



*In the month of June, we spotlighted the narratives from Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent through diverse mediums. As we gear up for the High Level Political Forum 2024, explore these narratives and voices that must be heard to ensure no one is left behind.*

## **GFoD hosted a Special Invited Lecture followed by a Roundtable Discussion on 'Carving out a Norm at the UN: On the Rights of CDWD'**

This past month, we concluded our Special Invited Lecture and the following Roundtable discussion on "Carving out a Norm at the UN: on the Rights of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent" with insightful takeaways, solidarities and encouragement to keep working towards a UN Declaration on the Rights of the Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent. We had more than a hundred participants joining the lecture and roundtable, from over 27 countries! What followed was an insightful engagement and discussion.

Dr. Corinne Lennox traced the journey of CDWD movement and efforts of norm creation at the UN. She explored the history, strategies, outcomes, success factors, limitations & more embedded in this ongoing journey. Her excellent presentation was followed by powerful CDWD leaders from four continents who shared the ongoing efforts in their respective regions towards the inclusion and protection of DWD communities and the significance of forming global solidarities.

**Norm entrepreneurship strategies:**

- ▶ Getting organised (e.g. transnational advocacy networks (TANs)) (e.g. GFoD, IDSN, ERGO Network, ANDS)
- ▶ Successful 'framing' of issues (e.g. Dalit rights are human rights!)
- ▶ Good use of political opportunities (e.g. WCAR, HLPF on SDGs, Human Rights Council, African Commission)

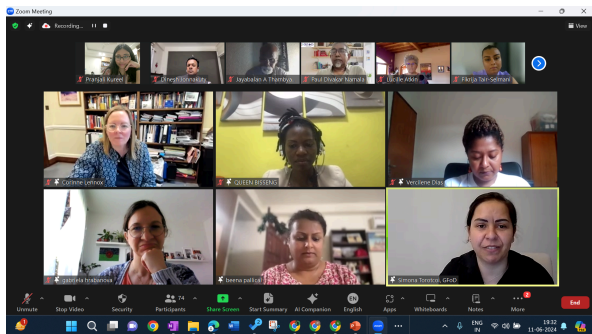
Remove Spotlight

Corinne Lennox

Unmute Start Video Security Participants 101 Share Screen Start Summary AI Companion English Apps Whiteboards Notes More End

In the following Round Table discussion, GFoD's Africa Coordinator, Queen Bisseng stressed on the role of local advocacy groups in organising & demanding social justice. She gave some examples of Osu community in Enugu; Gambia's Gambana international movement; and Haratin leaders' Annual March in Mauritania. "Social Media is

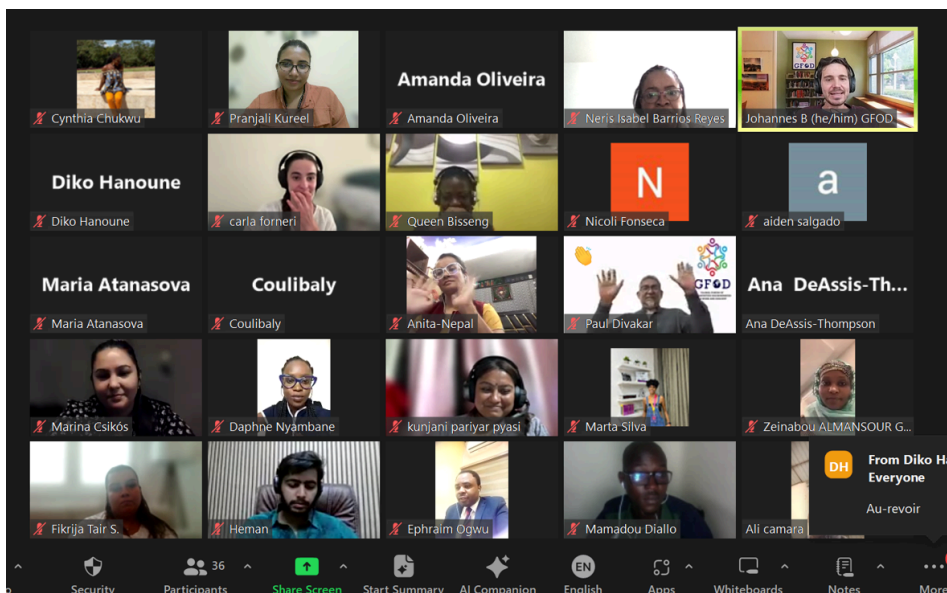
gaining momentum as a new means of mobilization across Africa". Vercilene Francisco Dias of CONAQ highlighted the constitutional recognition provided to the issues of Quilombola community in Brazil but failure to implement the laws. She shared about Quilombola leaders trying to break geographical & linguistic barriers to mobilize at regional as well as global level.



