

A close-up photograph of a young girl with dark hair, smiling and looking slightly to the right. She is wearing a bright yellow dress adorned with multiple layers of gold and silver jewelry, including a necklace and earrings. Her hair is styled with small green and yellow clips. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be an outdoor setting with stone steps.

2018

annual report

IDSN

International Dalit Solidarity Network

WORKING GLOBALLY AGAINST CASTE-BASED DISCRIMINATION

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Word from the Chair

Welcome to the IDSN 2018 Annual Report.

Caste discrimination remains one of the biggest human rights abuses existing today, which involves the abhorrent practice of untouchability and descent-based civil, political, cultural, social and economic inequality. Caste discrimination still goes unchallenged and often unacknowledged, but the tireless work of activists and supporters continues to raise awareness of this issue.

We are a unique organisation, aiming to change values and practices through policy changes worldwide. We are making a difference and we add a significant voice to a growing global human rights movement campaigning for change on caste-based discrimination.

There are so many people and organisations to thank – but above all our member organisations in the caste-affected countries, all of whom provide us with our purpose and our inspiration to continue and carry out fantastic work in their countries despite the many obstacles they face. The Solidarity Networks in Europe continue to be trailblazers when it comes to ensuring that caste discrimination is addressed and undertake activities such as lobbying their relevant Ministries to raising the issue to businesses and multi-national corporations or staging awareness raising events. Under-resourced and with many working purely on a voluntary basis, they are a perfect example of what passion and commitment to the cause can achieve. I therefore take this opportunity to thank all the caste-affected country members, Dalit Solidarity Networks, our International Associates and our donors. Without all of whom the achievements highlighted in this report would not be possible.

We ended 2018 on a real high. The IDSN General Assembly had just met and all bar one member was present. The meeting was presented and approved a new 5-year strategy, which effectively turns our way of working on its head. We will be driven as we move forward by key thematic objectives – Dalit women and gender justice; equality and participation; and business and human rights. We have ambitious targets to meet by 2023 – but with the focus and support of the members, we are sure to achieve many of them.

We have had many highlights over the year – we welcomed new staff – and also their offspring, who we hope will be the campaigners of the future. We also welcomed a new IDSN Ambassadors' Group – individuals who have pledged to speak out and speak up.

In terms of our advocacy, we had significant results at both the United Nations and European Union level; and our communications platform remains one of the most unique and comprehensive in the global campaign to end caste-based discrimination.

2018 Highlights

- The IDSN General Assembly adopts the new IDSN Strategy 2019-2023
- UN side-event on caste-based violence highlights the plight of Dalit women
- Several high-level UN officials raise concern over caste discrimination
- Treaty body reviews of Bangladesh include many recommendations on caste
- UN CERD and CEDAW Committee reviews focus on Dalit issue and discrimination against Dalit women
- Dalit activists speak out at the UN Forum on Minority Issues
- Reports and statements from UN Special Rapporteurs include strong references to caste
- Dalit activists take part in the EU Development Days and the EU NGO Forum
- Caste-based slavery addressed at an EU Parliament hearing
- MEPs raise concern over caste with EU leadership
- The EU high representative makes several replies confirming the EU's commitment to eliminating caste discrimination
- EU Annual Reports on human rights highlight concern over caste discrimination
- Engagement with IDSN's website resources and social media channels rise

Special thanks to my fellow Board members of IDSN, who give so much of their time and energy – who show passion and commitment to ensure a vibrant and thriving organisation. My thanks goes as always to the whole staff team at IDSN. They are, as ever, hardworking, skilled and excellent at what they do and underpin the whole structure and foundations.

We will continue to update you on our progress – both our successes and challenges. We may be a small Secretariat, but we are a mighty network. We do hope you will be able to continue to support us in the years to come as we fight for a caste free world.

Meena Varma
Chair of the Board

Ambassadors join the fight to end caste discrimination

At the General Assembly in November 2018, IDS presented a new Ambassadors Group. The group is made up of several highly distinguished human rights advocates, who will use their knowledge and skills to ensure that caste discrimination never falls off the global human rights agenda.

“The fight to end caste discrimination is at the root of some of the most horrendous human rights violations facing the world today including modern slavery, violence against women, extreme poverty and grave failures of the justice system in affected countries across the world,” said one of the new IDS Ambassadors, Professor Gay McDougall, Member the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. “IDS is a leading force in bringing Dalit voices to the fore of global human rights fora and I am proud to be a catalyst for this work as part of the new Ambassadors group.”

Dr. Aidan McQuade, former Director of Anti-Slavery International also joins the IDS Ambassadors group.

“Caste discrimination continues to be a highly divisive practice causing suffering, violence, abuse and the curtailing of basic human rights on a massive scale. It fuels child labour, bonded labour and many other serious human rights violations, implicating not just national industries but large multinational companies as well.” Dr. McQuade said. “IDS’s work to ensure global support for those affected by caste-based discrimination is absolutely crucial and it is an honour to be an IDS Ambassador.”

The new IDS Ambassadors are:

Professor Gay J. McDougall - Vice Chair, UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Senior Fellow and Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence, Center for Race, Law and Justice, Fordham University School of Law

Ms. Rita Izsák-Ndiaye - UN CERD Committee member and former UN Expert

Dr. Aidan McQuade - Labour rights expert and former Director of Anti-Slavery International

Professor Smिता Narula - Haub Distinguished Professor of International Law, Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University

Mr. Peter Prove - Director of the WCC Commission of the Churches on International Affairs

Mr. Gerard Oonk - Former Director of the India Committee on the Netherlands

Mr. Maina Kiai - Former UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association and now leading Human Rights Watch Alliances & Partnerships initiative

Caste discrimination

There are an estimated 260 million Dalits worldwide, often born into an ‘untouchable’ status, in highly stratified caste systems. Caste systems are found in South Asia, in communities migrated from South Asia across the globe and in other caste-stratified countries in Africa and Asia.

Caste-based discrimination involves massive violations of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. Caste systems divide people into unequal and hierarchical social groups. Those at the bottom are

considered inferior, ‘impure’ and ‘polluting’ to other caste groups. Those in the lowest of castes, known as Dalits in South Asia, are often considered ‘untouchable’ and subjected to so-called ‘untouchability practices’ in both public and private spheres. Dalits may be forced to do the most dirty and hazardous jobs, and subjected to modern slavery. Due to exclusion practiced by both state and non-state actors, Dalits have limited access to resources, services and development, keeping many in severe poverty.

