

# Report on Consultation Meeting

*in the title of "Anti-Discrimination Bill-2022; 'Expectations of Dalit Community' at Divisional and in National level*

**IMPLEMENTED BY**

**PARITTRAN**

**(A Human Rights and Development Organization)**

**Lakshmanpur, Subhasini, Tala, Satkhira- Bangladesh**



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## BACKGROUND OF THIS PROGRAM

Bangladesh is one of the most crowded country of the south Asia. There are existing different religion, caste, castes and language people in Bangladesh. In this diverse Bangladesh Approximately 10 million of Dalit people living in ages after ages. Bangladesh achieved the independence for 51 years, yet almost 10 million of dalit people continue live in a supreme ignominy in various professions, castes and so-called Brahminism. Still now, the dalit people are known as small castes, Muchi (cobblers), Mathor (scavengers) and untouchables in this modern era. The dalit and untouchable people have been living in different parts of the Bangladesh and they are oppressed and untouchable due to various reasons. The Constitution is the Great shield of Bangladesh, and see the article 27, 28 and 29 have clear reference about of equal rights and dignity of all citizens, still more than 10 million people of this country do not have access to various public places including hotels, saloons, restaurants, temples and mosques.

Since the beginning of the 20th century, community organizations have been carrying out various movements to demand equality and equal rights. With the vow to establish the human rights and the dignity of Dalit community people; Parittran, community-based organization as well as a National Platform the Bangladesh Dalit Parishad has been conducting the various meetings, seminars, human bonds, press conferences, signature campaigning public hearings, community letter campaigns, round table meetings, talk shows, giving interviews, creating public awareness, policy dialogue, celebrating the days, street plays, long marches, handing out memorandums and in various media for awaking the people.

The anti-discrimination is one of them and it will play a great role for the establishment of the dalit's human rights, at the same way, it will work as shield of Dalit people of Bangladesh. In the beginning of the year of 2013, the Law Commission, National Human Rights Commission, representatives of national and international community organizations, representatives of community organizations, media workers, intellectuals, writers, columnists, lawyers, judges, professors, cultural organizers, legislators with the concerted efforts of a Dalit-friendly draft law to establish the status of Dalits and it sent to the Ministry of Law. But last April 5, 2022, the bill was raised in the National Parliament in this regard and it will play significant role in undermining the human rights and dignity of Dalits in the complexities of the long line of denial of justice and untouchability rather than creating a dignified position of Dalits. Therefore, this Act can play an important role in fulfilling the aspirations of the Dalits, protecting their human rights and establishing their dignity by introducing it in the next parliament, so for that purpose the regional and national consultation meetings are organized.

### OBJECTIVES OF THIS PROGRAM:

1. To make more effectives and strong the Anti-Discrimination bill of 2022 through the stakeholder's feedback and actionable recommendation.
2. Through the Legislators, the Anti-Discrimination Bill of 2022 will be passed in the National Parliament on the basis of the feedback and recommendation of stakeholders and the rules will be enacted soon after making the necessary amendments.

### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS WITH DATA QUALITY ANALYSIS:

SL	Category of Participants	Dhaka				Rajshahi				Rangpur				Total				Grant Total
		M	F	T-Gen	PWD	M	F	T-Gen	PWD	M	F	T-Gen	PWD	M	F	T-Gen	PWD	
1	Parliament Members	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	2	0	0	4
2	Civil Society	9	4	0	0	4	1	0	0	15	2	0	0	28	7	0	0	35
3	Journalist	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	6	1	0	0	7
4	Bangladesh Dalit Parishad (BDP) Leaders	12	0	0	0	7	5	0	0	7	1	0	1	26	6	0	1	33
5	NGO representatives	8	3	0	0	2	4	0	0	8	0	0	0	18	7	0	0	25
6	Lawyer	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	4
<b>Total</b>		<b>33</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>108</b>

## Series Description of Activities:

Date: 21 December 2022

Venue: Dr. Shamsul Alam Khan hall room of the Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) building in Dhaka.



**Mr. Rashed Khan Menan the Member of Parliament** demanded the passage of the '**Anti-discrimination Bill-2022**' with necessary amendments in the next Parliament session.....

