

## Resources List: Speakers

Names listed have all agreed to being included in this list and are willing to speak at meetings as indicated

**Ms. Elizabeth Joy** is currently serving as Director, Jyoti Enterprises Ltd. She served the Council for World Mission as Executive Secretary for Mission Education from Oct 2002-Jan 2011 and is currently pursuing her PhD at King's College London. She is an activist who has given much help to the production of this pack.

Contact e-mail: [joy\\_elizabeth@hotmail.com](mailto:joy_elizabeth@hotmail.com)

**Rev Deborah Kirk** is a Methodist minister in the Taunton Deane and South Sedgemoor Circuit in Somerset. Deborah and a colleague visited India at the invitation of the Bishop of Cuttack, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Sanson Das, with the purpose of encouraging groups of Dalit and Adivasi people on women's empowerment and the importance of education for their children. Deborah was greatly impressed by her visit and would be pleased to share slides and information. See also "Update from Orissa" Section 2.2.

Contact address: 36, Craig Lea, Somerset, TA2 7SY. Tel 01823 334854.

E-mail: [deborah.m.kirk@googlemail.com](mailto:deborah.m.kirk@googlemail.com)

**Rev Alison Richardson**, a minister in the Plymouth circuit, visited India along with her colleague Rev Deborah Kirk (see above). They returned to Orissa, India again in early 2013 and Alison is very happy to share slides, stories and information.

Contact address: 4, The Elms, Stoke, Plymouth PL3 4BR. E-mail: [alisonlp99@btinternet.com](mailto:alisonlp99@btinternet.com)

**Rev Alison Tomlin**, a member of Amnesty International, has visited, and is still part of a link with, the Diocese of Trichy-Tanjore, India and has been involved with issues of justice, especially concerning women, for many years. She says 'all my teenage and adult life, but especially as a Methodist Minister who has been a Chair of District and was President of Conference 2010 – 2011, I have been involved in seeking justice for the oppressed, particularly women.

Contact address: Wesley Cottage, 39 Newcombe St, Market Harborough, LE16 9PB.

Tel 01858 467644; e-mail: [rev.alison@btinternet.com](mailto:rev.alison@btinternet.com)

**Rev David Haslam**, Methodist minister, undertook a sabbatical in late 1997, travelling through India for two months. As a result of his travels, David wrote a book called 'Caste Out' and helped to initiate both the Dalit Solidarity Network (DSN UK, 1999) and the International Network (IDSN, 2000); he remains a Trustee of DSN UK.

Invitations to speak preferably for locations in the Midlands please.

Contact e-mail: [davidhaslam558@btinternet.com](mailto:davidhaslam558@btinternet.com)

**Steve Pearce** A key member of the Methodist World Church Relationships Team, Steve is the Partnership Co-ordinator for Asia and the Pacific. As part of this role he regularly visits Partner churches across the region including India and Bangladesh.

Contact e-mail: [PearceS@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:PearceS@methodistchurch.org.uk)

**Linda Crossley** chose India for her overseas visit, as President designate of MWiB, in February 2013. She visited many areas with the Church of North India (CNI), finding out about life for Dalit women and girls, and CNI's work to empower them. It is planned that MWiB will support aspects of this work directly from 2013-16. Linda is happy to share stories and pictures from her trip and news of the resulting partnership.

Contact e-mail: [lindacrossley@sky.com](mailto:lindacrossley@sky.com)

**Anne Speight** As part of an ecumenical church link programme Anne visited the Trichy Diocese of South India in 2007 and as joint leader of a youth visit in 2011. She is happy to talk about her experience of meeting various Dalit people and witnessing their suffering, their strength and their hope after the Boxing Day tsunami, as tea pickers and survivors of the HIV/Aids epidemic. Anne is a member of the task group which produced this pack.