Dalits are often de facto excluded from decision-making and meaningful participation in public and civil life. Lack of special legislation banning caste-based discrimination or lack of implementation of legislation, due to dysfunctional systems of justice, lack of state responsibility and caste-bias, have largely left Dalits without protection.

Despite policy development and new legislation in some countries, fundamental challenges still remain in all caste-affected countries.



United Nations

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

In his annual report to the United Nations Human Rights Council's March 2018 session, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein raised the issue of discrimination and violence directed at Dalits and was concerned that criticism of the government is met by claims that it constitutes a threat to national security.¹

"In India, I am increasingly disturbed by discrimination and violence directed at minorities, including Dalits and other scheduled castes ... In some cases, this injustice appears actively endorsed by local or religious officials. I am concerned that criticism of government policies is frequently met by claims that it constitutes sedition or a threat to national security. I am deeply concerned by efforts to limit critical voices through the cancellation or suspension of registration of thousands of NGOs, including groups advocating for human rights and even public health groups."

Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

In April, the International Symposium on the UN Guidance Tool on Descent-Based Discrimination was held in Tokyo. Leading up to the symposium IDSN associate the International Movement Against all forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR) and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) held an International Consultation for the Elimination of Descent-Based Discrimination in Osaka.² The consultation was attended by 10 representatives from Dalit civil society in India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka, as well as leaders of the Buraku Liberation League (BLL), the former UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues Rita Izsák-Ndiaye and Michele Buteau, Advisor on Minority Rights (OHCHR). IDSN was represented by Board member, Bhakta Bishwakarma from Nepal. As an outcome document of the consultation, Dalit and Buraku civil society organisations adopted the "Declaration for the Elimination of Descent-Based Discrimination".³

In June, the High Commissioner presented his Annual Report to the UN Human Rights Council. The report expresses concern over the continuous deferral of

Dalit women marching in 2018, to end sexual violence in India.
Photo by Rashtriya Garima Abhiyan

applications for UN consultative status from civil society organisations and includes direct reference to IDSN's application, which has been unjustly deferred by the UN NGO Committee for 10 years.⁴

In September, Michele Bachelet was appointed the new UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and IDSN issued a letter to brief Ms. Bachelet about caste discrimination and the need for the OHCHR to keep engaging with the fight to end caste discrimination.⁵

Human Rights Council

37th Session of the Human Rights Council

In advance of the 37th session of the UN Human Rights Council IDSN drafted and distributed recommendations, referring to the High Commissioner on Human Rights reports, interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on minority issues and the Universal Periodic Review of Pakistan's outcomes.⁶

IDSN board member, Henri Tiphagne, spoke at two side events on protection for human rights defenders in Asia alongside the Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders, Michel Forst. He underlined the particular vulnerabilities of Dalit defenders. The events took place on 1 and 2 March and were supported by IDSN.

During the HRC 37 session, caste discrimination and the situation of Dalits were noted at: The General Debate on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance;⁷ The General Debate on the follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;⁸ and the Interactive Dialogue with the High Commissioner for Human Rights on his annual report⁹ and oral update and in the High Commissioner's oral update.¹⁰

38th session of the Human Rights Council

In early June, IDSN published and distributed its recommendations to the UN member States on caste-based discrimination in relation to the HRC 38.¹¹ IDSN also supported a side-event on violence against Dalit women, with two UN experts and two Indian advocates as panellists.¹² The discussions of the side event were summarized in an outcome document.¹³

#Dalitwomenfight side-event

UN side-event highlights caste-based violence

In June 2018, IDSN supported the UN Human Rights Council side-event '#DalitWomenFight against Caste-based violence', hearing cases of caste-based violence against women in India. UN and legal experts responded with calls for action.

UN officials at the event called for immediate efforts to end rampant caste-based violence against women and address a culture of impunity when it comes to crimes against Dalit women.⁸²

A panel of experts responded to the cases and offered recommendations on ways to take the fight for justice forward within the UN system and beyond. The expert panel included: Rita Izsák-Ndiaye, Member of the UN CERD Committee; Dubravka Šimonovic, UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women; and Vrinda Grover, Senior Advocate at the Supreme Court of India.

Asha Kowtal, General Secretary of the All India Dalit Mahila Adhikar Manch (AIDMAM-NCDHR), gave an introductory presentation on the #DalitWomenFight movement and explained the need for international action, as national legislation is failing Dalit women.

"Our objective is not to shame the country, but to enable us to collectively find a way to break through this terrible silencing of caste crimes, perhaps the most silenced human rights crisis of our times." Ms. Kowtal said.

Vrinda Grover, spoke on the pattern of impunity in cases of caste-based sexual violence and observed that "the failure of courts to provide justice to India's most discriminated and vulnerable women compels us to probe the underlying systemic and institutionalised challenges," and called out for stronger actions by civil society as well as UN mechanisms to urgently address these gaps.

An outcome document with recommendations was produced.⁸³ The event was held in the Palais des Nations in Geneva and was co-sponsored by Human Rights Watch (HRW), the International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR), Minority Rights Group (MRG), Anti-Slavery International, FORUM-ASIA and Franciscans International (FI).

IDSN monitored the adoption of the resolutions on violence against women and on discrimination against women. IDSN also met several diplomats and NGO partners to push forward the acquisition of its ECOSOC status, which was referred to by the High Commissioner in his Human Rights' report.¹⁴

39th Session of the Human Rights Council

In September, IDSN engaged with the 39th Session of the Human Rights Council (HRC), issuing its recommendations to UN member states.¹⁵ A number of joint oral statements related to caste discrimination, supported by IDSN, were made at the interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery,¹⁶ interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Drinking Water and Sanitation (visit report to India)¹⁷ and on Item 8 (Implementation of the Vienna Declaration).¹⁸

“We urge the Government of India to secure the safe access to water and sanitation for Dalits and ensure justice for Dalit victims of violence. Moreover, the Government of India must place the freedom from caste discrimination at the centre of its implementation of the Special Rapporteur’s recommendations for the full realisation of the human rights to water and sanitation.”

2018 joint statement by IDSN, IMADR and Jan Sahas on water and sanitation for the 39th session of the Human Rights Council.¹⁹

The UN Special Rapporteur on water and sanitation delivered a statement outlining his report on his country visit to India in 2017. He noted that caste-based discrimination has led to unequal access to water and sanitation services.²⁰ India responded to this observation stating that the constitution prohibits any form of caste-based discrimination, which is a criminal offence, and according to India, “liable to harsh punishment”.

