

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK CITY OF JERSEY CITY

NEW JERSEY

Resolution

RECOGNIZING

SEPTEMBER 21ST AS GLOBAL CASTE AWARENESS DAY IN JERSEY CITY

WHEREAS, discussions on discrimination rooted in some South Asian diaspora communities, one of the largest immigrant groups in the U.S., have increased, with the United Nations (UN) defining "caste" as a rigid social hierarchy based on purity and contamination; UN Special Rapporteur Rita Izsák-Ndiaye reported that lower caste individuals are often relegated to certain menial or "polluting" occupations, reflecting global "class" discrimination, including in the U.S.;

WHEREAS, caste-based discrimination violates human dignity and equality, creating extreme exclusion and dehumanization, with affected communities experiencing severe socio-economic disadvantages and deprivation of rights; caste discrimination transcends race and religion, affecting communities across Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and in the diaspora, including the U.S.;

WHEREAS, caste practices in the workplace, housing, healthcare, and education mirror broader day-to-day discrimination against Africans, South Asians, Middle Easterners, women, and others, both in their home countries and abroad;

WHEREAS, institutions of higher learning have studied caste discrimination's impact;

WHEREAS, Jersey City, home to a diverse population, including African, South Asian, and Middle Eastern communities, recognizes that caste discrimination limits opportunities and freedom for some residents; Jersey City is committed to fostering an inclusive environment, recognizing the elimination of caste discrimination as essential to its residents' well-being;

WHEREAS, Ishan Parmar, a high school senior and Jersey City Hall intern, has led efforts to raise awareness of caste based discrimination globally, supported by the Global Forum of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent; and Dr. Ambedkar International Mission;

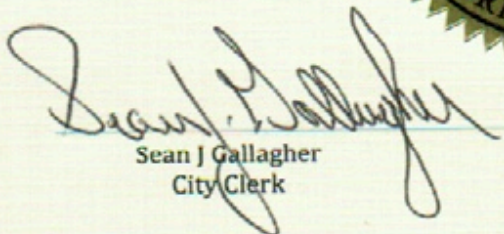
WHEREAS, the Association for Dalit Women's Advancement of Nepal (ADWAN), a non-profit advocating for Dalit and marginalized people in Nepal, and Dr. Ambedkar International Mission (AIM), supports Jersey City's efforts;

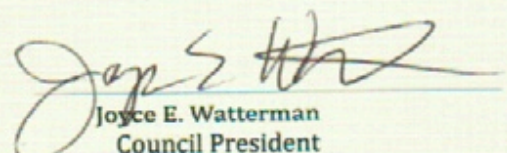
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Jersey City Municipal Council declares every September 21st as Global Caste Awareness Day and encourages citizens to support efforts to eliminate caste and all forms of discrimination.

ATTEST:



Daniel Rivera, Councilperson At-Large
Amy M DeGise, Councilperson At-Large
Denise Ridley, Councilperson Ward A
Mira Prinz-Arey, Councilperson Ward B
Richard Boggiano, Councilperson Ward C
Yousef J. Saleh, Councilperson Ward D
James Solomon, Councilperson Ward E
Frank E. Gilmore, Councilperson Ward F


Sean J Gallagher
City Clerk


Joyce E. Watterman
Council President