Contact e-mail: [annep.speight@ntlworld.com](mailto:annep.speight@ntlworld.com)

**Rev Joyce and Dr Geoff Levine** have been actively involved with Dalit communities in India over a period of 9 years. In March 2013 they returned from their latest trip during which Geoff worked in a 'slum hospital' in Tamil Nadu. Joyce, a supernumerary minister helped among the 'rag pickers' and visited centres for abused women and for street children.

Contact Dr Geoff Levine Tel: 07851 758842

**Barbara Butler** is Executive Secretary of Christians Aware, an international, educational and ecumenical charity. Visits are arranged to many countries, mostly in the developing world. Many groups go to India and Barbara has visited north and south India many times, usually to support work for Dalit development, especially in education. Barbara has also travelled to meet Adivasi or Tribal communities in Orissa. She has written about India in some of her books and in the Christians Aware magazine.

Contact e-mail: [barbarabutler@christiansaware.co.uk](mailto:barbarabutler@christiansaware.co.uk)

**Rev Suresh Kumar** was born in a remote village in rural Tamil Nadu where his parents were teachers in the mission school. Once ordained, Suresh spent many years working in the Trichy Diocese of the Church of South India and has extensive experience of various church led social care, education and empowerment programmes. Although regularly returning to India, for the last 6 years Suresh has lived in Leicester and been minister in various Anglican-Methodist partnerships.

Contact e-mail: [suresh@skumar.plus.com](mailto:suresh@skumar.plus.com)

**Martin Gage** Employed by Christian Aid, Martin visited India in early 2012 meeting various people involved with the 'land rights' and empowerment work of Christian Aid partner, Ekta Parishad. Martin works mainly within the East Midlands but is happy to take calls and act as 'gatekeeper' for Christian Aid speakers in other regions.

Contact e-mail: [Mgage@christian-aid.org](mailto:Mgage@christian-aid.org)

**Malcolm Egner** National Director, DFN(UK), Malcolm previously worked in local government and with Youth for Christ. A Baptist minister, Malcolm is currently seconded to the human rights organisation, 'Dalit Freedom Network' to promote a campaign to stop Dalit trafficking.

Contact via website: [www.dfn.org.uk](http://www.dfn.org.uk)

## Resources List: Books

Many books have been published which look at the struggle of Dalit and Tribal communities in India - and within other countries. Here is just a small sample; it is well worth going on-line to investigate further bearing in mind that those published in India may be more expensive due to delivery costs.

### **Caste Out! The Liberation Struggle of the Dalits in India.**

**David Haslam.** CTBI, 1999 (out of print but available on-line)

As a result of a sabbatical journey to India and Pakistan and, as he says "with the advice, correction and encouragement of Dalit activists", David Haslam gives us a sympathetic outsider's glimpse into India's caste system and the liberation struggle of the Dalits. His considerable experience of struggles for racial justice in Britain and elsewhere has, as Rt. Revd. Mano Rumalshah writes in the Foreword to 'Caste Out' greatly helped him in identifying the similarities between racism and casteism, and those to whom this book is addressed, both in India and Britain, should take him seriously.

### **Dalit Tribal Interface A Ray of Hope for Healing and Restoration**

**Editors Elizabeth Joy & Hrangthan Chhungi** ISPCCK 2012

This book owes its genesis to a meeting held in January 2011 in Bhubaneswar. This meeting was one of the solidarity activities for the victims of Kandhamal violence, which erupted against Dalit Christians in 2008. The Kandhamal incident has heightened the need for a Dalit-Tribal interface. This book helps us to understand the intensity and complexity of the issues faced by the Dalits and Tribals of India. It gives valuable insights into how the Dalit-Tribal communities in India are struggling to reclaim their identities and dignity as human beings.

### **A Cry for Dignity. Religion, Violence and the Struggle of Dalit Women in India**

**Mary C Grey:** Equinox Publishing Ltd 2010

'A Cry for Dignity' tackles caste-based violence by focussing on the position of Dalit women in India. They are often referred to as 'thrice Dalit', as they suffer from the triple oppression of poverty, being female and being female Dalits. Many Dalit women are denied access to education, to meaningful employment, health provision and are the first to suffer the negative effects of globalisation.

