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April Newsletter is here!

This month, we engaged at the UN FfD Forum, organized trainings with partner CSOs, reported the realities of our communities, discussed strategies & more...take a look:

Engagements at 2024 Financing for Development Forum

Representing The Inclusivity Project (TIP) and Global Forum of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent (GFoD), Paul Divakar, Global Convenor (GFoD) and Eliana Martins (GFoD) attended the 2024 ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development (FfD) held this month in New York. The FfD is an intergovernmental process with universal participation mandated to review the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) and other financing for development outcomes and the means of implementation of the SDGs. Considering that the forum is an important platform to bring CDWD issues and concerns to the attention of state parties, international financing institutions and other key stakeholders and outline a range of solutions, GFoD-TIP participated actively through UN interventions, side-events, networking and strategy building.

We worked in close partnership with our global partners from Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe and the NGO Committee on Financing for Development, a substantive committee of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (CoNGO) on a comprehensive strategy for interventions across all the FfD panel sessions and a series of side events. More broadly, GFoD's focus was in highlighting how marginalization and discrimination of CDWD is exacerbated during crises and global and fiscal pressures on national governments. The importance of social protection floors, climate justice and reparations for the impact of climate change were outlined as potential solutions to address some of these issues.

Some Highlights: In the 2024 Financing for Development Forum, we...

...intervened during UN 2024 ECOSOC FfD panel

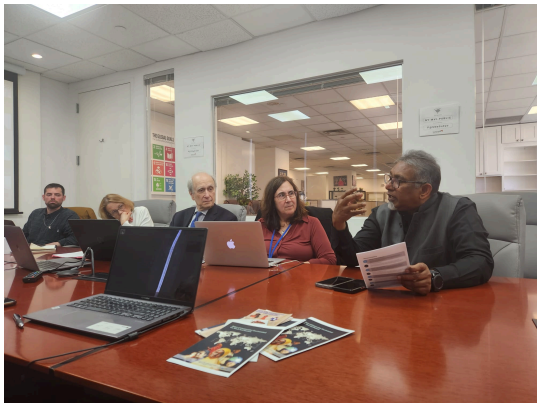


The Inclusivity Project's Intervention in the (6th meeting) 2024 ECOSOC Financing for Development Forum

Representing The Inclusivity project (TIP), Eliana Vaz Martins intervened in the UN 6th meeting 2024 ECOSOC Financing for Development Forum (FfD Forum), during Panel discussion 7 on Addressing Systemic Issues. She highlighted the systemic barriers faced by Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent, while emphasizing the urgency to address their unique challenges. Her intervention focused on demanding targeted policies and legislations, calling upon international, regional, and sub-regional bodies to provide the necessary support, and urging intergovernmental bodies, financial institutions, and bilateral donors to align development assistance projects with efforts to eliminate discrimination. One of the major outcomes was to register CDWD voice and awareness on the issue with a demand to address it within the financial inclusion and development programs.

[Watch here](#)

co-organized side events on crucial themes ...



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Addressing DWD issues in Co-organized side-event on Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for a Just Transition

As a part of the NGO Committee on FfD, The Inclusivity Project co-hosted this side-event that opened dialogue about the progress made, challenges and recommendations related to the implementation of Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for a Just Transition. Bringing the issue of CDWD to the core of the discussion on Global Accelerator, Paul Divakar pointed out that these accelerators glossed over CDWD, which have not been figured in financial inclusion. He stressed that this is a result of it being a systemic issue. And thus, inclusion needs to be in the very design of financial inclusion programs.

Side-event co-organized on advancing financial inclusion through safe and inclusive Digital Public Infrastructure

This panel, co-hosted by The Inclusivity Project (as a part of the NGO Committee on FfD) on 23rd April focused on Financial Inclusion through investment in safe and inclusive Digital Public Infrastructure. The event brought together various stakeholders like state representatives, international agencies and civil society to discuss how countries have been able to help advance financial inclusion and digital innovation while addressing challenges and risks. For instance, Mexico representative shared the good practices in the form of national digital policies. CSO representative, Efe Ukala from ImpactHer Africa shared impactful strategies such as training of marginalized women in mobile money, digital marketing etc.



