

IDSN recommendations to the OHCHR and UN Agencies to end caste-based discrimination and caste-based violence against women and girls

presented at a side-event on 17 June at the 26th Session of the Human Rights Council

IDSN recommendations:

- High level advocacy by the OHCHR and UN agencies for the elimination of caste-based discrimination and caste-based violence against women and girls
- A joint initiative led by the OHCHR and UN Women to address and campaign for ending caste-based violence against women with a specific and time-bound action plan involving multiple stakeholders including UN agencies and relevant UN human rights mechanisms.
- Drawing on the commitments of the OHCHR Management Plan 2014-2017ⁱ identify relevant thematic priorities and develop plans for addressing caste-based human rights issues and barriers for their achievement systematically in all relevant focus areas
- Consistent advocacy and communications by the OHCHR on the rights of Dalits in South Asia and similarly affected communities elsewhere and the human rights issue they face, and continuous mainstreaming of the topic in programmes, statements, studies and action plans
- UN Guidance note on Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (2013): Develop UN guidance for the elimination of discrimination based on work and descent
- Provision of support and technical advice to multiple stakeholders by the OHCHR and UN agencies for monitoring and implementation of recommendations from Treaty Bodies, Special Rapporteurs and Universal Periodic Reviews on caste discrimination
- Regular regional South Asia consultations on caste-based discrimination on key thematic issues such as access to justice for Dalit women, and UN strategies and tools for the elimination of discrimination based on work and descent.
- An inter-agency study on caste-based bonded and forced labour in South Asia

UN Women / OHCHR

IDSN urges UN Women to step up action on caste-based discrimination and violence against women and girls. Actions should be directed at ending sexual abuse, atrocities and other forms of violence against women and girls and the multiple, intersectional forms of discrimination based on caste and gender.

Recommendations:

- A joint initiative led by the OHCHR and UN Women to address and campaign for ending caste-based violence against women with a specific and time-bound action plan involving multiple stakeholders including UN agencies and UN human rights mechanisms, including Special Procedures Mandate Holders
- A regional South Asia study on the multiple forms of discrimination and violence against caste-affected women
- A specific and time-bound action plan to address caste-based discrimination and violence against Dalit women, including at country level.

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ⁱ References to caste status and caste-based discrimination the OHCHR Management Plan 2014-2017 are made in the introduction by the High Commissioner and under OHCHR thematic priority: "Enhancing equality and countering discrimination". Other thematic priorities are also highly relevant for elimination of caste-based discrimination and violence against women and girls from these communities.