

# Monthly Newsletter

May 2025



# GFO D

GLOBAL FORUM OF  
COMMUNITIES DISCRIMINATED  
ON WORK AND DESCENT



## CDWD MATTERS

*In the aftermath of the historic adoption of the Resolution on CDWD Rights by the African Commission African Commission on Human & Peoples' Rights, read on about our engagements at its recent Session, and more!*

### GfOD at the 83rd Ordinary Session on African Commission on Human & People's Rights (ACHPR)



#### Recap of the NGO Forum of ACHPR 83 >>

GfOD actively participated in the NGO Forum ahead of the 83rd Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), where we contributed meaningfully to critical discussions and recommendations on human rights across the continent.

On Day 2, GfOD hosted a high-level panel and Special Interest Group discussions on promoting and protecting the rights of Communities Discriminated on Work & Descent (CDWD). Speakers called for:

- ➡ Legal recognition of caste/descent-based discrimination as modern slavery
- ➡ Survivor-led, inclusive policy frameworks
- ➡ Strong enforcement of anti-slavery laws
- ➡ Support for community-driven resistance
- ➡ Multi-sectoral reparations

On the final day, GfOD joined the panel focused on the adoption of recommendations and resolutions, with a particular emphasis on Reparations and Slavery. This platform allowed us to highlight the urgency of recognizing and addressing historic and ongoing injustices faced by Descent communities in Africa.

Overall, the Forum was a highly impactful and successful engagement for GfOD. It not only reinforced key alliances but also amplified the visibility of our advocacy, bringing renewed momentum to our shared mission for justice and equality.

### From Resolution to Action: GfOD Intervenes at ACHPR 83

At the 83rd ACHPR Session, Halimatou emphasized that adopting Resolution 619, on the promotion and protection of CDWD, is only the first step. She called for concrete follow-up, stressing the need for:

- ✓ Clear implementation guidelines
- ✓ Legal and policy reforms
- ✓ Inclusive reparations
- ✓ Data visibility for CDWD communities
- ✓ Institutional accountability

Her intervention highlighted the urgency of turning commitments into practical, community-driven action and ensuring that affected groups are not just recognized, but meaningfully included in change.



[Watch here](#)

## Strategic Meetings



### Meeting with the National Human Rights Commission of The Gambia (NHRC)

During the session, GFoD met with the National Human Rights Commission of The Gambia (NHRC), which reaffirmed its support for advancing Resolution 619. GFoD emphasized the NHRC's essential role in implementation, monitoring, and accountability. The NHRC welcomed the exchange and expressed readiness to support efforts toward equality and justice for marginalized communities, which has been a big success.

### Youth-Led Collaboration to Address Caste Discrimination in The Gambia

During the 83rd ACHPR Session, GFoD held a focused and strategic meeting with Movement for Social Justice a youth-led civil society organization actively challenging caste-based discrimination in The Gambia. The discussion provided an important opportunity to examine the structural and everyday manifestations of caste bias, particularly in the region of Basse, where Movement4SJ has been documenting cases of discrimination in healthcare settings and public services.

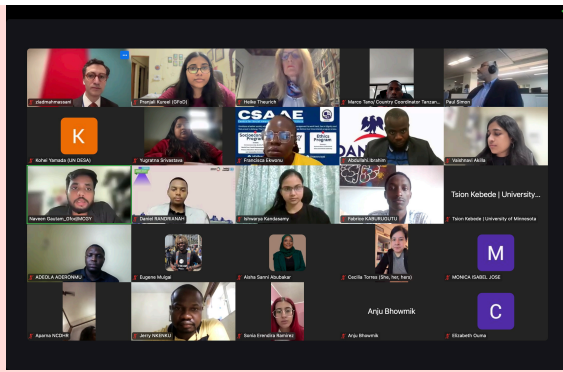


GFoD shared details of the recently adopted Resolution 619 by ACHPR, which affirms the rights of people discriminated based on work and descent (CDWD), and discussed strategies for follow-up and monitoring its implementation at national and regional levels. This exchange marked the beginning of a promising collaboration between GFoD and youth activists in The Gambia.

## Youth Engagements

### ECOSOC Youth Forum Review Meeting

The recent review session at the ECOSOC Youth Forum, co-organized by MGCY, UNDESA, and the UN Youth Office, featured powerful voices from marginalized communities. Naveen Gautam, representing the Stakeholders Group on CDWD and GFP for CDWD at MGCY, co-moderated the session.



The forum saw strong and impactful interventions from CDWD youth leaders, including Alima from Africa and Pranjali, Aparna, and Himani from Asia, bringing critical grassroots perspectives to the global stage.

