

# Associated Students of Cerritos College

## IN THE SENATE OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS

February 16, 2022

Deputy Director Amy Parker introduced the following Resolution,  
Senator Madison Criollo seconded the following Resolution

### A RESOLUTION

---

#### **Condemning Caste-Based Discrimination and Supporting Caste-Based Protections JR-2122-03**

**Whereas:** The caste system in Hinduism is comprised of several levels, with an “out-of-caste” group named the Dalit; and

**Whereas:** Their position outside of the caste system has historically caused severe discrimination and physical violence, both in Hindu-specific spaces as well as in public services such as education; and

**Whereas:** This discrimination is also somewhat present towards the lowest in-caste group named the Shudra; and

**Whereas:** A 2016 survey by Equality Labs indicates that a quarter of Dalits have experienced physical violence based on their caste, as well as a third experiencing educational discrimination<sup>1</sup>; and

**Whereas:** The California State University system has made the breakthrough step of adding protections against discrimination on the basis of caste to their anti-discrimination policy, prohibiting “Discrimination based on any Protected Status”, which later includes “Race or Ethnicity (including color, caste, or ancestry)”<sup>2</sup>; and

**Whereas:** Such a move was preceded by Brandeis University<sup>3</sup>, University of California, Davis<sup>4</sup>, and other recent universities and community colleges, with Harvard University adding protections for its graduate student workers<sup>5</sup>; and

**Whereas:** Despite objections<sup>6</sup>, governmental policy prohibiting discrimination on the basis of caste is legal, as the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States does not inherently permit discrimination when religion is used as the justifying factor<sup>7</sup>, and *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission* was a limited-scope, single-instance decision which did not nullify *Newman*<sup>8</sup>;

**Resolved:** The Associated Students of Cerritos College Senate condemns all caste-based violence, especially that against Dalit and Shudra;

**Resolved:** The Associated Students of Cerritos College supports protections against discrimination and violence on the basis of caste, and endorses their application across all relevant legal levels.

[1] *Caste in the United States: A Survey of Caste Among South Asian Americans*. Equality Labs. (2018). Archived 5 May 2018 by the Wayback Machine at <https://web.archive.org/web/20180505004117/https://www.equalitylabs.org/caste-survey-2018/>.

[2] *Interim CSU Policy Prohibiting Discrimination, Harassment, Sexual Misconduct, Sexual Exploitation, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, Stalking, and Retaliation*. The California State University. (2022). Retrieved 31 January 2022 from <https://calstate.policystat.com/policy/10926024/latest/>

# Associated Students of Cerritos College

[3] *Adding Caste to Our Non-Discrimination and Harassment Policy*. Office of the President, Brandeis University. (2019). Retrieved 1 February 2022 from <https://www.brandeis.edu/president/letters/2019-12-17-adding-caste-to-our-nondiscrimination-harassment-policy.html>

[4] *Discrimination*. Harassment and Discrimination Assistance and Prevention Program, University of California, Davis. (n.d.). Retrieved 1 February 2022 from <https://hdapp.ucdavis.edu/discrimination>

[5] *Equality Labs Congratulates Harvard Graduate Student Union in Historic Win for Workers Rights and Caste Equity*. Equality Labs. (2021). Retrieved 1 February 2022 from <https://www.equalitylabs.org/press-releases/2021/12/1/equality-labs-congratulates-harvard-graduate-student-union-in-historic-win-for-workers-rights-and-caste-equity>

[6] *California's case against Cisco Systems is unconstitutional*. Hindu American Foundation. (n.d.). Retrieved 31 January 2022 from <https://www.hinduamerican.org/california-cisco-caste-case-unconstitutional>

[7] *Newman v. Piggie Park Enterprises, Inc.* 390 U.S. 400. (1968).

[8] *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*. Docket #16-11, Reporter 584 U.S. (2018).

---

## Amendment History

---

### Final Senate Action

---

**Date of final vote:** 2/16/2022

**Senators Voting Aye:** Alamgir, Bui, Criollo, Cuevas, Francos, Gomez, Jimenez, Lin, Lola, Ortega, Rocha

**Senators Voting Nay:** 0

**Senators Abstaining:** 0

**Vote Count:** 11 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstain

---

### Committee Referral

---

**Referred to Committee?** No

**Committee Performing Review (if applicable):**

**Committee Chairperson:**

**Committee Action:** (Report complete disposition, amendments, committee vote, or date of final action.)

---

### Presidential Action

---

**Presidential Action** (Approved or Veto): \_\_\_\_\_

**Presidential Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_



**Date:** 2/16/2022

**If vetoed, state reason:**