



Oral Statement: 51<sup>st</sup> session of Human Rights Council  
Item 3: Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of  
Slavery.

September 15, 2022

IMADR fully supports the report of the Special Rapporteur on the Contemporary Forms of Slavery. Practices of forced labor, bonded labor and child labor are prevalent among Dalit people in South Asia who have long been oppressed and marginalized because of their inherited status or caste. Especially, women and children of the community are more likely to be affected by these practices in, for example, cotton seeds plantations, brick-kilns, garment factories, mining, fisheries, and so on, as they face severe discrimination and are systematically denied making an objection to exploitative or abusive treatment in many spheres of their life.

With the expansion of business globalization, Dalit women and children are integrated into the global supply chain. According to our partner, International Dalit Solidarity Network, many companies sourcing from South Asia are unaware of the role that caste plays in relation to who is doing what jobs in their supply chain and their vulnerability to exploitation. Even knowing that, remaining silent about caste discrimination is a part of the problem. Being explicit and addressing it directly with suppliers is the solution, while helping increase consumer awareness and demand for slavery-free-goods in key sectors such as agriculture and manufacturing. Governments are encouraged to take the part by facilitating such initiatives by the private sector and the civil society towards the reduction of victims of contemporary forms of slavery. Thank you,