



Hindu Council UK

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Registered Charity No: 1067682 Company Limited by Guarantee No: 3364710

Visit the Official Hindu Council UK Website: www.hinducounciluk.org

RE: Caste Discrimination becomes Law

Dear Trustees, President, Secretary and Executive Committee Members,

On the 8th May 2013, Her Majesty the Queen gave Royal Assent to a Bill which introduces Caste into British Law. Hindu Council UK along with other Hindu Organisations have been lobbying to stop the legislation, but we have not able to prevent it from being voted in.

Hindu Council UK is one of the founding members of the Alliance of Hindu Organisations (AHO). The AHO was formed to represent a "single" Hindu voice with Parliament on this issue and challenge the threat posed by the unplanned, ill-conceived and undefined amendment to the Equality Act 2010. The AHO represents the vast majority of the 816,633 Hindus in the UK (2011 census figures) and it tried to challenge the Legislation helping to reduce a majority in Parliament from 103 to an unprecedented 13. But still, the Bill was passed by many MPs and Lords voting against the Government's position and voting to PASS this law, without speaking to the Hindu Community.

However, the Government has agreed to a consultation period, during which we would be able to contribute and try and make the Hindu case. Many allegations have been made at the Hindu Community in the UK, stating that we promote Caste Discrimination, and these allegations are a clear indication of insufficient research, of adequate quality, having been conducted.

Hindu Council UK is appealing to each and every Hindu to demand that the Government allows the Hindu Community's voice to be heard. This is a challenge which cannot be faced by a small group but one which requires the whole Hindu community of Great Britain to come together like never before. The very growth and future happiness of the Hindu community in the UK is threatened by the imposition of this Caste Law and unless we meet this challenge TOGETHER - Hindus will see everything we have striven for disappear before our very eyes and our children will be dragged backwards into a Caste driven society. Hindu Council UK urges you to get members of your Temple to sign the attached Petition Letter which then needs to be sent to the local Member of Parliament (MP) in your Town.

You can either ask individuals to send in the Petition Form directly to their MP – or otherwise if your Temple could collect all the Petition Forms and send them altogether to Hindu Council UK at the address at the top of this letter, then we will ensure that all the Petition Letters are forwarded to the appropriate MP's. A COPY OF THE PETITION LETTER IS ATTACHED – PLEASE PHOTOCOPY AND GIVE TO YOUR MEMBERS/CONGREGATION.

For further information about the Caste Legislation please visit the Hindu Council UK website: www.hinducounciluk.org or the Alliance of Hindu Organisation website: www.mycasteishindu.org

With all good wishes,

Umesh C Sharma – Chairman

**ON BEHALF OF TRUSTEES, DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
HINDU COUNCIL UK**