



Key concerns and recommendations regarding communities discriminated on work and descent in the 2026 Voluntary National Reviews

For the last few years, the Global Forum of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent as part of the UN Major Groups and Other Stakeholders, has been engaging in the National Voluntary Reviews (VNRs), presenting the viewpoint of our communities across the world (i.e., Roma, Haratins, Buraku, Dalits, Quilombola, etc.).

Across the globe, communities discriminated on work and descent (CDWD) have been left out of national sustainable development strategies and action plans. Ensuring “No one is left behind” in the developmental planning and implementation of the SDGs is one of the key priorities of the Global Forum of Communities Discriminated on Work and Decent.

As part of the UN Major Groups and Other Stakeholders, has been engaging in the National Voluntary Reviews (VNRs), GFoD provides a space for stakeholder engagement around the High Level Political Forum (HLPF).

This document puts forward key concerns and recommendations regarding communities discriminated on work and descent in the 2026 Voluntary National Reviews from Albania, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Estonia, Italy, the Republic of Moldova, Senegal, and Somalia. Drawing on civil society reports, community-led monitoring, and the perspectives of affected populations, the document examines how discrimination based on work, occupation, social origin, caste, hereditary status, ethnicity, and descent continues to undermine the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The report pays particular attention to Roma communities in Europe; Quilombola and Roma communities in Brazil; caste-affected, descendant, artisan, and pastoralist communities in Africa; and other groups facing entrenched forms of exclusion linked to inherited status and social stratification. Despite differences in national contexts, these communities share common experiences of poverty, discrimination, exclusion from public services, limited political participation, and barriers to accessing education, healthcare, housing, land, decent work, and justice. The document seeks to support engagement with the Voluntary National Review (VNR) process by identifying key challenges, questions, and recommendations to ensure that the principle of "leaving no one behind" is effectively applied to communities affected by discrimination based on work and descent.

1. Albania

Roma and Egyptian communities in Albania face persistent structural exclusion and discrimination as Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent (CDWD). Roma communities in Albania continue to experience entrenched poverty, segregation, social exclusion, and systemic discrimination rooted not only in ethnicity but also in inherited social status, historical marginalization, and discrimination based on work and descent

Despite national action plans and legal frameworks aimed at promoting equality and social inclusion, implementation remains inconsistent and underfunded. Roma communities continue to face severe barriers in accessing education, employment, healthcare, housing, social protection, and justice. Many Roma families live in informal settlements without secure tenure, adequate sanitation, electricity, or access to clean water, exposing them to forced evictions, environmental risks, and extreme poverty.

Roma children continue to experience school segregation, low enrollment in early childhood education, high dropout rates, and limited access to digital learning tools. Economic hardship, discrimination, child labour, and early marriage disproportionately affect Roma girls, limiting their educational attainment and long-term economic opportunities. Roma youth also face discrimination in access to vocational training and decent employment, with many confined to informal and precarious labour sectors historically associated with social stigma and inherited exclusion.

Roma women experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination based on ethnicity, gender, poverty, and descent. They face barriers in accessing reproductive healthcare, employment, protection from gender-based violence, and participation in public life. Many Roma women remain excluded from formal labour markets and social protection systems due to lack of documentation, discriminatory hiring practices, and intergenerational poverty.

Anti-Roma racism and antigypsyism remain widespread in public discourse, media representation, and institutional practices. Roma communities continue to encounter discriminatory treatment by public authorities, including obstacles in obtaining civil registration, identity documents, housing legalization, and equal access to public services. Limited legal aid, weak enforcement of anti-discrimination legislation, and insufficient political representation further undermine access to justice and effective remedies.

Albania's efforts toward social inclusion and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals cannot succeed without explicitly addressing anti-Roma racism and discrimination based on work and descent affecting Roma communities. A comprehensive rights-based and intersectional approach is required to dismantle systemic exclusion, ensure equal access to rights and services, and guarantee meaningful participation of Roma communities, especially Roma women and youth, in all decision-making processes.

