

## Manjula Pradeep

Manjula Pradeep is the Executive Director of Navsarjan Trust, one of the largest Dalit rights organizations addressing the issues of caste and gender based discrimination. A brazen human rights activist and lawyer, Manjula Pradeep has spent her life defending the rights of India's women and Dalits, the "untouchables" of the Hindu caste system.

Ms Pradeep has been involved in human rights work for the past two decades and is one of the foremost women leaders of the Dalit movement.

Under her leadership, Navsarjan Trust received the Times of India Social Impact award in the field of "Advocacy and Empowerment" in 2013.

Navsarjan Trust addresses the core issues relating to Dalit rights for the implementation of land reforms, eradication of manual scavenging, fighting discrimination in education and employment, implementation of minimum wages pertaining to agricultural labourers, abolition of bonded labour practices and strengthening Dalit women leadership. Navsarjan also runs a vocational training centre to ensure economic empowerment of Dalit youth.

Ms Pradeep has a master's degree in social work from M.S. University, Vadodara, and also a bachelor degree in law from Gujarat University. She has undertaken training at Women's Global Leadership Institute at Rutgers University, USA. Ms Pradeep is a member of the executive group of the International Dalit Solidarity Network. She is a member of the steering committee of Women in Governance-India (WinG). In 2011, she was selected as a woman peacemaker by Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice, University of San Diego. Ms Pradeep is familiar with UN human rights mechanisms and has on many occasions interacted with the UN human rights bodies, the OHCHR, and UN member states. Ms. Pradeep also recently spoke on economic empowerment of Dalit women at the "National Conference – Re-framing Budgets for Dalit Women in India."

To see Ms. Pradeep in action – training women to become economically empowered and speaking about her work, watch the [Times of India video - Manjula Pradeep leads India](#).

**Contact:** Tel. +91 9898515090 / Email. manjula.hp@gmail.com

