

**Subject:** Letter from the FCHS Collective in Support of Legislation to Ban Caste Discrimination  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at 2:26:33 PM Pacific Standard Time  
**From:** Shreena Gandhi <shreenaniketa@gmail.com>  
**To:** LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>  
**CC:** Stone, Meredith <Meredith.Stone@seattle.gov>, campaign@ambedkarinternationalcenter.org <campaign@ambedkarinternationalcenter.org>

**CAUTION: External Email**

To: The Seattle Council  
From: Feminist Critical Hindu Studies Collective (FCHS Collective)

We are four scholars of religion and Hinduism who center caste and the oppression of caste apartheid in our teaching and scholarship. We applaud the actions of Councilmember Kshama Sawant to introduce legislation to ban caste-based discrimination.

Often times this type of discrimination is hidden or ignored, but caste ignorance or innocence is no excuse for the perpetuation of oppression and prejudice based on caste. Hopefully, not only will this legislation make Seattle safer for Dalit and other non-dominant caste people, but will also serve to further educate the citizens of Seattle and beyond on caste, it's history in the subcontinent, and it's presence in the US & Canada. Furthermore, such legislation could go a long way to eradicating caste apartheid.

Thank you to Councilmember Sawant for bringing this legislation forward and to the Seattle Council for considering this important step in the eradication of caste.

Thank you,  
The Feminist Critical Hindu Studies Collective  
Shreena Gandhi, PhD  
Harshita Mruthinti Kamath, PhD  
Sailaja Krishnamurti, PhD  
Shana Sippy, PhD