

Report of the 2nd Regional Consultation on caste-based discrimination, Kathmandu, Nepal

16-17
December
2013

UN-Resident Coordinator's office in Nepal and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Introduction

Caste-based discrimination and untouchability remain a widespread practice affecting an estimated 260 million individuals around the world considered to belong to "lower castes". The caste system is the very negation of the principles of equality and non-discrimination, eroding the enjoyment of a wide range of political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights for Dalits (considered untouchable in South Asia) and other caste affected groups in several countries.

Caste-based discrimination is a form of discrimination based on work and descent. While analogous forms are also a serious challenge in other geographic areas, such as Yemen with "Al-Akhdam" community and Mauritania (Haratin), countries in South Asia are witness to some of the most severe and pernicious manifestations of caste-based discrimination. These include practices of untouchability, degrading professions such as manual scavenging, and segregation in the daily lives of millions of Dalits. Countless numbers are in servitude or slavery-like practices, and numerous incidents of caste-based violence and abuse occur on a daily basis throughout the region. Dalits continue to face challenges in the enjoyment of their economic, social and cultural rights as well as their civil and political rights. They also encounter innumerable barriers in accessing justice as a result of inadequate implementation of laws and court decisions driven by stigma, indifference, unequal power relations and social perceptions.

In order to address these problems, several important laws and policies have been introduced in the region. For instance, Nepal introduced the Caste Based Discrimination and Untouchability Act in 2011 which criminalizes caste-based discrimination. India has been carrying out measures such as affirmative action and reservation quotas for scheduled castes. Following the acceptance of recommendations made during its last Universal Periodic Review (UPR), there have been new efforts in Bangladesh to address the problem. Further public discussion on these issues is called for in other countries, including Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Prior UN engagement

In December 2011, OHCHR organized a regional roundtable bringing together representatives from UNCTs in South Asia. The event focused on sharing of good practices in law, policy and programmes among the countries concerned and paved the way for the consolidation of regional networks. The consultation built on the work on caste-based discrimination conducted by OHCHR-Nepal, which provided an example of what can be achieved at the national level by building strong partnerships with the Government, national institutions, the UN and civil society and provided further stimulus to efforts at the regional and international level.

In late 2012 a special consultation sponsored by OHCHR was held on the issue of stigma and caste at the Bangkok regional office in collaboration with the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Safe

Drinking Water and Sanitation. This consultation gathered together key focal points from the various UN agencies in Bangkok.

In March 2013, the Guidance Note of the Secretary-General on Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities recommended that UN action and policies should reflect the fact that persons targeted for discrimination based on descent, in particular caste-based discrimination and related practices, are in a number of contexts in a particularly marginalized position and in need of focused attention.

Background of the 2nd regional consultation

As a follow-up to the 1st regional consultation on caste-based discrimination, the UN Resident Coordinator's office in Nepal and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights hosted a two day regional consultation on 16-17 December 2013 for UN Country Teams, government representatives, national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and civil society organizations (CSOs) of Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. The regional consultation aimed at taking stock of lessons learned and good practices in these past two years and identifying key areas of synergy and cooperation in the region among UNCTs, NHRIs and CSOs. The consultation specifically:

- ❖ Further explored caste-based discrimination issues in India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka with a focus on good practices, challenges and lessons learned in the implementation and/or drafting of legislation addressing caste based discrimination;
- ❖ Addressed the importance of mainstreaming caste based discrimination in legislation, policies and measures related to the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR);
- ❖ Reviewed specific considerations related to the stigmatization of caste affected groups and the enjoyment of ESCR, and
- ❖ Discussed existing UN guidance to address caste-based discrimination in country programs (United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and other joint UNCT plans and programs) keeping in mind treaty body concluding observations, Special Procedures and Universal Periodic Review recommendations and the Guidance Note of the Secretary General on Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

A key issue raised in the consultation was the need to bolster the efforts and commitment by States in the region towards effectively addressing caste-based discrimination, including its root causes. Participants also called for greater visibility and inclusion of work to combat caste-based discrimination in the work of UN agencies, in international financial institutions, and in ongoing processes such as those related to the post-2015 development agenda, or around climate change, to name just a few examples. Consultation and the effective participation of affected communities were stressed as a *sine qua non* condition in the design and implementation of policies and programmes targeted at combating caste-based discrimination. Also discussed was the need for interventions that moved beyond legal and institutional settings into more informal/social spaces, in order to help challenge and change discriminatory mindsets.

