

NOVEMBER 2023 | ISSUE 16

# CDWD MATTERS

## MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

1 Resolution adopted at the NGO Forum of ACHPR on the Rights of CDWD

2 GFoD in Arusha, Tanzania, for the ACHPR NGO Forum meet

3 Gender Mainstreaming at GFoD

4 News from: Asia, Europe, Latin America, Africa

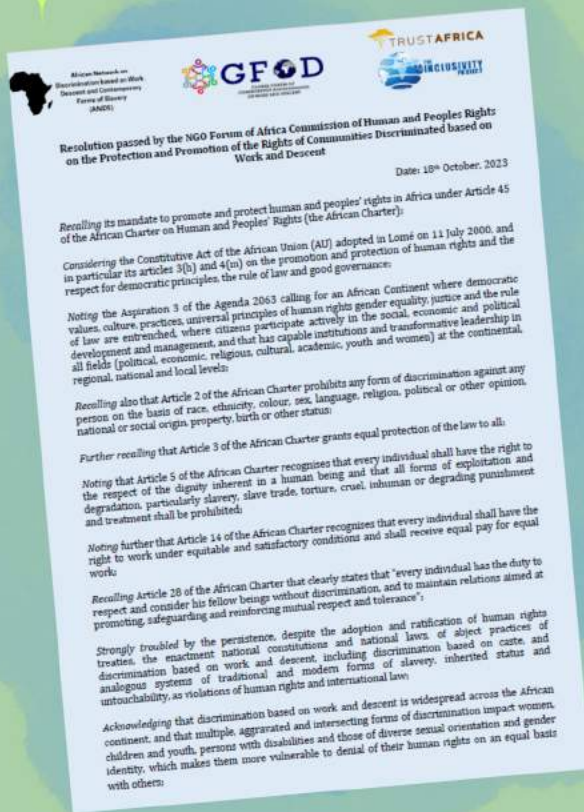


**GFoD**  
GLOBAL FORUM OF  
COMMUNITIES DISCRIMINATED  
ON WORK AND DESCENT





## Resolution on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Communities Discriminated based on Work and Descent passed by the NGO Forum of Africa Commission of Human and Peoples Rights



The 77th ordinary session of African Commission on Human and People’s Rights (ACHPR) was held in Arusha, Tanzania from 20 October to 9 November, 2023. GFoD delegation participated in the NGO Forum of the ACHPR that took place from October 16th to 18th October 2023.

On 18th October 2023, in a historic moment, the NGO Forum of ACHPR passed a ‘Resolution for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent’ in Africa.

## Panel Discussion: *Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent in Africa: Confronting Racism, Xenophobia, and Discrimination of Migrants in Africa* organised by GFoD

**Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent in Africa: Confronting Racism, Xenophobia, and Discrimination of Migrants in Africa**

On day 2 of the **ACHPR NGO Forum 2023**, this event is **online** and in the International Conf. Centre Arusha, Tanzania on **17th October 2023 at 11:30/08:30 GMT/ 14:00 IST**



RSVP for online or in-person participation [bit.ly/Arusha2023](https://bit.ly/Arusha2023)

**Moderator:** Hon. Commissioner **Litha Musyimi-Ogana**  
Chairperson of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations/Communities and Minorities



**Paul Divakar**  
Executive Director, The Inclusivity Project



**Dr Ebrima Sall**  
Executive Director, TrustAfrica



**Queen Bisseng**  
Rights Expert on Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent (CDWD)



**Ibrahima Kane**  
Human Rights Special Advisor, Open Society Foundation



**Musso Juma**  
Executive Director, Media Aid for Indigenous and Pastoralist Communities (MAIPAC)



GFoD organized a panel discussion titled, '*Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent in Africa: Confronting Racism, Xenophobia, and Discrimination of Migrants in Africa*' during the NGO forum of Africa Commission on Human and Peoples Rights, on the 17th of October 2023. The panel discussion highlighted the issue of DWD in Africa and put forth recommendations to address them.

