



India – contextual human rights issues

The purpose of this summary is to provide a high-level overview of documented human rights issues in a particular country and how they could intersect with TV production. It aims to prompt further consideration and planning by production teams where appropriate. Not all issues will be relevant for all TV productions and, conversely, there may be aspects not yet covered that are relevant.

Human rights issue	Description of context	How this could intersect with TV production	Suggested mitigations	Resources
Discrimination and hate crimes – religion – Dalit, Adivasi	The government has adopted laws and policies that discriminate against religious minorities, especially Muslims. (HRW). Hate crimes including violence against Dalits and Adivasis are committed with impunity. (Amnesty) The scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are particularly vulnerable to trafficking and bonded labor. (US TIP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crew may witness or experience discrimination on religious grounds or towards Dalit, Adivasi • Local crew may exhibit discrimination on religious grounds or towards Dalit, Adivasi • Local crew may be Dalit, Adivasi 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusive security practices • Establish culture where everyone can raise concerns • Wellbeing and support resources 	Aide Memoire for Inclusive Personal Safety on Location Inclusive security risk management Toolkit: Getting the culture right
Discrimination and hate crimes - LGBTQI	High rates of crimes involving violence or threats of violence targeting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex persons (US State Dept)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crew and talent may experience or witness homophobia • Local LGBTQI crew may be hiding their identities or living in fear • Local crew may exhibit homophobia 		FATV Charity: The Whole Picture Toolkit
High rates of sexual and gender-based violence	There is a lack of investigation of and accountability for gender-based violence (GBV), including domestic violence, sexual violence, workplace violence, forced marriage, and other forms of such violence (US State Dept)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Female crew may be at risk of violence or sexual harassment • Local female crew may have experienced or be experiencing GBV outside the production 		
Rights of Indigenous Peoples	Forest Conservation Rules permit private businesses to cut down forest without obtaining free, prior and informed consent from forest-dwellers. (Amnesty)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location services may suggest locations that infringe on the rights of indigenous peoples 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due diligence of location services supplier • Human rights due diligence of locations 	Toolkit: Vetting suppliers appropriately
Media freedom and freedom of expression	Unjustified arrests or prosecutions of journalists, and enforcement of or threat to enforce criminal libel laws to limit expression (US State Dept)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting or documentaries may be targeted by authorities • Local crew may experience surveillance or harassment after the international team has left 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation, insurance, safety training, risk assessment and good security practices for all crew, including local crew 	Rory Peck Trust CPJ: Journalists in distress network ACOS Alliance: Safety Principles

Behaviour of public security	Documented cases of arbitrary arrest and detention, excessive use of force, unlawful and arbitrary killings and including extrajudicial killings by the government or its agents (US State Dept)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is normal for public security to visit shoots and check paperwork Public security is sometimes relied on for a production (e.g. a sporting event) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be rigorous in ensuring permits and paperwork are in order Include public security in risk assessments where relevant, e.g. sport 	UN Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials DCAF/ICRC Toolkit: Addressing Security and Human Rights Challenges in Complex Environments
Environmental risks	India has experienced extreme weather from floods to droughts, high temperatures and serious deterioration in air quality. The government lacks adequate disaster preparedness policies. (Amnesty)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risks to life and health of crew from environmental issues or natural disasters Lack of sufficient access to water Few regulations governing use of materials such as paint or construction materials meaning a shoot may contribute to environmental degradation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Factor in environmental risks Make provision to ensure water available to the shoot Set high environmental standards on shoots 	albert production toolkit BFI: Screen new deal route map to sustainable film production
Forced and compulsory labour, child labour	Human traffickers exploit domestic and foreign victims in India, using debt-based coercion to compel men, women, and children to work in agriculture, brick kilns, rice mills, embroidery and textile factories, and stone quarries. Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, and Uttar Pradesh were major source states for vulnerable workers potentially exposed to labour trafficking as unskilled day labourers. Children are exploited in roadside restaurants, agriculture, construction, garment industry, begging and food-processing factories (US TIP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily wage workers for set construction, props, housekeeping and other roles may be in a situation of forced labour Supply chains for construction materials and clothing may involved forced or child labour Crew may encounter child labour in e.g. roadside restaurants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vet suppliers responsible for any day labourers Provide information to workers about basic rights and recognising debt bondage Conduct checks on a sample of workers Set up channels for people to report potential issues 	Toolkit: Supporting ancillary workers directly Toolkit: Getting the culture right Toolkit: Vetting suppliers appropriately Toolkit: Responding to and remedying issues identified
Sex trafficking	Women and children from India, Nepal and Bangladesh are exploited in sex trafficking in small hotels, red light districts, dance bars, spas and massage parlours. India is a destination for child sex tourism. (US TiP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crew may encounter sex trafficked victims People may be lured into exploitation by promise of becoming actors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief crew in advance on potential issues and steps to take 	Toolkit: Responding to and remedying issues identified
Corruption and official misconduct	There is serious government corruption and widespread impunity. There is lax enforcement, a shortage of trained police officers, and an overburdened court system. (US State Dept)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care should be taken in reporting trafficking or discrimination issues to the authorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advance engagement with local NGOs or trade unions Response plan in place 	Modern Slavery Map of NGOs

Have further insights? Please share suggested issues, intersections with TV, mitigations and resources with amelia.knott@tvhumanrights.org.