

“Leading a global movement of people fighting caste-and descent-based discrimination”



**ICDR**  
**International**

# 2017 Annual Summit & GALA



ENSURING DIGNITY, DIVERSITY

&

DEVELOPMENT FOR ALL

**ANNUAL SUMMIT**



Friday, Oct, 27 2017  
Spaces NoMa, 1140 3rd St, NE.  
Washington DC 20002

**#SpacesNoma**

# About ICDR International

ICDR International is a grassroots and diaspora-driven global organization leading a movement of people fighting caste- and descent-based discrimination, exclusion and injustice. With over 250 members in caste and descent-affected countries, we are working to promote dignity, equality and rights of Dalits, and other marginalized and underprivileged people worldwide.

ICDR collaborates, networks, and provides technical support for its members, other NGOs, government agencies, and the international community as they strive to promote equal opportunities, proportionate representation in governance, rights and dignity of Dalits, and other marginalized and underprivileged people. We investigate and expose discrimination, educate and mobilize the public, provide pro-bono public and community services and campaign to leverage for changes in policy and transform societies.



We understand how exclusion and discrimination based on caste/descent, race, origin, hate crimes and gender can have multiple consequences on underprivileged, marginalized and Dalit people. We believe that ICDR has the capacity to promote the rights of underprivileged and marginalized people through integrating their struggles with the global human rights and social justice movement.



ICDR is registered as a 501(c)(3) non-governmental organization in the U.S. with an international governing council, board of directors and advisory committee. Its staff consists of professionals including lawyers, development practitioners, policy-makers, advocates, country experts, journalists, and academics of diverse backgrounds and nationalities.

Established in 2006, ICDR is known for its international policy advocacy, impartial reporting, effective coordination and mobilization of diverse organizations, media, and collaboration with targeted civil society organizations.

We rely on the generosity of people like you to implement our mission objectives and save lives of victims. Your [tax-deductible gift](#) can help us to promote dignity and rights of underprivileged, marginalized and Dalit people around the world.

## Annual Summit and GALA 2017

### Bringing together top policy experts, researchers, academics and advocates in the field of caste- and descent-based discrimination

#### About the Summit:

The theme of the 2017 Summit is “[Ensuring Dignity, Diversity, and Development for All](#).” The Summit will review the current development modalities that recognize, promote and ensure dignity, diversity and inclusive democracy for all. It will focus on people fighting discrimination, exclusion, inequality, hate, violence and abusive rhetoric, especially Dalits and other marginalized and vulnerable populations.

The Summit will offer sessions, led by sector experts, on topical issues and initiatives that ICDR is working on. An evening event will follow where you will have the opportunity to network with attendees and speakers- drinks and refreshments provided.

### [Program Agenda and Schedule](#)

Friday, October 27: **Registration:** 8.30 AM -5.00 PM

9:15 am –9.30 am **Opening Session**

**9.00 am Welcome and Objective Overview: Amanda Gant, Chief Operating Officer and Vice President, ICDR International**

Amanda Gant has joined ICDR International in April 2017 as the Chief Operating Officer and Vice President, where she will work to build the team of supporters of Dalit and minority rights internationally. In the coming years, she believes that ICDR will play an increasingly important role as a global platform for collaboration. Ms. Gant hopes she will fulfill her long-standing goal to empower people to enjoy freedom and equality. It was her experience of freedom of running her own business selling bracelets throughout middle and high school that gave her the lifelong goal to empower others to realize their dreams by starting their own businesses or contributing to their communities.

Ms. Gant currently works as a Small Business Lending Officer at the Latino Economic Development Center, the organization that has made the highest number of microloans to entrepreneurs in the DC metro area. She previously worked with the non-profit CRDF Global where she developed and organized startup boot camps and virtual mentorship programs to support technology startup entrepreneurs in Africa, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. She has also researched technology's role in improving

microfinance outreach in Kenya. Amanda holds a master's degree in International Public Policy and a bachelor's degree in Foreign Service from Georgetown University.

9.15 am **Strategies for Dignity, Diversity, Inclusion: Caste- or Descent-based Exclusion is Key Challenge for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.**

**N. Paul Divakar** is an advocate for Dalit rights, Economic Rights Expert, and Human rights defender. He serves as the **Chairperson** of the **Asia Dalit Rights Forum** which works in the South Asia region to ensure inclusion and to address issues of untouchability and caste based discrimination. He is one of the founding members of the **National Campaign on Dalit Rights** and is currently the **General Secretary, of Dalit Arthik Adhikar Andolan** of the National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR). He has been one of the key actors in popularising the sustainable development goals and to bring in the aspect of inclusion in the discourse in the new development paradigm. He also just finished his term as the member of Executive Board of Amnesty International. He has been recently voted by Outlook magazine as one of the 50 most influential Dalit Leaders in the country. He has been actively engaging with the communities in strengthening access to justice, gender concerns especially on the intersectionality of Gender and Caste, financial accountability, transparency and participation. He has also engaged with the state on issues of targeted Budgeting and governance, accountability. His deep interest for the economic empowerment of Dalits has been the reason behind initiating a campaign on ensuring equitable access to government budgets and has been instrumental in advocating for equity budgeting from the lens of the marginalised.

**Seminar I: Empowering YoungStars: Ensuring Dignity, Diversity and Development**

**Goal:** to mainstream and promote Dalit youth-lead organizations; develop and transform leadership and skills; bridge generational GAPs nation building and civic engagement. The summit serves as a common platform for conversation, strategize and action to build vibrant and inclusive society better involve young people, especially those who represents Dalits and vulnerable populations. Dalit youth have been facing 'modern-day slavery' and 'hidden apartheid' based on work and descent or caste status or analogous systems in the world, especially in caste-affected countries. It also supports the youth-led peace-building and conflict-prevention programs that are essential to good governance, human rights and rule of law. This marks the beginning of a grassroots effort to lift-up and advance the work of exceptional innovators, technologists, scientists, advocacy leaders, researchers, and development practitioners and entrepreneurs.

