

National Post

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Re: Taste Of Her Own Caste Medicine, letter to the editor, Jan. 19.

Letter-writer Hari Singh suggests that racist abuse heaped upon Indian actor Shilpa Shetty is somehow justified because of alleged Hindu caste injustice in the distant past. But there is no evidence that Ms. Shetty herself ever discriminated against anyone. Since when do individuals deserve to be brutalized for the alleged misdeeds of their ancestors?

Furthermore, past caste conflict among Hindus was provoked by invaders, including Islamic occupiers and British imperialists, attempting to divide and conquer South Asia. The caste discrimination that your letter-writer refers to was very much a product of the ancestors of the racists now abusing Ms. Shetty in England.

India has effectively eliminated caste discrimination over the last few decades, while this reality shows that British society has maintained class and race prejudice.

Ron Banerjee, director, Hindu Conference of Canada, Toronto.