



The Inclusivity Project

Annual Report

2025

THE INCLUSIVITY PROJECT

GFOD

GLOBAL FORUM OF COMMUNITIES DISCRIMINATED ON WORK AND DESCENT

The Inclusivity Project

The Inclusivity Project (TIP) is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization that operates in compliance with IRS regulations. TIP was founded in 2017 to advocate for the rights of communities discriminated on work and descent (CDWD) and raise awareness of CDWD issues nationally, regionally and internationally. TIP works towards capacity building, collaboration and research to support CDWD, who face exclusion on a large scale. The UN recognizes them and calls them “discrimination based on work and descent (DWD)” under caste or caste-like social structures across the globe. TIP aims at enhancing the social, economic and political integration of CDWD and increasing their global visibility by creating a platform for international cooperation, providing opportunities for capacity building and promoting and circulating policy-relevant research.

Since its inception, TIP has mobilised grassroots organizations through the Global Forum of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent (GFoD), at its networks and organizations including Asia Dalits Rights Forum (ADRF), the National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR), Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO), Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Rights Movements (BDERM), Human Development Organization (HDO), GFoD Africa, Trust Africa, ERGO Network and Coordenação Nacional de Articulação das Comunidades (CONAQ), in Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America. TIP amplified CDWD voices, especially women, girls, and youth, at all levels. Through its Rights Expert Program, TIP equipped advocates from affected communities to engage with UN bodies, States and human rights mechanisms.

TIP holds a special consultative status with UN ECOSOC and since 2019, has been an Operating Partner for Stakeholder Group on CDWD in MGoS in the SDG High Level Political Forum. TIP advances SDG implementation through HLPF, Voluntary National Reviews, the Summit of the Future, and Financing for Development forums, Commission on the Status of Women, and engages with key UN Human Rights mechanisms including the Business and Human Rights Forum and the Forum on Minority Rights.

TIP’s affiliations include:

- A special consultative status with UN ECOSOC
- SG-CDWD – Operating Partner for Stakeholder Group on CDWD in MGoS
- Member - MGCY Coordination team
- Member – NGO Committee on Financing for Development, a substantive committee of the Conference of NGOs (CoNGO)
- Executive Member – NGO Committee for Social Development
- Global Council Member – Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP)
- Collaborations and associates with Asia Dalit Rights Forum, ERGO Network, CONAQ, Trust Africa, IMADR-Asia

Our Vision

We envision pioneering a society where every individual, irrespective of gender or descent, considers themselves equal and free human beings and enjoys a life free from all forms of discrimination. We envision a democratic and inclusive community where resources are shared justly and people coexist in peace and harmony with one another and with nature.

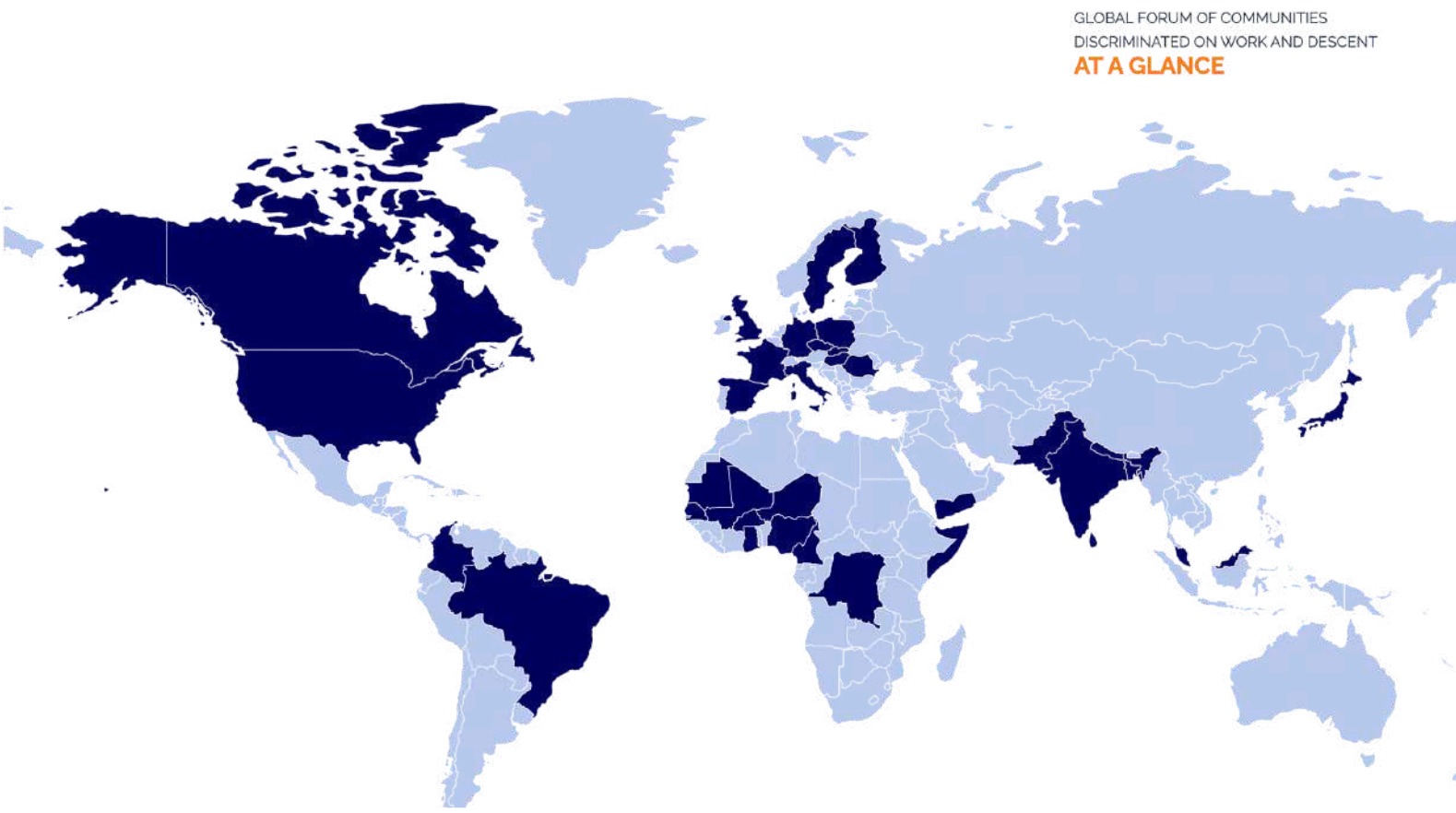


Our Mission

Our mission is to lead the charge in integrating, uplifting and including Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent (CDWD) into mainstream society at local, regional and global levels. We are committed to fostering gender parity, facilitating comprehensive development opportunities, ensuring impartial justice delivery, promoting sustainable environmental protection and implementing equitable disaster mitigation measures. Grounded in the principles of self-respect and self-identity, equality and freedom and justice and equity, our mission is to empower marginalized communities, foster inclusivity and advance societal progress

Objectives

The Inclusivity Project envisions a democratic, inclusive and just society that is free from all forms of Discrimination based on Work and Descent (DWD). We strive for gender parity, equitable access to development, fair justice delivery, robust environment protection and effective disaster mitigation measures. Our scope spans the planning, design, implementation, monitoring, review and evaluation of sustainable development policies across national, regional and international levels.



THE INCLUSIVITY PROJECT ENVISIONS A WORLD WHERE EVERY LIFE IS VALUED, EVERY VOICE IS HEARD AND EVERY PERSON STANDS EQUAL.

