



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

THE INCLUSIVITY PROJECT





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THE INCLUSIVITY PROJECT

The Inclusivity Project (TIP) is a non-profit organization dedicated to advocating for the rights of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent (CDWD). TIP works to enhance the social, economic, and political inclusion of these communities by strengthening their visibility at national, regional, and global levels. Through capacity building, training, research, and strategic collaboration, TIP empowers DWD communities and their representatives to engage effectively in policy and advocacy efforts.

TIP actively contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by facilitating data collection, evidence generation, and monitoring mechanisms that support inclusive and effective program implementation by nation-states. As part of the Global Forum of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent (GFoD), a recognized stakeholder group at the United Nations, TIP plays a key role in ensuring CDWD representation in global development processes, including the UN Major Groups and Other Stakeholders Coordination Mechanism (MGoS CM).

Committed to bridging the gap in research and policy, TIP conducts ground-level research on marginalized and underrepresented communities worldwide. By mapping these communities and fostering networks, TIP seeks to address their invisibility in development frameworks. TIP provides capacity building training, study courses, conferences, and exposure visits to equip CDWD representatives with the tools necessary for advocacy and engagement.

TIP supported by GFoD plays as a vital role in the data-driven advocacy and policy interventions demanding the inclusion of DWD communities who remain largely excluded due to socio-cultural determinants such as caste, ethnicity, class, race, and linguistic identity. By strengthening stakeholder collaboration, facilitating dialogues, and fostering knowledge-sharing, TIP works towards a more inclusive and equitable global development agenda.



THE INCLUSIVITY PROJECT: BREAKING BARRIERS IN 2024

In 2024, The Inclusivity Project together with its partner networks, collaborators, academics, activists, key stakeholders and the DWD communities themselves, achieved significant milestones across its core areas of advocacy, policy engagement, and community empowerment. These accomplishments span across regions including Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America and thematic areas, demonstrating TIP's growing impact on Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent globally. Key achievements include:

- *International, regional and national policy engagement:* TIP played a critical role in advancing discussions on CDWD at the United Nations platforms both in New York and Geneva, regional SDG Forums and at national levels to amplify the voices of marginalized communities.
- *Advocacy for legal and policy recognition:* TIP contributed to policy discussions specifically targeting CDWD in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America, pushing for legal frameworks that recognize and protect the rights of CDWD. Significant progress was made in engaging with national governments to implement anti-discrimination laws and strengthen legal protection mechanisms.
- *Research, documentation and dissemination:* TIP published several evidence-based research reports, policy briefs, and multimedia content highlighting discrimination and socio-economic exclusion faced by CDWD. Extensive research helped TIP bring out a global report on the status of CDWD and four regional reports, and several country reports, facilitated VNR and UPR countries with evidence for intervention support, submitted inputs for Special Rapporteurs calls and prepared factsheets on CDWD.
- *Capacity building and community leadership:* Through CDWD Rights Experts (REs), the flagship programme, TIP trained and empowered 27 rights advocates from 17 countries, particularly women and youth, equipping them with skills in advocacy and policy engagement. Special focus was given to strengthening community-led initiatives in VNR and UPR review countries.
- *Engagement with climate and sustainability policies:* TIP participated in climate justice forums, advocating for the inclusion of CDWD in national and global climate policies. It engaged with mechanisms such as the Global Climate and SDG Synergy Conference to highlight the disproportionate impact of climate change on marginalized communities.
- *Social media and awareness campaigns:* TIP's outreach efforts led to significant social media and media coverage on issues affecting CDWD. TIP's campaigns reached over 50,000 people through social media, digital storytelling and international media features, driving awareness and engagement on key human rights issues. Some of our significant stories were shared through the social media handles of key officials including the President of ECOSOC, Commissioner OHCHR, Special Rapporteurs, UN officials, key dignitaries and organizations.



- *Institutional growth and strategic partnerships:* TIP strengthened collaborations with global human rights organizations, UN bodies, and academic institutions. Collaborations with the University of Ghana, Reuters University, are significant among those. TIP strengthened collaborations with existing donors including Bread for the World, MISEREOR, Open society Foundations, Global Call to Action Against Poverty, Foundation for a Just Society, and engaged in partnerships with Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, Lawyers Without Borders, among others leading to sustained actions and programmatic expansion.
- *Fundraising and resource mobilization:* TIP successfully mobilized funding from multiple sources, which allowed for the expansion of its community-based projects and advocacy initiatives.

As TIP continues its mission in 2025, it remains committed to strengthening its advocacy, expanding its grassroots impact, and ensuring that the voices of CDWD are recognized and respected in global human rights and development agendas.

TIP'S 2024 MILESTONES: BREAKING NEW GROUND IN INCLUSION

- **National-Level:** TIP conducted targeted interventions in six countries—Nepal, The Gambia, Albania, Colombia, Brazil, and Bosnia and Herzegovina—to integrate CDWD issues into national Universal Periodic Reviews (UPR) and Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) processes. This is apart from national-level interventions through the rights experts in 15 countries in four regions. TIP and its partners contributed joint stakeholder reports and factsheets, while 15 draft country reports were drafted from the rights experts' capacitation program, with a particular focus on CDWD women and girls.
- **Regional-Level:** TIP strengthened its presence at regional human rights and development forums, including the 79th and 81st Ordinary Sessions of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), the 2024 UNECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, and the 8th South and South-West Asia Subregional Forum on Sustainable Development. Four regional reports were produced, underscoring CDWD challenges and recommendations.
- **Global:** TIP facilitated impactful dialogues and engagement in 12 major international forums, including the 68th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the 2024 ECOSOC Financing for Development (FfD) forum, the 62nd session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD62), the 2024 UN Civil Society Conference in Nairobi, and the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). Notably, TIP played an active role in the 79th Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 79) and the 2024 Summit of the Future (SoTF), among others.

TIP supported by GFoD successfully organized 20 side events at the UN General Assembly and Human Rights Council, engaged with 25 country Permanent Missions in New York and Geneva, and collaborated 16 times with UN Special Rapporteurs, leading to eight formal input submissions. TIP has also organized 47 virtual meetings in 2024 with language interpretations in French, Portuguese, Spanish and Hindi successfully. Moreover, TIP-GFoD contributed to four global reports, prepared one draft declaration, and submitted five official written statements and appeals across various global platforms.

A landmark achievement of 2024 was the adoption of a resolution by the *African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR)* in recognition of CDWD rights. The establishment of a "*Group of Friends of CDWD*" at the UN marked another crucial step in institutionalizing global efforts for CDWD recognition and protection. TIP's sustained advocacy was made possible through strategic partnerships, networks and



collaborations with national, regional and global stakeholders which further allowed to expand the reach and impact of TIP's engagements. Through a coordinated and sustained approach, this initiative has laid foundational groundwork for the recognition of CDWD rights, mobilizing diverse sectors and stakeholders to actively participate in and support efforts to combat discrimination based on work and descent.

Through strategic engagements across major UN forums, TIP has advanced the visibility of CDWD rights. By building alliances, participating in high-level dialogues, and securing commitments from influential stakeholders, TIP laid the groundwork for impactful, long-term change and reinforced the urgency of addressing systemic discrimination at global and regional levels.

