



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

### Fifty-fourth session

11 September–13 October 2023

Agenda item 8

### Follow-up and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

## **Written statement\* submitted by World Barua Organization (WBO), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[23 August 2023]

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\* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



## **Violence and Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity**

We thank the Independent Expert on violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity for his report and for the important work done by the mandate over the years. Violence against women and girls remains the most widespread breach of human rights globally. Today my organization would like to bring Council attention towards India where Dalits and other scheduled caste women face alarming levels of violence, discrimination and egregious human rights violations. In India, major policy gaps for Dalit women remain preventing the full realization of the human rights of Dalits women. Such as the lack of protective laws, healthcare, education, Jobs and laws on casteism. Further, human rights defenders who work for Dalit and other scheduled caste women face harassment and prejudice from anti-rights lobbyists as well as from State authorities. Healthcare remains a key issue for Dalit women, where historical and systemic barriers to access prevail and there has not been any progress. The situation is so bad for Dalit women. On 20 May 2023, A Dalit woman in Aligarh district of Uttar Pradesh was forced to give birth to her child in the bushes surrounding community health centre (CHC) after she was refused to admission in community health centre. The majority of healthcare establishments in India perceive Dalit women healthcare as low priority - a situation that puts their lives at risk and prevents them from seeking care. Because of all this Dalit women are impacted and face a lifetime of lowered health and wellbeing. We urge this council to ask Indian government, to ensure provision of equal health care opportunities to Dalits women.

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