



General Council meeting of NCDHR

This will be held on **18 October**, following which a Public Conference is being organised on the same day in New Delhi, the theme of which is **Dalit Agenda for Next Decade-Issues and Challenges**.

A Symposium on 'Addressing Caste Based Discrimination over a Decade of Dalit rights in the UN'

This will be held on **19 October** and planned to be a concourse of human rights experts and advocates having in common a wealth of experience in working both in the country and in the UN. It will also bring together some who are acknowledged experts in the field of discrimination on the basis of caste. This will be a "thought-provoking" and "brainstorming" meeting from which we hope a range of concrete contribution will emerge informing future strategies. There will be two panels for:

- I. Stock taking of UN Mechanisms in addressing Caste Based Discrimination
- II. Deliberation on the relevance of interventions in the UN in strengthening Dalit Rights, Concerns and Challenges in the way forward

National Consultation for 'Dalit Stakeholders Report on Caste Based Discrimination for UN Universal Periodic Review II'

The National Coalition for Strengthening the SC and ST Prevention of Atrocities Act (NCSPA) along-with other Dalit Organizations is organising a **National Consultation for Dalit Stakeholders Report on Caste Based Discrimination for UN Universal Periodic Review (UPR) II**, on **19 October**, in New Delhi.

The UPR is a four yearly review of the human rights record of all the 192 members of the United Nations by the UN Human Rights Council on rotational basis. India's first review took place in 2008 and the second review is tentatively scheduled to take place between the 28 May and 8 June 2012. The main engagement of civil society actors in the UPR process is through submission of a "stakeholders' report", which needs to be submitted to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) by the 7th of November 2011.

JOINT ENDEAVOURS

Regional Consultations for Stakeholders Report to India's Second Universal Periodic Review

NCDHR participated in Regional Consultation towards India's Second Universal Periodic Review (UPR) organised by WGHR. The Regional Consultations were held in Delhi, Ahmadabad, Puri and Bangalore. NCDHR with WGHR took a pro active role in organizing Puri consultation and Dr. SDJM Prasad was invited as a resource person. Four regional consultations brought together region specific problems and a rich pool of information collated and documented by NCDHR. These consultations mainly dealt with specific themes like discrimination, access to justice, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and Militarisation and Security Legislation.





NCDHR-ALL INDIA DALIT MAHILA ADHIKAR ANDOLAN (AIDMAM)

Bihar Public Hearing, 19 – 20 September, Bihar

The Bihar State level Public Hearing was organized by All India Dalit Mahila Adhikar Manch on 19th and 20th September in Patna Youth Hostel, titled **‘from victimhood to survival of Dalit women’**. 25 cases of heinous crimes against Dalit women were presented before the jury, the recommendations would be now used for further advocacy with duty bearers and officers. Women and community members from 10 districts were present at the public hearing.

The Chief Guest, Shri. Jitenram Manjhi, Social Welfare Minister, inaugurated the programme in the presence of other dignitaries including Prof. Vimal Thorat, National Convenor AIDMAM, Shri. Vidyandand Vikalp, Chairperson SC Commission, Dr.Yogender Paswan, Deputy Chairperson, SC Commission, Smt. Amla Devi, MLA, and Shri. Bhagat, Deputy Chairperson ST Commission. This hearing was organized as a part of the UNDP Programme ‘Access to Justice for Marginalized’ in collaboration with the Department of Justice, Government of India.

All the dignitaries assured their support in the follow up of the cases.

3 days ‘Pilot Training in Project Management’, 14 – 16 September, Bhopal

AIDMAM participated in the three day training from 14th to 16th September, organised by the PACS, on ‘Pilot Training in Project Management’, in Bhopal. The training was conducted by Crown Agents, an external resource agency. They are carrying out the assignment for development of Manual on Project Management and conducted the initial trainings on the same. The training was organised to further help to finalise the manual and the training designs for the project.



NCDHR-DALIT ARTHIK ADHIKAR ANDOLAN (DAAA)



State Consultation on Special Component Plan, 24th September 2011, Patna

On the Birth Anniversary of first Dalit Chief Minister of Bihar "Late Bhola Paswan Shastri" a state level consultation was organized jointly by Vanchit Prathisthan, PRAXIS and NCDHR on Special Component Plan in Tara Mandal, Patna attended by 100 civil society organizations, academicians, bureaucrats and youth participated in this from across the state. Shri. Sushil Kumar Modi, Finance Minister of Bihar was the chief guest. The study on SCP in Bihar highlighted that SCP allocation has increased in 2011-12 state budget in comparison to previous budgets, Minor Code 789 was opened for SCP, but pointed out that in the coming budgets, all departments' should allocate money as per SCP guidelines, money should be provided for direct benefit and new programmes should be devised for Dalit empowerment.

Shri. Sushil Kumar Modi accepted that this is beginning on SCP and a lot needs to be done, he promised that demands raised will be realized in the next budget.

