

## **Upper Caste & Business Interests**

The position you have been assigned in the Constituent Assembly is to draft an amendment that addresses the concerns of the upper caste in Nepal, many of whom are large landowners and business elite.

Middle and upper class Nepalis typically come from the Brahminic upper castes including the Bahun Chettri. They make up over 30% of the population and in many districts are in the majority. They hold 68% of the jobs in public, professional and cultural institutions. The upper caste is resistant to any dramatic changes and will agitate to minimize any reforms that threaten their position. They are against dramatic land reforms in the countryside or any increase in taxation that would threaten their business interests in the cities.

The upper caste community has traditionally had the ability to force dalits (untouchables) to live in segregated communities, deny them access to food, water, land and can force them to work in jobs they consider ritually impure (street cleaning, waste removal, slaughter houses etc)

They have also argued that ethnic autonomy is not desirable from a financial perspective as the small districts would not be economically viable.