Key Questions to Raise

1. How does Albania recognize and address discrimination based on work and descent (CDWD) affecting Roma communities, alongside structural anti-Roma racism and antigypsyism?
2. What measures are being taken to prevent forced evictions and ensure secure, adequate, and non-segregated housing for Roma families living in informal settlements?
3. What targeted actions are being implemented to combat school segregation, reduce dropout rates among Roma children—especially girls—and eliminate child labour and early marriage?
4. How will the Government address discrimination in employment and improve Roma access to formal work, vocational training, civil registration, and social protection systems?
5. What mechanisms ensure the meaningful participation of Roma communities, particularly Roma women and youth, in policymaking, monitoring, and implementation of inclusion policies?

Recommendations:

- Officially recognize discrimination based on work and descent (CDWD) affecting Roma communities within national equality and anti-discrimination frameworks.
- Ensure adequate funding and accountability mechanisms for implementation of Roma inclusion policies at national and local levels.
- Prevent forced evictions and guarantee access to safe, adequate, and non-segregated housing with secure tenure.
- Expand inclusive education programs, scholarships, transportation support, and digital access for Roma children and youth.
- Develop targeted employment and vocational training initiatives addressing barriers faced by Roma communities in accessing formal labour markets.
- Strengthen access to civil registration, identity documents, healthcare, and social protection services.
- Combat anti-Roma racism and antigypsyism through public awareness campaigns, institutional training, and stronger enforcement of anti-discrimination legislation.
- Promote Roma women’s empowerment, participation in public life, and protection from gender-based violence.
- Establish systematic collection of disaggregated data on Roma communities, including data related to poverty, education, employment, housing, and discrimination.

2. Brazil

The GFoD report on Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent (CDWD) in Brazil highlights the structural and historical discrimination faced by Quilombola and Roma

(“Povos Ciganos”) communities, whose marginalization is deeply rooted in slavery, forced labour, racial hierarchies, inherited social exclusion, and discrimination based on work and descent. The report emphasizes that these communities continue to experience systemic inequalities affecting access to land, housing, education, healthcare, employment, political participation, and justice.

Quilombola communities, descendants of formerly enslaved Africans who resisted slavery and established autonomous territories, remain disproportionately affected by land dispossession, environmental racism, poverty, and institutional neglect. Despite constitutional protections recognizing Quilombola territorial rights, the process of land titling remains extremely slow and ineffective, exposing communities to violence, displacement, extractive industries, agribusiness expansion, and environmental degradation. The report stresses that discrimination against Quilombolas reflects both anti-Black racism and discrimination based on work and descent (DWD), linked to historical occupations associated with enslavement, subsistence labour, and inherited social exclusion.

Roma communities in Brazil, commonly referred to as “Povos Ciganos,” similarly face longstanding prejudice, forced assimilation, police violence, cultural invisibility, and exclusion from public policies. Many Roma communities continue to experience discrimination rooted in stereotypes associated with traditional occupations, nomadic lifestyles, and inherited social status. Roma populations remain largely absent from official census data, severely limiting the state’s capacity to design inclusive public policies and address socio-economic inequalities.

Both Quilombola and Roma communities experience persistent barriers to accessing education, healthcare, housing, social protection, and decent work. Literacy rates in Quilombola territories remain significantly below national averages, while Roma communities continue to face documentation barriers and exclusion from housing and social programs. Women and children within CDWD communities are disproportionately affected by poverty, informal labour, gender-based violence, and limited access to public services.

Discrimination against CDWD communities is not only racial or ethnic but also linked to inherited occupations, territorial marginalization, social origin, and descent-based exclusion, in line with the UN framework on discrimination based on work and descent. Structural discrimination is reinforced through institutional racism, environmental injustice, lack of political representation, and limited participation in decision-making processes.

Brazil must adopt a stronger intersectional and rights-based approach to address anti-Black racism, antigypsyism/anti-Roma discrimination, and work- and descent-based discrimination affecting Quilombola and Roma communities. Effective implementation of public policies, territorial protection, disaggregated data collection, and meaningful participation of affected communities are essential to ensuring equality, dignity, and social justice.

