

**A Joint Submission by Dalit CSOs Consortium to the United Nations
Universal Periodic Review 51st Session (Fourth Cycle) of the UPR Working
Group of the Human Rights Council (HRC)**

Concerning Caste-based Discrimination and Violence against Dalits in Nepal

Submitted by:

Dalit CSOs Consortium for UPR Nepal (DCC-UN)

This consortium comprises over 30 Dalit-led organizations dedicated to the empowerment and advancement of the Dalit community. Operating across various sectors and regions of the country, the member organizations bring a diverse range of experiences and expertise to their collective efforts.

In collaboration with:

International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN)

An international network of human rights organizations, solidarity networks and Dalit platforms working to advance Dalit human rights globally since 2003.



Convener & Secretariat:

Dignity Initiative

A Kathmandu-based research and advocacy organization, working to promote Dalit rights through knowledge production, activism and policy intervention. It has been accredited by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).



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This NGO report has been jointly prepared by:

Dalit NGO Federation Nepal (DNF): Dalit NGO Federation (DNF) is a member-based, umbrella organization of all Dalit NGOs operating in Nepal, currently comprising 344 organizations. The main aim of DNF is to build a coalition of NGOs and a number of national human rights bodies to fight together against untouchability and all forms of caste-based discrimination.

Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO): Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO) is a Dalit women-led non-profit organization established in 1994 that has spearheaded the advocacy towards the emancipation and eradication of caste and gender-based discrimination and violence guided by the principle of Feminist Human Rights through their multifaceted advocacy and evidence-based research.

Dignity Initiative: Dignity Initiative is research and advocacy-based organization, with special consultative status with the UN ECOSOC, working to strengthen the Dalit rights movement in Nepal. Dignity Initiative generates knowledge, advance the human rights of Dalits through a comprehensive approach.

Center of Dalit Women Nepal (CDWN): The Center for Dalit Women Nepal (CDWN) is a non-governmental organization, founded by Dalit women social activists and political leaders in 2016, dedicated to the political, social, and economic empowerment of Dalits, women, and marginalized groups.

Dalit Lives Matter (DLM): Dalit Lives Matter (DLM) is a social movement led by Dalit Lives Matter Global Alliance (DLMGA) to build constructive resistance against caste-based inequalities, indignities, and adversities globally.

Dalit Welfare Organization (DWO): Dalit Welfare Organization (DWO) is a member-based movement-oriented non-governmental organization consisting of Dalit activists. DWO delivers social, cultural, educational, economic, and political empowerment as well as rights awareness projects.

Jagaran Media Center (JMC): The Jagaran Media Center is a non-governmental organization established in 2000 by Dalit journalists. The organization advocates the elimination of caste-based discrimination and the creation of a more equitable, inclusive, and secular society through media mobilization at local, national, and international levels.

Association for Dalit Women Advancement of Nepal (ADWAN): Since 1998, the Association for Dalit Women Advancement (ADWAN) of Nepal has worked to empower women, children, and Dalits who are marginalized advocating for equality and justice through programs that provide literacy, education, and socio-economic opportunities for these individuals.

Dalit with Disabilities Association Nepal (DDAN): Dalit with Disabilities Association Nepal (DDAN) is a non-governmental, non-profit making, non-political community-based organization run by and for the Dalit people with disabilities working towards a just and equitable society where persons with disabilities, can live independently and with dignity as others do.

Dalit Human Rights Defenders (DHRDs): Dalit Human Rights Defenders (DHRDs) are trained volunteers that are located throughout Nepal and work to defend the rights of Dalit community members. They are based at the community level and serve to monitor and document incidents of Dalit human rights violations, conduct fact-finding missions, engage with law enforcement agencies and local/provincial governments, carry out advocacy, education, and capacity-building initiatives related to the elimination of discrimination and HR violations against Dalit communities in Nepal.

Asia Dalits Rights Forum (ADRF): Asia Dalit Rights Forum (ADRF) is a regional rights-based platform uniting Dalit rights advocates across South Asia—including Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka—and other Asian countries. ADRF stands as the only Asia-level collective amplifying the voices of over 220 million people affected by caste, work, and descent-based discrimination, working to make these marginalized communities visible both regionally and globally.

Equity Society Nepal (ESN): Equity Society Nepal (ESN) established in Kathmandu, in 2023 is one of the non-governmental organizations working on access to justice, equity and dignity to Dalits in Nepal. It works against untouchability, discrimination, oppression, injustice, inequality, and deprivation due to the caste, class, gender, and physical conditions prevailing in Nepali society. ESN aims to fulfill civic responsibilities, foster economic equality and social inclusion. It has functioned as secretariat of Asia Dalit Rights Forum.

Samata Foundation: Samata Foundation emerged as a non-profit in 2009 with a focus on informed advocacy and empirical and policy-based research for the benefit of marginalized people, especially Dalit social groups through research, education, informed advocacy, capacity-building of Dalit research fellows, high policy dialogues.

Samari Utthan Sewa (SUS): Samari Utthan Sewa, established in Chitwan, is a non-profit organization led by Dalit women. Since its inception in 2008, it has been dedicated to advocating for the rights of Dalits and other minority groups, focusing on issues related to caste, gender, and sexuality.

Dalit Youth Alliance (DYA): Dalit Youth Alliance, established in 2012, is a network of Dalit youth working to promote equality, dignity, and end caste-based discrimination. It provides a platform for youth to engage in dialogue and advocacy, and envisions inclusive and democratic structures through the active participation of Dalits and marginalized groups.

Nepal Dalit Human Rights Organization (DHR-Nepal): Nepal Dalit Human Rights Organization (DHR-Nepal) is a non-profit, non-political, non-ethnic, independent and autonomous social organization working in the field of human rights, specifically Dalit rights including Dalit children's rights. It is affiliated with the Social Welfare Council. Since the establishment, it has been launching awareness and advocacy programmes on human rights and caste-based discrimination issues.

In collaboration with:

International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN): An international network of human rights organizations, development agencies, and Dalit platforms working to advance Dalit human rights globally since 2003. It is also an ECOSOC accredited organization.

