

**Subject:** Yes to ban caste based discrimination & protect human rights  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at 4:03:34 PM Pacific Standard Time  
**From:** Fahd Ahmed <fahd@drumnyc.org>  
**To:** LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>

**CAUTION: External Email**

Dear Seattle City Council,

I am the Executive Director for DRUM - Desis Rising Up & Moving, and organize working-class South Asian and Indo-Caribbean immigrants, workers, and youth in NYC. While our work and (~6000) membership is primarily in NYC, we have members scattered throughout the country, including over two dozen in Seattle.

I am writing to strongly urge you to vote YES to the caste ordinance. As an organizer within South Asian communities, we know that Caste is such a deep seated part of South Asian communities and life that it shows up in explicit and implicit ways in workplaces, housing, universities, and in our communities. Over 1 in 4 Dalits experience physical/verbal assault, 1 in 3 discrimination in universities, and 2 out of 3 face discrimination in workplaces.

Given the significant pockets of South Asians in Seattle, and the actual experiences of our own members in Seattle, we know caste discrimination is common.

The only remedy to such discriminatory practices is a clear stance through a ban. This ordinance will benefit significant numbers from our communities, and from DRUM's own membership in Seattle.

We urge you to pass this ordinance and ensure Seattle is a welcoming city for all. This would be an important step for civil rights history

Thank You,  
Fahd Ahmed  
:::  
Fahd Ahmed  
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