Key Questions to Raise

1. How does Brazil plan to formally recognize and address discrimination based on work and descent (CDWD) affecting Quilombola and Roma communities, alongside structural racism and antigypsyism?
2. What urgent measures will be taken to accelerate Quilombola land titling processes and protect communities from displacement, environmental destruction, and violence linked to extractive industries and agribusiness?
3. What steps will the Government take to ensure the systematic collection of disaggregated data on Roma and Quilombola communities, including ethnicity, gender, socio-economic status, and territorial conditions?
4. How will authorities address barriers preventing CDWD communities from accessing education, healthcare, housing, civil documentation, and social protection programs?
5. What mechanisms exist to ensure the meaningful participation of Quilombola and Roma representatives, especially women and youth, in policymaking, monitoring, and implementation of public policies affecting their communities?

Recommendations:

- Officially recognize discrimination based on work and descent (CDWD) in national anti-discrimination and equality frameworks.
- Accelerate and adequately fund Quilombola land titling and territorial protection processes.
- Ensure the inclusion of Roma populations in national census and public data collection systems.
- Strengthen implementation of the National Policy Plan for Roma Peoples and Quilombola territorial management policies.
- Combat institutional racism, environmental racism, and antigypsyism through public awareness campaigns and training for state institutions.
- Guarantee equal access to healthcare, education, housing, civil documentation, and social protection for CDWD communities.
- Develop targeted policies addressing the needs of CDWD women, children, and youth, including protection from gender-based violence and economic exclusion.
- Strengthen political participation and representation of Quilombola and Roma communities at local, national, and international levels.
- Support community-led organizations and human rights defenders working on CDWD issues through sustainable funding and legal protections.

3. Burkina Faso

Communities discriminated on work and descent (CDWD) in Burkina Faso include Bellah (Bella) communities, descendants of enslaved populations, Rimaibé communities, and artisan caste groups such as blacksmiths, griots, and leatherworkers. These communities continue to

experience discrimination rooted in hereditary status, social origin, and traditional occupational hierarchies.

In several regions, descendants of enslaved populations remain vulnerable to exclusion from land ownership, local governance structures, education, and economic opportunities. Women and girls from these communities face particularly severe forms of intersectional discrimination.

Individuals from artisan, blacksmith, leatherworker, griot, and descendant slave communities continue to face stigma, social segregation, and barriers to participation in public life. These forms of exclusion often affect access to education, employment, land ownership, political representation, and justice. Women and girls from marginalized communities experience compounded discrimination based on gender, social origin, and descent.

The security crisis and widespread displacement caused by armed conflict have further exacerbated vulnerabilities among marginalized communities, increasing poverty and reducing access to essential services. Many affected populations remain absent from official data collection systems, limiting the state's ability to monitor inequalities and design targeted interventions.

Addressing discrimination based on work and descent is essential to achieving the SDGs and ensuring inclusive development in Burkina Faso.

Key Questions to Raise

1. How does Burkina Faso recognize and address discrimination based on work and descent within national development and SDG implementation frameworks?
2. What measures are being taken to combat caste-based discrimination and exclusion affecting hereditary occupational groups?
3. How is the Government ensuring equal access to education, employment, and public services for marginalized communities?
4. What steps are being taken to collect data on communities affected by descent-based discrimination?
5. How are affected communities represented in policymaking and development planning processes?

Recommendations

- Officially recognize discrimination based on work and descent as a human rights concern.
- Strengthen anti-discrimination legislation and enforcement mechanisms.
- Conduct awareness campaigns addressing caste-based stigma and exclusion.
- Improve access to education, healthcare, employment, and social protection.
- Establish systems for collecting disaggregated data on affected communities.
- Promote participation of marginalized communities in decision-making processes.

- Develop targeted support for women and girls affected by descent-based discrimination.
- Integrate CDWD concerns into humanitarian and development responses.