Full list of contributing organizations (in alphabetical order):

1. Association for Dalit Women Advancement of Nepal (ADWAN)
2. Bahini Educare Foundation
3. Center for Dalit Women in Nepal (CDWN)
4. Change Action Nepal
5. Commit Nepal, Banke
6. Dalit Alliance for Natural Resource Nepal
7. Dalit Human Rights Defenders (DHRDs)
8. Dalit Lives Matter Global Alliance (DLMGA)
9. Dalit NGO Federation (DNF)
10. Dalit Sarokar Manch, Siraha
11. Dalit Welfare Organization (DWO)
12. Dalit with Disabilities Association Nepal (DDAN)
13. Dalit Women Rights Forum, Dhangadhi
14. Dalit Youth Alliance
15. Dignity Initiative
16. Equity Society Nepal (ESN)
17. Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO)
18. Global Forum against Caste-based Discrimination
19. Grassroots Development Foundation
20. Independent Dalit Civil Society Nepal's (IDCS-Nepal)
21. International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN)
22. Jagaran Media Center (JMC)
23. JOHO Foundation
24. Madhesi Dalit NGO Federation
25. Maryada Foundation
26. Peace for Dalit Foundations Nepal, Parsa
27. Professional Development and Research Center (PDRC)
28. Rashtriya Dalit Network (RDN)
29. REDEF Nepal, Biratnagar
30. Samabeshi Foundation
31. Samari Utthan Sewa
32. Samata Foundation
33. Suryamati Youth Awareness Foundation
34. Nepal Deprived Women Upliftment Center
35. Dalit Women Network, Kirtipur
36. NEPSON, Surkhet

Report endorsement:

37. Asia Dalit Rights Forum (ADRF)
38. Swiss Catholic Lenten Fund
39. FCA Nepal
40. DCA Nepal

41. International Commission on Dalit Rights (ICDR)
42. Nepali-American Society for Oppressed Community (NASO)
43. Nepal Oppressed Peoples Society, Europe (NOPS)

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I. Background and framework

A. Introduction

1. This joint submission is prepared by a consortium of Dalitⁱ Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to contribute to the fourth cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Nepal by highlighting the human rights situation of the Dalit community in Nepal.
2. Dalits are a historically marginalized community and experience structural exclusion and discrimination under the caste system that persists across South Asia. They are placed at the bottom of social hierarchy and formerly labeled as “untouchables”. Dalit constitute 13.4% of Nepal's total populationⁱⁱ and are comprised of 26 sub-castes; seven Hill Dalit castes, and 19 Madhesi Dalit castes.ⁱⁱⁱ
3. Dalit rights are recognized as fundamental rights in Nepal’s 2015 Constitution, but Dalits do not fully enjoy these rights. They continue to face systemic and systematic exclusion from education, healthcare, employment, and other essential state services and development opportunities.
4. Caste-based discrimination and untouchability remains deeply entrenched in Nepali society. Dalits continue to suffer from caste violence and discrimination, denial of justice, lack of proportional inclusion, assault, sexual violence, and even murder.

B. Methodology

5. This UPR submission underpins a mixed-methods approach combining literature review, stakeholder consultations, and qualitative research to capture the Dalit community's human rights situation. National laws, policies, previous UPR recommendations, treaty body observations, and human rights reports were reviewed. There were seven provincial consultations^{iv} involving 494 participants from CSOs, provincial assemblies, political leaders, media, and human rights defenders. Twelve focus group discussions and fifteen key informant interviews offered in-depth insights^v. A national consultation^{vi} was held with 20 Members of the Federal Parliament, including the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee on Law, Justice, and Human Rights. The draft report was reviewed at a national multi-stakeholder meeting^{vii} with 117 participants from diverse organizations. In addition, court directives favoring Dalits were also analyzed.

II. Scope of international human rights obligations

6. Nepal is a state party to 24 international human rights conventions and has ratified seven of nine core UN human rights treaties, including the ICCPR^{viii} and the ICERD,^{ix} along with relevant optional protocols.^x

7. Of these core human rights treaties, Nepal has recently been reviewed by CEDAW^{xi} committee and submitted a report to CRPD.^{xii} However, the State Party report is long overdue for the CAT^{xiii} and the ICERD. The State party report for ICESCR^{xiv} was only just submitted in February of this year, six years after the original due date of November 2019.^{xv}
8. Regarding engagement with UN Special Procedures, Nepal welcomed the UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights in 2021, and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes, and consequences in 2019. In their statements, both UN experts called for intensified efforts to combat caste discrimination and untouchability.^{xvi} Nepal has not sent out any new invitations to Special Procedures since 2020 and currently has over five pending visit requests since 1/1/2020. In 2024, Special Procedures sent four communications to the Government of Nepal, but none received a reply during the year.^{xvii}
9. Nepal participated in the Voluntary National Review process in 2024 at the High-Level Political Forum. The State Report reaffirmed their commitment to the ‘Leave no one behind principle’ citing Constitutional commissions.^{xviii} The Report also confirms that they are committed to reducing inequality with targeted interventions for marginalized and vulnerable groups, including women, Dalits, and indigenous communities.^{xix}

Recommendations:

- Formulate a strategic plan to eliminate caste-based discrimination and untouchability (CBD&U) and include it as a priority in the National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP). Ensure that all goals align with international standards, including ICERD, ICEDAW, and recommendations directly from UPR, Special Procedures, CERD, and other treaty bodies on Dalit rights.
- Nepal has made notable progress in establishing normative and institutional frameworks to address caste discrimination since ratifying ICERD. Therefore, the Government of Nepal should withdraw the reservations on Articles 4, 6, 14, and 22 of ICERD.
- Formulate and implement comprehensive legal provision within the next year to ensure the implementation of the recommendations or concluding observations received.

III. Existing normative framework relevant to Dalits

10. The 2015 Constitution of Nepal recognizes caste-based discrimination and untouchability as serious social crime^{xx} and legally affirms the Dalit identity.
11. Article 18 guarantees equality before the law and prohibits discrimination based on caste and other grounds.
12. Article 24 prohibits untouchability and caste-based discrimination, ensuring every citizen’s right to live with dignity and obligating the State to eliminate such practices.
13. Article 40 guarantees Dalits proportional inclusion and rights to education, health, housing, social security, land, and protection of traditional occupations, while article 42 ensures social justice for marginalized groups, including Dalits through these measures.
14. The Caste and Other Social Untouchability and Discrimination (Offence and Punishment) Act 2011(CBDU Act) criminalizes caste-based discrimination with defined offenses and penalties, supported by Section 166 of the Criminal Code 2017.

15. The Election Act 2017 mandates proportional representation of Dalits in federal and provincial level, with specific provisions to ensure the inclusion of Dalit women in local governments.
16. The Dalit Empowerment Act is implemented in Madhesh Province and passed in Sudurpashchim Province.
17. Nepal's National Dalit Commission^{xxi} holds a constitutional status and is mandated to protect and promote the rights and interests of the Dalit community.

Recommendations:

- Amend electoral laws to ensure proportional Dalit representation in the first-past-the-post system at all levels, and incentivize local governments to enforce laws protecting Dalits' constitutional rights by offering results-based funding.
- Enact a comprehensive law to enforce Article 40 of the Constitution and rename and amend the 2011 Caste and Social Untouchability Act to strengthen enforcement and restore its original purpose.
- Establish a "Dalit Rights and Development Authority" with a minimum of 50% Dalit members to protect Dalits, ensure services reach the local level, and oversee effective implementation.

