

Caste references in the EU Annual Report on Human Rights and Democracy in the World in 2013

India

Equality in aid, an EU-funded International Dalit Solidarity Network report launched in November, looks into the issue of equality and non-discriminatory practices in the allocation of humanitarian aid. On 10 October, the European Parliament passed a resolution addressing caste-based discrimination in its various forms. The fight against discrimination in all its forms is addressed in a number of projects under the EU's development cooperation programme and thematic instruments such as EIDHR and Non-State Actors, targeting key marginalised and vulnerable groups, including those discriminated against on the basis of caste, disability, gender and ethnicity. Initiatives have ranged from providing legal aid and access to justice to capacity building and empowering target groups.

Nepal:

Caste-based discrimination and gender-based violence and discrimination were addressed through engagement with the government on its commitments at the universal periodic review in 2011 and ongoing support for civil society projects. Support was granted to civil society projects promoting access to resources and opportunities for disabled and other marginalised groups and communities and increasing their participation. The EU addressed the situation of human rights defenders in meetings with activists, bi-annual meetings of the EU Working Group for the protection of Human Rights Defenders chaired by the EU Delegation, and support for civil society projects.

Pakistan:

The conclusions of the Foreign Affairs Council in March strongly condemned all acts of violence against vulnerable religious minorities in Pakistan and the HR/VP and European Parliament both condemned the Peshawar church attack and other violence against religious minorities and called for the perpetrators to be brought to justice. The European Parliament also adopted a resolution on caste-based discrimination, an issue that often merges with faith-based discrimination in Pakistan. The EU is engaging with the newly elected government on priority issues including human rights and the protection of minoritie