Table of Contents



01
Foreward 1

02
Key Milestone 2

03
TIP's 2025 Journey 3

04
Global Advocacy 6

05
United Nations Engagements 8



06
Regional and National Engagements 16

07
Policy, Reports, UN Submissions 25

08
Youth Engagements 28

09
Partner Highlights 31

10
Communication and Campaigns 32

11
Way Forward 34

Foreward

As we reflect on 2025, we do so with deep resolve and renewed conviction. This year marked both a test and a turning point for The Inclusivity Project (TIP) and the Global Forum of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent (GFoD). Across regions and platforms, we strengthened the visibility of communities discriminated on work and descent (CDWD), advanced evidence-based advocacy and deepened partnerships that place dignity, rights and lived realities at the centre of development discourse. In a global context shaped by widening inequalities and shrinking civic spaces, we remained steadfast in our commitment to challenge structural exclusion and amplify voices that have for far too long been marginalised.

Our journey through 2025 was defined by meaningful progress and collective effort. We expanded our research and knowledge base, supported community leadership and youth engagement and contributed to national, regional, and international advocacy processes that moved CDWD concerns closer to policy and institutional agendas. These achievements reflect an organisation that continues to learn, evolve and strengthen its strategies—guided always by the aspirations of the communities we serve. We are deeply grateful to all those who walked alongside us this year: The communities, partners, allies, donors, researchers, academics, and all other key stakeholders and supporters whose trust, solidarity and sustained commitment made this work possible.

As we look ahead, we do so with clarity of purpose and long-term vision. The years to come call for deeper collaboration, sharper impact and unwavering resolve to translate advocacy into lasting systemic change. Our pathway forward is anchored in one non-negotiable principle: protecting and promoting the rights of CDWD, so that they live their lives with dignity. As we move into 2026, we look forward to continued solidarity and partnership as we work collectively toward a future where the rights, contributions and dignity of CDWD are fully recognised and realised.

We wish all our partners and allies a successful and meaningful year ahead, and we remain committed to building a more just, inclusive, and equitable world—together.

Paul Divakar Namala
Executive Director
The Inclusivity Project



Key Milestones

1

First-ever recognition of DWD by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

2

Six Member States raised DWD at the UPR, marking the strongest governmental recognition to date.

3

Launch of the UN Women + GFoD global policy paper on CDWD women and girls.

4 ACHPR Resolution 619 gained implementation momentum, strengthening African leadership.

5

First International CDWD Conference in Africa, uniting leaders from 8+ countries.

6

Digital Empowerment Centers launched in Cameroon, advancing youth and women's leadership.

7

Record CDWD youth visibility at the ECOSOC Youth Forum, including plenary moderation for the first time in UN history.

8

Influential input into the FfD4 Zero Draft, spotlighting descent-based discrimination in global financing.

9

Strengthened Roma, Quilombola, Dalit, Haratin, Burakumin and Osu feminist alliances, linking global struggles.

10

Greater visibility achieved through the CDWD Artefacts of Oppression /Liberation exhibition at WSS, Doha.

TIP's 2025 Journey

In 2025, The Inclusivity Project (TIP) made major strides in addressing discrimination based on work and descent (DWD). The issue, long neglected, gained unprecedented attention across the UN system, regional bodies, feminist movements, youth networks and national coalitions.

TIP–GFoD engaged in key UN processes, including FfD, CSoCD, CSW, HLPF, APFSD, WSS, the ECOSOC Youth Forum and the UPR, ensuring DWD was included in debates on poverty, gender equality, labour rights, climate justice and social protection. Regional movements in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America strengthened, while youth and women leaders took on more visible global advocacy roles. Contributions from partners in over twenty countries, through testimonies, research, policy submissions and communications helped solidify the global narrative and challenge denial of DWD discrimination.

Community voices shaped the work at every stage. Initiatives such as digital empowerment programs in Cameroon, the first International CDWD Conference in Africa, and submissions to UN Special Rapporteurs highlighted community leadership and reframed global conversations.

With attention comes struggles and resistance. Political recognition is not guaranteed, and backlash could slow progress. The movement must safeguard community-led initiatives and ensure that increased visibility does not expose individuals to greater risk of tokenization.

SIGNIFICANT BREAKTHROUGHS

TIP–GFoD plays a critical role by amplifying community voices, generating credible evidence, and linking local struggles to global decision-making. By connecting regional movements, supporting youth and women leaders, and producing research and storytelling, TIP–GFoD strengthens the case for DWD recognition and protection, ensuring that decades of marginalization are met with real political and legal action.



The breakthroughs of 2025 are significant because they established momentum for formal UN recognition of DWD discrimination, expanded regional coalitions, amplified youth and women's leadership, and strengthened evidence-based advocacy through storytelling, research, and exhibitions like the World Social Summit showcase on histories of oppression and liberation.

Global Impact 2025

Global Reach and Advocacy

25+
UN submissions; DWD raised by 6 Member States at UPR for the first time.

40+
bilateral meetings with missions, UN agencies, and partners

Global
interventions delivered across UN, regional, and digital platforms.

CDWD
integrated into HLPF, CSoCD, APFSD, youth, gender, and SDG discussions.

FIRST
UN policy paper on CDWD women launched with UN Women.

Youth and Women Leadership

15+
Youth engagement in 15+ countries

10+
youth-led events and 6 UN side events.

$40,000
raised to support youth leadership initiatives.

Strengthened intergenerational collaboration, women's leadership, and community empowerment globally.

Regional Impact

Africa

Engagement in **8 countries;**

100+ participants at the first International CDWD Conference;

3 Regional Digital empowerment centers launched;
youth and women leaders trained; **political recognition** of CDWD issues increased.

Asia

Engagement in **6+ countries;**

4+ major forums; strengthened youth participation, women's leadership, and national coalitions;

DWD integrated into SDG discussions.

Europe

Engagement in **7+ events;**

collaborations with EU and Roma networks;

youth and feminist alliances strengthened;

cross-regional solidarity increased.

Latin America

Focus on Brazil, Colombia

20+ Quilombola women leaders engaged;

global recognition of Afro-descendant struggles expanded;

Policy, Research and Coalitions

20+
countries engaged through partners;

10+
Collaboration with 10+ key regional and global partners

Clear
pathways established for future UN recognition of CDWD discrimination.

DWD
issues recognized in multiple UN debates; evidence-based advocacy shaped policy recommendations.

Digital and Media Impact

10+
multimedia content pieces produced; monthly newsletters circulated globally

Increased
visibility and amplification of youth, women, and partner voices.

Digital
Empowerment Centers launched in Cameroon; new centers planned in other countries.



Global Advocacy

This chapter presents an overview of TIP-GFoD's international advocacy work, focusing on global platforms, cross-regional events and organizational efforts to bring the concerns of CDWD to international attention.

Overview

Throughout 2025, TIP expanded its global advocacy presence across diverse policy arenas. The organization advanced its message through diplomatic outreach, public events, multilateral conferences, expert panels, and global movements for equality.

Our work showed that DWD is not a local or isolated phenomenon but a global pattern of exclusion. By linking CDWD struggles to labour justice, development financing, climate vulnerability, and gender inequality, TIP positioned DWD at the heart of global human rights discourses.

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW ADVOCACY

TIP-GFoD worked throughout the year to support national coalitions preparing for UPR reviews. We helped CSOs frame DWD as a human rights issue, coordinated global advocacy with missions, and drafted key messages on access to justice, gender-based violence, social protection, and discrimination. TIP-GFoD briefed UN missions, prepared civil society submissions, and supported CDWD leaders in presenting lived experiences. These efforts contributed to greater recognition of DWD within the UPR process.



HIGH-LEVEL GLOBAL ADVOCACY MEETINGS

GFoD representatives met with diplomats, UN agency representatives, human rights experts, and civil society networks to elevate DWD within global conversations.These meetings strengthened political understanding of DWD, built new alliances, and ensured GFoD remained a trusted actor for governments and UN bodies seeking to address systemic discrimination.



GLOBAL SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUALITY PLATFORMS

TIP-GFoD joined global coalitions working on equality, social protection, and inclusive development. This included participating in major conferences, engaging in panels on discrimination, and contributing to global statements. TIP-GFoD highlighted the link between caste-like exclusion and global inequality, advocating for recognition of DWD across development frameworks and global justice movements.