'A Cry for Dignity' focuses on Dalit Women's own movements, leadership and achievements and sets the struggle in an international arena, including Dalit discrimination in the UK. It suggests forms of action from Church, society and feminist theology to show solidarity with and effect social change for Dalit women.

### **Born to be Broken - Christmas messages from Dalit Perspectives**

**Edited by Rev Sunil Raj Philip.** National Council of Churches in India (NCCI) 2011

This book, currently available to read on-line, is a collection of Biblical reflections on the Christmas narratives highlighting the significance of the birth of Jesus Christ for the beaten, bruised and broken of casteist society, the Dalits. A book well worth 'dipping into'!

## Half the World's Slaves? The Scandal of Dalit Trafficking and Slavery in India.

Dalit Freedom Network (UK) Available to purchase from DFN(UK) or read online.

This booklet sheds some light on a dark secret. It aims to raise awareness and increase understanding of a complex and shadowy subject. Above all it is a call to action, to challenge the gross injustice and human rights abuse.

### Jesus the Dalit

**M R Arulraja SJ** (out of print but occasionally available on-line)

The author describes casteism as 'worse than apartheid'. The book is a compilation of stories and reflections, with thought-provoking references to biblical passages. The central theme is untouchability, its reality in biblical times, and how Jesus dealt with it. The author concludes 'Jesus found that the religion of his time was blind to the problems of the workers, the jobless and the poor'. The law had become a burden to working people, it had also divided people into pure and impure, based on rituals.

## Dalit literature

One way of gaining insight into the Dalit situation is by reading literature written by Dalits. If you are part of a book club, you could suggest the group look at one of the following:

### "Untouchable" by Mulk Raj Anand

*Untouchable* is a story of a day-in-the-life of a young and proud Indian man, Bakha. Anand's protagonist is subject to the discrimination of the caste system and a life of street-sweeping and latrine-cleaning. He encounters the sexual objectification (and attempted abuse) of his sister by a Hindi priest, the inefficiencies of the white Christian colonialists to protect or engage him, the violent reaction of a crowd when he accidentally touches a non-Dalit woman and the potential for liberation offered by Ghandi's peaceful resistance.

This book was crucial in opening my eyes to the injustices of the caste system, and in awakening 1930s Europe to the issues outside its immediate experience. Anand is certainly worth reading: at 150 pages of flowing prose, he could be classed as an 'easy' read – but be prepared to find his content *very* difficult.

Reviewed by Tim Baker

**Meena Kandasamy** is a poet, writer, activist and translator. Her work maintains a focus on caste annihilation, linguistic identity and feminism. She has published two collections of poetry, *Touch* (2006) and *Ms. Militancy* (2010). Previously she edited "The Dalit" a bi-monthly English magazine.

For examples of her disturbing and passionate poetry, visit her website:

[www.meenakandasamy.wordpress.com](http://www.meenakandasamy.wordpress.com)

## Literature and Arts update

**An apology:** The production of this pack has been a learning curve for us all. In the original pack, on page 5.14, we included a review of “Untouchable” by Mulk Raj Anand along with information about the Indian writer, Meena Kandasamy, under a heading “Dalit Literature”. In fact neither of these writers is from a Dalit background, although they both use their gifts and writing to challenge caste discrimination. Caste is a sensitive area, and we apologise for this error, recognising that neither writer is shrinking from being seen as from a lower caste, but that they are anxious not to give the impression that they have experienced the suffering and exclusion of the Dalit people.

Meena Kandasamy has been in touch with MWiB, offering her congratulations for the work being done and her support in the continuing campaigning. With her permission we now include three examples of her poetry:

- **Becoming a Brahmin**, an ironic comment on caste pretensions.
- **Narration**, a heart-rending swipe at the hypocrisy of those men who despise the “untouchables” whilst still using lower caste women for sexual gratification and
- **Inheritance**, a cry of helplessness in the face of institutionalised oppression.

