



# NEWS LETTER

JULY 2025, ISSUE

*Flip through to discover  
what's unfolding in the  
movement!*



*“When the voices of  
the oppressed are  
silenced, solidarity  
must become louder.”*

*Let this newsletter be a  
reminder:*

*Resistance is not a  
moment—it's a movement.*

*Let us rise, reflect, and  
rebuild. Together.*

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

The National Dalit Christian Watch (NDCW) stands in deep solidarity with countless voices across the country in mourning the loss of Fr. Stan Swamy, the Jesuit priest and relentless advocate for Adivasi rights, who passed away in judicial custody on July 5, 2021. His death is more than a personal tragedy—it is a haunting symbol of the Brahmanical fascist State that relentlessly targets those who dare to walk alongside the oppressed.

Fr. Stan's life was shaped by deep compassion, moral clarity, and unwavering solidarity with the marginalized. He stood boldly with Adivasis, Dalits, and other silenced communities, advocating for justice, dignity, and rightful access to land and livelihood. For this, he was branded a threat. At 84 years old, frail with Parkinson's disease, he was arrested under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) in connection with the Bhima Koregaon Elgar Parishad case—a law increasingly used to criminalize dissent and silence human rights defenders.

Even in custody, his dignity was violated. Denied even basic medical aid, including a straw and sipper, he was treated with shocking inhumanity. The deliberate denial of timely medical care became a slow, state-sanctioned execution. His death is a powerful indictment of a system that fears truth and punishes compassion.

At NDCW, we do not remember Fr. Stan as a victim, but as a prophetic voice—a courageous soul who, until his last breath, stood on the side of the oppressed. His death reminds us that speaking out for justice in today's India is a dangerous act. And yet, as a community rooted in faith and struggle, we are called to continue his legacy.

Fr. Stan's life aligns deeply with NDCW's mission—to expose caste-based discrimination, uphold the dignity of Dalit Christians, amplify the struggles of the marginalized, and speak truth to power. His life is a mirror to our cause and a light for our journey forward.

As we mark the anniversary of his passing, let us commit ourselves to:

- Challenge systemic injustice within the Church and society.
- Stand in solidarity with human rights defenders.
- Expose caste, gender, and faith-based discrimination wherever it exists.
- Continue the legacy of resistance that Fr. Stan embodied with grace and courage.

***“I am not a silent spectator. I am part of the game, and I am ready to pay the price.”***

***— Fr. Stan Swamy***

Let us carry forward his memory—not with silence, but with solidarity, resistance, and hope.



# VOICES FROM VELLORE

- A GROUND-BREAKING DIALOGUE IN TAMIL NADU

On April 25, 2025, NDCW hosted a powerful state-level dialogue in Tamil Nadu, addressing caste-based discrimination faced by Dalit Christians. The session included legal perspectives, theological reflections, and personal testimonies—marking a crucial moment for amplifying marginalized voices.



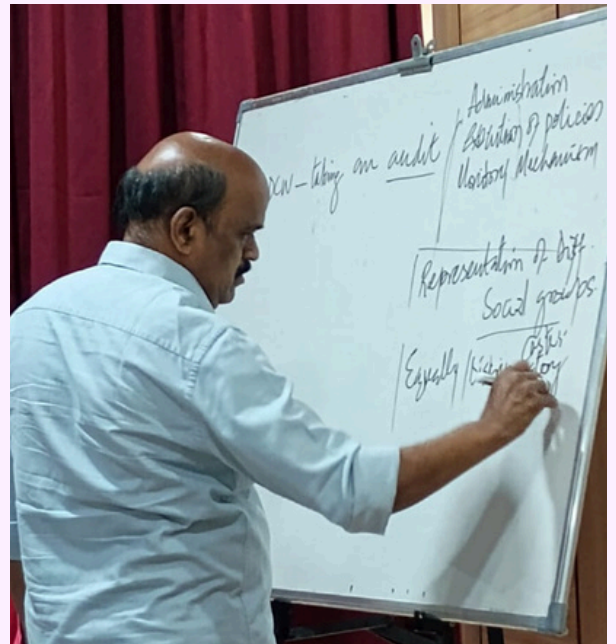
# KARNATAKA STATE

-LEVEL CONSULTATION ON DALIT CHRISTIAN REALITIES.

Held on May 17, 2025, at the Indian Social Institute, this meeting highlighted the complex challenges faced by Dalit Christians in Karnataka.

## Key Highlights:

- Opening Remarks: Sr. Manju outlined the objectives of the consultation.
- Insights by Fr. Selvaraj: Caste system's dual impact—inside and outside the Church.
- Presentation by Dr. Chandra Mohan Prasad: Caste census and invisibility of Christian Dalits.
- Strategy Dialogue: Led by Dr. Deenabandhu Manchala focusing on future NDCW actions in Karnataka.
- Outcome: Formation of the NDCW Karnataka Core Committee.



