



SPOTLIGHT:

INDIA

THE DALITS

Despite India officially banning 'untouchability' in 1950 and introducing other legal reforms, Dalits are still often considered as subhuman. They are often not allowed to drink from the same wells as others or walk down certain streets. Dalits may be banned from temples and use separate entrances in some Christian churches.

Violence is commonplace with stories of girls being gang raped, women paraded naked, and a boy being beaten to death for plucking flowers. Based on national crime figures, each day, three Dalit women will be raped, two Dalits will be murdered, two Dalit houses will be burned down, and forty-eight Dalits will be assaulted. Low reporting suggests that these numbers are conservative.

OVERVIEW

MARGINALISED GROUP:
THE DALITS

POPULATION SIZE:
ESTIMATES BETWEEN 160 TO 300 MILLION

AREA:
THROUGHOUT INDIA BUT ESPECIALLY IN RURAL AREAS

MAIN RELIGION:
ACROSS ALL RELIGIONS

DISCRIMINATION:
SEXUAL ASSAULT, BONDED LABOUR, MANUAL SCAVENGING, MURDER, TRAFFICKING, POLICE COLLUSION AND TORTURE

THE CHRISTIAN NETWORK AGAINST CASTE DISCRIMINATION

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