“**The Gypsy Goddess**” is Meena Kandasamy’s first novel, published in 2014, and we also include a review of the novel here, repeating the suggestion that, if you are part of a book group, this might be a title to suggest, although don’t expect a cosy tale.

### Becoming a Brahmin

#### Algorithm for converting a Shudra into a Brahmin

Begin.

Step 1: Take a beautiful Shudra girl.

Step 2: Make her marry a Brahmin.

Step 3: Let her give birth to his female child.

Step 4: Let this child marry a Brahmin.

Step 5: Repeat steps 3-4 six times.

Step 6: Display the end product. It is a Brahmin.

End.

Algorithm advocated by Father of the Nation at Tirupur.

Documented by Periyar on 20.09.1947.

*Algorithm for converting a Pariah into a Brahmin*

Awaiting another Father of the Nation to produce this algorithm.

(Inconvenience caused due to inadvertent delay is sincerely regretted.)

*First published in The Little Magazine*

## Narration

I'll weep to you about  
My landlord, and with  
My mature gestures—  
You will understand:  
The torn sari, disheveled hair  
Stifled cries and meek submission.  
I was not an untouchable then.

I'll curse the skies,  
And shout: scream to you  
Words that incite wrath and  
You will definitely know:  
The priest, his lecherous eyes,  
Glances that disrobed, defiled.  
I was not polluting at four feet.

How can I say  
Anything, anything  
Against my own man?  
How?

So I take shelter in silence  
Wear it like a mask.  
When alone, I stumble  
Into a flood of incoherencies. . .

(First published in Kritiya)

## Inheritance

Helplessly, silent;  
we watched it being seized away,  
all our lands.  
The Government—  
a fulltime bewitching whore  
had promised Jobs. Industrialization.  
Power, Electric.  
Everything went, Nothing came.

Now, landless, uprooted,  
unsettled in a resettlement colony  
we feast our souls on lucent memories—  
Of an earlier life.

When memory charts  
familiar horizons  
I often recollect that  
long ago rainy Sunday  
in our crowded church,  
Fr. Jose reading crisply  
"Blessed are the meek  
for they shall inherit the earth."

(First published in Sweet Magazine, South Africa)

## The Gypsy Goddess

Meena Kandasamy, published by Atlantic UK  
reviewed by Rev. Nicola Vidamour

This novel is very novel! It tells the true story of the Kilvenmani massacre in 1968 when over 40 Dalits were murdered in their Tamil Nadu village and provides some thought-provoking reflections - woven throughout the book - about the issues raised when trying to put such a horrendous event into words.

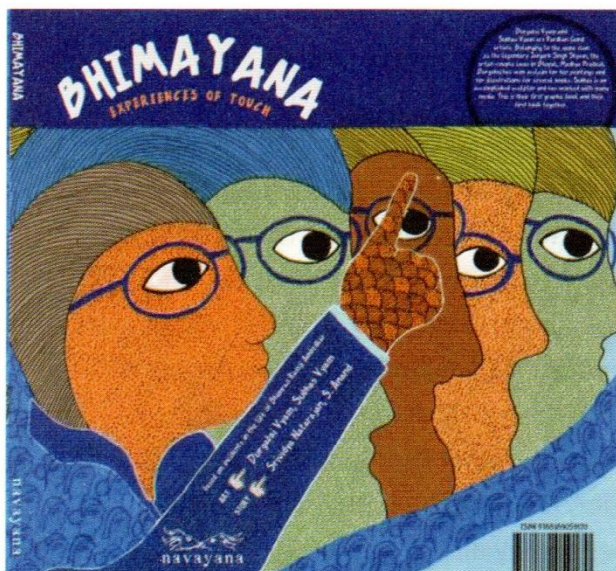
The Dalits in this book were landless labourers who were supported by the Communist Party to form a Union and campaign for higher wages. Their protest erupts into violence and massacre. One chapter of the book contains the police report of the charred bodies and makes for very disturbing and uncomfortable reading.