IV. Human Rights Issues of Dalit Community

a) Status of Discrimination and Untouchability against Dalits

18. In the third UPR cycle (Recommendation 159.34), Nepal was urged to strengthen efforts to eliminate caste-based discrimination by effectively enforcing the CBDU Act 2011 to improve access to justice, and ensure protection for victims and witnesses.
19. Despite the existence of legal provisions, they remain inadequate and are poorly implemented. First Information Reports (FIRs) on caste discrimination are often delayed or rejected by police. There are no formal guidelines for law enforcement or prosecutors, and the Dalit Cell^{xxii} operates without clear procedures.

Recommendations:

- Ensure timely FIR registrations for caste-based discrimination, and hold police accountable for any delays or refusal by enforcing a zero-tolerance policy with strict consequences.
- Implement victim- and witness-friendly procedures, shift the burden of proof on the accused, and involve Dalit rights experts in the police investigation as mandated by law.
- Amend the CBDU Act 2011 to set a mandatory minimum sentence of five years and a minimum fine of NPR 300,000 for serious offenses, eliminating judicial discretion.
- Draft national guidelines and training for law enforcement and the judiciary on caste and Dalit rights in consultation with Dalit civil society; and create a dedicated court bench to handle caste-related cases.

b) Access to Justice

20. As per Recommendation 159.197 of the third cycle, Nepal was urged to eliminate gender-based and caste-based discrimination and align rape laws with international human rights standards.
21. Since the CBDU Act's implementation, 79^{xxiii} Dalits have been killed in caste-motivated incidents, with most victims' families denied justice.
22. Weak investigations, fear among witnesses, and judicial bias have led to high acquittal^{xxiv} rates, discouraging victims from seeking justice.

Recommendations:

- Ensure impartial and timely investigation of caste-based violence, free from political interference, and hold police accountable for failing to register complaints or pressuring victims.
- Establish fast track courts for caste-based atrocities.
- Establish a Special Prosecution Unit for caste-based crimes with victim and witness protection and provide annual training for the judiciary and law enforcement officials on Dalit rights and caste and gender-sensitive interrogation and investigation.

c) Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights

Right to Economic Resources (Land, Traditional Occupations, Opportunities etc.)

23. Recommendation 139.117 from the second cycle urged Nepal to strengthen affirmative action for Dalits in education, employment, and land access was recommended. However, these measures remain largely ineffective due to limited institutional coordination and underfunding.
24. According to the 2021 National Census,^{xxv} 36% of Dalits fall under the extremely low economic category, compared to 20.3% of the overall population, reflecting deep-rooted economic inequality^{xxvi} and structural exclusion.
25. Dalits remain largely excluded from formal financial services^{xxvii} and other opportunities.
26. A survey^{xxviii} found that 7.8% of Hill Dalits and 24.5% of Madhesi Dalits are landless, compared to a national average of 3.1%. This highlights stark disparities in land ownership and identifies these communities as highly vulnerable and at risk^{xxix}.
27. The traditional occupations of Dalits are increasingly threatened by the expansion of the capitalist market, with little state support to preserve or adapt these livelihoods, further pushing them into economic insecurity.

Recommendations:

- Promote and protect traditional Dalit occupations by collaborating with Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT) to develop relevant curricula, provide skills training, marketing support, technology, and subsidies with a dedicated budget allocation.

- Expand financial access for Dalit entrepreneurs through collateral-free loans, Dalit-led cooperatives, rural outreach, and a dedicated Dalit Economic Empowerment Fund at federal and provincial levels.

d) Right to Education

28. In Recommendations 159.40 and 159.150 from the third cycle, the government was urged to combat caste-based discrimination, ensure Dalit representation in teaching positions, and promote equal access to education. However, implementation remains weak, especially in addressing discrimination in curricula and removing structural barriers in the education system.
29. Nepal's national literacy rate is 76.2%, compared to 67.2% among Dalits, with 32.6% remaining illiterate. Alarming, 13.1% of Dalit children—and 27.5% in Madhesh Province—have never attended school^{xxx}.
30. Nepal offers scholarships, school meals, and free textbooks for Dalit students, with legal provisions for inclusive education. However, significant gaps remain, as Dalit children—especially Madhesi—still face barriers to enrollment, retention, and completion of school education.
31. Dalit students face high dropout rates, especially between primary and secondary levels^{xxxi}. Most attend under-resourced public schools, widening the gap between public and private education systems.

Recommendations:

- Ensure free, quality, and inclusive education for Dalit students at all levels by allocating targeted budgets across all levels of government and recruiting more Dalit teachers.
- Ensure effective implementation of affirmative action in education, including higher educational institutions.
- Establish accountability mechanisms to prevent caste-based abuse, bullying, and exclusion in school by installing Dalit counsellors.
- Increase timely delivery of scholarships, meals, textbooks, uniforms, and transportation, to improve Dalit youth education especially in remote areas, and allocate adequate budgets with proper oversight.
- Revise the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2076 to remove discriminatory subjects and approaches in schools and highlight Dalit history and contributions.

e) Right to Employment and Livelihood

32. Previous UPR cycles recommended Nepal to eliminate caste-based discrimination in employment by enforcing anti-discrimination laws, promoting inclusive labor policies, and addressing barriers to Dalits' access to dignified livelihoods.
33. Despite legal protections, Dalits remain economically marginalized, working mostly in informal, insecure, and low-paying jobs like agriculture, daily labor, sanitation, and

traditional caste-based roles, without adequate access to land, capital, skills and economic resources.

34. Though some affirmative provisions exist—such as reservations in public service and vocational training schemes—affirmative action is also required in the private sector.

Recommendations:

- Fully implement constitutional guarantees of non-discrimination and proportional inclusion of Dalits in public, private, and informal employment sectors by implementing affirmative provisions.
- Strengthen enforcement of CBDU Act 2011 in the labor market by establishing grievance mechanisms for caste-based employment discrimination, and ensure effective implementation of the Business and Human Rights Action Plan (BHRAP).

f) Right to Health and Social Protection

35. Recommendations 159.115 and 159.137 from the third cycle collectively called on Nepal to strengthen social policies for health and ensure that marginalized groups can exercise their reproductive rights. However, stakeholders note that the government has failed to provide adequate and accessible reproductive health services to these communities.
36. The old-age allowance is provided from age 70 with a monthly allowance of Rs. 4000, whereas Dalits become eligible at age 60, but only receive a monthly allowance of Rs. 2650. Additionally, the government provides a nutrition allowance of Rs. 532 per month to Dalit children below the age of five in all 77 districts.^{xxxii}
37. Nepal has expanded health infrastructure and launched a national insurance scheme for marginalized groups, including Dalits. Despite some programs for Dalits, they still face major barriers to access healthcare due to discrimination, poverty, geography, and lack of awareness/information.
38. Access to social protection schemes, such as old-age allowances, disability support, or social security grants, remains limited for Dalits due to procedural barriers, lack of documentation, and limited outreach in Dalit-majority settlements.

