International Consultation on Caste-Based Discrimination

Good practices and strategies to eliminate caste discrimination

29 November – 1 December 2011 · Kathmandu · Nepal

International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN) in cooperation with Feminist Dalit Organisation (FEDO), Nepal

The Consultation is organised by the International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN) in cooperation with Feminist Dalit Organisation (FEDO), Nepal

Cover photo by Jakob Carlsen: A young Dalit boy in Nepal is leaping for change

The Consultation is organised by the International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN) in cooperation with Feminist Dalit Organisation (FEDO), Nepal

Nepal National Dalit Social Welfare Organisation (NNDSWO) and Dalit NGO Federation with financial support of the European Union. The contents of the consultation are the sole responsibility of IDSN and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union.

Cover photo by Jakob Carlsen: A young Dalit boy in Nepal is leaping for change
29 November – 1 December 2011 · Kathmandu · Nepal

International Consultation on Caste-Based Discrimination

Good practices and strategies to eliminate caste discrimination

29 November

08:30 Registration
09:00 Inaugural Session
Consultation Moderator: Ms. Gay McDougall, Visiting Secretary, Dalit NGO Federation, Nepal
Speakers:
Ms. Durga Sob, President, Feminist Dalit Organization, Nepal
Ms. Rikke Nöhrlind, Coordinator, International Dalit Solidarity Network
Mr. Loris Navarro, Chargé d’Affaires of the European Union Delegation to Nepal
Mr. Vijay Parmar, National Convenor, National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights, India
Ms. Bijal Kumar Bishawarma, Chair, National Dalit Commission, Nepal
Ms. Jyoti Sanghera, Head, UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights – Nepal
Ms. Jean Lambert, Chair, The European Parliamentary Delegation for relations with South Asia
Chief Guest: Mr. Narayan Kaji Shresth, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nepal
Short film screening: “We are not untouched: End caste discrimination now”

10:20 Session I

Effective civil society strategies
Speakers:
Mr. Bezwada Wilson, National Convenor, Safai Karmachari Andolan, India
Dr. Trilochan Upadhyay, Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers, Nepal
Mr. Bhakta Bishawarma, President, National Dalit Social Welfare Organisation, Nepal
Ms. Ruth Manorama, President, National Federation of Dalit Women, India
Mr. Gajadhar Sunar, President, Dalit NGO Federation, Nepal
Ms. Gufta Shahini, UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery
Discussion

11:15 Coffee at tables
16:15 Coffee Break

11:30 Session II

Effective frameworks and institutions: Challenges, good practices and opportunities
Co-moderator: Mr. Meen Bishawarma, Member, Nepali Congress Executive Committee
Speakers:
Constitutional drafting and the caste-based Discrimination and Untouchability Act:
Mr. Yam Bahadur Kisan, Independent Lawyer, writer and researcher, Nepal
Access to Justice for Dalits in Nepal – OHCHR’s experience and recommendations:
Ms. Katia Chiruzzi, Coordinator Anti-Discrimination/Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Section, UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights – Nepal
Access to Justice for Dalits in India – Effective Enforcement of legislation:
Mr. Prasad Sinivala, General Secretary, Justice Movement, National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights, India
Discussion:
Ms. Meenakshi Ganguly, South Asia Director, Human Rights Watch
Discussion

12:40 Lunch

13:45 Session III

Experiences of National Human Rights Institutions
Speakers:
Mr. Bishal Khanal, Secretary, National Human Rights Commission, Nepal
Mr. J. Pariyar, Member secretary of National Dalit’s Commission, Nepal
Mr. Raju Parman, Commission member, The National Commission on Scheduled Castes, India
Ms. Selina Hossain, Commission member, The National Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh
Discussion:
Mr. Henri Tiphagne, Director, People’s Watch – Tamil Nadu, India

