with assistance from some DSNs. In 2009, IDS N will contract services of the European External Policy Advisors (EEPA) in Brussels for part of its EU work.

### 8.4 Visa problems

The Secretariat and representatives of some European members of IDS N have for several years experienced problems with acquiring business visas to India. If the name "IDS N" or the word "Dalit" appear on an application, it is systematically denied by Indian embassies, often on unsubstantiated grounds. This continues to be a major obstacle to maintaining and developing close relations with Indian partners and to broadening the scope of engagement and cooperation. It also hinders the participation in national events for many in the network and minimizes the chances of creating some form of constructive dialogue between international actors and officials in India. For this situation to change, official support and diplomatic efforts are needed to break down the wall that has been created between the Dalit Solidarity movement and national stakeholders.

### 8.5 Application for consultative ECOSOC status

IDS N submitted its application for consultative United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) status in June 2007. In 2008 it was considered by the Committee on NGOs twice, unfortunately without any outcome. IDS N's application was deferred twice based on questions asked by the Indian delegation at the end of each session, thereby causing delay in the consideration of the application by the Committee. In spite of IDS N

presence and detailed replies delivered promptly at both sessions, the Committee is yet to make a decision on the application. The application is expected to be considered for the third time at the next session in January 2009, and a number of European states have expressed their support to a final consideration of the application after substantial delay in the application process.

### 8.6 Finances, fundraising and perspectives for 2009-2010

Also in 2008, IDS N was supported financially by five international NGOs from different European countries and by DANIDA. In 2008, the budget was almost fully expended. Although the financial statements reflect a relatively large carry over to the financial year 2009, this is due to late approval of one project application and late transferral of funds by some donors (i.e. in December), which inevitably leads to a high carry over into the following year. In November, the 2008-2010 IDS N programme proposal was revised and a new 2009-2011 programme document presented to several European bilateral agencies for their consideration.

The expansion of network members from the South Asia region over the last few years has increased the total number of interventions and participation of IDS N members both at UN and EU level. In 2009, the number of interventions under the UN programme is expected to remain approximately at the level of 2008, whereas the UN schedule for UPR and CERD reviews of caste affected countries in 2010 indicate a slight decrease. However, it is very likely that targeting of other UN treaty bodies and more engagement with other multilateral institutions will change this picture. IDS N is planning to expand activities to include an internship programme for Dalits in relation to the EU Programme and work with EU institutions. As has been the case in previous years, it is the ambition of IDS N also in the coming years to increase Dalit women representation in IDS N events, in spite of persisting challenges.

IDS N has coverage for its core programmes in 2009, whereas major campaigning activities, as well as initial support to establishing an IDS N related post in the US, are depending on additional funding. The continued interest and support from the core group of funders is invaluable for the functioning and activities of the network, and a great moral support to everyone engaged in the struggle for Dalit rights.

## Financial statements 2008

|  | DKK<br>2008         | EURO<br>2008      | DKK<br>2007         |
|--|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Profit and loss</b>                   |                     |                   |                     |
| Opening balance                          | 454,220.34          | 61,010.12         | 1,422,037.35        |
| <b>Income</b>                            |                     |                   |                     |
| DanChurchAid                             | 271,816.00          | 36,509.87         | 250,000.00          |
| DanChurchAid (received for DSN-DK)       | 168,184.00          | 22,590.19         | 150,000.00          |
| Private membership (received for DSN-DK) | 17,200.00           | 2,310.28          | -                   |
| Danida                                   | 1,450,000.00        | 194,761.58        | -                   |
| CCFD                                     | 148,812.00          | 19,988.18         | 149,024.00          |
| ICCO                                     | 744,260.00          | 99,967.76         | 371,570.00          |
| Cordaid                                  | 1,488,908.00        | 199,987.64        | 372,268.00          |
| Cordaid towards review process           | -                   | -                 | 66,276.52           |
| Christian Aid                            | 365,827.50          | 49,137.34         | -                   |
| Christian Aid (received for DSN-UK)      | -                   | -                 | 82,627.50           |
| Interest                                 | 17,674.31           | 2,373.98          | 6,877.49            |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>4,672,681.81</b> | <b>627,626.84</b> | <b>1,448,643.51</b> |
| <b>Expenditure</b>                       | <b>3,312,823.47</b> | <b>444,972.93</b> | <b>2,416,460.52</b> |
| Balance 2008                             | 1,814,078.68        | 243,664.03        | 454,220.34          |

