

Report on the webinar on

Discrimination on caste, creed and race

Date: July 1, 2020

Time: 4.00PM – 6.30 PM

Topic : "The American Floyd is beyond Pink."

Edited by

SoumitraKarmakar, Advocate



Schedule for the Webinar

Time	Speaker
4.00 -4.10	SoumitraKarmakar, Advocate, (Moderator)
4.10-4.25	Phillip C Philip
4.25-4.40	Fazal Abdali
4.40-4.55	Siddharth Seem, Advocate, Supreme Court of India
4.55-5.10	Saradindu Biswas
5.10-5.25	Rajashri Adhikari, scholar University of Leeds, UK
5.25-5.40	Sabyasachi Chatterjee, Advocate, High Court at Calcutta
5.40-5.55	Indrajeet Dey, Advocate, High Court at Calcutta
5.55-6.25	Open House

6.25-6.30

Vote of Thanks, Moderator



Introduction

Due to the pandemic situation a lot of Global Issues remain non-attended and these leads to increase in the perils of human lives and lifestyle. The Human Rights Legal Network has been a flag bearer of Human rights advocacy . Owing to the Pandemic of Covid 19 and the restrictions in public gathering, the online platforms have become very important and popular in holding meetings and having public opinions. It is important to address such issues of human rights time and again and therefore due to the pandemic time HRLN has organized a webinar on a topic that is very much prevalent as a peril in the society.

The Topic of the meeting was titled as “Floyd is not always Pink”. There is no points for guessing that topic was clearly pertaining to Racism. Racism that is a very deep rooted problem in the society has been a thing to discuss and come out with different solutions to curb out this problem.

The meeting started with the moderator greeting every one and introducing everyone to the meeting and the subject.

The moderator also introduced the field of work done by HRLN.

The Session

Speaker 1, Phillip C Phillip, Activist

An activist working with HRLN was the first speaker who set the key note of the meeting by

1. Highlighting that while the world faces issues pertaining to racism, India has to deal with it's unique set of problems with caste discrimination.

2. The speaker opined how India has been subjected to caste discrimination and how the problems of castism has been an issue which leads to many crimes, discrimination, perils and violence in the society.
3. He also pointed out how after the pandemic breakdown In some cases many people from North Eastern India were subjected to abuse, as people referred them as Chinese and used racist slurs against them causing to a great deal of problems to the North eastern students and other young adults who live there.

Speaker 2, Fazal Abdali, Supreme Court Advocate

Fazal Abdali was the next speaker who took up the tempo of the meeting. Mr Abdali is an Advocate at the Supreme Court who is also associated with HRLN. He is well known for his extensive work with the Refugees in India as well as representing the Students of JNU and Jamia, owing to the police atrocities faces by them.

1. He highlighted that while there is an Act called the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, there is no law dealing with racism in India directly. Although there are laws for the marginalized castes in India but a country like India where Racism is an epidemic , it must have laws and Act that addresses Racism appropriately.
2. In a country like India it is very important to recognize the problems associated with Racism and people should learn to respect people of different origins. India is a diverse country and to live together harmoniously the people of India must address this deep rooted problem of Racism.

Speaker 3, Siddharth Seem, Advocate

Siddharth Seem, an Advocate practicing in Delhi, associated with HRLN,

1. pointed that Forest dwellers till date are struggling for their recognition and often owing to the lack of documentations are unable to obtain the benefits under the SC ST Act.
2. He also added that people need to push for new legislations concerning racism.

Speaker 4, Saradindu Biswas, Activist

The meeting was carried forward by Saradindu Biswas, who is an Activist,

1. pointed out how the Dalits in India are regularly becoming victims of atrocity. In West Bengal, where the provisions of the SC ST Act are applicable, over there the police is willfully not inserting the provisions of the SC ST Act. In fact, the police often scare innocent litigants if they insist the inclusion of the SC ST Act.

Speaker 5, Rajashri Adhikary, LLM

Rajashri Adhikary was the next speaker. He is pursuing his masters of law from Leeds and he is very active with the students movement in his university and adjoining areas.

1. He pointed out that for an Indian student, it is much easier to relate and be friends with a person from Pakistan than a native citizen of UK. It is very difficult for the brown skinned people abroad, and thus a strange level of bonding develops for people having roots in the SAARC Nations.
2. The biggest give away is the accent, as many Indians who are born and brought up in Europe, end up getting a lot of preferential treatment over a migrant worker or student.

3. He also added the incidence faced by George Floyd clearly scares people of different ethnicity and eventually such people end up going into a shell in the other Countries.