Further, in the context of loss of representation to Roma community in the newly elected European parliament, our Roundtable discussant Jamen Gabriela Hrabanova of ERGO Network highlighted the significance of transparency, trust, and representation in international actors to support movements. Beena Pallical of National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR) and Asia Dalit Rights Forum traced the long journey of advocacy for Dalit rights - from mobilizing at the Durban conference in 2001, to the formation of regional solidarity in Asia Dalit Rights Forum, and the progression towards a global forum of CDWD.

Watch Here

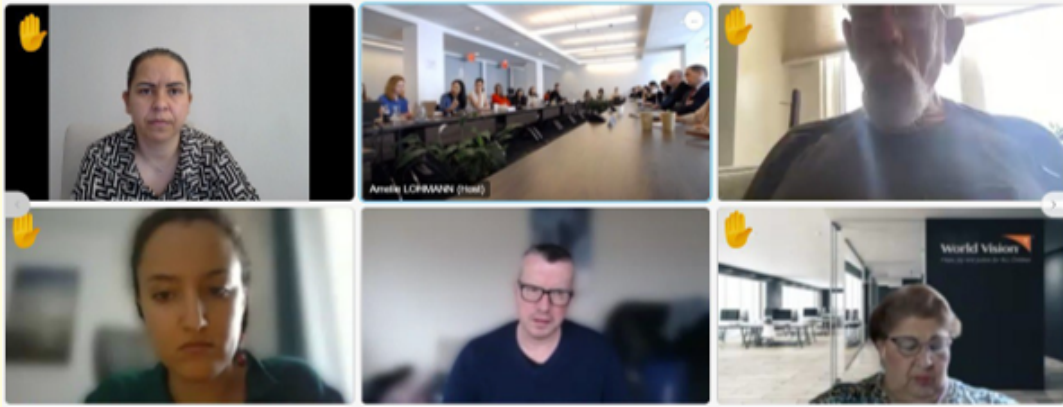
## Welcoming our new batch of Rights Experts 2024



This month, GFoD welcomed its third batch of CDWD Rights Experts, who form a very significant base of GFoD's advocacy efforts connecting from global to the grassroots. At its core, the program elevates the national level advocacy of one particular community towards collective advocacy engagement for all Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent (CDWD) on the global level such as the UN and other regional and global human rights mechanisms. Over 26 experts from 16 countries represented by established and budding leaders, researchers, journalists and more from the CDWD begin their training with GFoD as they bring valuable perspectives and skillset to advocacy for CDWD rights. We extend a warm welcome to the team!

## Engagements in Europe on Roma Rights and CDWD concerns

Registering CDWD Voice in discussions on the Pact of the Future



On the 13th of June, the EU Delegation to the United Nations hosted a briefing between EU Member States and Civil Society to discuss the Summit of the Future and the ongoing consultations on the Pact for the Future and related processes. Dr. Simona Torotcoi from GFoD raised several points on Chapter II on the draft of Pact of the Future, i.e., International peace and security, where she stressed, among others, the need to recognize the urgent global erosion of women and girls' human rights, and the need to resolve the plight of populations living under neocolonial occupation, apartheid regimes, and in conflict zones, ensuring equal respect, protection, and fulfillment of their human rights, in accordance with the principle of leaving no one behind.