Recommendations:

- Increase social security allowance for Dalit children and elders, including healthcare and nutrition, to reflect market prices.
- Ensure equal and dignified access to public health services by enforcing anti-discrimination laws, training health workers on caste sensitivity, expanding Dalit-focused health programs with dedicated budgets, and extending health insurance coverage.
- Simplify access to social protection by removing complicated requirements, raise legal awareness, and ensure free health check-ups and maternal care for Dalit women and children.

g) Right to Housing, Water, and Sanitation

39. Following Recommendations 159.110 and 159.129, progress in ensuring Dalits' access to safe drinking water, sanitation, and adequate housing remains uneven. Nepal was urged to eliminate discrimination and implement inclusive policies guaranteeing adequate living conditions for all marginalized groups.
40. The 2015 Constitution guarantees the right to adequate housing under Article 28 and the right to safe drinking water and sanitation under Article 35.
41. Nepal has improved clean water and sanitation access through national programs, including some for Dalit settlements. However, many Dalits—especially in informal settlements or rural areas—still face poor housing^{xxxiii}, insecure land tenure, and inadequate water and sanitation, which disproportionately affects Dalit women and children.

Recommendations:

- Enforce constitutional protections to ensure Dalits' rights to adequate housing, safe water, and sanitation, with legal support to secure land tenure and prevent forced evictions.
- Develop inclusive housing and sanitation programs for Dalit settlements, emphasizing community participation and investment in safe, gender-sensitive facilities.
- Expand and improve water supply infrastructure for continuous access to clean drinking water among Dalit-majority settlements and rural areas.

h) Right to Equality and Dignity

42. Nepal has been urged to strengthen efforts to eliminate caste-based discrimination, enforce laws against untouchability, raise awareness to combat stigma, and protect marginalized victims, especially Dalits.
43. Despite laws and awareness efforts, Dalits still face systemic discrimination and exclusion in education, employment, healthcare, and public life. Untouchability persists through verbal abuse, social boycotts, and limited access to services, with their dignity routinely denied by broader society.

Recommendations:

- Strengthen enforcement of laws against caste-based discrimination and untouchability ensuring accountability and accessible, victim-friendly complaint mechanisms.
- Launch nationwide awareness campaigns and integrate anti-caste discrimination education into schools, universities, professional training for officials, law enforcement, and the judiciary.
- Promote Dalit representation and leadership in political, social, and institutional leadership, as enshrined in law, to advance equality and dignity.

i) Right to Proportional Representation

44. During the second and third cycles, Nepal received recommendations to strengthen the inclusion and proportional representation of marginalized groups, including Dalits, in political, administrative, and judicial structures, in line with its constitutional commitments.
45. Despite Dalits holding 21.99% representation at the local level, their inclusion in key decision-making positions remains critically low at just 1.06%. At the federal and provincial levels, Dalit representation is 6.2% and 5.6%, respectively.^{xxxiv}
46. Dalit representation in the judiciary is extremely low—*no* Dalit has ever served on the Supreme Court, with only 2.11% in High Courts (3 of 211 judges) and 1.47% in District Courts (3 of 250 judges). This highlights structural exclusion in the judiciary.^{xxxv}
47. Dalit representation is only 2.37% in the bureaucracy. In the security sector, Dalits comprise 8.1% in the Armed Police Force, 10.67% in Nepal Police, and 9.75% in the Nepal Army, mostly in lower ranks. Dalits remain severely underrepresented in leadership and decision-making roles, highlighting the urgent need for proportional representation at all levels of state institutions.^{xxxvi}

Recommendations:

- Fully implement constitutional provisions and quotas to guarantee proportional Dalit representation across state institutions—including government, judiciary, civil service, security forces, and leadership positions—ensuring inclusion through both proportional and first-past-the-post (FPTP) electoral systems.^{xxxvii}
- Apply an intersectional approach to women’s political representation by ensuring inclusion of marginalized groups such as Dalit, Indigenous, Madhesi, and Muslim women.
- Amend the Political Parties Act, 2017 to ensure proportional representation of Dalits in central, provincial, district committees, and all-party structures.
- Implement the Supreme Court order^{xxxviii} on proportional inclusion of Dalits in the state mechanisms.

j) Policy, Programs, and Budget Allocation

48. Recommendation 159.42 from the third cycle urged Nepal to take necessary measures to advance the fight against all forms of discrimination, particularly racial and caste discrimination. However, the legal and institutional response remains abysmal.
49. In the fiscal year 2025/26, some budget was allocated for the Bhagat Sarvajit Entrepreneurship Development Program^{xxxix} to preserve Dalit traditional skills and create employment opportunities.
50. In Lumbini Province, only 0.1% of the annual budget has been allocated for Dalit community over the last five fiscal years,^{xl} with frequent underutilization, indicating insufficient targeted support for their needs.
51. Despite policy commitments, negligible budget allocations indicate lack of concrete action and targeted interventions for social inclusion of Dalit community.

Recommendations:

- Increase and equitably allocate budgets for Dalits to fulfill constitutional commitments and address their specific needs through clear criteria and monitoring mechanisms.
- Strengthen the National Dalit Commission by increasing its budget, provide additional resources, expanding its legal mandate, and ensuring its functional presence across all provinces by the next fiscal year.
- Ensure full implementation of the 2016 Procedure on Ending Caste-Based Discrimination and Promoting Dalit Rights, with strong parliamentary oversight and effective monitoring systems.

k) Dalits, Food Security, and Sovereignty

52. Despite constitutional guarantees under Article 36 of the 2015 Constitution, which affirms the right to food and freedom from hunger, Dalit communities in Nepal continue to face severe food insecurity and malnutrition.
53. Anecdotal evidence^{xli} indicates high rates of hunger and deprivation among Dalits, contributing to child malnutrition. While national data shows 5.4% of the population is undernourished, with 7.7% child wasting, 24.8% stunting, and 2.7% under-five mortality, there is no data disaggregated by caste.
54. Given the disproportionately high poverty rates among Dalits, their nutritional status is likely worse, yet it remains untracked and unaddressed in official data and policies.
55. Anecdotal data and evidence suggest that Dalits, particularly Madhesi Dalits, are prone to widespread hunger throughout the year, especially during August and September.

Recommendations:

- Collect and publish disaggregated data on Dalit landlessness periodically to identify gaps and ensure targeted land distribution to support sustainable livelihoods.
- Conduct vulnerability mapping of food insecurity among Dalit communities, and implement appropriate nutrition and livelihood support programs.
- Ensure transparency in land allocation programs by publicly disclosing beneficiary data, focusing on Dalit inclusion and impact.

l) Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction

56. Dalit community live in disaster-prone areas and face higher climate risks due to social exclusion^{xlii}.
57. Limited access to early warning systems and disaster preparedness information
58. Exclusion from decision-making and relief efforts leads to unequal recovery opportunities. Dalit settlements suffer from bureaucratic delays, official inaction and structural discrimination.
59. Intersectional discrimination increases their vulnerability, especially for Dalit women and children. They remain trapped in debt or have been forced to migrate to surrounding country - India.