MRG delivered a joint statement with IDSN on global caste discrimination as part of the Item 8 general debate at the 39th session.²¹

“Dalit women suffer specific gender-based and caste-based violence often encouraged by a culture of impunity, as the CEDAW Committee has warned. The Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women underscored that Dalit women and girls are often displaced, pushed into prostitution and victims of trafficking. Former High Commissioner Pillay underscored that “our outrage is not enough”, in view of the failure to address the intersectional discrimination against women and girls and on the basis of caste. MRG and IDSN encourage this Council to pay increased attention to the situation of persons affected by caste-based discrimination, building on the extensive work undertaken on this issue by UN treaty bodies, Special Procedures, and civil society actors.”

Joint statement on global caste discrimination by IDSN and MRG, 39th session of the UN Human Rights Council.²²

The Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, Urmila Bhoola, made a special reference to caste-affected groups in the context of discriminatory attitudes in domestic work in her report to the HRC.²³ She urged states to increase their efforts in addressing and preventing domestic servitude.

IDSN associate Anti-Slavery International delivered a statement highlighting the danger migrant domestic workers face, particularly “members of socially excluded and marginalised groups, such as indigenous people and Dalits”.²⁴ The statement strongly urged States to implement the Special Rapporteur’s recommendations, especially concerning the adoption of the ILO Domestic Workers Convention, extending the coverage of national labour law and ending sponsorship systems.

IDSN also attended a meeting with the President of the ECOSOC Committee about the relevant accreditation procedure. The UN Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, Andrew Gilmour, in his report, raised concern over the deferral of the IDSN ECOSOC application (See the ECOSOC section on page 14 for details).²⁵ IDSN also had several meetings with diplomats and NGO partners in order to speak about the priorities for the 39th session and about the ECOSOC accreditation in advance of the session. IDSN submitted a report to the OHCHR on Forced Marriages and Forced Conversions in Pakistan, in order to support a report to the Human Rights Council.

Caste, Gender and the SDGs**UN Women Report: Average Dalit woman dies 14 years younger than dominant caste women in India**

In February 2018, a report by UN Women found that a woman's caste in India increases her exposure to mortality because of intersectional discrimination, poor sanitation and inadequate healthcare.

The global report 'Turning promises into action: gender equality in the 2030 Agenda', examines through a gender lens the progress and challenges in the implementation of all the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.⁸⁴

"Those left furthest behind in society are often women and girls who experience multiple forms of disadvantage based on gender and other inequalities... This can lead to clustered deprivations where women and girls may be simultaneously disadvantaged in their access to quality education, decent work, health and well-being," the report states.

A case in point is caste discrimination and the situation of Dalit women in India. The report points to a shocking disparity in mortality figures, with the average Dalit woman dying 14.6 years younger than the average Indian woman in general.

Another example is that literacy rates in India for female 'scheduled castes' (Dalits) is lower than the national average at only 57%. The report also states that,

"The likelihood of being poor is greater if she is landless and from a scheduled caste. Her low level of education and status in the social hierarchy will almost guarantee that if she works for pay, it will be under exploitative working conditions."

The report highlights the urgent need to address multiple forms of discrimination leading to clustered deprivations if real progress is to be made to meet the targets of the SDGs.

In addition to this report, UN Women featured news stories on IDS members from Bangladesh⁸⁵ and India⁸⁶ in 2018 and supported a report on Dalit Women in Bangladesh published by IDS member Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Rights Movement (BDERM).⁸⁷

Special Procedures

In addition to the many references to caste by the UN Special Rapporteurs reporting at the Human Rights Council Sessions, as outlined above, UN Special Procedures engaged with IDS and the issue of caste discrimination on other occasions throughout the year.

In May, eight UN human rights experts jointly issued a statement²⁶ condemning the deadly police response that had killed thirteen people, four of them Dalits, that were

protesting against the Sterlite copper smelting plants' impact on their livelihoods and environment.²⁷

Also in May a statement was issued by six UN experts urging for the immediate release of a detained Mauritanian blogger who was writing about caste.²⁸ The blogger, Cheikh Ould Mohamed M'kheitir, was arrested in 2014 and sentenced to death for apostasy after publishing an article online questioning the use of religious justification to legitimise caste discrimination.

Dalit human rights defender Moni Rani Das and a young Dalit boy in a sweepers colony in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Photo by Abir Abdullah

Dalit women in Nepal

UN Special Rapporteur asks Nepal to act on violence against Dalit women

In November 2019, the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, Dubravka Šimonovic⁸⁸ made a preliminary assessment⁸⁹ on violence against women in Nepal.⁹⁰

The Rapporteur warned that:

"[...] despite the legal protection, Dalit women continue to face multiple forms of discrimination in reality. Their vulnerable economic status, combined with the patriarchal values, exposes them to various forms of violence."

Moreover, Ms Šimonovic noted that Dalit women are among groups who encounter multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence, particularly through, "the persistence of deeply rooted gender discriminatory and stereotyped attitudes and behaviours, as well as patriarchal social norms, including a tendency for son preference; the normalisation of violence and the social stigma attached to reporting violence, continue to pervade society at all levels, disproportionately affecting women and girls who face intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination."

The Rapporteur was also concerned about trafficking in Dalit and Badi women and girls, particularly given the lack of a specific definition of the crime trafficking domestically and of guidance to deter perpetrators. She urged the State to revise the bill to amend the Human Trafficking and Transportation Act in order to bring it in line with the UN Palermo Protocol.⁹¹

Ms. Šimonovic encouraged the Nepalese government to adopt a specific National Action Plan on violence against Dalit and indigenous women, including temporary special measures (affirmative action) in order to accelerate participation of these groups at several levels of decision making.

At the end of May, the UN Special Rapporteur on racism mentioned her concern over the decision by the UK Government not to bring into effect the provisions in the Equality Act 2010 regarding socio-economic inequalities and intersectional discrimination; and raised concerns regarding the legal status of caste-based discrimination in her end of mission statement after visiting the UK.²⁹

Four reports were also submitted to the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders for his report to the UN General Assembly 2018 by IDS members the Feminist Dalit Organisation – Nepal (FEDO), National Dalit Movement for Justice (NDMJ) jointly with IDS, Network of Non-Mainstreamed Marginalized Communities – Bangladesh (NNMC) and the Dalit NGO Federation (DNF) – Nepal respectively.

