**Invitation Letter**

 ***Dr. Ambedkar Symposium and Equality Day Celebrations***

 *April 22-23, 2023, Vancouver, Canada*

Date

Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

Jai Bhim, Namo Buddha,

Thank you for accepting our invitation to participate in *Dr. Ambedkar Symposium and Equality Day.*

The steering committee reviewed your contributions towards enhancing equality, fraternity and liberty and overcoming caste-based attitudes and systemic social, political and economic barriers and felt you will be a scholar to be invited.

The primary objective of the symposium is to hold at the international level is to spread

 Baba Saheb Dr. Ambedkar's ideas and mission

-Provide a forum for global Ambedkarite leaders and thinkers to share their reflections and propose actions for addressing exclusion in all spheres of life being faced by the youngsters of India.

-Evaluate effectiveness of the International Dalit Conference hosted in Vancouver in May 2003. It created the “*Vancouver Declaration”* to encourage access to employment and entrepreneurship in the private sector. How successful has the implementation of these declarations been? Are there any opportunities to align actions and strategies with the 2030 Sustainable Goals of the United Nation?

- Reassess relevance of Buddhism for peaceful and democratic transformations. Baba Saheb Dr. Ambedkar's Buddhism is often described as an active or engaged Buddhism. How is Dr. Ambedkar's Buddhism being applied? What have been the road blocks? And, how can these roadblocks be removed peacefully and democratically?

-Celebrate Dr. Ambedkar Jayanti as the *“Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Day of Equality”* by acknowledging his contributions and achievements in emancipation of the downtrodden.

This symposium is are co-hosted by AICS (Ambedkarite International Coordination Society) and Chetna Association of Canada in partnership with the Dr. Ambedkar Memorial Lecture Planning Committee represented by Institute for the Humanities at Simon Fraser University, Center for India and South Asian Research at the University of British Columbia, University for the Fraser Valley, Dr. Hari Sharma Foundation, and Chetna Association of Canada.

Dates / Venue

April 22, 2023- Simon Fraser University, Surrey Campus.

April 23, 2023 - Fraserview Banquet Hall, Vancouver.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Jai Birdi at jbirdi@chetna.ca or Anand Balley at aics.info@gmail.com

Sincerely,

Dr. Samir Gandesha

Director, Institute for the Humanities at Simon Fraser University

Param Kainth

AICS

Jai Birdi

General Secretary

Chetna Association of Canada