

UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) review of India (2, July 2014) in the 58th session of the Committee

IDSN July 2014 – note on the CEDAW review of India

Documentation for the review

Please find links to India's [4th and 5th periodic reports](#), the [List of Issues](#) and India's [reply to the List of Issues](#)

Please find the [joint submission of AIDMAM, Navsarjan Trust and IDSN](#) addressing multiple discrimination against Dalit women. Several other NGOs made references to caste in their parallel reports to be considered in the review. Please find a [document of references to caste in the NGO submissions](#) and a link to all these [alternative reports](#). Further please find specific links to the reports of [Human Rights Watch](#) and [Amnesty International](#) that made several references to caste-based discrimination and the situation of Dalits. Furthermore, NCDHR made a [submission](#) to the Pre-Sessional Working Group

On the first day of the session, the Committee met with representatives of NGOs and the National Human Rights Commission of India to hear information on the situation of women in the states whose reports will be considered in the session. Please find a [link to caste references in these meetings](#).

The review of India (2, July 2014 10-13.00 and 15-17.00)

Expert members of the committee made several references to caste-based discrimination and the situation of Dalits pertaining to a range of CEDAW articles including; article 4 on temporary special measures, article 5 on prejudices and customary practices, article 8 on representation in government, article 10 on education noting high drop-out rates for Dalits, article 11 on employment noting violence against women on the labour market including the Devadasi practice of forced labour, article 12 on health noting Dalit women being especially disadvantaged in terms of maternal mortality rates and article 13 on economic and social life. Furthermore, several expert members made reference to recent reports of rape and specifically the rape and hanging of two cousins and asked for information as to consequent action by the government. Several experts also highlighted the statements made by high level officials on these cases of rape, noting that such statements uphold stereotypes.

The delegation of India acknowledged the issue of caste-based discrimination and disadvantaged groups and made specific reference to various measures undertaken including legislative; the SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act and its 2014 amendment and the 2013 Manual scavenging act as well as administrative measures; the setting up of special courts, the setting up of NALSA for weaker sections of society, a joint UNDP project for marginalised people focused on access to justice for scheduled castes, sensitisation and training of police officers and awareness-raising in vulnerable sections of society. Further, the delegation reiterated the governments condemnation of each and every act of violence against women.

Please find a link to the [references made to caste in the review](#). And, for further information, a link to the [complete minutes from the review](#) and the [UN Press Release 2, July 2014](#).

Dalit women leaders including Asha Kowtal and Ruth Manorama participated in the review.