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCES

GFoD took part in international conferences focused on human rights, racial discrimination, minority rights, and intersectional justice. These platforms gave floor to GFoD to speak about global patterns of exclusion, build solidarity across regions, and amplify CDWD voices in international debates.

U.S. LEADERSHIP TOUR: EMPOWERING YOUNG LEADERS FROM DESCENT COMMUNITIES

This summer, GFoD leaders traveled across the United States, covering 5,296 miles, to share the experiences and resilience of communities historically excluded by caste and similar systems. The tour raised $40,000, funding leadership development for eight young Descent Community leaders, while 22 more still await support. Each $5,000 enables a leader to access a year of training, resources, and global platforms, including the UN, helping ensure their voices shape policies for equality and justice.



Analytics

- **30+ global advocacy engagements across the year**
- **40+ bilateral meetings with missions, UN agencies, and partners**
- **Global interventions delivered across multiple platforms**
- **Reach of hundreds of thousands through social media advocacy**
- **Represented in over 12 international conferences and dialogues**

United Nations Engagements

In 2025, TIP significantly expanded its presence at the United Nations, ensuring that discrimination based on work and descent (DWD) received stronger recognition across key UN bodies. We engaged consistently in New York and Geneva, participated in major UN conferences, supported civil society coalitions, and made direct contributions to important UN processes. The year marked important gains in visibility, especially through our interventions at the Human Rights Council, the Commission for Social Development, APFSD, WSS and the ECOSOC Youth Forum.

Our work emphasized:

- The need for formal UN recognition of DWD
- Stronger legal frameworks and accountability
- Protection of CDWD women and youth
- Inclusive development financing
- Access to decent work
- The connection between DWD and poverty, health, climate vulnerability, and gender inequality

Through diplomacy, side events, oral statements, and youth engagement, TIP-GFoD built new relationships with UN missions and deepened trust with long-standing partners.



HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 59TH SESSION

A major breakthrough came in March, when the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights explicitly acknowledged discrimination based on work and descent in his address to the Human Rights Council. This recognition follows sustained advocacy by TIP-GFoD and marks a significant step toward global visibility for CDWD concerns.

Landmark Recognition for Descent Communities

At HRC59 in June 2025, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, highlighted the African Commission's Resolution 619 on Discrimination Based on Work and Descent (DWD) as a "global milestone for equality." This recognition marked an unprecedented step for CDWD on the international stage.



First-Ever Side Event on Descent-Based Discrimination

The Inclusivity Project and GFoD co-hosted a side event titled "Protecting Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent through the UPR: Gambia's Good Practices". The session spotlighted systemic DWD discrimination across Dalits, Roma, Quilombolas, Burakumin, and Haratin, highlighting successes in Gambia and the ACHPR resolution. The Gambia's Permanent Mission emphasized growing international attention and civil society collaboration.

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) ENGAGEMENTS



TIP-GFoD supported civil society throughout the year to prepare for multiple UPR sessions, strengthening documentation and coordinated advocacy. The 48th UPR Session was a landmark moment: six Member States raised DWD for the first time, while The Gambia acknowledged national findings on caste and descent-based discrimination and committed to reviewing all recommendations.

From 26-28 November, TIP-supported community experts participated in pre-sessions for the UPR, highlighting discrimination in Australia, Mauritania, and Nepal. They urged Member States to adopt concrete recommendations and committed to local follow-up to ensure accountability. TIP-GFoD submitted written inputs, met with missions, and helped national coalitions prepare recommendations covering the rights of CDWD. We emphasized issues such as access to justice, education discrimination, forced or bonded labour, and protection of women and girls. The engagement strengthened alliances between GFoD, national partners, and supportive UN missions.

COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (CSOCD63)



TIP-GFoD participated in the 63rd Session of the Commission for Social Development, which addressed global challenges related to poverty, social protection, and inequalities. GFoD delegates joined plenary sessions, side events, and civil society dialogues. We highlighted how CDWD experiences extreme poverty and exclusion from social protection systems. TIP-GFoD contributed to discussions on decent work, universal social protection floors, and monitoring progress on SDG 1. We also built stronger relationships with UN agencies and civil society networks working on social justice.

First-Ever Side Event on Descent-Based Discrimination

High-Level Side Event with the Government of Germany TIP-GFoD co-organized a flagship event with the Permanent Mission of Germany examining how entrenched caste hierarchies, antigypsyism, and the legacy of slavery continue to shape social exclusion worldwide. Panelists emphasized that dismantling these systems requires structural reform, investment in data and monitoring, and the political will to challenge norms that remain “cast-in-iron.” Insights shared by ECOSOC President Bob Rae, German officials, and grassroots leaders from Haratin, Roma, and Dalit communities underscored the urgency of global action.

ASIA-PACIFIC FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (APFSD)



TIP had a significant presence in APFSD, one of the largest regional events feeding into global UN processes. TIP-GFoD representatives took part in the Opening Plenary, thematic sessions on gender equality and decent work, and side events led by regional networks. A GFoD representative delivered a strong intervention connecting caste, gender, and poverty, highlighting the intersections faced by CDWD women. GFoD also joined youth consultations, influencing the APFSD Youth Call to Action, which recognized caste-based discrimination within SDG frameworks.

FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT (FFD4)

TIP contributed to the global discussion on development financing leading up to the fourth International Conference on Financing for Development. GFoD submitted written inputs to the Zero Draft, stressing the need for inclusive, accountable financing that reaches communities facing historic discrimination. We advocated for targeted resources for CDWD communities, emphasizing structural poverty, labor exploitation, and barriers to land and credit. GFoD also held bilateral meetings with missions, pushing for language recognizing systemic discrimination within financing policies.



ENGAGEMENT WITH UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS

TIP-GFoD engaged throughout the year with Special Rapporteur mandates on:

- Contemporary Forms of Slavery
- Extreme Poverty and Human Rights
- Violence Against Women and Girls
- Minority Issues
- Racism
- Access to Justice
- Water and Sanitation
- Toxic and Human Rights



Through written submissions and meetings, TIP-GFoD documented patterns of violence, poverty, segregation, and labor exploitation affecting CDWD. We offered CDWD-centered perspectives and recommended legal reforms, social protections, and monitoring mechanisms. Our submissions helped several mandates integrate caste and descent-based discrimination within their thematic reports.

TIP-supported advocates met with Tomoya Obokata, UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, to discuss the urgent situation of CDWD, including Roma, Dalit, and Haratin groups worldwide, building momentum for advancing their rights.

GROUP OF FRIENDS OF CDWD (INFORMAL UN COALITION)

TIP-GFoD held multiple diplomatic briefings with UN missions supportive of advancing recognition of CDWD issues. These engagements created a stronger foundation for future UN resolutions, helped align messaging across regions, and opened opportunities for joint advocacy during Human Rights Council sessions and UPR cycles. GFoD delegates engaged with 18 permanent missions, including Tonga, Germany, Nepal, Czech Republic, New Zealand, Brazil, and Canada, to foster global solidarity for CDWD. These efforts are laying the groundwork for a formal cross-regional alliance committed to addressing descent-based discrimination at the UN.

CDWD AT THE 69TH COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW69)

GFoD women leaders participated in consultations and events linked to CSW discussions. At CSW69, GFoD contributed perspectives on gender-based violence, feminized poverty, harmful labor practices, and intersectional discrimination. These engagements strengthened global feminist alliances and ensured that CDWD women's voices were included in policy recommendations.

Centering CDWD Women and Girls in Global Policy

In partnership with UN Women, GFoD co-hosted a high-level event at UN Headquarters that brought together Member States, UN agencies and grassroots leaders from Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America. Discussions informed a policy brief on the rights of CDWD women and emphasized intersectional approaches, stronger participation mechanisms and global cooperation. Delegations proposed establishing a Group of Friends on CDWD to advance political commitment within the UN system.