### Representation at the OSCE's Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting

GFoD's Europe coordinator, Dr. Simona Torotcoi and Rights Expert, Marina Csikós actively participated in the OSCE (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe)'s Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings taking place in Vienna. Simona attended the OSCE SHDM on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination and Gender Equality, where she represented the Global Forum of CDWD and The Inclusivity Project and spoke about our joint recent survey on the situation of Roma women, with a specific focus on how discrimination affects access to quality health services and political participation. Marina addressed the urgent issues affecting marginalized women and girls, emphasizing that the recent rise of conservative parties in Europe threatened their hard-earned rights and worsened sexual and reproductive health, civic space, and minority participation, and the importance of incorporating marginalized perspectives in gender equality strategies, especially in addressing technology-facilitated gender-based violence.

## UN Special Rapporteurs take note of #CDWD concerns

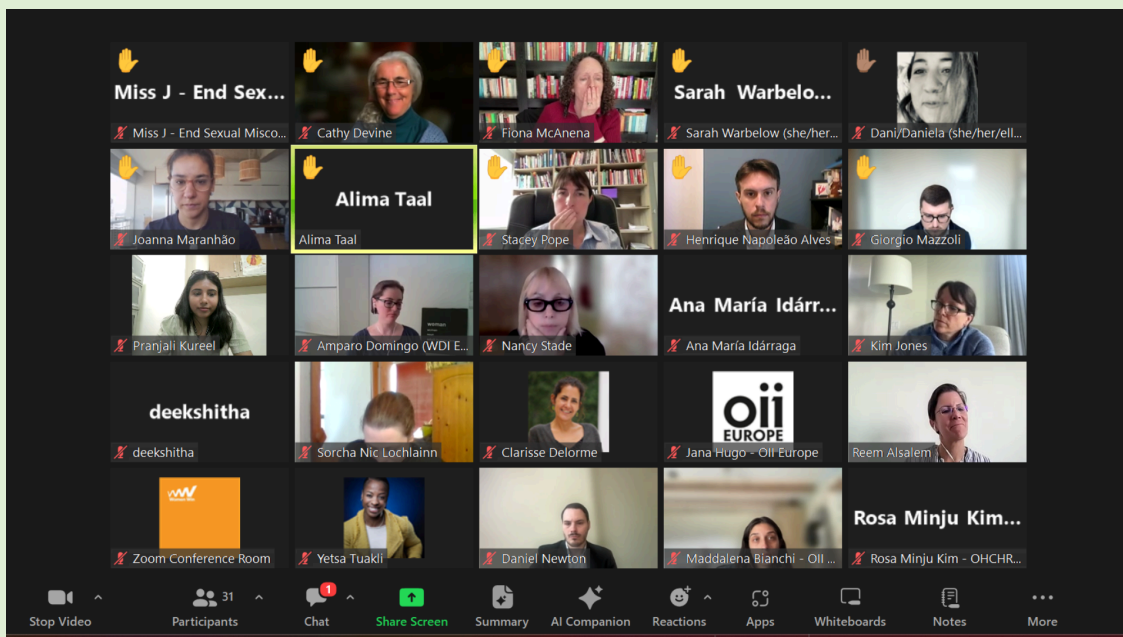
### Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights acknowledges GFoD's input to their Report to the UNGA

The report, titled 'Breaking the cycle: ending the criminalization of homelessness and poverty' by the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights and the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context presented to the UN General Assembly has acknowledged GFoD's contribution with regard to the consequences of laws associated with homelessness or poverty. The input provided by GFoD discussed the myriad ways in which the criminalization of poverty affects CDWD. It also discussed positive steps taken by Governments and made recommendations for future actions.