Recommendations:

- Ensure representation by including Dalits explicitly in disaster risk reduction policies and planning.
- Ensure accessible early warning systems and disaster information in local languages. Relocate Dalit houses that were built in the high-risk areas without cost.
- Institutionalize the participation of Dalit representatives in disaster management and decision-making bodies, by building their capacity through targeted training and resources.
- Provide equitable relief, climate-resilient livelihood support, and collect caste-disaggregated data.
- Ensure intersectional approach that includes caste in policies related to disaster management.

V. Human rights situation of the most vulnerable Dalits

a) Dalit Women and Girls

60. Dalit women continue to face systemic barriers to justice due to the intersection of caste-based discrimination and gender inequality. Although they comprise 53% of the Dalit population, their access to water, public spaces, education, and healthcare remains even significantly lower than Dalit men.
61. 10% of Dalit women aged 15–49 have experienced sexual violence.^{xliii} Research^{xliv} highlights that Dalit women and girls represent a large proportion of violence survivors, yet very few cases—especially those involving rape and physical or psychological abuse—result in prosecution.
62. Economically, Dalit women are among the most marginalized. Many are landless, confined to low-paid traditional labor, or subjected to bonded and forced labor. Without citizenship, they are denied property rights, financial access, and social protection, trapping them in cycles of poverty.
63. Even in leadership roles, elected Dalit women face caste and gender-based discrimination, limiting their voice and participation in decision-making processes.

Recommendations:

- Enact comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that specifically defines caste-based discrimination against Dalit women and girls, with attention to intersecting identities such as disability, age, marital status, Madhesi identity, LGBTQIA+ status, and religious minority backgrounds.
- Ensure meaningful representation of Dalit women across all levels and sectors of government, including the executive, legislature, judiciary, security forces, civil service, constitutional bodies, diplomatic missions, universities, and key sectors such as education, health, food, and forest governance by instituting quotas.
- Implement nationwide, skills-based training, and entrepreneurship programs focused on Dalit and marginalized women to enhance their employment prospects and economic empowerment.

b) Madhesi Dalits

64. Madhesi Dalits face caste, racial, and regional discrimination restricting their access to education, healthcare, employment, housing, citizenship, voting, property, and political participation, resulting in severe marginalization.
65. They are marginalized in development and politics, often excluded from quotas and affirmative action. Political parties overlook their voices, while groups like the Dom^{xlv} face severe discrimination and lack basic services.

Recommendations:

- Implement agreements with Badi and marginalized Dalit sub-castes through well-funded programs for education, livelihoods, vocational training, housing, and psychosocial support, prioritizing women and children.
- Design and implement targeted programs to uplift the community's socio-economic and cultural status.
- Secure land rights, citizenship, protect traditional occupations, end harmful practices, ensure protection from trafficking, provide gender-sensitive legal support, and collect disaggregated caste and sub-caste data for improved policies.

c) Minorities^{xlvi} within the Dalits (Badi, Gandarbha, Dom, Musahar, etc.)

66. Recommendation 159.45 from the third cycle called for protection of the rights of vulnerable groups both in law and practice. However, stakeholders note that Badi, Gandhabha Dom and Musahar (the most vulnerable within the Dalit community) continue to be excluded from representation, participation, and access to state services.
67. The Badi community faces severe poverty, caste-based discrimination, lack of legal identity, and poor access to education, healthcare, and livelihoods, forcing some women into sex work. The Badi experience a pervasive sense of statelessness.
68. Despite government commitments since 2007 to rehabilitate and end exploitation, implementation remains weak, leaving issues of the Badi community unresolved. Badi women are excluded from social security benefits due to non-identification of their husbands.
69. State policies often treat Dalits as a homogeneous group, overlooking specific needs of Dalit minority sub-castes like Gandarbha and Dom, which remain invisible in data and development plans, leading to ineffective or exclusionary interventions.

Recommendations:

- Implement agreements with Badi and marginalized Dalit sub-castes through well-funded programs for education, livelihoods, housing, and psychosocial support, prioritizing women.
- Suspend/remove the requirement to identify a spouse in social security benefits for Badi women to ensure they can access the necessary support.
- Enforce anti-discrimination laws and ensure proportional representation of marginalized Dalit sub-castes in politics, civil service, and local governance, with targeted social protections.

- Implement policies that secure land rights, protect traditional occupations, end harmful practices, provide gender-sensitive legal support, and collect disaggregated caste and sub-caste data for improved policies.

d) Exploitative labor relations^{xlvii} (Harwa, Charwa, Haliya, etc.)

70. Despite past recommendations, the Harwa–Charwa bonded labor system persists in parts of Madhesh and Far West. Recommendation 159.100 urges Nepal to strengthen laws, enforcement, and rehabilitation.
71. Nepal is also party to international treaties like the ILO Forced Labour Convention, the Palermo Protocol, and UN protocols on forced labor and modern slavery, which mandate elimination of modern slavery and victim protection.
72. Harwa-Charwa families often remain trapped in cycles of debt bondage, forced labor, and extreme poverty. Social stigma, illiteracy, and lack of land rights exacerbate their vulnerability.

Recommendations:

- Strengthen and enforce laws against bonded labor and modern slavery, ensuring swift prosecution, penalties, and capacity building of law enforcement and judiciary with a focus on caste and gender.
- Expand and fund comprehensive rehabilitation programs for survivors of the Harwa-Charwa bonded labor system, providing access to land, education, vocational training, and livelihood support, and promoting social integration through anti-discrimination campaigns and inclusive development.
- Implement awareness campaigns in vulnerable communities about rights and protections, and strengthen safeguards for women and children through safe shelters and legal aid.

e) Dalits with Disabilities (DWDs)

73. Recommendations 159.222, 159.50, and 159.52 urge Nepal to enhance legal protections and inclusion for persons with disabilities. Despite constitutional and legal guarantees, Dalits with disabilities face barriers in education, healthcare, employment, and justice. Stronger efforts are needed for inclusive services, especially in education.
74. Despite existing national and international frameworks, Dalits with disabilities are not specifically recognized in Nepali laws or policies. The Act Relating to Persons with Disabilities still follows a medical model and fails to adopt a human rights-based and intersectional approach.
75. Dalits with disabilities face multiple layers of discrimination and also excludes them from more mainstream Dalit, disability, feminist, and human rights movements, as well as from public and private decision-making, limiting their participation in social, civic, and political life.

