

UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) review of India (2-3 June 2014) in the 66th session of the Committee

See [UN press release 3 June 2014](#)- **References to caste-based discrimination**

The Committee on the Rights of the Child considers the combined third and fourth periodic report of India on its implementation of the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the initial reports of India on how the country is implementing the Optional Protocol to the Convention on children involved in armed conflict and the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

Response by the Delegation

India had multiple mechanisms and measures in place which addressed discrimination. The first was the National Human Rights Commission, but there were also other human rights bodies, including the National Commission for Minorities. There were special courts designed to deal with **caste-based discrimination** established in 31 States, for example. To give special focus to the needs of persons with disabilities, in 2012 the Department of Disability Affairs was established within the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Schemes were in place to provide for rehabilitation services, including special schools for children with disabilities and the provision of aids and appliances, and the law on persons with disabilities was being revised in order to be fully harmonized with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and recent technical advancements in the field of disabilities.

Follow-Up Questions by the Delegation

Had India evaluated the effectiveness of its anti-discrimination awareness-raising programmes, an Expert asked, as there were many reports from the ground of serious discrimination faced by **castes** and tribes, against children with HIV and against women and girls.

Response by the Delegation to Follow-up Questions

A delegate said there was no evaluation of programmes that he was aware of, but he would check and come back to the Committee. The Government was committed to eradicating discrimination, and had, for example, created separate ministries for minorities and socially disadvantaged groups. It had also established the National Commission for Scheduled **Castes**, the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes and other bodies