Meena Kandasamy presents the story from the perspective of different characters and viewpoints but leaves the reader in no doubt of the injustice and cruelty with which Dalits are treated by those who see them as less than human – but are themselves behaving in an inhumane way!

The epilogue imagines how the reader will respond to what they have read and suggests that they will want to know more – however horrifying that truth may be. She writes about women always being stripped bare before they were beaten because the landlords could not bear the sight of torn clothes!

Don't read this book if you are looking for a happy ending! Read it, if you want to learn more about the Dalit experience in India and are prepared to continue the struggle to find the words to speak truth to power.

All pieces used by kind permission of Meena Kandasamy. For more information, visit [www.meenakandasamy.wordpress.com](http://www.meenakandasamy.wordpress.com)



## Book Review

### 'Bhimayana - Experiences of untouchability.'

Incidents in the life of  
Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar

Published by navayana  
ISBN 9788189059170

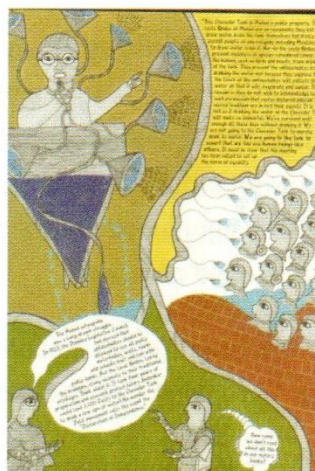
Produced in memory of Jangarh Singh  
Shyam (1960-2001).

Reviewed by Joy Chapman

This striking and commanding book is recommended to all those who are willing to be challenged by the issue of discrimination faced by Dalit communities. Its first chapter outlines the scene of the injustice experienced by Dalit peoples and the impossible situation in which they find themselves, followed by three chapters showing in graphic detail specific experiences with regards to the use of water, the seeking of shelter and the difficulties of travelling. The authenticity of accounts is underlined by detailed dates and places.

The final chapter is somewhat different and explains the context of the particular art form used throughout the book. This style of presentation needs particular emphasis, as to most people picking up the book it will be a surprise. It is bold and eye catching and may give the impression of being more suitable for children than for adults. However on further investigation it will be realised that not only are the issues of a serious matter, but also the ways in which they are presented on the page are also seriously considered.

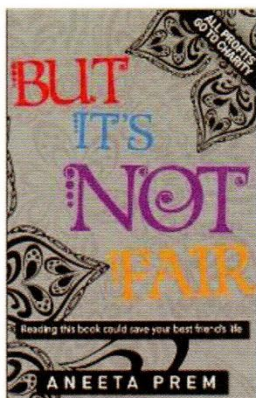
A striking example of this are the speech bubbles shown in different shapes representing different aspects and attitudes of the people concerned. The art work combines traditional and contemporary and the Pardhan Gond form used is described relating some of its history and its development in modern times.



The overall message of the narrative is to make it clear that for Dalits to live an ordinary, everyday life is virtually impossible. 'Brick walls' are already in place or quickly put into place which prevent them from accessing the normal necessities of life such as water and a safe place to sleep. Respect for individuals is totally absent and the question of equality for all is addressed by this publication. It is a beautiful and remarkable book and yet presents the challenge for its readers to consider these matters for themselves and how they should respond.

## 'But it's not fair' by Aneeta Prem

Reviewed by Joy Chapman



This short tale is primarily told through the eyes of two young teenage girls from homes with differing attitudes and norms to the position of women. Although written with younger adults as the anticipated audience, the material is also relevant to people of any age willing to read the uncomplicated text. Told through the eyes of young people it nevertheless provides information and gives warnings for both older and younger generations. A very readable script written in a direct manner, it paints the scenario of serious situations which need to be heeded by all.

