

Dt.: 8th June 2009.

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
VIII NATIONAL CONVENTION OF
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF DALIT WOMEN(NFDW) IN INDIA.

Theme

Dalit Women Leadership:

Combat

Persistent Poverty, Protection from Violence and Powerlessness Dear friend,

A Very Warm Greetings from the National Federation of Dalit Women (NFDW)!

NFDW cordially invites you to participate in its VIII National Convention on the 26th June 2009, between 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. at Vishwa Yuvak Kendra, Circular road (Near to Chanakyapuri Police Station) Chanakyapuri, New Delhi, Phone Nos.: 23013631/32/33/34.

National Federation of Dalit Women is a Federation of Dalit Women from the Grass-root level communities from rural Villages and Slum settlements in cities, Workers, Activists, Academics and Advocates, Professionals from various walks of lives, elected dalit women from Panchayats level to Parliament, Dalit Women's Organisations, Organisations and Network committed to Dalit women's freedom, equality and emancipation.

NFDW aims at ensuring and providing opportunities for growth, capacity building and developing autonomous leadership, building organizations in order to bring about changes in the lives of millions of dalit women and their communities. It also aimed at forging unity among Dalit Women and facilitating Dalit women to develop their self confidence, esteem, identity and leadership capacities. It also aim at working inter-sectorally on Caste, Class and Gender discrimination and work towards achieving social justice, dignity and equality for dalit women.

NFDW has conducted Seven National Conventions so far in different states of the country on various issues, through which it has articulated emancipatory agenda of Dalits and Dalit Women's Movement. Every Convention has released statements for action for the people as well as for policy interventions.

In the previous Conventions we have witnessed a large number of dalit women have participated with great enthusiasm and built alliances across many states and that gave a lot of confidence, courage to carry on their work locally in difficult circumstances where they have to face caste hierarchy and discrimination on one side and gender subjugation and violence on the other, in their day to day lives.

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Until now the declarations or statements articulated their social exclusion, victimization of caste hierarchy, Untouchability practices, insensitiveness and the continuous failure of the criminal justice and administrative system. NFDW spoke on manual scavenging, sexual slavery in the form of Devadasi system, witch hunting, bonded labour and their backwardness in accessing literacy, healthcare and also dignified employment and living conditions.

VIII National Convention of NFDW:

Thousands and millions of Dalit Women face a daily struggle to survive a persistent poverty, violence and powerlessness that plagues their lives. Day after day they face oppression that takes away the strength they need to change their situation. For a Dalit Woman to challenge the forces of oppression that deprive her or her right to dignity and security, it is absolutely imperative that she be given her due rights, be it right to own land, right to security against poverty, caste violence and discrimination.

NFDW is facilitating and enhancing Dalit Women's capacities, to claim their rights by mobilizing and educating communities so that they could take their struggle to a public platform and speak directly to Government/s whose policies affect their lives. It is not an easy struggle, but it is a struggle that must be won in order to ensure the future of the Dalit communities and particularly of the Dalit Women. It is a continuous struggle for freedom, so that Dalit Women can stand up and speak up with Confidence, Courage and with Commitment that their voices matters; that their voices can change their destiny.

"It is a battle for the reclamation of Human Personality"

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.

Women who are members of NFDW or affiliated organizations will attend the National Convention from all over the country. NFDW intend to invite eminent persons and leaders from dalit, women and social movements

Kindly make your self free in order to participate in this Convention to render support and solidarity. Those who cannot come, it would be good if you could send a message of solidarity to the Dalit Women's Movement by way of encouragement, in moving forward.

For any enquiries and clarification you can ring me up in my mobile 9844057734 or 080-26642053.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Dr. Ruth Manorama,
National Convenor, NFDW.

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