## Upcoming Youth Dialogue on SDG 8: Register Now!

**Knowing SDG 8 from the CDWD\* Youth perspective**  
 Date: Tuesday, June 3rd Time: 12:00GMT/05:30 PM IST/05:00PM PST Online: Zoom

**MODERATOR** **OPENING REMARKS** **PANELIST** **CULTURAL ARTIST**

HEMANT DAS PAKISTAN NAVEEN GACHAM GFOD / MOCY ANITA NEPALI NEPAL ISHANIKA SRI LANKA NAMRATA INDIA ABIRNA INDIA PARVITHARAM NEPAL

\*Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent

Join us on Tuesday, June 3rd for an engaging online youth event, "Knowing SDG 8 from the CDWD Youth Perspective", co-hosted by GfOD and the Asia Dalit Rights Forum. This interactive session will spotlight the realities faced by Dalit and other CDWD youth in accessing decent work and safe employment across Asia.

Participants will explore the impact of Sustainable Development Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), share lived experiences, and connect with like-minded changemakers advocating for inclusive economic justice.

**June 3rd, 2025**  
**2:00 PM GMT / 05:30 PM IST**  
**Participation certificates will be awarded.**

[Register here](#)

## Join the Global Youth Forum against Descent based Discrimination

**JOIN THE CDWD YOUTH MOVEMENT! THE WORLD SHALL HEAR US NOW!**

The Global CDWD Youth Forum brings together young leaders from communities facing discrimination based on work and descent to challenge systemic injustice affecting over 270 million people worldwide. We empower youth to advocate for human rights, push for inclusive policies, and amplify CDWD voices through research and storytelling. By fostering cross-cultural solidarity, we aim to build a united global movement. Join us to be part of a dynamic network working toward dignity, equality, and justice for all, regardless of their work or descent.

[Join Here](#)

## Upcoming: High Level Political Forum 2025

### Save the Date! Launch of UN Women Policy Brief on Women & Girls from CDWD

In a historic moment, UN Women in collaboration with the GfOD, is organizing a launch event for a



new policy brief focused on the rights, challenges, and leadership of women and girls from Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent (CDWD). The policy brief will be launched at the 2025 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) to leverage global attention on SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and emphasize the urgent need to include CDWD women and girls in national and global gender equality strategies.

Register Here

## GfOD Hosts Induction Meeting with Members & Partners

GfOD convened an induction meeting with members and partners to gear up for the 2025 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). The session covered an overview of the HLPF agenda, including this year's focus goals and broader reflections on the 2030 Agenda, and positioned GfOD's global advocacy plans for maximum impact. Key discussions included development of policy briefs, showcasing stories of success, and organizing strategic side events to amplify CDWD voices. Logistical planning and registration updates were also shared to streamline participation. A core focus is on strategizing to ensure strong visibility of CDWD communities in plenary sessions and side events through unified messaging and coordinated action.

## Heading to HLPF 2025? Let us know!

Are you planning - or very likely - to attend the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2025 in New York? We are building a strong, global delegation to ensure that the voices of Descent Communities are meaningfully represented. We also want to nominate speakers to speak from the floor, once nominations are shared with the UN we are unable to change them, thus if you are selected and unable to travel our speaking slots becomes void. Let's work together to ensure broad and inclusive representation from all regions!

Please fill out this short form [[English](#)] | [[French](#)] or contact us directly via [email](#) to confirm your participation.

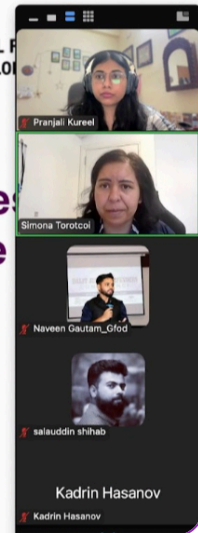
## Centering CDWD in the VNR Process: Strengthening Civil Society Action



## Integrating the Perspective of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent in the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)

**Date:** Wednesday, 21st of May 2025

**Time:** 14:00 CET



On May 21, 2025, GFoD organised a webinar to strengthen civil society engagement in the Voluntary National Review (VNR) process, with a particular lens on Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent (CDWD). Facilitated by Simona Torotcoi, the session offered practical guidance on how to influence national SDG reporting through advocacy, shadow reports, factsheets, and engagement with governments and UN missions.

Participants from across regions shared updates on their countries' VNR engagement, challenges in accessing consultations, and strategies to integrate CDWD perspectives in official reports. A strong emphasis was placed on the VNR as a process—not just a statement—requiring sustained advocacy and follow-up to hold governments accountable to their commitments under the 2030 Agenda. The event reinforced the urgency of "leaving no one behind" by ensuring CDWD communities are not excluded from sustainable development discourse and decisions.

