



Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO)

For a just and equitable society

18th Minority Rights Forum

Building trust and social cohesion: addressing barriers to peaceful coexistence.

27th November 2025

Thank you, Chair.

I am Sarita Barmashakha from Nepal representing Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO) and the International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN). FEDO is an organization working towards the eradication and emancipation of caste and gender-based discrimination, promoting human rights of Dalits and other marginalized women and girls in Nepal.

Caste-based discrimination in Nepal continues to undermine trust and social cohesion, despite constitutional guarantees of equality and obligations under SDG 5, 10 and 16, ICERD, CEDAW, and the UN Declaration on Minority Rights. Dalit women and girls face compounded exclusion - social segregation, violence, and barriers to justice, fueled by prejudice and normalized impunity. Evidence from Madhesh Province shows persistent denial of services, discriminatory labor practices, and limited political participation.

However, positive local practices including women's voices from the grassroots level, digital-literacy initiatives, and strengthened frontline leadership demonstrate that change is possible when Dalit voices lead solutions.

We urge Member States and UN mechanisms to:

- Ensure enforcement of caste-based discrimination laws;
- Invest in Dalit women and girls-led organizations;
- Strengthen accountability systems;
- Integrate caste in global minority-rights frameworks.

We call for sustained action to ensure dignity, equal participation, and peaceful coexistence for all.

Thank you.