9.30 am – **Chair and Facilitate and introduce to the panelists**

**Mr. Krishna Sob.,** Co-Chair, Diaspora Engagement Initiative, and a Board of Director at ICDR International. He has over 20 years of extensive experience in international development and program management including relief and long-term



development programs. Over this period, he has several years of field experience managing large humanitarian and long-term development programs. He is currently working as Regional Director at Lutheran Relief Foundation. Prior to this he served as Director of the Office of Grants/Contracts & Operations at ICMA, and, Program Director for Academy for Educational Development (AED) at their Headquarters in Washington DC. In his previous jobs, he provided leadership and management oversight to international programs in Azerbaijan, Georgia, Chechnya, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, West Bank & Gaza, Yemen, Iran, Nepal, Sri Lanka, India, Mongolia, Bosnia, Serbia, Kosovo, Mali, Malawi, Uganda, Guinea, Zambia, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Peru, Bangladesh and Haiti. He has also coordinated and directed the large and complex emergency program operations.

**9:45 am – Investing in Youth: Ensuring dignity and diversity**

[Mazhun Idris](http://www.atlascorps.org) is an Atlas Corps Fellow from Northern Nigeria (<http://www.atlascorps.org>). He has six years of experience in professional content production and translation for non-profits. He has a Bachelor's in Economic Science from Ahmadu Bello University, proficiency certificates in Hausa and Arabic languages. He also possesses MOOC certificates in "Building State Capability" from Harvard Centre for International Development and "Creativity Innovation & Change" from Pennsylvania State University. Mazhun is a professional web search analyst, open-source data miner and volunteer linguist. Mazhun has delivered volunteer localization works for Breast Cancer Self Awareness messages under Project PINK BLUE-Health & Psychological Trust Centre. In June 2016 in Kano, Mazhun organized a one-day regional training workshop on sustainable control of Tuta Absoluta tomato pest, sponsored by Russell IPM, London, for northern Nigerian farmers. Five years ago, Mazhun was the acting editor of Al-Ikhtiyar, a monthly Islamic social reform magazine. In his previous employment with a media communication firm, Mazhun acquired content production skills as a guest interviewer, scriptwriter, subtitle supervisor, and cultural adaptation specialist for various TV programs. Mazhun has authored two books, two academic papers, and a number of poems in literary magazines, along with many features in Leadership, The Nation, Daily Trust and News of Nigeria newspapers.

**10.05 am – Youth Migration, Modern-day Slavery and Equal Opportunity**

**Mr. Ambar Hajariya**, South Asia Chair -Young Professionals in Foreign Policy <http://www.yfpf.org/>, and Dalit Rights activist in Nepal

**10.15 am – Engaging Diaspora Youth of Asian-American: Promoting Diversity and Equality**

**Ms. Saswathi Natta**, Ph.D. Student at the University of Maryland. She is studying South Asian communities in the United States. Ms. Natta is working on a new, but related, project documenting the diversity of the community, including the Dalit community and how it may be distinct from the mainstream South Asian community, especially in how to navigate US society as immigrants.

**10.25 am – Bridge GAP through Promoting Youth Leadership and Entrepreneurship**

**Ms. Elizabeth Clay Roy**, a Board of Director at the ICDR International and Co-Chair of *Dalit YoungStars Initiative*. Elizabeth also served as the Vice-President at ICDR. She is an advocate for social and economic justice and has worked in the neighborhood, state and national levels. Currently, she is the Chief Strategy Officer at Phipps Neighborhoods, an anti-poverty organization supporting families in the South Bronx, NYC. Prior to this role, she worked with the Deputy Director of Opportunity Nation and served in the administration of Massachusetts Governor Deval L. Patrick. She has traveled across India, South Africa, and Brazil, studying the connection between racial minority groups and urban housing patterns. This was followed by two years living in Bangalore, India working on a participatory planning initiative. She is inspired by the sense of solidarity between marginalized minority groups around the world. She graduated with a Masters in City Planning from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and an undergraduate degree from Columbia University.

### 10.35 – 11.00 Q&A Session

## Seminar II: Reflecting and Integrating Global Initiatives Against Caste-and All Forms of Discrimination: Strategize for Global March 2018, and 2020 Global Conference

**Goal:** Building on the accomplishments and positive feedback from the *First Global Conference on Defending Dalit Rights in 2015* and *Global March against Caste-based Discrimination 2014* in DC, to formulate and implement international human rights frameworks and advocacy strategies. The goal is to enhance collaboration with diverse partners for upcoming global initiatives in 2018 and 2020. Its mission is to promote global movement of people fighting caste- and descent-based discrimination, exclusion and injustice in caste- and descent-affected countries. Its overall objective is to review and discuss national, regional, and international laws, policies, and processes to advance legal access, cultural-political remediation and social justice.

### 11.00 am – Chair, Facilitate and introduce to the panelists

**Mr. Judge Rohulamin Quander, Esq.**, Advisor at ICDR International and a multi-generational Washingtonian and a member of the Quander Family, whose American lineage traces back almost 350 years in the Maryland and Virginia colonies, including involuntary servitude at George Washington's Mount Vernon Plantation. A Howard University graduate (BA 1966, JD 1969), he is a retired Senior Law Administrative Judge for the District of Columbia.

Within the context of today's theme and discussion, *on the Civil Rights of, and Humanity for the Dalit People*, Judge Quander has been on the mission to uplift through education, and continues in that mode. Judge Quander continues to work to improve the condition of all people, worldwide and is currently identified with the Dalit Freedom Movement. He assumed a lead role in sponsoring a two-day human rights program at Howard University and the U.S. Capitol, to speak out on behalf of the Dalits of India (the "Untouchables"), which created an ongoing *Declaration of Empathy* movement, to demand that they be accorded their just human rights and dignity.