# INTERFAITH INTELLECTUAL CONFERENCE IN SRINAGAR

Against the backdrop of the Pahalgam terror attack and the following India-Pakistan military tensions, Muslim, Hindu, Christian, and Sikh leaders came together for an 'Interfaith Intellectual Conference' in Srinagar on June 21 to promote healing, unity, and religious tolerance in the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The participants also developed an actionable plan to support villages affected by recent shelling along the border.

The event, organised by the collaborative effort of All J&K Christian Sabha and Interfaith Commission of Diocese of Jammu-Srinagar, was endorsed by the National Dalit Christian Watch (NDCW), Muslim Front, SC/ST/OBC Confederation of India, and the Sikh Intellectual Forum. Leaders across the spiritual, academia, women's rights, and youth organisations were in attendance.



# MEMORANDUM SUBMITTED TO DIG

-JUSTICE FOR MALKANGIRI ATTACKS

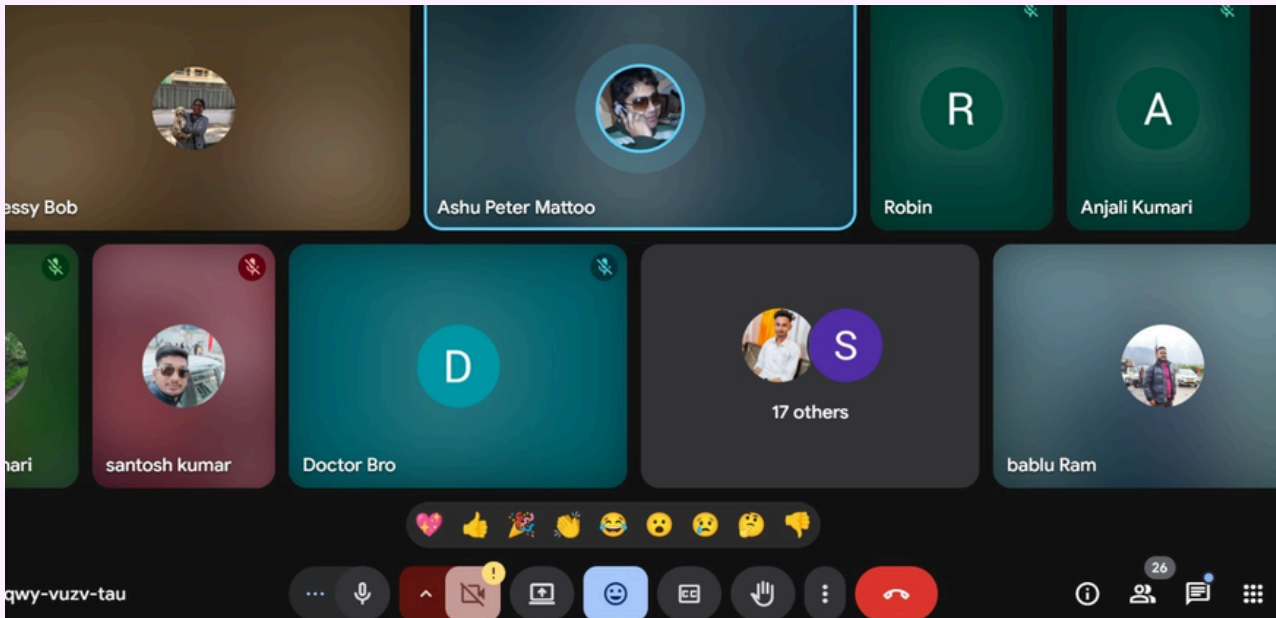
A Christian delegation led by the Koraput Christian Youth Federation, including NDCW Dalit Christian writer Mr. Subhashish, met the DIG in Koraput. They demanded immediate action regarding the violent mob attack on Christians in Kotamateru village, Odisha.



# NORTH REGIONAL COORDINATION MEETING

-STRENGTHENING GRASSROOTS

A successful regional coordination meeting was held with 29 participants including state convenors and core team members to streamline activities and regional strategies.



## EDUCATION OF MARGINALIZED YOUTH

MR. Bablu, North region coordinator was able to facilitate the admission of six students from Uttar Pradesh into a nursing college in Bangalore. Among them, four are Dalit Christians and two are from the Dalit community. The students were required to pay only the registration fee of ₹5,500, while the college committed to arranging and supporting the rest of the fee. This small but meaningful intervention has ensured that these students have access to professional education and a hopeful future.

## NEW BOOK RELEASE

-“STOP WAR, PURSUE PEACE”

One of our key stakeholders, Dr. Chandra Mohan Prasad, has published a compelling new book calling for global peace and non-violence.



## CIVIL SOCIETY STAKEHOLDERS' MEET

Mr. Bablu addressed key civil society stakeholders at the national level, emphasizing caste-based discrimination faced by Dalit Christians. He urged collective action and collaboration among organizations. This increased NDCW's visibility among non-faith-based networks.



## GLOBAL REPRESENTATION



Mr. Boobalan will represent BUTN at the Baptist World Alliance General Council Meeting in Brisbane, Australia, on July 9, 2025. A proud moment for the community and a step toward global advocacy.