Lynda Bellingham, as patron of the charity Kids Taskforce, provides a supportive foreword. She underlines the importance of raising awareness of both the plight of young people caught up in situations where they are in danger and ways in which their problems can be shared. Families and friends taking action when they suspect something is wrong is emphasised as vitally important.

A carefully constructed book the writing is straightforward and the short chapters deal with relevant points in the narrative consecutively in a clearly defined order.

It is difficult to place issues in any order of importance. The restricted life styles of home patterns where young people and women are prevented from seeing the bigger world and reacting with it are highlighted. Reference is made to cultures which remain traditional even where cruelty and abuse remain a part of it. The threat of honour being blemished is a significant power controlling members of families and allowing girls and women to be used as pawns.

Education is pinpointed as a route to a freedom which will enhance choices if allowed to flourish thus breaking the 'cycle of women and girls being impoverished.'

Dealing with the issues surrounding arranged marriages the book provides suitable material for this pack on the position of Dalit and tribal women. Both the story and the pack material present the dilemma of women who are misused and disempowered through no fault of their own but by birth.

This publication is recommended as valuable reading for all who wish to be informed and take action concerning the position of women and girls made weak and vulnerable by the traditional practices of communities where sufferings and disabilities are thus engendered.

All profits to Freedom Charity: [Contact@freedomcharity.org.uk](mailto:Contact@freedomcharity.org.uk)  
Registered charity number 1139657  
Also available as an EBook



## Resources List: Websites, Charities and Non Governmental Organisations

**Dalit Solidarity Network UK [www.dsnuk.org](http://www.dsnuk.org)** is a network of individuals, groups, movements and agencies working in solidarity with Dalit communities in India and further afield. It offers an overview and promotes activities and campaigns. DSN(UK) are the prime activists in the campaign to highlight and outlaw caste discrimination as it occurs in Britain. See their website for up-to-date news, videos and the press release which followed the House of Lords debate on this issue on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

**International Dalit Solidarity Network [www.idsn.org](http://www.idsn.org)** campaigns internationally to end caste discrimination.

**Methodist Church Britain, World Church Relationships team: [www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk)** A small team of expert and dedicated staff develop relationships between the Methodist church in Britain and our 60 partner churches around the world. Discover more at: [www.methodist.org.uk/mission/world-church/about-world-church-relationships](http://www.methodist.org.uk/mission/world-church/about-world-church-relationships)

**Methodist Relief and Development Fund, MRDF [www.mrdf.org.uk](http://www.mrdf.org.uk)** MRDF have also helped greatly in the production of this pack – see pages 5.7-5.10. In India, MRDF is in partnership with R.E.A.D. ‘Rural Educational Activities for Development’ working with Tribal women in rural Orissa, Eastern India. Many argue that Tribal people occupy an even lower status in society than Dalits.

**Christian Aid [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk)** works widely in the UK and with partners around the world on a huge range of development and justice issues, and has considerable involvement in the Dalit cause.

**Ekta Parishad [www.ektaparishad.com](http://www.ektaparishad.com)** is a Christian Aid partner. A people’s movement dedicated to the principles of non-violent action, aiming at social and land reform in India. In 2012 Ekta Parishad organized the successful ‘March for Justice’ involving 75,000 Indian Dalit and Tribal people.

**Dalit Freedom Network (UK) [www.dfn.org.uk](http://www.dfn.org.uk)** is involved in awareness raising, advocacy, fundraising for anti-trafficking projects and sponsoring Dalit education. It offers opportunities for volunteering and 2-3 month internships in the UK.