AN YEAR OF IMPACT – KEY ENGAGEMENTS

January 2024

Pakistan CDWD Report Release

A joint country study conducted by TIP-GFoD supported by CDWD Rights Experts in Pakistan titled: *Status of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent in Pakistan* was released in Karachi on 5 January 2024. Human rights and minority rights activists and civil society representatives attended the event. The speakers included Ms Anis Haroon, a Member of the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) for Sindh, Dr Sono Khangharani of Pakistan Dalit Solidarity Network, Pirbul Lal Satinyani, a Member of the National Commission for the Rights of Child, and members of PDSN Ms Bhagwani Rathor and Ms Pushpa Kumari. The event was jointly organized by Pakistan Dalit Solidarity Network (PDSN) and The Knowledge Forum (TKF) at Karachi Press Club.



Pirbhu Lal Satiyani, one of the authors of the report, highlighted that scheduled caste in Hindus and janitor workers in the Christian community are facing discrimination and exclusion in Pakistani society. He emphasized that there are no facilities in the settlements of the CDWD. This report is a 'call to action' for providing their due rights according to the laws and Constitution of Pakistan. Ms. Bhagwani Rathor, another contributor, pointed out that scheduled cast people are under representative even in the national census.



The report shed light on the challenges faced by certain communities in Pakistan, such as Dalits and Christian minorities, who have long endured discrimination based on their work and descent. These communities are often confined to low-paying, menial labour and are denied fundamental human rights. The report aims to advocate for transformative change and address the systemic denial of rights faced by these marginalized groups.

The report called for change and a catalyst for realizing a vision where every citizen enjoys equal opportunities and where diversity is celebrated as a strength rather than a source of division.

Academic-Human Rights Collaboration for Enhanced Research on CDWD in Africa

To build a collaboration between academics and activists committed to supporting CDWD in Africa, a joint online meeting was organized on 25 January 2024. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Anamzoya Sulemana, Head of the Department of Sociology, University of Ghana, Accra and supported by Paul Divakar Namala, TIP-GFoD. The meeting discussed TIP-GFoD's engagements in Africa and explored the scope of further research in identifying understudied communities and associated practices in the ambit of discrimination based on work and descent. The meeting ensured potential collaboration with a vision to promote research and action on impacted DWD communities in Africa.

February 2024

World Social Forum (WSF 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 17 February, TIP-GFoD, in collaboration with ADRF and partners, organized a meeting in Kathmandu, Nepal discussing “*Towards a Declaration on the Rights of the CDWD, including Dalits*”. The meeting was chaired by Beena Pallical, Chairperson, ADRF. Paul Divakar, TIP, Executive Director and Convener, Gfod led the audience through the significance and process of the 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.



The purpose of the event was to make efforts to garner support and solidarity to demand for a UN Declaration on the Rights of CDWD, adopted by all states, thereby ensuring global protection of rights and legitimacy of all CDWD across the globe. The deliberations also called for fulfilling the specific objectives including seeking recognition of CDWD and the hierarchical systems of oppression surrounding them; identifying and addressing the needs and concerns of CDWD on further protecting the rights of CDWD; calling for specific indicators in the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to fill the significant gaps that leave CDWD out of the United Nations' vision for a sustainable and equitable future; demanding the active participation of governments in various countries in designing public policies especially concerning education, healthcare, gender, food and nutrition, water and sanitation, access to justice, public finance, climate finance and biodiversity, development and urban planning, and other areas that affect the lives of CDWD; calling for the creation of a UN special mechanism on the rights of CDWD, such as a Special Rapporteur or Working Group mandate to address the existing gaps and the urgent need for accountability for human rights abuses against CDWD globally; urging the wider Civil Society to engage in 'Undoing Discrimination on Work and Descent', among others.

During the event, TIP-GFoD officially released three country reports on India, Bangladesh and Nepal, along with the regional report on Asia.

Visibility Booth at WSF: TIP-GFoD hosted a booth at WSF 2024 venue, Bhrikuti Mandap in Kathmandu, Nepal. The booth showcased TIP's initiatives including recent publications and created awareness about the issue of Discrimination based on Work and Descent. The visibility and dissemination action also served as a platform for networking with fellow organizations working towards the rights of marginalized communities.

Cyber Security for Rights Activists

A digital security training was organized by TIP in February 2024 for its secretariat and partner-members and CDWD Rights Experts. The training program was specifically



designed for activists who engage in online advocacy, particularly on Meta platforms in an age where digital activism is instrumental in driving positive change. It was also crucial to equip activists with the skills needed to navigate the digital landscape safely and effectively in the context of growing surveillance, data theft and clampdown on civil society organizations. The interactive training sessions was facilitated by Eric S. Johnson. He laid down methods to ensure digital security with a goal to devote our limited resources to the highest-priority threats to reduce danger. Some key outcomes of the training sessions include tightened security of existing accounts and devices to carry out engagements, increased awareness on various threats and how to mitigate associated occurrences.

62nd Session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD62)

A TIP representative delivered a powerful statement during a side event on Decent Work held from February 5 to 14, 2024, alongside the 62nd Session of the Commission for Social Development. This address reinforced TIP's commitment to advancing social development goals and contributing to global conversations on labour standards.

March 2024

Participation in the 68th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68)

A 16-member delegation of TIP-GFoD engaged in the 68th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). This team, composed of CDWD Rights Experts and young women leaders, participated in various in-person and virtual events, workshops, and meetings from March 11 to 22, 2024, in New York.

CSW: Official Side Event

TIP co-organized the official side event at the CSW along with UN Women, UNFPA and Permanent Mission of Nepal on 13 March 2024. The event, held in hybrid mode, shed light on critical issues and strategies concerning CDWD. Some of the key highlights of the event include: Mr. Suman R. Aryal, Secretary, Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen, Govt. of Nepal making a powerful statement reiterating Nepal's support to the CDWD cause; Julia Bunting of UNFPA stressed on the need to include the issue of DWD in their ongoing work; and Marie-Elena John from UN Women highlighting the need to develop an intersectional racial justice lens to change harmful norms and practices. Strong CDWD Women voices reverberated through a panel represented by Beena Pallical, Simona Torotcoi, Queen Bisseng and Vercilene Kalunga. The panelists highlighted various ways in which CDWD women are impacted at the intersections of descent, work and gender; and put forth recommendations to protect their rights. In addition to increased awareness towards CDWD issues and the intersections of gender and poverty for more than a hundred people who joined the event, some other outcomes of the event include the UN Women racial justice division looking to work on a collaborative policy brief. The process also pushed for a workshop

with UN Women and follow up meeting with Women in Digital Empowerment Fund (WiDEF).



NGO CSW Virtual Side Event

In collaboration with three Roma-led organizations, TIP organized a virtual side-event exploring the Gendered aspect of Poverty among DWD communities across the globe on 15 March 2024. TIP collaborated with ERGO Network, Romalítico and Feminist Collective of Romani Gender Experts, in organizing this event, titled '*Feminization of Poverty: How Does Poverty Affect the lives of Women Discriminated on Work and Descent.*'

Prof. Penda Mbow from Senegal shed light on CDWD Women working in leather, butchery and facing sustainable poverty due to lack of access to resources, forced/early marriages that hinder education, which often force women into prostitution. The panel represented by Claudia Gonzalez, Queen Bisseng, Vercilene Dias, Logeswary Ponniah, moderated by Marija Sulejmanova, focused on challenges faced by women in various communities, including poverty, discrimination, lack of infrastructure and explored possible solutions. The event ensured building of network through presence of new organizations and community representatives.

