

Henri Tiphagne, India

- Executive Director – **People’s Watch**
- Former Member of **National Core group of NGOs on National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)**, New Delhi
- Former **Special Representative for the National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)**
- Chairperson, FORUM-ASIA, Bangkok
- Executive Committee Member of **World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT)**, Geneva
- Expert Group Member of **International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN)**, Copenhagen
- Honorary National Working Secretary, **All India Network of NGOs and Individuals working with National & State Human Rights Institutions (AiNNI)**
- Honorary National Working Secretary, **Human Rights Defenders Alert – India (HRDA)**

Henri Tiphagne is an Advocate with extensive experience in criminal law and functioning as the Executive Director of People’s Watch, a National Human Rights Organisation. People’s Watch is engaged in a program of Human Rights Monitoring, Legal Intervention, Campaigning and Networking. It has been specialising in training programs across the country on training the activists to undertake fact finding missions particularly covering the caste base discrimination and practice of untouchability as well as torture, extra judicial killings and disappearances. He has also been instrumental in initiating the **Institute of Human Rights Education** which has progressed into 18 States of India through partners embarking upon Human Rights Education program for children in schools in classes 6, 7 & 8 reaching over 5, 00,000 students, in 5,000 schools with over 5,000 teachers. He has also been instrumental in initiating establishment of Sudhanthra, a rehabilitation centre for victims of domestic violence and torture.

In addition he also functions as the Executive Committee Member of the **International Organisation against Torture (OMCT)** based in Geneva [2008 – till now] and serves as the Chairperson of Forum Asia based in Bangkok from 2010 onwards. He is presently also the National Convenor of the Working Group on Human Rights in India and the UN and serves the International Dalit Solidarity Network as its Council Member.

He was formerly a member of the **National Core Group of NGOs of the National Human Rights Commission of India [2001 – 2011]** as well as the **State Representative for the State of Tamil Nadu for Right to Education Act of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights [2010 – 2013]**.

He has been instrumental in initiating two major country level platforms. The first is **Human Rights Defenders Alert India**, which is the premier platform to speak for and on behalf of Human Rights Defenders in distress locally and National level and to United Nations and its Mechanism for the protection of Human Rights Defenders. The second platform is **All India Networks of Individuals and NGOs working with National Human Rights Institutions (AiNNI)** which engages itself in monitoring the functioning of various National / State Human Rights Institutions in India in accordance with Paris Principles.

He has been instrumental further in initiating building of the Citizens for Human Rights Movement in Tamil Nadu, a movement comprising over 1,500 units of small Amnesty type Cells which

functions from the grass roots with varied scales of activities at the Taluk, District and State levels for the protection and promotion of human rights.