

# India Land & Development Conference 2020 Session Concept Notes



## Panel: **Caste, Land, and Social Justice**

Organized by: **HLRN**

Land ownership and use has been historically linked to caste status in India. Centuries of oppressive practices against Scheduled Castes have resulted in their dispossession from land in India. According to the Socio-economic Caste Census 2011, in rural India at least 54.71 per cent of Scheduled Caste households are landless, nearly 70 per cent of Dalit farmers are labourers on farms owned by others, and only 17.69 per cent of Scheduled Caste households own a house. Moreover, Dalits directly suffer from landlessness and homelessness, as a result of the violence and discrimination perpetuated against them. Decades of land reforms and government programmes aimed at providing land to Dalits and other historically oppressed communities unfortunately, have not shown desired results. According to Land Conflict Watch, India is witnessing at least 31 land-related conflicts involving 92,000 Dalits, who are fighting to claim their land rights across the country. Women suffer disproportionately from caste-based discrimination related to land, housing, and related human rights.

Persistent discrimination in rural areas, including with regard to land, housing, and location, often forces Dalits to move to cities, where they face different forms of discrimination, including from the denial of their access to adequate housing and land.

Given this harsh reality and the magnitude of this grave but largely unspoken crisis, Housing and Land Rights Network is organizing a panel to discuss the important issue of caste discrimination and land rights.

At this panel, independent experts and Dalit rights activists will discuss critical questions and various dimensions, including gender, of caste-related discrimination in the access, use, and ownership of land that results in multiple violations of human rights, including land rights.

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02-Mar-20

Panel 8: Caste, Land, and Social Justice

13.30 - 15.00 Hrs



## Moderator

**Ms Shivani Chaudhry**, Executive Director, Housing and Land Rights Network

## Panellists

**Mr Lalit Babar**, General Secretary, National Federation of Dalit Land Rights Movements

**Ms Roma**, Deputy General Secretary, All India Union of Forest Working People

**Dr Richard Devadoss**, Convenor, South India Coalition for Land Rights

**Mr Jai Singh**, President, Dalit Dasta Virodhi Andolan

**Mr Vincent Manoharan**, Chairperson, National Federation of Dalit Land Rights Movement

**Mr Dilraj Singh**, Legal Advisor, Volunteer for Social Justice

Date and Time: **13:30 – 15:00 hrs | 3 March 2020**

Venue: **India International Centre, New Delhi**