On March 20, 2024, TIP-GFoD hosted a side event titled "*Building Bridges among Women Discriminated Against on Work and Descent.*" The session facilitated cross-cultural exchanges and discussions on addressing the intersectional discrimination

faced by CDWD women globally. Key Highlights and outcomes: The significant results achieved through this event include capacity building of young CDWD women leaders, building of knowledge base on the strategies and good practices - shared during the event, solidarities forged with various women leaders and women led organizations which, together, explored the ways in which these discussions and actions at the United Nations, New York will ensure impact at the regional, national and local contexts. Some of the major points discussed during the event were challenges of marginalized African communities, gender and descent-based discrimination in South Asia and Brazil, discrimination against Roma communities and inclusion challenges, improving working conditions for women vendors, prioritizing their health and safety, political inclusion, support of faith-based organizations etc., among others.



UN Women Workshop on Racial Justice and Equality (March 14, 2024)

A seven-member delegation from TIP-GFoD participated in a workshop organized by UN Women in New York, introducing the Racial Justice and Equality Unit. Led by Marie-Elena John, Senior Racial Justice Lead, UN Woman welcomed the delegation and presented a unique opportunity to work together and explore ways to address intersections of DWD while being gender responsive. Several next steps discussed like mapping on existing resources including tools, guidance notes etc., collection of documents available on the DWD communities and highlighting gaps and ways to fill them with collaborative efforts. The workshop emphasized gender-responsive approaches to promoting racial justice.



April 2024

Engagement in the 6th Meeting of the ECOSOC Financing for Development (FfD)

TIP delegates, including Ms. Eliana Vaz and Mr. Paul Divakar, participated in high-impact discussions at the Financing for Development Forum from April 22 to 25, 2024. Ms. Eliana addressed systemic issues faced by CDWD, while Mr. Paul contributed to discussions on the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transition. During the panel discussion on addressing systemic issues, Eliana highlighted the systemic barriers faced by CDWD 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.



As a part of the NGO Committee on FfD, TIP co-hosted a 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. He stressed that inclusion needs to be in the very design of financial inclusion programs. On April 23, 2024, TIP co-hosted a panel discussion on *“Advancing Financial Inclusion through Safe and Inclusive Digital Infrastructure.”* The panel, co-hosted by TIP, as a part of the NGO Committee on FfD, brought together various stakeholders including 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. During the event, the 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.



A virtual meeting with Ms. Anita Thomas, Chair of the NGO Committee on Finance for Development, was held on February 5, 2024, with 19 TIP-GFoD members, including eight CDWD leaders, in attendance. The session provided a deeper understanding of FfD processes and intervention opportunities.



Multi-stakeholder Hearing for the 4th International Conference on FfD

In preparation for the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4), the NGO Committee on Financing for Development organized a multi-stakeholder hearing on October 29, 2024. The event, themed “*Resilience in the Face of Disasters: The Role of Social Protection, Financial and Digital Inclusion, and Inclusive Climate Finance*,” included participation from State parties, the private sector, the International Labour Organization (ILO), and civil society organizations.

Paul Divakar, Convener of GFoD, emphasized the importance of amplifying grassroots perspectives, stressing that social protection, financial and digital inclusion, and climate financing should be recognized as rights and entitlements to ensure equitable and sustainable disaster resilience.

May 2024

United Nations Civil Society Conference, Nairobi (May 9–10, 2024)

TIP delegation, comprising seven members, including a CDWD Rights Expert, actively participated in the United Nations Civil Society Conference in Nairobi. The delegation played a key role in advancing the discourse on the rights of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent, organizing impactful initiatives aimed at increasing global awareness and advocacy.

Side Event: Empowering Youth from CDWD

TIP hosted the event *Empowering Youth from CDWD* alongside discussions on the Zero Draft of the Pact for the Future. The session focused on engaging young CDWD leaders, equipping them with strategies for advocacy, and emphasizing their role in

global development. Diverse groups participated in the youth event from different organizations including Global Call to Action Against Poverty, Protection International, ARROW and others. The meeting discussed on how youth from communities discriminated on work and descent face unique challenges that hinder their full participation and contribution to society. The panel, represented by CDWD youth from four countries, discussed how discrimination based on caste, ethnicity, or descent often limits their access to education, employment, and basic rights, perpetuating cycles of poverty and exclusion. It was noted that youth are also agents of change, capable of driving social transformation and building a more inclusive future. This session aimed to explore strategies and good practices of empowering youth from discriminated communities and unlocking their potential as catalysts for sustainable development.



CDWD Youth Statement

On May 10, TIP delegate, Naveen Gautam, delivered a statement during the *Impact Coalition Session on Youth and Intergenerational Engagement*, highlighting the systemic barriers faced by CDWD youth and advocating for greater inclusion in decision-making processes. He spoke about the existing challenges and highlighted on the demands from the Stakeholder Group for Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent Based (SG-CDWD). The event was hosted by United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth (UNMGCY), Help-Age International, and Population

Council GIRL Center as part of Mobilization Day in the margins of the UN Civil Society Conference in Nairobi, Kenya.



Workshop: Bridging Art for Advocacy

TIP delegation took part in a dynamic creative workshop focused on innovative engagement strategies, using artistic expression to highlight issues faced by Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent. Queen and Yacouba attended the workshop, *Bridging Art and Advocacy: Creative Expression Towards the Summit of the Future*, organized by the Intergenerational and Youth Subcommittee and the Major Group of Children and Youth. Yacouba led a group discussion that used art to visualize a roadmap for addressing the 2030 Agenda. The workshop also explored the role of artists and the transformative power of the arts in interpreting and advancing the five charters of the Pact for the Future.



Intervention at Youth Blast Assembly

During the Youth Blast Assembly on May 11, TIP-GFoD highlighted the urgent challenges faced by CDWD youth, emphasizing the need for greater civil society engagement and awareness. Naveen Gautam, representing GFoD, was invited to speak on the status of CDWD youth at the assembly, organized by the Stakeholder Group on Children and Youth on May 8 and 11, 2024, as part of Mobilization Day on the sidelines of the UN Civil Society Conference. The assembly provided a global platform for discussing youth-related issues, bringing together young leaders from diverse countries, UN system officials, leading international civil society organizations, academics, public opinion influencers, and international media to address pressing global concerns.



TIP-GFoD's engagements at the forum raised awareness about systemic discrimination against CDWD, inspiring stakeholders to integrate CDWD concerns into future advocacy efforts. It also helped:

- *Enhanced Commitment to Youth Empowerment:* Emphasis on CDWD youth as agents of change motivated stakeholders to prioritize youth-driven initiatives.
- *Broadened Alliances:* Strengthened collaborations with key major groups, reinforcing intersectional approaches to human rights and equality.
- *Diplomatic Engagements:* Strategic discussions with German and Namibian ambassadors fostered commitments to include CDWD concerns in global policy frameworks.
- *New Advocacy Strategies:* Participation in workshops such as Youth Blast and Road to Beijing+30 inspired creative engagement methodologies.

African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), 79th Ordinary Session

At the 79th Ordinary Session's NGO Forum in Banjul, TIP-GFoD's delegation led impactful discussions. A dedicated panel highlighted educational barriers for CDWD and explored transformative strategies for inclusive education.



At the 79th Ordinary Session of the ACHPR NGO Forum, TIP-GFoD convened a panel discussion that shed light on the significant barriers to education faced by CDWD. Moderated by Honourable Commissioner Janet Ramatoulie Sallah-Njie, Vice Chairperson of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the discussion examined the systemic challenges preventing CDWD from accessing education and explored viable solutions.

The panel highlighted the severe human rights violations experienced by CDWD, including entrenched caste-based discrimination, violence, and slavery-like practices that persist in several African countries.

