

Bio: D.B. Sagar, President and Founder

D.B. Sagar (Dil Bishkarma) is an experienced leader and advocate who has devoted his entire career to human rights and social justice work. He is a social entrepreneur and a globally recognized individual in the area of international human rights and social justice advocacy efforts. His goals are to ensure rule of law, equal justice, diversity, inclusive governance, and protection of rights for Dalits, minorities, and immigrants, as well as equal opportunity for all regardless of their caste, race, color, gender, religion, and origin.

With over 20 years of experience, Bishkarma brings substantial expertise in leading international non-government organizations, social enterprises, and global forums. Under Bishkarma's leadership, ICDR has initiated critical work in a number of areas, including advancing constitutional policing and criminal justice reform; protecting the rights and saving lives of marginalized communities; empowering and serving low-income, immigrant and minority community; fighting for justice and hate crimes; promoting Dalit Rights, diversity and inclusive governance; ensuring voting rights for all; and combating discrimination in education, housing, employment, lending, and religious exercise. He regularly collaborates a broad range of stakeholders in the course of this work.

Over his career, he has worked with and advised the United Nations, the US Department of State, the Government of Nepal, the political parties and Constituent Assembly of Nepal. He has dedicated his efforts to conflict and peace mitigation, post-conflict constitution-making and state-restructuring processes in Nepal; he has also been intensively involved with conflict mediation during the decade long Armed Conflict (1996-2006) of Nepal.

Bishkarma has actively communicated and testified before the UN Intergovernmental Negotiations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, the UN Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD); the UN Human Rights Sub-Committee; the European Parliament on matters of on Caste or Descent-based Discrimination; and the British House of Commons on matters of Human Rights and the democratic crisis of Nepal. He was actively engaged in the NGO Preparatory Committee of the UN World Conference against Racism in 2001 and World Social Forum in 2004. He created Global Conference Platform and hosted the first ever global conference on Dalit Rights in 2015 and co-authored the *Dalit Rights Global Declaration 2015*, an international advocacy framework to eliminate Caste or Descent-Based Discrimination. The Global Conference platform has evolved through a decade-long collective

struggle by Dalits and minority leaders, as well as human rights defenders, policymakers, international communities, and advocacy organizations.

Bishkarma received *the United Nations Association Community Human Rights Award* in 2007 and *Grossman International Award* in 2010 for his dedication to human rights, social justice, and international public services. He was a frontline peace and social inclusion advocate in Nepal's democracy movements.

Prior to joining the ***International Commission for Dalit Rights*** (ICDR International), Bishkarma served as the National President of the ***Dalit NGO Federation of Nepal*** (www.DNFNepal.org), an apex organization of more than 500 Dalit NGOs and civil society organizations in Nepal. In addition to leading the DNF Nepal, Bishkarma created and led several legal aid and Dalit empowerment and inclusion projects aimed to litigate for justice and to promote inclusive democracy. He has continuously worked with policy-makers, political leaders, government officers, law enforcement agencies, advocates, stakeholders, and elected officials across the political spectrum to build collaborative support for promoting human rights, affirmative policies, socio-political inclusion, enforcing constitutional and legal mechanisms that ensure justice for all.

Bishkarma graduated from American University Washington College of Law and received his master's degree from American University College of Arts and Sciences, Washington, D.C. He has given public speeches and lectures and participated in countless interviews for national and international news media. Bishkarma has written more than 100 articles and reports and provided expert commentary on the issue of rule of law, justice systems, human rights, diversity, and social/political inclusion, as well as public policies.

Bishkarma has personally experienced and witnessed caste-based discrimination, violence, and socio-political exclusion. He is currently working on legislative/policy advocacy to recognize and include 'caste' as a prohibited classification under the U.S. legal system. He is also working on Dalit Justice Defender Report and analyzing the influence of caste in South Asian elections and politics.

He is married to Kamala K. Bishkarma and has one son, Divek.