

# END CASTE DISCRIMINATION







**CASTE SYSTEMS** divide people into unequal and hierarchical social groups. Those at the bottom are considered impure and they are subjected to “untouchability” practices. “Untouchables” – known in South Asia as Dalits – face discrimination in every aspect of their lives and are often assigned the most dirty and hazardous jobs. The Dalit women face multiple discrimination at the intersection of caste and gender discrimination.

**CASTE DISCRIMINATION** (discrimination based on work and descent) affects an estimated 260 million people globally, the majority living in South Asia (India, Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka). Discrimination is also met among Diaspora communities around the world. Discrimination based on work and descent is also found e.g. in Japan (the Buraku people), Yemen (the Muhamasheen) and in some African countries.

**EXAMPLES OF CASTE DISCRIMINATION:**

- Dalits are prohibited from eating with members of other caste, from entering temples and from inter-caste marriages.
- Segregated housing and separate seating area of Dalit children in schools.

- Bonded labour, forced labour and child labour.
- Discrimination in access to health and other services.
- Violence and sexual violence against Dalit women.

Despite legislation in many countries outlawing caste discrimination, it continues to persist because of deep-rooted tradition, lack of implementation of legislation and impunity.

**DALIT SOLIDARITY NETWORK IN FINLAND** (DSNFi) supports the human rights struggle of the Dalits. DSNFi advocates and raises awareness in Finland for the elimination of caste discrimination. Finland should address caste discrimination in the EU, UN and in its bilateral relations with the caste-affected countries. Finnish companies and NGOs working in caste-affected countries should ensure that their operations do not include caste discrimination.

DSNFi is a volunteer-based, registered organization. It is a member of the International Dalit Solidarity Network IDSAN.



**PARTICIPATE**

- Read more [dalit.fi](http://dalit.fi) and follow us on Facebook @Dalitiensolidaarisuusverkosto.
- Become a DSNFi member by paying the annual membership fee to DSNFi bank account: FI38 1745 3000 1374 99 and writing your name, home municipality and email address to the message field. The membership fee is 20 € (for unemployed and students 10 €). The membership fee for organisations is 100 €.
- Contact [info@dalit.fi](mailto:info@dalit.fi).