## Balance statement

### Assets

|                         |                     |                   |                   |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Cash at bank at 31.12 * | 2,084,372.05        | 279,969.38        | 534,980.91        |
| Master card deposit     | 31,372.11           | 4,213.85          | 30,918.47         |
| Petty cash              | 9,437.40            | 1,267.62          | 15,747.39         |
| Outstanding accounts    | 3,523.41            | 473.26            | 5,892.72          |
|                         | <b>2,128,704.97</b> | <b>285,924.11</b> | <b>587,539.49</b> |

### Liabilities

|                                 |                    |                   |                    |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Balance Master Card account     | -27,691.84         | -3,719.52         | -2,009.13          |
| Compulsory holiday payment fund | -193,578.78        | -26,001.18        | -125,442.77        |
| Outstanding accounts            | -93,355.67         | -12,539.38        | -5867.25           |
|                                 | <b>-314,626.29</b> | <b>-42,260.08</b> | <b>-133,319.15</b> |
| Balance carried forward**       | 1,814,078.68       | 243,664.03        | 454,220.34         |

The financial statements are presented in Danish kroner. For reasons of comparison, amounts in Euro are presented, using a fixed exchange rate as of 31.12.08:

7.445

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

|                                    | DKK        | EUR       |
|------------------------------------|------------|-----------|
| * Cash at bank include             |            |           |
| Danida OPP earmarked project grant | 301,709.07 | 40,525.06 |
| Danida grant                       | 700,000.00 | 94,022.83 |
| DSN-DK membership fees             | 2,874.00   | 386.03    |

\*\* 1. The Danida grant towards the budget for 2007 was received in January 2008. In addition a Danida grant of DKK 700.000 was received in November 2008. Danida has approved that the grant is carried forward to 2009.  
2. Funds towards the 2009 budget were received from Christian Aid and ICCO already in 2008. Funds from CCFD and DanChurchAid for 2008 were received late in the year and therefore partly carried forward to 2009.

## Expenditure 2008

|  | Budget<br>DKK<br>2008 | Expenditure<br>DKK<br>2008 | Budget<br>EUR<br>2008 | Expenditure<br>EUR<br>2008 |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
|--|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|

## Networking and coordination

### General staff expenses

|                           |                |                |               |               |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Staff training            | 35,000         | 1,914          | 4,704         | 257           |
| Insurance                 | 6,000          | 8,845          | 806           | 1,189         |
| Other staff expenses      | 2,000          | 11,109         | 269           | 1,493         |
| Holiday allowance         | 106,000        | 67,244         | 14,247        | 9,038         |
| Finance officer part time | 64,724         | 37,382         | 8,699         | 5,024         |
| Maternity leave cover     | 0              | 30,750         | 0             | 4,133         |
| Communications officer    | 388,905        | 381,264        | 52,272        | 51,245        |
|                           | <b>602,629</b> | <b>538,509</b> | <b>80,998</b> | <b>72,380</b> |

### Office costs

|                       |                |                |               |               |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Rent                  | 160,000        | 142,736        | 21,505        | 19,185        |
| Office supplies       | 5,000          | 2,495          | 672           | 335           |
| Postage and freight   | 10,000         | 13,062         | 1,344         | 1,756         |
| Hospitality expenses  | 2,000          | 6,932          | 269           | 932           |
| Communication         | 15,000         | 14,979         | 2,016         | 2,013         |
| Materials/memberships | 2,000          | 731            | 269           | 98            |
| Equipment             | 12,000         | 19,491         | 1,613         | 2,620         |
| Audit                 | 20,000         | 36,875         | 2,688         | 4,956         |
|                       | <b>226,000</b> | <b>237,300</b> | <b>30,376</b> | <b>31,895</b> |

### IT

|                              |                |                |               |               |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Internet/web                 | 5,000          | 43,467         | 672           | 5,842         |
| Consultancy/tech. Assistance | 150,000        | 121,875        | 20,161        | 16,381        |
|                              | <b>155,000</b> | <b>165,342</b> | <b>20,833</b> | <b>22,223</b> |

