

# Urgent Global Call for Action to Eliminate Caste Discrimination

- We make this urgent Global Call for Action to citizens of the world to bring an end to millennia of immense human suffering, resulting from a brutal system of caste segregation, affecting over 260 million people worldwide.
- We support the words of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights: “Other seemingly insurmountable walls, such as slavery and apartheid, have been dismantled in the past. We can and must tear down the barriers of caste too.”
- We call for leadership, cooperation and constructive engagement at the local, national, regional and international levels to achieve a caste-free world.
- We call for the empowerment of individuals and communities facing caste-based discrimination in decision-making at all levels of governance and in the implementation of policies that affect them.
- We declare that structures of caste or analogous systems of inherited status constitute an offence to human dignity, a barrier to equality and a form of apartheid that has been perpetuated in the public and private sphere, largely with limited, or no access to justice for its victims.
- We appeal for effective police reforms for investigations, independent and neutral prosecution mechanisms and an unbiased judiciary that is committed to uphold justice.
- We deplore notions of ‘untouchability’, pollution and caste hierarchy that cause segregation in villages, schools and places of worship, restrict individuals to the most menial and dangerous jobs, and prevent access to justice for crimes committed against affected communities.