

INVITATION TO SIDE-EVENT ON:

# CASTE-BASED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

THE ROLE OF THE UN IN COMBATting CASTE-BASED VIOLENCE AND DISCRIMINATION

**17th June 2014, 13-15:00, UN HRC26 side-event, Room XXIII, Palais des Nations, Geneva**

The event will address caste-based sexual and other forms of violence against women and girls in caste-affected countries and explore with United Nations stakeholders how to take comprehensive and urgent action on this issue. Dalit women human rights defenders will speak of the reality on the ground in South Asia and a preview of a documentary on the Dalit women's fight for justice in India will be screened.

## OBJECTIVES

1. Providing a better understanding of the intersection between gender-based violence and caste discrimination and highlighting the cross-cutting themes affecting Dalit women and similarly affected communities.
2. Sharing good practices, recent developments, and actions taken by various stakeholders to eliminate violence against Dalit women.
3. Exploring ways forward to address caste-based violations including Dalit women, in particular in the context of the UN Human Rights Council.

## OPENING KEY NOTE SPEAKER

**Ms. Navi Pillay, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights**

## OTHER SPEAKERS

Ms. Asha Kowtal, General Secretary of the All India Dalit Human Rights Forum (AIDMAM)

Ms. Manjula Pradeep, Asia Dalit Rights Forum, Director of Navsarjan Trust

Ms. Durga Sob, President, Feminist Dalit Organisation, Nepal

Ms Julie De Rivero, Geneva Advocacy Director, Human Rights Watch

Ms. Rita Izsák, Independent Expert on Minority Issues

Ms. Saraswathi Menon, Director, Policy Division, UN Women – Closing remarks

Moderator: Ms. Jyoti Sanghera, Chief, Human Rights and Economic and Social Issues Section, OHCHR

The side-event is sponsored by Human Rights Watch, International Movement against all forms of Discrimination and Racism, Minority Rights Group, Franciscan International, and Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development and organised in association with International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN) and co-sponsored by Denmark and Norway.



Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development



International Dalit Solidarity Network

WORKING GLOBALLY AGAINST DISCRIMINATION BASED ON WORK AND DESCENT

**LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED**

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS OF DENMARK