4. Cameroon

Communities discriminated on work and descent (CDWD) in Cameroon include Mbororo pastoralists, descendants of enslaved populations, and other marginalized groups who continue to face social exclusion, discrimination, land insecurity, and barriers to accessing basic services. While Cameroon has made commitments under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and various human rights instruments, structural inequalities continue to affect these communities, particularly in rural and conflict-affected regions.

Many CDWD communities experience disproportionate poverty, limited access to quality education, healthcare, housing, water, sanitation, and social protection. Land tenure insecurity remains a significant challenge, particularly for pastoralist communities whose traditional livelihoods are threatened by land grabbing, environmental degradation, agricultural expansion, and conflict. Women and girls from marginalized communities face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination based on gender, social status, occupation, and descent.

Access to civil documentation and legal identity remains a challenge for many members of marginalized communities, limiting access to education, voting rights, healthcare, and social protection programs. Discrimination and social stigma continue to affect opportunities for employment and participation in public life. Human rights defenders working with marginalized communities have also reported obstacles in accessing justice and effective remedies for violations of their rights.

Conflict and insecurity in several regions of the country have further exacerbated vulnerabilities among marginalized communities, increasing displacement, poverty, and barriers to accessing public services. Despite these challenges, the specific experiences of communities affected by discrimination based on work and descent remain largely absent from national development planning, data collection systems, and SDG monitoring frameworks.

Key Questions to Raise

1. How does Cameroon recognize and address discrimination based on work and descent affecting marginalized communities within its SDG implementation and national development policies?

2. What measures are being taken to ensure secure access to land, natural resources, and livelihoods for pastoralist and other marginalized communities?
3. How is the Government addressing barriers to education, healthcare, civil registration, and social protection affecting CDWD communities?
4. What mechanisms exist to protect marginalized communities from discrimination, violence, and exclusion, particularly in conflict-affected regions?
5. How are representatives of CDWD communities, especially women and youth, involved in policymaking, SDG monitoring, and development planning?

Recommendations:

- Officially recognize discrimination based on work and descent (CDWD) within national equality and development frameworks.
Strengthen protection of land, resource, and livelihood rights for marginalized and pastoralist communities.
- Improve access to civil registration, education, healthcare, housing, water, sanitation, and social protection services.
- Establish mechanisms for collecting disaggregated data on marginalized communities to support SDG monitoring.
- Address discrimination and social stigma through public awareness campaigns and enforcement of anti-discrimination measures.
- Ensure meaningful participation of affected communities in policymaking and development planning.
- Develop targeted measures supporting women, girls, and youth from marginalized communities.
- Strengthen access to justice and legal remedies for victims of discrimination and rights violations.
- Integrate the needs of CDWD communities into conflict prevention, humanitarian response, and peacebuilding initiatives.

5. Estonia

Roma communities in Estonia remain among the most marginalized groups in society and continue to face discrimination rooted in ethnicity, descent, and long-standing social exclusion. Although Estonia has made progress in promoting equality and social inclusion, Roma people continue to experience barriers to the full enjoyment of rights and equitable access to opportunities across multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The relatively small size of Estonia's Roma population has contributed to their limited visibility in public policy and national statistics. This lack of disaggregated data makes it difficult to accurately assess socio-economic conditions and monitor progress toward the SDGs. Roma communities continue to face challenges in accessing quality education, stable employment, healthcare services, and adequate housing, resulting in a higher risk of poverty and social exclusion.

Educational attainment remains a key concern. Roma children are more likely to experience barriers to early childhood education, school retention, and transition to higher levels of education. These disadvantages contribute directly to lower labour market participation and increased vulnerability to precarious and informal employment.

Discrimination and negative stereotypes continue to affect Roma participation in public life and access to services. Roma women and girls face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination based on ethnicity, gender, and socio-economic status, limiting their economic opportunities and representation in decision-making processes.

Questions to raise

1. How does Estonia monitor socio-economic outcomes for Roma communities in the absence of comprehensive disaggregated data?
2. What concrete measures are being implemented to reduce educational inequalities experienced by Roma children and youth?
3. How is the government addressing labour market discrimination and unemployment among Roma communities?
4. What targeted actions are in place to reduce poverty and improve housing conditions for Roma families?
5. What budgetary resources have been allocated to Roma inclusion initiatives, and how is their impact being evaluated?

