

January 31, 2017

Parliamentary questions by the member Voordewind (ChristianUnion) to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation on the exclusion of civil society organisations by the Indian government [no. 2017Z01359]

Question 1

Do you also find it very worrisome that the Indian government tries to exclude and/or oppose civil society organizations, including Amnesty International, Greenpeace, Navsarjan Trust and Compassion, and freezes all financial assets for months now?⁽¹⁾

Question 2

Do you acknowledge that the cancellation of the projects of Compassion in India has strong implications for 145,000 children living in extreme poverty? Are you willing to consult with Compassion Netherlands, since the organization has been forced to stop the support in mid-March?

Question 3

Do you acknowledge that the discontinuation of the funding to Navsarjan Trust has serious implications for the fight against caste discrimination and access to education for Dalit children?⁽²⁾

Question 4

Do you acknowledge that India is acting in violation of international human rights and that freedom of expression and freedom of association are under great pressure?

Question 5

Are you willing to start discussions with and to put pressure on the Indian government to reverse these measures, particularly the very restrictive *Foreign Regulation and Contribution Act*, as also advised by Marina Kiai, the Special UN Rapporteur on Freedom of Association and Assembly?⁽³⁾

Question 6

Are you in addition willing to urge the European Commission to undertake action towards the Indian government and to urge the Indian government on the termination of the freezing of the funds of, inter alia, Compassion and Navsarjan Trust?

Question 7

Are you willing to answer these questions urgently given the dire situation for the organizations?

(1) <https://www.nd.nl/nieuws/buitenland/compassion-lijkt-india-te-moeten-verlaten.2480711.lynkx> and <http://compassionblog.nl/2017/01/24/verdriet-om-145-000-kinderen-in-india/>

(2) <http://idsn.org/india-blocks-funding-idsn-member-navsarjan-trust/>

(3) <http://idsn.org/un-special-rapporteur-criticises-indias-fcra/>