In November, The UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, Dubravka Šimonovic made a preliminary assessment,³⁰ after her official visit to Nepal,³¹ between 19 and 29 November. On the same occasion, she released an urgent appeal for the Nepalese State to step up efforts to fight against impunity and to secure access to justice for victims of gender-based violence.³²

IDS and FEDO worked in close coordination to contribute to the Rapporteur's visit to Nepal, synergising efforts in Kathmandu, London, Copenhagen and Geneva. The Special Rapporteur also met with a large delegation of Dalit women at IDS member organisation, FEDO's offices in Kathmandu. Ms. Šimonovic will present the report on her visit to Nepal at the Human Rights Council in June 2019.

Treaty Bodies

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) Review of Bangladesh

In March, an IDS delegation including Dalit representatives from Bangladesh took part in the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) review of Bangladesh,³³ where several issues relating to caste-based discrimination were discussed and subsequently reflected in the relevant concluding observations.³⁴ A press release was issued following the review.³⁵ IDS and IDS's members in Bangladesh had also submitted a joint civil society report to the Committee ahead of the review.³⁶

Concerns were raised at the review over the narrowing space for civil society, actions undertaken or planned to ensure non-discrimination of Dalits, special measures for minority groups in areas of employment, health and education and the status of the Anti-Discrimination Bill.

The Committee suggested recognising Dalits as a minority in Bangladesh, providing data on the community's access



to jobs, health care services and social security and setting plans in place to uplift Dalits. The Committee also asked about discrimination of Dalits in their access to housing and water and sanitation and recommended disaggregated data on the Dalit situation in Bangladesh.

The state delegation stated that the Anti-Discrimination Bill needs to be re-drafted but were unable to give a timeline due to upcoming elections. They noted that there are many ethnic minorities in Bangladesh and did not feel there was a need to address the situation of one community but expressed its will to work with the NGOs working on Dalit issues in the country to address the situation.

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) Review of Nepal

IDSN and its members in Nepal made a joint submission³⁷ ahead of the May 2018 review of Nepal by the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD).³⁸ An IDSN delegation including Dalit activists actively participated in the review and IDSN also issued a briefing paper together with the Dalit NGO Federation (a consortia of Nepalese civil society) on the situation in Nepal.³⁹ The Concluding Observations⁴⁰ include dozens of remarks relating to caste-based discrimination and several strongly worded recommendations on fighting it.⁴¹

The concerns raised by the Committee included the lack of adequate implementation of the laws prohibiting caste-based discrimination, caste-based slavery, sexual violence and abuse of Dalit women, landlessness amongst Dalits and the persistence of segregation preventing Dalits from safely intermarrying with members of other castes, and from accessing places of religious worship, public spaces, public sources of food and water, educational facilities and housing facilities occupied by members of other castes.

The Committee also noted that, "Marginalised castes were disproportionately affected by the 2015 earthquake and are still less likely to receive related aid."

"We are strongly encouraged by the active engagement of the CERD Committee and the dozens of recommendations related to fighting caste-based discrimination that came out of this review," said Dalit rights activist, Bhakta Bishwakarma, after the review. "A challenge and an opportunity now lie ahead of us to take collective action to translate these recommendations into practice, that will bring positive changes to the lives of Dalits in Nepal."



Committee on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Review of Nepal

In October UN CEDAW committee members voiced concerns over the difficulties elected Dalit women face in Nepal, the need for proportional inclusion of Dalit women in the Judiciary and the extreme poverty faced by many Dalit women as a result of discrimination and stigmatization. The comments were made by the Committee at the review of the 6th periodic report of Nepal.⁴²

The Feminist Dalit Organization of Nepal (FEDO) and IDSN presented a joint civil society report,⁴³ denouncing a number of instances of discrimination against Dalit women, such as the very low representation level in government, the lack of specific legislation on multiple forms of discrimination, like gender and caste, stereotyping and cultural prejudices against Dalit women. Inter-caste marriage remains a focus of violence and abuse in Nepal.

Civil society was represented by over 60 organizations for the review. FEDO Nepal was represented by Durga Sob, Kala Swarnaka, Renu Sijapati, Shanti Paswan and Upashana Pradhan who formed part of the IDSN delegation at the review.

During the briefing with civil society organizations, Durga Sob, founding president of FEDO Nepal, delivered a statement to the committee members, raising concern over the low numbers of Dalit women in government and parliament.⁴⁴

She stressed that “on higher level posts of deputy or vice chair, only sixteen Dalit women have seats among 753 women or only 2% of the total amount of women”. She also stated that “those women in higher posts continue to undergo discrimination and humiliation from so-called upper caste, therefore finding it difficult to address the need of their fellow Dalits in general and Dalit women in particular”.

Following the review and dialogue with the Government, the CEDAW committee released its Concluding Observations.⁴⁵ The observations include a number of concerns regarding Dalit women and recommendations on caste specifically within the areas of equal participation in political and public life; implementation of the Caste-based Discrimination and Untouchability Act; right to equal education; and human trafficking and exploitation.

The Nepalese government, as a State party to the CEDAW, is under an obligation to implement the recommendations made by the CEDAW Committee in good faith.

Dalit women from Nepal taking part in the UN Committee on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women 2018 review of Nepal.

Photo by IDS-N

Universal Periodic Review of Bangladesh

In April, an IDS-N delegation attended the UN Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Bangladesh Pre-session to brief country delegations about the human rights situation of Dalit communities in Bangladesh. Ahead of the review in May, IDS-N, the Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Rights Movement (BDERM) and Nagorik Uddyog submitted a joint report⁴⁶ to the UPR process and distributed a factsheet with recommendations on protecting the human rights of Dalits in Bangladesh.⁴⁷

The submission urged compliance with international human rights standards with regard to speeding up the adoption of the Anti-discrimination act, ensuring disaggregated data on the Dalit population, protection of political, economic and social rights protected by the constitution and international human rights obligations—including access to education, justice, housing and protection from discrimination.

Despite ample information provided by the UN system itself and civil society groups working on Dalit rights in Bangladesh, only one recommendation addressing the rights abuses faced by Dalits was brought forward at the May UPR review. A number of recommendations that relate indirectly to Dalit rights were, however, accepted and many of them related directly to the need for the adoption of the long awaited Anti-Discrimination Bill.