### Publicity and Publications

|  |                |                |               |               |
|--|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
|  | <b>116,600</b> | <b>165,647</b> | <b>15,672</b> | <b>22,264</b> |
|--|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|

### Bank

|  |               |               |              |              |
|--|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
|  | <b>12,000</b> | <b>15,537</b> | <b>1,613</b> | <b>2,088</b> |
|--|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|

### Travelling

|  |               |               |              |              |
|--|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
|  | <b>25,000</b> | <b>46,920</b> | <b>3,360</b> | <b>6,306</b> |
|--|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|

### Campaign

|  |               |               |              |              |
|--|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
|  | <b>50,000</b> | <b>33,870</b> | <b>6,720</b> | <b>4,552</b> |
|--|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|

### Governing bodies

|   |                |                |               |               |
|---|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Executive group meetings, travel        | 35,000         | 20,935         | 4,704         | 2,814         |
| Executive group meetings, venue/lodging | 9,000          | 22,365         | 1,210         | 3,006         |
| Council meetings, travel                | 18,824         | 18,560         | 2,530         | 2,495         |
| Council meetings, venue/lodging         | 57,987         | 50,448         | 7,794         | 6,781         |
|   | <b>120,811</b> | <b>112,308</b> | <b>16,238</b> | <b>15,095</b> |

### Management and administration

|   |                |                |               |               |
|---|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Co-ordinator (20%)                      | 137,693        | 136,005        | 18,507        | 18,280        |
| UN Programme Assis./Prog. Officer (20%) | 40,064         | 52,467         | 5,385         | 7,052         |
| Programme Officer (25%)                 | 111,080        | 110,544        | 14,930        | 14,858        |
|   | <b>288,837</b> | <b>299,015</b> | <b>38,822</b> | <b>40,190</b> |

|  |                  |                  |                |                |
|--|------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Total networking and coordination</b> | <b>1,596,877</b> | <b>1,614,447</b> | <b>214,634</b> | <b>216,996</b> |
|--|------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|



|  | Budget | Expenditure | Budget | Expenditure |
|--|--------|-------------|--------|-------------|
|  | DKK    | DKK         | EUR    | EUR         |
|  | 2008   | 2008        | 2008   | 2008        |

## UN Programme

### Un Human Rights Council

Interventions universal periodic review

|                                | Budget        | Expenditure   | Budget        | Expenditure  |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
|                                | DKK           | DKK           | EUR           | EUR          |
|                                | 2008          | 2008          | 2008          | 2008         |
| Travel, affected country reps. | 20,000        | 9,460         | 2,688         | 1,272        |
| Travel, secretariat            | 1,988         | 1,988         | 267           | 267          |
| Food                           | 2,016         | 520           | 271           | 70           |
| Accommodation                  | 54,778        | 55,366        | 7,363         | 7,442        |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                | <b>78,782</b> | <b>67,334</b> | <b>10,589</b> | <b>9,050</b> |

Interventions at Council sessions

|                                | Budget        | Expenditure   | Budget       | Expenditure  |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
|                                | DKK           | DKK           | EUR          | EUR          |
|                                | 2008          | 2008          | 2008         | 2008         |
| Travel, affected country reps. | 20,000        | 1,531         | 2,688        | 206          |
| Travel, secretariat            | 10,000        | 1,362         | 1,344        | 183          |
| Food                           | 4,000         | 4,388         | 538          | 590          |
| Accommodation                  | 15,000        | 13,520        | 2,016        | 1,817        |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                | <b>49,000</b> | <b>20,801</b> | <b>6,586</b> | <b>2,796</b> |

### Operationalisation of principles & guidelines

|  |         |        |  |  |
|--|---------|--------|--|--|
|  | 100,000 | 13,441 |  |  |
|--|---------|--------|--|--|

