

Monthly Newsletter

July 2025



G F O D

GLOBAL FORUM OF
COMMUNITIES DISCRIMINATED
ON WORK AND DESCENT



CDWD MATTERS

A glimpse at the milestones achieved at the High Level Political Forum 2025 - Policy Paper launched, ECOSOC President extends public solidarity, and much more. Also learn about why we are On the Road, and how you can make a change by supporting us!

We need your support! The Inclusivity Project is On the Road.

This summer, The Inclusivity Project (TIP) is hitting the road across the United States—and bringing stories of resilience, resistance, and rights with them! From Texas to California, passionate community leaders are coming together to shine a light on descent-based discrimination and amplify the voices of communities that are too often left out of the conversation.

It's not just a roadshow—it's a movement.

Why We're Doing This?

Across the world, over 270 million people continue to face systemic discrimination because of their birth, caste, or traditional occupation. These communities are routinely denied access to education, dignified work, and basic human rights. At The Inclusivity Project, we're building a movement to change that—by training young leaders from Descent Communities as Rights Experts who can drive change from the very grassroots to policy discussions. This new cohort will lead grassroots organizing, shape global advocacy, and ensure their communities are no longer left behind.

This summer, we're taking that mission across the U.S: connecting, learning, and building solidarity. Help us fund this next generation of changemakers.

 LOCATION	 DATE
Dallas, TX	July 18-19
Austin, TX	July 20-21
Houston, TX	July 22
Atlanta, GA	July 24
Erie, PA	July 26-28
Cleveland, OH	July 29
Chicago, IL	July 29-August 1
Bend, OR	August 8-11
LA and Bay Area, CA	August 13-17

* Continued below

[Find out how you can support](#)

TIP-GFoD at the High Level Political Forum 2025: Major Highlights

History Made: UN Women and GFoD Launch First-Ever Policy Paper on CDWD Women and Girls



One of the most powerful highlights of HLPF 2025 was the joint release of a groundbreaking policy paper by UN Women and the Global Forum of CDWD (GFoD), addressing the specific concerns of women and girls from communities discriminated on work and descent (CDWD). The launch event, co-hosted by UN Women, GFoD, saw remarkable high-level participation. Member States such as Timor-Leste and the Czech Republic were in attendance, Gay McDougall, Vice-Chair, CERD moderated the session, Vice-Chair of UN Working Group on Discrimination against Women & Girls, Iudia Flores also spoke. Video messages of solidarity came from the UN Special Rapporteurs on Racism and Minorities. The partnership between UN Women and GFoD was officially acknowledged in the printed edition of the brief—marking a historic step toward a more inclusive and representative vision of gender equality in global policy spaces. [Read more here.](#)

[Read the Policy Paper here](#)

“Proud to Stand With You”: ECOSOC President’s solidarity to Descent Communities at the UN



At the 2025 High-Level Political Forum, ECOSOC President H.E. Bob Rae offered a tribute to communities discriminated on the basis of work and descent. In response to the session's Lead Discussant, Naveen Gautam's intervention, Ambassador Rae described the remarks as "extremely helpful and significant", adding that it had been an education for him personally. He expressed pride in working alongside these communities and stressed the need for continued dialogue and concrete action to end such deep-rooted discrimination.

[Watch here](#)

CDWD Youth Action at HLPF 2025



A Standout Side Event at HLPF 2025: Youth and Community Leaders Call for Justice and Inclusion

On 16 July, our HLPF 2025 side event brought together powerful voices from The Gambia, Nepal, the Philippines, Tonga and beyond, with young leaders and community advocates calling for inclusive, sustainable solutions for communities discriminated against on work and descent, and Indigenous youth. Speakers reminded us of the urgent need to stay rooted in our histories, claim our rights, and confront not just privilege, but power itself. It was a moment of solidarity, learning, and collective vision for a more just future.

[Watch here](#)

MGCY call to action from UNGA in support of Descent Communities 🌟

In a historic development, the Major Group for Children & Youth, in their speech at the High Level Opening of the HLPF 2025 delivered from the UN General Assembly called for the launch of a dedicated UN Forum on Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent.



Youth participation at the HLPF 2025

TIP-GFoD amplified youth voices through dynamic participation from pre-Forum Youth Blast gatherings to leading discussions within the Forum itself, young advocates stepped forward as key contributors in shaping debate, sharing lived experiences and proposing concrete solutions for justice and inclusion.



Speakers from the Floor

Naveen Gautam, as a Lead Discussant, addressed structural exclusion in the session on LDCs and

LLDCs. He urged governments to dismantle discriminatory systems and meaningfully include affected communities in decision-making processes for the SDGs.

[Watch here](#)



Dr. Simona Torotcoi represented Global Forum of Communities Discriminated on Work & Descent, The Inclusivity Project and ERGO Network at the Official Meeting, HLPF 2025 addressing SDG 5 and interlinkages with other SDGs - Gender equality. She called for feminist approaches that centre the voices and experiences of marginalised women in global policymaking.

[Watch here](#)

Dinesh Jonnakuty, at the 2025 HLPF General Debate on UN@80: Catalyzing Change for Sustainable Development, powerfully called on ECOSOC to center communities facing descent-based discrimination in its work.

[Watch here](#)



Alima Taal delivered a powerful floor intervention in the 5th meeting, on SDG 8 and other interlinkages. She reminded delegates that over 270 million people face caste- and descent-based labour exploitation and called for urgent global accountability.

[Watch here](#)

Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs): Growing Recognition for Descent Communities in SDG Reviews



“
Efforts toward economic diversification, especially youth skills training, digital innovation, and green energy, show promise. Yet, insufficient disaggregated data masks structural inequalities. Excluded communities, particularly those discriminated against based on work and descent, continue to face systemic barriers in accessing education, livelihoods, and leadership.”

