

# Appeal to the European Parliament, the Commission, the EEAS and the Council

## TAKE ACTION TO ELIMINATE CASTE DISCRIMINATION NOW

International Dalit Solidarity Network · 2012

### General Recommendations to EU institutions and member states

- Address caste-related human rights violations and poverty issues in country and thematic reviews, incl. impunity and non-implementation of legislation, violation of Dalit women and children's rights, forced and bonded labour, and unequal access to resources and basic services (e.g. education, housing, water, and health care)
- Develop, promote and support policies and good practices to eliminate caste discrimination by governments, the private sector, and civil society
- Promote the draft UN Principles and Guidelines for the effective elimination of discrimination based on work and descent as a guiding framework to eliminate caste discrimination and support their endorsement in the UN Human Rights Council
- Systematically use recommendations on caste discrimination by UN human rights bodies ([idsn.org/uncompilation](http://idsn.org/uncompilation))
- Promote and use the Global Call for Action to Eliminate Caste Discrimination and the Good Practice Recommendations from the 2011 International Consultation on Caste-Based Discrimination ([idsn.org/globalcall](http://idsn.org/globalcall))

### Appeal to Members of the European Parliament

- Pledge your support to End Caste Discrimination ([endcaste.com/mep](http://endcaste.com/mep))
- Address caste discrimination in EU legislation and policies on human rights, development cooperation, humanitarian assistance, trade, and business and human rights
- Address concerns about caste discrimination in thematic reviews, exchange of views, decisions and resolutions of the European Parliament
- Promote a joint motion for a resolution calling for leadership, cooperation, and constructive engagement to eliminate caste discrimination and adoption of a UNHRC resolution on discrimination based on work and descent.

Members of the Foreign Affairs Committee (AFET), the Committee on Development (DEVE), the Sub-Committee on Human Rights (DROI), the Delegation for relations with South Asia and the Delegation for relations with India are specifically called upon to:

- Systematically address caste-discrimination in committee activities, communications and resolutions for the promotion of human rights, democracy and development in affected countries

- Include the topic in thematic discussions including business and human rights, anti-discrimination, women's rights, trade relations, labour issues, etc.
- Promote political and human rights dialogues on the topic with affected countries, bilaterally and in the relevant international organisations and interparliamentary fora
- Commission a study for review of EU action to address caste-based discrimination
- Address the topic of caste discrimination in exchange of views with members of parliaments and government representatives from caste affected countries
- Meet with representatives from caste-affected communities during every parliamentary visit to caste-affected countries

## Appeal to EU Delegations, the Commission and the External Action Service

- Take joint action, giving international attention and recognition to caste discrimination as a chronic and cross-cutting human rights and poverty concern
- Address explicitly caste discrimination in EU human rights communications, frameworks and strategies and as a ground of discrimination which must be tackled as part of EU anti-discrimination agenda and include specific reference to *people affected by caste discrimination*
- Systematically address human rights violations and poverty issues intersecting with caste discrimination in country strategies and thematic analyses, and promote dialogues with governments, UN agencies, member states and civil society on the topic
- Promote the draft UN Principles and Guidelines for the elimination of discrimination based on work and descent as a guiding framework to eliminate caste discrimination and support their endorsement
- Apply caste sensitive policies and programming measures in humanitarian and development assistance provide technical and institutional support for development and enforcement of anti-discrimination laws, National Action Plans and programmes to promote access to justice, services and resources for affected communities
- Hold regular consultations on this topic with civil society organisations and representatives of affected communities
- Promote sharing of good practices to eliminate caste discrimination by governments and their institutions, the private sector, civil society, and other relevant actors
- Take special measures to avoid caste biases in own recruitment practices and work environments
- Cooperate with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the effective elimination of discrimination based on work and descent and address this problem in the joint cooperation between the EU and the OHCHR on the Fight against All Forms of Discrimination
- In the UNHRC and other international fora pursue concerns on caste discrimination raised by the OHCHR, treaty bodies and special procedures and address caste-related human rights violations in reviews of caste-affected countries

## Appeal to the Council

- Develop policy guidance and adopt a Council decision for combatting discrimination based on work and descent