Cheikh Sidati Hamadi from Mauritania outlined the intersectional barriers restricting CDWD children's access to education, emphasizing the impact of poverty, gender disparities, inadequate infrastructure and other compounding factors. Alima Taal from The Gambia focused on the various forms of discrimination affecting CDWD children, particularly slavery, bonded labour, child labour, and forced labour, urging the African Commission to take decisive action. Raichatou Walett drew attention to traditional slavery in Mali, affecting an estimated 300,000 people, and its direct consequences on educational access.

Yacouba Ibrahim reinforced the need to uphold children's rights, promote awareness, and invest in education. He called for immediate measures to ensure equal educational opportunities for all children, irrespective of their ancestry. The well-attended panel discussion engaged key stakeholders and sparked critical dialogue on

tackling discrimination based on work and descent within the African human rights framework.



TIP-GFoD led Special Interest Group discussions that resulted in the formal recognition of CDWD as a distinct category and the submission of ten key demands to the ACHPR. The Thematic Interest Group on CDWD underscored the critical role of education in advocacy, emphasizing that education empowers individuals to challenge systemic injustices, advance human rights, and combat discrimination.

To enhance the impact of education, strategies proposed for the ACHPR included improving legal awareness and accessibility, promoting human rights education, strengthening support for civil society organizations (CSOs), developing monitoring and reporting mechanisms, and advocating for inclusive policies. At the 79th Session of the ACHPR, recommendations for NGOs highlighted the need to recognize and protect the rights of vulnerable groups, address stigma, integrate human rights education into school curricula, pass a resolution on education as a tool for advocacy, establish a complaints mechanism, amplify advocacy efforts, prioritize women and girls, make education a state priority, and ensure meaningful civil society participation.

The NGO Forum of the ACHPR adopted a resolution *recognizing the transformative role of education in advancing the human rights of CDWD in Africa*.



June 2024

Special Invited Lecture

In June 2024, TIP-GFoD hosted a special invited lecture followed by a roundtable discussion on ‘*Carving out a Norm at the UN: On the Rights of CDWD*’. During the event, Dr. Corinne Lennox traced the journey of CDWD movement and efforts of norm creation at the UN. The discussion provided insightful takeaways, solidarities and encouragement to keep working towards a UN Declaration on the Rights of the communities discriminated on work and descent. Participants from over 27 countries attended the event. The discussion explored the history, strategies, outcomes, success factors, limitations of CDWD movements. Leaders from four continents shared their ongoing efforts in their respective regions towards the inclusion and protection of DWD communities and the significance of forming global solidarities.

The lecture was followed by a round table discussion. During the discussion, TIP-GFoD’s Africa Coordinator, Queen Bisseng, stressed on the role of local advocacy groups in organizing and demanding social justice. She shared examples of Osu community in Enugu; Gambia’s Gambana international movement; and Haratin leaders’ Annual March in Mauritania. Vercilene Francisco Dias of CONAQ highlighted the constitutional recognition provided to the issues of Quilombola community in Brazil.

She highlighted the failure to implement the laws. 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.



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)

The slide also features a small image of a person holding a sign that says "DALIT LIVES MATTER".

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

Dr. Simona Torotcoi, TIP-GFoD's Europe Coordinator, and Marina Csikós, Rights Expert, actively participated in the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting (SHDM) in Vienna. Simona attended the OSCE SHDM sessions on *Tolerance and Non-Discrimination and Gender Equality*, where she represented TIP-GFoD. She presented findings from a recent joint survey conducted by TIP-GFoD, focusing on Roma women. Her intervention highlighted the impact of discrimination on Roma women's access to quality healthcare services and political participation, emphasizing the need for targeted policy interventions.

Marina Csikós addressed pressing concerns affecting marginalized women and girls, particularly in the context of the rising influence of conservative parties in Europe. She underscored the threats posed to hard-earned rights, particularly in the areas of sexual and reproductive health, civic space, and minority participation. She stressed the importance of integrating marginalized perspectives into gender equality strategies, with a specific focus on addressing technology-facilitated gender-based violence.



July 2024

UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)

From July 8 to 17, 2024, a 23-member TIP-GFoD delegation participated in the High-level Political Forum, representing Asia, Africa, South America, North America, Europe, and Oceania. Seven members were fully or partially funded by TIP.

Key engagements: Delegates participated in 42 side events covering topics such as Racial Equality, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Climate Resilience, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WSH), and Economic Inclusion. TIP-GFoD representatives secured eight official speaking slots, highlighting CDWD voices on SDG1, science-driven solutions, and local resilience-building.

Key Speakers:

1. Vercilene Dias (Quilombola leader) - SDG1 interlinkages.
2. Paul Divakar - Perspectives from Major Groups and stakeholders.
3. Beena Pallical (Asia Dalit Rights Forum) - SDG1 insights.
4. Simona Torotcoi - Science and technology-driven transformation.
5. Diko Hanoune - Resilience-building in Africa and LDCs.
6. Grijesh Dinkar - Barriers in Middle-Income countries.
7. Bishnu M. Pariyar - Grassroots transformation efforts.
8. Queen Bisseng - Regional perspectives.

TIP-GFoD engaged in bilateral discussions with 45 Permanent Missions, including Brazil, Germany, Spain, and Nepal, to support marginalized communities. Positive outcomes included commitments from North Macedonia and Germany to enhance visibility for Roma communities and collaboration from Brazil on environmental justice for Quilombola communities.

Major Group and Other Stakeholders (MGoS) Engagement

TIP-GFoD actively engaged as the Stakeholder Group on Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent (SG-CDWD) in collaboration with OHCHR to ensure CDWD issues were embedded in the final outcomes of the Pact for the Future. TIP also facilitated MGoS engagement in task forces related to Voluntary National Reviews and event planning. Apart from this, TIP co-organized events and issued public statements, ensuring CDWD representation in global discussions.

Engagement with ECOSOC President, Robert Rae

During the Summit of the Future, TIP-GFoD convened a meeting with H.E. Robert Rae, President of UN ECOSOC, where CDWD concerns were highlighted. The President acknowledged the issue and stressed the need for greater awareness among member states.

CDWD Statement at Human Rights Council 57th Session

TIP supported by GFoD submitted a formal statement to the UN Secretary-General ahead of the 57th Human Rights Council session, calling for the recognition of CDWD as a distinct category of systemic oppression and advocating for the establishment of an informal working group to address their needs.

August 2024

Regional Consultation on Access to Justice for CDWD in South Asia

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in collaboration with TIP-GFoD, International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN) and Asia Dalit Rights Forum (ADRF) organized a South regional consultation on access to justice from August 19-21, 2024, in Bangkok. The workshop brought together experts to discuss country reports on India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal, and Bangladesh. It highlighted the challenges faced by CDWD. The consultation identified barriers to justice and explore strategies for addressing discrimination and promoting equal access to justice for CDWDs. Participants shared experiences, best practices, and recommendations for improving legal frameworks, policy implementation, and community engagement. The consultation's outcomes were also about OHCHR's future initiatives and support governments in strengthening access to justice for descent-based communities. Country reports from Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal were presented by lead researchers who had extensively worked and researched upon civil and political rights status of the Dalits in the respective countries. It also included the aspect of status of Human Rights Commission (HRCs) in the respected countries and their response and implementation towards Dalit rights.



September 2024

Formation of the ‘Group of Friends of CDWD’ at the UN

On September 20, TIP-GFoD organized a Multi-Stakeholder Roundtable, leading to the establishment of the “Group of Friends on CDWD” at the UN to advocate for CDWD rights at the UN level. This initiative received support from UN representatives and civil society leaders.