15:00 Session IV

Mainstreaming and inclusion in programming
Speakers:
Data collation and monitoring:
Mr. Littam Narayan Malla, Director General, Central Bureau of Statistics, Nepal
Inclusive Government Policies and Programming:
Mr. Shiv Bahadur Rayamajhi, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Local Development, Nepal
Experiences of UNDP-Nepal:
Mr. Dharma Swarnakar, Programme Officer, UNDP, Nepal
Dalits in Bangladesh:
Mr. Zakir Hossein, Director, Nagarik Uddyog/Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Rights Movement
Discussion:
Mr. Paul Divakar, General Secretary, National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights, India

16:45 Session V

Mainstreaming and inclusion in programming
Speakers:
Experiences of the EU:
Mr. Shiva Bhandari, Programme Manager, EU delegation – Nepal
Experiences of the ILO:
Mr. Coen Kompier, Senior Specialist on International Labour Standards, ILO
Discussion:
Mr. Martin Macwan, Co-Founder, Navasnjar Trust, India
Experiences of the Al-Akhdam:
Mr. Sami Al-Naggar, Chair, All Youths Organisation, Yemen
Dalits in Pakistan: rights and development:
Mr. Sono Khangarai, Director, Tardeep Rural Development Organisation, Pakistan
Discussion

18:00 – 18:20 Rounding up of deliberations of the day
19:30 Dinner

30 November

08:30 Recapping from day one and information on workshops
09:00 Session VI

Good practices and future strategies to eliminate caste discrimination in humanitarian relief and rehabilitation assistance
Co-moderator: Mr. Tudor Silva, Technical Co-ordinator Anti-Discrimination/Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Section, UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights – Nepal
Speaker:
Ms. Meenakshi Ganguly, President, National Dalit Social Welfare Organisation (NDWSO) and Dalit NGO Federation with financial support of the European Union.
Discussion:
Mr. Samuel Marie-Fanon, Technical Assistant for Nepal and Rapid Reaction Coordinator for South Asia (ECHO)

09:45 Session VII

Addressing multiple forms of discrimination against Dalit women
Co-moderator: Ms. Ruth Manorama, President, Federation of Dalit Women, India
Speaker:
Ms. Manjula Pradeep, Director, Navasnjar Trust, India
Discussion:
Ms. Sangeeta Thapa, Programme Coordinator, UN Women South Asia

10:30 Move to workshops – Coffee in rooms

11:00 End of consultation

The Consultation is organised by the International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN) in cooperation with Feminist Dalit Organisation (FEDO), Nepal National Dalit Social Welfare Organisation (NDWSO) and Dalit NGO Federation with financial support of the European Union. The contents of the consultation are the sole responsibility of IDSN and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union.

Cover photo by Jakob Carlsen: A young Dalit boy in Nepal is leaping for change.

10:35 Session VIII

Workshops 1, 2, 3, and 4
Workshop themes:
1. Effective frameworks, policies and institutions
2. Addressing multiple discrimination against Dalit women
3. Humanitarians standards and a framework to eliminate caste-based discrimination in humanitarian responses
4. Forced and bonded labour and discrimination issues in employment

13:30 Lunch
14:30 Session IX

Workshops 5, 6, 7 and 8
Workshop themes:
5. Access to development: services and resources
6. Public Awareness and Campaigns against Caste Discrimination
7. Untouchability practices and inter-community experiences
8. Civil society strategies – linking local, national and international strategies

17:30 End of workshops
19:30 Dinner

1 December

09:00 Session X

Conclusions
Recommendations from workshops
Presentation of Consultation Declaration by Drafting Committee
Reflections
Closing remarks
Ms. Nimalaka Fernando, President, International Movement Against all forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR)
Mr. Morten Jepsen, Ambassador of Denmark to Nepal – EU Local Presidency
Mr. Rory Mungoven, Head of Asia Pacific Section, UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Mr. Gajadhar Sunar, President, Dalit NGO Federation, Nepal
Ms. Rikke Nöhrlind, Coordinator, IDSN