The state report noted, under the 'Socially marginalized and vulnerable groups' section: "In order to empower the underprivileged sections of society (Dalits, Harijans, Bede, Tea Plantation Workers, Transgenders) and put an end to all sorts of discrimination against them, the Law Commission has prepared the Anti-Discrimination Bill, 2014, which is now under active consideration of the government."⁴⁸

The UPR review's summary of stakeholders' information also made reference to the joint IDS-N, BDERM and Nagorik Uddyog submission by highlighting the recommendations to take immediate action to establish a National Dalit Rights Commission and to investigate violence against religious minorities and Dalits, and to prosecute the perpetrators.⁴⁹

UN Forum on Minority Issues

IDS-N participated actively in the 11th Session of the UN Forum on Minority Issues from the 29-30 November, under the theme "Statelessness: A Minority Issue". IDS-N members from Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan outlined how Dalits in reality often suffer de facto statelessness due to extreme marginalisation and lack of access to rights.

Renu Sijapati from the Feminist Dalit Organization of Nepal (FEDO), gave a statement at the Forum underscoring the many obstacles faced by Dalits in Nepal in obtaining citizenship certificates, which would enable them to register on the voter's list, register marriages or births, buy or sell land, appear in professional exams, open bank accounts or have access to credit, for example.⁵⁰ "Many of those obstacles put the Dalit community in a situation of de facto statelessness," stated Sijapati.

Tamanna Baraik from the Dalit women forum / BDERM, spoke about the situation of Dalits in Bangladesh at the Forum's preparatory meeting, including inequality as regards the right to health and land. On the right to decent work, she mentioned that Dalits in Bangladesh are often assigned the least qualified and most manual work.

Pirhbu Lal Satyani, a Pakistani activist from IDS-N member the Pakistan Dalit Solidarity Network (PDSN), pointed out in his statement at the Forum, that many Dalits in Pakistan endure a de facto statelessness, through poverty and segregation.⁵¹ He explained that most of the development schemes go to upper caste communities. Even in urban settings, some of the Dalits communities live a nomadic life in squalid slums.

He explained that the way forward is to rehabilitate the nomadic Dalit minority community in Pakistan and to provide them with due citizenship rights by putting efforts into registering members of these communities, by issuing them with national identity cards, birth certificates of their children and also by declaring the relevant populations in the upcoming census results.

The Forum was chaired by former Special Rapporteur, Ms. Rita Izsák-Ndiaye, while the current Special Rapporteur on minority issues, Mr. Fernand de Varennes, guided the work of the forum. The Dalit activists that formed part of the delegation gave their views on participating in the Forum in video interviews published on the IDS-N website.⁵²

ECOSOC

IDSN's continues its campaign for ECOSOC accreditation. By the end of 2018 the total number of questions asked had increased to eighty-six. IDSN's application for UN consultative status has now been unjustly deferred by arbitrary questions for over 10 years and in 2018 several senior UN officials raised the case.

In addition to the statement by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, mentioned at the beginning of this chapter, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, Andrew Gilmour, raised concern over the "repeated deferrals and apparent lack of transparency amounting to a de facto rejection on the granting of IDSN's UN consultative status." His comments came in his oral presentation to the Human Rights Council on 19 September 2018, covering the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation with the UN, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights.

Mr. Gilmour also voiced disappointment that he had not seen improvement in the area of reprisals over the past year on a situation he had called, "frankly nothing short of abhorrent that, year after year, we are compelled to present cases to you, the UN membership, of intimidation and reprisals carried out against people whose crime – in the eyes of their respective Governments – was to cooperate with the UN institutions and mechanisms whose mandate of course derives from you, the UN membership."

The OHCHR issued a news article on the statement where they stated that many speakers had raised concern over IDSN's case specifically.

In June 2018, 257 NGOs, including IDSN, issued a statement for the meeting between the ECOSOC NGO Committee and accredited NGOs.

The statement raised concern over the "practices of the Committee that have inappropriately blocked the participation of some NGOs, in particular human rights NGOs, through procedural tactics including perpetual and repetitive questioning of applicants.⁵³ In addition, we are deeply concerned by the Committee having acted in direct contradiction of the procedural rights of NGOs explicitly or implicitly required under resolution 1996/31 providing them with an opportunity to respond (as required under paragraph 56) to initiatives to close applications or withdraw accreditation."

IDSN continues to track all developments in its case and update the IDSN factsheet detailing the process.⁵⁴

"In light of this trend, the Secretary-General in the report called on "the Committee to apply the criteria for assessing organizations in a fair and transparent manner ... the repeated deferrals and apparent lack of transparency in decisions on consultative status by the NGO Committee has in some cases amounted to de facto rejections for human rights organizations, such as in the case of the International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN)."

Andrew Gilmour, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights speaking to the UN Human Rights Council in 2018



European Union

Throughout 2018, IDSN continued to conduct outreach with EU institutions including representatives from the European External Action Service (EEAS), the European Commission and Members of the European Parliament (EP). As a result of these efforts, IDSN has successfully contributed to important EU initiatives and European Parliament resolutions. IDSN continued to play an active role in the Brussels based Human Rights and Democracy Network (HRDN), which meets every month.

EU Responds to MEP caste questions

Members of the European Parliament were informed and alerted to human rights violations faced by Dalits across the world. Throughout the year, numerous MEPs asked the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs, Federica Mogherini, to respond to caste-related human rights issues.

In February, the Vice-President of the European Parliament, Heidi Hautala, submitted a specific written question to Federica Mogherini, asking whether, during the EU-India Summit, EU leaders urged Indian representatives 'to take steps to put an end to all abuses against Dalits?' and also asked 'whether progress negotiating any future free trade agreement with India should be conditional on India taking steps to effectively tackle discrimination against Dalits?'.⁵⁵

The High Representative responded to this question in May,⁵⁶ stating that the EU are concerned about continuing caste-based discrimination and that India is a beneficiary of the EU Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP), which links unilateral trade preferences to the respect of human and labour rights.

In July 2018, MEP Jean Lambert submitted a question to the EU High Representative,⁵⁷ asking what 'steps the EU has proactively taken IDSN's Consultative Status at the UN and what plans exist for further support?'. Ms. Mogherini responded in September stating that,

"The EU has followed closely and engaged periodically with the International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN) on the difficulties facing IDSN in securing United Nations (UN) Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) accreditation ... A critical mass of members of the NGO Committee is hostile to civil society interests, particularly in sensitive areas such as caste discrimination. The EU ... stands ready to discuss the specific case of IDSN further." Federica Mogherini, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs.⁵⁸

Also in July, MEP Liliana Rodrigues asked the EU Commission to provide statistical data on the number of women, including specifically on Dalit women, that were benefitting from the EU's GSP+ agreement with Pakistan. The answer from the commission stated that such data was still in the process of being collected.⁵⁹



In August 2018, Ms. Mogherini reiterated the EU's commitment to fighting caste discrimination and gender-based violence, following the rape of five female anti-trafficking activists in India. The women were performing a play against human trafficking in Jharkhand state when they were abducted and gang-raped.