### Interventions HRC Advisory Committee

|                               | Budget        | Expenditure   | Budget       | Expenditure  |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
|                               | DKK           | DKK           | EUR          | EUR          |
|                               | 2008          | 2008          | 2008         | 2008         |
| Travel, affected country reps | 10,000        | 9,826         | 1,344        | 1,321        |
| Travel, secretariat           | 5,000         | 13,240        | 672          | 1,780        |
| Food                          | 5,000         | 4,150         | 672          | 558          |
| Accommodation                 | 10,000        | 3,384         | 1,344        | 455          |
| <b>Subtotal</b>               | <b>30,000</b> | <b>30,600</b> | <b>4,032</b> | <b>4,113</b> |

### Special Procedures

Informal consultation w/ spec. rapporteurs

|                      | Budget        | Expenditure | Budget       | Expenditure |
|----------------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
|                      | DKK           | DKK         | EUR          | EUR         |
|                      | 2008          | 2008        | 2008         | 2008        |
| International travel | 9,000         | 0           | 1,210        | 0           |
| Food                 | 4,000         | 0           | 538          | 0           |
| Accommodation        | 3,000         | 0           | 403          | 0           |
| <b>Subtotal</b>      | <b>16,000</b> | <b>0</b>    | <b>2,151</b> | <b>0</b>    |

UN Treaty Bodies

|                               | Budget        | Expenditure   | Budget       | Expenditure  |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
|                               | DKK           | DKK           | EUR          | EUR          |
|                               | 2008          | 2008          | 2008         | 2008         |
| Travel, affected country reps | 10,000        | 6,570         | 1,344        | 883          |
| Travel, secretariat           | 9,276         | 12,119        | 1,247        | 1,629        |
| Food                          | 2,376         | 1,197         | 319          | 161          |
| Accommodation                 | 6,238         | 7,125         | 838          | 958          |
| <b>Subtotal</b>               | <b>27,890</b> | <b>27,011</b> | <b>3,749</b> | <b>3,630</b> |

### ECOSOC application

|  |        |        |       |       |
|--|--------|--------|-------|-------|
|  | 20,000 | 15,818 | 2,688 | 2,126 |
|--|--------|--------|-------|-------|

### Research and follow up for UN work

|  |        |         |       |        |
|--|--------|---------|-------|--------|
|  | 50,000 | 100,326 | 6,720 | 13,485 |
|--|--------|---------|-------|--------|

### Geneva consultant

|  |        |   |       |   |
|--|--------|---|-------|---|
|  | 50,000 | 0 | 6,720 | 0 |
|--|--------|---|-------|---|

### Management and administration

|  | Budget         | Expenditure    | Budget        | Expenditure   |
|--|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
|  | DKK            | DKK            | EUR           | EUR           |
|  | 2008           | 2008           | 2008          | 2008          |
| Co-ordinator (20%)                     | 137,693        | 136,005        | 18,507        | 18,280        |
| UN Programme Ass./ Prog. Officer (60%) | 120,193        | 157,400        | 16,155        | 21,156        |
| Programme Officer (10%)                | 44,432         | 44,218         | 5,972         | 5,943         |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                        | <b>302,318</b> | <b>337,623</b> | <b>40,634</b> | <b>45,379</b> |

|                           |                |                |               |               |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Total UN Programme</b> | <b>723,989</b> | <b>599,512</b> | <b>97,310</b> | <b>80,580</b> |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|

## EU Programme

### Lobby interventions

|                                     | Budget        | Expenditure   | Budget        | Expenditure  |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
|                                     | DKK           | DKK           | EUR           | EUR          |
|                                     | 2008          | 2008          | 2008          | 2008         |
| Travel, national advocacy platforms | 40,000        | 33,416        | 5,376         | 4,491        |
| Travel, secretariat                 | 13,000        | 5,664         | 1,747         | 761          |
| Food                                | 20,000        | 3,572         | 2,688         | 480          |
| Accommodation                       | 15,000        | 2,858         | 2,016         | 384          |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                     | <b>88,000</b> | <b>45,510</b> | <b>11,828</b> | <b>6,117</b> |

### EU Parliament exhibition 2008

|  |         |         |        |        |
|--|---------|---------|--------|--------|
|  | 220,000 | 247,324 | 29,570 | 33,242 |
|--|---------|---------|--------|--------|