Participation and conduct of the consultation

Invitations were sent to Resident Coordinators and Country Directors of UN agencies, as well as representatives of the government of Nepal, Human Rights Council Special Procedures, NHRIs and civil society organizations. Due to the end of year closing a number of senior level representatives expressed their regret but sent designated substantive staff to look into the issue. Sixty-four participants participated in the consultation (please see Annex I – list of participants).

Opening remarks were given by Mr. Jamie Mcgoldrick (UN Resident Coordinator, Nepal), Ms. Jyoti Sanghera (Chief of Human Rights, Economic and Social Issues Section, OHCHR Geneva), Mr. Bed Prasad Bhattarai (Acting Secretary, National Human Rights Commission), Ms. Rita Izsák (UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues) and Mr. Bholu Prasad Siwakoti (Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister, Government of Nepal).

The discussion was wide-ranging and organized around the following sessions (please see Annex II – agenda):

- ❖ **A regional overview of caste-based discrimination and key issues** (Chaired by Ms. Katia Chirizzi, Human Rights Officer, Methodology, Education and Training Section);
- ❖ **Challenges, good practices and lessons learned in the elimination of caste discrimination in the context of humanitarian action** (Chaired by Mr. Kamdev Khanal, Member of Protection Cluster UNICEF, Nepal);
- ❖ **Impact of ESCR and stigma on the enjoyment of ESCR** (Chaired by Mr. Paul Divakar, General Secretary, National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights);
- ❖ **Addressing challenges related to the intersection of gender and caste-based discrimination** (Chaired by Mr. Munir Mammadzade, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF Nepal);
- ❖ **National Human Rights Institutions: experiences, opportunities and challenges** (Chaired by Mr. Bhim Pariyar, International Alert Nepal);
- ❖ **The role of UN human rights mechanisms in addressing caste-based discrimination** (Chaired by Ms. Smita Narula, Associate Professor, New York University School of Law), and
- ❖ **Addressing caste discrimination through UN Country programs** (Chaired by Ms. Stine Heiselberg, Special Assistant to the Resident Coordinator, UN RCO Nepal).

In addition, participants were divided into working groups to discuss:

- ❖ Opportunities and lessons learned in addressing caste discrimination through CCA/UNDAF processes at country level;
- ❖ Success stories, strategies and challenges in developing national, regional and global advocacy for the elimination of caste discrimination, and
- ❖ Strategies, lessons learned and challenges using international human rights mechanisms to eliminate caste-based discrimination.

At the end of the discussions, the working groups developed recommendations for strategic regional action to work towards the elimination of caste based discrimination, as outlined below.

Session I – A regional overview of caste-based discrimination and key issues

The panel was composed by Mr. Zakir Hossain (Chief Executive, Nagorik Uddyog – Bangladesh), Ms. Manjula Pradeep (Director, Navsarjan Trust – India), Mr. Bhaktha Bishwakarma (President, Nepal National Dalit Social Welfare Organization – Nepal), Mr. Zulfiqar Shah (General Secretary, Pakistan Dalit Solidarity Network – Pakistan) and Professor K. Tudor Silva, Department of Sociology, University of Peradeniya (Sri Lanka).

The panel speakers provided participants with a brief overview of caste-based discrimination in their own countries, as well as strategies being used by the respective States to address the issue. Participants agreed that progress has been made in the last few years in the passage of new legislation in Nepal and India, and in promoting recognition that caste-based discrimination is a root cause of poverty and conflict. However, panelists indicated that discrimination based on work and descent, and particularly caste-based discrimination, is yet to be fully acknowledged as a human rights issue in South Asia.

The lack of implementation/ non-enforcement of legislation and constitutional protections, where they exist, was raised as a concern across the board. In Nepal, for example, a recent study of the Nepal National Dalit Social Welfare Organization revealed that approximately 35% of victims of caste-based discrimination attempt to access justice by filling cases. The study also concluded that since the adoption of the anti-untouchability law, approximately only 2 percent of the cases registered by the police were presented in court. These figures give some insight into the pervasive problem of non-implementation.

The lack of dedicated resources to create appropriate national bodies, policies and programs as well as to strengthen the justice system, amongst other sectors, was also identified as a crucial issue that hampers the implementation of legislation to address this form of discrimination.

Panelists also acknowledged that, while caste-based discrimination persists in all countries of the region, it is important to recognize the different contexts in which it unfolds and the different levels of protection that are in place. Such contextual specificity needs to be taken into account when addressing country-specific concerns, for instance, using the same strategies or terminologies across the board may not be appropriate.

