



हिंदू स्वयंसेवक संघ युके

Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh UK

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PRESS RELEASE

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Common sense prevails, as the Government listens to the British Community to unite rather than divide.

Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh UK (HSS)(UK)) has welcomed the decision published in the Caste Consultation Response to repeal the duty to enact “caste” as an aspect of race for the purposes of the Equality Act 2010. With over 16,000 responses, of which the vast majority were in support to repeal the duty, it is clear that the British Hindu Community has spoken in favour of common sense that brings society together rather than a position to divide.

In brief, pursuant to the consultation, the Government has decided not to enact “caste” as a protected characteristic into legislation and have opted for caselaw via the tribunals and courts to deal with discrimination on this basis. They were mindful of the fact that cases of caste discrimination are few and far between and also declared that the use of the word “caste” in legislation would have an unintended and an unwarranted impact upon the community at large. The definition of the word in itself posed problems for the Government, however, present legislation was adequate. The Government have therefore decided to repeal Section 9 (5)(a) of the Equality Act 2010 and take “caste” off the statute books. The Government has said that it will identify the most suitable legislation to repeal now which we hope means that any use of the word “caste” will no longer be used in any manner to divide the Hindu and wider diaspora community.

This decision however highlights that the grass roots work of HSS (UK) is now even more important as the backdrop of this issue arose out of ignorance and contentious interpretations both from within and outside the Hindu fold of the beliefs and traditions of the Hindu faith.

HSS(UK) strongly opposes and abhors any form of discrimination in the community and mainstream life of this country, and seeks to promote the concept of unity in diversity. Through its work across the UK with all ages and people, HSS (UK) aims to create a better understanding of the dharmic values integral to the Hindu thoughts, ideals and way of life.

Through its national network representing Hindus in 40 different towns of diverse ages, linguistic and geographical backgrounds, the key message was clear – any forms of law that introduces a division or classification of the British community on the basis of caste would undoubtedly entrench and even bring about “caste” consciousness amongst current and future generations, surfacing a divisive issue that at present is not considered to be one amongst their peers.

Our Family



Balagokulam



Charity Partner





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The report published acknowledged that legislating for caste is an exceptionally controversial issue, deeply divisive within certain groups, and as the last few years have shown, it is as divisive as legislating for 'class' to become a protective characteristic.

The position to repeal is an important outcome for both the Hindu community and wider British society. HSS(UK) commends the efforts of all those that have supported the position to repeal the duty to legislate 'caste' and who quantitatively put forward submissions. The community has come together, and the outcome is one that will now favour future generations.

End.

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