The statement came as a response to a question from the MEP Liliana Rodrigues.⁶⁰ The MEP asked for details on how the EU can "strengthen its support and effectiveness in protecting human rights defenders in India, specifically through its delegation, the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights, and political dialogue?" and "What action will the EU take with the Indian authorities to dismantle the discrimination inherent in the caste system, particularly in view of the impunity for sexual crimes that result from." In her response to the Parliamentary question Ms. Mogherini stated,

"The EU has been following the situation of human rights in India, and in particular with regards to the caste system, the protection of women as well as the situation of human rights defenders. At the 2017 Universal Periodic Review of India, EU Member States raised the issue of the caste system and protection of women, recommending for example to step up efforts for comprehensive protection of women and girls, in particular against sexual violence... Under EIDHR the EU has been financing a number of projects addressing caste-based and gender-based

discrimination and violence, through ensuring access to justice and empowering women/Dalit leaders and human rights defenders."

In September 2018, nine members of the European Parliament issued a letter urging the EU to cancel all agreements with India until five human rights activists, several of them Dalit human rights defenders, that have been unjustly arrested, have been released and "the hunt against the Adivasis, Dalits, religious minorities and Kashmir, Manipuri people is stopped."⁶¹

"We, the undersigned Members of the European Parliament, condemn the raids on homes and arbitrary arrest of human and democratic rights activists across India, on August 28, 2018 ... These raids and arrests are the follow up of the arbitrary arrests, a few months ago ... [of] lawyers, journalists and human rights activists who have been implicated in totally fabricated charges ... The Indian Government adds these most recent raids and arrests to the continuous and relentless repression on the democratic voice and aspirations of the Indian. This amounts to a very serious attack on the already crumbling state of democracy in India."

Joint letter from nine Members of the European Parliament

Dalit boy hard at work in India. In 2018 IDS N engaged with the European Parliamentary Hearing on Contemporary Forms of Slavery to highlight how caste is underpinning modern slavery and child labour in the global supply chains.

Photo by Jakob Carlsen

Dalit activists engage with the EU

Throughout 2018, IDS N has ensured that Dalit activists were given the opportunity to engage directly in EU fora and events.

In February, IDS N participated in a networking event with the EU delegation human rights focal points in Brussels, co-organized by the Human Rights and Democracy Network.

In June, an IDS N delegation participated in the European Development Days, organized by the European Commission.⁶² The delegation included Asha Kowtal from the National Dalit Women's movement –the All India Dalit Mahila Adhikar Manch (AIDMAM-NCDHR), in India, and Renu Sijapati from the Feminist Dalit Organisation (FEDO) in Nepal. The theme of the days was women and girls at the forefront of sustainable development. 8000 people participated. After the event, the delegation also took part in meetings with key EU officials to give them an update on the current situation in Nepal and India, take note of recommendations and also to hear more from the officials about what the EU is doing to address caste discrimination.

In October, Ramesh Nathan, General Secretary of the National Dalit Movement For Justice (NDMJ-NCDHR) in India made a presentation⁶³ on caste and slavery in the supply chains of global companies at the European Parliamentary hearing on contemporary forms of slavery.⁶⁴ Mr. Nathan pointed out the strong correlation between caste and slavery in India and urged the EU to step up action to address this in the supply chains of European companies.

In November, an IDS N delegation consisting of Bhakta Bishwakarma, Dalit NGO Federation/IDS N board member, and Judith Anne Lal, NDMJ-NCDHR, participated in the 20th EU-NGO Human Rights Forum in Brussels. The Forum, organized by the EEAS and the European Commission, together with the European Parliament, gathered more than 200 civil society representatives from all over the world. The Forum was also organised in partnership with the NGO umbrella Human Rights and Democracy Network (HRDN), of which IDS N is a member.

The overarching theme for the 2018 Forum was "Defending universality – Making Human Rights Reality", marking the 70th Anniversary of the Universal

Declaration, the 25th anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action as well as the 20th anniversary of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders and the Rome Statute. The IDS N delegation also held side meetings with representatives from EU institutions and Members of the European Parliament.

EU annual human rights reports

In May 2018 the EU adopted and published its annual report on human rights and democracy in the world. The report highlights caste-related issues in many relevant country chapters including the Bangladesh,⁶⁵ Pakistan,⁶⁶ Nepal,⁶⁷ India⁶⁸ and Sri Lanka chapters.⁶⁹

"Women from vulnerable communities, in particular those at the bottom of the caste hierarchy or Dalits and indigenous people are still most vulnerable to human trafficking." From the India chapter of the EU Human Rights Report published in 2018.

Caste also featured in the European Parliament's Annual Report on Human Rights and Democracy in the World 2017 and the European Union's policy on the matter, released in 2018.⁷⁰

Once again, Members of the European Parliament have condemned, "the continuing human rights violations committed against people suffering from caste hierarchies and caste-based discrimination, segregation and caste-induced barriers, including the denial of access to employment and the legal system and other basic human rights". Furthermore, MEPs expressed their deep concern over the, "ensuing institutionalised discrimination and alarming frequency of caste-based violent attacks".

Moving forward, the EU and its Member States were called upon, "to intensify efforts and support initiatives at UN and delegation level to eliminate caste discrimination".

Communications & Networking

In 2018 the engagement with the IDSN website and social media channels continued to rise. IDSN published several news articles and more than a hundred new entries were made to the IDSN online database on caste discrimination. IDSN also ensured its compliance with the new EU GDPR requirements, aligning the IDSN website, newsletter and other communications channels to adhere to the new regulations.

IDSN website and newsletter

The IDSN website continues to be the leading global resource on caste-based discrimination with over 49,000 unique users in 2018, a rise of over 30 per cent in comparison to the previous year. Pageviews also rose sharply to over 100,000. The website serves a broad global user base of policy and decision-makers, activists, academics and the general public. There were trackable visits from over 140 universities in 2018 and users from over 180 different countries.