GFoD hosted two side events—one in-person and one virtual—bringing together global leaders and grassroots women. Speakers from Brazil, Nigeria, Spain, Albania, Niger, and South Asia highlighted systemic discrimination, the absence of adequate data and accountability, and the need for targeted public policies. These discussions strengthened cross-regional solidarity and informed advocacy toward the Beijing+30 review.





ECOSOC YOUTH FORUM

At the ECOSOC Youth Forum 2025, CDWD youth delivered a powerful intervention urging global recognition of descent and work-based discrimination as a core human rights and development priority. They highlighted the systemic barriers faced by CDWD—particularly women, girls, and gender-diverse youth—in education, employment, digital access, and justice, calling for stronger UN accountability and meaningful inclusion in SDG monitoring. The delegation also hosted two side events and co-organised a major plenary on the World Social Summit, where—for the first time in UN history—a Dalit youth moderated a plenary session, marking a historic moment for visibility and representation. Together, these interventions reinforced that without addressing descent-based discrimination, the 2030 Agenda's promise to leave no one behind cannot be fulfilled.

THE SECOND WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT- QATAR, DOHA

In November, TIP-GFoD team participated in the World Social Summit 2025 in Doha, Qatar, where CDWD gained a global platform to be seen and heard. Through events on women's leadership, youth-led inclusion, and policy-driven solutions, as well as our "Artefacts of Liberation" exhibition, we highlighted the resilience and rights of marginalized communities while advocating for structural change, universal social protection, equal access to justice, and accountability in social development. Across panels, forums and exhibitions, the Summit reinforced our message: no community should remain unseen, and no voice should remain unheard.



BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS FORUM

CDWD leaders presented at the Business and Human Rights Forum, sharing materials and symbolic artefacts. They raised awareness of human rights violations, such as unsafe shipbreaking conditions and celebrated achievements like the Dindigul Agreement in the garment industry.



FORUM ON MINORITY ISSUES

Experts supported by TIP contributed to the Forum on Minority Issues, highlighting both challenges and solutions for CDWD. Insights and speaker commitments from the forum are guiding ongoing advocacy efforts.



PARTNERSHIP WITH UN WOMEN

TIP and the Feminist Collective of Romani Gender Experts met with Adriana Quiñones, Chief of the Human Rights and Nondiscrimination Section at UN Women, to discuss expanding the reach of the UN Women's Policy Paper on DWD affecting women and girls. The meeting strengthened joint engagement with the Human Rights Council and reinforced efforts to protect and empower women from CDWD.

ADVANCING INTERSECTIONAL RIGHTS FOR WOMEN FROM CDWD AT THE UN

On 30 September 2025, TIP-GFoD hosted a side event at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on advancing intersectional rights and justice for women from CDWD, coinciding with the launch of a joint UN Women **policy paper.** Experts and community leaders highlighted the multiple, overlapping forms of discrimination CDWD women face, from denial of maternal healthcare to exclusion from economic and social participation. Speakers emphasized the need to center CDWD women's voices in policy-making, integrate gender perspectives, and adopt intersectional approaches grounded in international law. The policy paper provides a practical framework for UN agencies and partners to address these gaps, strengthen access to justice, and advance both gender equality and human rights globally.

HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

At HLPF 2025, UN Women and GFoD jointly launched the first-ever policy paper addressing the rights of women and girls from Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent (CDWD). The high-level launch included Member States such as Timor-Leste and the Czech Republic, with interventions from CERD Vice-Chair Gay McDougall, UN Working Group Vice-Chair Claudia Flores, and video messages of solidarity from UN Special Rapporteurs. This landmark collaboration marks a major step toward inclusive gender equality in global policy spaces.





ECOSOC President's Solidarity H.E. Bob Rae, President of ECOSOC, recognized the contributions of CDWD communities during HLPF 2025, affirming the importance of dialogue and concrete action to end deep-rooted discrimination, following an intervention by Lead Discussant Naveen Gautam.

Youth intervention breakthrough: At the High-Level Political Forum, CDWD youth demonstrated an unprecedented level of leadership and visibility. We actively participated in three side events, delivered interventions in three plenary sessions, and also co-organized a major side event with the Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY). This event brought together the UN Youth Office as a key speaker and was supported by eight global youth constituencies, all aligning behind a collective Call to Action led by MGCY. Our engagement ensured that descent-based discrimination, youth leadership, and access to justice were firmly placed within the global SDG discourse, marking a significant milestone for CDWD youth representation at the HLPF.

TORONTO DECLARATION 2025

The Global Conference for a Caste-Free World in Toronto (25–27 May) concluded with the adoption of the Toronto Declaration, calling for coordinated global action to dismantle caste- and descent-based discrimination affecting over 250 million people. Paul Divakar, TIP's Executive Director, participated and contributed to the conference by sharing inputs to the Declaration. This conference marked a pivotal moment in our collective journey to dismantle deeply entrenched systems of caste oppression which continue to marginalise millions of individuals across continents.



CDWD INCLUSION IN GLOBAL WATER RIGHTS

On 17 June, GFoD engaged with the UN Special Rapporteur on Water and Sanitation to ensure DWD communities are recognized as disproportionately affected in all preparatory processes for the 2026 Water Conference.





GLOBAL PEOPLE ASSEMBLY

On 25 September, GFoD participated in the Global People Assembly marking 10 years of the SDGs, highlighting the experiences of marginalized communities and promoting participatory approaches to inclusive sustainable development.

A GLOBAL CALL ON INDIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

Friends of India Texas hosted "Can We Undo Untouchability?" with keynote speaker Paul Divakar, highlighting the need to address untouchability as a global issue affecting communities such as the Roma, Haratine, Quilombola, and Burakumin, alongside South Asia.

Analytics

- **20+ UN events participated in**
- **15+ bilateral meetings with missions**
- **8+ formal submissions to UN mechanisms**
- **DWD raised in major global discussions: sustainable development, youth policies, and gender equality**
- **TIP-GFoD presence in New York, Geneva, Bangkok,Qatar and regional hubs via partners**

Regional and National Engagements

TIP-GFoD's regional work grew stronger in 2025. Across Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America, we supported national partners, organized community actions, strengthened youth leadership and expanded awareness of DWD across local and regional platforms. Our approach combined advocacy, movement-building, research, community visits, training and regional policy work.

Africa

Africa continued to be one of GFoD's most dynamic and rapidly expanding regions. CDWD across Africa, including communities in The Gambia, Cameroon, Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, and Ghana engaged in research, documentation, policy advocacy, and youth empowerment.

GFoD deepened partnerships with grassroots organizations, women's rights groups, community networks, and national human rights institutions. With growing political attention following the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) Resolution 619, the year created new opportunities for public dialogue and legal advocacy.

