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February Newsletter: Issue 18

February was indeed successful, and we are just getting started. We have important updates and exciting events scheduled. Stay tuned!



GFoD at the World Social Forum-2024

Beginning with representing the Global Forum of CDWD at the Solidarity March and raising voices for CDWD concerns, we participated in the World Social Forum 2024 held at Kathmandu, Nepal from 15th February 2024 to 19th February 2024.



Meeting on UN Declaration on the Rights of the CDWD

On 17th February, GFoD, in collaboration with ADRF and partners, organized a significant meeting discussing “Towards a Declaration on the Rights of the CDWD, including Dalits”. The program was chaired by Beena Pallical, Chairperson, ADRF; Paul Divakar, Convener, GFoD led the audience through the significance and process of a UN Declaration on CDWD. Ashok Bharati, WSF IC Member and Chair NACDOR, Ganesh Bishwakarma, Chair RDN Nepal, Zakir Husain, Executive Director of Nagarik Uddyog were also among distinguished speakers.



Visibility Booth at WSF

Global Forum of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent (GFoD) hosted a booth at WSF 2024 venue, Bhrikuti Mandap. Through the booth, we showcased our work, recent publications and created awareness about the issue of Discrimination based on Work and Descent (DWD). It was also a good opportunity to network with fellow organizations working towards the rights of marginalized communities.



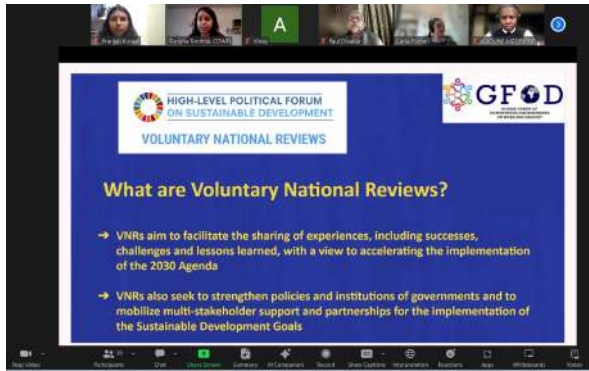
GFoD Launched 3 Country Reports and 1 Regional Report

As a part of World Social Forum 2024, during the event on 17th February, GFoD officially released Country reports on India, Bangladesh and Nepal; along with the regional report on #Asia.



Raising DWD issues through Interventions; Dalit Parliament

GFoD and partners representatives spoke in various panels raising the issue of CDWD including "Thematic Assembly on Economic Inequality and Justice", "Navigating Feminist Struggles and Aspirations in Asia", "Dalit Parliament" etc. among other events.



Supporting CSOs in the Voluntary National Reviews 2024

This year we are supporting those organizations who are interested in getting involved in their respective VNRs, by providing in-house orientation and training on how to best engage in such advocacy activities. For this purpose, an informative webinar was organized on 29th January 2024, led by GfOD member, Simona Torotcoi. Various CSO representatives from Colombia, Brazil, Mauritania, Austria, Nepal, Cameroon, Slovakia and Ivory Coast attended.

At The Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD)

The Climate crisis is impacting several communities but the impact on the Dalits and Adivasis or the most marginalised communities is much higher and severe. The Asia Pacific region is particularly prone to disasters as a result of the changes in climate. In this context, Asia Dalit Rights Forum organized a virtual event titled, **'Mitigation of Impact of Climate Change on Dalits and Marginalised Communities'** on 21st February during the 11th APFSD. The event focused on how Climate change has impacted the lives of the most marginalised communities in Asia, particularly women; and what are the strategies to be adopted to ensure mitigation.



Important: Ambassador of the Dominican Republic delivered a Joint Statement with other member states against the proposal on **Anti-CSO participation** submitted to the **Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations**

The Special Committee on the Charter of the UN held meetings from 20th to 28th February. A group of countries presented a draft resolution / working paper on NGOs participation putting forward a number of arguments against it. The working paper argued that initiatives promoting enhanced NGO participation in the work of the UN pose challenges to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, such as sovereign equality of States, non-interference in domestic affairs, and cooperation in solving international problems.

Objecting to this proposal under consideration, the Ambassador of Dominican Republic - in a joint statement on behalf of 58 member states and the European Union - highlighted the fundamental role of the civil society in supporting and strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to achieve its principles and purposes. **"Civil society organizations are not only integral to our societies but also to the UN itself. Their expertise and grassroots connections offer invaluable insights that enrich decision-making processes. They represent the voices of the people and the communities for which the UN gathers to reaffirm human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person."** - noted the statement.

We extend unconditional support to the statement put forth by the Amb. of Dominican Republic and stand in solidarity with fellow civil society organizations voicing issues at the United Nations and expressing international solidarity.