During his Howard University era, he was active with several campus organizations, including president of the Student Bar Association and a member of the Howard University Student Senate. This was the 1960's, a turbulent time to be enrolled in the university, a time that demanded a clear focus and dedication to the Civil Rights Movement and a demonstrated concern for uplifting the plight of those in the community who were the most downtrodden. As well, this was the same era of universal unrest well beyond Black college campuses, in that we experienced the assassinations of President Kennedy, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, and Malcolm X, among others; and widespread riots throughout the nation, including here in Washington, D.C. While not an "activist" in the context of Freedom Rides and 1960's era sit-in demonstrations, he has been and remains a consistent human rights activist, both as a layman and a jurist, and applauds the current generation's rebirth from the seeming complacency of the recent past. The embodiment of "Black Lives Matter!" has captured the nation, and with it a fuller realization and appreciation that the current generation of 20-somethings are indeed focused, determined, and will not rest until we are all uplifted.

**11:10 am – Reflecting Impact of Global Movements**

**Ms. Mona Dave** is Senior Program Officer for Asia at the National Endowment for Democracy. She is responsible for managing Endowment grants to civil society organizations in South Asia, with particular focus on Bangladesh, Burma, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. She is a leading voice on human rights and democratic developments and her expertise on advocacy and campaigning inform the Endowment's work in these countries. Mona is an active member of the Human Rights Funders Network and is a term member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Prior to joining the Endowment, Mona served as Government Relations Advocacy Associate at Amnesty International USA where she sought to advance legislation and policies on human rights issues, including universal basic education, the rights of ethnic and indigenous minorities, and small arms and light weapons. She received the United Nations Association-National Capital Area Human Rights Award in 2006. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs from The George Washington University and a Master in Public Policy from the McCourt School of Public Policy at Georgetown University.

**11.20 am – Bridging the GAP between local, national and global organizations**

**Dr. Purna Nepali**, Fulbright Scholar at Brandies University, MA

**11.30 am – Empowering Women/Girls and Diverse Communities through global initiatives**

**Dr. Purvi Mehta** is an Assistant Professor at Colorado College in Colorado and an Advisor at the ICDR International. She is researching caste, gender, and human rights issues in India. Her book manuscript - tentatively titled *Recasting Caste: Histories of Transnational Dalit Activism and the Internationalization of Caste Discrimination* - analyses post-independence Dalit activism in India. It explores how activists have connected with other global social justice movements and how activists have increasingly turned to human rights for recourse against caste based discrimination and violence.

**11.40 am – Building coalition among Marginalized Groups to Ensure Dignity and Diversity**

**Mr. Jud Nirenberg** is an advisor to Europe's largest Roma NGO, the European Roma Rights Centre, president of the board of Macedonia's National Roma Center, and a member of the US Department of State's working group on Roma issues. In the past, he has been CEO of the largest confederation of Roma organizations, the ERTF, was director of Open Society Institute's Roma Program (the largest private funder of Roma civil society) and has been a repeat guest lecturer at the State Department's Foreign Service Institute. He is the author of *Johann Trollmann and Romani Resistance to the Nazis*, and *Gypsy Movements*, contributing author to *Romani Politics in Contemporary Europe* and editor and co-author of *Gypsy Sexuality: Romani and Outsider Perspectives on Intimacy*. He holds a BA in international politics from The American University, MBA from the Ecole Supérieure de Gestion and a certificate in leadership development practices from Harvard University.

**11.50 am - Rule of Law: Ensuring Justice for Minorities and Diverse Communities**

**Dr. BP Ashok** is a Superintendent of Police in Uttar Pradesh of India. He has given more than 500 lectures on Human rights, Constitution of India, Law and Order, Social empowerment, and diversity in politics. In 2016, he was invited by the London School of Economics and House of Commons to speak about Constitutionality and inclusive political representation of India. Also, Dr. Ashok has written more than 20 books on Ambedkar Mission and Social Justice.

12.00-12.40 pm **Q&As, strategic framework,**

**LUNCH BREAK: 12.40 – 1.30 PM**

**Seminar III: Engaging Diaspora for Diversity and Development:**

**1.13 pm Facilitate and introduce to the panelists**

Rev. **Dr. Gideon Jebamani** is an Advisor at the ICDR International and Founder of India Network under the umbrella of The New York Episcopal Diocese based in New York. He is a Church minister and State Chaplain in New York. Dr. Jebamani does presentation in ministry for the Dalit cause in and around New York State. He earned his doctorate in liberal arts his doctoral dissertation was focus on Dalit Empowerment to Assert Denied Human Rights. He leads and organizes periodically critical analysis meetings and advocacy to establish Dalits Rights. After the successful accomplishment of First Global Conference on Dalit rights 2015, he is initiating a state level Dalit Youth conference in 2016, where 100 plus Dalit Youth will be participated.

**1:40 pm – SME's note on Engaging Diaspora for Diversity and Development**

**Mr. Kiran (RON) SITOULA**, Vice Mayor, Town of Indian Head, Maryland, Vice Mayor, Mr. Sitoula is a strong proponent of responsible progressive ideals and civic engagement. He believes that Nepalis Organization in USA should be doing more to



be involved in local activities including participation in local politics, civic engagement and diaspora issues. He wants to see parents take their kids to town hall and start joining hands with other Asia Pacific organizations to make the voice of Asian America stronger in USA. Earlier this year, he visited Nepal to observe phase I of the local election. He is working with Nepalese and Friends Association (NAFA), Arizona to build a library in Kavre. Later this year he is planning to lead an expert delegation from USA to assist newly elected local leaders in Nepal as a part of University of Maryland's School of Public Policy. Community Volunteer Positions: Board Member, Charles County Public Library; President, Perry Station Community at Riverwatch Home Owners Association; Budhanilkantha School Endowment Fund, Treasurer, and Maryland Municipal League, Conference Planning Sub-Committee Chair.

**1.50 pm – Reflecting Diaspora: Promoting Social Justice**

**Milind Awasarmol** is one of the staunch Ambedkarites and avid reader, writer and advocate of Dr. Ambedkar's ideology and literature. He led and organized many demonstrations during Rohith Vemula, Una and many similar causes in tri-state area and is one of the strong Diaspora leaders we have in the area. His childhood experiences of caste and class disparity in Mumbai, coupled with his extensive exposure to India's rural caste ridden society has given him a very authentic and credible insight to the reality surrounding the dalit issues in India. He is a staunch believer in the idea of "Pay Back to Society" and promulgates this noble doctrine through personal example and exhorts the emancipated Dalits to play a pivotal role in the dalit struggle. He is an active member of AIM, AANA and BSG.