Agreeing on the draft terms of reference for the group and the press statement jointly prepared by the stakeholders, this coalition was formed at the United Nations, New York. This took place during a high-profile roundtable discussion chaired by from H.E Mohan Pieris, Ambassador to the UN from Sri Lanka; and attended by Ambassador H.E Robert Rae, President of UN ECOSOC (virtual); and H.E Frchkoski (former Ambassador of North Macedonia), along with representatives and stakeholders from UN agencies, CSOs and others.

The *Group of Friends of CDWD* at the UN would focus on advocating for the rights and protections of people affected by caste-based discrimination, slavery, and other forms of discrimination tied to social status and descent. The group would work to collaborate over raising awareness on these issues, supporting international frameworks and policies to address these issues, such as promoting the proposed UN Declaration on Protection of the Rights of the CDWD. The establishment of this group has been a result of a long engagement at the UN with a diverse group of stakeholders

who had earlier come together during our side event to the High Level Political Forum in July 2024.



Global People's Assembly Participation

TIP played an active role in the Global People's Assembly, emphasizing CDWD issues in discussions on climate action, debt justice, and gender equality.

Strategy Meeting Towards the Second World Social Summit

TIP participated in a high-level strategy meeting in New York, advocating for the inclusion of CDWD issues in global social development frameworks.

Collaboration with UN Women

During the UN General Assembly Session in September 2024, the TIP-GFoD team met with Marie-Elena John, Racial Justice Lead at UN Women. Discussions focused on drafting a policy brief to deepen understanding of the challenges faced by CDWD women across Asia, Africa, Europe, and Latin America while providing key recommendations and strategies to address these issues.

Collaboration with LGBTQI and Youth Stakeholder Groups

TIP co-organized a session on SDG 10 with the LGBTQI and Youth Stakeholder Groups, highlighting the intersectionality of discrimination and the urgent need for inclusive global governance.

Global Caste Awareness Day

TIP-GFoD partnered with the Ambedkar International Mission and the New Jersey City Council to host an event on 21 September 2024 raising awareness on caste-based discrimination, fostering local and global solidarity.



As a result of the event and its demands, New Jersey officially recognized September 21 as *Global Caste Awareness Day*. A significant milestone was achieved on October 17 when the President and all council members of Jersey City formally declared this designation. This decision followed a resolution passed by the Jersey City Municipal Council, with TIP-GFoD playing a crucial supporting role in the process.

The resolution was spearheaded by youth leader Mr. Ishan Parmar and the Ambedkar International Mission (AIM), with valuable support from the Association for Dalit Women's Advancement of Nepal (ADWAN) and GFoD.

November 2024

Participation in the 48th Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Pre-Sessions

A three-member TIP-GFoD delegation participated in the UPR pre-sessions in Geneva, submitting a joint stakeholder report on CDWD in The Gambia and advocating for policy reforms. During the session, TIP representatives engaged with 11 Permanent Missions to push for CDWD-related recommendations, delivered statements at the EU-NGO exchange, highlighting CDWD issues, and developed a

factsheet addressing the challenges of Roma communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



UN Forum on Business and Human Rights

TIP actively participated in the 13th United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights, held from November 25 to 27, 2024, at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. The forum, themed “*Realizing the Smart Mix of Measures to Protect Human Rights in the Context of Business Activities*,” provided a crucial platform to advocate for the integration of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent within business and human rights frameworks.

As part of its engagement, TIP co-organized two major side events, facilitated strategic discussions with key stakeholders, and launched a targeted social media campaign to amplify awareness on business and human rights in the context of CDWD. These efforts contributed to advancing global advocacy and promoting actionable solutions.

Representation in UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights

On November 26, 2024, TIP-GFoD delegate Alima Taal participated in the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights' Snapshot Series session on vulnerable groups. Her session, titled “*Realizing a Smart Mix of Measures for Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent in Global Supply Chains*,” highlighted systemic discrimination in global supply chains and called for stronger measures to ensure DWD communities' equitable participation and benefits.



Side Event: Realizing a Smart Mix of Measures for CDWD

On November 27, 2024, TIP-GFoD organized a side event titled *“Realizing a Smart Mix of Measures for CDWD in the Context of Business Activity.”* This event provided a dedicated platform for diverse stakeholders to discuss the challenges faced by CDWD within the business and human rights framework. It underscored the necessity



of inclusive global supply chains and policy mechanisms that safeguard the rights of marginalized communities.

Strategic Meetings with OHCHR Officials

On November 26, TIP-GFoD met with Rory Mungoven (Chief, Asia Pacific Region), Raghu Menon, and Claude Cahn (Human Rights Officers at OHCHR) to discuss strategies for strengthening CDWD policy frameworks. The meeting focused on enhancing the OHCHR's 2017 Guidance Tool on descent-based discrimination and exploring avenues for deeper integration of CDWD concerns into OHCHR's strategic mandates.

High-Level Engagement with UN High Commissioner

On November 27, TIP-GFoD met with UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Turk, who commended TIP-GFoD's efforts in uniting global voices to address discrimination based on work and descent. He reaffirmed his support and solidarity for the initiative.



Engagements with UN Treaty Bodies and Permanent Missions

Meeting with International Labour Organization (ILO)

The TIP-GFoD delegation met with Chidi King, Chief of the Gender, Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Branch at ILO, to address systemic exclusion and hereditary discrimination affecting CDWD. Discussions emphasized aligning CDWD advocacy with ILO Conventions 100 and 111 to drive policy reforms.

Consultation with UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)

A six-member delegation engaged with Gay McDougall, independent expert with CERD, to strategize on CDWD representation at UN platforms. Key outcomes included plans for side events at the Commission on the Status of Women and exploring a CERD briefing on CDWD.

Meetings with Permanent Missions

TIP-GFoD delegates engaged with representatives from the United Kingdom, Brazil, Chile, and Ivory Coast, among others, to highlight CDWD concerns and garner support for policy interventions.



UN Forum on Minority Issues

Youth Perspectives Side Event

On November 28, 2024, TIP-GFoD organized a side event during the 17th session of the UN Forum on Minority Issues (FMI), focusing on youth representation in public spaces and discourses. The discussion emphasized the need for mentorship and capacity-building initiatives for CDWD youth, particularly young women. UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues, Prof. Nicolas Levrant, expressed strong solidarity, highlighting the need for a dedicated mandate or working group on CDWD issues.



Strategic Meeting with OHCHR Minority Fellows

TIP-GFoD hosted a meeting with CDWD OHCHR Minority Fellows from Europe, Asia, and Africa, including Vira, Elena, Kunjini, and Hassane. Discussions focused on potential collaborations to strengthen global CDWD advocacy.

Other key interventions at FMI include:

- *Education Rights*: TIP-GFoD representative Simona Torotcoi highlighted the exclusion of Roma children and educators due to systemic discrimination in education.
- *Digital Rights*: A CDWD Rights Expert raised concerns about online hate speech, calling for stronger safeguards and responsible media practices.
- *Global Caste-Based Discrimination*: Another CDWD Rights Expert drew parallels between caste systems in The Gambia, Quilombola, and Roma communities, emphasizing its persistent impact worldwide.