Session II: Challenges, good practices and lessons learned in the elimination of caste discrimination in the context of humanitarian action

The panel was composed by Ms. Rikke Nöhrind (Coordinator, International Dalit Solidarity Network) and Mr. Paul Divakar (General Secretary, National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights).

Panelists highlighted the prevalence of caste-based discrimination in disaster relief camps and internal displacement camps while humanitarian action is being carried out and agreed that Dalits are frequently the worst affected when disasters hit. They often live on marginal lands, with less infrastructure, drainage, etc.

Participants were referred to a recent study entitled “Equality in Aid: Addressing Caste Discrimination in Humanitarian Response”, which looks at caste-based discrimination in the provision of humanitarian aid and the reasons why it continues to be a problem in emergency programming (the study is available at: http://idsn.org/fileadmin/user_folder/pdf/New_files/Key_Issues/Disaster_response/EqualityInAid_web_version.pdf). According to the study, humanitarian actors have not adequately addressed caste-based discrimination in disaster risk reduction strategies and recovery programmes. If humanitarian aid agencies had a better knowledge of caste dynamics and caste related power structures, they could provide better assistance to affected communities.

The Indian experience of caste-based discrimination in humanitarian aid was shared, through the example of the National Disaster Management Act, which links the principles of equality, non-discrimination, accountability and transparency to humanitarian aid. Participants also debated how issues concerning climate change could be related in this context.

Session III: Impact of ESCR and stigma on the enjoyment of ESCR

The panel was composed by Ms. Jyoti Sanghera (Chief of Human Rights and Economic and Social Issues, OHCHR Geneva), Mr. Karim Rezwanaul (Programme Manager, Manusher Jonno Foundation Bangladesh) and Dr. Renu Rajbhandari (Chairperson, National Alliance of Women Human Rights Defenders Nepal).

Panelists called for more disaggregated data to help make visible the depth and impact of caste-based discrimination. Panelists also highlighted the strong economic dimension of caste-based discrimination, including as it relates to land ownership/landlessness and other economic indicators.

Participants reflected on the impact of centuries of stigmatization on caste affected groups and their enjoyment of ESCR, making the issue of stigma very difficult to address. Panelists noted that the root cause of non-implementation of legislation, policies and programmes is often the discriminatory mindsets that prevail within the dominant population. Against this background, it was proposed that strategies to combat caste-based discrimination should go beyond legal frameworks and formal institutions to include interventions in contexts such as religion, popular culture, education, and public service announcements.

Session IV: Addressing challenges related to the intersection of gender and caste-based discrimination

The panel was composed by Ms. Durga Sob (President, Feminist Dalit Organization Nepal), Ms. Moni Rani Das (Chairperson, Dalit Women Forum Bangladesh) and Ms. Rebecca Tavares (Representative, UN Women India)

Panelists discussed how Dalit women and girls are exposed to multiple forms of discrimination that originate from the intersection of discrimination based on caste and gender and include, *inter alia*, sexual violence, sexual exploitation, trafficking, other forms of gender-based violence,

bonded labour, lack of or limited access to food, water and sanitation, healthcare, education, adequate housing, and unequal participation in political, economic and social life.

Panelists highlighted the multiple forms of discrimination faced by Dalit women in the region, and more specifically on issues such as violence against women, the influence of religious institutions in deterring access to justice for women, and their exclusion or alienation from the mainstream women's movement at the national and global levels. Presentations also highlighted the positive impact of affirmative measures in place in India and the need to revisit opportunities for special temporary measures, specifically addressing Dalit women.

The UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues shared information on the Roma Women's Rights movement and the Roma Rights Movement, as well as her personal experience within the UN to advance inclusion of minorities in the system. Participants discussed the need and benefits of linking Dalit movement to movements of other marginalized groups.

Session V: National Human Rights Institutions: experiences, opportunities and challenges

The panel was composed by Mr. Subarna Karmacharya (Director, National Human Rights Commission Nepal), Mr. Bimal Bishwakarma (Advocate, National Dalit Commission), Mr. Tek Tamata (Program Analyst, UNDP Nepal), Ms. Lubna Yasin (Capacity Development Project, National Human Rights Commission Bangladesh), Mr. Lourdo Savio Mahimaidass (Lawyer and former OHCHR Minority Fellow, Tamilnadu, India) and Mr. Paul Divakar (General Secretary, National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights).

