



February 18, 2023

Dear Councilmembers,

We are a human rights collective leading the fight against caste discrimination in Australia, and we write to you to express our unequivocal support for the legislation introduced by Councilmember Sawant.

This legislation would ban caste discrimination and implement protection policies to address this "hidden and unreported issue" in Seattle.

Our collective efforts have already led the Australian Human Rights Commission to recognise caste discrimination in its National Anti-Racism Framework scoping report.

In a recent article by The Guardian, the AHRC's Race Discrimination Commissioner, Chin Tan, was quoted saying, "Discrimination of any kind is unacceptable, and that includes discrimination on the basis of caste. I am deeply concerned by the experiences of casteism in Australia that were shared with the Commission." A link to the article can be found [here](#).

Furthermore, the article also contains lived examples from caste-oppressed people who continue to face caste discrimination in all walks of life, including personal and professional.

We therefore believe, that it is crucial to recognise and address caste discrimination through legal measures and protection policies.

Passing this legislation in Seattle would set a precedent for the United States and make civil rights history. It would also lend strength to movements around the world, such as ours, which seek justice for caste-oppressed people.

We believe that by taking action to protect and support the rights of all people, regardless of their caste or social status, we can create a better world for everyone.

In the words of Martin Luther King, "Make a career of humanity. Commit yourself to the noble struggle for equal rights. You will make a better person of yourself, a greater nation of your country, and a finer world to live in."

We hope that the City of Seattle will pass this legislation, take a stand for justice and equality for all and the make this world a finer place for all of us to live.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Jai Bhim.

Ambedkar International Mission, Australia

Periyar Ambedkar Thought Circle, Australia

Sri Guru Ravidas Sabha, Melbourne

Sri Guru Ravidas Sabha, Sydney

The Humanism Project