**O**n 21 December 2022 at 11am, in the title of "**Anti-Discrimination Bill-2022; 'Expectations of Dalit Community'**" a **National Consultation Meeting** was held at the Shaheed Dr. Shamsul Alam Khan meeting hall room of the Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) building in Dhaka the capital city of Bangladesh.

The program has organized by non-governmental human rights development organization Parittran and implemented by Bangladesh Dalit Parishad (BDP) Central Committee, honorable member of National Parliament Dhaka-8 Mr. Rashed Khan Menon was present there as the Chief Guest of this this propitious program.



Even he said, before passing the Anti-discrimination bill into law, a consultation meeting must be held with the

Parliamentary Standing Committee. He called upon all some Dalit leaders from the Dalit community people to

convey the issues of the amendment in writing. He also said, if this Anti-disclination bill passed by the National Parliament then the long demand & aspiration of the dalit people will not be fulfilled. He finally assured to Reserved Constituency, was present as a special guest. Chan Mohan Robidas the President of Bangladesh Dalit

introduce this Bill in the Great Parliament with necessary amendments. Advocate Shamima Akhter Khanam, Member of Parliament f

Parishad (BDP) Dhaka Divisional Committee presided over the meeting

Manoranjan Ghoshal, the artist of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra spoke as an honored guest. Prothom Alo Joint Editor Sohrab Hasan, Kajal Debnath, the Member of the President Council of Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Oikko Parishad, Advocate



Rabindra Ghosh, President of Bangladesh Minority Association, Syeda Husne Kadery Mala, Capacity Building Specialist of Plan International Bangladesh, Ishrat Jahan Biju is the project manager of HEKS EPER and the welcome speech has given by Milan Das the Executive Director of Parittran.

Mr. Swapon Kumar Bapary the Presidium member of Central Committee of Minority Rights Forum participated in the open discussion. Adv. Probitra Mastry the Joint General Secretary of Minority Rights Forum, Jibon Robidas the President of Bangladesh Dalit Parishad (BDP) of Barisal Divisional Committee. Md Rabiul Islam is the Program Coordinator of Parittran has presented the ideas through a PowerPoint presentation in this meeting. Mr.

Ujjal Kumar Das the organizing Secretary of Bangladesh Dalit Parishad (BDP) presided whole over the event. Besides, Mr. Probir Sircar the Communication Manager of Parittran and Md. Alauddin Sarder the Project Officer of Y-moves project also have supported to implement the program smoothly and successfully.

**Date: 12 October 2022**

**Venue: Hotel Dallas International in Rajshahi**

**L**iton Rabidas the President of Bangladesh Dalit Parishad (BDP) of Rajshahi Divisional Committee presided over the meeting held on the implementation of Bangladesh Dalit Parishad (BDP) in cooperation with the development organization **HEKS**



**EPER** and organized by the human rights development organization Parittran. Honorable Fazle Hossain Badsha the Member of National Parliament of Rajshahi-2 was present there as the chief guest in the event. He said Dalit representatives



would be added to the all-party parliamentary caucus soon. Having identified them the demand should be added to the great constitution. He assured to take the initiative to raise in the Great Parliament for the passage of Anti-Discrimination bill - 2022 with necessary amendments. Shymal Ghosh the Metropolitan Committee General Secretary of Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Oikkya Parishad, Councilor Matiur Rahman in Ward No. 7 of Rajshahi City Corporation, Mst. Ayesha Khatun the Councilor reserved seats 3, 5, 6 of Rajshahi City Corporation. A power point presentation was presented by Md. Rabiul Islam the Program Coordinator of Parittran. The present speakers reviewed the Anti-Discrimination Act and make a recommendation. Ripon Rabidas the Organizing Secretary of Rajshahi Divisional Committee of

Bangladesh Dalit Parishad (BDP) participated in the open discussion in the consultation meeting and gave a speech for the necessary amendments, acting General Secretary National Tribal Council Ganesh Mali Jhorna Rabidas. Speakers said that among the amendments, instead of the Civil Ordinance, the accused should be punished under the existing law, complaining to the District, Divisional and National Committees for trial will create a long process, without amendments if the act is passed the hopes of Dalit will not be fulfilled and the speakers also recommended changing the title of the law. Besides, the speakers also said that the law was largely reflected as a universal law but indeed there is no mention of discriminated



populations. Each speaker highlighted various problems in their speech of the Dalit Harijan community locally. The entire program was moderated by Bangladesh Dalit Parishad (BDP) Central Organizing Secretary Uzzal Kumar Das.