The presentations by the NHRI of Nepal highlighted its work on untouchability issues carried out in cooperation with National Dalit Commission of Nepal. The latter explained the challenges it faced in obtaining a constitutional status and on the overall implementation of the Anti-Untouchability and Discrimination Act 2011. The representative from UNDP Nepal highlighted some activities aimed at strengthening the work and mandate of the National Dalit Commission and to create synergies with the judiciary system.

The NHRI of Bangladesh detailed the process to introduce the Anti-Untouchability and Discrimination Act in Bangladesh and noted that it would like to learn best practices on how similar laws have been implemented in other countries. In addition, it was noted that in April 2013, a delegation comprising the NHRI, the government and civil society visited Nepal to meet with key counterparts and discuss the Nepal experience.

The need to undertake research on legislative frameworks that address caste-based discrimination and their implementation was shared by participants, who also encouraged cross-communication amongst NHRIs in the region. Participants also discussed the effectiveness of having separate NHRIs to deal with caste-based discrimination.

Session IV: The role of UN human rights mechanisms in addressing caste-based discrimination

The panel was composed by Ms. Rita Izsák (Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues) and Mr. Antti Korkeakivi (Chief of Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section, OHCHR Geneva).

The panel presentations provided succinct examples of how to engage with the UN human rights mechanisms. A wide range of challenges, good practices and lessons learned were discussed by participants, including the responsibility of the UN system, through its headquarters and field presences to integrate existing recommendations from those mechanisms into policies and programs of UN agencies. Panelists also discussed how the recommendations of human rights mechanisms on caste-based discrimination can be reflected in other processes such as in the post-2015 agenda and climate change processes.

The importance of having treaty bodies and special procedures addressing caste related issues was also highlighted during this discussion. In this regard, it was noted that the visits of Special Procedures mandate holders in countries of the region have created spaces for dialogue with governments and brought visibility to issues concerning caste-based discrimination in the aftermath of the visit.

Participants were reminded of the experience of advocacy around caste-based discrimination, and how far we have come in a relatively short period of time. Participants also reflected on how human rights mechanisms can serve as tools for social mobilization, organization, strategic partnerships, the leveraging of voices and collaborations across countries. All agreed that what was needed moving forward was to turn the many recommendations of treaty bodies, special procedures, and the UPR into concrete action with the support of actors throughout the UN system.

The UN Secretary General's Guidance Note on Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities was specifically referred as the commitment of the UN system to continuously work towards the elimination of the caste-based discrimination. The UN Network on Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, coordinated by OHCHR, is currently considering new action to support the implementation of the Guidance Note, including to combat discrimination based on work and descent.

Session VII: Addressing caste discrimination through UN Country programs

The panel was composed by Ms. Giulia Vallese (Representative, UNFPA Nepal), Mr. Ziad Sheikh (Representative, UN Women Nepal), Mr. Sameer Taware (Project Officer, Promotion of Equality, ILO India) and Ms. Sarita Moktan (Chair, Social Inclusion Action Group (SIAG), Nepal).

The presentation on the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Nepal (UNDAF) highlighted priority outcomes related to vulnerable groups or those affected by caste-based discrimination. The informal Social Inclusion Action Group in Nepal called for concerted efforts of all concerned stakeholders on this issue. Comprehensive information on the ILO Convention 111 concerning discrimination in respect of employment and occupation (1958) and its application in India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh was presented.

In terms of practical initiatives, the work that ILO carries out with the Indian Government on the issue of manual scavenging was highlighted. Participants also discussed follow-up activities implemented in the context of the 2011 OHCHR-Nepal report “Opening the Door to Equality: Access to Justice” and the use and impact of public interest litigation initiatives by human rights organizations working on the issue of caste based discrimination.

Working groups

The participants were divided into three groups to discuss one of the following topics, which were then presented to the plenary:

- ❖ Opportunities and lessons learned in addressing caste discrimination through CCA/UNDAF processes at country level;
- ❖ Success stories, strategies and challenges in developing national, regional and global advocacy for the elimination of caste discrimination, and
- ❖ Strategies, lessons learned and challenges using international human rights mechanisms to eliminate caste-based discrimination.

Participants made a range of recommendations, including in the following areas:

- The discussion on *opportunities and lessons learned in addressing caste discrimination through CCA/UNDAF processes at the country level* elaborated on the importance of using consistent terminology throughout the UN system that reflects the self-identification of the persons and groups concerned. In addition, consultations conducted prior to the preparation of an UNDAF should include meaningful participation of civil society representatives. It was also recommended that UN agencies undertake an in-depth analysis of policies and programmes in place for the protection of the rights of caste affected communities, in view of identifying gaps.

