



WE DEMAND EQUALITY

WE DEMAND MINORITY PROTECTION

CASTE DEMEANS HUMAN BEINGS

WE DEMAND EQUALITY BEFORE LAW FOR ALL

IMPLEMENT EQUALITY ACT 2010 SECTION (9) NOW!

DALIT SOLIDARITY NETWORK UK
A world without caste discrimination



If you are not considered human, then human rights do not apply to you

You and your neighbour come from the same village – your families have done for generations. You are both of the same race, same skin colour and of the same religion. But your neighbour won't let you into his house, won't socialize



with you, won't eat any food you prepare and won't let you draw water from the same well.

Your children go to the same school, but while his sit in the front of the classroom at desks, yours are made to sit at the back (or sometimes outside the classroom) on the floor. They aren't allowed to eat in the same place. And when they grow up, they won't be allowed to marry each other. Why? Because you are a Dalit and have been subjected for millennia to **caste-based discrimination**.

*Left: Jassi is 12 years old. She is a child labourer – part of the Hindu Dalit minority in Pakistan. Her father borrowed money from the carpet factory owner, and she works to pay off his debt. She doesn't go to school, works 7 days a week – and up to 18 hours a day. Many child carpet labourers lose their eyesight over time.
Photo © Jakob Carlsen/IDSN*



Above: Dalit children are often harassed by teachers and 'dominant' caste children. They are routinely seated at the back of classrooms and are often forced to clean the school toilets during break times.

Photo © Jakob Carlsen/IDSN

- There are more than 260 million Dalits worldwide
- In India, Dalit women die 14.6 years younger than the average woman
- Dalits are the targets of over 60% of hate crimes in India
- 57% of Dalit children in India enrolled in elementary school drop out

‘Lesser humans’

‘Untouchables’, known in South Asia as Dalits, number around 260 million worldwide and caste discrimination is one of the most serious and hidden human rights issues in the world today. The hierarchical nature of the caste system results in unimaginable suffering, including violence, sexual exploitation and rape, degradation, poverty and modern slavery.



You can’t leave your caste behind

Caste systems are mainly found in South Asia but also in Africa, the Middle East and the Pacific. It also exists in the diaspora communities migrated from these countries. It is not religious and is subscribed to (and affects) members of any or no religion at all.

Such deeply entrenched cultural norms that create this form of discrimination also exist within the diaspora communities in the UK, largely unknown and unseen by those outside these communities.

Caste-based discrimination in the UK can take the form of bullying and harassment in the workplace, lack – or denial – of promotional opportunities, as well as a refusal of provision of goods and services. Until caste is recognised as a form of discrimination in the UK, there is no recourse to justice for Dalit communities and their right to equality and dignity is denied.



Left: Dalit women’s school in the Sweepers’ Colony in Bangladesh, where women learn to read and write in Bengali. They don’t have a classroom, so they have to sit outside. This is the beginning of their empowerment.

Photo © Jakob Carlsen/IDSN

- In Nepal, nearly half of all Dalits live below the poverty line and just over half are literate
- In Bangladesh, 43% of Dalits do cleaning jobs
- In Pakistan, the majority of Dalits are landless and disproportionately affected by bonded labour, including Dalit children



Take action

Our vision is a world without caste-based discrimination. Campaigning for over 20 years, we aim to secure the human rights of Dalits.

DSN-UK works to challenge and alleviate injustice and discrimination against Dalits and their communities by changing values and practices through law and policy changes.

Visit our website www.dsnuk.org.

- Join us and stay updated
- Donate to support our campaign
- Follow us on Twitter: @DSNUK
- Like our Facebook page: 'Dalit Solidarity Network UK'

Left: Many Dalits are forced to work in bonded labour, a form of slavery where workers are bound for a lifetime into debt that is nearly impossible for them to repay. Bonded labourers often work under inhumane conditions and with little time off. The debts are passed down through families, resulting in centuries of generational debt.

Photo © Jakob Carlsen/IDSN



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The **Methodist Church** 
Our Calling

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