

# **Rights of the Indigenous Peoples and Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh**

**HUMAN RIGHTS FORUM BANGLADESH (HRFB)**

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# ISSUE 1: THE RIGHTS OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN BANGLADESH

- ❑ The Constitution of Bangladesh does not explicitly recognize '*indigenous peoples*'
- ❑ The population of Indigenous population is under-enumerated.
- ❑ Human rights violations against the Indigenous peoples where in most cases perpetrators remain unaccountable
- ❑ Human rights violations against the indigenous peoples include arbitrary arrest, criminalization of the people from Indigenous communities, sexual harassment including rape of indigenous women and girls and other violence
- ❑ The Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Accord lacks full implementation

# RECOMMENDATIONS

- Ensure express constitutional recognition of the identity of Indigenous Peoples with dignity while promoting and protecting their distinct languages, cultures, and traditions.
- Implement ILO Convention No. 107, ratified by Bangladesh in 1972.
- Ratify ILO Convention No. 169 on indigenous and tribal peoples.
- Address discrimination and violence against Indigenous Peoples by including special provisions in the draft Anti-Discrimination Act.
- End all forms of violence against indigenous people, including women and girls.
- Establish quotas for Indigenous People in first and second class government jobs.
- Ensure full implementation of the CHT Accord of 1997.
- Establish a separate Land Commission for Plain lands Indigenous Peoples.
- Establish and activate a Minority Rights and Protection Commission.

## **ISSUE 2: THE RIGHTS OF THE ROHINGYA REFUGEES**

- ❑ Bangladesh hosts more than 1.2 million Rohingya refugees
- ❑ Ongoing efforts of Bangladesh government and a section of the Rohingya community for dignified and sustainable repatriation
- ❑ Relocation of Rohingya to new place within Bangladesh
- ❑ Increased crime rate resulting in deaths and numerous arrests by the Law Enforcement Agencies
- ❑ Refugee Convention yet to be ratified, however, Bangladeshi laws extending protection for the non-citizens including Rohingyas
- ❑ Efforts of Bangladesh to carry forward the campaign for justice and accountability for the Rohingya community
- ❑ The substantial funding shortfall leading to cut Rohingya food rations, increasing desperation and the spread of illicit activities

# RECOMMENDATIONS

- Initiate diplomatic and policy-level consultations to expedite sustainable and voluntary repatriation of Rohingyas to Myanmar.
- Continue extending support and assistance for ensuring justice and accountability for the Rohingya before the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court.
- Provide access to formal education, accreditation, and development opportunities to enable Rohingya to access decent work and lift themselves out of cycles of poverty and exploitation.
- Ensure effective legal protection within Bangladesh for Rohingya, in particular women, children and vulnerable groups, through the informal and formal justice systems, and strengthening public-private partnerships for legal assistance and paralegal programmes.
- Provide required resources to ensure humanitarian response, and livelihood support for the Rohingya community in Bangladesh.