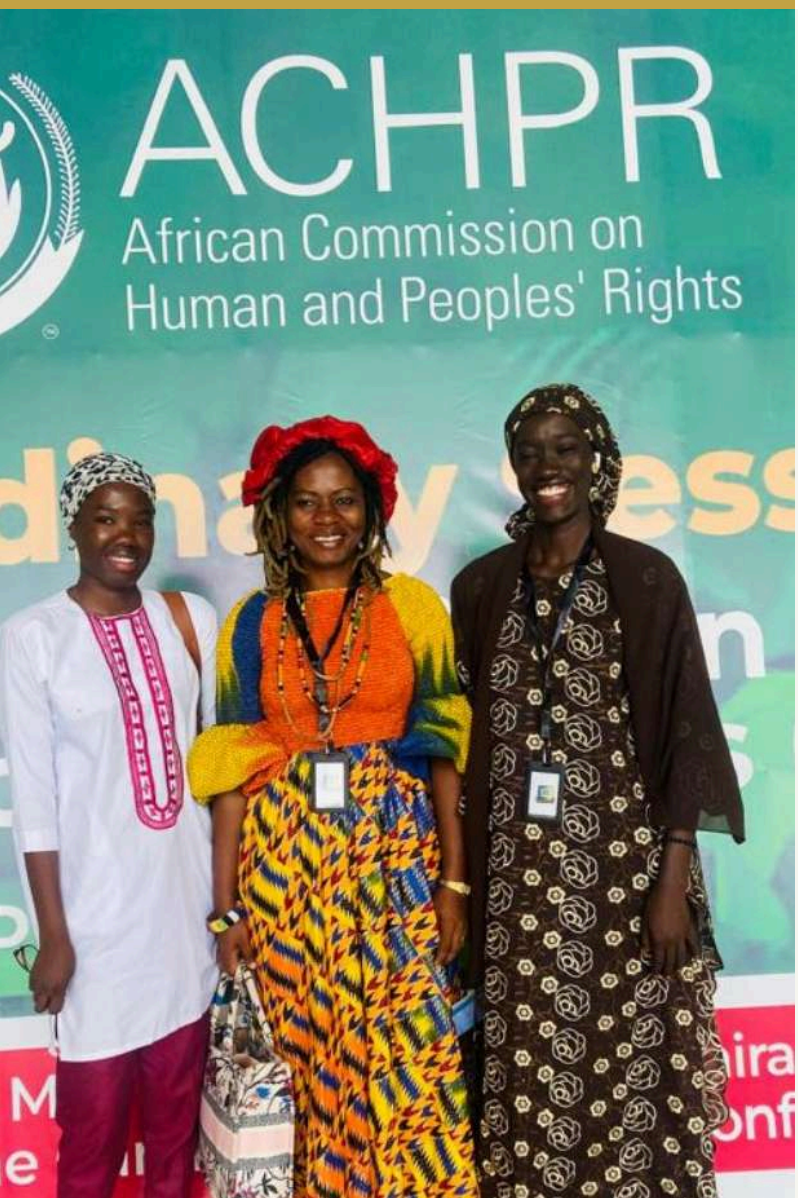
FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CDWD IN AFRICA IN GHANA

This was one of the year's most significant regional moments. The conference brought together academics, activists, survivors, journalists, youth, traditional leaders, and civil society actors from across the continent. Participants discussed caste-like systems across Africa, including descent-based slavery in Mauritania and Niger, the Osu system in Nigeria, and caste exclusion affecting communities in The Gambia and Cameroon. The conference also highlighted the role of women leaders and explored strategies to collect and share data on discrimination.



AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS: NGO FORUM AND 83RD ORDINARY SESSION

TIP-GFoD played a significant role at the NGO Forum preceding the 83rd ACHPR Session, contributing to key recommendations on human rights and justice across the continent. On the second day, we convened a high-level panel and Special Interest Group discussion dedicated to the rights ofCDWD. Speakers emphasized the need for legal recognition of caste and descent-based discrimination as modern slavery, survivor-led policy frameworks, stronger enforcement mechanisms, community-driven resistance, and multi-sectoral reparations..



During the Forum's final plenary, GFoD engaged directly in deliberations on reparations and slavery, underscoring the ongoing injustices faced by descent communities in Africa and the urgency of region-wide action. These engagements strengthened alliances and brought renewed momentum to continental advocacy efforts.

Strategic Engagements in The Gambia GFoD held an important meeting with the National Human Rights Commission of The Gambia, which reaffirmed its commitment to advancing the implementation of Resolution 619. This dialogue marked a promising step toward stronger monitoring and accountability at the national level.

Turning Resolution 619 Into Action At the ACHPR's 83rd Ordinary Session, Halimatou delivered a powerful intervention reminding Member States that adopting Resolution 619 on CDWD is only the beginning. She called for concrete implementation guidelines, legal and policy reform, inclusive reparations, improved data on CDWD, and clear institutional accountability. Her remarks reinforced the need to translate commitments into tangible, community-centered outcomes.

GFoD also met with Movement for Social Justice, a youth-led organization documenting caste discrimination in Basse region. Discussions focused on systemic exclusion in public services and healthcare, and on strengthening collaboration to advance rights-based monitoring and response. The exchange laid the foundation for a new partnership between GFoD and young justice advocates in The Gambia.

DIGITAL EMPOWERMENT CENTERS (CAMEROON)

TIP supported the establishment of three Digital Empowerment Centers in Maroua, Bertoua, and Douala in Cameroon. These centers offer digital literacy training, safe spaces for youth and women, and tools for community storytelling. The centers help document discrimination, improve access to education, support advocacy, and strengthen local leadership among CDWD.

SURVIVOR TESTIMONY (MAURITANIA, MALI, NIGER)

Across West Africa, TIP-GFoD partners worked to document stories of survivors of descent-based slavery. The documentation captured forced labor practices, generational exploitation, and persistent restrictions on marriage, mobility, and education. This work helped shape regional advocacy and gave visibility to the lived experiences of families affected by these systems.

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON DESCENT-BASED DISCRIMINATION AND SLAVERY IN NIAMEY

was a moment where real people finally felt heard. Survivors stood up and shared their stories, and leaders from across the Sahel, together with human rights experts, listened and worked side by side to find better ways to end slavery once and for all. At the Regional Conference in Niamey, activist and filmmaker Apsatu Bagaya of Timidria exposes Niger's "Wahaya" system—an invisible form of descent-based slavery where women are treated as property

Analytics: Africa

- **Engagement across 8 African countries**
- **100+ participants at the International CDWD Conference**
- **3 Regional Empowerment Centers launched**
- **Multiple ACHPR interventions delivered**
- **Dozens of youth leaders trained**

Asia

Asia remained a central pillar of GFoD's work in 2025. The region has some of the world's largest populations affected by caste and caste-like systems, including Dalit, Adivasi, and marginalized ethnic communities across India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and South Asia more widely.

GFoD supported major regional forums, youth consultations, national advocacy, and community visits. The year featured strong participation at the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, strengthened partnerships with the Asia Dalit Rights Forum (ADRF), and direct engagement with plantation communities in Sri Lanka.

ASIA-PACIFIC FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (APFSD)

At APFSD 2025, Beena Pallical addressed the Opening Plenary on behalf of civil society, calling for transformative change to tackle widening inequalities. Her intervention affirmed that CDWD, Dalit, and other marginalized communities must be included in SDG strategies, particularly under Goals 3, 5, 8, 14, and 17. GFoD also supported youth delegates in drafting the “APFSD Youth Call to Action,” which explicitly mentioned caste discrimination.



SRI LANKA COMMUNITY MISSION: ENGAGEMENT WITH PLANTATION COMMUNITIES

GFoD conducted a field visit and advocacy mission to Sri Lanka. We met with women’s groups, youth leaders, local human rights defenders, and community elders. The mission focused on the conditions of plantation workers, including labour exploitation, limited access to education, and systemic poverty. GFoD worked with partner HDO Sri Lanka to support community strategies and highlight caste dimensions in plantation labor issues.

NATIONAL CONVENTION ON EQUALITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE HARYANA, INDIA

GFoD supported partner participation in a national convention honoring Dr. B.R. Ambedkar’s legacy. The convention brought together Dalit leaders, academics, and civil society advocates to discuss affirmative action, political participation, and the continued fight against caste discrimination. GFoD partners presented on DWD in global frameworks and connected national struggles to international advocacy.





YOUTH FORUMS ON ACCESS TO DECENT WORK

GFoD was part of regional youth discussions focused on fair employment, gender justice and inclusion. Young activists from India, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka joined online and in-person sessions exploring labor discrimination and lack of opportunities. GFoD youth representatives shared experiences with UN processes and encouraged youth participation in APFSD and HLPF.

DALIT-ADIVASI BUDGET ANALYSIS WORKSHOPS

GFoD supported partners like NCDHR in launching budget justice campaigns. Workshops explained budget allocations for Dalit and Adivasi communities, analyzed gaps, and strengthened national movements for equitable financing. The sessions also connected budget issues to UN development frameworks.



