



Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Women's Federation  
বাংলাদেশ দলিত ও বঞ্চিত নারী ফেডারেশন

# Short Profile of Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Women's Federation

Though the constitution Bangladesh stated the equal rights for all, around 5.5 million peoples of Dalit and Excluded community are experiencing the dehumanizing practices linked to untouchability, chronic poverty, socio-cultural deprivation and discrimination based on work and descent in the country. The more concerned issue is the dreadful situation of Dalit women among Dalit communities; they face the heaviest burden of both gender and caste-based discrimination and violence from both men in wider society, and from men within their own communities. These Dalit women cannot enter to the attention of the government & non-government development organisations and “the mainstream society”. And no effective measures have been taken for their development from the government and non-government side still. In these circumstances Dalit Women Forum and Nagorik Uddyog jointly organized a view exchange meeting on 27 November, 2010 at Dhaka. As an outcome of this meeting Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Women Federation (BDEWF) has been formed by 10 Dalit women lead community based organizations (CBO) which are built in different areas across the country.

BDEWF has been fighting against the work and descent based discrimination, working in building leadership within Dalit women community, providing organizational capacity & professional skill training and organizing awareness activities along with taking existence principles in national and international level to eliminating the discrimination practices to Dalits and working for effective implementation of those.

## **Goal:**

Building an equal society by eliminating discriminations based on work, descent and gender practicing to Dalit and Excluded women community on the basis of equal rights and dignity.

## **Objectives:**

- To build awareness among Dalit and Excluded women community on socio-economic, cultural, education and political rights;
- To build public awareness against discrimination based on work, descent and gender;
- To make the policy makers sensitive and responsible both government and non-government level to the rights of Dalit and Excluded women and take initiative;
- To organise leadership building, professional skill development and income generating programmes for Dalit and Excluded women;
- To ensure access of Dalit and Excluded women to citizen's rights and state services through building awareness & confidence;

- To enhance communication among Dalit and Excluded community and strengthen the capacity of the Dalit women run organizations.
- To establish network harmony and communication with organizations in national, regional and international level working to establish Dalit rights;

### Working Strategies

#### ▪ Building Organizational Capacity

For the development of Dalit and Excluded women run organizations BDEWF arranges workshop, training, meeting, seminar and exposure visits to national and international organizations.

#### ▪ Building Awareness and Professional Skill

Building awareness on education, health, dwelling, sanitation and rights based issue among Dalit and Excluded women community; providing dress-making, charchupi, block-boutique and others professional trainings to Dalit and Excluded women aim to take those professions and make capable to income.

#### ▪ Advocacy, Lobbying and Networking

To motivate the policy makers both government and non-government level in taking policy and effective implementation of those for the development of Dalit and Excluded women community. Take initiative to enhance communication with national and international level organizations linked to Dalit rights movement.

### Members of Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Women Federation:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dalit Women Forum, Dhaka</li> <li>• Auntoj Nari Parishad, Shatkhira</li> <li>• Dalit Nari Parishad, Khulna</li> <li>• Avijan, Narail</li> <li>• Mothers Club Forum, Mouloveebazar</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Institute of Social Advancement (ISA), Mouloveebazar</li> <li>• Ashru Mochon, Jessore</li> <li>• Harijan Nari Kollyan Samitee, Nilphamari</li> <li>• Shreemongal Upazila Indigenous Development Samitee</li> <li>• Young Monipuri Association, Mouloveebazar</li> </ul>
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### Major Achievements (National Level)

- Dalit and Excluded women lead organizations have been able to form together a national organization namely, Dalit and Excluded Women Federation (BDEWF); through which 10 Dalit women run organizations can implement their rights base activity and income generating programmes.
- BDEWF have enabled to build communication with the local leaders of Dalit and Excluded women in different districts across Bangladesh.
- BDEWF have provided income generating skill trainings to Dalit and Excluded women through her partner organizations. Dalit women have been able to get income by these trainings.
- Great opportunities have been created in building leadership within Dalit women.
- National Dalit women rights conference held on 28 July 2012. Many of the 400 Dalit and Excluded women attended in the conference from different districts across Bangladesh.

## Major Achievements (International Level)

- Member of Dalit Women Forum Sonu Rani Das participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> Session of United Nation Minority Forum in Geneva, Switzerland on 29-30 November, 2012. She attended in this session by a direct invitation of Minority Expert. Sonu spoke on the life-struggle of Dalit women in Bangladesh in that session and lifted the way up for their development.
- Dalit Women Forum Chairperson Moni Rani Das participated in the Dalit Women Conference in Nepal on 10 May, 2011. Leaders and activists of Dalit rights movement in international level were participated in this conference.
- Dalit women leader Moni Rani Das got Sir Sigmund Sternberg, One World Action Award 2010 for her outstanding contribution to Dalit rights movement in Bangladesh on 14 December, 2010 from London.
- Five members including Chairperson of Dalit Women Forum went to Ahamedabad, India in an exposure visit on 12-25 May, 2012. They visited Dalit community and observed Dalit rights movement in there.



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### BDEWF National Working Committee

Name	Designation
Moni Rani Das	Chairperson
Putul Mosumder	Vice-Chairperson
Banani Biswas	General Secretary
Usha Rani Das	Join-Secretary
Babi Rani Das	Treasurer
Sonu Rani Das	Organizing Secretary
Prova Rani Baraik	Secretary, Campaign & Publicity
Sathi Sarker	Secretary, Education
Shefali Rani Das	Secretary, Employment
Jhorna Rani Das	Secretary, Culture
Tuthia Rani Das	Member
Diba Das	Member
Ankapelli Mari	Member
Shanti Rani Das	Member
Dara Devi Das	Member
Tamanna Sing Baraik	Member
Madhobi Das	Member