Recommendations:

- Strengthen the collection of disaggregated data on Roma communities, consistent with human rights and data protection standards, to support SDG monitoring.
- Develop a dedicated Roma inclusion strategy with measurable targets, timelines, and budget allocations aligned with the SDGs.
- Expand access to quality early childhood, primary, secondary, and vocational education for Roma children and youth.
- Introduce targeted employment programmes, apprenticeships, and anti-discrimination measures to improve Roma labour market participation.
- Address poverty and housing inequalities affecting Roma families through inclusive social protection and housing policies.
- Strengthen access to culturally appropriate healthcare and community-based outreach services.

- Combat anti-Roma racism, hate speech, and discrimination through awareness campaigns, training of public officials, and stronger enforcement of equality legislation.
- Promote the participation of Roma organizations and leaders in national and local decision-making processes, including SDG implementation and reporting.
- Develop specific measures to address the needs and rights of Roma women and girls, including economic empowerment and protection from gender-based discrimination.

6. Italy

Roma and Sinti communities in Italy continue to experience systemic discrimination, social exclusion, and barriers to equal participation in economic, social, and political life. Despite the adoption of Italy's National Strategy for Roma and Sinti Equality, Inclusion and Participation 2021–2030, civil society monitoring reports have highlighted significant implementation gaps. The strategy has suffered from weak institutional ownership, the absence of a comprehensive action plan, limited monitoring mechanisms, and insufficient allocation of resources. Roma organizations have repeatedly emphasized that policy commitments have not translated into measurable improvements in daily life.

Housing remains one of the most critical challenges. Many Roma families continue to live in segregated settlements and informal camps, often with inadequate infrastructure and limited access to public services. In 2024, the European Committee of Social Rights found Italy in violation of Roma housing rights, citing forced evictions, segregated living conditions, and unequal access to social housing.

Roma civil society organizations, including ROMNI APS, report that discrimination persists across education, employment, housing, and access to public services. Roma women face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination based on ethnicity, gender, and socio-economic status. Community organizations have also highlighted the underrepresentation of Roma voices in decision-making processes and the need for stronger participation mechanisms.

Furthermore, anti-Roma racism remains widespread in public discourse and institutional practices. International monitoring bodies have raised concerns regarding racial profiling and discriminatory treatment of Roma communities by public authorities.

Questions to raise

1. What concrete measures has Italy taken to implement the National Strategy for Roma and Sinti Equality, Inclusion and Participation since its adoption?
2. What budgetary resources have been allocated to Roma and Sinti inclusion programmes at national, regional, and municipal levels?

3. How is Italy addressing the findings of the European Committee of Social Rights regarding housing segregation, forced evictions, and unequal access to housing for Roma communities?
4. How is the government addressing racial profiling, work and descent based discriminations, anti-gypsyism, and hate speech directed at Roma and Sinti communities?
5. What targeted measures are being implemented to improve educational attainment and employment outcomes for Roma youth and women?

Recommendations:

- Fully implement the National Strategy for Roma and Sinti Equality, Inclusion and Participation 2021–2030 through a funded action plan with measurable indicators and public accountability mechanisms.
- End housing segregation, forced evictions, and reliance on segregated camps by ensuring equal access to adequate and affordable housing.
- Strengthen the collection of disaggregated data on Roma and Sinti communities, consistent with human rights and data protection standards, to support SDG monitoring.
- Expand access to quality education, including early childhood education, school retention programmes, and pathways to higher education for Roma youth.
- Develop targeted employment and entrepreneurship programmes addressing labour market discrimination and barriers faced by Roma women and young people.
- Combat anti-Roma racism, hate speech, racial profiling, and discriminatory practices through stronger enforcement of equality legislation and public awareness campaigns.
- Guarantee meaningful participation of Roma and Sinti organizations, including women-led organizations such as ROMNI APS, in policymaking, implementation, monitoring, and VNR processes.
- Increase support for Roma-led community initiatives promoting social inclusion, gender equality, cultural rights, and economic empowerment.
- Establish independent monitoring mechanisms for evaluating progress under the National Roma Strategy and relevant SDG commitments.