The panel was moderated by the Hon. Commissioner of the ACHPR Mme Litha Musyimi- Ogana, Chairperson of the Working Group on indigenous populations /Communities and Minorities in Africa. Speakers included Mr. Paul Divakar, Convener, GFoD; Queen Bisseng, Africa Regional Coordinator, GFoD; Dr. Ebrima Sall, Executive Director, Trust Africa; and Mr. Ibrahima Kane, Human Rights Special Advisor, Open Society Foundation.



## FROM THE PANEL DISCUSSION...

We call on all the countries in the African Union who have committed to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals to recognize that Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent are being left behind... We need experts who can make sure that we [CDWD] are identified and our issues are addressed.

-Paul Divakar, Convenor, GFoD



There should be a Working Group on CDWD as a part of the African Union to study and address the issues of communities discriminated on work and descent. Additionally, preparation of a resolution to protect the rights and interests of CDWD in Africa is needed and it will show concrete intentions to make progress.

- Ibrahima Kane, Human Rights Special Advisor, Open Society Foundation



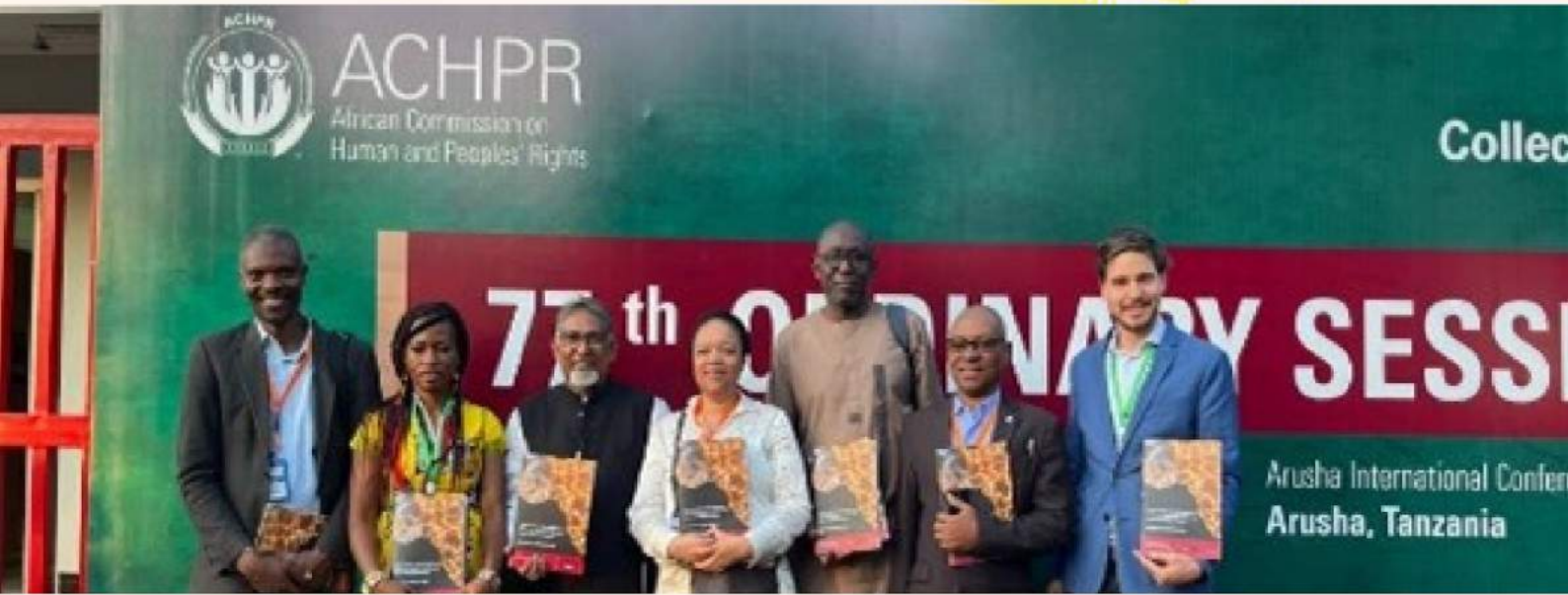
The cases of Osu Caste System in Nigeria, Haratin Slave Caste in Mauritania, Mbororo Communities in Cameroon, Trokosi Sexual Slavery System in Ghana, Togo and Benin, among others highlight the diversity of communities facing discrimination based on work and descent across Africa. I

therefore recommend that African states should implement comprehensive discrimination laws that specifically address discrimination based on caste, ancestral occupation and descent.

