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QUEST FOR JUSTICE (NDMJ)-NCDHR NEW DELHI

E-NEWSLETTER

About NDMJ

National Dalit Movement for Justice is one of the units of NCDHR focussing on the promotion and protection of the rights of Dalit's and Adivasi's. It is a democratic, secular, non-party movement of Dalit's survivors, defenders, academics and organisations headed by Dalit's to address the issues of caste-based discrimination and violence to ensure dignity, equality and justice. NDMJ adopts multi-pronged strategies and intervenes at multi-level for ensuring access to justice to those affected by atrocities/discrimination.

Index

- New Year Message
- 2. National Level Workshop on
- National Helpline number for SCs/STs- 14566
- National Workshop on Understanding Intersectionality, Legal Mechanisms and Advocacy Strategies
- District Level Dalit Women
 Defenders Trainings on
 Understanding Intersectionality,
 Legal Mechanisms and Advocacy
 Strategies
- 6. State Level Advocates Consultation
- State Level Dalit and Adivasi Human Rights Defenders Training
- 8. Training of Trainers on Strengthened Human Rights Defenders Protection
- Legal Awareness Camp and Legal Clinic in UP
- International Advocacy on the situation of Dalit Women in Covid 19
- 11. District Level Awareness Camp
- 12. National Level Fact-finding of Dalit Family Murder Case
- 13. Two Days Capacity Building Programme of 100 Volunteers
- 14. Round Table Conference
- 15. National Helpline BY MSJE
- 16. NDMJ Fact Findings and Interventions
- 17. NDMJ in Media

HAPPY NEW YEAR

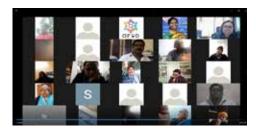
We National Dalit Movement for Justice (NDMJ) to all our fellow readers, wish you all a very Happy New Year. The year started on a challenging note; yet again, many of us are in some lockdown, with the new wave of Covid 19- Omicron variant. But, as we always strive to overcome obstacles and forge ahead, we will win over this pandemic too. With this hope, we wish peace, harmony, social justice, and equality across the globe.

National Level Workshop on National Helpline number for SCs/STs- 14566

Online: 13th December 2021

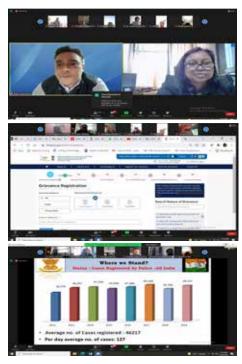
On 13th December, 2021 at Dr.Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has launched its National Help Line (NHL) "14566" against atrocities on SC&ST communities and a web portal http://nhapoa.gov.in. This is a great initiative by the MSJE. If properly and widely used by the SC&ST communities, our survivors of caste atrocities would receive speedy justice as the complaints are being escalated to key officials for redressal with accountability.

In order to understand the use and the purpose, on 20th December 2021, NDMJ–NCDHR organised the National Level Workshop of Dalits and Adivasis on the orientation of National Helpline #14566 to redress complaints of atrocities against SCs/STs launched by MSJE. The National Workshop was organized



virtually, with more than 170 participants from all over the country. The workshop began with the welcome address by Mr. Rahul Singh, General Secretary, NDMJ-NCDHR. He gave a brief background of the SC/ST PoA Act, and the advocacy mechanism of NDMJ on the effective mechanism of the law.

The session followed with the key note address by Mr. Bharat Lal Meena, Director and In charge (Helpline), MSJE. He briefed on the background process of initiating National Level Helpline and its objective and importance for



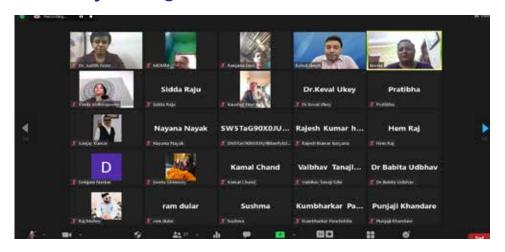
the SCs and STs, sharing on successful launch of helpline at Delhi. He explained the IT based initiative taken by the Government of India to have a better e-governance system across the country for effective implementation of the PoA Act. 1989 and the PCR Act. 1955.