Advocacy to recall the de-reservation order for Dalits in SC / ST Hostels in Uttar Pradesh

On 6th September 2011, the Social Welfare Department released an order to De-reserve SC/ST Hostels by a factor of 30% and reserve it again for the benefit of other social units. It came to our notice on 21st September, and acquired a copy of the order from the Department. Series of spontaneous action organised following the information led the Officials of the Social Welfare Department to take cognizance and revoke the Order. (No. 1496/26-3-2011-14(3)/2011 dated 6th Sep 2011 on 27th Sep 2011)

DAAA team met with political representatives, academicians and retired bureaucrats to protest but they refused to even talk on it, stating it to be inappropriate in view of the forthcoming election. Others simply blamed the ruling government for this act, stating, "if your government is doing like this then what we can do".

A meeting was held in Varanasi on 22nd September, which then followed a letter to the Principal Secretary and a press release that has been covered in the news papers. To make it more effective, it was followed up with mass protest in Ghazipur, Deoria, Mau and Azamgarh districts. After all the protests a press conference was held in Lucknow on 26th September, following a meeting with the Director of Social Welfare Department.





Follow-up Meeting of Karol Bagh Demolition Case, 17 September 2011

On 17th September, a meeting was held with some residents of Karol Bagh and lawyer for the Karol Bagh case as a follow-up to the 14th September hearing. The lawyer debriefed the group about the details of the status of the case and that the hearing of the main case, for "Adverse Possession" will be heard on 9th November along with this case. It means that both the petition will now be heard on same day. The order of the 14th September hearing is yet to come. At present we need to prepare a letter and submit it to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi & the police station along with the case application and a copy of the order requesting a halt at further demolitions since the case is still pending in the High Court and also that at least few residents must be continuously present at the demolished site till the 9th November hearing.

NCDHR- DAAA-NATIONAL DALIT WATCH

www.nationaldalitwatch-ncdhr.blogspot.com

Monitoring Government Rescue and Relief Operations in Assam Flood

The floods of 2011 in Assam have mainly created havoc in Dhemaji and Lakhimpur districts affecting more than 1000 villages, 50000 households, 2,50,000 population in the two areas. The worst affected Blocks are the Sissiborgaon, Dhemaji and Jonai blocks of Dhemaji district and Naoboicha, Boginadi, Bihpuria and Lakhimpur blocks of Lakhimpur district.

NDW along-with RVC conducted a rapid assessment 40 SC villages and found that no warning was given to the SC villages prior to the floods but at the same time the adjacent dominant caste villages got the information in time. Nearly 70% of the families have lost everything, Improper relief distribution has been noticed in the SC villages; relief needs of children, elderly and differently abled have been ignored by the authorities, The average delay in making relief material available in SC villages was of 5 days after the floods. In these 40 villages, no toilets have been provided to the SCs.

Flood monitoring conducted in Kendrapada district of Orissa

The incessant rain triggered a depression over the Bay of Bengal, which led to the floods for the second time in a gap of two weeks in Brahmani and Baitarani rivers, exacerbated by the release of water from the Rengali dam in Orissa state.

In lieu of this, NDW along with its local partners like Action for Rural Upliftment and Planning (ARUP) and REISWA in Orissa the monitored the government's rescue and relief operations to assess accessibility of the operation to SC/ST communities marooned in the worst affected district of Kendrapara. A cadre of 15 volunteers has been deployed in 40 worst affected SC villages. It has been reported by Dalits that only powerful and dominant caste took the facilities of the rescue boats. Majority of dalit people were deprived of it. 90% of the dalit houses are fully damaged; and some are forced to live under the open sky with their children, while some others are taking shelter in their relatives' house. The food was first served to the other caste people and in the end to the the Dalits. During relief distribution, the elderly, women, disabled and sick people are neglected. Government relief was mostly distributed by PRI representatives where maximum share went to the higher caste people as the ward members and the Sarpanch.

On 27th September in Pattamundai block of Kendrapada district, Dalits to whom relief had not reached gathered to agitate in front of the Tehasil (SDM) office and N.A.C (Notified Area Council) office to demand adequate supply of relief. The officials were cautioned of strong action and news being carried by media if relief did not reach them. Resultantly, relief distribution was regularized in villages and the Special Relief officer has also visited these neglected villages.





NCDHR- NATIONAL DALIT MOVEMENT FOR JUSTICE (NDMJ)

Release of Status Report of Enforcing SCs & STs (PoA) Act, 15 September 2011, Bangalore, Karnataka



A consultation of MLAs was organised at the Legislator House, in Bangalore. A Status Report of implementation of SCs & STs (PoA) Act in Karnataka was released by the Hon'ble Energy Minister, Kumari Shobha Karandlaje and other dignitaries. A coalition consisting of human rights and dalit rights organisations and individuals working also on RTI in Karnataka, including NDMJ-NCDHR had compiled the report. The report, traced the atrocities committed against SC/STs in the light of the SCs/STs (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989.

