



UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW - IV -INDIA

LIVE SCREENING PROGRAMME



Organized By



**Social Awareness Society for
Youths (SASY)**



**Human Rights Defenders Alert -
India (HRDA)**

1. INTRODUCTION

Social Awareness Society for Youths (SASY) is a Dalit Human Rights Organization has been actively working in the field of human rights for protecting and promoting rights of Dalits, Adivasis, Women, Children and other marginalized communities with a combination accompanied Civil & Political Rights, Socio, Economic and Cultural Rights to ensure equality, Human Dignity and Social Justice.

2. UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR IV) - SUBMISSION OF JOINT STAKEHOLDERS' REPORT TO UNHRC:

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) was established in the year 2008, under the remit of the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC), to address gaps in the UN Human Rights infrastructure and to complement the work of both the Treaty Body and Special Procedures & systems and the UN UPR for India was held on November 10, 2022 at United Nations, Geneva.

SASY as a leading organisation had organized Online Virtual Consultation on February 16, 2022 for the UN UPR IV - Joint Stakeholders' Report on the human rights status of Dalit and Adivasi, Women and Children Report where more than 45 civil society organisations across the state participated.



The Joint Stakeholder's Report with Dalit & Adivasi Perspective was brought in the context of the Universal Periodic Review IV (UPR), on strengthening national human rights protection systems and to reducing implementation gaps in terms of international human rights standards. This report described the wider context of Dalits and Adivasi Rights in Tamil Nadu, in which caste-based discrimination, violence and access to justice are to be traced.

It aimed to improve the human rights situation on the ground and to realize the rights of all people in society, beginning with the most vulnerable, marginalized and discriminated. This report concludes with recommendations and the Joint Stakeholders' report was endorsed by 2006 civil society organisations as well as community led organisations across the state of Tamil Nadu had contributed to the report pertaining to Dalit and Adivasi perspective.

3. SUMMARY OF THE JOINT STAKEHOLDERS' REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS [OHCHR] - UPR IV:

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights [OHCHR] has released its UPR Report with a summary and compilation of the Joint Stakeholders' Report across the globe.

The Joint Stakeholder Report with Dalit and Adivasi Perspective submitted by SASY is titled "JS 19" which includes three recommendations- [76, 91, 123 in the Summary of the Joint Stakeholders Report – Published by United Nations – Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights] relating to Dalits, Manual Scavengers, and Dalit, Adivasi Women. It stated that the link between manual scavenging and the caste system needed to be acknowledged to make any meaningful reform in that respect; point 91 stated that Scheduled Castes directly suffered from landlessness and homelessness due to the violence and discrimination historically perpetuated against them and point 123 stated that a significant proportion of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes women consistently faced verbal abuse, physical assault, sexual harassment and assault, domestic violence and rape, sexual exploitation, forced prostitution, kidnapping and abduction, forced incarceration, and medical negligence.

4. LIVE SCREENING & ENSURING WIDER PARTICIPATION FOR INDIA'S UPR IV SESSION THROUGH UN WEB TV:

SASY had conducted online planning meeting with various Dalit and Adivasi organisations in Tamil Nadu on 19th October 2022 regarding the live screening and ensuring wider participation for the India's 41st Session of the Universal Periodic Review IV at United Nations, Geneva.



SASY had live screened the UPR session at 3 central districts namely Villupuram, Cuddalore & Coimbatore. And in 27 villages of Cuddalore and 5 villages of Coimbatore District. Around 1284 persons from organisations, HRDs, women leaders, children, college students, community leaders, trade union members, panchayat presidents, parish priests, movement leaders participated in the live screening of UN UPR India's session and made it as a people-centered event.

The India's report was presented by Indian representatives that was headed by the Solicitor General of India Mr. Tushar Mehta and was live telecasted through UN Web TV from 7 p.m to 10: 30 p.m [IST].

The Indian representatives made a detailed presentation for about 40 minutes on the India's report on action sought against terrorism, violence against women, children, religious and linguistic minorities, persons with disabilities, vulnerable groups, state-less people and health care of infant and maternal etc.

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Following this, 132 member states including United Kingdom, USA, Indonesia, Iraq, Singapore, Malaysia, Lithuania, Libya, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Angola, Russia, Spain, France, Norway Luxemburg, Germany, Belgium, Netherlands, Holy See, Greece, Nepal, Philippines, Sweden, Seoul, Vietnam, Zambia, Algeria, Argentina, Portugal, Qatar, UAE and others made their specific recommendations to India with regard to Dalit and Adivasi concerns.



