

Addressing the intersections between caste & gender-based violence in South Asia

UN HRC 53 SIDE-EVENT

5 July 2023, 11-12 CET

Room XXV, Palais de Nations, Geneva

Panelists at the event will discuss the latest developments and forms of sexual violence faced by Dalit women and girls, challenges faced by survivors and activists in their attempts to access justice, and recommendations for addressing this issue. The event aims to:

- Bring the issue of caste-based sexual violence in South Asia into the international spotlight; and highlight the challenges and barriers to accessing justice faced by Dalit survivors of sexual violence in the region.
- Understand the increasing repression and backlash faced by Dalit women human rights defenders.
- Ensure that national and international networks of Dalit women are strengthened and visible in key global human rights and development fora.

Programme

The event will take the format of an in-person, interactive panel discussion aimed to engage UN member state delegates and mission staff, civil society organizations and UN agencies.

Moderator: Meena Varma, Executive Director, International Dalit Solidarity Network

Opening Remarks:

Hannah Wu, Chief, Women's Rights and Gender Section, UNOHCHR

Panelists:

Manjula Pradeep, Human Rights Activist, Director of Campaigns, Dalit Human Rights Defenders Network & National Convenor, National Council of Women Leaders

Sarita Barma, Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO) Nepal

Priyadharsini Palaniswamy, Founder, The Blue Club

Sponsored by:



International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN), International Service for Human Rights (ISHR), International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR), Lutheran World Federation (LWF), FORUM-ASIA and Minority Rights Group, Human Rights Watch (HRW)

Participating organisations:



Dalit Human Rights Defenders Network (DHRDN), The Blue Club, Feminist Dalit Organisation (FEDO), National Council of Women Leaders (NCWL)