

## References to Caste-Based Discrimination in reports and statements presented at the 27<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council, September 2014

<p><a href="#">Opening Statement</a> of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mr. Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein</p> <p>September 8 2014</p>	<p>Another lesson for me, twenty years ago, was equally clear: there is no justification ever, for the degrading, the debasing or the exploitation of other human beings – on whatever basis: nationality, race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age or <b>caste</b>.</p>
<p>Report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and its consequences, Ms. Urmila Bhoola</p> <p><a href="#">A/HRC/27/53</a></p> <p>July 22 2014</p>	<p><b>III.Priorities of the Special Rapporteur for the period 2014-2017</b></p> <p>18. During her tenure, the Special Rapporteur will continue to address the different forms of contemporary slavery, including subtler forms of slavery that deserve specific attention, such as bonded labour, domestic servitude, early and forced marriage, child slave work, servile marriages and <b>caste-based forms of slavery</b>, which affect the lives of many and are not confined to developing and poor countries. She will also continue to work on the remaining challenges to the eradication of contemporary forms of slavery, as highlighted by her predecessor in her report to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-fourth session (A/HRC/24/43).</p>
<p>Report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and its consequences, Ms. Gulnara Shahinian, follow up mission to Mauritania</p> <p><a href="#">A/HRC/27/53/Add.1</a></p> <p>August 26 2014</p>	<p><b>Conclusions and recommendations</b></p> <p><b>Slavery law and policies:</b></p> <p>36. The Special Rapporteur encourages the Ministry of Justice to expedite the review of the Slavery Act of 2007, and calls upon the Government to amend the Act in accordance with her previous recommendations and the road map, including to ensure better protection for victims recognized as slaves. The Special Rapporteur reiterates the need to accord the right to act as a civil party to an independent mechanism in order to ensure that victims of slavery and slavery-like practices are assisted by independent lawyers offering pro bono services so that they make take effective legal steps and obtain redress, as well as the need to introduce a law against discrimination practices based on <b>caste</b> or ethnic slavery. The criminal law approach should be accompanied by effective measures to compensate for discrimination and to assist the integration of victims of slavery into an independent life.</p>
<p>Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and its consequences, Ms. Urmila Bhoola</p> <p>8-9 September 2014</p>	<p>Please see the <a href="#">IDSN note on the Interactive Dialogue</a></p>
<p>Report of the Special Rapporteur on the human</p>	<p><b>D. Violations of the obligation to refrain from discrimination and to ensure substantive equality</b></p>

<p>right to safe drinking water and sanitation, Catarina de Albuquerque – “Common violations of the human rights to water and sanitation”</p> <p><a href="#">A/HRC/27/55</a></p> <p>June 30 2014</p>	<p><b>Failure to prevent and combat stigmatization and to take measures against discrimination in the private sphere</b></p> <p>62. People may be deliberately excluded from the use of existing facilities, for instance through societal rules preventing <b>Dalits</b> from using water fountains<sup>1</sup> or not allowing women and girls or other individuals to use an existing toilet in the household. Inordinate amounts of time spent by women and girls carrying water have major impacts on access to paid employment and education. Measures to address such practices could seek to alleviate that burden, for instance by making water collection over long distances unnecessary by providing direct access, while challenging the stereotypes which lead to that task being assigned to women.</p> <p>63. Sanitation workers frequently face serious health risks, stigmatization, violence and exploitation. In India, the Parliament adopted an act requiring that sanitation systems be overhauled so as to eliminate the need for manual scavengers and seeking to eradicate stigma, inter alia by arranging for alternative jobs.<sup>2</sup> The Supreme Court of India observed that “manual scavengers are considered as untouchables by other mainstream <b>castes</b> and are thrown into a vortex of severe social and economic exploitation”.<sup>3</sup> It held that the continuation of manual scavenging violated human rights and ordered the State to fully implement the new act and take appropriate action in response to any violations.<sup>4</sup></p> <p>64. Women and girls are frequently subjected to unacceptable risks of violence, including sexual violence, in accessing water and sanitation facilities. Their right to personal security may be violated by failures to provide adequate protection from violence, including through appropriate design and placement of facilities with the participation of women.<sup>5</sup> Many other groups and individuals such as <b>Dalits</b> and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex individuals also face violence in accessing water and sanitation, often linked to deeply entrenched stigmatization.<sup>6</sup></p>
<p>Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, Catarina de Albuquerque</p> <p>9-10 September</p>	<p>Please see the <a href="#">IDSN note on the Interactive Dialogue</a></p>

<sup>1</sup> Ibid., para. 36.

<sup>2</sup> “Stringent anti-manual scavenging bill passed”, The Hindu, September 8, 2013.

<sup>3</sup> Supreme Court of India, *Safai Karamchari Andolan and Ors. v. Union Of India and Ors. (Writ Petition (C) No.583 of 2003)*, March 27, 2014, para. 2.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., para. 15.

<sup>5</sup> Amnesty International, *Risking Rape to Reach a Toilet. Women’s Experiences in the Slums of Nairobi, Kenya* (2010).

<sup>6</sup> A/HRC/21/42, para. 36.

<p><b>Communications to/from Governments</b></p> <p><a href="#">A/HRC/27/72</a></p> <p>August 20 2014</p>	<p>PAK 6/2014 Pakistan - Alleged death of at least 132 children in the Thar desert, Tharparkar district, Sindh province as a result of malnutrition. According to the information received, severe and chronic food and water shortages due to drought and extreme poverty are the principal causes of death. The majority of victims reportedly belong to the minority <b>Dalit</b> community. Reports suggest that the crisis has been exacerbated by insufficient investment in healthcare facilities with long standing vacancies in Government run hospitals and health centres, as well as a lack of female doctors, limiting the provision of adequate medical services. Undue delays on the part of the authorities to react to the crisis have reportedly resulted in the Sindh provincial Government being accused by the Supreme Court of failing to fully report the facts, highlighting its failure to distribute sixty thousand bags of wheat flour allocated to the region in December 2013.</p> <p>To mandates: Food; Health; Minority issues; Water and Sanitation</p>
<p><b>UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Report on the situation of human rights in Yemen</b></p> <p><a href="#">A/HRC/27/44</a></p> <p>27 August 2014</p>	<p><b>J. Marginalized groups</b></p> <p>58. The Muhamasheen community has been successful in advocating its rights in the National Dialogue Conference, especially in the area of participation in the public sphere. The Conference’s Working Group on Rights and Freedoms recommended a 10 per cent participation in employment in public services, as well as equal access in leadership and decision-making positions. The Conference outcomes also focused on the development of a specialized national body to ensure Muhamasheen integration into society, particularly in accessing justice, education and training as well as military service. Other outcomes called for the drafting of national plans for the Muhamasheen community to claim their rights.</p> <p>59. Despite this progress, Yemen’s marginalized communities continue to be victims of attacks or neglect by the authorities. The National Muhamasheen Union reported several attacks against communities across the country, which resulted in their displacement from temporary built homes. OHCHR–Yemen recorded two cases of forced displacement in the Ta’izz Governorate.</p> <p><b>IV. Recommendations</b></p> <p><b>(j) Ensure that the National Dialogue Conference outcomes regarding Muhamasheen and other minorities are incorporated into the new Constitution and implemented into practice;</b></p>