[Read more](#)

built strong discussions ...

Through this submission, we provided inputs on the Zero Draft of the 2024 FfD

GFoD provided a comprehensive submission on the Zero Draft highlighting the issues and concerns of CDWD and the importance of addressing human rights issues in the development process. These will be guaranteed through social protection floors, decent work, climate justice, participatory approaches and gender inclusion, capacity building programs, climate resilience and adaptation skills, disaster preparedness, renewable energy technologies, and other relevant skills that empower communities to mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts.

[Read here](#)

Charting Policy Frames that shed light on key themes

For UN FfD Forum, our team worked on meticulously outlined policy frames addressing crucial themes across financing challenges, international cooperation, domestic resource mobilization, private sector engagement, and technological innovation. These encompassed discussions on addressing global crises, strengthening development cooperation, enhancing public financial management, leveraging private finance for sustainable development, and harnessing science and technology for capacity-building.

[Read here](#)



Presenting our appeal for a UN Declaration on the Rights of CDWD to Canada Ambassador. H.E Bob Rae

In our efforts at bringing the issue of CDWD to the core of international, national and local engagements, GfOD convener Paul Divakar met with H.E Bob Rae, Ambassador Canada UN in New York and presented the appeal for Declaration on the Rights of the CDWD. It was a promising meeting to highlight the issue within Canada for future outcomes.

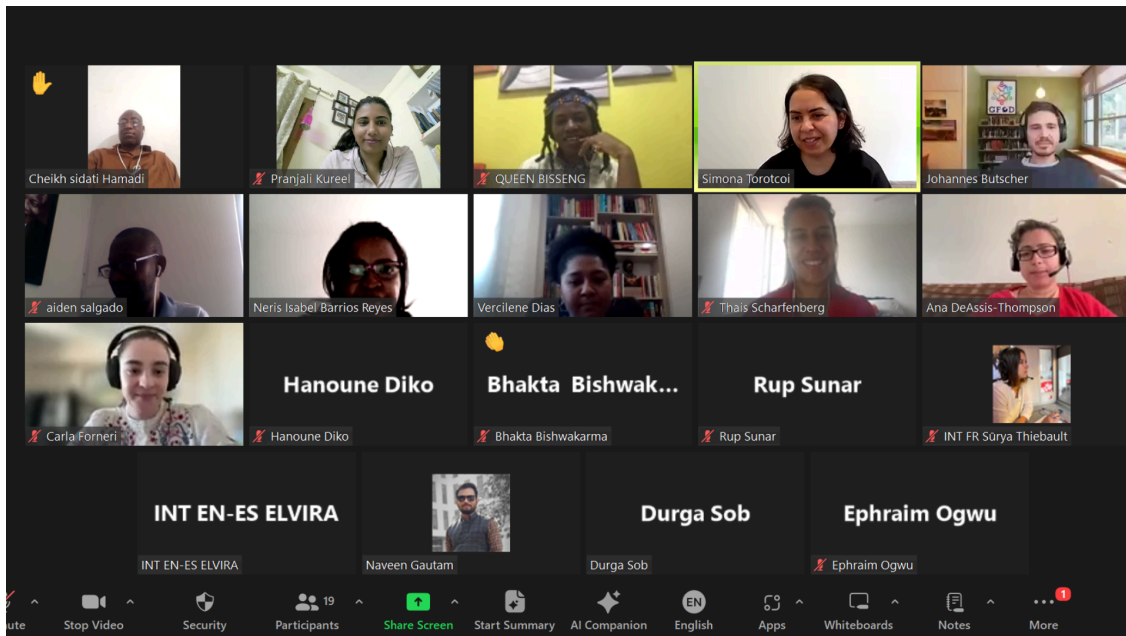


Meeting with Malawi MP, Mr. Francis B.

