

Factsheet – Bangladesh

4th Cycle Universal Periodic Review, UPR 44 – 2023

RIGHTS OF THE ROHINGYA COMMUNITY IN BANGLADESH

Key Information

- Bangladesh continues to generously host more than 1.2 million Rohingya refugees from Myanmar, making it one of the largest protracted refugee situations in the world.
- In 2023, the UN Joint Response Plan for the Rohingya humanitarian crisis received only a quarter of the required contributions.
- The process of sustainable and voluntary repatriation of Rohingyas needs to be fostered.

Challenges, Issues and Impacts

Bangladesh continues to generously host nearly more than 1.2 million Rohingya refugees from Myanmar, making it one of the largest protracted refugee situations in the world. The Government of Bangladesh and a section of the Rohingya community are working for dignified and voluntary repatriation. Several thousand Rohingyas were reportedly involuntarily relocated to Bhashan Char Island, though the Government of Bangladesh and UNHCR agreed on protective guidelines. Some Government-led initiatives have created limited work and educational opportunities; humanitarian aid, and internet connections disrupted by pandemic measures, have resumed. There were reports of deaths and numerous arrests resulting from the Law Enforcement Agencies' crime control and public order activities. Bangladesh has not ratified the Refugee Convention. Bangladeshi laws extending protection for non-citizens, marriage and divorce registration facilities and access to institutions for survivors of gender-based violence are applicable within the camps. Bangladesh continues to support the international Criminal Court and International Court of Justice processes regarding justice and accountability for the Rohingya. In 2023, the UN Joint Response Plan for the Rohingya humanitarian crisis received only a quarter of the required contributions, and the funding shortfall led to cuts in Rohingya food rations, increasing desperation and the spread of illicit activities like drug smuggling, extortion, and human trafficking in the camps. Resolution Commission, withdrawing military camps, ensuring rehabilitation of internally displaced persons and repatriated tribal refugees' from the neighboring country, and holding Hill District Council elections, among others.

Recommendations

1. Initiate diplomatic and policy-level consultations to expedite sustainable and voluntary repatriation of Rohingyas to Myanmar.
2. Continue extending support and assistance for ensuring justice and accountability for the Rohingya before the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. Provide required resources to ensure humanitarian response, and livelihood support for the Rohingya community in Bangladesh.

Human Rights Forum, Bangladesh (HRF, B), a coalition of 20 human rights and development. The members are: 1. Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), 2. Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF), 3. Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD), 4. Bandhu Social Welfare Society (BSWS), 5. Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, 6. Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Rights Movement (BDERM), 7. Bangladesh Institute of Labor Studies (BILS), 8. Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), 9. Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP), 10. Fair, 11. Kapaeeng Foundation, 12. Karmojibi Nari (KN), 13. Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), 14. Naripokkho, 15. National Alliance of Disabled Peoples Organizations (NADPO), 16. Nagorik Uddyog 17. Nijera Kori, 18. Steps Towards Development (Steps), 19. Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), and 20. Women Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF).

Nagorik Uddyog (NU) is a non-governmental Bangladeshi human rights and development organization that promotes access to justice, rights and entitlements for disadvantaged and socially excluded communities. NU has special consultative status at UN ECOSOC. To know more about NU, please visit: <https://nuhr.org/>