The IDSN website features an online documentation database on caste discrimination where entries are cross-referenced and searchable according to theme, institution, country and year, as well as other relevant parameters.⁷¹ In 2018, IDSN posted 126 new entries to the database, which is a sixty per cent increase from 2017.⁷²

Throughout the year, forty-six news articles were written and published on the IDSN website.⁷³ The articles cover developments at the UN and EU level as well as in countries affected by caste discrimination. They are based on IDSN's work and input from network members and associates. Some of the key themes dealt with in these articles are the protection of Dalit human rights defenders, Dalit women and gender justice, social and economic rights, caste-based atrocities and slavery.

The news articles, as well as other news curated from IDSN's network members and associates, were published in IDSN's newsletters throughout 2018.⁷⁴ The newsletters have a varied readership - from UN and EU decision-makers, academics to human rights defenders from a wide range of countries. While engagement with the IDSN newsletter rose in 2019, the number of subscribers fell due to new EU

data regulations which meant that IDSN could no longer send to subscribers who did not actively re-register for the IDSN newsletter before the first of May. In 2019, IDSN will prioritise re-engaging former newsletter subscribers and focus on increasing its new subscription rates.

IDSN social media and videos

IDSN's social media channels increasingly form a base for both internal and external communications, with members and associates interacting regularly via social media and cross promoting news and documentation. In 2018, IDSN's Twitter followers rose by 29 per cent and IDSN's tweets had over 130,000 impressions over the course of the year. Engagement with IDSN's tweets was also good, with over 40 retweets and more than 20 clicks and 50 likes on average per month. IDSN's Facebook fans rose to 8931 by the end of 2018.

On IDSN's YouTube channel, IDSN's online video on Dalit women had 16,000 views rising to a total of over 150,000 views, and views of the general IDSN video on caste discrimination rose by over 30% to 75,000 views. IDSN also filmed and posted nine videos of Dalit rights activists from India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan, engaging with UN mechanisms and reflecting on this experience.

IDSN promoted several videos and documentaries from members, associates and others that offered relevant insight and documentation including the #Dalitwomenfight documentary,⁷⁵ India's Forbidden Love: An Honour Killing on Trial (Al Jazeera Witness Video),⁷⁶ The Cost of Cleanliness - Documentary on Deaths of Manual Scavengers in India (Video 2018)⁷⁷ and a documentary on the fight to legislate caste in the UK.⁷⁸

Media statements and liaison

Many journalists have contacted IDSN throughout 2018 looking for caste-related input for articles, radio or TV features and IDSN has supported them with documentation and background information and also put them in touch with Dalit activists and encouraged them to get a quote directly from them. IDSN has issued statements in 2018



that have been circulated to the press. In August, IDSN released a joint press statement with Minority Rights Group International condemning the arrests of five prominent human rights defenders in India.⁷⁹ On 10 December IDSN released the statement “We have a dream” to mark the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.⁸⁰

Publications

In March, IDSN released the 2017 Annual Report covering all of IDSN’s main activities in 2017. The report was widely disseminated to contacts at the UN and EU as well as network contacts all over the world. The printed version of the report was also distributed at events throughout the year and was very well received.

In the autumn of 2018, following wide consultations with network members, associates and other stakeholders, IDSN drafted the new 2019-2023 Strategy. The document was revised and adopted at the IDSN General Assembly meeting in November and will be released in 2019. IDSN also updated and published the UN compilation of references to caste-based discrimination.⁸¹

Stepping up IDSN engagement on business and human rights

IDSN has been engaging in discussions and meetings on business and human rights throughout the year, to raise the issue of caste discrimination as a root cause of slavery and labour rights violations. Specifically, IDSN has participated in seminars and events under the Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) - UK and Danish ETI.

In the second half of the year, IDSN undertook work to support the Dalit Solidarity Network-UK in their input to the new Base Code Guidance on Caste in the Global Supply Chain, to be published by the ETI-UK in 2019.

Adapting to new EU data regulations (GDPR)

In May 2018, new European Union General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) came into force. The regulations had implications for IDSN’s website, newsletter and many other communication, documentation and IT system and filing procedures. Quite a substantial amount of time was spent in 2018 ensuring that our communications could comply with the new regulations. We are now fully compliant with these regulations.



IDSN General Assembly and new strategy

New IDSN Strategy adopted at the General Assembly 2018



IDSN members and associates from across the world met in Geneva in November for the IDSN General Assembly. The assembly spread over two days, brimming with energy, new ideas and determination to strengthen the fight for human rights, justice and equality for all, irrespective of caste.

Members and associates shared the latest updates from their respective countries and future plans were discussed. A new IDSN five-year strategy was unanimously approved. It will be released at the beginning of 2019. The assembly provided a good platform to network and learn from each other and find new ways to engage across countries.

The General Assembly discussions were especially focused on IDSN's three coming strategic priorities – Dalit Women and Gender Justice; Equality and Participation; and Business and Human Rights. Programme priorities for the coming year were also discussed as well as other topics such as focusing on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, growing the IDSN network and building on IDSN's media outreach work.

Group photo of IDSN members, associates and staff at the General Assembly 2018 in Geneva. Photo by IDSN.

Organisation

Governance

In 2018, IDSN undertook wide consultations to inform the priorities, objectives and targets of the new IDSN strategy 2019-2023 and the IDSN organisational development process. In November, IDSN held its General Assembly bringing network members and associates together in Geneva for two days of sharing and discussions around developments in the work to eliminate caste discrimination and find new ways forward. The General Assembly discussed and approved the IDSN Strategy and elected new Board members to replace those whose terms end.

Sandra Petersen (DSN-Norway), Durga Sob (Feminist Dalit Organisation – Nepal), and Paul Divakar (National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights – India) stepped down from the Board. They have made a great contribution to IDSN during their time on the Board. Meena Varma, who served as Executive Chair in 2018 also stepped down from the Board at the end of 2018, but continues as Executive Director.

At the General Assembly, new board member, Beena Pallical (National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights – India) was elected and previous members elected in 2016 were formally re-elected to the Board. The IDSN Board had face to face and Skype Board meetings throughout the year and Board members play an active role in IDSN's activities.