The working group also encouraged UNCTs to include caste-based discrimination in their reporting. The group discussion also pointed out the need to integrate the recommendations from the UPR, treaty bodies and special procedures that have addressed caste-based discrimination into the UNDAF. It was also recommended that budget allocated for projects addressing caste-based discrimination should be tracked through relevant UNDAF outcomes.

- The working group on *success stories, strategies and challenges in developing national, regional and global advocacy for the elimination of caste discrimination* reflected on the importance of disaggregated data and data analysis to support evidence based advocacy with a view to tailoring policies and programmes to overcome caste-based discrimination. The added value of building alliances, including through constructive engagement with community based and mainstream media outlets as well as with the diaspora community and religious institutions was emphasized during the discussion.

It was recommended that UN agencies should work with Dalit civil society organizations to strengthen and empower them to address their own issues. The need to make UN reports and other materials and tools accessible in local languages was also highlighted. In addition, the

working group also recommended that UN agencies pay particular attention to the situation of Dalit human rights defenders.

➤ The discussion on *strategies, lessons learned and challenges using international human rights mechanisms to eliminate caste-based discrimination* stressed the need for UN agencies to consistently raise the issue of caste-based discrimination in their engagement with States, including when caste-based discrimination is not recognized/addressed. Drawing from lessons learned in Nepal, it was recommended that the UNDAF Nepal 2012-2017 could be used as an inspiration for the development of UNDAF in other countries.

Furthermore, participants recommended that UN agencies should support the reporting process to the UN and human rights mechanisms, including by facilitating multi-stakeholder consultations. Moreover, the continuing need to build the capacity of civil society actors as well as national institutions dealing with marginalized communities was also highlighted. Another point that came out of the discussion was the need to follow-up the implementation of recommendations from the international human rights mechanisms that address caste-based discrimination.

The working group also recommended that UN country teams should develop a system that retains institutional knowledge on what has been already done on caste-based discrimination, and provide training on caste-based discrimination to staff members.

Key points and recommendations

A summary of the main recommendations made by participants through the course of the 2 day long regional consultation is provided below:

Engagement with different actors:

While bearing in mind that each South-Asian country has its own unique context, all UN country teams in the region should engage with different stakeholders, including State institutions and the parliament, NHRIs, national and regional human rights organizations, civil society organizations, and the recently established UN network on racial discrimination and protection of minorities.

The experience of India, Nepal and Bangladesh with **specific Commissions and/or NHRIs** working on caste-based discrimination issues should be drawn from in other countries of the region. Moreover, strategies and approaches adopted by the existing mechanisms should be critically analyzed with a view to strengthening their impact and results. For example, in 2011, the three NHRIs in Nepal (National Human Rights Commission, National Dalit Commission and National Women's Commission) played a key role in the UPR reporting, and has been also monitoring the implementation of the UPR recommendations made to Nepal on human rights issues concerning caste-based discrimination.

Building partnership with the **media** to bring forward the issue of caste-based discrimination remains critical and challenging. Public Service Announcements and documentary-dramas have been found to have a positive impact in raising awareness on the issue in Nepal. It was

recommended that the International Federation of Journalists and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression should be involved in the efforts to sensitize the media on caste related issues. In addition, free online web broadcasting channels, social media outlets and online petition sites have the power to reach out to millions of committed individuals and should be used as advocacy tools to bring visibility and awareness to the realities of affected communities.

Regional mechanisms such as the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) should be engaged in strategies to combat caste-based discrimination. Optimizing engagement with the SAARC could assist in bringing caste related issues to the regional level. It was also suggested that caste-based discrimination should be placed in the agenda of SAARC's annual meetings in consultation with affected communities.

It was also recommended that Dalit rights movement should have stronger links with the **'mainstream' rights movement**, including with the global efforts to combat racial discrimination. Furthermore, it was also noted that more work needs to be done to identify discriminatory hierarchies within castes in the region.

Evidence-based advocacy:

There is also a greater need for evidence-based advocacy to reflect the gaps in the State's efforts to address this issue. For example in Nepal, there is a need to focus on improving the implementation of the Anti-Untouchability and Discrimination Act, while in India, it would be important to take make further efforts to measure the impact of reservations/affirmative actions aimed at the scheduled castes.

