22nd EU-NGO Human Rights Forum

The Impact of New Technologies on Human Rights

Fundamental Rights and Freedoms in the Digital Sphere

“Enhance freedom of expression online while fighting disinformation and hate speech”

10 December 2020

“ON LINE #CASTE–HATE SPEECH AND ITS OFF LINE IMPACTS”

Ritwajit Das, Membership Coordinator
International Dalit Solidarity Network works on a global level for the elimination of caste discrimination and similar forms of discrimination based on work and descent.

- Grassroots Priorities with International Mechanisms
- Engagement with the UN and EU
- Caste Discrimination Global Context
- Critical And Strategic Inputs

12 Members, 4 Affiliates and 16+ International Associates

4 Dalit Solidarity Networks in the EU and UK
What is #Caste-Hate Speech?

Caste-Hate Speech can be defined as hate speech when it takes the form of communication such as speech, writings, behaviour, codes, signs and memes that manifest hierarchies, invokes humiliation, incites discrimination, degrades self-worth and perpetuates discrimination. It is often the source of physical, mental and material violence against a person or a group based on caste identity – in particular those who identify as #Dalits.

01 Caste-Hate Speech Operates at Two Levels
02 Make Dalits Vulnerable in Social Situations
03 Dalit Women Face Unparallel Risks
04 Results in a Culture of Silence
05 Caste Supremacists Enjoy Impunity
06 Caste-Hate Speech is a Key Precursor To Hate crime
#Caste in Online and Digital Spaces

- Under-representation in media spaces & rise of alt Dalit media
- Hidden Apartheid – Exclusion & Discrimination is further exposed
- Social Media Platforms have significantly influenced mobilization of Dalits
- Dalit Women of South Asia have found a voice
- Caste has been factored in SMPs, OTTs like Facebook, Twitter, Netflix etc.
- Finding synergies with Other Minority Movements like #Black Lives Matters.

#DALITWOMENFIGHT
# Caste-Hate Speech in Online Spaces and its Offline Effects

Online and Digital Spaces have further exacerbated & fueled Caste-Hate drivers affecting a 5th* of the World Population.

SMPs are mirroring the Offline world, Hatred towards Dalits continues to exist – Perpetrators Get Away with Impunity.

Dalit Women are specifically targeted with Horrid Abuses like Rape Threats, Murder Threats, Physical Violence etc.

Online Hate Campaigns against Dalits Sanitation Workers, Laborers & Overall Community, Reservation Hate Speech etc.

Government Officials often initiate Hate Speech, sparking further Online and Offline Hate. This reinforces Impunity.
Recommendations

1. **Analyze**
   Measuring and Detecting Caste-Hate Speech. Dalits should be involved in the analysis of hate speech evaluation, moderation of online content etc.

2. **Dialogue**
   Recognize caste hate speech as a distinctive form of hate that merits attention from and by international agencies by the likes of EU, the UN and INGOs.

3. **Skill Development and Empowerment**
   EU EEAS should work closely with Dalit rights & anti-caste activists to build skills & offer trainings on caste-hate speech for law enforcement, judiciary etc.

4. **Legislative Framework**
   States must go beyond ratifying treaties and covenants, Non-punitive measures and public education should be prioritized.

5. **Policy Input**
   SMPs should conduct honest, and public human rights audit of the impacts of their products & practices on Dalits & minorities.

#DALITLIVESMATTERS IN INTERNET

Dalit Girls in India, Jacob Carlsen

Dalit Community in Bangladesh, Jacob Carlsen