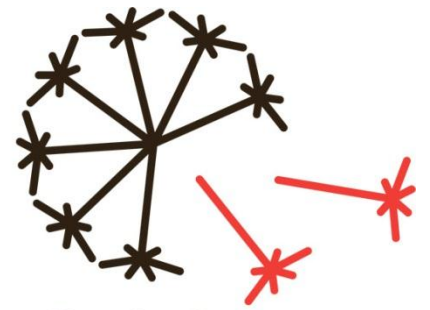


END CASTE DISCRIMINATION



It takes one minute to join us on endcaste.com to say:

I pledge to support the struggle to end caste discrimination

SIGN THE PETITION

Caste discrimination is based on a caste system where those born into the lowest castes, who call themselves Dalits, are treated as subhuman and 'untouchables'. There are an estimated 260 million people affected by caste discrimination worldwide. They are often forced to live, eat and work in segregation from the rest of society and their basic human rights are severely restricted. They suffer violence, rape, public humiliation and murder, without being able to gain justice through the police or courts.

Despite being outlawed in many caste-affected countries caste discrimination persists, as those who are meant to implement the laws are simply not doing this effectively, if at all. The situation therefore remains desperate and has created one of the world's largest human rights issues. It is imperative that the world react and take a stand against caste discrimination. You can start today on endcaste.com. Want more info? Use the links on this page and read the [Urgent Global Call for Action to End Caste Discrimination](#) and [Recommendations](#) on how.

Key Issues

Caste discrimination affects Dalits in almost every aspect of their daily lives including in access to human rights, development, and justice. This exclusion creates a trap of poverty and suffering. Below are examples of some key issues.



Bonded/Forced Labour Dalits are easily trapped in a vicious cycle of bonded labour or other forms of contemporary slavery.



Access to Justice Impunity for crimes against Dalits is rampant and implementation remains alarmingly weak and insufficient.



Dalit Women Dalit women are especially vulnerable to abuse, assault, rape, public humiliation, forced labour and prostitution.



Discrimination in education Discrimination against Dalits in education and segregation in schools is a widespread problem.



Manual Scavenging Dalits are often forced due to caste to manually remove human excrements from dry toilets.



Political Participation Dalits are limited from equal participation.

“The time has come to eradicate the shameful concept of caste ... slavery and apartheid, have been dismantled in the past; we can and must tear down the barriers of caste too.”

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

Watch the video



Q&As on Caste Discrimination

Read our questions and answers

Caste Affected Countries

Caste discrimination is particularly widespread in South Asia, but similar discrimination exists in diaspora communities, Japan, Yemen and in a number of African countries.



India



Nepal



Bangladesh



Pakistan



Yemen



Sri Lanka



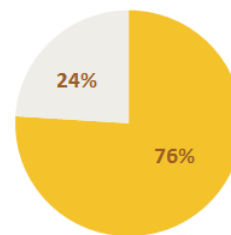
Diaspora



More countries

What can the EU do to end caste discrimination?

- Follow the specific recommendations set out in the **Appeal to the European Parliament, the Commission, the EEAS and the Council to take action to end caste discrimination**
- Address caste-related human rights violations in country and thematic analyses and reviews, including impunity and non-implementation of legislation, violation of Dalit women and children’s rights, forced/bonded labour, and unequal access to resources and services (e.g. education, housing, water, & health)
- 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
- Systematically use **recommendations on caste discrimination by UN human rights bodies** and promote and use the **Global Call for Action and the Good Practice Recommendations** for the elimination of caste-based discrimination



“76 % of Europeans surveyed said that the UN should take action to end caste discrimination, and 67% said the EU should.”

Dalit Solidarity Networks in:

-  United Kingdom
-  Netherlands
-  Norway
-  Belgium
-  Finland
-  Germany
-  Denmark
-  Sweden

What is the International Dalit Solidarity Network?

IDSN is a network that advocates for Dalit human rights and to raises awareness of the need for action to end caste discrimination nationally and internationally. The IDSN network includes national platforms and associates in caste-affected countries, national Dalit solidarity networks from Europe, and international human rights groups, development agencies, and research associates. IDSN’s associates include Human Rights Watch, Minority Rights Group International, Anti-Slavery International, The Asian Human Rights Commission, IMADR, Forum-Asia, LWF and WCC.

Info on IDSN’s work within the:

-  United Nations
-  European Union
-  Private Sector

Connect to IDSN on www.idsn.org



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