

Annex-3

Constitution of Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Community Rights Movement (BDERM)

(Approved unanimously in the National Workshop, April 20-21, 2008)

1. Introduction:

The Constitution of Bangladesh guarantees the equal rights of all Bangladeshi citizens regardless of race, gender, religion or class. Despite this guarantee, segregation and discrimination remain the defining features of Dalit and other excluded peoples' lives. Deprivation of education and social integration, as well as lack of access to and participation in political and economic spaces enjoyed by the Bangladeshi majority, has diminished the capacity of Dalit and other excluded peoples to mobilize and pursue their rights as citizens. In the face of these realities, a number of organizations, local and national, have begun to work towards pressuring Bangladesh's government to eliminate all forms of discrimination against Dalit and excluded people. Bringing these organizations together and consolidating their efforts under a recognized National Platform is critical.

2. Name:

Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Community Rights Movement (BDERM)

3. Aim:

The realization of a Bangladeshi society free of all forms of discrimination against Dalit and excluded people.

4. Steps to be taken urgently:

To protect and preserve the rights of Dalit and other excluded people

- Increase the association and affiliation between and among the different Dalit and excluded communities across the country.
- Raise awareness of the Dalit condition and change the prevailing mindset held by the Bangladeshi majority.
- Pressure regional and national policy makers to initiate policy in favour of the development of Dalit and other excluded communities.
- Build unity with the different existing social and human rights movements of across the country
- Create work opportunities collectively for Dalit and excluded peoples.

5. Objectives:

- a) To build awareness among Dalit and excluded communities on social, economic, cultural, educational and political rights.

- b) To enhance leadership capacities and establish equality among Dalit and Excluded community women in all levels of society.
- c) To combat discrimination towards Dalit and excluded peoples.
- d) To sensitize policy makers to Dalit issues pressure them to take action in favour of Dalit and excluded peoples' rights.
- e) To raise awareness of Dalit and excluded people issues in the development sector.
- f) To increase and maintain harmony and communication with broader Dalit and excluded Community's movement at regional and international levels.

6. Membership:

This movement will consist of three types of members:

- Full Organizational Members
- Associate Organizational Members
- Individual Members

a) Full Members: Organizations run and managed by the Dalit and excluded community will be given full membership status.

b) Associate Members: Organizations involved in promoting and protecting the human rights of Dalit and excluded peoples can be members of this alliance as associate members. They will participate in the annual national council and hold the right to express opinion in decision-making and sharing of their experience. They will have no right to vote in the selection of a Central Working Committee.

c) Individual members: People of Dalit and excluded communities recognized as making a significant contribution to the pursuance of Dalit and excluded peoples' interests will be taken as individual members. The individual members have right to be candidate for any position of the alliance as well right of vote and participate in decision making.

7. General Council:

All full and associate members of the Movement, as well as individual members, can participate in the meeting of the General Council. That is, all types of Alliance members will hold membership in the General Council. This General Council will meet annually. The meeting will be called by the President and General Secretary of the Movement. The General Council will evaluate the yearly activities of the Movement and elect a Central Working Committee. Full organizational members and individual members will elect the Central Working Committee.

8. Central Working Committee

The Central Working Committee will be formed with 11 members elected by and from the full organizational and individual members of the Movement. The structure of the Central Working Committee is as follows:

S.I.	Name of the position	Number of members
1.	President	: 1
2.	Vice president	: 1
3.	Treasurer	: 1
4.	General Secretary	: 1
5.	Organizing Secretary	: 1
6.	Secretary for women affairs	: 1
7.	Publicity Secretary	: 1
8.	Members	: 4
Total		11

The term of the Central Working Committee will last one year. Members will distribute responsibilities of above mentioned positions as per activities and full consent of the members.

9. National Advisory Committee:

A National Advisory Committee will be formed with not more than 7 members. The Central Working Committee will meet with the National Advisory Committee at least twice a year (or more if necessary). The members of National Advisory Committee will be invited to participate in the meeting of the General Council. The National Advisory Committee will be formed with eminent intellectuals, human rights activists and members of civil society.

In order to enhance organizational capacity, provide technical and advisory support not more than two members will be selected for participating in the meeting of Central Working Committee from the advisory committee.

10. Members subscription:

The members of the network must subscribe annually. Full membership and associate membership requires a subscription fee of Tk. 500. Individual members will pay Tk. 200 annually. Members of National Advisory Committee will be requested to help mobilize financial support.

11. New Membership

New membership, at either organizational or individual level, will be permitted after discussion and approval in the National Alliance's Annual General Meeting.

12. Termination of membership:

Any members' activities found contravening the principles of the Alliance risk postponement of their membership at the discretion of the National Working Committee while investigation and deliberation is undertaken. Proposals for termination of membership will be placed before the General Council by the National Working Committee in the Annual General Meeting. The General Council holds absolute right to terminate any membership.

13. Staff and Secretariat:

Nagorik Uddyog will formally serve as the Secretariat of the movement for two years and provide necessary assistance and logistical support for smooth delivery of activities. Nagorik Uddyog will also appoint a full time coordinator for carrying out the activities of the Movement.

14. List of members

S.L	Full members	S.L.	Associate Members
1.	BDHR	A.	National Organization
2.	Dalit Youth Forum	1.	Nagorik Uddyog
3.	Paritran, Satkhira	2.	Nijera Kari
4.	Antaj Parishad, Satkhira	3.	Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD)
5.	Mrit Shilpa Unnyonk Khulna	4.	Ain o Shalish Kendra (ASK)
6.	TCDS, Dhaka	5.	Research Initiative Bangladesh (RIB)
7.	Mukti, Jessore	B.	Local Organization
8.	Nomo-Sudra Adhikar Andolan	1.	Seba, Nilphamari
9.	Tea Labourers Organization, Moulavi Bazar	2.	CDMS, Narshindi
10.	Harijan Samaj Sheba Shangha, Narayanganj	3.	USS, Nilphamari
11.	Panchayet Committee, Rainkhola, Dhaka	4.	Fair, Kushtia
12.	Unnyon Jubo Shangha, Gopibagh, dhaka	5.	BUKS, Rajshahi
13.	Telegu Shamaj Kallyan Shangha, Wari, Dhaka	6.	SUS, Barisal
14.	Harijan Oikka parishad, Dhaka	7.	SCOPE, Barisal
15.	Shamaj kallayn Jubo Shangha, Dhaka	8.	BCDP, Chapaiganj
16.	Antaj Chatra Unnyon Parishad, Satkhira	9.	Image, Chittagong

17.	Advocate Babul Rabi Dash (individual member)	10.	STP, Chitagong
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