

Poverty and Human Rights

Plenary Roundtable Debate organised in collaboration with the Rafto Foundation for Human Rights Bergen Summer Research School Sunday, 10 August 2008,

Aim: This roundtable aims to reflect on what instances of poverty may reasonably be considered a human rights violation. It will attempt to clarify the challenges, advantages, and disadvantages of working against poverty as a human rights problem with special emphasis on the Dalits (untouchables), one of the most marginalized groups in the Indian subcontinent.

Program

18.00 Introduction

- Arne Liljedahl Lynngård, Chairman Rafto Prize Committee

18.10 - 19.30

- Thomas Pogge, Professor of Philosophy and International Affairs, Yale University (USA), and Research Director at the Center for the Study of the Mind and Nature, University of Oslo.
- Surinder Singh Jodhka, Professor of Sociology. Centre for the Study of Social Systems, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi, and Director at the Indian Institute of Dalit Studies.
- Sam Zia-Zarifi, Lawyer and Director of Amnesty International Asia division, formerly Academic Freedom Director of Human Rights Watch and Research Director at Human Rights Watch Asia Division.
- Paul Divakar, is Co-Founder and National Convenor of the National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR), Master of Social Work.

19.30 - 19.45 Short Break

19.45 –21.00 Panel discussion

Chair: Siri Gloppen, Associate Professor Department of Comparative Politics, University of Bergen and Senior Researcher, Christian Michelsen Institute (CMI)