

Annexe C

Overview of WGHR National and Regional Consultations on the UPR

1. Regional UPR Consultations (November 2021 - February 2022)

In order for the WGHR Stakeholders' report to reflect the current human rights challenges in India as precisely as possible, WGHR held a series of four regional consultations with civil society actors across India from 15 November 2021 to 14 February 2022. Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the regional consultations were held online. These consultations aimed at creating a broad and inclusive movement around the UPR process and at gathering precise information that would feed into WGHR's stakeholders' report. The Regional Consultations brought together a total of 282 participants.

Apart from training participants on the UPR process, the regional consultations aimed at gathering testimonies, documentation and information on the most pressing human rights challenges in each region. The following thematic topics were covered during the WGHR Regional Consultations:

- 1) Dalit Rights
- 2) Rights of Women and Sexual and Gender Minorities
- 3) Child Rights
- 4) Housing and Land Rights
- 5) Freedom of Religion and Religious Minorities
- 4) Labour Rights
- 5) Environment and Climate Change
- 6) Right to Health
- 7) Access to justice
- 8) Right to Freedom from Torture and Ill-Treatment
- 9) Rights of Indigenous People
- 10) Militarization, Extrajudicial Killings and Enforced Disappearances
- 11) Human Rights Defenders and Civic Space (Freedom of Assembly, Association and Expression)

The groups conducted discussions on these themes looking at how they affect constituencies most vulnerable to human rights violations. These constituencies include (1) Dalits, (2) Women, (3) Children, (4) Indigenous Peoples (Adivasis), (5) Labourers and Migrant Workers, (6) Religious Minorities, (7) Persons with Disabilities (PWD), (8) Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people (LGBTQIA+).

Further details about the regional consultations held can be found below:

Northern Consultation

- Format: Online
- Dates: 15 - 17 November 2021
- States covered: Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chattisgarh, Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh

East and North-Eastern Consultation

- Format: Online

- Dates: 29 November - 01 December 2021
- States covered: Odisha, West Bengal, Assam, Sikkim, Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh

Western Consultation

- Format: Online
- Dates: 20 December- 22 December 2021
- States covered: Gujarat, Maharashtra and Goa

Southern Consultation

The Southern Consultations were organised by our partner organisation People's Watch and each of the southern states held separate regional consultations.

-Format: Online

-Dates: 24 - 31 January 2022

States covered: Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Puducherry and Kerala

2. UPR National Consultation (03 and 04 March 2022)

WGHR organised a two day National Consultation on the UPR at India International Centre (IIC), New Delhi. It brought together representatives from the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), UN agencies, diplomats and civil society. A total of 124 participants from across the country took part in the National Consultation.

The objective of the National Consultation was to : (i) Highlight human rights thematic issues that were underrepresented during the regional consultations, (ii) include new thematic issues not covered by WGHR in previous UPR cycles (iii) consolidate the findings from the regional consultations, (iv) establish national patterns of human rights violations, (v) prioritise the most pressing human rights issues, and (vi) continue a constructive engagement and dialogue between civil society and National Human Rights Institutions around the UPR process. Thematic topics covered during the National Consultation include:

- 1) Housing and Land Rights
- 2) Right to Education
- 3) Right to Food
- 4) Water and Sanitation
- 5) Environment and Climate Change
- 6) Labour Rights
- 7) Right to Health
- 8) Rights of LGBTQIA+ Persons
- 9) Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- 10) Rights of Scheduled Tribes, Adivasis and Nomadic Groups
- 11) Religious Minorities
- 12) Refugees, IDPs and Migrants
- 13) Human Rights Defenders (Freedom of Assembly, Association & Expression)

The final WGHR Stakeholders' report reflects the highlights of the main outcomes and submissions emanating from the regional and national consultations.

The WGHR Consultation series was organised with the support of the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office, (UNRCO) India as part of a project facilitating engagement with CSOs for India's 4th cycle UPR (UPR IV).