



International Dalit Solidarity Network

WORKING GLOBALLY AGAINST CASTE-BASED DISCRIMINATION

## News and updates on ending caste discrimination - October 2022

By International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN) • Issue #7 • View online



### Dalit woman appointed UN Special Rapporteur on Racism

*IDSN welcomes the newly appointed Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, Dr. Ashwini K.P., to the post. She brings with her valuable knowledge and insight on discrimination based on work and descent, and the United Nations.*

In 2014, Ashwini was part of an IDSN delegation to the UN Human Rights Council, participating in the UN HRC26 [side-event](#) on caste-based violence against women. IDSN is proud to have been a small part of the journey that has led Ashwini to the post of UN Special Rapporteur. [...]

Photo by IDSN from 2014.

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### The UN Special Rapporteur on Slavery highlights deep-rooted and intersecting forms of discrimination as one of the main causes of slavery affecting minorities



The Rapporteur calls for much more to be done and sets out a number of recommendations urging States to eliminate discrimination against minorities, adopt temporary special measures and ensure access to free education. You can view the [full report here](#), as well as see [IDSN's submission](#) on this topic. [...]

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### Caste discrimination raised at the UN Human Rights Council

IDSN participated actively in the 51st session of the UN Human Rights Council, highlighting the need to tackle caste discrimination through participation at key events, interactive dialogues and oral statements. [...]



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### Recommendations for the 51st Regular Session of the Human Rights Council

IDSN has issued recommendations for the consideration of UN Member States at the 51st Regular Session of the UN Human Rights Council. Read the recommendations [here](#).

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### Dalit rights highlighted at the pre-session for the UN rights review of India

Dalit activists gathered in Geneva to take part in the pre-session for the Universal Periodic Review of India – scheduled for November 2022. Rahul Singh, the Director of the National Dalit Movement for Justice-NCDHR, was present at the pre-session. Mr. Singh engaged with multiple stakeholders to enhance the understanding of the human rights situation and caste discrimination in India. [...]

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### Webinar held to highlight the need to ensure religious freedom and justice in India

The webinar, organised by the International Commission on Dalit Rights (ICDR) and Minority Rights Group International (MRG), aimed to mainstream actionable recommendations, ahead of the UPR session of India in November 2022. Fruitful discussions led by a panel of experts offered key insights into the challenges and possible solutions.

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### IDSN members take part in training on interaction with the European Union

In September and October, IDSN ran workshops designed to help members and affiliates understand the EU mechanisms and how to best engage with them. IDSN organised the trainings to make EU human rights bodies and mechanisms more accessible to Dalit human rights defenders in IDSN's network. [...]

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### Speaking out against caste discrimination at the Women at Work Conference



A unique event organised by the Norwegian Human Rights Fund brought together, activists, experts, trade unions and several international NGOs, including Human Rights Watch, IDSN and OSF. Caste discrimination was a central topic at the conference. Read the report by Pirbhu Satyani [...]

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### Report from Pakistan Sanitation Workers conference

The report 'Health, Safety, and Job Security of Sanitation Workers in Sindh' has been released following the provincial consultation in Sindh. The report offers insight into the many challenges faced by Dalits and other sanitation workers in the province and details the steps that must be taken to address them. [...]

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### Nepal: Report on UN recommendations on Dalit women

IDSN member, the Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO) in Nepal, have compiled this [overview](#) of UN recommendations specifically on Dalit women, received from the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and their implementation status.

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### International NGOs stand in solidarity with IDSN and call for the approval of ECOSOC status

The statement, presented at the UN Human Rights Council, calls on States to ensure that IDSN is granted ECOSOC accreditation without further delay.

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### Other news

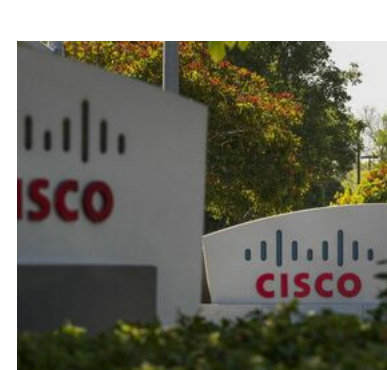
#### 'Leave Your Caste Identity At Home': Queer Dalits Lack Space In Indian 'Pride'



Raut has been told to keep her “Dalit identity at home,” and not bring it to queer events. “But I have to bring it here also because you see caste is everywhere. Even within the queer community, the only people visible are Savarna individuals. Even when we want to be visible they will not give us space.”

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#### Ex-Cisco Worker Claiming Caste Discrimination Avoids Arbitration - Bloomberg



A former Cisco Systems Inc. worker is claiming he was a victim of discrimination because of his caste standing won appeal court rulings allowing him to proceed with a lawsuit under a pseudonym in open court.

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#### Gujarat: Dalits to gift 'untouchability' coin for installation at new Parliament building



“Will the 1947 dream of an India free of the scourge of untouchability become a reality in 2047?” This is not a slogan or a quotable quote of a famous writer; it is a question that is being addressed to the country by lakhs of Dalits and has been engraved on a 1,000-kg 10-feet high brass coin.

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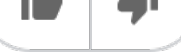
#### Hyderabad Archbishop Anthony Poola becomes first Dalit Cardinal



Anthony Poola is the first Telugu person and first Dalit person in the history of the Catholic Church in India to be elevated to the rank of Cardinal.

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By International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN)

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