-Queen Bisseng, Africa Regional Coordinator, GFoD



## OTHER HIGHLIGHTS FROM TANZANIA, AFRICA



### ***GFoD at the 77th Ordinary Session of ACHPR***

GFoD delegation participated in the NGO Forum of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights from October 16th to 18th in Arusha, Tanzania. Apart from organizing a panel discussion, GFoD actively participated in events and raised CDWD issues.



### ***GFoD Representative at ACHPR NGO Forum***

During the NGO Forum, GFoD made the comprehensive case for an additional interest group to be created as part of the ACHPR NGO Forum on Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent (CDWD) as none of the existing groups address this specific issue.



### ***Statement Read on CDWD at ACHPR77***

During the 77th Session of the ACHPR, Ibrahima Kane from Open Society Foundation, on the behalf of GFoD, delivered a statement on the situation of Communities Discriminated on work and Descent in Africa and the need to form a Working Group subsequently to address the issue.



## AFRICA REGIONAL REPORT RELEASE

On the 17th October 2023, during GfOD's panel discussion in the NGO Forum of ACHPR, our Africa Report titled '*Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent in Africa and Status of Modern Slavery - Regional Report 2023*' was released.

[Click here for Full Report](#)



**AFRICA REGIONAL REPORT LAUNCH!**

'Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent in Africa and the Status of Modern Slavery'

@ **ACHPR NGO FORUM 2023**

**Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent: Confronting Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination of Migrants in Africa**

17th October, 2023;  
8:30 GMT

Int. Conference Centre  
Arusha, Tanzania

[JOIN](#) [Join Online here](#)

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

QR CODE

IN ENGLISH  
FRANCE

GFOD TRUSTAFRICA African Network on Discrimination based on Work, Descent and Contemporary Forms of Slavery

### Key Findings of the Report

- Slavery and slavery practices remain persistent in contemporary Africa and Caste identity has a critical role
- Existing evidence of engagement of CDWD in Slavery and slavery like practices in African countries
- CDWD identity struggle and assertion
- Factors perpetuating Slavery and slavery practices
- Domestic and International Response to eradicate slavery and slavery-like practices

