

Monthly Newsletter

August 2025



G F O D

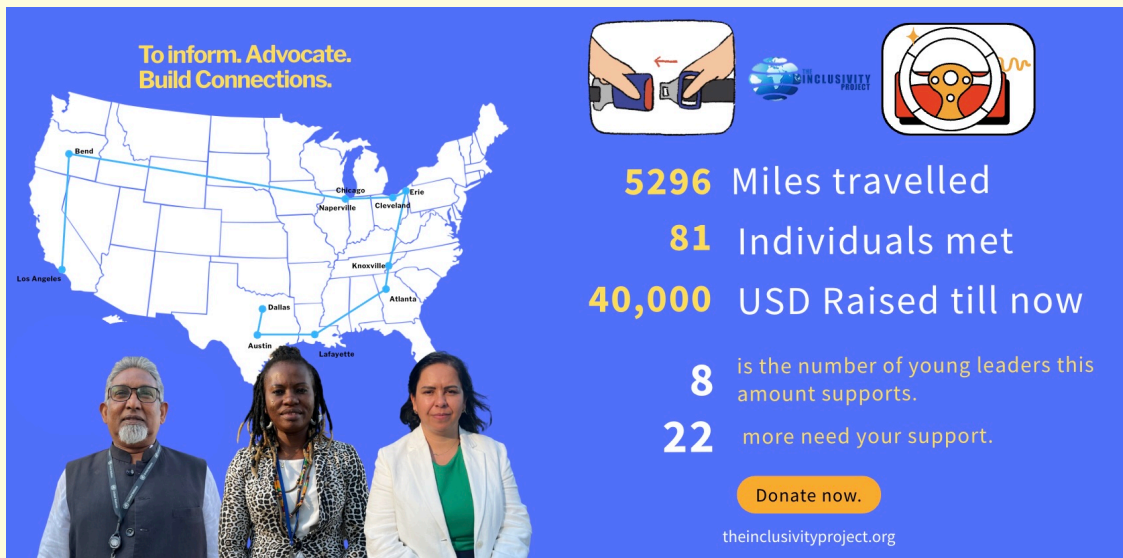
GLOBAL FORUM OF
COMMUNITIES DISCRIMINATED
ON WORK AND DESCENT



CDWD MATTERS

A look-back at the cross country Roadshow in the U.S, highlights from Youth Engagements, strides in Descent Communities' work in Europe, and more!

Your support fuels this journey!



This summer, our leaders journeyed across the United States to share the struggles and resilience of communities long excluded by caste and similar systems. Covering 5,296 miles, we met committed allies raising \$40,000—enough to support 8 young leaders from Descent Communities. Yet, 22 still await. Each \$5,000 empowers one leader for a year with training, resources, and access to global platforms, including the UN. Together, we can ensure their voices shape policies for equality and justice!

Show Your Support for TIP

By supporting TIP, you're standing in solidarity with some of the world's most marginalized communities

[Visit the webpage](#)

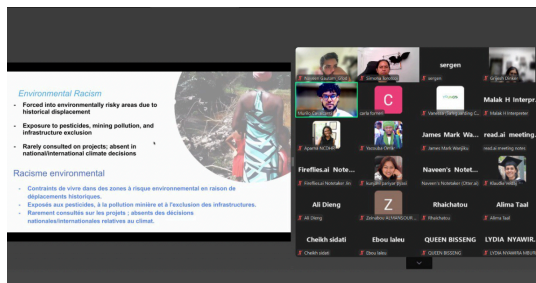
THE INCLUSIVITY PROJECT, INC.

donate@theinclusivityproject.org



Highlights from Youth Engagement

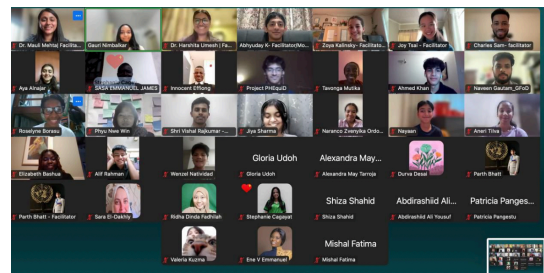
Climate Justice for Descent Communities



13 August 2025 | In the wake of intensifying climate crises and widening inequalities, we organized a session exploring how climate change is deepening inequalities for Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent (CDWD). Youth leaders Sergen, Grijesh and Murilo highlighted the urgent need to confront patterns of environmental racism and systemic exclusion, and called for intersectional approaches that put affected communities at the centre of climate action.

Unpacking Migration: A Youth-Led Dialogue

14 August 2025 | In partnership with Project PHEquiD, MYCP and One Future Collective, this youth-led dialogue, with the goal of gathering insights that would influence global agendas and policy conversations. The meeting focused on the intersection of caste and descent-based discrimination with displacement and migration. GFoD's Naveen Gautam emphasized the need for inclusive policies, data collection, and advocacy to address these issues. Arshiya discussed the importance of challenging dominant narratives around migration and displacement, advocating for empathy, solidarity, and action through storytelling and collective efforts.