Recommendations:

- Amend the Act Relating to Persons with Disabilities, and other similar legislation, to explicitly include Dalits with disabilities as an intersectionally marginalized group, ensuring their inclusion in national policies and frameworks.
- Ensure legal recognition, guarantee access to justice, promote meaningful representation, and strengthen social security for Dalits with disabilities.
- Establish disaggregated data systems on Dalits with disabilities to inform inclusive policymaking, and introduce targeted provisions in climate, disaster, and humanitarian frameworks to ensure their protection, participation, and access to resources.
- Provide special legal aid services and adopt affirmative measures, including quotas, to guarantee timely justice and meaningful participation of Dalits with disabilities in public institutions and decision-making at all levels.

g) Dalit Children

76. Recommendation 159.50 urged Nepal to ensure full inclusion and improve learning outcomes for Dalit children. The government was also called upon to protect the rights of marginalized children by guaranteeing quality education, preventing child labor, eliminating caste-based discrimination, and enhancing health and nutrition for disadvantaged groups.
77. There are 1.1 million child laborers in Nepal. Among them, the highest prevalence of child labor is found among Dalits (19.4%).^{xlvi} due to lower educational attainment and hunger/poverty level within the community.
78. The Children's Act prohibits the employment of children below the age of 14 in any form of labor, aiming to protect rights, ensure safety, and promote access to education and healthy development.
79. Children under 17 years constitute 33.8% of Nepal's total population, with Dalit children accounting for 39.1% of this group.^{xlix}
80. Dalit children and youth in Nepal are disproportionately accused in rape cases, with false accusations being one of the contributing factors, often rooted in caste-based prejudice and systemic discrimination within law enforcement. Among 383 boys (under 18) arrested for rape, 91 are Dalit.^l
81. Rape and kidnapping laws are used to target Dalits as a means of oppression in inter-caste love relationships.^{li}
82. Despite legal protections, Dalit children face systemic discrimination, poverty, limited access to quality education and healthcare, caste-based bullying, and hazardous child labor.

Recommendations:

- Provide free, quality education with targeted scholarships and teacher training to eliminate caste-based discrimination, promote Dalits to become teachers, and reduce dropout rates among Dalit children, especially girls.
- Prevent child labor, abuse, and trafficking through community monitoring, child-friendly reporting, and improved health and nutrition services in Dalit-majority areas.

- Mandate universal birth registration for Dalit children, integrate their needs in policies and budgets, and systematically use disaggregated data for targeted interventions.

VI. Emerging and Cross-Cutting Issues

83. Caste-based discrimination is amplified in digital spaces through hate speech, casteist abuse, targeted misinformation, and the reinforcement of social hierarchies via memes, jokes, and online discourse^{lii}, which often go unchecked due to poor enforcement.
84. Dalit community faces a digital divide due to poverty, limited access to infrastructure, and underrepresentation in technology and policymaking spaces, further silencing their voices online due to biased algorithms and limited representation.
85. Nepal's Business and Human Rights Action (2024–2028) includes commitments to labor rights, non-discrimination, and social inclusion but lacks explicit recognition of caste-based discrimination.
86. Dalits face systemic exclusion from formal employment, caste-biased recruitment, workplace abuse, and limited access to grievance redressal or leadership roles in the private sector.
87. Despite previous UPR recommendations to protect LGBTIQ+ rights, the specific challenges faced by Dalit LGBTIQ+ individuals remain unaddressed. Although the 2015 Constitution recognizes third gender identity, Dalit queer persons continue to face intersectional discrimination based on caste, gender identity, and sexual orientation. Their voices are largely invisible within both Dalit and LGBTIQ+ movements, and they remain excluded from advocacy, education, employment, healthcare, and justice systems.
88. Dalits face systemic exclusion from civic and political spaces, due to organizational underfunding and struggle with procedural bottlenecks during the project approval processes.
89. Nepal lacks comprehensive and accessible caste-disaggregated data in key sectors like education, health, employment, and justice, leading to the undercounting and misrepresentation of Dalits—especially those with intersecting identities.
90. Political resistance to collecting and publishing caste-based data, along with the absence of caste-focused budget tracking system limits transparency, evidence-based policymaking, and accountability in resource distribution.
91. Dalit labor migrants are pushed into high-risk, low-wage sectors like construction, domestic work, and sanitation. They face limited legal protections, caste-biased recruitment and training, and lack essential information on contracts and rights, heightening their exploitation.
92. Returned Dalit migrants encounter social exclusion and inadequate reintegration support, with limited access to employment, state services, and programs to facilitate their return.

Recommendations:

- Enact and enforce digital rights laws that explicitly address caste-based hate speech and discrimination online, and implement safeguards to prevent misuse of digital platforms for making false allegations or criminalizing Dalits.

- Monitor and curb dissemination of misinformation and disinformation related to Dalits and marginalized communities.
- Integrate caste as a protected ground in Nepal's Business and Human Rights (BHR) frameworks by mandating inclusive hiring, caste-sensitive training, and confidential grievance redress mechanisms in the private sector.
- Collaborate with the relevant bodies to ensure Dalit representation in corporate leadership, trade unions, and policymaking bodies, while enforcing anti-discrimination standards. Institute Dalit-specific grievance mechanisms and educate the workforce on how to access them.
- Adopt an intersectional approach to tackle the multiple forms of discrimination faced by Dalit LGBTIQ+ individuals by creating safe spaces, training healthcare providers, offering psychosocial support, and ensuring inclusive access to education, healthcare, and employment. Establish legal and institutional mechanisms to prevent violence and exclusion, while promoting awareness and inclusive curricula on caste and LGBTIQ+ rights.
- Adopt and enforce policies that promote inclusive civic space, protection of Dalit rights defenders, digital safeguards, and streamline approval processes, particularly for software-based initiatives.
- Implement a regulatory framework to raise awareness and monitor roles of manpower agencies and brokers to reduce the cost and risk of migration in foreign employment.
- Recognize Dalit migrants as vulnerable, regulate recruitment to prevent caste bias, and provide free inclusive training, documentation support, and caste-disaggregated data.
- Establish accessible grievance and legal aid services for Dalit migrants in both origin and destination countries.

Endnotes and references

ⁱ Dalits are members of communities that have historically been positioned at the bottom of the caste hierarchy in South Asia. The term "Dalit" means "oppressed" or "broken" in Sanskrit, and it is a self-chosen identity used by people who have faced centuries of systemic exclusion, caste-based discrimination, and social untouchability.

ⁱⁱ Central Bureau of Statistics. (2021). Dalit specific data report 2021 (Census 2021). Government of Nepal.

ⁱⁱⁱ National Dalit Commission. (2024). Annual report FY 2023/24. Government of Nepal.

^{iv} Provincial consultations were conducted across several provinces: Dignity Initiative organized consultations in Karnali, Sudurpashchim, and Madhesh provinces; the Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO) led consultations in Gandaki and Koshi provinces; Center for Dalit Women Nepal (CDWN) facilitated a consultation in Dhulekhel of Bagmati province and Bardibas of the Madhesh Province. Likewise, Dalit Lives Matter (DLM) organized a Justice Summit featuring a dedicated session on the UPR and Dalit women, in Kathmandu and a session in Lahan of Madhesh Province.