**2.00 pm – Engaging Diaspora and international community for Ensuring Dignity and Diversity**

**Ms. Dowoti Desir**, Chairperson, UN NGO Human Rights Committee, and Founder of The AfroAtlantic Theologies & Treaties Institute, New York.

**2.10 pm 2.45 pm – Q&A Session**

**Seminar IV: U.S. Congress: Law against Caste-and All Forms of Discrimination**

**Goal:** • Prepare and conduct a full public consultation in preparation for the introduction of binding resolution/law, in order to make sure that it is appropriate and fit for purpose;

- Improve understanding of public and policy-makers required to have an awareness of caste or descent for the first time, about the new law and the nature of any duties connected with it;
- Prepare and introduce binding resolution/law on caste, including any necessary exceptions to the caste provisions, within the framework of U.S. domestic discrimination law;
- Develop arrangements for collecting information on aspects of caste- and similar forms of discrimination in the United States to begin the process of determining the appropriateness of binding resolution on caste in accordance with the Constitution, Civil Rights Law, international and other appropriate laws.

2.50 pm **Facilitate and introduce to the panelists**

**Mr. Richard Gold**, Vice-Chair, Legislative Initiative at ICDR International and former Head of the Rule of Law Division, Department of Democracy & Governance in USAID. Richard Gold is an international development and rule of law consultant with an expertise in human rights and gender programming. At two firms, he provided technical leadership for human rights, women's rights, anti-corruption, and a rule of law programs. He oversaw a human rights program in Colombia that targeted indigenous and Afro-Colombian groups in zones of conflict. He also managed an anti-corruption program in Bangladesh that built the capacity of civil society, the media, Parliament and the Inspector General to increase transparency and fight corruption. A veteran of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Foreign Service with 29 years of service, Mr. Gold vastly expanded the Agency's human rights activities in Egypt and helped Moroccan civil society put in place the most advanced family code of all Muslim-majority countries. He headed the Rule of Law Division in the Agency headquarters' Democracy and Governance Office. For three years, he directed USAID/Egypt's Democracy Office, where he planned, procured and oversaw human rights, democracy, and governance programs. Mr. Gold holds a Master of Public Affairs degree from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, as well as a Master of Public and International Affairs degree from the University of Pittsburgh.

3.00 pm **Building Coalition among/and between Minorities and civil rights groups to create a positive impact on US Congress to pass A Binding Resolution/Law on Caste- and All Forms of Discrimination**

**Prof. Kevin D Brown** teaches law and education; race, American society, and the law; torts, and criminal law at the Indiana University Maurer School of Law. He has been working With *ICDR International* and the *Quander Historical and Educational Society* on a journey of a delegation composed of representatives of various African-American Legacy Families and representatives of important national black organizations to India from November 30, 2018 to December 9, 2018. The principal purpose of the journey is to demonstrate the solidarity and empathy of the Black Community in the United States with the struggle for equality in India of the Dalits.

Prof. Brown has been a visiting professor at the University of Texas School of Law, University of Alabama School of Law, and University of San Diego School of Law. He has been affiliated with universities on four different continents, including the National Law School of India University in Bangalore, India; the Indian Law Institute in New Delhi, India; the Law Faculty of the University of Cape Town in Cape Town, South Africa; and the University of Central America in Managua, Nicaragua. In the spring of 2014, Brown taught in London as part of the London Law Consortium Program. Brown has published nearly sixty articles or comments on issues related to race, law and education. In 2005 his book, *Race, Law and Education in the Post Desegregation Era*, was published by Carolina Academic Press. His current book, *Because of Our Success: The Changing Racial and Ethnic Ancestry of Blacks on Affirmative Action* was published in November of 2014 by Carolina Academic Press. Brown has one of the original participants and founders of both the Critical Race Theory Workshop and the People of Color Conference. Brown has also

spoken on issues of race, law and education on over 100 occasions, including at the annual Convention of the NAACP, the Congressional Black Caucus Braintrust Meetings, the National Bar Association, the American Bar Association and the Justices of the Indiana Supreme Court, and at several leading law schools including Harvard, NYU, Virginia, Duke, Cornell, Northwestern, UCLA and Texas. Prof. Brown is also the founder of the Indiana University Maurer School of Law Summer in Southern Africa Program, which sent a dozen law students to spend a month in Soweto, Maputo, or Western Kenya from 1998 to 2001. He is also the founder of the Hudson & Holland Summer in Ghana Program. This program has sent almost 200 Indiana University — Bloomington students on a four-week journey through the Republic of Ghana since its inception in 2002.

**3:15 pm Improving Understanding of Public and policy-makers on caste-, descent and All Forms of Discrimination**

**Dr. Suraj Yengde** is currently at Harvard University where he specializes in inter-regional labor migration policies with a focus on global south migration. He is also a published author in the field of Caste, Race and Ethnicity studies. Currently, he is involved in developing a critical theory of Bahujan and Black Studies. Suraj Yengde is India's first Bahujan Ph.D. holder from an African university in the nation's history. Suraj is a passionate Human Rights attorney, who is also an anti-caste and anti-racism advocate, columnist at The Huffington Post, The Indian Express, The Mexican Times, The Conversation, The Root. His writings have appeared in the Sunday World, Mail & Guardian Africa, Saturday Star. He is frequently invited by the media to offer expert advice on the issues of caste, migration, race relations and international law. He was featured in the Independence Day magazine of The Economic Times magazine. His recent work with the philosopher Cornel West has received global attention and calls for unity between the African Americans and the Bahujans.