COLLABORATION WITH ASIA DALIT RIGHTS FORUM

Regional strategic meetings were held with ADRF to align advocacy and research priorities.
The meetings focused on international advocacy opportunities, regional data collection, gender justice frameworks, and joint submissions to UN mechanisms. This strengthened GFoD's presence in Asia and consolidated shared strategies.

GFoD and the Asia Dalit Rights Forum co-hosted an online youth dialogue on SDG 8, focused on the challenges CDWD youth face in accessing decent work and safe employment. Participants shared experiences from across Asia, strengthening collective understanding and advocacy on economic justice.

GFoD continued expanding the Global CDWD Youth Forum—an international platform uniting young leaders to challenge caste and descent-based discrimination. Through cross-regional solidarity, storytelling, and rights-based advocacy, the forum is nurturing a new generation committed to dignity and equality.

CASTE AND FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF IN SOUTH ASIA

GFoD co-convened a webinar with SAFFoRB and Dalit Solidarity Network UK, examining how caste discrimination persists across faiths in South Asia. Speakers highlighted systemic inequalities, gaps in affirmative action, and the need for caste-disaggregated data to support global accountability.

TRANSFORMATIVE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

The Asia Dalit Rights Forum, in collaboration with DWO-Bangladesh, FEDO-Nepal and the Foundation for a Just Society, conducted a two-day training in Colombo for 12 young Dalit women. The program focused on leadership, advocacy skills, gender rights, structural inequality, international human rights frameworks, and storytelling as a tool for change.

Analytics: Asia

- **Engagement in 6+ South Asian countries**
- **4+ major regional forums participated in**
- **Dozens of youth leaders engaged**
- **Multiple community missions conducted**

Europe

In 2025, TIP-GFoD strengthened its engagement in Europe by supporting Roma rights movements, feminist networks, and anti-discrimination coalitions. Work in Europe focused mainly on antigypsyism, women's rights, gender justice, and cross-regional solidarity. Through our partnerships with ERGO Network, E-Romnja, the Romnja Feminist Library, and youth-led Roma initiatives, TIP-GFoD helped position CDWD issues within broader European human rights conversations.

GFoD's regional presence also expanded through participation in major European events, dialogues with EU institutions, and collaboration with civil society organizations advocating for justice, equality, and non-discrimination.

INTERNATIONAL ROMA FEMINIST CONFERENCE

This was one of the key feminist events in the region. The conference brought together Roma women activists, scholars, organizations, and community leaders to discuss antigypsyism, patriarchal violence, labour discrimination, political representation, and the fight for dignity.

TIP-GFoD contributed through a dedicated intervention highlighting parallels between caste, racism, and antigypsyism. The conversation strengthened transnational feminist solidarity and created deeper understanding between Roma women and CDWD movements globally.



EUROPEAN REGIONAL YOUTH CONSULTATION ON EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

A regional consultation brought young activists together to explore discrimination and barriers to opportunity. Roma youth, migrant youth, and other minority young people discussed labour discrimination, segregation in education, violence against women, and participation in political spaces. GFoD youth representatives shared lessons from UN youth forums and APFSD youth dialogues, creating a bridge between European and global processes.

ROMA CIVIL SOCIETY MEETS UN HUMAN RIGHTS CHIEF

TIP's Europe Regional Coordinator, Simona Torotcoi, joined Roma civil society in a meeting with UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk, emphasizing the importance of connecting movements to highlight shared struggles and advancing the recognition of CDWD rights globally.

COOPERATION WITH ROMA FEMINIST ORGANIZATIONS (E-ROMNJA AND ROMNJA FEMINIST LIBRARY)

TIP-GFoD deepened its relationship with feminist networks addressing violence, exclusion, and antigypsyism. This included co-developing communication pieces, strengthening women's leadership, supporting youth engagement, and participating in feminist dialogues about care work, housing, and access to public services.



EUROPEAN CSO MOBILIZATION FOR ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LEGISLATION

GFoD supported ongoing CSO debates around policy reforms and implementation gaps across EU Member States. Participation in these debates strengthened GFoD's connections with European anti-discrimination leadership and ensured that CDWD concerns were recognized as part of broader structural discrimination patterns.



ADVANCING ROMA RIGHTS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

GFoD hosted a webinar on the collection and use of disaggregated data for Roma communities, exploring methodological approaches, challenges, and implications for policy and advocacy.

ADVANCING ROMA INCLUSION ACROSS EUROPE

On 12 November, Commissioner Hadja Lahbib, European Commissioner for Preparedness and Crisis Management and Commissioner for Equality, hosted an Implementation Dialogue on the EU Roma Strategic Framework, advancing equality for Roma communities. Discussions highlighted improving access to procedures and boosting participation at all levels. As Simona Torotcoi noted, "Real equality requires real commitment, with local-level implementation being key to success."



PROMOTING ROMA AND SINTI RIGHTS AT THE OSCE HUMAN DIMENSION CONFERENCE

At the 2025 ODIHR Warsaw Human Dimension Conference, Simona Torotcoi of TIP-GFoD spoke on behalf of Roma and Sinti communities, addressing antigypsyism, underreported discrimination, and the need for stronger equality bodies. In a plenary on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination, she highlighted accountability gaps, while at a side event on the Future of Roma and Sinti Human Rights, she emphasized democratic backsliding, shrinking civic space, and the importance of intersectional, gender-sensitive approaches. Torotcoi called for sustained funding, solidarity, and inclusive frameworks to ensure Roma voices actively shape Europe's human rights agenda.



PROMOTING ROMA AND SINTI RIGHTS AT THE OSCE HUMAN DIMENSION CONFERENCE

GFoD hosted a webinar on the collection and use of disaggregated data for Roma communities, exploring methodological approaches, challenges, and implications for policy and advocacy.

ADVANCING ROMA RIGHTS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

In June 2025, TIP-GFoD actively pushed for meaningful inclusion of Roma communities in human rights and policy frameworks. At the launch of the NHRI Guidelines on integrating Roma and Sinti issues (17 June), Simona Torotcoi emphasized the critical role of Roma civil society—especially youth and women's organizations—in holding National Human Rights Institutions accountable. Discussions focused on structured consultation, co-monitoring, and staff training to ensure participatory, rights-based engagement.

ROMA WEEK AT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

On 10 April, Simona brought an international lens to a discussion on intersectional discrimination against racialized minorities. She highlighted global patterns of caste- and occupation-linked oppression and linked these to international labour standards and GFoD's broader advocacy work.

Analytics: Europe

- **Engagement in 7+ major European events**
- **Contributions to discussions involving EU institutions**
- **Collaboration with Roma women's rights networks**
- **Participation from youth and feminist leaders**

Latin America

TIP-GFoD's work in Latin America centered on strengthening ties with Brazil's Quilombola movement, particularly through our partnership with CONAQ one of the most powerful organizations representing Afro-descendant, land-based communities.

In 2025, TIP-GFoD supported Quilombola women's participation in national and global spaces, strengthened advocacy around racial discrimination, land rights, gender justice, and social protection, and amplified the voices of Afro-descendant women in global settings.

The region's work highlighted the shared structural patterns between caste discrimination and Afro-descendant oppression, strengthening the global narrative that CDWD exist in every region of the world.

NATIONAL FORUM OF QUILOMBOLA WOMEN BRAZIL

This was the largest gathering of Quilombola women in the year. The forum brought together women leaders from across Brazil to discuss racial justice, gender discrimination, access to land, violence, and leadership. GFoD supported visibility efforts, highlighted the global nature of descent-based discrimination, and connected Quilombola women with global feminist and UN advocacy platforms.