ALIMA TAAL

Sr. Rights Expert, GFoD - speaking on behalf of CSDs in The Gambia

July 22 | The Gambia Voluntary National Review (VNR) - High Level Political Forum 2025



“
As civil society actors committed to rights-based development, we welcome Czechia's VNR and the opportunity to reaffirm our shared obligation to leave no one behind. But inclusion must not be symbolic – it must be procedural, measurable, and accountable. While we recognize progress in areas such as education and environmental policy, structural inequalities persist. Roma communities, as part of the global family of CDWD remain disproportionately affected by antigypsyism, educational segregation, housing exclusion, and limited access to political and economic participation. Discrimination continues to obstruct SDGs 10, 4, 11, and 16. Roma must not be reduced to data points. We are rights-holders and co-authors of Czechia's sustainable future. This requires meaningful participation in SDG design, monitoring, and evaluation.”

GABRIELA HRABANOVA

Director of European Roma Grassroots Organisations Network

July 21 | Czech Republic 2025 MGS: Voluntary national reviews (VNRs) : High-Level Political Forum 2025

More than ever before, descent-based communities are being seen, heard, and acknowledged on the global stage, which is a powerful sign of change. At this year's Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), we witnessed a landmark shift: the issue of discrimination based on work and descent / Descent communities was named and addressed in the Review more than ever. Three of our delegates, Gabriela Hrabanova (Czech Republic), Alima Taal (The Gambia), and from Nigeria, spoke on behalf of civil society, carrying the voices of Descent Communities and other marginalities into UN spaces. CSO statements from seven countries, i.e., Czech Republic, The Gambia, Nigeria, India, Malaysia, Bangladesh, and Japan recognized the struggles of descent communities. Moreover, Bangladesh officially acknowledged the challenges faced by Dalit communities during the review. These successes in the SDG reviews reflect the growing strength of our collective advocacy.

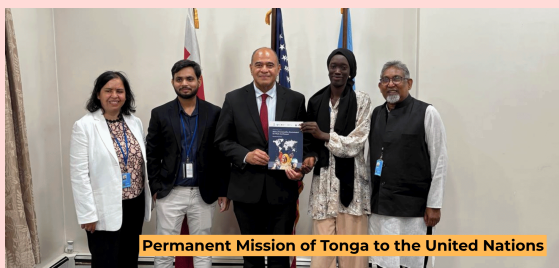
Leave No One Behind: Roma Voices in the 2025 VNRs

GFoD and TIP have been working alongside Roma civil society to ensure their voices are heard in the 2025 VNRs on the SDGs. From Bulgaria to Finland, Roma communities—long excluded from national development plans—are pushing back through independent shadow reports and civil society statements. The work highlights the urgent need for disaggregated data, accountability, and inclusive implementation of SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities).

 Read more in this latest article by Simona Torotcoi and Magdalena Sarandeva.

[Read here](#)

Building Alliances: Strengthening the Group of Friends of CDWD at the UN



Permanent Mission of Tonga to the United Nations



Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations



Permanent Mission of Czech Republic to the United Nations



Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations

Our advocacy efforts during this year's HLPF marked another promising step forward in building global solidarity for Descent Communities. We met with the Permanent Representatives of seven countries, i.e., Tonga, Germany, Nepal, Czech Republic, New Zealand, Brazil, and Canada. These conversations have opened the door to potential collaborations and are a step forward in strengthening an evolving informal group of friends of CDWD at the UN.

So far, we've engaged with 18 permanent missions, and the momentum is building: there is a strong possibility that three countries may come forward to jointly lead this initiative. With around 11 member states already informally part of this emerging group, we're getting closer to establishing a formal, cross-regional alliance committed to addressing descent-based discrimination at the highest levels.

Other Highlights



TIP-GFoD delegates represented CDWD communities across multiple panels at HLPF 2025, speaking on issues ranging from inequality and decent work to climate justice and gender. Their presence and voice was a key contributing factor to visibility and inclusion of Descent Communities in global policy discussions.

Ministerial Declaration (para 73) calls for an end to discrimination in employment and occupation as key to tackling poverty and inequality

A meaningful step forward at HLPF 2025! While it doesn't explicitly name communities discriminated on work and descent, it's a sign that global conversations are beginning to reflect these realities.

"the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour, the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation, and a safe and healthy working environment, are vital to the eradication of poverty and reducing inequality through decent work"

[Read here](#)



High Level Political Forum 2025 in numbers



ECOSOC Youth Forum Outcome - Presidential Statement recognizes Descent Communities

At the 2025 ECOSOC Youth Forum (April 15–17), held under the theme *"Youth at the Forefront: Leveraging Science and Social Inclusion for Sustainable Development,"* the Presidential Statement made a landmark acknowledgment of the realities faced by communities discriminated on the basis of descent. This recognition marks a significant step forward in amplifying the voices of youth from Dalit, Burakumin, Roma, and other descent-affected communities, and affirms the urgent need for inclusive development rooted in dignity and justice.

[Read here](#)

We need your support! The Inclusivity Project is On the Road

Meet the Movement

Three inspiring TIP leaders—Queen Bisseng, Dr. Simona Torotcoi, and Mr. N. Paul Divakar—are at the heart of this roadshow. They bring decades of experience in global advocacy, grassroots organizing, and research to uplift CDWD voices from Africa, Europe, and Asia and around the globe.

They've stood before the UN. They've organized powerful movements. And now, they're meeting with YOU.

Be part of the story. Host a gathering, join a session, or simply show up to listen. Every action counts.

[Show your support](#)





THE INCLUSIVITY PROJECT, INC.

donate@theinclusivityproject.org



Show Your Support for TIP

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

[Check the webpage](#)



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