**3.25 pm Strategy to collect information and Prepare and introduce Binding Resolution on Caste and All Forms of Discrimination within the framework of U.S. domestic law**

**Dr. Rajesh Sampath** is an Associate Professor of the Philosophy of Justice, Rights and Social Change and Associate Director of the Graduate Program in Sustainable International Development at **Brandeis University**. In addition to teaching and publishing in academic journals, Dr. Sampath has written an Op Ed for The Washington Post, a Letter to the Editor for the NY Times, and a Blog for The Huffington Post on diverse topics in law, public and social policy that include his most recent article on "Racial and Caste Oppression have many Similarities" published in The Conversation, an academic journal. <http://theconversation.com/racial-and-caste-oppression-have-many-similarities-37710>. He has appeared on a panel on Huff Post Live that discussed diversity, rights and free speech at American university campuses. He has also hosted a symposium on annihilation of caste.

**3:40 - 4.20pm: Q&A Sessions and discussion on strategies for public consultation**

**4.30 – 5.00pm Tea/Coffee Break**

## 5.00 -7.30 PM ANNUAL GALA AND CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE!

This year, to recognize the significant milestone that we have made together, we are hosting our first annual gala dinner in conjunction with the Annual summit. The gala will take in DC following the end of the first day of the summit, October 27. We will recognize individuals for their specific contributions to their organizations and the ICDR community. We welcome participants in a VIP event to celebrate excellence and recognize individuals and organizations that have made significant milestones together.

### 5.00 - Start from VIP Photo Session and Dinner

### 5.00 – 5.30 – Recognition and Awardees: Dr. DK Gurung, and Dr. Donald Zimmerman

#### 5.35 pm Remarks from Awardee: Dr. Damber Kumar (DK) Gurung.

**Dr. DK Gurung** has served as Treasurer, and a founding member of Board of Directors of the International Commission for Dalit Rights (ICDR) since 2008, and also serves as the Chair of Sub-Committee on G-CFI. He is an international Public Health professional with over fifteen years of experience in sustainable program development, monitoring and evaluation, and program management/operations in the U.S., Africa, and Asia. With his passion for bridging practice and research, he has been engaging his experience in reducing health disparities, poverty, and improving social justice for millions.

#### 5.42 - Annual Gala Opening Remarks:

**Mr. D. B. Sagar** (Dil Bishkarma) is co-founder and President of the International Commission for Dalit Rights (ICDR International). Mr. DB Sagar is a globally recognized personality in the area of international human rights laws and public policy, and also brings substantial expertise in running international nongovernment organizations, social enterprises, and global forums. He has been advocating for passage a Law against Caste-based Discrimination by the U.S. Congress, and endorsement of the UN Principles and Guidelines to Elimination of Caste and All Forms of Discrimination by UN member states. He has also testified before the **UN Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination** (CERD), UN **Human Rights Sub-Committee** and **European Parliament on matters** of Caste-based Discrimination, and also testified before the **British House of Commons** on matters of Human Rights and democratic crisis of Nepal (2005). He had actively engaged in the UN **World Conference against Racism** in 2001 and **World Social Forums**.

Mr. DB Sagar served as Convener of the **First Global Conference on Dalit Rights 2015** and had drafted **Dalit Rights Global Declaration 2015**. He coordinated 205 Dalit and Diaspora organizations and mobilized for **Global March against Caste-Based Discrimination-2014** and **Global Conference on Dalit Rights-2015** in Washington, D.C. Mr. D.B. Sagar was awarded the **United Nations Association Community Human Rights Award 2007** and **Grossman International Award 2010** for his dedication to human rights, social justice, and international public service. He was actively engaged in Nepal's democracy movement in 1990 as a student activist, and intensively involved in conflict mediation throughout the decade-long Armed Conflict (1996-2006) as the President of Dalit NGO Federation of Nepal.

5.50 pm - **Keynote Remarks** by **Carmela A. Conroy**, Director, EAP-SCA Operations Bureau of Conflict & Stabilization Operations, U.S. Department of State.

**Ms. Carmela A Conroy** is Director of Operations, CSO/EAP-SCA at the US Department of State, leading a diverse team of up to 16 Foreign Service, Civil Service, contract, and volunteer personnel, providing research, data analysis, infographics and surge capacity to missions across two dynamic geographical regions. Prior to this, Ms. Carmela had served as Office Director, **Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor's South and Central Asia**, leading an eight-member team promoting accountable and transparent government, human rights, and equitable labor conditions in the thirteen countries of South and Central Asia. Priorities include free speech in Central Asia; accountability for civil war atrocities in Sri Lanka; and assisting victims of terrorism in Bangladesh.

Ms. Carmela had served multiple responsibilities as a Foreign Service Officer. She had received Seven Department of State Superior or Meritorious Honor Awards, an Agency Seal Award, and a serial "Hometown Diplomat," speaking with university and high school students in Washington State almost annually since 1998. She is an Honorary member of the Washington State Bar Association.

6.00 pm: **Remarks** by **Dr. Suhar Latha**, Chairperson, Scheduled Castes/Tribes Chamber of Commerce

6.10 pm – **Thank you and the Closing Remarks** **Dr. Donald Zimmerman**, Vice-Chair, Board of Directors at ICDR INTERNATIONAL

**Donald L. Zimmerman, Ph.D.** has served as the Co-Chair of the Board of Directors at the ICDR International since 2013 and had served as a Board's Member. He is a Professor and Director of Healthcare Management at the University of New Orleans (UNO). Prior to joining UNO, Dr. Zimmerman spent the prior 15 years as a faculty member and a senior academic leader in various universities. Before turning to full-time academic work, Don was actively engaged in national and state health policy development for 18 years as a lead researcher and policy analyst at Research Triangle Institute International, George Washington University's National Health Policy Forum and Intergovernmental Health Policy Project, and the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council. He has also served as a researcher and policy consultant to the US Congress, international, federal, and state agencies, national associations, and publicly traded healthcare organizations. In addition, he has led major grants from groups like the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the MacArthur Foundation, and the John A. Hartford Foundation, among others.

6.30 – 7.30 mix and mingle

###

**DAY 2: Saturday, October 28: Working Meeting for Board of Directors and staff members only.**

India Gate, 2020 P Street NW; <http://indiagatewashingtondc.com/31047>



## Origins and History

In 2001, a Nepali human rights advocate and lawyer, **Dil Bishkarma**, popularly known as **D.B. Sagar** engaged and participated in the **United Nations World Conference of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance 2001** (WCAR, 2001), which provided, for



the first time, an opportunity to strengthen the voice of underprivileged, marginalized and Dalit populations at the international level. During the WCAR 2011, he and other advocates realized a lack of a global platform of grassroots-driven organizations that directly represents underprivileged, marginalized and Dalit populations as well as supported by international community.

