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.

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](https://nyf.news/cep)

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](https://nyf.news/donate)
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.