Beyond borders:

International solidarity giving Dalit voices agency



UN Minority Forum side-event | **26 November at 14:00–15:00 CET** | **Room III**

WHAT & WHY

Dalit human rights defenders are at the forefront of challenging systems of violence, segregation, exclusion and exploitation. They often work in contexts characterised by shrinking civic space, barriers to decision making spaces and limited political, economic or social representation. This side-event asks what can civil society do if there is no effective regional human rights mechanism?

We discuss how international solidarity can expand access, visibility, resources and influence so that Dalit human rights defenders themselves have a stronger voice in the national, regional, international and corporate decisions that affect their rights and communities?

The event brings together representatives from India, Bangladesh and Pakistan, UN experts and international NGOs to examine how transnational alliances can strengthen Dalit voices, and the influence of Dalit human rights defenders within the minority rights framework.

Organized by:

IDSN International Dalit Solidarity Network

WORKING GLOBALLY AGAINST CASTE DISCRIMINATION

Co-sponsors:

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH | Minority Rights Group | International Service for Human Rights | IMADR | Oikoumene World Council of Churches | FORUM-ASIA

SPEAKERS

Ashwini K.P. – UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance

Heman Das – Senior Researcher, South Asia Research Institute for Minorities (SARIM), Pakistan

Jayalakshmi Itla Ragiri – International Human Rights Lawyer, International Justice Counsel

Chandrashekhar R.V. – Board Member, Thamate, India

Provati Das – Volunteer, Dalit Khulna, Bangladesh

Prof. Nicolas Levrat – **UN Special Rapporteur** on Minority Issues

Moderator: Meena Varma, International Dalit Solidarity Network

Speakers will address:

- the role of international solidarity
- how to amplify lived experience and Dalit voices
- connecting national struggles across borders and strengthening collective advocacy.