In 2004, D.B. Sagar, then President of **Dalit NGO Federation of Nepal**, worked with other Nepal-based bilateral, multilateral, inter/national NGOs and grassroots organizations arranged **International Consultation on Caste-based Discrimination** in Kathmandu, Nepal. This event seeded a milestone idea to create a global platform of grassroots-driven organizations of underprivileged, marginalized and Dalit populations and the international community of human rights organizations.

The response to the new idea was enormous and helped to mobilize hundreds of organizations to efforts to educate and alert to governments and the international community – including the United Nations - to the many ways that the human rights of Dalits and other underprivileged people were being routinely violated. These efforts by human rights activists and leaders in different countries would eventually evolve into the backbone of the organization that became the **International Commission for Dalit Rights** (ICDR) or, as recently renamed, **ICDR International**.



On the occasion of **International Day of the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (March 21, 2006)**, the general meeting of leaders and activists in London formally endorsed the General Charter of the ICDR, and announced the formation of the ICDR International as a global organization to defend and promote the dignity and rights of underprivileged, marginalized and Dalit people worldwide. The General Charter is a fundamental set of principles and policies that

stands besides and supports the *International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination*, the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, and other international human rights conventions.

The General Charter expresses the vision of the ICDR is to be a leading organization that promotes the rights of diverse underprivileged populations and to work with other global human rights and social justice organizations in common efforts to establish, protect, and strengthen Dalit Rights in the contemporary world. The landmark General Charter is a powerful reaffirmation of ICDR values.

In 2008, Fulbright scholar and economist **Dr. Damber K Gurung**; Professor (Emeritus) of Economics at University of Michigan **Dr. Thomas Weisskopf**; Professor of Sociology at Florida State University **Dr. Mary Cameron**; Professor of Anthropology at Wake Forest University **Dr.**



**Steven Folmar**; Peace Volunteer at Peace Corps, and **Ms. Wendy Serafin**, became the key members to set up the ICDR in Washington, D.C., United States. Ashoka Fellow and Founder of *National Confederation of Dalit & Adivasi Organizations of India* **Mr. Ashok K Bharti** provided leadership and served as the first Chairperson of the ICDR's Board of Directors until 2011. In 2011,

**Mr. M. Farook Sait Esq.**, then Special Counselor to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Agriculture and a Senior attorney at law, had served as the Chair of the Board from 2011-2013. Likewise, **Mr. Gajadhar Sunar**, Dalit rights leader and then National President of *Dalit NGO Federation of Nepal* and **Mr. Narayan Charmakar**, human rights lawyer in Bangladesh have served as Vice Chair and a Member respectively of the organization's International Governing Council since 2013.

**In 2012 and beyond:** ICDR International expanded its activities and leadership throughout South Asia, Europe, the U.S., and Diaspora. ICDR started reformation and has become an emerging global organization under the new leadership of diverse Board of Directors. **Donald L. Zimmerman, Ph.D.** has provided leadership and served as the Co-Chair of the Board of Director since 2013. In 2012, An emerging social and economic justice advocate **Ms. Elizabeth Clay Roy** joined the team and served as Vice President and later Board of Director.

A veteran of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and a human rights/rule of law expert **Mr. Rick Gold** joined as a Board Director and Co-Chair of US Legislative Initiative and Global Initiative since 2012. **Mr. Krishna Sob**, an international development practitioner became

a Board of Director and has served as Co-Chair of the Global Conference Organizing Committee and Diaspora Engagement Initiative since 2012. **Dr. Maria Suchowski**, a statistical evaluation and measurement consultant working with Statistics Without Borders (SWB) on various international aid projects joined the ICDR and has been served as a Board of Director and Co-Chair of Committee of Caste Freedom Index. A senior manager and statistician with the UK government's Office for National Statistics, **Mr. Myer Glickman**- MFPH FBMISS FHRIM became a part of the ICDR as a Board of Director and Leading Member of the Caste Freedom Index committee. **Dr. Lasonja Kennedy** has served as CFI Consultant.



In 2014, a leading social entrepreneur and philanthropist **Mr. Raj Cherukonda** joined the ICDR as a Board of Director and Co-Chair of Diaspora Engagement Initiative among the other leading responsibilities in the organization. **Dr. Purvi Mehta**, Assistant Professor at Colorado College became a Board of Director and has served as Co-chair of Academic Initiative since 2015.

**2014 and On:** In recent years, ICDR expanded its activities to include a campaign to encourage specific anti-discrimination legislation and relevant policy measures for governments and their agencies, UN and other international agencies, educational institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. We have been working for the recognition and the effective



Elimination of Discrimination based on Caste, or Work and Descent and All Other Forms of discrimination and prejudice. Our work on this issue is to produce and update **Caste Freedom Index** as a key component under the existing international human rights principles, obligations, and frameworks. In 2014, we along with Diaspora, Ambedkarite and

inter/national organizations, for the first time in the history, organized the **Global March against Caste-Based Discrimination** in Washington D.C., particularly in front of the White House and US Congress. The objective of the Global March was to strengthen links among US and international organizations fighting caste or work and descent-based discrimination; and to urge US Congress to pass a binding resolution against Caste and all forms of discrimination that expands the geographic scope of the House's historic concurrent resolution on untouchability in India.