7. The Republic of Moldova

The alternative report submitted by the Platform of Roma Women “ROMNI” highlights the persistent structural exclusion, anti-Roma racism, and intersectional discrimination faced by Roma women, Roma children, and Roma refugees in the Republic of Moldova within the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The report emphasizes that Roma communities continue to be affected by discrimination based on ethnicity, gender, poverty, social origin, work, and descent, reflecting long-standing patterns of exclusion and marginalization recognized under international human rights standards, including CERD General Recommendation No. 29 on descent-based discrimination.

Despite the adoption of national strategies and action plans on Roma inclusion, implementation remains fragmented, underfunded, and ineffective, particularly at local level. Roma communities continue to experience disproportionate poverty, segregation, exclusion from public services, and unequal access to rights and opportunities. Roma refugees from Ukraine face compounded vulnerabilities due to lack of identity documents, insecure legal status, language barriers, and discriminatory treatment linked both to their ethnicity and refugee status.

Roma women and girls are disproportionately affected by multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, including discrimination based on gender, ethnicity, social status, work and descent. These inequalities significantly limit access to quality education, healthcare, housing, employment, justice, and participation in public life. Roma children continue to face high school dropout rates, low preschool attendance, segregation, and barriers to educational enrollment, particularly among refugee families.

Systemic inequalities in healthcare, including limited access to maternal healthcare, reproductive health services, preventive care, psychosocial support, and health insurance. Many Roma families continue to live in substandard housing conditions without adequate access to water, sanitation, electricity, or legal housing protection. Economic exclusion remains widespread, with Roma women and youth overrepresented in informal, insecure, and low-paid work, reinforcing intergenerational poverty and social exclusion.

Anti-Roma stereotypes and discriminatory narratives remain present in public institutions, media, and society, contributing to structural racism and exclusion. Limited access to justice, weak implementation of anti-discrimination legislation, insufficient legal aid, and low political representation continue to prevent Roma communities from effectively exercising their rights.

Moldova's progress toward the SDGs cannot be considered inclusive or sustainable without a rights-based and intersectional approach that explicitly addresses anti-Roma racism, work- and descent-based discrimination, gender inequality, and the exclusion of Roma refugees. Effective implementation requires stronger accountability, adequate financing, disaggregated data collection, and meaningful participation of Roma communities, especially Roma women, in all decision-making processes.

Key Questions to Raise

1. How does the Government recognize and address anti-Roma racism and discrimination based on work and descent affecting Roma communities, particularly Roma women and refugees, in line with CERD standards?
2. What concrete accountability mechanisms and dedicated budget allocations exist to ensure effective implementation of Roma inclusion policies at local and national levels?

3. What targeted measures are being taken to eliminate school segregation, prevent dropout among Roma girls, and guarantee equal access to education for Roma refugee children?
4. How will authorities strengthen access to legal aid, remedies, and institutional protection for Roma individuals facing discrimination, hate speech, gender-based violence, and exclusion?
5. What mechanisms are in place to ensure the meaningful participation of Roma women and Roma-led civil society organizations in policymaking, SDG monitoring, and public decision-making processes?

Recommendations:

- Officially recognize and address anti-Roma racism and work- and descent-based discrimination in national legislation, policies, and SDG implementation frameworks.
- Ensure sustainable funding and accountability mechanisms for Roma inclusion policies at all levels.
- Establish comprehensive systems for collecting disaggregated data by ethnicity, gender, age, socio-economic status, and refugee status.
- Expand free access to education, healthcare, legal aid, housing, and social protection services for Roma communities.
- Introduce targeted measures supporting Roma girls' education, women's empowerment, and protection against gender-based violence.
- Strengthen the role and financing of Roma mediators and community-based support mechanisms.
- Combat stereotypes and hate speech through public awareness campaigns, media accountability, and training for public officials.
- Guarantee meaningful consultation and participation of Roma women and Roma-led organizations in all relevant policy and monitoring processes.

