

59th Session of the Human Rights Council

Item 9: ID with the SR on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

3 July 2025

Delivered by Abirami Jotheeswaran

Thank you, Chair.

The International Dalit Solidarity Network thanks the Special Rapporteur for her report and commends her for highlighting the “tripartite marginalisation” of caste, gender and poverty in South Asia.

Intersectional discrimination—particularly where caste and gender overlap—is widespread in South Asia. Other factors, such as sexual orientation, economic status, disability and religion further deepen exclusion, limiting access to education, employment, justice and political participation. As such, an intersectional approach is vital to addressing systemic caste-based discrimination.

Despite this report, we are concerned that both the UN and caste-affected states are not paying sufficient attention to these issues.

Recommendations

We urge all Member States to:

- To consult diverse Dalit women in empowerment programmes.
- To collect disaggregated data by caste, gender, disability and sexual orientation.
- To ensure legal frameworks reflect intersectional realities, especially caste.
- To strengthen justice systems to prevent and address caste and gender-based violence, with a focus on Dalit women, LGBTQ+ persons and children with disabilities.

Thank you.