In 2015, ICDR sponsored the **First Global Conference on Dalit Rights** and adopted the **Dalit Rights Global Declaration 2015**, a global framework to promote rights and dignity of Dalits, marginalized, and underprivileged populations. ICDR continues to focus on protecting dignity, rights and lives from caste-based violation, social conflict and exclusion or discrimination in caste-affected countries. We have also published reports that have helped spark grassroots, state, federal, and international policy reforms, inclusion and hold government accountable as well as corporations for social responsibility under law. In 2015, ICDR worked to ensure rights and proportionate representation of Dalit, underprivileged and marginalized populations in the New Constitution of Nepal. In 2015, ICDR's work was acknowledged by the senior officers at the US Department of State. In the appreciation letter, the officer said "I am writing to thank you once again for helping us to better understand, and elevate the visibility of, caste discrimination in South Asia. In part because of your good work, we included a specific recommendation in the November 2015 cycle of the Nepal Universal Periodic Review (UPR) on engaging and addressing the needs of Dalits in disaster relief. This is a first for our Nepal engagement through the UN mechanism, and it has set an excellent precedent for the region."



In 2016, ICDR extended its public interest services in the U.S. through pro bono legal and community services program for immigrants and low-income communities to protect from prejudice and unlawful treatment by domestic hate groups and other extremists.

We have hundreds of multi-talented experts, volunteers and leaders who drive the ICDR's day-



to-day operations. Some of them are: **Ms. Kenya Tyson, Esq.**, Policy Advisor; **Ms. Swati Sawant, Esq.** Program Director; **Ms. Prachi Vakharia**, Head of Strategy; **Ms. Neha Kumar**, Senior Program Officer; **Ms. Fridah Charity**, Youth Coordinator; and **Ms. Amanda Gant**, Chief Operating Officer and Vice President. **Krishna Lohani** serves as an IT Developer/Coordinator.

For more information please visit [www.icdrintl.org](http://www.icdrintl.org) or contact at [icdrintl@icdrintl.org](mailto:icdrintl@icdrintl.org) or D.B. Sagar, President at [dbsagar@icdrintl.org](mailto:dbsagar@icdrintl.org).

# OUR MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

## Mission:

ICDR defends and promotes the dignity and rights of underprivileged, marginalized and Dalit people worldwide. The [\*Universal Declaration of Human Rights\*](#) states that the "the recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights" of all people is "the foundation of



freedom, justice and peace in the world." We provide public services for underprivileged, marginalized and Dalit people both in the U.S. and internationally. It provides public interest legal and policy services for people fighting caste and descent-based discrimination, exclusion and injustice as well as promoting dignity, equality and rights of Dalits, marginalized and underprivileged people worldwide through campaigning, networking, collaborating, and promoting

dialogues between policy-makers, civil societies and diverse communities.

## Objectives:

- a) Increase public understanding of and respect for the constitutional and international human rights laws, obligations, and hold governments accountable under law.
- b) Work for equality, diversity, socio-political inclusion, equal opportunity, including human rights, affirmative legal policies, and meaningful access to justice for all people.
- c) Eliminate caste or descent and All Forms of discrimination, inequality and injustice in all levels and all sectors, including public and private.
- d) Promote the dignity and rights of underprivileged, marginalized, Dalits, minorities, and all people in all levels.
- e) Provide benefits, programs and services which promote members' or allies' institutional and professional growth and quality of service and life.
- f) Provide and promote pro-bono public interest services by the legal and other professions.



## OUR PROGRAMS

### Caste Freedom Index (CFI)

The ICDR is developing the CFI as a unique and universal framework addressing caste-based inequalities and discrimination against nearly 300 million Dalits and socially excluded people in Asia, sections of Africa, the Middle East, and other parts of the world. The CFI is being developed in collaboration with *Statistics without Borders* along with the support of multiple human rights partners and allies. The CFI matrix is designed to give a comprehensive, action-oriented picture of caste-based oppression by focusing on six well-recognized human rights dimensions:

- 1) Life, health and shelter;
- 2) Family life, privacy and personal dignity;
- 3) Employment, fair pay, economic opportunity;
- 4) Freedom of expression, freedom of movement;
- 5) Political representation; and
- 6) Access to justice, protections from crime



### Dalit YoungStars Initiative - DYI

ICDR has introduced and launched **Dalit YoungStars Initiative** (DYI). DYI's mission is to leverage social-cultural-political networks; bridge the Generational GAP; and impart knowledge, skills, and



expertise among the dynamic and diverse attendees – 300 Dalits and other socially excluded youths in South Asia and Diaspora. DYI primarily works with youth and young adults ranging in ages from 18 to 30 from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri-Lanka as well as Diaspora. DYI targets caste-affected countries and the Diaspora, focusing on intersectionality and movement building. In the words of *Dr. B.R. Ambedkar*, its goals are to educate, agitate, and organize. The DYI

marks the beginning of a grassroots effort to lift-up and advance the work of exceptional innovators, technologists, scientists, advocacy leaders, researchers, and development practitioners and entrepreneurs. ICDR's partners are already generating solutions to address one or more local and national goals. The initiative includes online skill training, personal mentoring, local cohort meetings, and planning for a global summit in 2020.

## Disaster Relief and Management – Watch Group

ICDR initiated the Disaster Relief and Management Watch Group in South Asia after Nepal's biggest earthquake on April 25, 2015. The Watch group reported the presence of caste prejudice and discrimination in relief distribution to earthquake victims. We have also received information of sexual violation, rape, and growing threats of human trafficking, especially of Dalit women and girls, along with other minority groups, among the earthquake victims. Sanitation, safe shelter, education, and security are other challenges for the victims. The ICDR's findings show that South Asian governments have not been able to adequately respond to and prevent caste-based discrimination and exclusion against Dalit and minority communities at all phases of the post-disaster recovery process. Such human rights violations include the denial of food, shelter, medicine, or timely removal of dead bodies. In addition to these relief distribution barriers, there is also discrimination in providing compensation for lost housing and livelihood assistance.



## Our Global Initiatives

### Global Dalit Civil Society Network – DCSN

#### What is the DCSN?

ICDR convenes the largest global online platform – the “***Dalit Civil Society Network (DCSN).***” DCSN consists of the Dalit Civil Society, NGOs, and Diaspora organizations as well as Dalit Rights



Defenders and development practitioners throughout the world. It brings over 250 organizations and 500 individuals together, including rights and justice defenders, activists, and leaders, providing a common platform for sharing empirical experience, training materials, case management systems, knowledge, expertise, skills and human rights/advocacy challenges. The

immediate objective of DCSN is to formulate and implement a comprehensive organizational development and advocacy strategy. The goal is to empower and enhance communities by making governments more accountable and corporations more socially responsible. Its overall objective is to review and discuss national, regional, and international laws, policies, and processes to advance legal access, cultural-political remediation and social justice. DCSN is a platform for more concerted advocacy on behalf of SDGs as well as wide-ranging developmental reforms. The network will also provide a unifying platform to advance the justice and rights movement from a local to a global arena.

