

**EXTRACTS  
FROM  
THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA  
SPECIALLY RELEVANT TO SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT**  
*(except provisions relating exclusively to STs & Minorities)*

<b>I. PROVISIONS RELEVANT TO SOC. JUSTICE &amp; EMP., AS A WHOLE</b>	
<b>Part of the Constitution</b>	<b>Article</b>
<b>Preamble</b>	<p>".....to secure to all its citizens: <b>JUSTICE, social</b>, economic and political;</p> <p style="text-align: center;">* * * * *</p> <p><b>EQUALITY of status and of opportunity;</b> and to promote among them all <b>FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Nation...."</b></p> <p>are the <u>first, third and fourth goals, respectively</u>, mentioned in the Preamble.</p>
<b>III. Fundamental Rights</b>	<p><b>23. Prohibition of traffic in human beings and forced labour –</b></p> <p>(1) Traffic in human beings and begar and other similar forms of forced labour are prohibited and any contravention of this provision shall be an offence punishable in accordance with law.</p> <p>(2) Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from imposing compulsory service for public purposes, and in imposing such service the State shall not make any discrimination on grounds only of religion, race, caste or class or any of them.</p> <hr/> <p><b>24. Prohibition of employment of children in factories, etc. -</b></p> <p>No child below the age of fourteen years shall be employed to work in any factory or mine or engaged in any other hazardous employment.</p>

<b>IV. Directive Principles of State Policy</b>	<p><b>37. Application of the principles contained in this Part –</b></p> <p>The provisions contained in this Part shall not be enforceable by any court, <b>but the principles therein laid down are nevertheless fundamental in the governance of the country</b> and it shall be the duty of the State to apply these principles in making laws.</p>
	<p><b>38. State to secure a social order for the promotion of welfare of the people –</b></p> <p>(1) The State shall strive to promote the welfare of the people by securing and protecting as effectively as it may <b>a social order in which justice, social, economic and political, shall inform all the institutions of the national life.</b></p> <p>(2) <b>The State shall, in particular, strive to minimize the inequalities in income, and endeavour to eliminate inequalities in status, facilities and opportunities, not only amongst individuals but also amongst groups of people residing in different areas or engaged in different vocations.</b></p>
	<p><b>39. Certain principles of policy to be followed by the State –</b></p> <p>The State shall, in particular, direct its policy towards securing –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) that the citizens, men and women equally, have the right to an adequate means of livelihood;</li> <li>(b) that the ownership and control of the material resources of the community are so distributed as best to subserve the common good;</li> <li>(c) that the operation of the economic system does not result in the concentration of wealth and means of production to the common detriment;</li> <li>(d) that there is equal pay for equal work for both men and women;</li> <li>(e) that the health and strength of workers, men and women, and the tender age of children are not abused and that citizens are not forced by economic necessity to enter avocations unsuited to their age or strength;</li> <li>(f) that children are given opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity and that childhood and youth are protected against exploitation and against moral and material abandonment.</li> </ul>

**39A. Equal justice and free legal aid –**

The State shall secure that the operation of the legal system promotes justice, on a basis of equal opportunity, and shall, in particular, provide free legal aid, by suitable legislation or schemes or in any other way, to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities.

**46. Promotion of educational and economic interests of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections –**

The State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and, in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation.

[TOP](#)