### Upcoming Reports



#### Status of CDWD in:

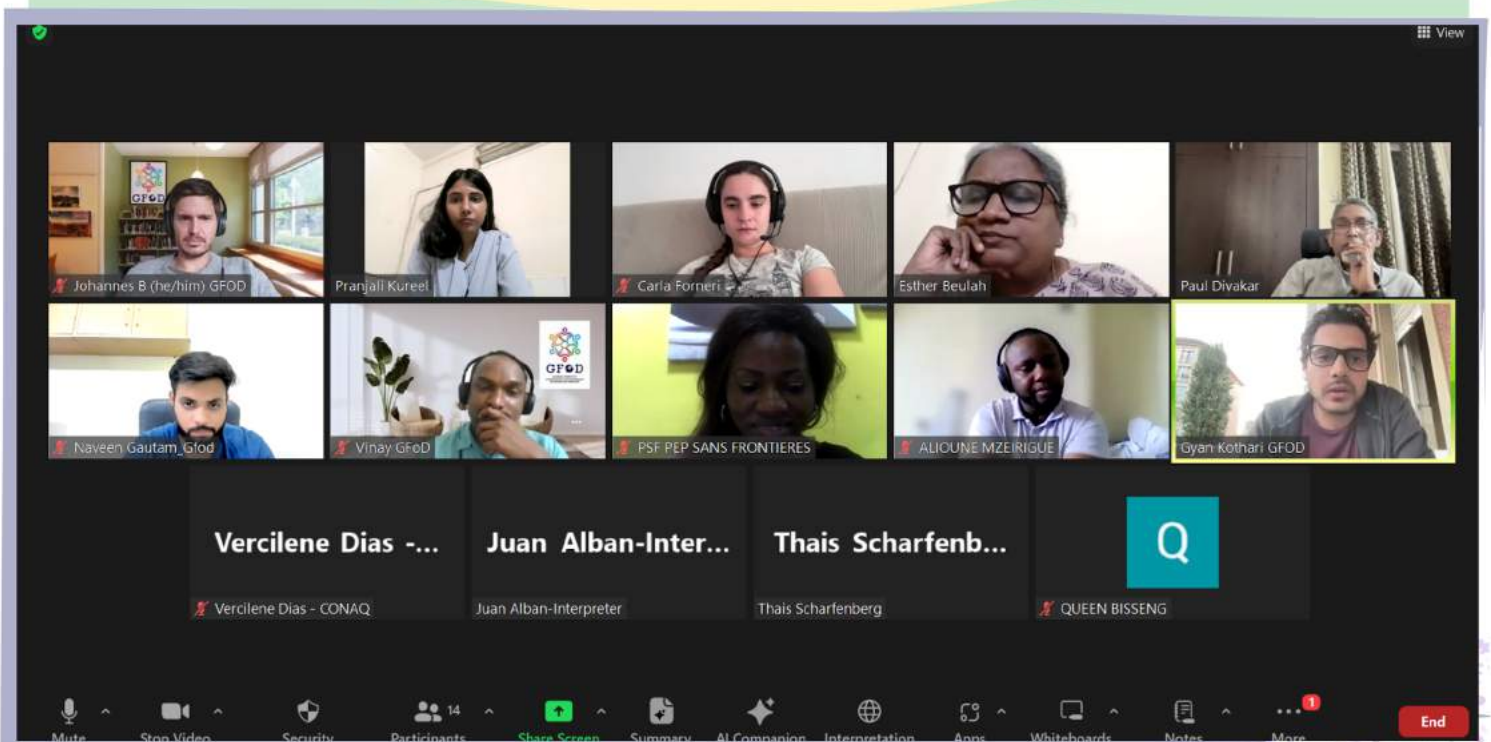
Europe (Regional report)

Slovakia  
Romania

Mali  
Mauritania  
Niger  
The Gambia

## Gender Mainstreaming Training at GFoD

As a part of a larger Gender Mainstreaming process at GFoD, Gender Mainstreaming Training Sessions took place on 3rd – 4th and 10th – 11th October online with the participation of GFoD Secretariat members. The sessions were facilitated by the trainer, Ms. Esther Beulah, and PO interpreters, Giovanna Lester, Juan Alban and Thais Scharfenberg. The purpose of the training was to provide us with an understanding of the Gender Mainstreaming Process, while also focusing on addressing deep-rooted issues at the structural, organizational as well as individual level. The training was also a part of evolving a collective Gender Mainstreaming Plan for the organization. The sessions in the training process introduced the premise for Gender Mainstreaming, and encouraged discussions on Gender experiences, structures of power, addressing organizational policy, work and culture through participatory activities.



