



IDS^N International Dalit Solidarity Network

**Working for a world free
of caste discrimination**



A network of solidarity

IDSN is a unique global human rights network that has been joining hands and mobilising international solidarity for the elimination of caste discrimination since 2003. Our network includes Dalit-led member organisations and affiliates from countries affected by caste discrimination, as well as international solidarity networks and NGOs. See our members on www.idsn.org/network.

IDSN is governed by a board made up of Dalit human rights defenders alongside global network members and international associates.

We create change by

- Raising global awareness of the realities faced by Dalits to foster international solidarity and support for ending caste discrimination
- Facilitating Dalit voices and ensuring their concerns are amplified and heard at the international level
- Collecting and disseminating documentation of patterns of caste-based human rights violations and bringing these to the attention of international institutions, networks, organisations, businesses, activists and researchers

Our focus

- **Caste and gender justice**
We support Dalit women that face intersectional caste and gender discrimination and violence
- **Business and human rights**
We advocate for the rights of Dalit workers who are at increased risk of discrimination, slavery and multiple forms of labour exploitation including child labour in global supply chains
- **Equality and participation**
We support Dalit human rights defenders in their fight for justice, equality and meaningful participation



Our values

- **Human Rights:** We apply a human rights based approach and strategy
- **Solidarity:** We act in solidarity and collaborate with Dalit communities
- **Inclusion:** We ensure the participation of representatives from communities affected by caste in our advocacy work and governing structures
- **Collaboration:** We base our work on broad collaborations
- **Integrity:** We deliver accurate, relevant and reliable input

Our goal

Our vision is a world free of caste-based discrimination where possibilities, rights and dreams are never limited by caste or descent.

Our mission is to make an effective global-level contribution to the promotion and protection of the human rights and dignity of those affected by caste discrimination and to promote effective measures for its elimination.

What you can do

- Raise caste discrimination in all relevant international and national level fora and promote the inclusion of Dalit voices
- Follow IDSND on social media, share our content and raise awareness in your network
- Ask questions and make demands about respecting the human rights of Dalits in global supply chains
- Donate to IDSND to support our work at www.idsn.org/donate

Caste is a global issue

Caste discrimination is a global human rights issue affecting over 260 million people.

Dalits face marginalisation and exploitation in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka and caste discrimination continues to manifest itself in countries such as Japan, Yemen, a number of African countries, as well as in global South Asian diaspora communities.

Caste-systems have fostered a form of 'hidden apartheid', dividing people from birth into unequal social groups. Those at the bottom or even outside of the system, known as Dalits in South Asia, are historically considered inferior to other caste groups. While caste discrimination has been banned in many countries, implementation of the legislation is often inadequate or inhibited by deeply rooted caste bias in law enforcement and justice systems.

Caste discrimination continues to involve massive violations of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. Dalits are often forced to do the most hazardous jobs and are at increased risk of modern slavery or child labour. Dalit women are particularly exposed to severe rights violations, including violence and sexual abuse, as they face intersectional and multiple forms of caste and gender discrimination.



www.idsn.org

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