8. Senegal

Communities discriminated on work and descent (CDWD) in Senegal include descendants of caste-affected communities and groups historically subjected to hereditary social exclusion. Although Senegal has made progress in poverty reduction and social development, discrimination linked to social origin, occupation, and descent continues to affect access to rights, opportunities, and participation for many communities.

Caste-based discrimination remains a significant but often overlooked challenge. Individuals from artisan, blacksmith, griot, leatherworker, and descendant slave communities continue to

face social stigma, exclusion from leadership positions, restrictions on marriage, and discrimination in employment and public life. Women and girls belonging to these communities experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination based on gender, social status, and descent.

Many affected communities experience higher levels of poverty, lower educational attainment, and limited access to economic opportunities. Social norms and inherited systems of exclusion continue to reinforce inequality across generations. Despite constitutional guarantees of equality, discrimination based on descent remains insufficiently addressed in legislation, public policy, and national development planning.

The lack of systematic data collection and limited public recognition of descent-based discrimination make it difficult to assess the scale of inequalities and design effective responses. Community organizations have highlighted the need for greater awareness, legal protection, and inclusion of affected populations in decision-making processes.

Senegal's commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals requires addressing the structural inequalities faced by communities discriminated on work and descent and ensuring that no one is left behind.

Key Questions to Raise

1. How does Senegal recognize and address discrimination based on work and descent affecting caste-affected and descendant communities?
2. What measures are being taken to combat social stigma, exclusion, and discriminatory practices linked to hereditary status and social origin?
3. How is the Government ensuring equal access to education, employment, social protection, and public services for affected communities?
4. What steps are being taken to collect data and monitor inequalities linked to work- and descent-based discrimination?
5. How are affected communities, particularly women and youth, involved in policymaking and SDG implementation processes?

Recommendations:

- Officially recognize discrimination based on work and descent as a human rights and development issue.
- Strengthen legal and policy measures prohibiting discrimination based on social origin, occupation, and descent.
- Conduct public awareness campaigns addressing caste-based discrimination and harmful social norms.
- Improve access to quality education, employment, healthcare, and social protection for affected communities.

- Establish systems for collecting disaggregated data on inequalities linked to work and descent.
- Promote economic empowerment programs targeting marginalized communities. Ensure meaningful participation of affected communities in decision-making processes.
- Strengthen protection of women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.
- Support civil society organizations working to eliminate descent-based discrimination and promote social inclusion.

9. Somalia

Communities discriminated on work and descent (CDWD) in Somalia include the Midgan (Madhiban), Tumul, Yibir, and other Gabooye communities who have historically been subjected to caste-like systems of exclusion based on occupation and ancestry. These communities continue to experience entrenched discrimination affecting access to education, employment, political representation, land ownership, marriage, and justice.

Members of Gabooye communities are frequently stigmatized because of occupations historically associated with leatherwork, metalwork, hunting, and other hereditary trades. Despite constitutional commitments to equality, social exclusion and discrimination continue to affect their participation in economic, social, and political life.

Despite efforts to promote peacebuilding and development, descent-based discrimination remains insufficiently recognized within national policies and development frameworks.

Key Questions to Raise

1. How does Somalia recognize and address discrimination against caste-affected communities?
2. What measures are being taken to combat exclusion based on hereditary status and occupation?
3. How is equal access to education, healthcare, and livelihoods being ensured?
4. What steps are being taken to improve political participation and representation?
5. How are women and girls from marginalized communities being protected and empowered?

Recommendations

- Officially recognize discrimination based on work and descent.
- Strengthen legal protections against caste-based discrimination.
- Improve access to education, healthcare, and social protection.
- Promote political participation of marginalized communities.

- Collect disaggregated data on affected populations.
- Address gender-based discrimination and violence.
- Support community-led advocacy and development initiatives.
- Integrate CDWD concerns into humanitarian and peacebuilding efforts.



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