PARTICIPATION IN GLOBAL FEMINIST SPACES AND CSW AND WSS PREPARATIONS

Quilombola women took part in discussions linked to the UN Commission on the Status of Women and other gender justice platforms. They contributed perspectives on Afro-descendant women's experiences with violence, economic inequality, and political underrepresentation. GFoD helped facilitate their visibility within global debates.

STORYTELLING AND DOCUMENTATION INITIATIVES

TIP-GFoD collaborated with Brazilian partners to document stories of resistance from Quilombola communities. This included oral histories, community interviews, videos, and reports aimed at strengthening public understanding of ancestral land struggles and state neglect.

Analytics: Latin america

- **Engagement centered on Brazil, with regional significance**
- **Participation of 20+ Quilombola women leaders**
- **Strong presence in feminist and racial justice spaces**
- **Involvement in global advocacy connections**

Policy, Reports, UN Submissions

TIP-GFoD strengthened its policy and advocacy role in 2025 by producing formal submissions to UN mechanisms, supporting national partners in preparing reports and contributing evidence-based analysis on caste and descent-based discrimination. These submissions highlighted systemic exclusion, barriers to social protection, structural violence, labour exploitation and discrimination against women and youth. They positioned TIP-GFoD as a key voice for marginalized communities in international policy debates.

Joint CSO Report for The Gambia UPR	Collaboratively prepared with local and international partners, the report documented cases of discrimination, human rights violations, and exclusion in education, health and labour. It included actionable recommendations for the government and UN mechanisms.
DWD Factsheets for The Gambia UPR	These factsheets provided concise, accessible information on caste and descent-based discrimination. They supported advocacy during UPR sessions and informed global audiences about local realities
Dalit-Adivasi Budget Analysis (India, NCDHR)	A detailed review of government budget allocations and gaps affecting Dalit and Adivasi communities. GFoD supported the workshops and dissemination, linking budget inequities to SDGs and development justice.
Submission to the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women	Documented the unique challenges faced by CDWD women, including gender-based violence, labour exploitation, and barriers to accessing justice. Recommended policy actions and protective measures.
Submission on Contemporary Forms of Slavery and Child Labor	Outlined systemic exploitation affecting CDWD, including forced labor
Submission to the Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty	Analyzed the intersection of caste/discrimination and poverty. Emphasized structural marginalization and the need for targeted social protection programs.

Submission to the Special Rapporteur on Toxics and Human Rights	Highlighting the exclusion of DWD communities from justice in toxic exposure cases.
Submission to the Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism	Documenting rising neo-Nazi violence and antigypsyism across Europe.
Submission to the Special Rapporteur on Racism and Intersectionality	Addressing the interplay between caste, race, and descent in global discrimination.
Input to Financing for Development (FfD4) Zero Draft	Provided recommendations to ensure development financing reaches historically marginalized CDWD. Advocated for transparency, equity, and inclusion in global financing policies.
GFoD Contributes to EU Anti-Poverty Strategy	Highlighting the need to include marginalized communities, particularly CDWD populations, in anti-poverty initiatives.
Podcast Series: CDWD Leadership Stories	Highlighted youth and women leaders' experiences across regions.
Research article	A 2024 article highlighted that over 260 million people worldwide face caste-, work-, or descent-based discrimination, emphasizing that exclusionary practices such as untouchability and purity–pollution rules persist globally and require urgent action.
Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child	GFoD contributed a detailed submission to the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group drafting an Optional Protocol to the CRC. The input centered the lived experiences of children facing descent-based discrimination—including Roma, Dalit, Osu, Haratine, Palenque, and Quilombola children—and called for stronger accountability mechanisms, protective legal frameworks, and targeted remedies within the CRC system.

Land and Housing Rights	GFoD also submitted evidence and recommendations to the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing, followed by a direct consultation. The contribution highlighted systematic land and housing exclusion affecting descent-based communities across South Asia, Europe, Africa, and Latin America. Key recommendations included formal recognition of collective land rights, simplified land registration processes, inclusive urban planning, and resourcing community-led mapping and legal empowerment.-
Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development	GFoD contributed to the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development, emphasizing structural discrimination as a barrier to equitable financing. Recommendations included targeted financing, a Special Rapporteur on Work and Descent-Based Discrimination, and the need for disaggregated data.



Analytics

- **25+ submissions delivered in 2025**
- **Coverage across 8+ UN mandates**
- **Multiple national and regional reports integrated into global advocacy**
- **Inputs referenced in UPR, HRC, FfD, and SDG monitoring platforms**

Youth Engagements

Youth leadership was a central focus for TIP-GFoD in 2025. CDWD youth participated in regional consultations, UN forums, and local advocacy, making their voices visible in decision-making spaces. GFoD emphasized empowerment, training, and access to international platforms for young leaders from marginalized communities.

HISTORIC MILESTONE FOR YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AT THE UNITED NATIONS

During the UNGA Third Committee Youth Event, Building Solutions Together for an Inclusive Future, Naveen Gautam highlighted persistent barriers in global decision-making, where power, privilege, and societal biases often determine whose voices are heard.



For the first time, communities discriminated on work and descent participated as youth representatives, marking a milestone in raising visibility of caste and descent-based discrimination within UN social development dialogues. Gautam also moderated a discussion at the event, calling on the Third Committee to ensure CDWD voices are not only heard but actively included in shaping equitable policies.

ASIA-PACIFIC YOUTH CALL TO ACTION (APFSD)

GFoD supported youth participation in drafting the Call to Action. Young leaders highlighted caste discrimination in SDG frameworks, shared recommendat

CLIMATE JUSTICE FOR DESCENT COMMUNITIES

GFoD organized a session on how climate change exacerbates inequalities for CDWD. Youth leaders highlighted environmental racism and systemic exclusion, calling for intersectional approaches that place affected communities at the centre of climate action.

UNPACKING MIGRATION: A YOUTH-LED DIALOGUE

In partnership with Project PHEquiD, MYCP, and One Future Collective, youth leaders explored the intersection of caste and descent-based discrimination with displacement and migration. Discussions emphasized inclusive policies, targeted data collection, and advocacy, alongside challenging dominant narratives and promoting solidarity through storytelling.

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY 2025: #HEARUSNOW

CDWD youth celebrated International Youth Day under the theme Local Youth Action for SDGs and Beyond, focusing on SDGs 6, 7, 9, and 11. Speakers from the Roma, Nepali, and African communities highlighted youth-led initiatives advancing cultural empowerment, menstrual dignity, and inclusive policy change, demonstrating that marginalized youth are actively driving global change.



UN HIGH-LEVEL POLICY CONSULTATIONS

Youth represented GFoD in bilateral meetings with delegations, influencing discussions on SDGs, financing, and social inclusion. These contributions enhanced the recognition of young CDWD voices at policymaking levels.



ECOSOC YOUTH FORUM 2025 (NEW YORK)

This was a major milestone for TIP-GFoD, marking one of the strongest appearances of CDWD youth at the UN. GFoD youth leaders took part in ministerial meetings, thematic dialogues, and youth-led side events. They spoke about discrimination in the labor market, barriers to education, and lack of political representation. Their contributions emphasized the urgency of including CDWD youth in social development and climate adaptation strategies. GFoD youth also joined policy discussions feeding into the High-Level Political Forum and FfD processes



At the ECOSOC Youth Forum review meeting, co-organized by MGCY, UNDESA, and the UN Youth Office, GFoD helped shape the conversation on meaningful youth inclusion. Naveen Gautam co-moderated the session, where young CDWD leaders from Africa and Asia delivered compelling interventions on the structural barriers they face and the importance of integrating their perspectives into global decision-making.



At the ECOSOC Youth Forum 2025, both in New York and virtually. GFoD organized two side-events, engaged in high-level dialogues—including the Ministerial Breakfast—and participated in plenary discussions with the support of the UN Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY)

Side Event 1: Science for Decent Work and Economic Inclusion This event spotlighted the systemic barriers CDWD youth face—from restricted access to schooling and labour markets to entrenched social and religious exclusion. Speakers called for a multi-layered strategy: expanding public awareness, investing in youth leadership, strengthening storytelling, and improving legal protections.