Releasing the report, Ms. Karandlaje and the party leader said that a change in the mindset of the people was needed to fight discrimination and uproot it. Awareness especially among the youth was emphasised to fight this evil. Deliberations took place on various strategies that are necessary to be taken for strengthening the implementation of the Act in the state.

Fact Finding Mission to Bharatpur, 15 September 2011

On 15th September, we came to know of a major communal atrocity in Bharatpur of Rajasthan, surrounding a dispute over the burial ground. We immediately accompanied the team comprising Anhad and member of National Integration Council. What we discovered is quite different from what was being pictured through the media. It was not only a violence between the Meo (a community of Muslim) and the Gurjar (a community of Hindu), but there was indiscriminate firing by the police which killed more than 10 Muslims. On 16th September, when we presented our findings to the media, we highlighted the police atrocity and the legal angle to our findings.

Meeting the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla, 7 September 2011

On 7th September, we met with the Honorable Chief Minister Mr. Prem Kumar Dhumal to invite him to a function along-with a team of delegates. During the meeting in Shimla, we presented to him the '**Report Card**' of 20 years of implementation of the SCs & STs (PoA) Act that was released by us in the year 2010 and also the '**Status Report**' of implementation of the SCs & STs (PoA) Act in Himachal Pradesh. After listening to us thoroughly, he asked us to give a copy of the same to the office of the Social Justice Department and also assured that he would take steps regarding this. Later it was learned from one of the district-level Superintendents of Police that the same 'Status Report' was sent to all the District Collectors and the Superintendent of Police of the State, who are responsible for implementation of the said Act at the district level. They were asked by the Social Justice Department to show the cause for discrepancies in implementation of the Act at their respective levels.





NCDHR making news:-

NDMJ continued...

Conviction of the accused in Mirchpur Carnage case, Rohini Court, Delhi, 24 September 2011

Fifteen out of 97 men belonging to dominant Jat community were convicted on 24th September, 2011 by a Delhi court. Additional Sessions Judge Kamini Lau, held that these 15 accused could not be charged under murder, but they were found guilty of other charges. The court convicted three accused men on charges of committing unintentional killing under Section 304 of the Indian Penal Code. Besides the three, 12 others were convicted on milder charges of arson, rioting and making unlawful assembly. Six of them were convicted for setting ablaze the houses of the members of the Dalit community. Another six were held guilty for rioting, unlawful assembly and causing damages to properties by stone-pelting. The court acquitted the remaining 82 accused saying the allegations levelled against them were not proved beyond reasonable doubt. The court convicted 15 Jats after examining 68 prosecution witnesses, 44 defence witnesses and one court witness.

[15 convicted, 82 acquitted in Mirchpur Dalit murder case \(The Hindu, 24th September 2011\)](#)

[Mirchpur killings: SHO among acquitted \(The Times of India, 25th September 2011\)](#)

[Mirchpur accused let off lightly \(The Tribune, 24th September 2011\)](#)

[No criminal conspiracy, murder in Mirchpur killings: court \(Indian Express, 25th September 2011\)](#)

[All 97 acquitted of murdering Dalits \(Hindustan Times, 24th September 2011\)](#)

[Mirchpur Dalit killings: 82 of 97 accused acquitted \(NDTV, 24th September 2011\)](#)

[Bharatpur Collector, SP removed \(The Hindu, 18th September 2011\)](#)

[Cops responsible for Bharatpur 'carnage', say victims \(India Today, 18th September 2011\)](#)

[NGO demands CBI probe into Bharatpur violence \(DNA, 16th September 2011\)](#)

[Atrocities against SCs, STs highest in Bangalore, Gulbarga: report \(The Hindu, 16th September 2011\)](#)

[K'taka 'pathetic' in dealing with cases against SC/STs: Study \(Indian Express, 16th September 2011\)](#)

[Hardly Any Conviction Under SC/ST Act in K'taka: Study \(Outlook India, 16th September 2011\)](#)

[Atrocities against SC/STs increasing, says report \(Deccan Herald, 16th September 2011\)](#)

[Bangalore ranks third in atrocities against SC/STs \(DNA, 16th September 2011\)](#)

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

I COMMIT TO END CASTE DISCRIMINATION AND UNTOUCHABILITY

About the Campaign

This is a Hundred Day Campaign jointly organized by the National Dalit Commission (NDC) and the United Nations Human Rights Office in Nepal (OHCHR-Nepal). On 16th September, the President of Nepal officially inaugurated the launch of the campaign and over a 100 participants, including Government

representatives, Human Rights Defenders and media personalities, took part in the campaign's first National Consultation programme.

Join the campaign:

<http://www.100daysagainstcastediscrimination.com/index.php>

For feedback and detailed information on our initiatives, write to us on info@ncdhr.org.in