In addition, evidence-based advocacy and action plans should be formulated through wider consultation amongst the affected groups on their priority issues and reflect on whether these priority issues are reflected in the State's policies. While doing so, it is also important to continue following-up the implementation of the recommendations by the treaty bodies, the UPR mechanism and the Human Rights Council's Special Procedures.

Programming and planning:

The **Secretary General's guidance note on racial discrimination and protection of minority** states that UN actions and policies should reflect the fact that persons targeted for discrimination based on descent, in particular caste-based discrimination and related practices, are in a number of contexts in a particularly marginalized position and in need of focused attention. Agencies should be more engaged in their programmatic and policy-oriented approach to combat caste-based discrimination. Civil society organizations should also have a better understanding of the mandates of UN agencies so they can effectively lobby with them to uphold human rights principles of non-discrimination. It was recommended that the UN network on racial discrimination and protection of minorities, comprising over 20 different UN agencies, should effectively monitor how the guidance note is being implemented by headquarters and field presences.

The **United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF)** should identify and complement priority areas of development in line with the government's development plan. At the preparatory phase, each of the country's specific UNDAF should adopt a human rights based approach to specifically integrate issues concerning caste-based discrimination, in consultation with affected communities, under each of the UNDAF's outcomes. The current Nepal UNDAF (2013-2017) process and strategic framework could be good example for other countries in the region.¹ At the implementation stage, this document should be used effectively to lobby and advocate with the concerned UN agencies taking the lead of related outcomes.

ANNEXES: 1) List of Participants; 2) Agenda

¹ A human rights-based approach was followed through conceptualizing and drafting process of the Nepal UNDAF. Furthermore, the UNDAF strategic result framework placed social inclusion at its core as the country analysis (also prepared following a human rights based approach) noted that Nepal's most fundamental cause of vulnerability is discrimination emanating from socio-cultural traditions, norms and practices developed over centuries.

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

BANGLADESH

1. Mr. Rustam Pulatov, Programme Specialist, Security, Human Rights and Justice, Democratic Governance Cluster, UNDP
2. Ms. Lubna Yasin, Capacity Development Project, National Human Rights Commission
3. Mr. Zakir Hossain, Chief Executive, Nagorik Uddyog (Citizen's Initiative)
4. Ms. Moni Rani Das, Chairperson, Dalit Women Forum
5. Ms. Sonu Rani Das, member, Dalit Women Forum
6. Mr. Karim Rezwanul, Programme Manager, Manusher Jonno Foundation
7. Mr. Rabindranath Soren, President, Jatiya Adivasi Parishad

INDIA

8. Ms. Rebecca Tavares, Representative, UN Women
9. Mr. Sameer Taware, Project Officer, Promotion of Equality, ILO
10. Mr. Paul Divakar, General Secretary, National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights
11. Ms. Asha Kowtal, Secretary General, All India Dalit Mahila Adhikar Manch
12. Ms. Manjula Pradeep, Executive Director, Navsarjan Trust
13. Mr. Lourdu Savio Mahimaidass, Lawyer, Karur District Combined Courts (Tamil Nadu)

PAKISTAN

14. Mr. Zulfiqar Shah, General Secretary, Pakistan Dalit Solidarity Network
15. Ms. Bhagwani Rathore, Pakistan Dalit Solidarity Network
16. Mr. Ramesh Jaipal, Coordinator of PDSN in Punjab province, chairman of Scheduled Castes Rights Movement

SRI LANKA

17. Ms. Nehama Jayewardene, Human Rights Officer, UN Resident Coordinator's Office
18. Professor K.Tudor Silva, Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Peradeniya

GENEVA, NEW YORK & OTHERS

19. Mr. Antti Korkeakivi, Chief of Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section, OHCHR
20. Ms. Jyoiti Sanghera, Chief of Human Rights and Economic and Social Issues Section, OHCHR
21. Ms. Katia Chirizzi, Human Rights Officer, Methodology, Education and Training Section, OHCHR
22. Ms. Rita Izsák, UN Independent Expert on Minority Issues
23. Ms. Smita Narula, Associate Professor, New York University School of Law
24. Ms. Antje Kraft, Justice and Human Rights Specialist, Asia-Pacific Regional Centre, UNDP Bangkok