Side Event 2: Inclusion in SDG 16 and SDG 17, GFoD co-hosted a session addressing how CDWD, Roma, Dalit, non-binary, disabled, and other marginalized youth are excluded from decision-making and justice systems. Participants pushed for redistributive justice, health equity, and stronger community-led governance.

YOUTH 60TH SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL INTERVENTION

TIP-GFoD engaged across multiple sessions of the HRC, advocating for recognition of DWD within global protection frameworks and highlighting gaps in national legislation. GFoD representatives delivered interventions and video statements at the 60th session of the Human Rights Council, highlighting systemic challenges affecting Roma communities, gaps in policy implementation, and evidence-based recommendations for improvement.

Side Event: “Women Belonging” GFoD organized a side event focused on women’s inclusion and empowerment, presenting strategies to enhance participation of marginalized women in policymaking and offering actionable recommendations for stakeholders. GFoD representatives attended key dialogues on minority rights, racial discrimination and gender-based violence.

We held meetings with country missions, raised concerns about caste and descent-based discrimination, and pushed for stronger language on protection and accountability. Our presence helped strengthen global understanding of how DWD intersects with poverty, violence, and labour discrimination.





Analytics

- **Youth engagement in 15+ countries**
- **10+ youth-led events and consultations**
- **6 major UN side events moderated or co-hosted by youth**
- **Direct contributions to APFSD, ECOSOC, and SDG reporting**

Partner Highlights

Partnerships were central to TIP-GFoD's achievements in 2025. Civil society networks, grassroots organizations, national human rights institutions, feminist groups, youth organizations, key stakeholders, among others, supported and contributed to global advocacy, research, and community empowerment actions.

- **NCDHR (India)** – Dalit budget analysis, advocacy on labour rights, research dissemination.
- **CONAQ (Brazil)** – Amplified Quilombola women's voices, participated in global advocacy, policy development on land and gender justice.
- **ERGO Network (Europe)** – Successful Roma week and antigypysist campaigns, facilitated EU policy engagement.
- **HDO Sri Lanka** – Engaged plantation communities, promoted women and youth leadership.
- **E-Romnja & Romnja Feminist Library (Europe)** – Advanced intersectional feminist analysis, organized workshops and consultations.
- **National Human Rights Commissions (Gambia, Nigeria, India)** – Supported UPR, regional advocacy, and data collection.
- **Dalit Solidarity in Deutschland (DSiD)**, Germany, meetings were conducted with key members of DSiD in March and November 2025.
- **Trust Bridge Global:** TIP supported by Trust Bridge Global, Philippines, conducted meetings with key individuals in understanding the situation of the Badjao people in the Philippines and beyond.
- International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism(IMADR): collaborated with IMADR in submitting a project proposal for Together Women Rise Featured Grants Program
- **Partnered with International Budget Partnership (IBP)**, Rural Development Centre (RDC) in curating an exhibition booth at WSS, Doha, in November 2025.
- In September 2025, GFoD strengthened collaboration with partners, including Centre AMALIPE and Nagorik Uddyog, amplifying local initiatives and ensuring civil society perspectives inform international human rights discussions. GFoD supported follow-up on the Bangladesh Voluntary National Review (VNR), linking community insights to UN mechanisms to foster accountability and measurable progress.

Analytics

- **Collaboration with 10+ key regional and global partners**
- **Multi-continent engagement across Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America**
- **Joint advocacy outputs, including submissions, reports, and digital campaigns**

Communication and Campaigns

TIP-GFoD continued to expand its communications reach through newsletters, digital campaigns, storytelling, podcasts, films, and social media. Campaigns were designed to increase global awareness of CDWD discrimination, highlight community leadership, and strengthen advocacy impact.

NEWSLETTERS

Monthly newsletters documenting events, advocacy outcomes, and partner updates.

DIGITAL CAMPAIGNS

Focused on SDG integration, human rights days, and awareness of descent-based discrimination.

PODCASTS AND MULTIMEDIA

Featured CDWD youth and women leaders from Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

SHORT FILMS AND VISUAL STORIES

Documented real-life experiences of marginalized communities.

SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH

Used Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn to reach global audiences.



Analytics

- **Campaigns reached hundreds of thousands globally**
- **Produced 10+ multimedia content pieces**
- **Monthly newsletters circulated to partners, stakeholders, and UN bodies**

Roadshow and Community Outreach

TIP conducted a roadshow and community outreach to build visibility and cultivate relationships with US based diaspora communities, allies and potential donors who support inclusive development and anti-discrimination work. The roadshows in the US and community outreach adopted a strategic, community-first approach, partnering with grassroots leaders to build inclusive coalitions capable of driving long-term change. By amplifying local voices and connecting them to global platforms, we ensure that lived experiences inform international conversations. This approach creates a ripple effect, global momentum strengthens local initiatives, and local insights shape global advocacy.

Major Highlights

1. Strengthened support coalitions within diaspora communities in building a reliable and engaged support base.
2. Built support networks for TIP's initiatives in training community members as Rights Experts (REs) to enhance their agency and leadership, and by advancing youth and women's empowerment, leadership development and inclusive representation.

LOCATION	DATE
Austin, TX	July 19–20
Houston, TX	July 21
Orlando, FL	July 23–24
Atlanta, CA	July 25–26
Erie, PA	July 27–29
Grand Rapids, MI	July 29–30
Green Bay, WI	July 30
Chicago, IL	July 31 – August 1



UNITE FOR RIGHTS: TAKE A STAND AGAINST INJUSTICE

The US fundraising roadshow marked a significant milestone in TIP's resource mobilisation journey. While focused on relationship-building rather than immediate returns, the roadshow successfully strengthened institutional connections and positioned the organisation for sustained fundraising efforts in the coming years.



Way Forward

TIP–GFoD moves into 2026 with a sense of momentum. The past year brought global recognition that had long been denied to CDWD communities. Youth and women leaders stepped onto major UN stages, regional alliances grew stronger, and governments began to acknowledge forms of discrimination they once refused to name. The challenge now is to turn that shift into lasting political change.

One priority will dominate the year ahead: securing formal recognition of discrimination based on work and descent within the UN system. With new diplomatic support emerging, the opportunity is within reach, and TIP–GFoD is preparing to push hard for it.

Digital empowerment will also expand, building on the success of the first centres in Cameroon. More countries will gain spaces where young people can learn, organise and document violations in ways that strengthen local leadership

Youth voices will continue to grow. A global cohort of 100 young leaders will be developed to take on advocacy roles across UN processes, regional mechanisms and feminist movements, ensuring the next generation shapes the direction of the struggle.

Across Africa, the implementation of ACHPR Resolution 619 will remain central. Survivors and community leaders will work alongside partners to turn the resolution's commitments into legal reform, better monitoring and safer environments for those facing descent-based discrimination.

Feminist alliances will deepen as Roma, Dalit, Quilombola, Haratin and Burakumin women build shared agendas across borders. Their leadership will continue to anchor the movement's global advocacy.

To strengthen evidence and visibility, TIP–GFoD will establish a global data and research hub, bringing together community-led documentation, land rights monitoring and analysis that governments cannot easily dismiss.



And as work expands across more than twenty countries, partnerships will remain the engine of progress. What started as scattered struggles is becoming a coordinated global push for dignity, recognition and justice.



the_inclusivity

Global Forum of Communities Discriminated on Work & Descent - GFoD

Global Forum of CDWD (GFoD)

The Inclusivity Project

https://theinclusivityproject.org/

The Inclusivity Project

UN Liaison office: 777, United Nations Plaza, Room 10 A, New York, NY 10017
Admin Office: 115, Rumsey Rd, Yonkers New York, 10705, NY, USA

© The Inclusivity Project @2025