[Read SR Report](#)

[Read GFoD's submission](#)

## Shedding light on the concerns of CDWD Women and Girls in Sport in the Consultation organized by the UN SR on violence against women and girls



In a series of consultation meetings organized by the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women and Girls, Reem Alsalem for their report to the UN General Assembly on violence against women and girls in sport, GfOD members actively took part and highlighted the discrimination faced by CDWD women and the need for focused action. On 13th June, our Europe coordinator, Dr. Simona Torotcoi talked about the lack of policy provisions addressing these specific concerns- i.e., gender awareness that exists in sport policy is largely colour-blind, resulting in a de facto focus on the majority (white) population without consideration of the needs of women and girls from CDWD backgrounds. In a following consultation, our team members Marina CSIKÓS from Hungary, Pranjali Kureel from India stressed the exclusion faced by CDWD women (Dalit and Roma women in particular) in sport and the limitations of the existing legal frameworks in addressing it. our Gambia based experts, Alima spoke in the last section stressing the relevance of issues of CDWD women in The Gambia, and the issues of GBV and FGM in sport, and provided recommendations.

[Read GfOD's submission](#)

## GfOD's input on Violence against Women and Girls in Prostitution acknowledged in the SR's Report to the UN General Assembly

The Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences, Reem Alsalem examined violence against women and girls as a form, cause and consequence of prostitution in their report to the United Nations General Assembly. GfOD had made a comprehensive input to their submission call - highlighting the unique situation of CDWD women in prostitution - and how their birth and 'hereditary' occupation status ties them to performing sexual labour in many cases. The SR has acknowledged the contribution with respect to the role played by religious norms and their instrumentalization to justify sexual enslavement.

[Read SR Report](#)

[Read GfOD's submission](#)

## GfOD Delegation will be at the High Level Political Forum 2024, New York - Stay Tuned!

As we gear up for the upcoming UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), we're thrilled to announce an exciting lineup of side events! Taking place in July, these events are designed to shine a spotlight on the pressing issues surrounding the CDWD and various intersecting themes. Join us as we engage with global leaders, activists, and policymakers to foster transformative action!

**SAVE THE DATE**

**HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**GFoD** **INCLUSIVITY PROJECT**

Interpretation available in French, Portuguese and Spanish

Cordially invite you to the Official side-event

**Good Practices and Challenges in the 2030 Agenda**

**Showcasing ongoing inclusive strategies of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent**

https://tinyurl.com/HLPFCDWD

📅 9th July 2024

🕒 13:00 - 14:30 ET

📍 CR-F, UN HQ

The event will be live-streamed on Zoom

**<<<REGISTER NOW**

Register Here

## Casting light on SGD 16 & 17, anticipating the potential of "Pact for the Future" for LGBTQI+ individuals and CDWD to realize its full potential

**In-person side event Zoom live streaming**

📅 16th July | 🕒 16:00 - 18:00 ET | 📍 CR-F, UN HQ

Co-organized by LGBTI Stakeholder Group and the Stakeholder Group of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent (SG-CDWD), this event will explore how SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions, and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals, can empower LGBTQI+ people and Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent as well as the potential ambition we have for the "Pact for the Future".

## Good Practices and Challenges in the 2030 Agenda – Showcasing ongoing inclusive strategies of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent

**In-person side event Zoom live streaming**

📅 11th July | 🕒 13:00-14:30 ET | 📍 CR-F, UN HQ

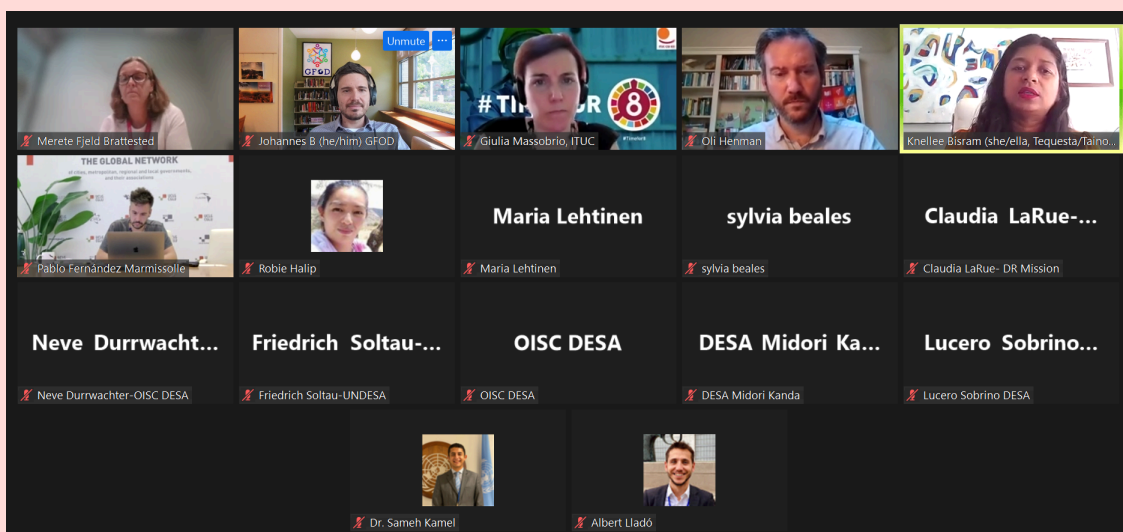
The session will highlight the importance of addressing discrimination based on work and descent as a critical step towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Through an exchange of ideas on inclusive and equitable approaches, strengthening partnerships and collaborative practice, the side event is an opportunity for all stakeholders to renew their commitment to the principle of 'Leaving no one behind' and reinforce the 2030 Agenda for 270 million people across the world who are discriminated on work and descent.

## Mobilizing Towards a UN Declaration for Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent: A Symposium

**In-person side event**

📅 13th July | 🕒 10:30 - 17:00 ET | 📍 TBC

Global Forum of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent (GFoD), in partnership with Ambedkar International Mission, Bahujan Scholars, The Inclusivity Project (TIP) and other networks is organizing a symposium with an aim to shift focus from individual communities to the CDWD globally. This discussion will involve academics, activists, and diaspora community members and seek to amplify the voices of CDWD and advance their rights and dignity through advocacy, research, and community engagement.



## Intervention at the Intergovernmental Negotiations of the Ministerial Declaration of the 2024 High-Level Segment of ECOSOC and HLPF

The Stakeholder Group of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent (SG-CDWD) was invited to participate in the intergovernmental negotiations of the ministerial declaration for the 2024 high-level segment of ECOSOC and the high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF). This invitation, extended through the Major Groups and other Stakeholders (MGOS), was an important opportunity for CDWD to provide input on critical issues affecting marginalized communities worldwide.

During the meeting, GFOD's Global UN Engagement Coordinator, Johannes Butscher, representing the Stakeholder Group of Communities Discriminated on Work and Decent, highlighted the unique challenges faced by communities discriminated based including their inherited social status, often tied to traditional occupations. He also emphasized the importance of recognizing intersectional characteristics to reach the furthest left behind and developing mechanisms and policies to address these issues. Specific recommendations were made to include references to hidden forms of marginalization, the need for budgetary allocations reflecting a human rights-centred approach, and the importance of addressing social discrimination in efforts to eradicate poverty and inequality.

This participation, at the Invitation of José Blanco, Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations, and Merete Fjeld Brattested, Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations, provided an opportunity to the significance of multilateralism and the need to ensure that children and youth can free themselves from intergenerational discrimination often hereditary in nature. Additionally, it also provided a platform to advocated for the inclusion of all relevant stakeholders, particularly Major Groups, to ensure an intersectional approach in achieving the SDGs.

## News from Partners

### Encountering Resilience and Struggle: Abirami Jotheeswaran of All India Dalit

### Mahila Adhikar Manch (AIDMAM, NCDHR) visited Brazil's Quilombola Community



Abirami Jotheeswaran, General Secretary of the All India Women's Rights Forum, recently visited the Quilombola community of Ribeirão Grande Terra Seca in São Paulo, Brazil. Her journey highlighted the resilience and struggles of these communities, which are descendants of Africans who resisted slavery, forming communities in strategic locations where they felt safe, far from the domination of the enslavers. The Quilombola communities are a testament to resistance against slavery, preserving their cultural identity and ancestral memories. They prioritize sustainable living, with women playing a central role in agriculture and family care. However, the struggle for land persists, with the community having to defend their ancestral lands from encroachment by industries and the forest department and facing violence.

