

## Joint Press Statement of Scheduled Tribes, Nomadic Tribes, Scheduled Castes, Lingayats, Buddhist, Other Backward Communities & Muslims against Uniform Civil Code

New Delhi, Thursday, the 20<sup>th</sup> day of October 2016

The recent initiatives of the NDA Government regarding Uniform Civil Code which is intune with their election manifesto 2014 has raised serious questions about the fundamental rights not only to the hundreds of the religious entities across the country but also specific constitutional guarantees to the Scheduled Tribes and others who do not believe in Hinduism in its Brahmanical face. In a recent judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of a Hindu couple which had nothing to do with the Muslims or other minorities, a serious diversion of a very important nature of Uniform Civil Code was brought in part-II of the Order in case of Parkash & others versus Phoolwati & others and the unique situation of a Suo Motu Writ petition was initiated by the Hon'ble Supreme Court enlarging the scope of "Triple Talaq" to the extent of bringing the Uniform Civil Code in the country. Simultaneously the Law Commission was also activated by the Government which has brought in a questionnaire on the subject. The Questionnaire is not only ill designed but smack of the intentions to bring a Uniform Civil code from the back door. We, the various groups of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Lingayats, Buddhist and other backward communities very strongly condemn the move of the Government & respectfully disagree with the Suo Motu initiative by the Hon'ble Supreme court, interfering in the fundamental rights enshrined to the minorities, religious groups, Scheduled Tribes & Scheduled Castes . We want to bring to the notice of the nation that this initiative is not only a clash between the Directive principles & the fundamental rights but it is a case of fundamental rights versus the fundamental rights. We also want to make it clear that several communities which are presumed to be following the Hindu religion are specifically excluded from various provisions of the Hindu laws. Some of the groups which have been wrongly declared as Hindus do not conform to the values of the Brahmanical Hinduism. **We are also of the opinion that this initiative of the present Government will harm the integrity of the country and will damage the basic fabrics of the unity of the nation to a great extent.** Since we are also a party to the Suo Motu writ petition(Civil) no. 2 of 2015, we will take all possible legal recourse to uphold the guarantees provided to us by the Constitution of India. We will also take up this issue outside the court to the masses in a democratic manner. We feel that as far as the constitution is concerned, basic importance is of the fundamental rights & the

constitutional rights given to the religious minorities and to the specific groups. **Any trickling with them could be of serious consequences for the unity and integrity of the country.**

We hope that a good sense will prevail and the Government will not only withdraw its affidavit which has been filed in the Hon'ble Supreme Court but would rise to the occasion of not disturbing the peace and tranquility of the country.

Waman Meshram – National President – Bharat Mukti Morcha, New Delhi

Korneshwar Swami – Lingayat Monk, Vishwa Lingayat Maha Sabha

Prem Kumar Gedam – National Coordinator, Rashtriya Adivasi Ekta Parishad, New Delhi

Prof. Baba Haste – National Incharge –Buddhist International Centre

Prof. Bhante Samyak Rakshit – Buddhist Monk

Kumar Kale – Other Backward Communities

Anil Kumar Mane – Nomadic Tribe Communities

Tauqeer Raza Khan - Ittehad e Millat Conference