Global Report Release

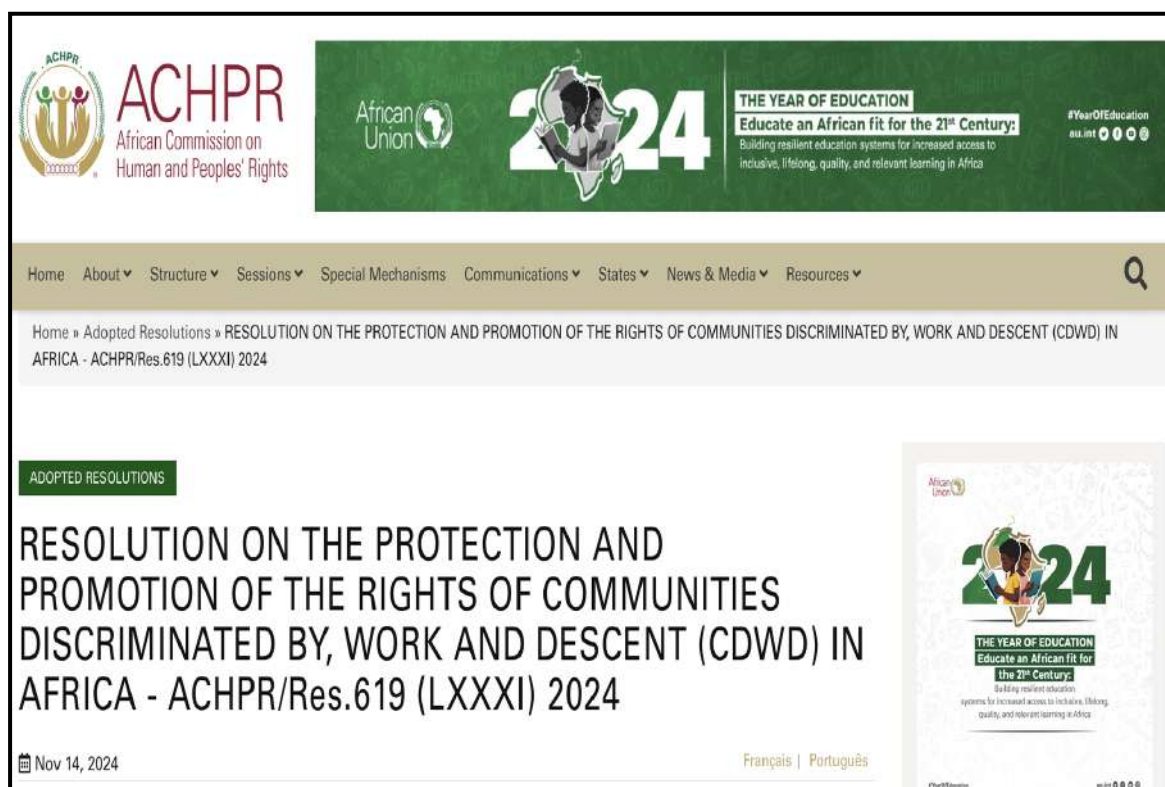
On November 28, 2024, the Special Rapporteur on Minority Rights launched the Global Report on the Status of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent. This landmark report underscores the urgency of dismantling caste-based hierarchies and fostering inclusive societies.

81st Ordinary Session: African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

In October-November 2024, a four-member TIP delegation participated in the 81st Ordinary Session of ACHPR and its NGO Forum. Senior Rights Expert, Alima Taal, delivered a powerful statement emphasizing the need for a comprehensive protection mechanism to address discrimination based on work and descent. She proposed an African Special Interest Group to conduct investigations, foster dialogue, and develop policies for marginalized communities.

Key engagements with the Forum include a Panel at the NGO Forum (14 October 2024): TIP-GFoD hosted a panel on strategies for building an inclusive and resilient Africa. Chaired by Commissioner Litha Musyimi Ogana, the discussion highlighted systemic challenges faced by CDWD communities. Dr. Bassiru Bah of The Gambia's National Human Rights Commission presented research affirming caste and occupation-based discrimination, while TIP-GFoD's Queen Bisseng underscored the systemic barriers faced by DWD communities. The panel urged ACHPR to adopt a resolution on CDWD rights, establish a working group, and implement special measures to dismantle harmful practices.

CDWD Working Group Proceedings: Participants gathered in thematic working groups to formulate actionable recommendations for ACHPR. Discussions centered on education's role in employment, human rights promotion, the regional impact of CDWD issues, strengthening partnerships, and ACHPR's role in mitigating challenges.



THE INCLUSIVITY PROJECT AT SDG FORUMS

Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD)

On 21 February 2024, TIP-GFoD and the Asia Dalit Rights Forum (ADRF) organized a virtual event highlighting the climate crisis's impact on marginalized communities, with a special focus on Dalits. The event, held during APFSD, amplified awareness of the intersection between climate change and CDWD challenges. TIP's participation and intervention ensured an increased regional awareness and advocacy for climate resilience among CDWD.

UNECE Regional Forum for Sustainable Development 2024

On 11 March 2024, TIP-GFoD hosted a virtual side event addressing poverty and discrimination among Roma and CDWD diaspora communities alongside the UNECE Regional Forum for Sustainable Development. The discussion centered on strategies to break cycles of poverty and enhance economic advancement opportunities. It further strengthened regional momentum for a UN Declaration on CDWD Rights through strategic meetings and advocacy.

Fifth Global Climate and SDG Synergy Conference, Brazil

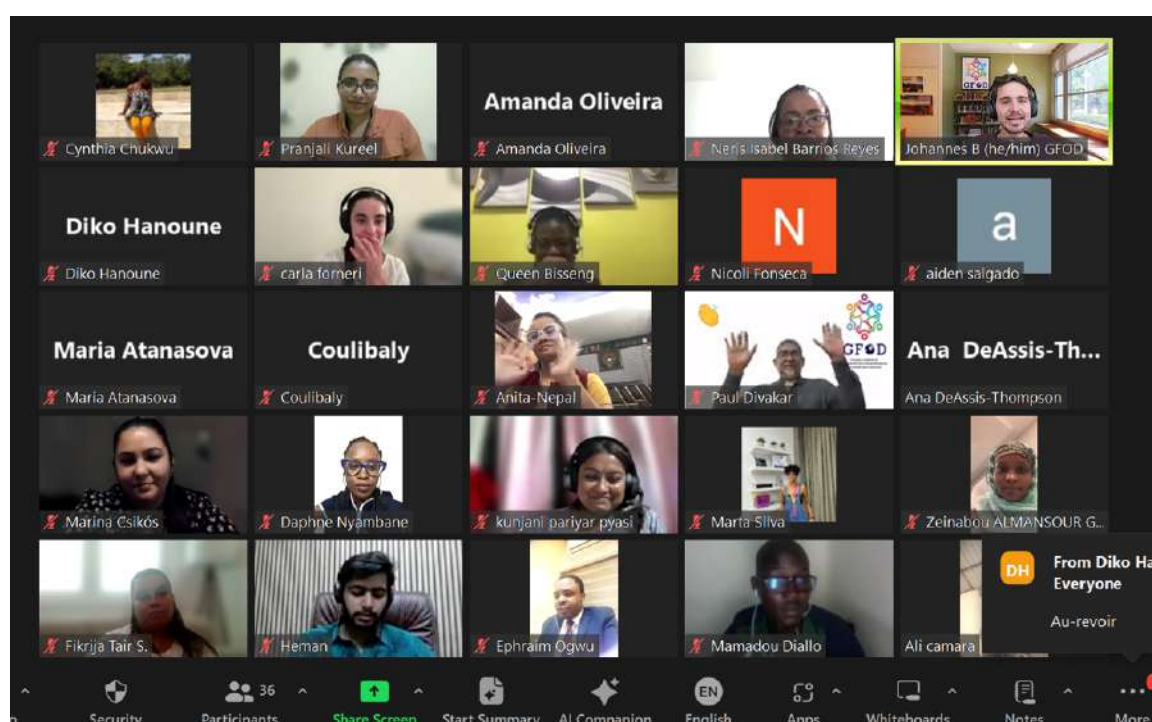
At the 5th Global Climate and SDG Synergies Conference in Brazil (5-6 September 2024), Jose Clayton Murilo Cavalcanti represented GFoD and the Coordenação Nacional de Articulação de Quilombos (CONAQ). Cavalcanti emphasized the urgent

need to integrate marginalized communities into global climate action frameworks, particularly highlighting the disproportionate impact of climate change on Quilombolas and other CDWD groups. He underscored the socio-environmental challenges, territorial rights violations, land insecurity, and systemic discrimination faced by these communities.

