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**CDWD MATTERS**

## Here is our January Newsletter!

Welcome to 2024 🎉 Starting the year with a new rigour and a brand new Newsletter style, we are sharing what all we did in the past month and what is there in pipeline for the next!



### Launch of our Country Report on the 'Status of CDWD in Pakistan': Speakers Call for the Rights of CDWD in the country

5th January, 2023

The report sheds 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. By understanding the challenges faced by these communities, the report aims to inspire tangible reforms that ensure the rights, dignity, and opportunities of all citizens. The Launch event was jointly organized by Pakistan Dalit Solidarity Network (PDSN) and The Knowledge Forum - supported by GFoD. The speakers included Ms. Anis Haroon from NCHR Sindh, Dr. Sono Khangharani of PDSN, Pirbhu Satinyani from NCRC, and members of PDSN, Ms. Bhagwani Rathor and Ms. Pushpa Kumari, who urged the government to ensure adequate representation of Dalits in the assemblies.

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## Launch of Niger Country Report

4th January 2023

The Inclusivity Project and Global Forum of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent launched their Niger Country report “Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent in Niger and the Status of Modern Slavery,” to help readers, researchers and policymakers understand the extent of discrimination faced by CDWD in Niger and possible solutions.

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## Celebrating Human Rights, Taking Lessons for the Future

### Panel on the 3rd Night of Global Social Rights

10th December, 2023

Gfod led a 90 minutes panel discussion, with perspectives from South Asia, Europe, Africa and Latin America on the pressing need and challenges of advocating for the rights of communities discriminated on work and descent (DWD) during the 3rd Night of the Global Social Rights organized by Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung (RLS).

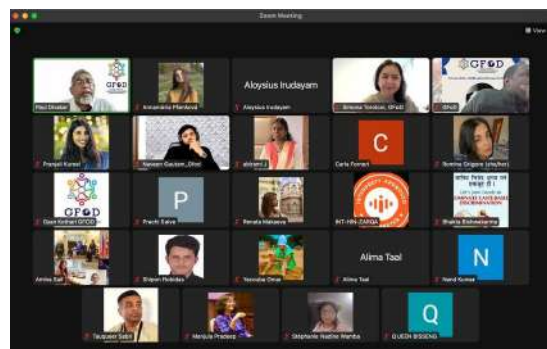
Watch here



### Gfod organized an online event commemorating 75 years of the UDHR

12th December, 2023

Commemorating 75 years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Gfod organized an online event with a vibrant panel of artists and speakers from across four continents. Mr. Yacouba aka Sage Soldat showcased his music video which celebrates Solidarity between communities without any form of discrimination. Poets Naveen Gautam and Romina Grigore shared their poetry on the experiences of belonging to a DWD community. Panel speakers addressed some crucial questions on the relevance of the UDHR to CDWD.



## Trust Africa Event: CDWD and the Political, Security and Humanitarian Situation in West Africa and in the Sahel

11th December, 2023

Observing the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery on December 2023, Trust Africa, ANDS and their partners organized a hybrid roundtable on the situation of Communities suffering Descent-Based Discrimination and Slavery (CDWD) in West Africa. Trust Africa notes - 'This situation (characterized by the rise in violent extremism, deteriorating global health situation, human rights violations etc.) impacts, significantly, the lives of communities that are victims of Descent-Based Discrimination and Slavery (DWD)'.

TrustAfrica, le réseau pour la lutte contre discrimination basée sur l'Ascendance (ANDES) et leurs partenaires organisent une table ronde sur la situation des Communautés victimes de Discrimination basée sur l'Ascendance et l'Esclavage (CDWD) en Afrique de l'Ouest.

11 Décembre, 15:30 GMT  
TrustAfrica et en ligne

Rejoignez la table pour s'inscrire  
bit.ly/27AggyvO

Français  
English

## Launch of a Europe-wide survey on the situation of Roma women

The ERGO Network Feminist Collective of Romani Gender Experts, Romalítico - Institute for Research and Policy Analysis, and GFoD, is jointly planning for a Europe-wide survey on the situation of Roma women. The main aim of this survey is to inform the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) on the situation of Roma women, but also to provide insights into the situation of Roma women across Europe and raise awareness about the key challenges Roma women face!

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## Supporting Civil Society Organizations in the Voluntary National Reviews 2024

For the last few years, GFoD, as part of the UN Major Groups and Other Stakeholders, has been engaging in the Voluntary National Reviews, presenting the viewpoint of CDWD across the world. This year we are supporting those organizations who are interested in getting involved in their respective VNRs, by providing in-house orientation and training (i.e., training) on how to best engage in such advocacy activities. An informative webinar and more in the pipeline!

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## Upcoming Events



## Meeting on Moving Towards a Declaration on the Rights of the CDWD at WSF2024 Kathmandu, Nepal

In collaboration with Asia Dalit Rights Forum, GFoD will be holding an event at the World Social Forum (WSF) 2024 on 17 February 2024 in Kathmandu, Nepal to deliberate on the proposed Declaration on the Rights of Communities Discriminated on Work and descent. The meeting aims to engage in thoughtful deliberations, articulate and manifest necessary provisions to address CDWD concerns, and actively seek support and solidarity. The ultimate aim is to demand a United Nations Declaration on the Rights of CDWD that ensures global protection of rights and establishes the legitimacy of all CDWD individuals worldwide.

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## Fostering Collaboration between Human Rights Defenders and Academics : Engagement on CDWD with University of Ghana

In an attempt to build a coalition of academics and activists committed to supporting Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent (CDWD) in Africa, a joint Online meeting is to take place on 25th January, 2024, to be chaired by Dr. Anamzoya Sulemana, Head of the Sociology, University of Ghana, Accra, and supported by Paul Divakar Namala, Convenor, GFoD. The aim of the meeting is to clarify, to the extent of our current knowledge, what structural conditions CDWDs in diverse regions of Africa contend with in common (in terms of descent/marriage/birth, occupation/work, hierarchy, idioms of stigma, and forms of discrimination), as well as the limits of such shared experience. Apart from this, we also look forward to identifying understudied communities and kinds of research desirable for the purpose of supporting CDWD human rights advocacy, along with other short- and long-term ways in which researchers and activists working with CDWD could potentially support each other.

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## News from Partners

### [National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights \(NCDHR\) Launched Campaign on Eliminating Manual Scavenging in India](#)

NCDHR launched their campaign to dismantle casteist Manual scavenging - #EliminateManualScavenging on December 5th. The organization recognized that it is time to flush away this inhumane practice. Millions are trapped in manual scavenging in India who deserve dignity, not discrimination.

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### [CONAQ: Questionnaire for Quilombola teachers](#)

In order to map and analyze information about the profile of professionals who work in Quilombola School Education and collect data about the situation of the schools that serve Quilombola students, CONAQ is seeking responses from Quilombola teachers and professionals in education.

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