



# SPOTLIGHT:

## JAPAN

### THE BURAKU PEOPLE

Japan introduced a caste system in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. At the bottom were the Senmin people who were referred to as 'eta' (extreme filth) and 'hinin' (non-human). Their descendants are known as the Burakumin.

They often face discrimination and there has been pressure placed on the government to take more action. According to the Buraku Liberation League, approximately 30 per cent of Buraku women have suffered sexual violence.

Estimated population sizes of those suffering from casteism often vary and the Buraku people are not exempt from this. Official government numbers claim there are 1.2 million Buraku people, but unofficial estimates suggest three to six million people.

### OVERVIEW

**MARGINALISED GROUP:**  
**THE BURAKUMIN**

**POPULATION SIZE:**  
**ESTIMATED 1.2 TO 6 MILLION**

**AREA:**  
**THROUGHOUT JAPAN BUT  
ESPECIALLY IN THE WEST**

**MAIN RELIGION:**  
**BUDDHISM**

**DISCRIMINATION:**  
**STIGMA, EMPLOYMENT  
DISCRIMINATION,  
MARRIAGE, ACCESS TO  
HEALTHCARE, ONLINE  
'OUTING' OF PEOPLE**

### THE CHRISTIAN NETWORK AGAINST CASTE DISCRIMINATION

CNACD exists to challenge the entrenched, antiquated beliefs of caste systems and to help foster positive change.