South & South-West Asia Subregional Forum on Sustainable Development

Held in New Delhi from 12-14 November 2024, the 8th South & South-West Asia Subregional Forum on Sustainable Development saw active participation from the UN, state representatives, and civil society organizations. TIP representatives, participating both in person and virtually, emphasized the impact of caste-based discrimination on Dalit communities in the subregion. Discussions centered on SDGs 3, 5, 8, 14, and 17, with states presenting progress reports on these goals. The participation not only helped visibilizing CDWD but also strengthened regional advocacy on the inclusion of CDWD issues in SDG implementation efforts.

CDWD RIGHTS EXPERTS - 2024



TIP conducted the third batch of CDWD Rights Experts, program in May 2024. The RE program forms a very significant base of advocacy efforts connecting from global to the grassroots. At its core, the program elevates the national level advocacy of one community towards collective advocacy engagement for all CDWD on the global level such as the UN and other regional and global human rights mechanisms. 26 experts from 16 countries represented by established and budding leaders, researchers,

journalists and more from the CDWD begin their capacity building training as they bring valuable perspectives and skillset to advocacy for CDWD rights.

GENDER MAINSTREAMING ACTIONS OF THE INCLUSIVITY PROJECT

Significant among The Inclusivity Project's work in 2024 include advancing gender equality by integrating a gender perspective into all aspects of its work. TIP ensured that the rights of women, particularly those from CDWD are upheld based on international human rights frameworks. TIP fostered focused training program on gender mainstreaming with inclusive dialogue and capacity-building actions that encourage staff, CDWD Rights Experts, networks and collaborators to understand the nuances and become allies in the fight for gender equality.

TIP's gender mainstreaming efforts were guided by the following institutional principles:

- **Partnership and Inclusion:** TIP placed gender and CDWD understanding intersectionality at the center of its gender strategy by grounding its approach in the realities and aspirations of women from DWD communities.
- **Human Rights-Based Approach:** Gender mainstreaming within TIP is aligned with international human rights standards, ensuring that human rights serve as both a means and an end in TIP's gender-focused interventions.
- **Multi-Level Advocacy:** TIP employed a multi-tiered approach, starting at the grassroots level and extending to regional and international advocacy.
- **Adaptability and Responsiveness:** Recognizing the evolving challenges faced by women in DWD communities, TIP tried balancing long-term strategic planning with the flexibility needed to respond swiftly to emerging issues. This agility ensures that TIP remains effective in addressing gender-related challenges in rapidly changing contexts.

TIP facilitated the gender mainstreaming training using a training module include:

1. **Revisiting and Recalling Gender Fundamentals:** Strengthening a common understanding of gender-related concepts and processes.
2. **Introducing Gender Mainstreaming:** Highlighting its importance, principles, and strategic steps toward achieving gender equality.
3. **Exploring Interlinkages between CDWD and Gender:** Mapping the challenges of gender mainstreaming and identifying strategies to address them.
4. **Introducing Gender Analytical Tools:** Focusing on contextual gender analysis to promote positive values and social coherence for gender equality advancement.
5. **Strengthening the Capacity of Rights Experts:** Equipping those working with CDWD communities to integrate a gender perspective in policies and programs.

The Inclusivity Project has adopted gender mainstreaming as an integral and ongoing process across all its work, starting at the grassroots level. Our informal working

group—led by and for CDWD women—along with Rights Experts and partner organizations, ensures that these voices and leadership drive advocacy from the ground up. Through capacity building, gender training, and strategic support, we create opportunities for these women to influence national and regional policy dialogues. We are also beginning to evolve empowerment of CDWD women in the most marginalized areas through Digital Empowerment Centers that we have started in Cameroon, aimed at promoting digital literacy and livelihood.

Creating pathways to bring the voice of CDWD women to global forums, we actively support their engagement with the UN system. In 2024, TIP facilitated CDWD women participation in the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), UN General Assembly, and Human Rights Council, ensuring their lived realities shape international policy discussions. TIP is also supporting UN Women in bringing out a landmark policy brief on CDWD women, set to launch at CSW69 in 2025, further strengthening our commitment to gender justice by bridging the gap between local and global.

NATIONAL LEVEL ACTIONS

At the national level, TIP aimed to address CDWD discrimination through collaborative and community-centered initiatives. Significant among them include:

Nepal VNR Spotlight Report: TIP-GFoD supported the Asia Dalit Rights Forum in drafting a CSO spotlight report for Nepal's Voluntary National Review. The report contributed to a joint civil society statement at the HLPF, spotlighting CDWD challenges in Nepal.

Community Visits in The Gambia: In May 2024, TIP-GFoD's four-member delegation visited Garawol and Koina communities to learn firsthand about their struggles against caste-based discrimination.

Meeting with The Gambia's NHRC: A TIP-GFoD delegation met with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to discuss CDWD concerns and demand for collaborative action on May 15, 2024.

Gambia UPR Submission: TIP-GFoD collaborated with The Gambana International to submit a joint CSO report for The Gambia's Universal Periodic Review at the UN.

Colombia VNR Engagements: TIP-GFoD coordinated meetings with Colombia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, led by CDWD Rights Experts, to ensure CDWD issues received attention in the nation's VNR process.

National Conference on the Implementation of Roma Inclusion Policies: A TIP-GFoD delegate participated as a panellist on Women Leadership at the *National Conference on the Implementation of Roma Inclusion Policies*, organized by the Institute for Research and Policy Analysis, Romalitico, in North Macedonia. She

highlighted the importance of incorporating diverse perspectives in leadership and focused on fostering inclusive conditions to empower the new generation of CDWD including Roma women leaders.

Country capital engagements and exposure visits: A key positive development of the project support has been the collaboration in organizing an exposure visit to strategic locations in Latin America and Europe. TIP's Executive Director, along with regional anchors, Rights Experts, and network members, visited these regions to strengthen our efforts. This initiative has provided valuable support, enabling us to engage not only with government agencies but also with individuals and networks that have historically been marginalized or overlooked. As a result, TIP has been able to expand its reach and impact, identifying and addressing the needs of marginalized communities more effectively and comprehensively. Significant among the visits and meetings include, among others:

- a) Meeting with the Palanque community in Colombia, 5-9 November 2024.
- b) Quilombola community and Kalunga provinces visit in Brazil, 10-14 November 2024.
- c) Meeting with the Plenipotentiary for Roma Welfare in the ministry at Bratislava, Slovakia seeking collaboration and potential future engagements.
- d) Visited Dr. Ambedkar School run by Janos and Tobir and an Indian Dalit artist, Sajjan Panwar in Miskolc, a Romani populated city in Hungary.
- e) Met with the Commission for Prevention and Protection against Discrimination (CPPD) in North Macedonia.
- f) Met with the Secretary, Ministry of Roma Development, North Macedonia.
- g) Visited Roma settlements in Skopje, Capital of the Republic of Macedonia.

These efforts increased visibility and awareness of CDWD discrimination, prompting discussions in Nepal, The Gambia, and Colombia, Brazil, North Macedonia, Hungary, Slovakia and ensuring CDWD rights were prioritized on national agendas.

