

JOINT ENDEAVOURS

'Decade of Dalit Rights UN, 2011-20: 24-25 June, 11, Geneva

The Conference on 'Decade of Dalit Rights UN, 2011-20: Decisive decade against Discrimination based on Work and Descent' was hosted in Geneva, on June 24-25 June 2011. This historical meeting was inaugurated by Rory Mungovan, Head of Asia Pacific Unit, OHCHR. Fifty representatives from the caste affected countries of Bangladesh, India, Japan, Nepal and Sri Lanka, solidarity networks from Denmark, Germany, Netherlands and UK, International Human Rights Organizations, Faith Bodies, INGOs, and researchers participated in the Conference.

Formulating strategies for the future engagement was the objective of the two day conference. Panelists from across the world presented their respective country papers specific to the contexts of Dalits and the response of the respective States in addressing discrimination and violence.

Having reviewed the activities of the past decade, the delegates recognized the initiatives taken by the United Nations (UN), through Treaty Bodies and other mechanisms, to combat discrimination based on work and descent, including discrimination based on forms of social stratification such as caste and analogous systems of inherited status, which nullify or impair the equal enjoyment of human rights. Nonetheless, discrimination based on work and descent (DWD) still continues.

Hence, having reflected on the opportunities and feasibilities for the next decade (2011-20) to tear down the barriers of caste and having chalked out effective future strategies, the delegates evolved a strong declaration on strategies at the local and national levels, regional and international levels, along with the expected outcomes at these levels.



Intervention leading to rescue of a minor Dalit Girl from Delhi

During the Delhi mapping survey for collecting the qualitative details on SCs' situation in Delhi, our team came across a case involving one minor dalit girl who was missing from home and her parents alleged their neighbour of kidnapping/ trafficking. We initiated investigation in this case and were able to compel the concerned police station to send its team to rescue the girl. The police located the girl in Malda, West Bengal and after getting identified by her father she was brought to Delhi. Legal action will be taken based on girl's deposition.

Hit the link to read the:

- [High Commissioner Letter](#)
- [Summary Report](#)
- [Rory Mungovan Speech](#)
- [Declaration](#)



NCDHR

A rally organized for free admission in Residential School and for higher Education of Dalit girls, 3 June, Bihar

On 3rd June in Aurangabad, Bihar, a rally was organized for free Admission in Residential School and for higher Education of Dalit girls by AIDMAM and Centre for Social Equity and Inclusion. There were about 250 children who took part in the rally. A memorandum was also drafted and submitted before the State SC/ST Welfare Minister and the State Education Minister.

NCDHR-ALL INDIA DALIT MAHILA ADHIKAR ANDOLAN (AIDMAM)

Training on Gender and Caste based Violence for Dalit Panchayat members and activists, 28 - 29 June, Uttar Pradesh

Training on Gender and Caste based Violence for Dalit Panchayat members and activists in Jaunpur, Uttar Pradesh, on 28-29 June 2011, was held in collaboration with Bhartiya Jan Seva Ashram. About 35 Dalit women participated in the 2 day residential training, and shared their views on gender discrimination and also articulated their experiences of caste based violence faced in their daily lives. The training was held on violence against women and the laws, SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and the role of Panchayat etc. During the 2-day training programme AIDMAM managed to reach out to the community and educate them about their rights to combat the discrimination they face every day.



Initiative that went unreported in May

Divisional level conference on reservations in the judiciary, 24 May, Bihar

Divisional level conference was organised in Bihar on reservations in the judiciary. Around 60 participants including OBCs, Dalits and Muslim advocates attended this conference. Several distinguished guests viz. retired judicial officers, district judges and retired civil service officers took active part in the meeting. The subject of pre conceived mindset of the Judiciary on Dalits issues were discussed at length.

Lack of access to free legal aid was voiced out as one of the impediments faced by the minority and socially marginalized communities, which drives them away from accessing the justice system.





NCDHR-DALIT ARTHIK ADHIKAR ANDOLAN (DAAA)

Another unruly demolition designed by MCD of Dalit habitants, Karol Bagh, New Delhi

Just after few months after demolishing Baljeet Nagar, yet another demolition of Dalit habitants near in Karol Bagh, New Delhi, is planned by MCD. The MCD had given an unsigned notice to the people residing in the community, just a day before they planned to bulldoze their houses, to leave the community where they have been living from the time of pre-independence. The members from community had filed a petition in the High Court which met with the rejection. The community members (petitioners) are being assisted by DAAA team members who have been actively engaged in legal and social action against the Baljeet Nagar demolition (in March this year) on the legal and psycho-social aspects. This is yet another violation of the norms which these housing institutions, namely the MCD and DDA are bound to adhere to before evicting the people.