IDSN Board Members as of 31 December 2018:

- Renu Sijapati
Feminist Dalit Organisation, Nepal
- Beena Pallical
National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR), India
- Henri Tiphagne
People's Watch, India
- Sono Khangharani
Pakistan Dalit Solidarity Network
- Bhakta Bishwarkarma
Dalit NGO Federation, Nepal
- Einar Tjelle
Dalit Solidarity Network, Norway
- Manuela Ott
Dalit Solidarity, Germany (DSiD)

Secretariat

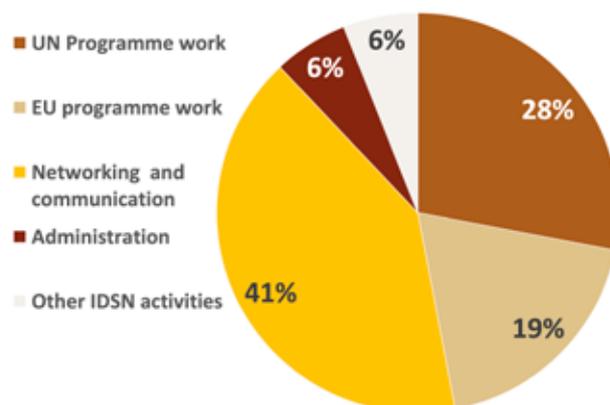
At the end of 2018 the Executive Chair, Meena Varma, became the Executive Director of IDSN, stepping down from the IDSN Board.

The UN Advocacy Officer role that had been undertaken by Danguole Kleinaityte was replaced with a part-time UN Consultant, Paulo Lugon Arantes, as Danguole went on maternity leave from May 2018. Up until June, Signe Plange undertook the role of Programme & Relationships Coordinator and Guarn Nissen the role of Financial Administrator. After a financial, operational and delivery review it was decided to merge the two roles into a Programme & Finance Assistant. That position has been filled by Madeleine Cowper since June 2018. Maria Brink Schleimann continued as IDSN's Head of Communications, Peter Soby Pedersen as Bookkeeper, and Consultant Claire Ivers, as part-time EU Adviser.

Finances and funding

In 2018, IDSN, with gratitude, received funding from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, Hermod Lannungs Fond (Denmark), Bread for the World (Germany), Misereor (Germany) and DanChurchAid – Nepal. IDSN also continued fundraising efforts in order to ensure the longer term stability and sustainability of the organisation.

EXPENDITURE 2018



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2018

Profit and loss

	2018 DKK	2018 EURO	2017 DKK
Opening balance ¹	586,232.44	78,766.89	369,356.48
Income			
DanChurchAid	200,000.00	26,872.24	200,000.00
Norway Ministry of Foreign Affairs	790,689.87	106,238.03	803,995.25
HEKS			198,080.70
DSiD			144,802.75
Brot für die Welt	1,272,629.80	171,000.00	798,317.60
Misereor	136,120.00	18,300.00	309,410.59
Hermod Lannungs Fund			50,000.00
Other income	41,200.00	5,535.68	13,125.00
Total	2,440,639.82	327,945.95	2,517,731.89
Agio			223.06
Expenditure	2,621,180.35	352,184.91	2,300,855.93
Result	-180,540.53	-24,238.96	216,875.96
Balance	405,691.91	54,527.93	586,232.44

Balance statement

	2018 DKK	2018 EURO	2017 DKK
Assets			
Cash at bank at 31.12.2018	620,770.50	83,426.14	776,747.93
Other assets			
Petty cash	905.32	121.64	1,982.52
Outstanding accounts	14,996.29	2,014.92	8,573.04
Brot für die Welt 2018 ²	74,367.10	10,000.00	
Total other assets	90,268.71	12,128.61	10,555.56
Liabilities			
Balance Master Card account	-23,391.71	-3,142.94	-13,334.11
Compulsory holiday payment fund	-48,008.70	-6,450.51	-44,819.96
Outstanding Accounts ³	-103,644.79	-13,925.84	-142,916.98
H. Lannungs Fund 2019 ⁴	-48,340.00	-6,495.02	
Brot für die Welt 2019 ⁵	-81,962.10	-11,000.00	
Total Liabilities	-305,347.30	-41,026.83	-201,071.05
Balance carried forward	405,691.91	54,527.93	586,232.44

The financial statements are presented in Danish kroner. Please find the full financial statements on the IDSN website.

For reasons of comparison, amounts in Euro are presented, using a fixed exchange rate based on a monthly average from www.inforeuro.eu: 7.4426

Hence, some discrepancies may appear compared to actual amounts received in Euro.

Notes:

1. Opening balance is in accordance with accounts for 2017
2. Payment from Brot für die Welt for 2018, paid in 2019
3. Consist of audit, annual report, insurance, tax for 2018 to be paid in 2019
4. Prepayment from H. Lannungs Fund for 2019
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IDSN members

India

- The National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR)
- The National Federation of Dalit Women
- People's Watch
- Jan Sahas
- Navsarjan Trust

Nepal

- Dalit NGO Federation (DNF)
- The Feminist Dalit Organisation
- Nepal Dalit National Social Welfare Organisation (NNDSSWO)
- Jagaran Media Center (JMC)

Bangladesh

- Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Rights Movement (BDERM)
- Network of Non-Mainstreamed Marginalized Communities(NNMC)

Pakistan

- Pakistan Dalit Solidarity Network (PDSN)

Dalit Solidarity Networks in Europe

- Dalit Solidarity Network – UK
- Dalit Solidarity Network – Norway
- Dalit Solidarity Network – Finland
- Dalit Network Netherlands
- Dalit Solidarität Deutschland (Germany)

International Associates

- Human Rights Watch
- International Movement Against all forms of Discrimination (IMADR)
- Asian Human Rights Commission
- Asian Centre for Human Rights
- Minority Rights Group International
- Anti-Slavery International
- The Rafto Foundation
- Lutheran World Federation
- Robert Kennedy Memorial Foundation, USA
- ICMICA/Pax Romana
- World Council of Churches
- Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA)
- Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative
- Franciscans International

Research Affiliates

- Research associates New York University School of Law's Center for Human Rights and Global Justice
- International Centre for Ethnic Studies – Sri Lanka

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The IDS website www.idsn.org

IDSN was founded in March 2000 to advocate for Dalit human rights and to raise awareness of Dalit issues nationally and internationally. IDSN is a network of international human rights groups, development agencies, national Dalit solidarity networks from Europe, and organisations in caste-affected countries. IDSN engages with the United Nations, the European Union and other multilateral institutions, working for action-oriented approaches to address 'untouchability' and other human rights abuses against Dalits and similar communities that suffer discrimination based on work and descent. IDSN bases its work on contributions from members, associates and affiliates. The network produces crucial input in the form of documentation, strategic interventions and lobby action and also supports national level lobbying.