Ms. Arpita Barman, Senior Technical Director and HOD, NIC Service Desk ,National Informatics Centre , Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, further explained on the understanding of complaint and redressal mechanisms under Helpline and Web Portal.

The workshop followed with the responses on functioning of National Helpline from General Secretary of different units of NCDHR, and state level coordinators, and partner CSOs.



National Workshop on Understanding Intersectionality, Legal Mechanisms and Advocacy Strategies



Online: 22nd-23rd November 2021

NDMJ on 22nd-23rd November 2021 organised two days online National Workshop for DHRDs on "Understanding Intersectionality, Legal Mechanisms and Advocacy Strategies". The workshop focused on Introducing and Understanding the Intersectional Lens, Identifying key areas of Disparity and Understanding Concepts in Gender, mechanism of legal advocacy, advocacy strategies with Officials/Depts, media advocacy on violence against Dalit women, Safeguarding strategy while working within communities, and concluded with Panel Discussion on mapping violence and prevention strategies.

Regional Consultation Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

Online: 15th November 2021

On 15th November 2021 WGHR and NDMJ organized a Regional Consultation to collect voices and inputs from across the North region on pertinent human rights issues related to Dalit Rights. This measure has been designed

to update information collected from the previous UPR cycle (2017) and its Mid-Term Review (2020). The consultation enabled the addition of up-to-date information and recommendations on the Dalit Rights covered in the previous Mid- Term Report that can

be further used for the drafting process of the Joint Stakeholder Report for UPR IV. WGHR and NDMJ organised a specific session on Dalit Rights and a total of 50 participants including Dalit CSOs and activists participated from North Indian States.

State Level Advocates Consultation

Tamil Nadu: 23rd October 2021

NDMJ in collaboration with SASY organized one day training for advocates on October 23, 2021 on Prosecution skills and on various legislations. Around 52 participants including advocates, social activists, final year law students, social work students participated in the training.

The inaugural address was delivered by Adv. Kalaiyarasan, Secretary Coimbatore Bar Association, Adv. Elizabeth Rani, Secretary Coimbatore Women's Bar Association and Mr. Aruchamy, district Secretary Tamil Nadu Untouchability Eradication Front. Following this, the session was started by Senior advocate Mathivanan on the Rights of Dalits, Adivasis and the duties of lawyers.

Secondly Adv. Venmani, had a session on the SC/ST PoA Act and its preventive measures which was followed by Mr. Palanisamy state co-ordinator, SASY on the practical experience of gaining special Court monitoring and how to appointed processing special public prosecutors under section rule 4(5) of SC/ST PoA Act atrocity cases. The post lunch sessions were handled by Adv. Kalaiyarasu on the multi dimension role of advocates in assisting for justice the survivors of caste atrocities.

State Level Dalit and Adivasi Human Rights Defenders Training

Rajasthan, Jaipur: 23rd-24th October 2021

NDMJ, in collaboration with the Centre for Dalit Rights (CDR), organised training of Dalit and Adivasi Human Rights Defenders on 22nd and 23rd October 2021, in Hotel Indiana Pride, Jaipur, and Rajasthan. In total, 59 defenders

participated in the training program. The training focused on the different forms of discrimination and atrocities, the monitoring and intervening in cases of atrocities, the role of Dalit advocates in accessing justice, and Strategies and Plan of Action.



District Level Dalit Women Defenders Trainings on Understanding Intersectionality, Legal Mechanisms and Advocacy Strategies

- Pradesh, Saharanpur: 27th-28th October 2021
- Bihar "Muzzafarpur : 4th-5th November 2021
- Uttar Pradesh, Allahabad: 4th- 5th November Orrisa, Cuttack: 12th December 2021
- Uttar Pradesh, Varanasi: 23rd 24th December 2021

NDMJ organized five district-level trainings to capacitate Dalit and Adivasi Women Human Rights Defenders to strengthen their legal and advocacy skills in addressing atrocity cases against Dalits and Adivasi women. Sessions were conducted on understanding intersectionality, legal mechanisms,

and advocacy strategies by Dalit Women. In addition, specific sessions were organized on the critical features of SCs/STs (PoA) Act 1989 and Rules 1995, fact findings procedure and case follow up, the appointment of SPPs under PoA Act, advocacy with stakeholders and judiciary, media advocacy, and its significance on the protection of Human Rights. In these five district-level trainings total of 132 Dalit women defenders were trained on perspective building, SCs and STs POA Act, POCSO, women-related laws, and understanding schemes and engagement strategies within community and elected representatives enhance access to entitlements and justice.