International Youth Day 2025: #HearUsNow



On 19th August, CDWD youth marked International Youth Day with a powerful call: *we are not waiting to be spoken for: we speak for ourselves*. The theme explored Local Youth Action for SDGs and Beyond, with a focus on SDG 6, 7, 9 and 11.

Our powerful speakers included Isabella from the International Roma Youth Network, who highlighted how cultural centres and remembrance events empower Roma youth; Samir from Nepal, who led national policy change on menstrual dignity and now drives initiatives in 65 countries; and Dawda, who reminded us that marginalized youth are not only facing discrimination but leading change with dignity and inclusion.

As we look ahead to the 2nd World Social Summit, CDWD youth are breaking barriers across Europe, Asia and Africa, and demanding justice, equality and hope.

Advancing Roma Rights at Bulgaria's UPR Pre-Session



In partnership with Center AMALIPE, Gfod joined the week-long UPR Info Pre-Session on Bulgaria. In the Pre-session, on 29 August, our Roma rights expert, Magdalena Sarandeva highlighted the urgent need to address systemic discrimination against Roma and other CDWD. Alongside Paulo Lugon Arantes, Gfod's Geneva Representative, she also met with permanent missions in Geneva, advocating concrete recommendations for Bulgaria's upcoming UN review. These efforts ensure that the voices and struggles of marginalized communities are not overlooked as Bulgaria prepares for its UPR in November 2025.

[Read our Joint Stakeholder Report](#)

Roma Civil Society Meets UN Human Rights Chief

Aug 6 | Our Europe Regional Coordinator, Simona Torotcoi, joined a meeting with UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk as part of Roma Civil Society. She thanked him for



Volker Türk
@volker_turk

Valuable talk with #Roma communities about fighting discrimination.

Denied access to education, health & decent work, Roma have been facing structural racism for decades. Hearing minority voices is crucial to dismantling injustices & to tackling today's deepest crises.



recognizing our work on Communities Discriminated on Work & Descent in his global update in a recent HRC session, as well as shed light on the potential areas of progress. High Commissioner emphasized the importance of Roma connecting across movements to highlight shared struggles.

A Global Call on Indian Independence Day: Undoing Untouchability

On 16 August, in observation of Indian Independence Day, Friends of India Texas (FIT) hosted an event titled "Can We Undo Untouchability?". Our very own Paul Divakar was the keynote speaker, stressing the urgency of addressing untouchability as a first step toward dismantling social hierarchies worldwide: emphasizing that untouchability needs to be undone not only in South Asia, where casteism is entrenched, but also across other regions where communities such as the Roma, Haratine, Quilombola, and Burakumin face similar discrimination.



India Independence Day

Title: Can we Undo Untouchability ?

Paul Divakar
Human Rights Defender
Executive Director of the Board of TIP (The Inclusivity Project)



Paul is an advocate for CDWD (Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent), including Dalit rights, renowned for his expertise in economic rights and his commitment to human rights. As the Convenor of the Global Forum of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent (GFD), he spearheads the voices of marginalized groups across the world. He is a founding member of the National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR). In 2017, Outlook Magazine recognized his impact by naming him one of the 50 most influential Dalit leaders in India. He has made extensive interventions on CDWD issues at numerous global forums, including the UN systems in New York and Geneva.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 2025
@11:00 AM CST

FRIENDS OF INDIA, TEXAS (FIT)
Zoom Webinar ID: 867 2174 2331

Rights Experts Spotlight ✨



Advancing Dalit Rights in Nepal

Our Rights Expert, Kunjani Pariyar, joined the Gandaki Province Assembly in Nepal as the only woman in the room to provide expert feedback on the draft Dalit Rights Bill. Her contribution marks a vital step toward stronger representation of Dalits, women, and Dalit women in policymaking.

Breaking Barriers: Roma Youth in Science and Activism

From a Roma neighbourhood to the science lab, our Rights Expert Sergen Gül is preserving Roma

memory while inspiring future generations. His journey is both a tribute to resilience and a call to dream beyond limits.



[Read more](#)

News from Partners



Asia Dalit Rights Forum Calls for Universal Social Protection

On 22 August, a delegation led by Bhakta Bishwakarma, General Secretary of the Asia Dalit Rights Forum, together with NGO Federation Nepal, met with EU representatives Mr. Thomas Miller, Deputy Head of Delegation, and Shiva Bhandari, Senior Program Manager. The team formally handed over a letter to the delegation and urged the EU to press for inclusion of Universal Social Protection Floors in the political declaration of the Second World Summit for Social Development.



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