

Objectives:

The conference aims to bring together policy-makers, activists, civil society organizations/practitioners, academic and research scholars, students, and other stakeholders from around the world in a common forum to share knowledge about caste system, and its connection to other systems of oppression, and discuss best practices and solutions for how we can work together to end caste discrimination as a shared interconnected struggle for a more equitable and just world.

Specifically, the conference has the following key objectives for centering Dalit Voices and Liberatory Aspirations:

1. **Raise awareness:** The conference will serve as a platform to raise global awareness about the persistence and impact of caste discrimination on individuals and communities.
2. **Share knowledge from research and experience:** Academic scholars and other participants will share research findings, case studies, experience and testimonies related to caste discrimination, highlighting both the challenges and successful interventions.
3. **Foster dialogue and collaboration:** The conference will facilitate meaningful dialogue among diverse stakeholders, including governments, civil society organizations, academia, and affected communities, to foster collaboration and collective action geared at ending caste discrimination within one's community, nation, and globally.
4. **Identify best practices:** Through panel discussions, workshops, and interactive sessions, the conference will identify and showcase best practices in empowering Dalit and caste oppressed groups and in abolishing caste discrimination.
5. **Catalyze action:** By bringing together key actors and stakeholders, the conference aims to catalyze concrete actions through reparative policy changes at local, national, and international levels to end caste discrimination effectively.
6. **Build a strong Dalit Youth Caucus.**

Thematic Scope:

The conference will have a broad-based thematic scope as laid out hereunder:

1. **Understanding caste discrimination and its impacts:** Exploring the historical, cultural, and social dimensions of caste-based discrimination at its structural form, its root cause and its impacts on individuals, communities, and societies, encompassing prevalent social, economic, cultural and health inequities.
2. **Legal frameworks and policy interventions:** Analyzing existing legal frameworks and policy interventions aimed at combating extant caste discrimination and promoting equality and dismantling structural casteism.

3. **Intersectionality and multiple forms of discrimination:** Examining the intersectionality of caste with other forms of discrimination based on gender identity, sexual orientation, race/ethnicity, religion, socio-economic status, disability, and more.
4. **Education and awareness raising:** Discussing the role of education, media, and awareness-raising campaigns in challenging caste-based stereotypes and promoting social inclusion of Dalit and caste oppressed groups.
5. **Empowerment and social mobilization:** Showcasing successful initiatives aimed at empowering marginalized caste communities, fostering social mobilization, and promoting collective action.
6. **Economic empowerment and livelihoods:** Exploring strategies for enhancing economic opportunities and livelihoods for individuals from marginalized caste backgrounds.
7. **Grassroots Movements and Activism:** Highlighting successful grassroots movements, advocacy efforts, and community-led initiatives aimed at challenging caste-based discrimination and promoting social change.
8. **International cooperation and solidarity:** Discussing the role of international cooperation, solidarity, and advocacy in addressing caste discrimination as a global human rights issue.

Methodology:

The conference will feature a combination of interactive learning-sharing activities such as

1. Pre-event stakeholder meetings, a day prior to the main event;
2. Main event sessions will comprise the following components:
 - Keynote addresses
 - Plenary sessions with invited speakers
 - Thematic workshops (parallel/side sessions)
 - Poster paper presentations
 - Panel discussions
 - Youth Action Session
 - Market place (knowledge and fair-trade resources sharing)
 - Networking opportunities
3. Call for submissions of abstract will be announced globally through appropriate media and websites along with the first announcement of the conference. An Abstract Review Committee will be formed to receive, review and accept the submitted abstracts and communications with the abstract submitters.

The pre and during event proceedings will be designed to facilitate meaningful engagement and knowledge sharing among participants. Keynote addresses by leading

experts, policymakers, and activists will provide insights into the global dimensions of caste discrimination and pathways to its elimination.

The conference will be conducted both in-person and virtual modes in order to ensure global participation and accessibility. There will be a heightened scope for everyone to take part in the conference, to be able to share their thoughts, experience, testimonies, and knowledge etc.

The conference will serve as the igniting stage to kick-start a renewed global discourse on caste and descent based issues, being able to flag up issues/problems vis-à-vis their viable solutions through the adoption of sustainable way of actions and strategies towards abolition of caste system in its structural form prevalent in the societies.

A designated conference organizing committee will be formed and mobilized to undertake necessary preparatory activities for the conference. The committee will steer the entire preparations of the conference undertaken by various sub-committees within the organizers. A total of 9 months preparatory period, starting May 2024. A collection of arts and artifact products made by traditional occupational caste people who are victimized by the caste-based discrimination will be placed in the Market Place area of the conference venue for promoting their fair-trade in Canada.

There will be a provision and necessary arrangement for registration of participants to the conference – both online and onsite.

Target Audience:

The conference welcomes participation from a diverse array of actors and constituencies viz. policymakers, government officials, civil society organizations, activists, academics, researchers, students, and representatives of marginalized caste communities from around the world.

Expected Outcomes:

1. Enhanced awareness and understanding of the complexities and nuances of caste-based discrimination among participants. A global community of practice will be formed and mobilized out of this process.
2. Actionable reparative policy recommendations and strategies developed for addressing caste discrimination at the local, national, and international levels.
3. Networks and partnerships established among stakeholders to foster collaboration and mutual support in the fight against caste discrimination.
4. Marginalized caste communities will be empowered through the amplification of their voices and experiences and the promotion of solidarity with other marginalized groups.
5. Renewed understanding and commitment from governments, civil society organizations, and the international community to take concrete steps towards the

elimination of caste discrimination and the promotion of equality, human rights and social justice for all.

Conclusion:

The Global Conference for a Caste Free World 2025 Building Solidarity towards Equality, Social Justice and Abolition of Caste System represents a significant opportunity to mobilize global action and solidarity towards the eradication of one of the most pervasive forms of discrimination in the world today. By harnessing the collective wisdom, expertise, and energy of diverse stakeholders, we can pave the way for a future where caste-based discrimination is relegated to the history books, while paving concrete ways to compensatory reparation to victimized populations of structural casteism such that all individuals are able to live with dignity, equality, and respect.

A set of recommendations will be developed during the conference proceedings in the form of Toronto Declarations for announcement at the conclusion of the conference as well as submission to relevant governments at various levels and international bodies including UN OHCHR.