

Kathmandu Proclamation

On

Dalit Women's Issues in New Nepal

With a claim to be addressed compulsorily Dalit women's issues with the principle of proportionate inclusion, eliminating all forms of caste, class and gender discrimination, establishing Dalit and Dalit women's rights and to promulgate advanced constitution without any delay Kathmandu proclamation is released.

Political/ Administrative issues of Dalit women:

- The constitutional and legal provision for proportionate representation's rights of Dalit women in all Government bodies (parliament, government, low court, administrative mechanism, local bodies and social organizations etc.) should be ensured.
- There should be constitutional arrangement of 20% reservation for Dalit communities and 50% for Dalit women until and unless they reach on the same line or row with other communities of the society and same line or row with men respectively, in which 20% among women and 50% among Dalits should be reserved for Dalit women. Among the acquired rights, Madheshi Dalit women, Badi, Gandharva along with single women, disable women, who are kept behind, should be given priority.
- The census should clearly collect data of different sub caste within the Dalit communities. The upcoming census should appoint Dalit women as reckoner proportionately.
- In new constitution, there should be proportionate reservation system for Dalit men and women to ensure inclusion and proportionate participation in electoral system through making it constitutional.
- There should be separate sitting or session in every court to see the cases of untouchability and caste based discrimination. The declaration by state of forming "Untouchability Watch Centre" at VDC level, should be formed immediately and start effective execution.

Economic issues:

- Most of the Dalit communities are landless and are deprived from the earning of land resources. Hence, land should be made available to produce for livelihood. Dalit women's equal land rights should also be ensured.
- Arrangement of self employment program for economic development and loan arrangement without collateral system should be made Dalit women and men who wish to conduct micro enterprise.
- Equal wages for men and women for similar jobs has to be ensured.
- The state should develop and promote the traditional skill of Dalit communities and should conduct special program for them.

Social and cultural issues:

- Eliminate all forms of discrimination, which Dalit women are experiencing from the centuries such as untouchability, dowry system, child marriage, polygamy, inter-caste marriage, witchcraft allegation, bonded labour, girls/ women trafficking, traditional bad custom and practices and ensure Dalit women's protection and promote them to establish in the society.
- Stop all forms of women violence which takes place due to patriarchal social structure and guarantee the rights to live dignified life like men.

- The state should guarantee the families' protection and social security of inter caste marriage between Dalit and non Dalit and special initiation for justice to Dalit women should be made who are the victims of inter caste marriage.

Education issues:

- There should be free education with scholarship provision for Dalit girls from primary level to higher education and technical education as well through establishing education as fundamental right, which should be ensured in new constitution.
- The content related with caste and gender discrimination in the syllabus should be omitted and caste and gender friendly contents should be included.
- Scientific, employment generating, vocational and technical education, adult and non formal education should be arranged and implemented effectively.

Health issues:

- Ensure the access of health services for Dalit women through establishing health services as fundamental right and in addition, state should ensure free health services and treatment for marginalized and Dalit women.
- Ensure the reproductive health rights of women
- There should be special health services and treatment arrangement for marginalized communities.

Legal issues:

- Define untouchability as crime against state and serious social crime and eliminate impunity and there should be hard legal action for perpetrators.
- There should be provision to get citizenship easily in the name of mother without any condition.
- Dalit women's employment should be ensured in Nepal Army, police.
- Execute the National and International treaty, protocol, laws to eliminate all forms of caste and gender discrimination in an effective and efficient manner.

The National Conference of Dalit Women from 11-13 May 2011, concluded aforesaid economical, political, social and cultural, education, health and legal issues to be included in new constitution and request to government, Constituent Assembly, political parties and all concerned stake holders to implement immediate the provisions which are already made and possible in favor of Dalit women.