

References to Caste-Based Discrimination in the [OHCHR Strategic Management Plan 2014-17](#), April 2014

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<p>Navi Pillay Introduction April 2014</p>	<p>Women continue to suffer discrimination, violence and persecution. Population shifts fuelled by rising poverty, refugee movements and volatile global economies require us to address and challenge fears of ‘the other’ as a priority. The exclusion, marginalization and abuse of people on the basis of their perceived race, their indigenous, ethnic or religious background, their colour, gender, caste status, disability, age, health status or sexual orientation, are scourges that the international community must combat.</p>
<p>OHCHR thematic priority: Enhancing equality and countering discrimination April 2014</p>	<p><u>Relevance of the Issue</u></p> <p>The elimination of all forms of discrimination has been one of the core objectives of the United Nations since its inception. Non-discrimination and equality before the law constitute fundamental principles of international human rights law and are essential elements of human dignity. Indeed, the international human rights framework was built upon and operates in accordance with the fundamental premise of equal respect for all persons and freedom from discrimination on any ground. In far too many countries, however, people continue to be excluded, marginalized, distinguished and restricted in the exercise of their rights based on grounds of race, colour, national, ethnic or social origin, language, sex, religion, political or other opinion, descent, birth, caste, age, disability, health status, migration status, sexual orientation or gender identity. The burden is even greater for those who experience multiple forms of discrimination (p. 40)</p> <p><u>OHCHR added value</u></p> <p>Combating discrimination is the central focus of three of the treaty bodies, namely the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). It is also a recurrent theme in the work of other treaty bodies, including the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW) and the Committee against Torture (CAT), each of which has issued recommendations concerning discriminatory restrictions on the exercise of treaty-protected rights. The work of these bodies has helped to clarify the extent of the obligations of States Parties to protect individuals from discrimination on grounds of race, colour, national, ethnic or social origin, language, sex, religion, political or other opinion, descent, birth, caste, age, disability, health status, migration status, sexual orientation, gender identity or other grounds and areas where awareness about such discrimination has increased in recent years. (p.42-43)</p> <p>In this context, the Office has in some cases developed public information campaigns to address and challenge public attitudes and negative</p>

	<p>stereotypes contributing to discriminatory practices. OHCHR’s engagement on the issue of caste-based discrimination in Nepal demonstrates that when sufficient efforts, a broad network of actors and a ground swell of opinion are mobilized, including through the media, positive change is possible. In Nepal, national legislation criminalizing caste-based discrimination was passed in 2011 under the impetus garnered by the OHCHR Nepal Office which was followed by a 100-day campaign launched by the President of the country to end caste-based discrimination. (p. 43)</p> <p><u>Anti-discrimination laws, policies and institutions [EA4]</u></p> <p><u>Increased number of specialized equality bodies, focal points and national human rights institutions working on equality and non-discrimination in line with international standards</u></p> <p>OHCHR intends to contribute to this change by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advocating that specialized equality bodies more effectively address discrimination, particularly on grounds of race, colour, national, ethnic or social origin, language, sex, religion, political or other opinion, descent, birth, caste, age, disability, health status, migration status, sexual orientation and gender identity, as well as incitement to hatred. (p. 46)
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