Post TIP's intervention at the 6th meeting panel on addressing systemic issues, we met with Mr. Francis B, Malawi MP, who congratulated Eliana on her statement highlighting the CDWD issue and showed great interest in the same. He has assured to discuss with the Malawi Ambassador to advance the cause of CDWD in the country and global engagements.

Trainings & Webinar organized

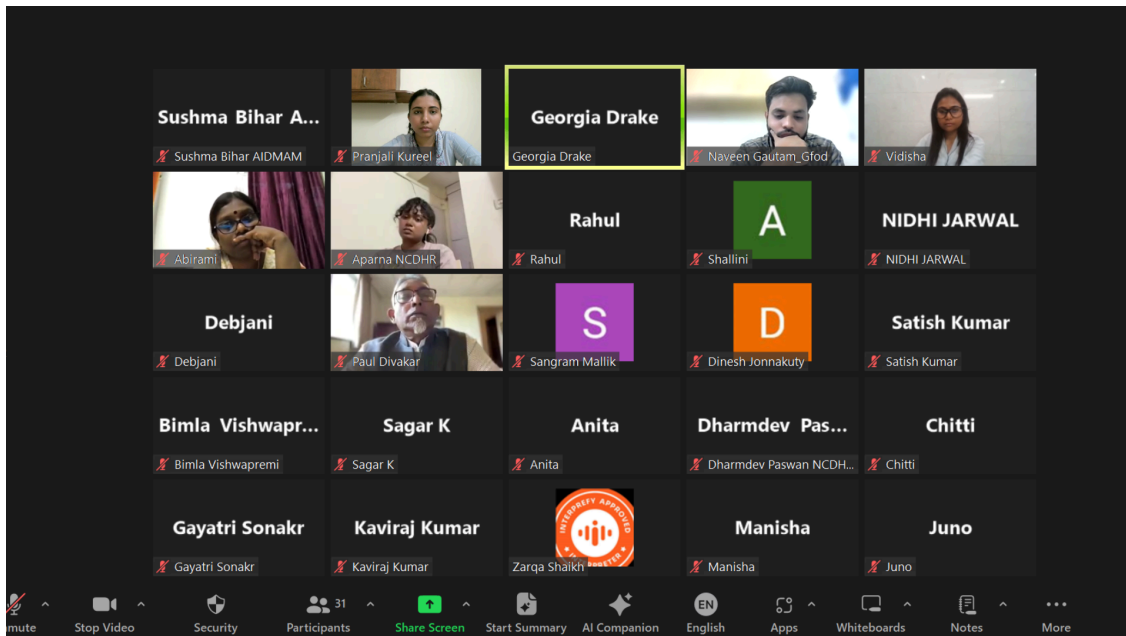
We Organized a Training Webinar with CSO representatives from across the Globe working on DWD issues on Integrating the perspective of communities discriminated on work and descent in the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)



Across the globe, communities discriminated on work and descent (CDWD) have been left out of national sustainable development strategies and action plans. The webinar titled “Integrating the perspective of communities discriminated on work and descent in the voluntary national reviews” took place on the 17th of April 2024 with the aim to build the capacity of CDWD civil society representatives.

For the last few years, the Global Forum of Communities Discriminated on Work and Decent, as part of the UN Major Groups and Other Stakeholders, has been engaging in the National Voluntary Reviews (VNRs), presenting the viewpoint of our communities across the world (i.e., Roma, Haratins, Buraku, Dalits, Quilombola, etc.). This year GFoD is supporting those civil society representatives and other stakeholders interested in getting involved into their national VNRs, by providing the in-house knowledge and resources (i.e., training) on how to best engage in such advocacy activities from the perspective of communities discriminated on work and descent. In this webinar we touched upon the general VNR process, how CSOs can prepare for the VNR/HLPF (i.e., approaching the government under review, engaging in formal consultations, organizing national advocacy campaigns, etc.) but also how they can continue to get engaged and follow-up on any commitments made during the VNR process.

