

Dear \_\_\_\_\_ (MP)

House of Commons

London,

SW1A 0AA

**Re: Concerns over the consultation process for Caste Discrimination legislation**

I understand the Government has voted to bring forward legislation that will have the effect of including caste within the protected characteristics of the Equality Act 2010.

As a constituent of yours I am deeply concerned at this as I believe this may have an extremely negative impact on communities living within the UK - not only Hindu but others also. I think "caste" is really difficult to define. There are thousands of castes, sub-castes, clans, tribes and other sub-groups in India, protected by several pieces of legislation, including Articles 16, 16, 23, 24, 44 of the Indian Constitution, and the Prevention of Atrocities Act 1989, the Backward Classes Act 1993 and others. Yet, all of this legislation has led to an entrenchment of caste-based discrimination and has not alleviated it.

The research the government has relied upon to evidence caste discrimination in this country was biased and unrepresentative. The NIESR research only evidenced 23 cases, all of which were unverified in that the victim's account was used with further investigation. Forming legislation based on so few untested cases is not wise. Further research urgently needs to be carried out which is independent, robust and large scale.

Caste-based discrimination may exist in the UK - and where it does it is heart-breaking - but I, and many other Hindus, think that many politicians and the pro-legislation campaign has branded this as a "Hindu problem". This is unfair and unacceptable for the Hindu community and based on a lack of evidence. Please work together with the Hindu community to make sure our concerns have been answered and we do not continue to feel like politicians are acting against our interests. This is best done through engaging us in proper research, grassroots consultation and a proper time period for consultation of between 1 and 2 years. **I would be also grateful if you could sign the Early Day Motion 117 and show your support to the Hindu Community in order that we get a full, fair and robust consultation.**

Thank you for reading this mail and I look forward to your response,

Constituent Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_