25. Ms. Rikke Nöhrind, Coordinator, International Dalit Solidarity Network, Denmark

NEPAL

1. Mr. Jamie McGoldrick, UN Resident Coordinator
2. Ms. Giulia Vallese, Representative, UNFPA
3. Mr. Ziad Sheikh, Representative, UN Women
4. Mr. Massimo Diana, Head of Office, UN RCO
5. Ms. Prabina Bajracharya, UNRCO
6. Ms. Ranjana Thapa, UNRCO
7. Mr. Upesh Shakya, UNRCO
8. Ms. Pranika Koyu, UNRCO
9. Ms. Ayano Matsudo, DPA
10. Mr. Munir Mammadzade, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF Nepal
11. Mr. Kamdev Khanal, UNICEF, Nepal
12. Ms. Sudha Pant, Gender Officer, UNFPA Nepal
13. Tek Tamata, UNDP Nepal
14. Meenu Hada, WFP, Nepal
15. Mr. Dambar Singh Gurung, UNDAF Outcome 3 Coordinator, UNFPA
16. Ms. Rachana Riasaily, Coordinator, Social Inclusion Action Group, UN Resident Coordinator's Office
17. Ms. Ansu Gurung, ILO Nepal
18. Ms. Tania Hoerler Swiss Embassy Nepal
19. Ms Sarita Moktan Embassy of Switzerland in Nepal
20. Mr. Bhola Prasad Siwakoti, Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister
21. Mr. Ramesh Dhakal, Joint Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister
22. Mr. Rudra Singh Tamang, Under Secretary, Ministry of Federal State and Local Development
23. Mr. Dijen Bhattarai, Section Officer, Human Rights Unit, Ministry of Home Affairs
24. Ms. Sushila Sirpali (Thakuri), Chair, National Dalit Commission
25. Mr. Bhuban Bahadur Sunar, Member Secretary, National Dalit Commission
26. Ms. Udaya Ojha, National Dalit Commission
27. Mr. Bimal Bishwakarma, Advocate, National Dalit Commission
28. Mr. Bed Bhattarai, Acting Secretary, National Human Rights Commission
29. Mr. Chakraman Bishwokarma, President, Dalit Welfare Organization
30. Mr. Bhakta Bishwakarma, President, Nepal National Dalit Social Welfare Organization
31. Mr. Gajadhar Sunar, President, Dalit NGO Federation
32. Ms. Durga Sob, President, Feminist Dalit Organization
33. Mr. Lal Babu Mahara, Secretary, Madhesi Dalit Development Federation
34. Mr. Ramesh Gautam, Executive Director, Lawyers' National Campaign for Elimination of Caste Discrimination
35. Mr. Rem Biswakarma, Chairperson, Jagaran Media
36. Mr. Amrit Bishwokarma, President, Jan Utthan Pratisthan
37. Ms. Bishnu Maya Pariyar, President, Association of Dalit Women Advancement of Nepal
38. Ms. Lynn Bennett, Senior Social Scientist
39. Dr. Renu Rajbhandari, Chairperson, National Alliance of Women Human Rights Defenders
40. Mr. Bhim Pariyar, International Alert
41. Mr. Prakash Kainee, Food-first Information and Action Network
42. Mr. Raju Chapagai, Chairperson, JuRI Nepal
43. Ms. Tanuja Basnet, JuRI Nepal
44. Mr. Rup Sunar, Professional Development and Research Centre

45. Mr. Rajanee Maharjan, OHCHR indigenous fellow
46. Ujjwal Sundas, Managing Director, SAMATA foundation
47. Manju Lama, Danish Embassy, Kathmandu
48. Tejhari Ghimire, NORLHA

ANNEX II

2ND SOUTH-ASIA REGIONAL CONSULTATION ON CASTE-BASED DISCRIMINATION



**16 – 17 December 2013
Hotel Radisson, Lazimpath
Kathmandu – Nepal**

AGENDA

DAY 1 – MONDAY 16 DECEMBER

09:00-10:00 - Opening remarks

- Mr. Jamie Mcgoldrick, UN Resident Coordinator, Nepal
- Ms. Jyoti Sanghera, Chief of Human Rights, Economic and Social Issues Section, OHCHR Geneva
- Mr. Bed Prasad Bhattarai, Acting Secretary, National Human Rights Commission
- Ms. Rita Izsák, UN Independent Expert on Minority Issues
- Mr. Bholu Prasad Siwakoti, Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister, Government of Nepal

10:15 - 10:30 Tea break

10:30-11:30 – Session I

A regional overview of caste-based discrimination and key issues

Moderator: Ms. Katia Chirizzi, OHCHR Geneva

- Bangladesh - Mr. Zakir Hossain, Chief Executive, Nagorik Uddyog
- India - Ms. Manjula Pradeep, Director, Navsarjan Trust