## 2025 Global Conference for a Caste-Free World: Highlighting Global Caste Realities

The 2025 Global Conference for a Caste-Free World brought together global voices to share knowledge, strategize collective action to end caste discrimination, and build justice. GFoD Global Convener, Paul Divakar participated in the conference. Paul highlighted the global nature of the systems of caste present in various contexts across Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe, and stressed the urgency for these communities to come together in order to address Discrimination based on work & descent.

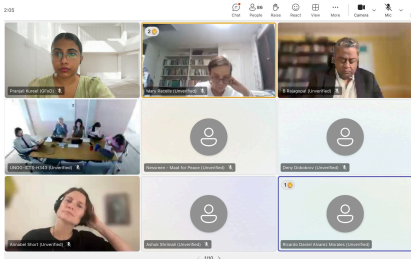


*From the Concluding Session on **Toronto Declaration** at the 2025 Global Conference for a Caste-Free World. The declaration sets a firm deadline—by the end of 2025—for the eradication of caste & race-based discrimination, with a transition period of another decade for defaulter nations to clean up the mess. The launch of the Declaration was addressed by Honourable Chairman Hon. Mr. Devraj Bishwakarma, National Dalit Commission of Nepal.*

## Input to the Human Rights Council>

## Contribution to the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on an Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

This submission centers the lived experiences of children from communities affected by discrimination based on work and descent, including Roma, Dalit, Osu, Haratine, Palenque, and Quilombola groups. Developed in close collaboration with rights experts and grassroots leaders, the input highlights systematic patterns of exclusion and calls for stronger accountability, legal protections, and child-specific remedies under the CRC framework.

[Read here](#)[Read here](#)

## Submission on Land and Housing Rights for CDWD Communities

GFoD submitted input to the UN Special Rapporteur on adequate housing, which was followed by a consultation with the Special Rapporteur. Our response to the SR's call and intervention during the consultation highlighted the exclusion faced by Dalits (South Asia), Roma (Europe), Haratin and other Descent communities (Africa), and Quilombola (Latin America). These communities face systemic land and housing discrimination rooted in caste, race, and descent. Through this submission, we call for: formal recognition of collective land rights; simplified, public-supported land registration; inclusive urban planning; support for community-led mapping and legal empowerment & more.

## Spotlight



### Haratin Identity: Race, Memory and the Refusal of Erasure - blog by our Sr. Rights Expert, Cheikh Sidati Hamadi

"What does it mean to be Haratin in Mauritania today?" Cheikh Sidati Hamadi unpacks the politics of identity, race, and resistance in a powerful reflection on Haratine marginalization and why true national unity must begin with truth, not denial. A must-read for those who believe justice starts with listening.

[Read here](#)

### Kunjani Pariyar Pyasi on Caste in play within Nepal's Judicial System

In a recent interview with The Kathmandu Post, Kunjani Pariyar Pyasi, Senior Rights Expert at GFoD, shed light on the persistent caste-based discrimination within Nepal's justice system. She emphasized that the judiciary remains largely unsensitized to the lived realities of Dalit communities, resulting in systemic neglect and lack of redress for caste-based violence and exclusion. Her insights underscore the critical need for structural reform, judicial training, and stronger accountability to ensure that justice mechanisms are truly accessible and equitable for all.

[Read here](#)

## News from Partners



## Quilombolas from Amapá demand prior consultation on Petrobras activities in the mouth of the Amazon

The Coordination of Black Rural Quilombola Communities of the State of Amapá ([CONAQ/AP](#)) released an open letter this Thursday (22) expressing concern about the approval of Petrobras operations in Foz do Amazonas (Equatorial Margin), a region of great socio-environmental sensitivity, and demanding compliance with the right to prior, free and informed consultation of quilombola peoples, as determined by the Federal Constitution and ILO Convention 169.

[Read more →](#)

## Apply to be a Youth Ambassador of the 'Decade against Antigypsyism'

[ERGO Network](#) invites young Roma and non-Roma to apply for their six day youth meeting, a study session to empower youth as ambassadors for the "Decade to counter Antigypsyism". ERGO Network welcomes young people who already have some little experience and who are able and feel ready to implement their own small projects to counter antigypsyism after they are back home. The study session will take place in the European Youth Centre in Budapest (Hungary) from 21 – 28 September 2025.

[Read more→](#)



*Copyright (C) 2025 Global Forum of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent. All rights reserved.*

Our mailing address is:

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)