### Development of EU guidelines

|                     |        |   |       |   |
|---------------------|--------|---|-------|---|
| Brussels consultant | 50,000 | 0 | 6,720 | 0 |
|---------------------|--------|---|-------|---|

### Management and administration

|  | Budget         | Expenditure    | Budget        | Expenditure   |
|--|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
|  | DKK            | DKK            | EUR           | EUR           |
|  | 2008           | 2008           | 2008          | 2008          |
| Co-ordinator (30%)                     | 206,539        | 204,008        | 27,761        | 27,420        |
| UN Programme Ass./ Prog. Officer (20%) | 40,064         | 52,467         | 5,385         | 7,052         |
| Programme Officer (25%)                | 111,080        | 110,544        | 14,930        | 14,858        |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                        | <b>357,683</b> | <b>367,019</b> | <b>48,076</b> | <b>49,331</b> |

|                           |                |                |               |               |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Total EU Programme</b> | <b>715,683</b> | <b>659,853</b> | <b>96,194</b> | <b>88,690</b> |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|

## Private sector programme

### Research

|  | Budget        | Expenditure  | Budget        | Expenditure  |
|--|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
|  | DKK           | DKK          | EUR           | EUR          |
|  | 2008          | 2008         | 2008          | 2008         |
| Promotion of caste check and Ambedkar Principles | 25,000        | 9,241        | 3,360         | 1,242        |
| Training/consultancies                           | 50,000        | 6,720        |               |              |
| Publications                                     | 10,000        | 1,344        |               |              |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                                  | <b>85,000</b> | <b>9,241</b> | <b>11,425</b> | <b>1,242</b> |

### Management and administration

|                         | Budget         | Expenditure    | Budget        | Expenditure   |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
|                         | DKK            | DKK            | EUR           | EUR           |
|                         | 2008           | 2008           | 2008          | 2008          |
| Co-ordinator (15%)      | 103,269        | 102,004        | 13,880        | 13,710        |
| Programme Officer (25%) | 111,080        | 110,544        | 14,930        | 14,858        |
| <b>Subtotal</b>         | <b>214,349</b> | <b>212,548</b> | <b>28,810</b> | <b>28,568</b> |

|                             |                |                |               |               |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Total Private Sector</b> | <b>299,349</b> | <b>221,789</b> | <b>40,235</b> | <b>29,810</b> |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|

## Dalit Discrimination Check (Danida funds)

|                               | Budget        | Expenditure  | Budget   | Expenditure  |
|-------------------------------|---------------|--------------|----------|--------------|
|                               | DKK           | DKK          | EUR      | EUR          |
|                               | 2008          | 2008         | 2008     | 2008         |
| Audit                         | 5,000         | 672          |          |              |
| Design and print DDC          | 22,734        | 3,056        |          |              |
| Layout and print DDC brochure | 6,831         | 918          |          |              |
| <b>Total DDC project</b>      | <b>34,566</b> | <b>4,646</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>4,646</b> |

## DSN-DK

|                                   | Budget         | Expenditure   | Budget        | Expenditure   |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
|                                   | DKK            | DKK           | EUR           | EUR           |
|                                   | 2008           | 2008          | 2008          | 2008          |
| DCA contribution 15 % of salaries | 168,184        | 168,330       | 22,605        | 22,625        |
| Expenditure DSN-DK                | 14,326         | 1,926         |               |               |
| <b>Total DSN-DK</b>               | <b>182,656</b> | <b>24,551</b> | <b>22,605</b> | <b>24,551</b> |

## Summary budget

|                                    | Budget           | Expenditure      | Budget         | Expenditure    |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                    | DKK              | DKK              | EUR            | EUR            |
|                                    | 2008             | 2008             | 2008           | 2008           |
| Networking and coordination        | 1,596,877        | 1,614,447        | 214,634        | 216,996        |
| UN Programme                       | 723,989          | 599,512          | 97,310         | 80,580         |
| EU programme                       | 715,683          | 659,853          | 96,194         | 88,690         |
| Private sector                     | 299,349          | 221,789          | 40,235         | 29,810         |
| Dalit Discrimination check project | 0                | 34,566           | 0              | 4,646          |
| DCA funds to DSN-DK                | 168,184          | 182,656          | 22,605         | 24,551         |
| <b>Total programmes</b>            | <b>3,504,082</b> | <b>3,312,823</b> | <b>470,979</b> | <b>445,272</b> |

