



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
27 June 2019

English only

---

## Human Rights Council

### Forty-first session

24 June–12 July 2019

Agenda item 9

**Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, follow-up to and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action**

## **Written statement\* submitted by Liberation, a non-governmental organization on the roster**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[03 June 2019]

---

\* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.



## **Racial discrimination faced by marginalized Caste in India**

The developing countries are facing upsurge of religious communalism. They are also affected by caste system. India represents both trends. It is facing upsurge in religious fundamentalism and already existing unique caste system is becoming stronger again with every passing day. All its issues are linked to caste system in one way or another. People from ex-untouchable community also known as Dalits, constitutionally identified as Schedule Caste, are facing worst effects of caste system. Despite of India's tall claims on international forums, the situation in country is continuously deteriorating. Already prevalent caste system is getting momentum again as overtly communal forces are in power by misusing democratic mechanisms. Different communal organisations guided by Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, a terrorist organisation, are becoming stronger due to government's open support.

These communal organisations are violent and casteist (racist) in their basic nature. They openly oppose any law protecting rights of indigenous peoples, scheduled castes, religious minorities and women. One of the members from these organisations, Ms. Pradnya Thakur, recently got elected as Member of Parliament from state of Uttar Pradesh. She in her election campaign openly glorified first terrorist of independent India, Mr. Nathuram Godse, who killed Mr. Gandhi. She is prime accused in bomb blast case in which many innocent people were killed.

This communalisation has immediate effect on well-being of marginalised sections such as schedule caste and religious minorities. The laws are made ineffective by those who are in power. This was experienced by Dalits all over the country since Independence in 1947. And now as the communal forces are gaining government support, the threat has increased two fold. While there is a need to bring new laws to protect schedule caste and other marginalised communities, already existing laws are rendered ineffective due to administrative negligence.

The lives of Dalits and Tribals are not considered worthy in India. Recent series of deaths of members of schedule caste community (dalits) involved in scavenging is clear examples of this. While the tradition of manual scavenging is banned in India as per law (The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013), the practice still not only continues but also cost people their lives. In month of May, in Thane District, 6 people died while cleaning a septic tank in two different incidences. Though almost a month has passed none of their family members have received any compensation. The law is thus rendered ineffective.

The marginalised sections especially those affected most by caste system have high hope from Human Rights Council. Though there are internal mechanisms to demand justice, the mechanisms are becoming ineffective with growth of fundamentalism. In such situations, the international support can bring the positive change in lives of marginalised sections. At the same time it is disheartening to note that India has ignored suggestions of this august body time and again. India has not submitted its due report to committee against racial discrimination since 2010. Without any shame the government is denying existence of racial discrimination in the country on unworthy grounds. But even after of all this, the international community has failed to take any serious action against the state.

At this background we request the international community to insist upon India to:

- Ban all terrorist and communal organisations including Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).
- Implement the laws aimed at protecting rights of schedule caste, schedule tribes, religious minorities and women.
- Abide by its commitment given in Durban Declaration by preparing and implementing National Action Plan for annihilation of caste (racial discrimination) immediately.

Thank you.

---