Who is in DCSN? We are grassroots and national leaders, lawyers, development actors, human rights activists and grassroots organizers, public service advocates and educators, researchers, journalists and public servants. We collaborate across regions and across disciplines. We

collaborate, network, and provide technical support for its members, NGOs, government agencies, and the international community as they strive to promote equal opportunities, proportionate representation in governance, rights and dignity of Dalits, and other marginalized and underprivileged people. Together we are building a global movement for justice. Be a part of a global movement of people fighting caste- and descent-based discrimination, exclusion and injustice. [JOIN THE NETWORK.](#)

### [Global March Against Caste-Based Discrimination:](#)

ICDR's Global Initiatives are among the leading activities of the organization, with a goal to educate and alert the global community about the Dalit Rights Movement and integrate this movement with global social justice, human rights, and development efforts.

The Global Initiatives' objectives are to: strengthen links among the UN and international organizations for the eradication of caste-based discrimination, violence, and inequality; b) identify strategies to increase the capacity of caste-affected countries to respond to, and mitigate, the harms of caste-discrimination; c) advocate the passing of a binding resolution against caste-based discrimination by the U.S. Congress; and, d) educate member nations of the United Nations to endorse the UN's "Draft Principles and Guidelines for the Effective Elimination of Discrimination Based on Work and Descent" established by the UN Human Rights Council (A/HRC/11/CRP.3).



### [Global Conference on Dalit Rights:](#)

In March 19<sup>th</sup> 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015, the world came together and adopted the [Dalit Rights Global Declaration 2015](#), as a global framework to: promote Dalit rights as human rights, to support international and national efforts to combat caste or descent-based discrimination or modern-day slavery; and to build a global network of Diverse Civil Society and Diaspora Organizations.

The ICDR, in collaboration with Dalit, Ambedkarate, and international organizations, has launched the programs: Global Conference on Defending Dalit Rights (2015), and Global March against Caste-based Discrimination (2014).



The ICDR Board has formed a Sub-Committee on Global Initiatives to develop and oversee global advocacy initiatives. This Committee is responsible for planning activities, developing collaborative strategies, and building networks of Dalit Civil Society and other stakeholders.



## US Programs

### Immigration Legal Service (ILS) Program (In process for D.O.J & USCIS Accreditation)

ICDR through its ILS program provides affordable, high-quality immigration, employment, and civil rights-related legal services to diverse immigrant and low-income communities. We promote and work for immigrant rights, social justice, equal opportunities, equal pay, and affordable healthcare. We advocate for the dignity and respect of all immigrants, women, Muslims, Asian-Americans, African-Americans, and other diverse minorities and low-income communities regardless of their race, caste, religion, or country of origin. Also, we offer pro-bono legal service for citizenship naturalization, refugee and asylum petition or inhumane deportation or detention. We litigate, advocate, and collaborate to combat discrimination, harassment, inhumane deportation, and removal and unjust detention for undocumented immigrants as well as all forms of social-economic-political humiliation and intimidation against immigrants. ICDR advocates for a fair immigration path to citizenship for the eleven million undocumented immigrants.



**AREAS OF IMMIGRATION ASSISTANCE:** Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) petitions, U visas, Temporary Protected Status (TPS), T visas, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, Removal hearings, Naturalization/Citizenship, NACARA, Family-based petitions, Employment-based immigrant and non-immigrant petitions, Employment authorization, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), Consular Processing, Asylum applications, Adjustment of Status.

**TYPES OF IMMIGRATION SERVICES Will PROVIDE:** Filings with Immigration USCIS, Help completing Immigration forms, Immigration Citizenship consultations, Representation before the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA), Representation before the Immigration Court, Representation at Asylum Interviews (Credible Fear Interviews, Reasonable Fear Interviews).

Contact Us for Immigration Legal Services at [legal@icdrintl.org](mailto:legal@icdrintl.org)

### US Congress: Law against Caste and All Forms of Discrimination



ICDR, along with African-American, Latino, American Muslim, and other Civil Rights and progressive groups, urge the US Congress to: 1) pass a Binding Resolution against Caste or Work and Descent-based Discrimination (House Resolution 566: Resolution is in Sub-Committee) and 2) expand the geographic scope of the historical Concurrent Resolution on Untouchability in India (HR 139/2007). Our experienced legislative team provides technical expertise and assistance for Congressional Representatives, their staff, various committees, policy-advocacy groups, along with American Dalits and diverse minority communities.

**Take Action: WE NEED YOU.**

Whether you have subject-matter expertise, organization management and fundraising, campaign, and networking skills or empathy and resilience or, a few hours, or a bit longer, we need you to speak up, show up, chip in, and stand up for defending and promoting the dignity and rights of Dalits, underprivileged, other marginalized and immigrant people today.

We provide public services for underprivileged, marginalized and Dalit people both in the U.S. and internationally.

So, roll up your sleeves and let's get started. Together, we can leverage our influence both in global and local levels or vis versa that everyone's rights and dignity be protected.

- JOIN OUR MOVEMENT
- GRASSROOTS AND INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY
- VOLUNTER OPPORTUNITIES

**Contact Us:** [icdrintl@icdrintl.org](mailto:icdrintl@icdrintl.org)

**Please visit US:**

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**International  
Commission for  
Dalit Rights**



Ensuring Dignity, Diversity and Development for all.



**ICDR  
International**

# ANNUAL SUMMIT WASHINGTON D.C. 2017

1140 3RD ST NE WASHINGTON, D.C. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2017

Empowering YoungStars | Engaging Diaspora | Integrating Global Initiatives | US Law against Caste & All Forms of Discrimination