# NEWS

## FROM ASIA

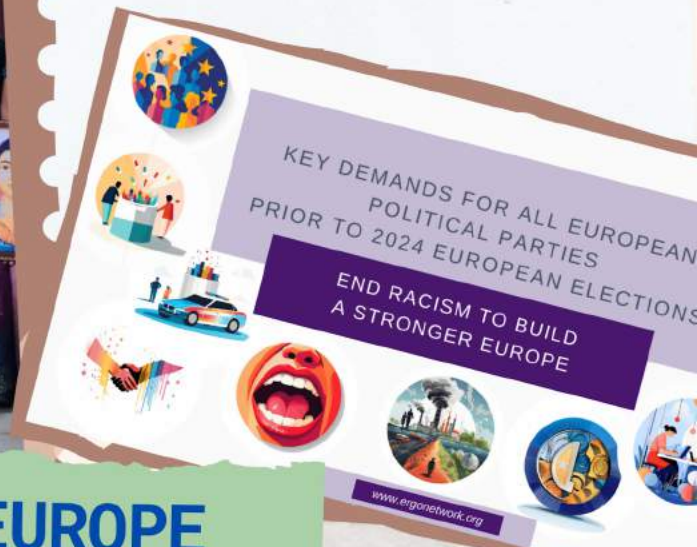


### INDIA: Block-level training for Dalit Women

All India Dalit Mahila Adhikar Manchh (AIDMAM), a unit of the National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR) conducted a block-level training for Dalit women leader volunteers in the Bhubaneswar block, Khordha district of Odisha on 14th October 2022. The training was successfully attended by 44 Dalit women leaders.

Source: AIDMAM

<https://twitter.com/DalitWomenRise>



## FROM EUROPE

### ERGO Network sends Manifesto to Political Parties Ahead of European Parliament Elections 2024

ERGO (European Roma Grassroots Organizations) Network has taken a proactive stance in the lead-up to the pre-European Parliament elections 2024, signalling its commitment to fighting discrimination, racism, and the marginalization of racialized minorities in Europe, particularly the Roma community. In an effort to engage with political groups and garner their support for this crucial cause, we released a political Manifesto, consisting of 10 key demands, including countering anti-gypsyism, inclusive participation, countering hate speech among others.

Source: ERGO NETWORK

<https://ergonetwerk.org/2023/10/anti-racism-manifesto-to-political-parties-ahead-of-european-parliament-elections-2024/>





## FROM LATIN AMERICA

### CONAQ demands justice after the murder of Quilombola leader, José Alberto(Doka) - second in the last two months

On October 27, 2023, around 6 pm, José Alberto Moreno Mendes, a Quilombola leader from Maranhão, was brutally murdered with gunshots inside his quilombo, Jaibara dos Rodrigues, Território Monge Belo, in Itapecuru-Mirim (BAD). Since the brutal death of Mãe Bernardete, this is already the fourth violent death of Quilombolas in the year 2023. The seriousness of this scenario must be considered and these crimes and must urgently receive special attention from the federal government.

Source: CONAQ

<https://conaq.org.br/noticias/nota-de-repudio-jose-albertodoka-lideranca-quilombola-do-maranhao-e-assassinado-dentro-do-seu-territorio-nesta-sexta-feira27/>



## FROM AFRICA

### GIVING TUESDAY and TRUSTAFRICA collaborate to place regional African Philanthropic Traditions to forefront

The "World Giving Library" (WGL), in collaboration with TrustAfrica project seeks to house the most comprehensive web resource on generosity practices, recognising generosity's full richness and diversity across time and space. In its revised phase, led by Giving Tuesday Data Commons and supported by the National Philanthropic Trust (NPT), this initiative offers one step toward achieving these goals. Currently, the WGL project overall has an existing collection of 200 preliminary articles from across the globe, with 20 undergoing revision by NPT. These articles have been crafted by a mix of scholars, consultants, and contributors from the Giving Tuesday network in line with an established Style Guide.

Source: TRUSTAFRICA

<https://trustafrica.org/africas-rich-philanthropic-traditions-a-journey-to-inclusivity/>



In the next issue, hear about:

- Country visits in Cameroon and Ghana to meet people/ leaders/ activists/CSOs from Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent (CDWD)
- Release of the the reports on Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent at National levels
- GFoD's engagements at the 4th Universal Periodic Review of Bangladesh, Canada and Cameroon

Send us your pieces (short write-ups, photo stories, poetry, art etc.) relevant to CDWD in your region at [gfof@globalforumcdwd.org](mailto:gfof@globalforumcdwd.org) - and get a chance to feature in our next issue and social media!



WRITE  
TO US!