District Level Awareness Camps

- Rajasthan, Alwar : 12th October 2021
- Rajasthan, Alwar : 16th October

NDMJ, in collaboration with the Centre for Dalit Rights (CDR), organized a district-level legal awareness camp on 12th October and 16th October 2021 with 38 participants and 50 participants respectively in the district of Alwar, Rajasthan. In total, 88 participants were part of these legal awareness camps.

The awareness camps were designed to enlighten the participants about the fundamental rights, women's rights, and effective implementation of the existing policies for promotion and protection of rights of Dalits and Adivasis communities against discrimination and violence.

Training of Trainers on Strengthened Human Rights Defenders Protection

- West Region Training (Jaipur, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh): Date: 7th and 8th October 2021
- East Region Training (Kolkata, Orissa, Sikkim, Assam): Date: 27th and 28th October 2021

NDMJ-NCDHR, in collaboration with Human Rights Defenders Alert (HRDA), conducted two regional trainings of Dalit Human Rights



Defenders on using practical instruments and tools about various domestic legal mechanisms and international advocacy mechanisms. West Region Training was conducted in Jaipur, Rajasthan, with approximately 40 participants. East Region Training was conducted in Kolkata, with around 32 participants, 14 female, 15 male, and three Tran's genders.





Legal Clinics

- Rajasthan, Alwar : 29th October 2021
- Uttar Pradesh, Jaunpur : 30th October 2021

On 29th October in Alwar district of Rajasthan and on 30th October 2021, at Jaunpur District, NDMJ with respective partners CDR and BJSA collaboratively organized legal clinics for the survivors and witnesses of caste atrocities. The ultimate aim of the legal clinic is to strengthen the legal proceedings with the support of the Special Public Prosecutors under Rule 4 (5) of the SC/ST PoA Act.



National Level Fact-finding of Dalit Family Murder Case

Uttar Pradesh, Allahabad: 7th December 2021

Four members of a Dalit family were brutally murdered in Uttar Pradesh's Allahabad district on 7th December 2021, allegedly over a land dispute. The victim's family members were attacked with an axe and killed, and the teenage girl of the family had reportedly gang-raped before killing her.

Regular atrocities on Dalit and Adivasi raise a big question on the dignity and security of the Dalit community in the state. NDMJ regularly monitors and intervenes in several violent cases against Dalits and Adivasi's. In this case, NDMJ, along with Bharat Jan Gyan Vigyan Samiti and Dynamic Action Group, in solidarity, conducted the Joint-fact-finding. General Secretary NDMJ, Mr.Rahul Singh from the National Team, from the state Adv. Ram Dular, and Ms.Sarita Gautam were part of the team along with Mr.Harish Chandra (Former IAS officer) from Dynamic Action Group, Ram Kumar from Dug, Lucknow,

were part of the fact-finding team.

In the fact-finding, the negligence of police authority was observed. Relatives of the victims shared a land dispute, and members of an 'upper-caste' family allegedly issued physical and verbal threats to the Dalit family in the past. One Dalit youth was arrested; however, no substantial evidence has been found against the boy, and the family of the detained youth alleges that the boy has been convicted under false charges. After the field visit and fact-finding, the NDMJ team briefed the District Magistrate about the case, which a Press Conference organised by NDMJ further followed.

In the Press Conference, recommendations and demands kept by the fact-finding team are:-

- Investigation by the CBI should be done, and an unbiased and just investigation should occur.
- 2. The arrested boys against whom the case has not yet registered should be

- investigated and released,
- 3. In the course of the incident before the present massacre, the responsible police officers/police personnel were responsible for the incident. The officers should be booked under the SC and ST Act and investigated
- 4. All the accused named in the present murder should be arrested immediately
- The district administration should conduct DNA tests on all the accused named in the murder so that the actual accused is caught
- 6. Free arms license to the victim's family
- 7. The victim's family should be provided police protection until the court's trial is completed. The charge sheet has not yet been filed in court which should be filed immediately.

It is high time the authority, the government of U.P, the government of India, have to assure safety and justice of every Dalit and Adivasi community member.