Research, documentation and dissemination

TIP conducted in-depth research and collected evidence of CDWD discrimination to influence policy shifts. Significant among them include:

CDWD Women and Poverty Report: A report prepared for CSW68 highlighted the extreme marginalization of CDWD women, presenting key policy recommendations. The report dealt with CDWD women and girls in Asia, Europe, Africa and Latin America, who face heightened marginalization due to cross-cutting, intersectional discrimination as a consequence of their identity and gender leading them to extreme poverty, and forced works.

Zero Draft of the 2024 FfD: TIP-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 of the 2024 FfD.

Roma Women Survey Report: TIP-GFoD, ERGO Network, Romalítico Institute for Roma Policy Analyses, and the Feminist Collective of Romani Gender Experts collaborated to produce a report on *the situation of Roma women in Europe: A survey among NGO representatives and gender experts*. The report focused on contributing to a general understanding of the situation of Roma women, one of Europe's largest CDWD. It shared the challenges Roma women in Europe face and also about the precarity of civil society organizations working on/with Roma women.

Report on Caste Hate Speech in the Age of Digital Society: TIP-GFoD, Social Media Matters and National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR) published a research report on Caste Hate Speech in the Age of Digital Society. The report focussed on the effort in eliminating the complexities of caste-based hate speech in the increasingly digital world.

Inputs for UNHRC Report: TIP-GFoD submitted inputs to the UN Special Rapporteur's call for inputs to thematic report to the UN Human Rights Council 57th Session: Nexus water-economy: Water management for services and productive uses from a human rights approach."

Inputs for report on Violence against Women and Girls: TIP-GFoD submitted input to the report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls to the Human Rights Council on prostitution and violence against women and girls in June 2024.

Inputs for SR report on Right to Development: TIP-GFoD provided input for the 2024 reports of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development, contributing perspectives on Climate Justice (Loss and Damage Fund) and the Right to Development for Children and Future Generations. This input is for consideration in the SR's report to the Human Rights Council in 2024.

Inputs for report in Violence against Women and Girls in Sports: TIP-GFoD submitted inputs to Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls to the UN General Assembly on violence against women and girls in sport.

Inputs for report on Extreme Poverty: TIP-GFoD submitted a report to the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty, outlining the conditions faced by Columbians, especially the Palenque and Roma communities before the visit to Colombia. The report emphasized the unique challenges faced by the communities experience multiple layers of discrimination due to their distinct social origins, language, and cultural heritage.

Input for the OHCHR report on ensuring quality education for peace and tolerance for every child: In November 2024, TIP-GFoD submitted inputs for the OHCHR report on ensuring quality education for peace and tolerance for every child.

Submission to the Special Rapporteur on Contemporary forms of Slavery: TIP-GFoD submitted inputs to Tomoyo Obokata, Special Rapporteur on Contemporary forms of Slavery's country visit to Australia in November 2024.

Other Significant Activities

Training on Universal Periodic Review (April 2024): TIP trained CDWD human rights activists and CSOs on UN mechanisms and UPRs to strengthen engagement efforts.

Information Booth UN Civil Society Conference (May 9-10, 2024): TIP-GFoD hosted an information booth on CDWD during UN Civil Society Conference in Nairobi.

Expert Group Meeting on SDG 1 (May 2024): TIP-GFoD delegate attended the Expert Group Meeting on "Sustainable Development Goal 1: End Poverty in all its Forms Everywhere" organized by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), the World Bank UN Trade and Development, and other partners and contributed to the thematic discussion on 'Social Protection to Ensure Leaving No One Behind.'

Roma Rights Engagement in Europe (24-25 June 2024): TIP-GFoD raised CDWD concerns at the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Human Dimension Meeting in Vienna, addressing the intersection of CDWD and rising conservatism.

Engagements in Europe on Roma Rights and CDWD concerns (13 June 2024): A TIP delegate, representing CDWD, contributed actively to discussions on the Pact for the Future during a briefing organized by the EU Delegation to the UN. This meeting brought together EU Member States and Civil Society to exchange views on the Summit of the Future and the ongoing consultations regarding the Pact and its associated processes.

SR Report acknowledged TIP-GFoD's contribution (June 2024): The report titled "*Breaking the Cycle: Ending the Criminalization of Homelessness and Poverty*," presented to the UN General Assembly by the Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights and the Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing, recognized TIP-GFoD's contributions concerning the impact of laws related to homelessness and poverty.

SR Report acknowledged TIP-GFoD's contribution (July 2024): In the Special Rapporteur report on the right to development, the SR acknowledged TIP-GFoD's

submission while drafting a climate justice framework with overarching human rights principles.

NHRC Gambia's report: TIP-GFoD has engaged with the NHRC to seek support on the issue of caste and descent-based discrimination in The Gambia by inviting the NHCR to be on the panel at the ACPHR. NHRC Gambia published report on caste and descent-based discrimination. NHRC has also expressed strong support on the study and is encouraged by TIP-GFoD taking a leading role in the issue.

Visibility and Dissemination Actions

TIP worked dedicated to amplifying visibility and expanding outreach through a robust digital presence and sharing the activities and engagements. [TIP](#) and [GFoD](#) website serves as a vital information hub, sharing CDWD stories that spotlight personal and community resilience, a comprehensive database on CDWD with [infographics](#), [podcasts](#) and critical resources to drive awareness and inclusive policy actions. Monthly updates are shared with individuals and organizations globally through [GFoD News Letters](#) in three languages including English, French and Portuguese. Social media handles include *Cast Out Slavery* campaign on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [Facebook](#) boldly shares stories and instances on CDWD human rights violations, sparking dialogue with content that encourages to engage and join our actions. [YouTube](#) channel also share information on CDWD and major engagements of TIP-GFoD. An increase in TIP-GFoD website and social media handles indicates growing interest and engagement in learning about CDWD issues.

OVERALL ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2024

TIP successfully visibilised CDWD, making significant progress in addressing their concerns. By fostering recognition of CDWD issues at national, regional, and international levels, the project has steadily advanced its objectives, demonstrating its impact across multiple domains.

Key achievements of the year include:

- **Empowered Rights Experts:** Through targeted capacity-building initiatives, the project has empowered 26 CDWD rights experts and community leaders to continue working on human rights and combat discrimination. Training programs have enhanced their ability to drive change within their communities.
- **Strengthened Global Networks:** Strategic partnerships established through the project have amplified the voices of DWD communities regionally and globally, fostering solidarity and promoting engagements.
- **Engagements in Sustainable Development Forums:** CDWD rights experts effectively intervened in national, regional, and global SDG forums, demanding the inclusion of CDWD concerns in development agendas and raising awareness about their unique challenges.



- **ACHPR Recognition:** *The Commission* adopted the resolution protecting and promoting CDWD rights in Africa, marking a historic milestone for legal acknowledgment in Africa.
- **Support from Global Actors and *Group of Friends of CDWD*:** UN Special Rapporteurs, Permanent Missions, and Member States have extended their support to our initiatives. The formation of the *Group of Friends of CDWD* serves as a testament to this commitment. This collective support strengthens the endorsement of the UN Declaration on the Rights of CDWD.

In spite of challenges, TIP has achieved global recognition of the importance of addressing CDWD issues and has strengthened collaboration among key stakeholders. This synergy has particularly enhanced coordination with the *Global Forum of Discrimination Based on Work and Descent* (GFoD) networks. While notable progress has been made in recognition, networking, engagement, and partner commitment, further efforts are required to sustain and build upon these successes.

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