RECOMMENDATIONS BY MEMBER STATES - DALIT, ADVASIS , WOMEN AND CHILDREN CONCERNS

1. *Iraq & Algeria – Abolition of death penalty and strengthening of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights especially for women and persons with disabilities.*
2. *Libya – Right to life of the Human Rights Defenders and Women HRDs*
3. *Marshall Islands – Annihilation of caste discrimination and addressing the unequal social order. To address caste-based discrimination by providing equal access to essentials; Adequate resources towards prevention of violence against women; continue efforts towards paris agreement*
4. *Greece – Addressing the issues of Journalist Attacks*
5. *Britain & Nepal – Addressing violence against women and children and ensuring their protection*
6. *Luxemburg – Release of the HRDs from prisons, providing citizenship to the state-less people*
7. *Malawi, UAE – Fullst implementation of the RTE act and providing quality, free education for all*
8. *France, Republic of Korea, Denmark, Ukraine, Mexico– Abolition of Child Labour, Death penalty, Action against Domestic Violence, ratifying OPCAT, CEDAW*
9. *Portugal – Addressing Gender based violence and economic disparities in the society*
10. *Seoul – Taking strict measures on caste-based discriminations in India*
11. *Sweden – Implementation of the PWDs Act*
12. *Spain – Addressing Discrimination, Honour Killings and Promote Equality; criminalize marital rape and implementation of CEDAW, special legislations for minorities.*
13. *USA- Addressing the unlawful activities – UAPA, CIA, attack on HRDs, Journalists and right to protection*
14. *Sudan & Argentina – Addressing enforced disappearance*
15. *Australia, Zambia, France, Algeria – Abolish Death Penalty*
16. *Germany – To make human rights commission for effective for the implementation of Prevention of Atrocities Act. For any possible amendments to the Human Rights Act 98 not to weaken the protection and limit the ability of individuals to exercise and enforce their rights & to continue to protect women and girls from violence*
17. *Italy -Consider enabling safe environment for civil society to exercise freedom of express and opinion*
18. *Slovenia - Promotion of human rights education at schools while addressing gender education & recommends adopt measures towards the eradication of gender-based violence with capacity building programs.*
19. *Netherlands - To straighten the prevention of gender-based violence through long term education and to stablsh institutions to support the victims*
20. *Liechtenstein - To take steps in view of abolishing death penalty; national laws to ban corporal punishment.*
21. *Mexico - Ensure prevention of sexual abuse of women specially of lower castes; Ratify UNCAT; Review implementation of NRC to avoid statelessness; adopt comprehension law for protection of human rights defenders*
22. *Brazil - To strengthen institutions to combat acts of violence against women & to review the penal code on freedom of expression, association and religion to bring it into line with the international covenant on civil and political rights*
23. *Belgium – Right of Expression in accordance with the article of 19 ICCPR*
24. *Holy See – Repeal laws that prohibit or discourage religious conversion, end discrimination on the basis of religion, adopt a mortarium on the death penalty*
25. *Sierra Leone – Continue the effort to prohibition of caste-based discrimination, combat child forced marriages, to address the intersectionality with terms of poverty with affected women communities.*

4.1. LIVE SCREENING AT VILLUPURAM DISTRICT:

Social Awareness Society for Youths (SASY) had live screened the UPR session at Hotel Devi Bala, Villupuram and around 100 persons from various organisations participated in the event. The Inaugural address was delivered by Prof. Kalyani – Irular Protection Sangam [Irular Pathukkappu Sangam] and Dr. Ramesh Nathan – Executive Director, SASY gave a brief introduction on the UN UPR and Ramamoorthy, Teacher gave a consolidation of the recommendations of the member states.



4.2. LIVE SCREENING AT COIMBATORE DISTRICT:

SASY had live screened UN UPR IV in Coimbatore City as well as in five villages- Thottipalayam, Rayarpalayam, Kulathupalayam, S. Kumarapalayam and Senchery Children Resource Centres [CRC] in 2 blocks of Coimbatore District. Around 316 persons including the children, their parents, community people, advocates, union leaders, movement representatives had participated.

During the live screening a brief introduction on UN UPR was shared, the 3 reports of the UN OHCHR [Summary of the Joint Stakeholders, India's Report and the Compilation report of UN bodies] were discussed and the India's report, recommendations of the member states were translated and discussed in the live screening.



4.3. LIVE SCREENING AT CUDDALORE DISTRICT:

The Live Screening was made in Cuddalore District and around 56 persons [49 men and 7 women] including movements leaders, trade union members, organized and unorganized workers, consumer federation leaders, parish priests participated in the session.



4.4. LIVE SCREENING AT CHIDAMBARAM TALUK OF CUDDALORE DISTRICT:

SASY had made live screening in Children Resource Centres of 27 villages in Cuddalore District and around 812 children, their parents participated in the event. The brief introduction, compilation and translation of the recommendations were done by the CRC facilitators and tutors.



5. CONCLUSION:

This is the very first time the UN UPR session was live telecasted in various parts of the state, districts, taluks and villages and was made as a people/community centric approach. The recommendations of the members states and will present them after 4 months [February 2023] and hoping the recommendations will make a ripple effect from UN to the grass root level for better access to human rights and justice.