International Advocacy on the situation of Dalit Women in Covid 19



Online: 8th November 2021

On 8th November 2021, International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN) organized a strategic virtual meeting with the OHCHR Country Desk Officers of Nepal, India, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

Dr. Judith Anne Lal, National Programme Coordinator (NDMJ) presented the situation of Dalit community especially Dalit women in the context of Covid 19, rising cases of caste and gender violence even during the pandemic and lockdown situation, response of the law enforcement authorities as well as the issue of sanitation workers and manual scavengers was discussed in the meeting.

Two Days Capacity Building Programme of 100 Volunteers

Orissa, Cuttack: 9th and 10th December 2021.

NDMJ organised a two-day State Level Dalit Human Rights Defenders training on Promotion and Protection of Child Rights, held in Cuttack, Orissa 9th and 10th December 2021. More than 90 participants from Orissa participated in this two-day training. The training aimed at mainstreaming the Child Rights & Child Participation, Child Discrimination & Dos & Don'ts while working with

children, Leadership Skills, Child Sexual Abuse and POCSO, Overview of atrocities against Dalit and Adivasi children in Odisha & defending the violence, Monitoring & Legal Interventions in cases of atrocities, The Bill on prevention of all forms of discrimination and violence against children in educational institutions and role of the community in this regard.





Round Table Conference

Telangana, Hydreabad: 10th December 2021

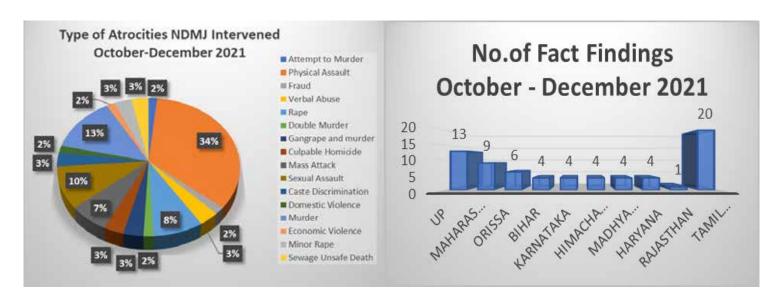
NDMJ organised the Round Table Conference on International Campaign on Violence against Women on 10th December 2021. This round table conference was the concluding event of 16 days of activism on the International Campaign on Violence against Women, in response to the UN call, Dalit Stree Shakti commenced from 25th November 2021, the campaign against violence on Dalit/ Adivasi women and girl children.

The inaugural meeting was held at Ambedkar Bhavan, VJA. A human chain was formed earlier to the forum, followed by rallies, meetings, awareness programs in villages, schools, slums, and a juvenile home. As

a part of the campaign, Youth Camps were conducted, and conferences were also conducted. The campaign continued till 10th December 2021. 30 Victims and witnesses concerning various atrocities gathered in Ambedkar Resource Center, at Prabhuddha Bharat International, Lakadika Pool. Higher officials representing departments of SCDD, Director of Prosecutions, CID, Cyeberabad Police commissioner, scientists, academicians, NGO heads, and intellectuals attended as Jury Members. The victims presented their woes heard by the jury, and the officials responded positively to solve the problems. With this Round Table Conference concluded.



Fact-findings & Interventions of NDMJ – October – December 2021



Fact Findings & Interventions by team NDMJ

State	No.of Fact Findings	No. of case FIR Registered	No. of Cases SC/ST POA Act Invoked	No. of cases Chargesheeted	No. of Cases Arrest Made	Compensation Received
UP	13	13	10	2	7	6 3,32,5000
Maharashtra	9	9	9	0	9	0
Orissa	6	6	5	0	4	0
Bihar	4	4	2	0	2	1
Karnataka	4	4	3	0	3	4 16,87,000
Himachal Pradesh	4	4		1	3	1 25,000
Madhya Pradesh	4	4	3	0	2	3 18,75,000
Haryana	4	4	3	4	4	3 18,75,000
Rajasthan	1	1	1	1	1	0
Tamil Nadu	20	20	18	11	18	18 27,50,000



NDMJ IN MEDIA

- https://rightnewsindia.com/himachal-news/himachal-pradesh-governments-decision-to-form-general-category-commission-is-wrong-government-should-take-back-the-decision-said-raj-mahen/
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