Training of Dalit-led NGOs in India on Universal Periodic Review (UPR), 141st session International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (CCPR)



GfOD in collaboration with National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights and UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) provided valuable insights into the upcoming 141st Session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, scheduled from 1st July to 2nd August 2024. Given India's inclusion in this session's review, the training was conducted for CSOs working on the rights of Dalits across the country.

The 90 minutes online training session provided the participants with a comprehensive understanding of the Universal Periodic Review process and its significance in promoting and protecting human rights at the international level. It also offered insights into the specific focus areas and expectations for India's review during the upcoming session. This is a significant step towards Dalit led NGOs participating in the UPR process and registering their voice.



Become a panelist at the coming High-Level Political Forum 2024 in New York!

The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) will be held from Monday, 8 July, to Wednesday, 17 July 2024, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council. The theme will be "Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions.

Please express your availability and interest in becoming a panelist at the High-Level Political Forum 2024! All official proceedings will take place in New York City, virtual participation is being discussed but is unlikely to be accepted by the UN.

Costs related to your speaking opportunity are not covered by the UN due to the ongoing liquidity crisis at the United Nations. GFOD will support your fundraising efforts and support you with logistics to facilitate your official speaker role if selected. The Stakeholder Group of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent (SG-CDWD) will most likely only have one (1) speaker for the High-Level Political Forum 2024.

Please share the survey with colleagues who work on CDWD issues:

English - HLPF Survey 2024: <https://forms.gle/xmpZVFUsB5v94FL26>

French - Enquête HLPF 2024 <https://forms.gle/GKfWhk3923i9wKKc8>

Portuguese - Pesquisa HLPF 2024: <https://forms.gle/HQgwFvHRb8QRUoK87>

Inputs given to the UN Special Rapporteurs

Inputs to Thematic report to the United Nations Human Rights Council 57th session: Nexus water-economy: water management for services and productive uses from a human rights approach.”

GFoD submitted inputs regarding nexus water economy and water management for services and productive uses from a human rights approach. The inputs emphasized on access to clean and safe drinking water and sanitation, which is recognized as a fundamental human right by the United Nations. However, CDWD often face discrimination and exclusion when accessing water resources and sanitation facilities, perpetuating cycles of poverty and marginalization. Recognizing the water cycle as a global common good reinforces their entitlement to equitable and sustainable water management, which includes the right to water and sanitation, which are essential for their survival and dignity. CDWD, thus, demand equitable access to water resources, addressing historical injustices and discrimination faced by marginalized communities in accessing water and sanitation services; and ensuring engaging Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent in decision-making processes among others.

[Read here](#)

Submission for the 2024 reports of the Special Rapporteur on the right to development

This month, GFoD provided input for consideration in the report to the Human Rights Council in 2024 on Climate Justice (Loss and Damages Fund) and the Right to Development of Children and Future Generations. This submission asserts that for climate justice reforms to be effective and impactful, it must meaningfully embrace the principle of ‘leaving no one behind’ in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. This means promoting and protecting the human rights of CDWD across the world through policy and legislative reform, and advancing the new human rights norms and measures at the global and regional level. These inputs will be published on the mandate website and reports - strengthening the cause of CDWD through further engagements.



During our consultation meet after the submission of the SR Input draft on the Right to Development, GfoD representative, Mr. Naveen Gautam made summarized submission regarding the inputs on the draft.

