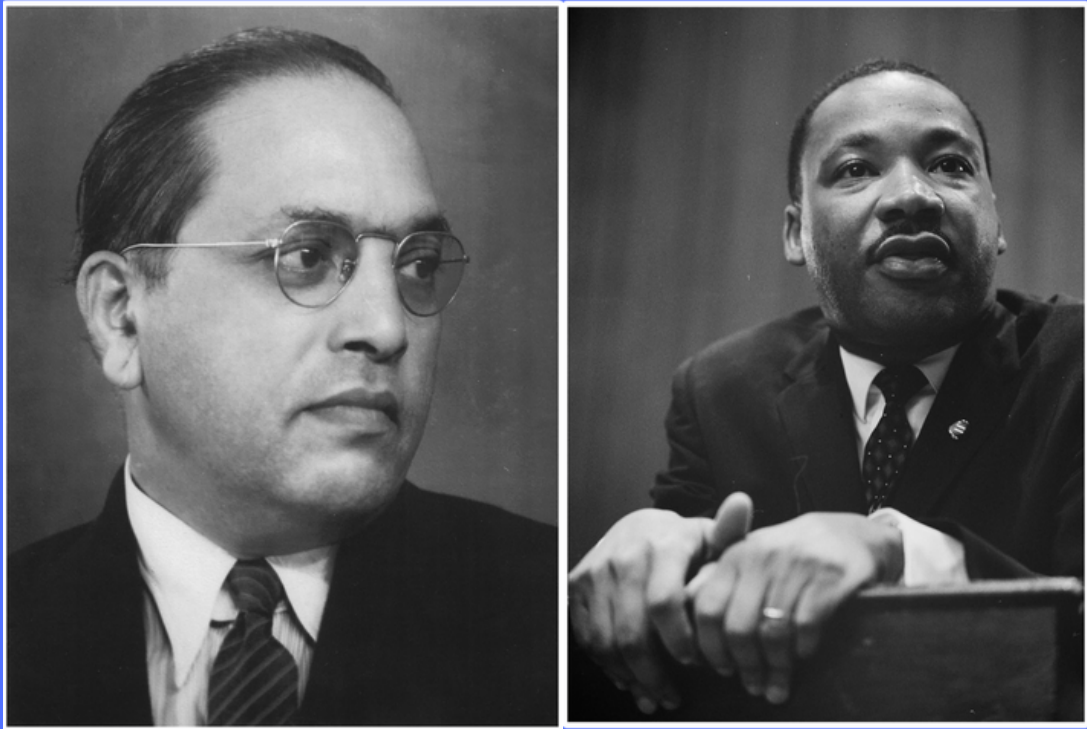


New York, the anti-caste movement is winning!

A Historic Step Forward in the Fight for Civil Rights in New York State



The historic bill A6920/S6531 sought to explicitly prohibit discrimination based on a person's caste in employment, housing, and public accommodations in New York. This critical legislation secured the support of 24 Assembly members and 11 Senators before the close of the legislative session on June 4, 2026.

This is the farthest a legislation for caste protection has advanced in New York and we could not be more grateful to the coalition of legislators, civil rights leaders, labor, housing, immigrant and gender justice advocates and faith-based leaders who came to support this monumental civil rights legislation. We are equally grateful to Assembly member Steven Raga and Senator James Sanders Jr., who co-sponsored this bill in the face of severe opposition and pushback, and stood with us as firm stewards of this campaign.

This bill received support from over 40 organizations that includes faith based organizations, Ambedkarite and Dalit civil rights organizations, labor unions,

housing justice groups, bar associations, gender, working class and immigrant justice groups, civil rights organizations, professors, national organizations, along with support from individual lawyers and a strong statement of support from the UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

As per the study by Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, over 77% Indian Americans support caste protection legislation. Its first co-sponsor Zohran Mamdani, who supported this bill as an Assembly member, is setting a new precedent for equality, fairness and justice as New York's first South Asian Mayor.

As New Yorkers, we know that the arc of justice takes time and constant effort. We see ourselves in the mold of pioneering Black and civil rights advocates who fought for **decades** before Brown v. Board ended legal segregation of Black and white school students. We walk in the footsteps of trailblazing LGBTQ+ leaders, who advocated for **11 years** before same-sex marriage became the law of land across the country. And just like these advocates, we know the fight for civil rights renews each day.



Civil rights icon Ruby Bridges on her way to enroll in a formerly white-only school in Louisiana in 1960, a win that civil rights advocates fought over decades



Visionary LGBTQ+ rights leader and the first openly gay man elected to public office in the US, Harvey Milk

Despite the strong support it received, the bill did not move to the floor this legislative session. However, the bill has created critical awareness about caste discrimination in New York and helped push this issue into public and legislative conversations. The testimonies of Dalits and caste oppressed individuals recorded in meetings with lawmakers will continue to live on as part of the permanent legislative record in New York State, and form the groundwork for future efforts.

This bill helped create the infrastructure for what comes next. A movement built by the people's power and fuelled by the voices of those whose rights have been historically oppressed cannot lose, it can only be delayed. And not for long.

In this historic year for New York, where working class people and marginalized communities are getting their rightful seat at the table, we remain hopeful and inspired by the shared sense of belonging and civic engagement caste-oppressed communities are currently witnessing. And we pledge to stay committed to protecting and advancing the rights of the most vulnerable New Yorkers whose livelihood, dignity and survival continues to be at risk in the absence of this legislation.

Jai Bhim



Supported By

- Swati Sawant, Esq., Bill Author and Lead Advocate
- Sharanya Krishna Prasad, Campaign Manager
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- DRUM - Desis Rising Up And Moving
- Project Hajra
- Tanuja Gupta, Advocate
- Sakhi for South Asian Survivors
- Indian American Muslim Council (IAMC)
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- Yashica Dutt, Bill Narrative Strategy Lead, Dalit LGBTQ+ Journalist and Author, Coming Out as Dalit
- Prachi Patankar, Writer and Activist
- Anuraag Kh, Community Organizer
- Hindus for Human Rights
- Adhikaar for Human Rights and Social Justice
- Professor Jayashree Kamble, CUNY
- Boston Study Group (BSG)
- Ambedkar Association of North America (AANA)
- Ambedkar King Study Circle (AKSC)
- Ambedkar International Mission (AIM) Texas
- Ambedkarite Buddhist Association of Texas (ABAT)
- Professor Kevin Brown, Richard S Melvin Professor Emeritus
- Sadhana: Coalition of Progressive Hindus
- Amit Singh Bagga, LGBTQ+ Advocate and Community Organizer
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- Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund (SALDEF)
- International Commission for Dalit Rights (ICDR)
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