Mr. Vikram Mukka, editor of the Dalit Christian Digest, attended a high-level training and capacity-building programme at EU institutions in Brussels, June 2025. A significant opportunity for knowledge exchange and policy engagement.

# GROUND REALITIES:

## NUMBERS AND NARRATIVES

"According to data from the PEW Research Centre, about 37% of Christians in India are Catholic, 17.9% are Baptist, 9.5% are Presbyterian, and 24.3% belong to other denominations. About 10% of Christians do not affiliate with any denomination.

But beyond denominations, a much deeper struggle continues on the ground.

In Burhanpur, Madhya Pradesh, a horrifying attack targeted Dalit Christian pastors during a peaceful church service. They were brutally assaulted, stripped, and paraded by extremist mobs while police stood by, failing to intervene. Worse, the victims were criminalized instead of the perpetrators. The incident reflects the systemic hostility and silencing that continues to plague the Christian minority, particularly among Dalit converts.



# UPCOMING YOUTH CAPACITATION EVENTS

NDCW continues its mission to empower young Dalit Christians across India through two powerful capacitation and sensitization programs this month:

- 📅 **14th July 2025**
- 📍 **Agra**
- 📅 **22nd July 2025**
- 📍 **Vishakhapatnam**

We invite all youth and community members to participate, engage, and stand together in the journey towards justice and equal dignity.

# READER'S CORNER:

## EXPLORE THE DCD E-PORTAL

We are excited to share that several thought-provoking and informative articles have been published on the Dalit Christian Digest (DCD) E-Portal. These articles shed light on lived experiences, theological reflections, gender justice, policy challenges, and untold stories of the Dalit Christian community.

We encourage our readers to visit, read, and subscribe to the portal to stay informed and inspired. Subscribe & Read: Dalit Christian Digest – E-Portal

Let your voice and reading empower the movement.

# HONOURING ALLIES IN THE STRUGGLE – STANDING WITH US

Behind every movement are individuals who walk alongside, support, and amplify the cause—especially when it concerns justice for Dalit Christians. We are proud to acknowledge two such strong and consistent allies whose commitment and leadership have made a significant impact.

## **Mr. Alphonse Kennedy**

**Secretary, Commission for SC/ST/BC – Karnataka Regional Catholic Bishops’ Council**  
**National Secretary for Social Justice – All India Catholic Union**


Mr. Kennedy has been a steadfast voice in institutional spaces, consistently advocating for the dignity, inclusion, and rights of Dalit Christians within Church and society. Through his leadership at the KRCBC and the All India Catholic Union, he continues to bring visibility and urgency to the issues faced by marginalized Christian communities.

## **Ms. Isabella Selvaraj Xavier**

**Joint Secretary – Women’s Commission & SC/ST/OBC Commission, Belgaum Diocese**

Ms. Isabella Selvaraj Xavier is a Pioneer—the first woman to hold a leadership role in both the Women’s Commission and the SC/ST/OBC Commission in the Belgaum Diocese. Her fearless voice, compassionate leadership, and grassroots engagement have empowered many, especially Dalit Christian women, to step into spaces where they’ve long been excluded.



 *NDCW acknowledges their historic appointments and celebrates their ongoing contributions to justice and equality within the Church.*

## FEATURED INTERVIEWS

Two of our respected leaders—Sr. Manju, General Secretary of NDCW, and Fr. Selvaraj Arulnathan, GB Member, NDCW—recently appeared in YouTube interviews addressing the reality of caste-based discrimination within the Church.

In these candid conversations, they reflect on:

- The invisible yet deeply rooted caste hierarchy operating in Christian institutions,
- The painful exclusion of Dalit Christians from decision-making spaces,
- And how NDCW is actively challenging these injustices through advocacy, dialogue, and grassroots mobilisation.

***We urge our readers to watch and reflect on these powerful testimonies.***

**[<https://youtu.be/B-mwunf1Tsc?si=mTsZ4ir7JQf1GF0M> – Sr. Manju Interview]**

**[<https://youtu.be/ahR2rf1-aho?si=k9UqkxHSZ9QsjN5z> – Fr. Selvaraj Interview]**

## CONCLUSION:

IN REMEMBRANCE, RESILIENCE, AND RESOLVE

This month, we pause to remember significant events that have touched our hearts and shaken our collective conscience. The passing of the Pope has left a deep void in the global Christian community. His voice for peace, justice, and interfaith unity will continue to inspire us. We also marked the solemn anniversary of Fr. Stan Swamy, a beacon of courage who gave his life fighting for the voiceless and the marginalized. The recent tragic accident near Allahabad is yet another reminder of the fragility of life and the urgent need for systems that prioritize human safety and dignity.

In the midst of sorrow and adversity, we remain unwavering in our mission. Against every odd, the struggle for Dalit Christian rights, recognition, and dignity continues. We at NDCW recommit ourselves to this path with renewed strength—amplifying voices, building solidarity, and fostering hope across communities.