A total of 15 Dalit families are living here in possession of all the proofs of residence, viz. ration card, birth certificate, water tax receipts and death certificates etc. on the same residence address. As reported, the majority of dominant caste families residing next to the houses of these Dalits bears hatred towards them, call them names and mistreat them. The community has alleged that the MCD has planned the demolition together with the RWA of the area, from which the households of these 15 families are excluded. Due to legal recourse taken by the community, the MCD has postponed the demolition for time being. The fight now will be for their proper and adequate rehabilitation because this will affect the schooling of children, livelihood, and other established basic services these people are engaged in the area.

Ensuring (Dalit/Economically Weaker Section) children access 25% seats in non government schools in Delhi

A meeting on was called by CSEI on 4 June, at ISI, New Delhi, to deliberate on the issue of non implementation of the 25% reservation provisioned in non government schools for EWS children. The private schools recognized by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and also private schools that had received land from the government have been long violating this provision.

It must be noted that MCD in this case is the local authority (designated by the RTE Act) for implementation of the article for reservation in primary schools. Schools beyond primary levels were registered with the Delhi government.

In the meeting, there was a consensus that while there was much work at organizational levels in creating awareness on the RTE and providing support to (DA/EWS) children to access the 25% of seats mandated to them, greater visibility and collaborative action could provide an impetus to the process. NCDHR has committed to undertake the monitoring of the implementation of the RTE Act in MCD schools.

NCDHR- DAAA-NATIONAL DALIT WATCH www.nationaldalitwatch-ncdhr.blogspot.com

Joining hands with Sphere India on World Bank sponsored Bihar Kosi Flood Recovery Project

For reconstruction and rehabilitation, the Government of Bihar had announced "Bihar Kosi Flood Recovery Project" with the total cost of \$259 million, out of which the World Bank had approved and granted \$220 million (Rs. 1,000 Crores) as soft interest free loan. Sphere India has taken the initiative of identifying and addressing specific issues and gaps in the plan as well as large scale implementation of Kosi Rehabilitation project. For this, Dalit Watch Bihar and NDW have also joined the in the planning process, wherein a pilot survey of worst affected districts has been planned on sample basis. NDW and DW-BH intend to assess the inclusion aspect in the implementation of the project.

Participation in DDMP District level Stakeholders' Consultation' at Madhubani, Bihar, 9-11 June 2011

NDW representative participated in the 'DDMP District level Stakeholders' Consultation' at Madhubani, Bihar, organized by Sphere India. NDW participation was called upon to for highlighting the aspect of *inclusion of Dalits and other marginalized groups* in the process of formulation of District Disaster Management Plans, to the government officials and civil society organizations present in the consultation.



NCDHR- NATIONAL DALIT MOVEMENT FOR JUSTICE (NDMJ)

District-level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee, 22 June, East Champaran, Bihar

On 22 June, we met with the District Collector of East Champaran district of Bihar, along with the SC Commissioner, where the DSP and the DWO were also present. In the meeting it was resolved that the District-level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee meetings which are supposed to be held every three months will henceforth be held every month. A committee was also formed including two social workers, to monitor all the post mortem reports of all the murder cases registered under SCs & STs (PoA) Act in the district.

NHRC on police lathi-charge at Hissar Mini Secretariat

The victims of the infamous Mirchpur carnage case, (being followed up by us at the Supreme Court), were demonstrating at the Hissar Mini Secretariat since 6 June 2011, demanding security measures and relief as per the Supreme Court order. Suddenly, on 13 June, the police lathi-charged the demonstrating public, resulting in the injury of many silent protestors, of which, a lady died at the hospital on 21 June. On the following day, on 22 June, we met with the NHRC chairperson along with the eight victims, seeking their intervention in punishing the erring medical officers for their negligence and filing a case against the police officials, in conjunction to providing relief and compensation to the victims including the deceased Smt. Santosh Devi. Consequently, the commission served a notice to the DGP and the Chief Secretary of Haryana and advised us to file a contempt petition at the Supreme Court with follow-up at the judiciary.

Bihar PIL favourable order

On 30th June 2011, the Public Interest Litigation (CWJC/4560/2009) filed by us at Patna High Court was disposed in the court of Mr. Justice Prakash Chandra Verma & Mr. Justice Aditya Kumar Trivedi, ordering the State Government to implement all the provisions of the SCs & STs (PoA) Act and Rules immediately, and also instructing the petitioner(NCDHR) to file a contempt at the High Court if all the provisions are not implemented within 3 months.

