



Press Release

Caste Discrimination in Great Britain – Finding of Evidence confirmed by Independent research Commissioned by Government

*Caste discrimination and harassment has not been explicitly covered by British discrimination legislation. However, the Equality Act 2010 includes the provision that, by order of a Minister, caste may be treated as an aspect of race. This research was commissioned to help inform the Government whether to exercise this power. The research sought to identify whether caste discrimination and harassment in relation to aspects covered by discrimination legislation (i.e. work, education and the supply of goods and services) exists in Britain. **Evidence suggesting such discrimination and harassment was found.** (Source: Government and Equalities Office, RESEARCH FINDINGS, No. 2011 / X).*

We welcome the eagerly awaited report *Caste Discrimination and Harassment in Great Britain* by Hilary Metcalf and Heather Rolfe published on 16 December 2010 by the National Institute for Economic and Social Research (NIESR). The findings of the report puts beyond reproach the work of our organization that has been actively campaigning since 2003 in creating awareness of Caste Based Discrimination occurring in Britain and seeking legal remedies.

It is refreshing to see responsible government committed to values of fairness, justice and equality in mandating the research to find ways to curtail the actions of Caste Oppressors through Law. The Equality Act 2010 was hailed as a land mark harmonising anti-discrimination legislation that embraced new discrimination strands and strengthened existing ones.

It is noteworthy that NIESR approached victims of caste discrimination as key stake holders and commissioned independent researchers to hear evidence at first hand. Caste has contributed to social paralysis and continues to exert a powerful influence in Britain upon the Asian Diaspora.

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Whether it be in the High Street, at a school, place of work or on the factory floor Caste Discrimination leaves the victim traumatised and socially scarred. Not a single day passes without someone being prejudiced by Caste Based Discrimination (CBD) in Great Britain.

In the Indian sub-continent, over 250 million people are directly affected by CBD. These are people who are at the receiving end of the most brutal form of discrimination affecting their daily livelihood: Access to jobs, education and employment, health and access to public services.

CasteWatchUK over the years has been raising issues and concerns about why anyone should face those same harsh realities living in Great Britain. NIESR's findings confirm that affects are felt no less severe in Britain by those who are at the receiving end of Caste Based Discrimination.

It is beyond doubt that Caste traumatises lives. The Government took steps vis-a-vis The Equality Act 2010 to recognise Caste as an aspect of Race. We appeal to the Minister of Crown and British Parliament to take cognisance of the findings of NIESR's Research and act on its recommendations to bring relief to over 200,000 who may be directly impacted by Caste Based Discrimination in Great Britain. The legal remedy will surely provide a welcome relief, as a starting point, to those victims whose life leads to spoliation, degradation and inhuman treatment.

No modern democracy should allow its citizens to suffer on grounds of Caste Based Discrimination. We anxiously await Government response.

16th December 2010

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