

The Anti Caste Discrimination Alliance (ACDA):

Global Day of Action Against Caste Discrimination – opposite Downing Street, Westminster, London, Saturday 21st June 2014

We wanted to say a big thank you to all supporters, organisations, and campaigners for supporting the demonstration opposite Downing Street last Saturday. We know legal protection for victims and future victims of Caste-based discrimination is very important for you, and we know that many of you took time out and spent your own money, to get to London to stand in unity. We are also grateful to the Sabha's in Bedford and Southall that provided the coaches free of charge to get demonstrators to London. We thank you.

Our London protest was one of many protests and marches around the world on 21 June in a Global Day of Action against Caste Discrimination. We are confident that these protests will grow from strength to strength in the years to come – until we rid society of Caste Discrimination.

For those who were unable to attend, you will want to know that there was an excellent turnout by organisations (photos attached). Additionally, a delegation of Dalit leaders submitted by hand a powerful letter to the Prime Minister (see attached) to No10, Downing Street. The letter called on Mr. David Cameron, UK Prime Minister:

- Demanded that the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, stops delaying the implementation of the law agreed by Parliament to outlaw Caste-based discrimination in the UK. We asked the PM to personally intervene in this matter
- Requested that the PM to add not just his voice but his clout to our Stop Caste Rape campaign and the Battle Plan to stop rape as a weapon of war announced by Foreign Secretary, Mr. Hague and Special Envoy of UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Angelina Jolie on 10, June, is expanded to include Caste-based rape. Asked that the PM support our call for an end to Caste-based Discrimination and that the Foreign Office, the Department for Business Innovation and Skills, DCMS and the Department for International Development set out in one document what actions and initiatives they are taking to end Caste-based discrimination, here and abroad.
- Requested the PM supports our request that Government's policy makers adopt and integrate the draft UN Principles and Guidelines for the Effective Elimination of Discrimination based on Work and Descent Promote the draft UN Principles and Guidelines for the Effective Elimination of Discrimination based on Work and Descent established by the UN Human Rights Council (A/HRC/11/CRP.3); into their anti discrimination, human rights and employment policy development frameworks.

Following the demonstration and the letter to the Mr. David Cameron, long-time supporter Lord Avebury tabled the following Written Parliamentary Question on 23 June:

" to ask Her Majesty's Government whether their plans to stop the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war announced in June 2014 will cover caste-based sexual violence, rape and so-called punishment rape. "[FCO] HL507

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld/ldcumlst.htm>

With thanks to your support, we believe the Prime Minister and his team in London got a measure of strength of feeling about the delay to enactment of caste discrimination legislation, the ongoing gang-rapes of women and girls in India, and about the Human Rights of Dalit's.

We will to continue chase progress on the actions requested in the letter to Mr. Cameron.

Please do circulate this email to friends and colleagues who may have an interest in this issue.

In Unity and Solidarity

The Anti Caste Discrimination Alliance Team