Collaboration between Academics and Human Rights Defenders to

GfOD organized training sessions on "Cybersecurity for Rights

enrich research and advocacy on DWD communities in Africa

Building a collaboration between academics and activists committed to supporting Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent (CDWD) in Africa, a joint Online meeting took place on 25th January, 2024, chaired by Dr. Anamzoya Sulemana, Head of the Sociology, University of Ghana, Accra, and supported by Paul Divakar Namala, Convenor, GFoD. The meeting was fruitful in discussing GFoD's previous and current engagements in Africa and exploring the scope of research to identify understudied communities and associated practices in the ambit of Discrimination based on Work and Descent. The initial meeting has kickstarted the collaboration with a vision to promote research and action on impacted DWD communities in Africa.

Activists"

In the context of growing surveillance, data theft and clampdown on civil society organizations raising important issues, a digital security training was organized by GFoD for its secretariat and partner members and Rights Experts. The interactive training sessions on Cybersecurity for Rights Activists - facilitated by Eric S. Johnson, laid down methods to ensure digital security with a goal to devote our limited resources to the highest-priority threats/dangers in order to reduce danger. Some key outcomes of these training sessions were tightened security of existing accounts and devices to carry out our engagements, increased awareness on various threats and how to mitigate associated occurrences.

Upcoming Events

Commission on the Status of Women 68 (11th - 22nd March'24)



13th March: CSW High Level Official Side-event with UN Women, UNFPA, UNDP and the Permanent Mission of Nepal

The official side-event, titled **"Digging deeper: The root causes of poverty among women and girls from descent communities and the impact of UN Programming and NGOs to eradicate stigma"** will share current efforts, good and promising practices, and innovative examples of programming which contribute to addressing decent discrimination and to the protection of women and girls. During the event, UN Agencies will present some key strategic and policy responses and ongoing programs that could serve as good practices on addressing discrimination and gender equality, and Civil society organizations will bring in community perspectives and experiences. Stay tuned for more updates!



20th March: CSW NGO Side-Event

The CSW NGO Forum event, **"Building Bridges Among Women Discriminated Against on Work and Descent"** will bring together experts, mandate holders and community members to discuss and deliberate the responsibilities of women and girls in engaging and inspiring grassroots efforts and gender equality advocacy around the world. It aims to



15th March: Virtual Side-Event

This virtual side-event titled **"Feminization of poverty – How does poverty affect the lives of women discriminated against on work and descent?"** will be organized with ERGO Network, Feminist Collective of Romani Gender Experts and Romalitico. During this workshop, together with representatives of communities discriminated

facilitate open discussions between CDWD women representatives, policymakers, academics, and activists and develop recommendations and policy suggestions for governments and international organizations to address discrimination and poverty faced by these women.

against on work and descent we aim to explore the nuances of how different groups of women experience poverty. Moreover, the workshop will also provide us with the platform to present good practices which have successfully helped women and girls in poverty.

[Register here](#)

[Register here](#)

UNECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development 2024



LNOB: Poverty and discrimination among Roma and Diaspora from Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent (CDWD)

CDWD diaspora communities in Europe and the Roma continue to face significant challenges in eradicating poverty. Although several measures have been taken by different stakeholders, it remains a daunting task to improve the economic status of such communities. This event will spotlight the discrimination and poverty faced by CDWD and emphasises the importance of addressing multiple layers of discrimination for effective policy-making and social change. It aims to share practices, innovative steps and initiatives from a variety of CDWD community representatives and stakeholders to create a space for discussing current challenges and areas of improvement in the ECE region with regards to SGD 1, and scale up cooperation on the larger issue of discrimination and access to decent jobs.

[Register here](#)

Apply to be a Rights Expert with GFD



GFD started the CDWD Rights Experts program in 2021 and is currently **seeking applications for the next cohort of Rights Experts** from Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent to support global advocacy and data collection processes at the national, regional and global level. The position requires a high level of autonomy and responsiveness to engage in advocacy processes and a high interest and willingness to engage in national, regional and global advocacy processes.

The position requires approximately 40 hours per month for a duration of 10-12 months (with a 3-month trial period) and with potential international

travel.

[Learn more](#)

News from our Partners

[National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights \(NCDHR\) released Dalit Adivasi Budget Analysis \(DABA\)](#)

Like every year after Govt. of India presented Union Budget for the year, NCDHR analyzed the budget and released its report - Dalit Adivasi Budget Analysis (DABA) 2024. The report was released on 2nd February 2024. "The guidelines suggest 16.8% for Dalits and 8.6% for Adivasis, but the actual allocation is 11.5% for SCs and 8.4% for STs."

[Read More →](#)

[Trust Africa: Country Meetings in Nigeria and Senegal](#)

As part of their project on Strengthening the West African Philanthropy Support Ecosystem, Trust Africa held country meetings in Dakar, Senegal (15th Feb) and Lagos, Nigeria (22nd Feb). The meetings gave rise to insightful discussions, and collaborative and co-creation strategies to drive transformative change in West Africa's philanthropy sector.

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