[Read here](#)

Submission to Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls to the UN General Assembly on violence against women and girls in sport

GFoD has also contributed with a submission to the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls to the UN General Assembly on violence against women and girls in sport. The submission emphasizes that CDWD women and girls face heightened marginalization due to cross-cutting, intersectional discrimination as a consequence of their CDWD identity and their gender. They often face economic marginalization due to factors

such as racism, sexism, and classism. The prevalence of discrimination against CDWD across the globe, creates an environment in which sports participation becomes a secondary interest for the majority of CDWD communities! The submission focuses on the barriers to accessing sport and physical activity for CDWD women and girls as forms of intersectional discrimination and prejudice. It demonstrates that discrimination is the primary driver of exclusion from sport and physical activity. While policy at a national level is mostly aware of the gender gap in sport participation and is sometimes sensitive to the participation of CDWD in sport and physical activity, the participation of CDWD women and girls is totally absent from policy consideration.

[Read here](#)

This report throws light on Caste-Hate Speech against Dalits in Digital Age

Social & Media Matters, in collaboration with National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights, released a research report highlighting the pervasive issue of caste-based hate speech in digital environments and its impacts on society. At the same time, it reflects a collective commitment to address the issue of caste-based hate speech.

Key Insights:

1. Examination of over 1,000 social media posts.
2. Identification of challenges in moderating caste-based hate speech.
3. Recommendations for policy and platform changes.

In a world increasingly connected online, understanding and combating digital discrimination is crucial. The report calls for urgent action from policymakers, social media platforms, and community leaders to ensure that the digital world is safe and inclusive for all.

[Read here](#)

Caste-Hate Speech in the Age of Digital Society



#DalitLivesMatter

RESEARCH REPORT
APRIL 2024



Prepared by:
Social & Media Matters

In a conversation with Social & Media Matters, GFoD's Naveen Gautam offers his expertise and perspective on the prevalence of caste-based abuse and the use of derogatory slurs on digital platforms in India. Watch [here](#).

Coming Engagements



In the coming 79th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and its NGO Forum to be held in Banjul, The Gambia next month, GFoD is geared up to represent the Communities Discriminated on Work & Descent, put



2024 UNITED NATIONS
CIVIL SOCIETY
CONFERENCE

MAY 9 - 10 | NAIROBI, KENYA

During the UN Civil Society Conference to be held in Nairobi, Kenya on 9th and 10th May, a team of GFoD delegates will be present to represent CDWD perspective ahead of the Summit of the Future to be held in September this year.

forth the concerns, and arrive at possible ways to move towards solutions. During NGO Forum, GFoD will be organizing a Panel on the theme " : Building a resilient and inclusive Africa: Improving education access for Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent" on May 12th, and will be leading a thematic working group on CDWD the following day. Our colleague, Mr. Cheikh Sidati will be representing GFoD in a panel on Forced Displacement in the 79th hybrid session of ACHPR. We will also be visiting the DWD community in The Gambia on 14th May, followed by meetings with CSOs and Commissioners to build channels of communication to get our concerns addressed.

In our efforts to speak out and share ideas that shall contribute to the Pact for the Future negotiations, we have proposed side events on the themes of Social Protection Floors & decent work, and Youth Empowerment - with a focus on the CDWD. Moreover, we look forward to be united with other Stakeholder Groups under a coalition to speak about the future of humanity and register our collective voices in shaping the Pact of the Future. Some of the major outcomes we foresee through this participation are solidifying CDWD aspect in the outcome document of SoTF, lobbying countries and states to take actions on the CDWD issue, and taking a leadership role as one of the 20 coalitions.

Stay tuned with us on X for regular updates on these engagements.

Follow here

News from our Partners

ERGO Network partners in organizing Romani Week 2024

Romani Week is an annual event held in Brussels serves as a platform to raise awareness about the realities faced by Roma, Sinti, and Travellers in Europe, with ERGO Network as a key partner. This year, coinciding with the upcoming European elections, the event aimed to build a platform for debates and discussions, encourage political accountability, and address concrete topics.

[See More →](#)

NCDHR organizes a multi-stakeholder dialogue on Sanitation work and Manual Scavenging in India

A Multistakeholder consultation, organized by National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights, brought together government officials, sanitation workers, NGOs, and international organizations to discuss eradicating manual scavenging in India.

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