

## **PRESS RELEASE CasteWatchUK**

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### **CasteWatchUK abhors Narendra Modi's unveiling of statue of great Dalit icon Dr Ambedkar as cheap political posturing**

**Dalits (former untouchables) are the most marginalised groups in India who face daily atrocities at the hands of upper-caste Hindus. Number of atrocities have increased since the BJP came into power.** According to statistics compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), crimes against Dalits rose to 47,064 in 2014 from 39,408 in 2013. In 2012 there were 33,655 crimes against Dalits, about the same as in 2011 of arson, murder and rape. The rate of such crimes against Dalits surpass the national average in many states.

**CasteWatchUK condemns the cynical exploitation of this reality by Narendra Modi who today is unveiling statue of the great Dalit Icon Dr B.R.Ambedkar. This is seen as a ploy to garner support of Dalits numbering over 260 million people.**

The BJP is the political arm of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) an openly Hindu supremacist organisation. The RSS also operates in the UK through its overseas wing the Hindu Swayamsevak Samaj (HSS) which is currently being investigated by the Charity Commission for hate speech against Christians and Muslims. The HSS however continues to operate along with other Hindutva organisations in the UK, who continue to oppose UK Equality legislation which aims to outlaw caste-based discrimination in Britain. This law is essential because the **virus of caste has travelled to the UK and many Dalits face caste discrimination as highlighted by the UK Government's own research. The UK based campaign for Equality led to the enactment of Equality Act 2010 , section 9(5) mandating the Minister of crown to prohibit caste-based discrimination. However, the UK Hindutva forces along with upper-caste Sikh leaders continue to campaign against the law's implementation.**

**CasteWatchUK inspired by the teachings of the great Dalit icon Dr B.R.Ambedkar who championed Rights of the Dalits find it abhorrent that his memory is being used as a political tool by the Indian Prime Minister to try and confuse Dalits who are asserting their human rights in India and are also asserting the demand for equality in the UK.**

At the Tory Party Conference this year, David Cameron declared that the Conservative Party wants to end discrimination and bring real equality in UK today ! Why then, we ask, is his government still dragging its feet and not implementing the provisions of section 9(5) of the Equality Act to prohibit Caste discrimination in UK.

If David Cameron wants to bring an end to discrimination he should stop pandering to the upper-caste Hindu lobby, which is led by the HSS (the overseas wing of the paramilitary and fascist RSS).

CasteWatchUK demands that David Cameron live up to his commitment to Equality and implement provision on section 9(5) of the Equality Act and stop pandering to the Hindu Fascist lobby.

**We are unhappy with David Cameron's invitation to Narendra Modi and his support for the Indian Prime Minister's outrageous act of hypocrisy in unveiling the statue of Dalit icon and great Indian leader Dr B.R.Ambedkar.**

CasteWatchUK represents over 200,000 Dalit people who have made Britain their home.