Handout 5

**Race and Ethnicity Equality Fact Sheet[[1]](#footnote-1)**

International human rights laws make it clear that all people have the same human rights, regardless of their ethnic or racial identity. However, ethnic inequality – the disadvantages felt by racial minority groups – persists across the globe.

#### Less developed countries

Across the world there is a link between ethnicity and occupation, with certain jobs not only viewed as low status, but also lower paid and with fewer rewards. The Indian caste system is an example. While the caste system has clearly changed over the past few decades – with the practice of extreme segregation associated with untouchability banned in 1950 – Dalits are still much more likely to clean toilets than other groups and very unlikely to cook for an upper caste Hindu.

In India, while poverty in general is declining, poverty rates are generally higher for certain groups, namely Adivasis (or ‘tribal’ people, 45% of whom live in poverty in rural areas and 27% in urban areas), Dalits (former untouchables, 34% of whom live in rural poverty and 22% in urban poverty) and Muslims (27% rural, 23% urban). The poverty rates among upper caste Hindus for 2011/12 were just 16% in rural areas and 8% in urban areas.

#### More developed countries

The economic and political problems caused by ethnic inequality are also apparent in other countries. In most European countries, new migrants often work in insecure or even exploitative conditions, and in low-paid jobs that the native-born population may deem too lowly to perform.

We do know that in the UK there is a 12% employment gap between white British and ethnic minority people. This amounts to around 500,000 “missing” workers in the UK labour market. Figures from the Department for Work and Pensions show a jobless rate of 45% in 2013 for young black, Pakistani and Bangladeshi workers, with a figure of 19% for white people. Other European countries are experiencing similar challenges, whether in terms of low wages and discrimination towards new migrants, or the continuing effects of this discrimination on second and now even third-generation European-born ethnic minorities.

1. **Source**: Guardian <http://www.theguardian.com/public-leaders-network/2015/jan/20/ethnic-inequality>widespread-global-economy [↑](#footnote-ref-1)