**Paul Field and Garth Hewitt** together produced a CD “The Dalit Drum” in 2001. This is now available again for download from their websites: [www.garthhewitt.org](http://www.garthhewitt.org) or [paulfield.bandcamp.com/album/the-dalit-drum-2](http://paulfield.bandcamp.com/album/the-dalit-drum-2)

**Churches Together in Britain and Ireland [www.ctbi.org.uk](http://www.ctbi.org.uk)** produced resources for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2013 from India, focussing on the Dalit struggle for justice. In October 2010 the National Council of Churches in India held a national conference which designated casteism as sin and proposed a widespread education programme throughout Churches in India, including marking Dalit Liberation Sunday designated as the Sunday closest to International Human Rights Day (10<sup>th</sup> December)

**Deccan Development Society (DDS)** [www.dsindia.com](http://www.dsindia.com) is a Christian Aid partner and works with Dalit women in southern India helping them to transform farming methods, and empowering them to influence government policies.

**Life Association** [www.lifeassociation.org.uk](http://www.lifeassociation.org.uk) for over 20 years has been building schools and orphanages amongst the Dalit communities in India. Life Association sells Dalit candles and other goods to raise funds and awareness.

**Safai Karmachari Andolan (SKA)** [www.safaikarmachariandolan.org](http://www.safaikarmachariandolan.org) is a Christian Aid partner. It campaigns to eradicate the illegal and inhuman practice of manual scavenging, a job carried out mostly by Dalit women where they clean out human excrement from 'dry' toilets. See also [www.christianaid.org.uk/whatwedo/partnerfocus/india-manual-scavenging.aspx](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/whatwedo/partnerfocus/india-manual-scavenging.aspx)

**Kalayaan** [www.kalayaan.org.uk](http://www.kalayaan.org.uk) Established in 1987 to provide advice, advocacy and support services in the UK for migrant domestic workers, some, but not all, may be Dalits.

**Unchosen** [www.unchosen.org.uk](http://www.unchosen.org.uk) is an anti-trafficking charity promoting human trafficking film campaigns nationwide. Through film, documentaries, interviews and Q&As, Unchosen raises awareness about domestic servitude, forced labour, child and sex trafficking happening here in the UK.

**Oxfam** [www.oxfam.org.uk](http://www.oxfam.org.uk) is a major, long-standing charity working for justice and alleviation of poverty in many countries, including work amongst Dalits. Between 2010 and 2012 they succeeded in increasing the Indian national welfare budget to support manual scavengers in finding alternative, more humane jobs from £600,000 to £13.3 million.

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Many of the individuals and organisations listed above have given help with the production of the pack, and we express our thanks and appreciation to them and to others listed below:

- **Women's World Day of Prayer** [www.wwdp-natcomm.org](http://www.wwdp-natcomm.org) who gave a grant towards this work in 2012, funding the meetings which prepared the material and allowing the pack to be sold at a subsidised price.
- The material on the recipe cards is adapted by the publisher from **Recipes from around the world, edited by Marieke Clake (1983)** with the permission of Oxfam GB, Oxfam House, John Smith Drive, Cowley, Oxford OX4 2JY UK [www.oxfam.org.uk](http://www.oxfam.org.uk) Oxfam GB does not necessarily endorse any text or activities that accompany the materials, nor has it approved the adapted text.

### Members of the MWiB task group:

Jill Baker	Joy Chapman	Linda Crossley
Sue Smith	Anne Speight	Mary Williams
Sandra Wilson		

With great help from Margaret Williams, MWiB administrator

## Partnership update between CNI and MWiB

From the launch of Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB) in July 2011 onwards, the movement hoped to develop a partnership with the Church of North India (CNI), working together on the issue of caste discrimination. These hopes were consolidated through the visit made in February 2013 by Linda Crossley (MWiB President 2013-15) to CNI. This visit was described on pages 1.2, 5.5 and 5.6 in the resource pack published in April 2013. After further consultation, a formal 3-way Memorandum of Understanding was drawn up in February 2014 and was signed by Linda, representing MWiB, along with Steve Pearce, Partnership co-ordinator for Asia and the Pacific with the Methodist Church in Britain and Alwan Masih, General Secretary of CNI. The Memorandum is included in this update at 5.18. This confirmed that MWiB is committed to raising £50,000 in the 3 years from 2013 to 2016 to support CNI's work on empowering Dalit women and girls, and also that prayer and communication links between MWiB and CNI women will be established.