- Nepal - Mr. Bhakta Bishwakarma, President, Nepal National Dalit Social Welfare Organization
- Pakistan - Mr. Zulfiqar Shah, General Secretary, Pakistan Dalit Solidarity Network
- Sri Lanka - Professor K. Tudor Silva, Department of Sociology, University of Peradeniya

11:30-12:45 – Session II

Challenges, good practices and lessons learned in the elimination of caste discrimination in the context of humanitarian action

Moderator: Mr. Kamdev Khanal, Member of Protection Cluster UNICEF, Nepal

- Ms. Rikke Nöhrind, Coordinator, International Dalit Solidarity Network
- Mr. Paul Divakar, General Secretary, National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights

12:45 - 13:45 Lunch

13:45-15:00 – Session III

Impact of ESCR and stigma on the enjoyment of ESCR

Moderator: Mr. Paul Divakar, General Secretary, National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights

- Ms. Jyoti Sanghera, Chief of Human Rights and Economic and Social Issues, OHCHR Geneva
- Mr. Karim Rezwanul, Programme Manager, Manusher Jonno Foundation Bangladesh
- Dr. Renu Rajbhandari, Chairperson, National Alliance of Women Human Rights Defenders Nepal

15:00-16:00 – Session IV

Addressing challenges related to the intersection of gender and caste-based discrimination

Moderator: Mr. Munir Mammadzade, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF Nepal

- Ms. Durga Sob, President, Feminist Dalit Organization Nepal
- Ms. Moni Rani Das, Chairperson, Dalit Women Forum Bangladesh
- Ms. Rebecca Tavares, Representative, UN Women India

16:00 - 16:15 Tea break

16:15 – 17:45 – Session V

National Human Rights Institutions: experiences, opportunities and challenges

Moderator: Mr. Bhim Pariyar, International Alert Nepal

- Mr. Subarna Karmacharya, Director, National Human Rights Commission Nepal
- Mr. Bimal Bishwakarma, Advocate, National Dalit Commission
- Mr. Tek Tamata, Program Analyst, UNDP Nepal
- Ms. Lubna Yasin, Capacity Development Project, National Human Rights Commission Bangladesh
- Mr. Lourdo Savio Mahimaidass, Lawyer ad OHCHR Minority Fellow, Tamilnadu, India
- Mr. Paul Divakar, General Secretary, National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights

17:45 – 18:00 – Wrap up

DAY 2 – TUESDAY 17 DECEMBER

09:00-10:15 – Session VI

The role of UN human rights mechanisms in addressing caste-based discrimination

Moderator: Ms. Smita Narula, Associate Professor, New York University School of Law

- Ms. Rita Izsák, UN Independent Expert on Minority Issues
- Mr. Antti Korkeakivi, Chief of Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section, OHCHR Geneva
- Mr. Ramesh Dhakal, Joint Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister, Government of Nepal

10:15 - 10:30 Tea break

10:30-11:30 – Session VIII

Addressing caste discrimination through UN Country programs

Moderator: Ms. Stine Heiselberg, Special Assistant to the Resident Coordinator, UN RCO Nepal

- Ms. Giulia Vallese, Representative, UNFPA Nepal
- Mr. Sameer Taware, Project Officer, Promotion of Equality, ILO India
- Ms. Sarita Moktan, Chair, Social Inclusion Action Group (SIAG), Nepal

11:30-13:00 – Working groups

- Opportunities and lessons learned in addressing caste discrimination through CCA/UNDAF processes at country level:
- Success stories, strategies and challenges in developing national, regional and global advocacy for the elimination of caste discrimination;
- Strategies, lessons learned and challenges using international human rights mechanisms to eliminate caste-based discrimination.

13:00 - 14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:15 – Working groups continue

15:15 - 15:30 Tea break

15.30 – 16:45 - Recommendations of working groups, plenary discussion and way forward

Co-moderators:

Ms. Jyoti Sanghera, Chief of Human Rights, Economic and Social Issues, OHCHR Geneva

Mr. Antti Korkeakivi, Chief of Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section, OHCHR Geneva

16:45-17:30 – Closing remarks

- Ms. Jyoti Sanghera, Chief of Human Rights, Economic and Social Issues, OHCHR Geneva
- Mr. Antti Korkeakivi, Chief of Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section, OHCHR Geneva
- Ms. Rita Izsák, UN Independent Expert on Minority Issues