



Asia Dalit People's Declaration

Asia Dalit People's Assembly (ADPA) 2024

Virtual, Sept. 30, 2024

We, the representatives of Dalits and Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent (CDWD) from Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka have gathered virtually on 30th September, 2024 to hold Asia Dalits and CDWD People's Assembly 2024 through zoom platform. This declaration is the outcome of issues and concerns discussed in Asia Dalits and CDWD People's Assembly 2024. We aim to spread this concept to a wider audience unaware of the Dalits and CDWD issues; throughout the world. This declaration has been adopted by 13 organisations including ADRF and its member organisations, GCAP, GFOD, and TIP. Over 55 community members, CSO leaders, elected representatives, politicians, and members.

We demand an end to discrimination based on caste, work, descent and similar forms of segregation who are historically suppressed, oppressed, exploited, and systematically marginalised. We demand social justice for our people and we believe that without economic justice; social justice is not possible. On the one hand, Dalits and CDWD communities have faced caste-based untouchability, slavery, forced labour, segregation, and extreme violence up to now since centuries; on the other hand, recent financial crisis, disaster risks and climate change, universal health coverage and social protection have adversely affected.

In Asia, particularly in South Asian countries like Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka Dalits and CDWD have been experiencing /facing numerous discriminations and they have been strangled, pushing them far away from access to social and economic justice. Despite the global goal "Leave no one behind," Dalits and CDWD are facing extreme challenges to address rampant discrimination and exclusions particularly access to justice, proportional representation, livelihood, access to welfare schemes which further marginalised

these communities. It is high time to call for economic justice to Dalits and CDWD communities. We call, “Let’s Unite for Social and Economic justice!” Dalits and CDWD communities have come together and demand following actions to be taken to address historical injustices they have faced, to create a more equal, inclusive, and just world.

Demands:

1. Ensure social justice through economic justice.
2. End all forms of discrimination in the name of Dalits and CDWDs.
3. Assert Dalit and CDWDs rights over land and natural resources.
4. End poverty, hunger, unemployment, and loss of livelihood especially for CDWD communities including Dalits.
5. Adopt and execute effectively national-level budgets and healthcare plans that encompass all Dalits, and CDWD communities. Ensure Dalits and CDWD people's right to health and healthcare as a fundamental entitlement
6. Ensuring that the health insurance enrolment system and health insurance agents are held accountable to help the marginalised individuals from CDWD communities including Dalits, as well as setting up of the monitoring cells to effectively monitor the same. This will also help in identifying gaps and making necessary adjustments.
7. Establish a complaint centre where individuals can file complaints about unfair practices and negligence in healthcare facilities and ensure speedy redressal mechanisms for the same.
8. Adopt inclusive financial mechanisms for the most vulnerable Dalits and CDWDs.
9. Build more healthcare facilities, increased availability of healthcare professionals, and optimize a resilient supply chain for medicine and medical equipment. Proper sensitisation of health care personnel at the health care institutions for overcoming caste-based discrimination especially during check-ups and treatment.
10. Improve primary healthcare by increasing access, improving quality, and strengthening the workforce.
11. Since inclusive development depends on public engagement in national policy dialogue, it is critical to consider diverse views and opinions of the CDWD including Dalits. Making policies without including their opinion is not going to benefit the communities.
12. Invest in health information systems to enhance delivery and data management.
13. Compensate victims socially, economical, and legally against violence for caste discrimination

14. Assure livelihoods avoiding financial crisis, disaster risks, and climate change