## List of Abbreviations

|               |   |               |   |
|---------------|---|---------------|---|
| <b>ADRM</b>   | Asia Dalit Rights Movement                                | <b>FCO</b>    | Foreign and Commonwealth Office                                       |
| <b>AIDMAM</b> | All India Dalit Mahila Adhikar Manch                      | <b>FLA</b>    | Fair Labour Association   |
| <b>AKAS</b>   | All Pakistan Kolhi Association of Sindh                   | <b>HDO</b>    | Human Development Organisation  |
| <b>BSDERM</b> | Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Rights Movement             | <b>HRC</b>    | Human Rights Council  |
| <b>CA</b>     | Constituent Assembly                                      | <b>ICN</b>    | The India Committee of the Netherlands                                |
| <b>CBGA</b>   | Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability           | <b>IIDS</b>   | Indian Institute of Dalit Studies                                     |
| <b>CCFD</b>   | Comité Catholique contre la Faim et pour le Développement | <b>ILO</b>    | International Labour Organisation                                     |
| <b>CERD</b>   | The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination | <b>IMADR</b>  | International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism |
| <b>CERI</b>   | Campaign on Electoral Reform in India                     | <b>LANCAU</b> | Lawyers' National Campaign Against Untouchability                     |
| <b>CESR</b>   | Committee on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights         | <b>LWF</b>    | Lutheran World Federation   |
| <b>CHRGJ</b>  | Centre for Human Rights and Global Justice                | <b>MDGs</b>   | Millennium Development Goals  |
| <b>COHOM</b>  | Coordinating Committee on Human Rights                    | <b>MNCs</b>   | Multinational Companies   |
| <b>CSR</b>    | Corporate Social Responsibility                           | <b>NCDHR</b>  | National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights                               |
| <b>DDC</b>    | Dalit Discrimination Check                                | <b>NEMA</b>   | National Election Monitoring Alliance                                 |
| <b>DDPA</b>   | Durban Declaration and Programme of Action                | <b>NHRC</b>   | National Human Rights Commission                                      |
| <b>DFID</b>   | Department for International Development                  | <b>OHCHR</b>  | Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights                      |
| <b>DNF</b>    | Dalit NGO Federation                                      | <b>PDSN</b>   | Pakistan Dalit Solidarity Network                                     |
| <b>DNN</b>    | Dalit Network Netherlands                                 | <b>PILER</b>  | Pakistan Institute of Labour Research                                 |
| <b>DSiD</b>   | Dalit Solidarity in Deutschland                           | <b>PPP</b>    | Pakistan Peoples Party  |
| <b>DSN</b>    | Dalit Solidarity Network                                  | <b>PR</b>     | Proportionate Representation  |
| <b>DSN-DK</b> | Dalit Solidarity Network Denmark                          | <b>SDB</b>    | Solidarité Dalits Belgique  |
| <b>DSN-S</b>  | Dalit Solidarity Network Sweden                           | <b>SAARC</b>  | South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation                      |
| <b>DSN-UK</b> | Dalit Solidarity Network UK                               | <b>TRDP</b>   | Thardeep Rural Development Programme                                  |
| <b>DWWG</b>   | Dalit Women Working Group                                 | <b>UN</b>     | United Nations  |
| <b>ECOSOC</b> | United Nations Economic and Social Council                | <b>UNDP</b>   | United Nations Development Programme                                  |
| <b>EEPA</b>   | European External Policy Advisors                         | <b>UPR</b>    | Universal Periodic Review   |
| <b>EG</b>     | Executive Group   | <b>WCAR</b>   | World Conference Against Racism                                       |
| <b>EIDHR</b>  | European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights        |               |   |
| <b>EP</b>     | European Parliament                                       |               |   |





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**Birari, Bihar, India, October 2007**

Don't cross the line! The Dalit villagers of Birari are lined up in front of the road, which caste laws prevent them from crossing. Instead of using the public road through the village, they have to go through the fields and bush when going to and from their settlement – or face the consequences.