^v Dignity Initiative conducted focus group discussions with stakeholders and held key informant interviews with relevant authorities in Karnali, Sudurpashchim, and Madhesh provinces.

^{vi} A national consultation was held in Kathmandu on 30th June, jointly organized by the consortium members.

^{vii} Dignity Initiative held this consultation meeting in Kathmandu on 9th July 2025.

^{viii} International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

^{ix} International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

^x Nepal has not yet ratified the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families nor the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

^{xi} Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

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- xii Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- xiii The International Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
- xiv International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- xv UN Treaty Body Database, Reporting status for Nepal.
https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/countries.aspx?CountryCode=NPL&Lang=EN
- xvi A/HRC/41/42/Add.2, para. 66, A/HRC/50/38/Add.2 para. 23.
- xvii Facts and figures with regard to the special procedures in 2024. A/HRC/58/70/Add.1
<https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/58/70/Add.1>
- xviii National Women Commission, Dalit Commission, Muslim Commission, Madhesi Commission, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, National Inclusion Commission.
- xix Voluntary National Review of Sustainable Development Goals, Government of Nepal National Planning commission, June 2024. https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2024/VNR%202024%20Nepal%20Report_0.pdf
- xx Caste and other Untouchability Discrimination (Offense and Punishment) Act, 2011
- xxi The National Dalit Commission (NDC) is a constitutional body established under Article 255 of the 2015 Constitution of Nepal to promote the rights and welfare of Dalits and eliminate caste-based discrimination and untouchability. It monitors policy implementation, advises the government, investigates rights violations, and recommends legal and institutional reforms to ensure equality and dignity for Dalits.
- xxii Dalit cell (sometimes called “Dalit Desk”) in Nepal Police refers to a dedicated unit established within each police station or at Police Headquarters to address caste-based discrimination, untouchability, and related crimes against Dalit communities. Amnesty International reported (2024) that there are 86 Dalit cells across the country, but it lacks procedural guideline.
- xxiii Dignity Initiative. (2025). Caste violence and Dalit's access to justice: Policy brief.
- xxiv Office of the Attorney General. (2024). Annual report 2023/24. Government of Nepal. From 2011/12 to 2023/24, a total of 144 cases related to caste-based discrimination were brought before the courts. Of these, 63 cases resulted in acquittals.
- xxv Central Bureau of Statistics. (2021). Dalit specific data report 2021 (Census 2078). Government of Nepal.
- xxvi The Nepal Living Standards Survey (NLSS) data from 1995/96 to 2021/22 shows that although overall poverty in Nepal has decreased, the poverty gap between Dalits and the national average remains largely unchanged. For example, in 1995/96, the gap was 16 percentage points (57.8% Dalit vs. 41.8% national), slightly narrowed in 2003/04, but widened again in 2010/11. The latest survey in 2021/22 shows national poverty at 20.3%, but Dalit-specific data is not clear, though the gap likely persists.
- xxvii Central Department of Anthropology, Tribhuvan University. (2018). Caste, ethnic and gender dimensions of inclusive development: Evidence from Nepal Social Inclusion Survey 2018.
- xxviii This survey is conducted by the Sociology and Anthropology Department of the Tribhuvan University, 2017.
- xxix Human Rights Measurement Initiative (HRMI). (2025, July 4). People at risk: People from particular castes, work or descent. Rights Tracker. <https://rightstracker.org/group/40?tab=atrisk>
- xxx Central Bureau of Statistics. (2021). Dalit specific data report 2021 (Census 2078). Government of Nepal.
- xxxi Human Rights Measurement Initiative (HRMI). (2025, July 9). *Nepal country report*. Rights Tracker. <https://rightstracker.org/country/NPL?qofFdScore=indicator&atRisk=40&tab=report-esr>
- xxxii Report of the Government of Nepal, 2025
- xxxiii HRMI's 2025 annual human rights expert survey states that marginalised groups from the Terai region and landless people, especially the Haruwa-CHARwapeople in Sudurpashchim and Karnali Provinces, lack quality housing.
- xxxiv Dignity Initiative. (2023). Contradiction between the principle of proportional representation and election result: An analysis of representation of Dalit and marginalized communities in Nepal's 2022 election [Policy brief].
- xxxv The annual report of the National Dalit Commission (NDC) for the financial year 2023/24
- xxxvi National Dalit Commission. (2024). *Annual report for the fiscal year 2023/24*. Government of Nepal.
- xxxvii Nepal follows a mixed electoral system that combines First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) and Proportional Representation (PR) models. While Dalit inclusion is partially addressed through the PR system, it is essential to ensure meaningful Dalit representation within the FPTP system as well, to guarantee their political participation in both electoral mechanisms.
- xxxviii <https://nepalilaw.com/supreme-court-issued-an-order-to-to-ensure-dalit-rights/#:~:text=And%20pointed%20out%20to%20make,Commission%20as%20a%20cooperative%20body.&text=In%20this%20order%2C%20Supreme%20Court,public%20on%2031%20January%2C%202022.>

^{xxxix} Government of Nepal, Ministry of Finance. (2025). *Budget speech for the fiscal year 2025/26*.

^{xl} Dignity Initiative. (2025). Inclusive practices in Lumbini Province: An analysis from the marginalized community's perspective [Policy brief].

^{xli} Global Hunger Index 2023

^{xlii} Asia Dispatch. (2025). *Dalit families in Nepal await disaster aid that never*

came. <https://www.asiandispatch.net/dalit-families-in-nepal-await-disaster-aid-that-never-came>
0C5LnFwARowIdYBuzmUIK48OZoUIEpHfW8TCEiDGcXh6jlohmpG5_aem_31KbbJ_irv8n7xIABb7p5Q

^{xliii} Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP) [Nepal], New ERA, & ICF. (2023). *Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2022*. MOHP, New ERA, and ICF.

^{xliv} Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO). (n.d.). [Violence against women and girls in Nepal on the basis of caste and gender]. <https://shorturl.at/aoDI0>

^{xlv} Doms are a specific Dalit caste traditionally associated with occupations like drumming, singing, and disposal of dead bodies. They are considered an untouchable caste and face significant social and economic discrimination.

^{xlvi} According to the Dalit-Specific Data Report published by the Central Bureau of Statistics, the population of the Badi is 11,470; Gandharba, 6,971; Dom, 19,901; and Musahar, 264,974. These groups are recognized as some of the most marginalized among the Dalit communities.

^{xlvii} Harwa, Charwa, and Haliya are traditional forms of bonded labor in Nepal, primarily affecting Dalit and marginalized communities. Harwa refers to ploughmen in the Terai region who work on landlords' farms in exchange for minimal or no wages, often trapped in debt. Charwa are herders forced to graze livestock under similar exploitative conditions. Haliya, found in the hilly regions, are bonded ploughmen working for upper-caste landlords, usually without fair compensation. Though these systems have been legally abolished, many families still face the consequences of generational exploitation, poverty, and lack of state rehabilitation.

