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**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 Human Is Right, a non- governmental organization in special consultative status

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

[31 January 2023]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



Caste Discrimination In India

Caste discrimination affects an estimated 260 million people worldwide, the vast majority living in South Asia. It involves massive violations of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. Caste systems divide people into unequal and hierarchical social groups. Those at the bottom are considered ‘lesser human beings’, ‘impure’ and ‘polluting’ to other caste groups. Our organization wants to bring council attention towards India under the agenda item 4 where Caste discrimination is a highly politicised and sensitive issue. Despite constitutional safeguards and special legislation for the protection of the country’s 201 million ‘scheduled castes’ (the official term for Hindu, Sikh and Buddhist Dalits), violations of their fundamental human rights continue on a massive scale.

On 19 August 2022, The arrest of an upper caste woman for allegedly stopping Dalits from entering a temple in a Limbadiya village of Gujarat's Botad district led to the social boycott of residents of the scheduled Caste (SC) community. Upper caste Hindus of Limbadiya village issued a call asking shopkeepers and others to boycott Dalit residents. On 11 September 2022, in UP's Muzaffarnagar, a village head and his people aggressed a Dalit youth named Dinesh Kumar with slippers in public and threatened him with death while abusing caste slurs. They also recorded the incident and made it viral to humiliate the Dalit people of this area. Moreover violence against dalit and Adivasi women has also risen. A number of recent cases of rape and murder against Dalit women and girls in India have attracted attention from the media as well as world. But all too often, violence against Dalit women remains unreported in India. We urge this council to ask indian government to stop Caste discrimination and ensure protection of Dalit community and its rights.