Speaker 6, Sabyasachi Chatterjee, Advocate in the High Court at Calcutta

Mr Sabyasachi Chatterjee, a prominent Advocate in the High Court at Calcutta who specializes in labour and constitutional law

1. He pointed out that how India, it self was becoming a racist country. There is clear dilution of the implementation of the SC ST Act and even some high up officials are reluctant to use the provisions under this Act.
2. He also highlighted that the SC ST Act cannot be looked away in separation to the labour laws as a number of laborers in country come from the marginalized backgrounds.

Concluding the meeting

The meeting was finally summed up by Indrajeet Dey, Advocate who is associated with HRLN, wherein he stated the role of HRLN in protecting the rights of marginalized sector of people. Primarily the house unanimously agreed to the use of the writ Courts in poor implementation of the SC ST Act and there needs to regular intervention so as to make the officials realize that they are subjected to scrutiny by the High Courts. There was also a clear cut need to go into the rural areas in order to make people aware of the basic provisions of the law.

Suggestions

The meeting raised various issues and the following suggestions may be put into force:

1. To make demands for a law punishing racism and racist practice, in India;
2. To approach the High Courts for the non implementation of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act;
3. To undertake a sensitization program for making people aware about issues relating to racism and caste discrimination.

Details of Participants :

NAME	E-MAIL ID
AHANA BAG	greyshard1999@gmail.com
AKANKSHA YADAV	criticallife101@gmail.com
AMARTYA BASU	iamamartyabasu@gmail.com
AMBALIKA MOHINTA	ambalika.mohinta@gmail.com
ANANYA RAY	ananyaray1999@gmail.com
ANKUSH BHUNIA	ankushbhunia7@gmail.com
ARCHANA MAURYA	mauryaarchana96@gmail.com
ARGHYA DEY	arghyalg@gmail.com
ARKO ADHYA	arko14@gmail.com
ASHISH YADAV	ashishyadav5910310@gmail.com
ASTHA PRAMANIK	asthapramanik67@gmail.com
AVIRIT GHOSH	aviritghosh@gmail.com
BIPRAJIT ROY	biprajit.roy.456@gmail.com
DEBADYUTI DUTTA	piadutta260@gmail.com
DEEPTRISHA DASS	deeptrishadass@gmail.com
DIYA LAHIRI	diyalahiri1998@gmail.com
GUNJAN SARKAR	Neel7941@gmail.com
IMAN MAZUMDER	imanmazumder3700@gmail.com
JAYUSHNU DEY SARKAR	jay13961@gmail.com
JYOTI KANABAR	jkanabar758@gmail.com
M ZAKIYA KHATOON	khatoonzakiya46@gmail.com
MALESHA	SARKAR
malesha.sarkar1997@gmail.com	
MD ZEESHANUZ ZAMAN	zeeshanmd2810@gmail.com
MEGHARTO MUKHERJEE	meghartomukherjee@gmail.com
MEHULI SARKAR	mehsarkar03@gmail.com
OINDRI	MUKHERJEE
oindrimukherjee@gmail.com	

PRACHI VERMA	yuprachi1@gmail.com
PRATIK pratikdas211@gmail.com	DAS
RAGINI raginisarkar00.rs@gmail.com	SARKAR
RAJARSHI ADHIKARY	rajarshiadhikary990@gmail.com
ROHAN rohandey144@gmail.com	DEY
RUPANJALI SAMADDER	rupanjali.samadder@gmail.com
SANAK sanakmajumdar@gmail.com	MAJUMDER
SANCHALI SARKAR	sarkarsanchali25@gmail.com
SAONI debashisghosh949@gmail.com	GHOSH
SAPTARSHI RAY	saptarshi.ray.97@gmail.com
SARA ARZOO	sara.arzoo08@gmail.com
SOHINI sohini.samanta1@gmail.com	SAMANTA
SAYANTANI BISWAS	sayantanib286@gmail.com
SHALINI CHAKRABORTY	shalini.chakraborty1996@gmail.com
SHEEBAM MAJUMDER	sheevam.m@gmail.com
SHILADITYA KUNDU	adityaroy644@gmail.com
SHIVANGI MUKHERJEE	shivangimukherjee3@gmail.com
SHIVANGI ROYCHOWDHURY	shivangirc24@gmail.com

SHWASHWITWIK CHATTERJEE	sc17082002@gmail.com
SOUMYOJYOTI	CHANDRA
soumyojyoti_chandra@outlook.com	
SRESHTHA MUKHERJEE	sreshmoulimukherjee@gmail.com
SUBHASHREE	
MUKHERJE	subhashreemukherjee1993@gmail.com
SUBHOSHREE BHOWMIC	bhowmic98@gmail.com
SUDATTA CHOWDHURY	chsudatta@gmail.com
SUMAIYA NAAZ	naaz401@gmail.com
SUSHRUTA BHATTACHARJEE	sushruta1711@gmail.com
URVASHI MUKHERJEE	urvashi.firefly@gmail.com
YASHODHARA BOSE	boseyasho.yb@gmail.com