Relief and Protection to Dalit victim and the entire hamlet, Bhagalpur, Bihar

On 4 June, at Bhagalpur District Collectorate in Bihar, we organized a mass rally of more than 100 people including 25 women, demanding justice to a case where a Dalit had been murdered for denying the extortion money to some local goons. Resultantly, the family of the deceased received a compensation of Rs. 1,61,500/-, his wife getting a government job and permanent protection provided to the Dalit hamlet, a Dalit getting arms license and the gang-leader being arrested by the police.

Chamrajanagar DVMC meeting held within 2 days- Karnataka, 1 June 2011

On 1 June, we organized a press conference at the Chamrajanagar district headquarter along-with four Dalit leaders and two members of the District-level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee and NGO leaders from the district, highlighting the fact that the committee meeting scheduled in March 2011 was not held. It was demanded from the District Magistrate to convene the meeting within the stipulated time of MPs, MLAs, MLCs, officials and all other members in the meeting. It was vastly covered in local newspapers, as a result of which the DM immediately called for the DVMC meeting on 3 June, where a parliamentarian and other officials were also present.

Requiring DVMC meetings in all districts of Uttar Pradesh

We have been filing RTI applications in many of the districts. In Uttar Pradesh, we have filed RTI application to District Magistrates in 66 of the districts for getting the report of the District-level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee as well as state-level officials including the Nodal officer at the Social Welfare Ministry. As a result, on 3 June 2011, the State Social Welfare Minister, Mr. Indrajeet Saroj, organized a meeting of the state level authorities and sent orders to the district level authorities requiring them to organize District level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee meetings regularly.



NDMJ continued...



SCs & STs (PoA) Act & Rules Training to DMs and SPs of Vidharbha Region, Maharashtra

After the High Court ordered the Government of Maharashtra to enforce the SCs & STs (PoA) Act & Rules, as a response to our PIL, the Government institute named Dr. Ambedkar Research & Training Institute, Pune, started training the district level officials authorized to implement the Act in the respective Districts. They have invited NCDHR-NDMJ as the technical resource persons for these trainings. On 1st & 2nd June, they organized division-wise trainings for the District Magistrates, the Superintendent of Polices (SPs) and the Deputy Superintendents of Police. The training programs were led by Mr. P. S. Wankhede (Director – Dr. Ambedkar Research & Training Institute, Pune) and the members of the State SC/ST Commission, Mr. M. R. Patil and Mr. C. L. Thool.

On 1 June, the officials of the 6 districts of Nagpur Division were trained at the Divisional Commissioners' Office, covering the DMs, SPs and DSPs of Wardha, Nagpur, Chandrapur, Bhandara, Gadchiroli and Gondia; and on 2 June, the officials of the 5 districts of Amravati Division were trained, covering the DMs, SPs and DSPs of Buldhana, Akola, Washim, Amravati and Yavatmal.

[NAC's Communal Violence Bill draft ready: \(The Hindu, 20th May 2011\)](#)

[Three Police companies deployed at Mirchpur: \(The Pioneer, 31 May 2011\)](#)

[Mirchpur Kand: Tarachand ki patni ne 81 aaropi pehchaane: \(Dainik Bhaskar, 30th April 2011\)](#)

[Witness identifies 81 accused in Mirchpur caste violence case: \(The Hindu, 5th May 2011\)](#)

[“Nyay Ke Liye Kadi Suraksha Kee Maang” – Manisha Bhalla \(Outlook – Hindi\)](#)

[“Mirchpur probe set to miss extended deadline” – Nishu Mahajan, Chandigarh \(The Pioneer\)](#)

[Funds for SC/STs to come under separate sub-heads](#)

[CM mute spectator to SC, ST atrocities: MLA – the Pioneer](#)

[“Govts watch blockades silently” – Dhananjay Mahapatra \(The Times of India\)](#)

[Share of the Scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Union Budget 2011-12](#)

OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS

[Manmohan pitches for implementation of laws to protect SCs](#)

[Non-Jat leader Tanwar in 7-day police custody](#)

[Mayawati wants PM to pay attention towards dalits of Mirchpur village](#)

[Police lathicharge Dalit protesters in Hisar](#)

[Khap panchayats' diktats must be ruthlessly stamped out: Apex court](#)