*Linda writes, "Within the first year, £18,500 has already been raised by MWiB and transferred to the World Mission Fund. In eleven of the 31 Methodist districts, MWiB are making this partnership their major fund-raising for one or two of the 3 years, whilst almost every district has made some contribution already. The communication links and relationship-building will be developed during a return visit to India I am due to make in October 2014, which will include addressing the CNI Triennial Synod."*

*Since 2011, MWiB has raised awareness of caste discrimination widely across the Methodist Church in Britain, not only within MWiB. We have addressed Connexional meetings of superintendent ministers, and led workshops at a number of events, including Methodists for World Mission weekend in May 2014 (see 5.19-20). This campaigning work culminated in bringing a successful Notice of Motion to the Methodist Conference in 2014 (see 1.8). Whilst recognising that the issue is vast, we rejoice in the small seeds of hope that have been sown through this ongoing partnership."*

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### Some pointers towards healing and restoration

- Enduring and sharing the pain of Dalit-Tribal communities.
- Empowering Dalit-Tribal Communities through education.
- Ensuring support to restore faith, hope and love.
- Enabling Dalit-Tribal communities to reclaim their identity and dignity.
- Encouraging Dalit-Tribal communities to move from margins to mainstream.
- Equipping Dalit-Tribal communities to take a lead role to witness their faith.
- Eliminating exclusion, alienation and exploitation to let them live.
- Experiencing the richness in the mutual sharing of faith, hope and love.

Extract from Dalit Tribal Interface  
Editors Elizabeth Joy and Hrangthan Chhungi; published 2012

**Further reading:** Several related articles can be found on the Rethinking Mission website [www.rethinkingmission.org.uk](http://www.rethinkingmission.org.uk)

**Memorandum of Understanding**  
 between  
**The Church of North India (CNI)**  
 and  
**Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB)**  
**2013-16**

Following the visit made in February 2013 by Linda Crossley, as incoming President of Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB), this Memorandum of Understanding is hereby agreed by MWiB and the Church of North India (CNI).

**Its purposes include enabling MWiB to**

- experience and understand more of CNI's creative and liberating work with Dalits, especially women and girls and get to know some CNI dioceses and their work with women, beginning with the Diocese of Marathwada, with a view to developing prayerful and life-enhancing relationships.
- visit, learn about and support the new PDS (Parent/Diocese/Synod) model of CNI for education support through hostels that give Dalit, tribal and extremely poor children access to education
- develop closer links - of prayer and communication - with women in CNI, not least with the Stewardship Ambassadors Ministry, the Women's Fellowships, the Aurangabad hostel and the newly appointed Desk for Women and Children in CNI at Nagpur.
- develop partnerships, in time, between MWiB in British districts and the Women's Fellowships in some CNI dioceses.

**And enabling CNI to**

- develop the PDS hostels, especially those at Aurangabad and Jalna from their start-up in June 2013 for 3 years, thereby also assisting the Diocese with some of its responsibility for costs, whilst it continues to work to improve its financial position overall.
- support the Marathwada Diocesan Board of Social Service with funding for more women empowerment workers, believing that this work will yield more immediate results on a shorter time-scale than the hostels, which are clearly a long-term investment in young people and their future. Empowering adult women brings benefits to their whole family.
- Receive a commitment of funds from the MWiB membership of £50,000 during the years 2013-16 to be managed and monitored by the Partnership Co-ordinator for Asia and the Pacific in the Methodist Church in Britain's World Church Relationships team and the General Secretary of the Church of North India.

**Signed by:**

Alwan Masih	General Secretary, Church of North India
Steve Pearce	Partnership Co-ordinator for Asia and the Pacific, Methodist Church in Britain
Linda Crossley	President, Methodist Women in Britain

