



Member of the European Parliament

Dear President Tusk,

Dear President Juncker,

Dear High Representative Mogherini,

4 October 2017

Re: EU-India Summit

We write on the occasion of the forthcoming EU-India Summit in New Delhi, scheduled for 6th October, to urge you to make human rights a central part of your dialogue with the Indian Government. Specifically, we urge you to publicly and privately raise the EU's concerns with regards to caste discrimination in line with the European Parliament's 2012 resolution P7_TA(2013)0420.

We remain deeply concerned with the serious human rights violations and persistent development challenges linked to caste discrimination. At least 260 million people around the globe face appalling and dehumanising discrimination based on caste and similar systems of inherited status.

Despite constitutional safeguards and special legislation for the protection of India's 201 million 'scheduled castes' violations of their fundamental human rights are reported to continue on a large scale. UN human rights institutions have continuously documented caste-based discrimination in India with violations affecting a full spectrum of civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights. These violations also curtail the right to education and employment, undermine access to justice and catalyse sexual violence and other crimes targeted at women and girls. Furthermore, the dramatically shrinking space for civil society in many countries of the world, including India, has severe implications, also for Dalit human rights defenders.

We therefore call on you to encourage the Indian government to:

- Take immediate steps to eliminate abuses against Dalits and all other marginalized communities and provide concrete plans to implement laws and government policies to secure their protection
- Publicly condemn crimes against Dalits and minorities, and promptly prosecute all those responsible for such crimes
- Protect the rights to peaceful expression and assembly and ensure that all human rights defenders, including Dalits, are able to carry out their work without being harassed by the authorities



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We also take this opportunity to repeat our calls for an EU policy development on caste discrimination and urge the EU and its member states to intensify and support initiatives at the UN and delegation level with the aim of eliminating caste discrimination worldwide.

We wish you a productive summit, and look forward to discussing these issues at your convenience.

Yours sincerely,

HAUTALA Heidi (Greens/EFA)

ANDERSSON Max (Greens/EFA)

CASTALDO Fabio Massimo (EFDD)

GOMES Ana Maria (S&D)

HENKEL Hans-Olaf (ECR)

LAMBERT Jean (Greens/EFA)

LOCHBIHLER Barbara (Greens/EFA)

NEUSER Norbert (S&D)

PANZERI Pier Antonio (S&D)

POST Soraya (S&D)

SÁNCHEZ CALDENTEY Lola (GUE/NGL)

VAN DALEN Peter (ECR)

WEIDENHOLZER Josef (S&D)