^{xlviii} International Labour Organization. (2021). Nepal child labor report. ILO.

^{xlix} Central Bureau of Statistics, Nepal. (2021). *National population and housing census 2021 (Census 2078 B.S.)*. Government of Nepal.

ⁱ Nepal Police Headquarters. (2024). *Annual report 2023/24: Crime statistics and operational overview*. Nepal Police Headquarters.

ⁱⁱ Malar Sada Musahar. (2021, June 4). Rautahat: Dalit boy beaten black and blue 'for writing a love letter'. OnlineKhabar English News. Retrieved from <https://english.onlinekhabar.com/rautahat-dalit-boy-beaten-black-and-blue-for-writing-a-love-letter.html>

ⁱⁱⁱ Discussion occurred during the national conference "Decoding caste in the digital Space", organized by the Dignity Initiative in Kathmandu on 27th June, 2025.

Annex I: Organization Information

A Joint Submission by Dalit CSOs Consortium to the United Nations Universal Periodic Review 51st Session
(Fourth Cycle) of the UPR Working Group of the Human Rights Council (HRC)

Concerning Caste-based Discrimination and Violence against Dalits in Nepal






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Annex II: Implementing status of 3rd Cycle (2021) UPR recommendations

A Joint Submission by Dalit CSOs Consortium to the United Nations Universal Periodic Review
51st Session (Fourth Cycle) of the UPR Working Group of the Human Rights Council (HRC)

Concerning Caste-based Discrimination and Violence against Dalits in Nepal

Recommendations	Nepal's Position	Status of Implementation
159.32 Conduct public awareness campaigns to eliminate discrimination based on racial or caste-based hierarchies and ensure that educational curricula do not propagate these hierarchies (Bahamas);	Supported	Partially implemented
159.33 Investigate effectively and prosecute caste-based discrimination and violence (Croatia);	Supported	Partially implemented
159.34 Effectively apply national legislation towards the elimination of all practices based on a caste system, including in the light of the relevant human rights instruments (El Salvador);	Supported	Partially implemented
159.35 Develop effective mechanisms to implement the Caste-based Discrimination and Untouchability (Offence and Punishment) Act (Germany);	Supported	Not implemented
159.36 Adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that includes a definition of discrimination against women encompassing direct and indirect discrimination and multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination (Guyana);	Supported	Partially implemented
Continue the efforts to combat caste-based discrimination and segregation (Italy);	Supported	Partially implemented
159.40 Increase education and awareness-raising programmes to combat crimes of hate and racial discrimination (Jordan);	Supported	Not implemented
159.41 Continue efforts to combat discrimination based on caste and gender (Lebanon);	Supported	Partially implemented

159.42 Take the necessary measures to advance in the fight against discrimination in all its forms, in particular racial and caste discrimination (Argentina);	Supported	Not implemented
159.43 Consider including the issue of caste discrimination in school and university curricula (Malta);	Supported	Not implemented
159.44 Continue to strengthen its efforts to prevent and eliminate discrimination based on caste, including through the full and effective implementation of the Caste-based Discrimination and Untouchability (Offence and Punishment) Act (Republic of Korea);	Supported	Partially implemented
159.47 Conduct public awareness campaigns to eliminate caste-based hierarchies (State of Palestine);	Supported	Not implemented
159.48 Intensify public awareness campaigns to eliminate the notion of racial or caste-based hierarchies (Sudan);	Supported	Not implemented
159.52 Apply an inclusive approach in shaping disaster prevention and mitigation policies and strategies by incorporating the views of women and vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities and older people, indiscriminately (Indonesia);	Supported	Not implemented
159.60 Continue to provide the necessary training to law enforcement agencies on the implementation of the national Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code (Maldives);	Supported	Not implemented
159.61 Continue efforts to ensure access to justice, poverty reduction and the protection of the rights of persons in vulnerable situations (Nigeria);	Supported	Not implemented
159.85 Introduce and implement measures to protect lawyers and human rights defenders, including investigating and prosecuting all forms of attacks against them (Netherlands);	Supported	Not implemented

159.88 Ensure the right to freedom of expression and ensure all individuals are protected against threats, intimidation and violence when engaging in public discourse (Australia);	Supported	Not implemented
159.92 Intensify efforts to prevent trafficking in persons and all forms of slavery (Cyprus);	Supported	Not implemented
159.114 Maintain and expand government programmes aimed at guaranteeing the right to food and addressing food insecurity, particularly among the most vulnerable populations (Cuba);	Supported	Not implemented
159.123 Implement a national action plan to reduce poverty with a human rights-based approach and focused on Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 10 (Paraguay);	Supported	Not implemented
159.124 Ensure that its efforts to address poverty are inclusive, gender responsive and human rights-based (Philippines);	Supported	Not implemented
159.133 Make progress in social economic recovery with a human rights perspective to face the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, taking into consideration the special needs of vulnerable groups in society (Chile);	Supported	Not implemented
159.134 Ensure the inclusion of vulnerable children and families in policy responses to the COVID-19 pandemic in order to minimize the risk of children getting involved in child labour (Croatia);	Supported	Not implemented

159.137 Implement the commitment made at the Nairobi Summit on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development to ensure that marginalized groups are able to exercise their reproductive rights through universal access to quality family planning services, the upscaling of adolescent-friendly health services and the full integration of comprehensive sexuality education, consistent with the evolving capacities and needs of youth (Iceland);	Supported	Partially implemented
159.150 Take all necessary measures to ensure full inclusion and improve learning results for all children belonging to the Dalit community, underrepresented castes and indigenous peoples, including children with disabilities, at all levels of education, and to ensure the representation of these groups, especially women, in teaching positions (Finland);	Supported	Partially implemented
159.172 Adopt policies to protect and provide justice for women and girls, especially those from minority communities (Estonia);	Supported	Not implemented
159.197 Step up efforts to end gender-based violence and caste-based discrimination and ensure access to justice for survivors, including by bringing rape laws in line with international standards (Australia);	Supported	Not implemented
159.220 Take the necessary measures to protect ethnic and caste minorities, namely from excessive use of force by the police and alleged torture in custody, and punish perpetrators (Portugal);	Supported	Not implemented
159.105 Continue to take measures to further strengthen implementation of the Right to Employment Act and the contributory social security system and, in particular, implement targeted interventions for vulnerable groups (Bhutan);	Supported	Partially implemented
159.152 Provide free quality education to all citizens without discrimination (Mauritius);	Supported	Partially implemented

159.131 Further strengthen effective collaboration with the international community to increase investment in food, housing, poverty reduction, employment generation, health care, education, social security and the development of people-centric infrastructures (Turkmenistan);	Supported	Not implemented
159.128 Consider adopting a more coordinated approach to address hunger and malnutrition (State of Palestine);	Supported	Not implemented

*Green- Fully Implemented

*Yellow- Partially Implemented

*Red- Not Implemented