

Over **13 million people** in Nepal belong to Dalit castes. Although caste-based discrimination has been illegal in Nepal since the 1960s, Dalit communities are still experiencing over 100 different types of discrimination and violence - including the outrage of untouchability. Simply based on their family history, many Dalits are limited to the most degrading occupations, sequestered at the fringes of society, and face severe limitations in education, employment, housing, and healthcare.

"Dalit"

(pronounced either
DA-luht or dah-LEET)

refers to oppressed people under Nepal's traditional caste system. They were historically called "untouchables."

When caste discrimination cases (spanning from rental disputes to murder) are brought before Nepali courts, **justice is most often won when the lawyers themselves come from Dalit castes.** Dalit lawyers provide incisive perspective in their arguments and are highly-motivated to achieve progress for their communities. Most offer affordable rates to their clients.

But today, only 200 lawyers in Nepal are Dalit. Our bright young scholars are hoping to change that - and transform their country by challenging injustice in courtrooms nationwide.

Educating Dalit Lawyers (EDL) is an enriched law school scholarship for graduating Dalit high schoolers aiming to become human rights lawyers.

NYF spent 20 years (2000-2020) helping to win freedom, justice, and empowerment for girls from eastern Nepal's Tharu communities. Now they're thriving, and winning gains for their people all on their own!

And at NYF, we're dreaming even bigger.

Starting in the 2022-2023 school year, we're **providing 15 incoming law school students** with:

- **Full-ride scholarship support** through Nepal's 5-year Bachelor of Legislative Law (LLB) degree;
- Accommodation & food stipends;
- Extracurricular opportunities including fieldwork & participation in human rights programs;
- **One-on-one mentorship with successful human rights lawyers;**
- **Leadership training & networking;**
- Opportunities to observe Nepal's legal system in action;
- **Introductions to legislators and other Nepali leaders;**
- **Internship placement support.**

To learn more about Nepal's caste system and how NYF is supporting Dalit rights, visit

<https://nyf.news/cep>

or, use your smartphone to scan this QR code:



For just \$4,000 a year,

we can provide one talented Dalit student with the chance to establish a career in law - and advocate for Dalit rights across Nepal!

To donate now, visit the link:

<https://nyf.news/donate>

You can also use your smartphone to scan this QR code.



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July 2022 - Testing Prep

20 promising students are selected from applicants from all over Nepal and brought to Kathmandu to attend prep classes for the competitive law school entrance test. All expenses are paid.

Aug. 2022 - Law School Entrance Exams**Sept. 2022 - Selection & Mentorship**

The top 15 students are selected for the full 5-year scholarship. As they receive acceptance notification from law schools, NYF facilitates housing, enrollment, and other logistical matters. Courses begin. Each student is matched with a human rights lawyer mentor.

Winter 2022 - First Semester!

As classes get underway, NYF works with Dignity Initiative to organize special program features like advocacy trainings, leadership activities, workshops, celebrations, and more. These activities dovetail with law school, enhancing it without interrupting it.

Spring 2023 - A New Start

NYF releases the 2nd year's call for applications across the country, committing to select an additional 15 law school students.

Summer 2023 - First Annual Dalit Law School Student Conference

NYF, Dignity Initiative, and our scholarship recipients hold a networking conference for Dalit law school students across Kathmandu, creating an opportunity to make connections, present learnings, share personal stories, and more while practicing skills like public speaking.

2027 - Graduation & the Bar Exam

NYF's first group of 15 lawyers completes their final year of law school. Each graduate is matched with a paying internship opportunity at a local law firm, allowing them to gain experience while preparing for Nepal's Bar Exam. NYF also provides community-based legal awareness workshops, including fieldwork in Dalit communities experiencing significant hardship. NYF funds all expenses associated with preparing for and taking the Bar Exam at the end of this period.

Spring 2028 - First Graduates Now Practicing Law!**Questions about this program?**

Contact the NYF team at info@nepalyouthfoundation.org or 415.331.8585.

Meet Our Partner: Dignity Initiative!

Dignity Initiative, a Dalit-led NGO based in Kathmandu, advocates for Dalit rights through research, activism, policy advocacy, youth empowerment, and critical engagement in public debate. The organization prides itself on providing Dalit rights groups with appropriate data, evidence, and policy insights on key issues related to the Dalits.

Dignity Initiative was established by Dalit academics, researchers, writers and activists. The team is inclusive in terms of gender and caste/region within the Dalit community.

During the Educating Dalit Lawyers program, Dignity Initiative will provide valuable insight into the unique challenges our students are facing - allowing us to respond quickly and effectively, improving the program with each year for the maximum transformative impact.

Nepal Youth Foundation (NYF) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. NYF's Federal Tax ID Number is 68-0224596.