This visit shed light on the discrimination faced by the community due to their work and descent, with Quilombola women facing barriers due to gender as well. Women engage in self-sustained agriculture and some work as domestic helpers in nearby cities. While they face structural violence in the public sphere, domestic violence is a serious concern facing them in their homes. At the same time, however, Quilombola women embody collective action and powerful decision making - which is evident from initiatives such as Quilombola Women Collective that reflect their ongoing struggle for recognition, equality, and socio-economic development in Brazilian society. Education and healthcare disparities are significant, with limited access to schools and medical services. Despite

these challenges, the community continues to advocate for better representation and support through organizations like CONAQ.

Abirami's encounter with Guilherme Boulos, pre-candidate for mayor of the city of São Paulo, shed light on the need for greater attention to Quilombola issues - especially in the marginalized regions. As the General Secretary of one of the largest Dalit Feminist organizations in India, her visit also shed light on the striking similarities between Quilombola women in Latin America and Dalit women in South Asia - both of whom face various issues owing to the status determined by their birth and family occupations - intersecting closely with their gender identity - in their own respective contexts!

## **Asia Dalit Rights Forum (ADRF) holds National Consultation and presents Spotlight Report ahead of Nepal's Voluntary National Review (VNR)**



As Nepal prepares to adopt its 16th periodic plan and stand in the middle of the SDGs Agenda 2030, our Asia partner organization, ADRF has taken up an active role in the Voluntary National Review process as an opportunity to bring the assessment and agendas of Dalits to the government as well as other concerned stakeholders. In a joint National Consultation co-organized with Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO) and Dignity Initiative, experts from various fields deliberated on the draft of the CSOs (VNR) report 2024 from Dalit perspectives. CSOs from Dalit communities, Dalit sister organizations, Members of Parliament, National planning Commission, and the Chairperson of National Dalit Commission were involved in the process. The report was later presented to Dr. Ram Prasad Phuyal, member of the National Planning Commission, Govt. of Nepal. These long-term collaborations accompanying a significant document reporting the realities of Dalits in Nepal are crucial developments ahead of the High Level Political Forum 2024 where ADRF leaders will be representing CDWD voices from Asia in the coming Nepal Voluntary National Review.

### **ERGO Network launched Manual with Guidelines on Countering Antigypsyism**

This publication, authored by Ana Rozanova and Martina Horváthová, aims to equip civil society organizations with practical knowledge and strategies to combat one of the most persistent forms of discrimination. It provides valuable insights and actionable strategies for CSOs and individuals dedicated to fighting against the deep-seated prejudice and discrimination faced by Roma communities. By understanding the complexities of antigypsyism, both online and offline, the guidelines aimed to devise effective strategies to challenge stereotypes, promote inclusivity, and advocate for the rights of Roma communities.

### **TrustAfrica: A Successful Pre-Tana 2024 Youth Consultation organized in Dakar on June 4 and 5, 2024**

As a prelude to the 11th edition of the Tana Forum, TrustAfrica, the Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS), the African Youth Commission (AYC) and the Youth for Peace Program (YPP) of the African Union (AU) organized the Pre-Tana Youth Consultation Forum, 2024 edition, in Dakar, Senegal, on June 4 and 5, 2024. After a relevant opening ceremony, high quality panels addressing the opportunities and challenges of African youth in promoting peace and security on the continent took place. The participants, from various African countries, included youth organizations, academics, national and

[Read More →](#)

international journalists, members of civil society and political decision-makers.

[Read More →](#)



Copyright (C) 2024 Global Forum of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent. All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

[Want to change how you receive these emails?](#)

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)