**Date: 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022**

**Venue: Rangpur City Corporation Hall Room in Rangpur**

In collaboration with the development organization **HEKS EPER** and in organizing the Human Rights Development Organization Parittran and in the implementation of the Bangladesh Dalit Parishad (BDP). The meeting was presided over by Advocate Monil Das the President of the Rangpur Divisional Committee of Bangladesh Dalit Parishad. Rangpur City Corporation Mayor Md.

Mostafizar Rahman was present as the chief guest in the event. There were present as special guest Advocate Hossein Ara Lutfa Dalit the former Member of Parliament, Joyashree Rani Roy the Chief Revenue Officer of Rangpur City

Corporation, Advocate Monir Chowdhury the prominent human rights activist, Fatema Yasmeen Ira

acting president of Bangladesh Hindu Buddha Christian Oikya Parishad, Swapon Ray the



the social activist and Prominent organizer, Alamgir Hossain Sujana a member of BASAD, Dipendranath Ray the member of Democrat Party, Partho Bose the General Secretary of NNMC, Sushanto Bhowmik the

secretary of Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Oikya Parishad and Papon Kumar Sarker the Advocacy Officer of NNMC Foundation.



The law presented through the power point presentation in this meeting Md. Rabiul Islam the Program Coordinator of Parittran. The present speakers reviewed the passages of Anti-Discrimination bill and discussed it. After revision of the Anti-Discrimination Bill of 2022 they gave feedback, suggestion and recommendation. In this consultation meeting

participated Rajesh Bansh for the youth leader of Harijon, Chobi Biswas the Dalit women leader, Nitta Rishi and Bhola Das and they also participated in the open discussion of this consultation meeting and gave their valuable speeches for the necessary amendments. The speakers said that instead of the civil ordinance in the amendment, bringing the

accused under the punishment under the existing law, complaining to the district, divisional and national committee for trial will create a long process, if the law is passed without the amendment, the hopes of Dalits will not be fulfilled, the speakers also recommend changing the title of the law. Speakers also said the law largely reflected universal law and did not actually refer to discriminated against groups. Besides, the speakers mentioned the various problems of Dalit Harijan community in their speech. Uzzal Kumar Das the Central Organizing Secretary of Bangladesh Dalit Parishad (BDP) presided over the entire program very nicely.

## **FEEDBACK AND RECOMMENDATION ON 'ANTI-DISCRIMINATION BILL-2022'-**

1. It is very much important to have a historical context of the law in the formulation of the law. The name of this law should be *"Anti-Discrimination Law-2022"* the Bengali word **'BIRODHI'** its English meaning is **'CONFLICT'** or **'OPPOSITION'** is a reactive word, so it is necessary to change the word **'BIRODHI'** and request to add the word in Bengla **'BILOPE'** or in English word **'Anti-discrimination'**.
2. In the describe definitions from (Ka – Cha) in Bengali (ক - চ) the Dalits or marginalize/backward community people (untouchability, Dalit and victimized communities who are actually discriminated are not properly mentioned in the definition) the community subject needs to be specified and clearly mentioned.
3. **15 issues have been mentioned as discriminatory practices in that draft law but some other issues are important and need to mention.**
  - a) Due to Dalit, ethnic or tribal differences creating the impediment in establishing marital relations.
  - b) As an heir, they have been depriving from their property and other rights, if the marriage is arranged by different castes/tribes or against the consent of the guardian or of one's own choice.
  - c) Use of discriminatory sayings, proverbs, syllabi, questionnaires, social media, novels, cartoons and disrespectful words in various media and publications; linking with discriminatory functions like Muchi (cobbler), buro, kabra/kaora, chamar, scavenger etc.
4. **Monitoring Committee-**
  - a) Monitoring part in Kha, 15 divisional secretaries or designated secretaries will be members of this committee which is supreme bureaucratic committee, it is mentioned that every three months there will be committee meeting but it will be very much challenging.
  - b) Adding the National Human Rights Commission and the implementation organization of Dalit Communities with the monitoring committee as a member.
  - c) According to the (Ja) of mentoring part: Adding at least 5 Dalit representatives instead of one Government nominated Dalit representative considering numerical/communal diversity and in this meeting the women representatives must ensure.
5. **In Section 7:** Formation of National and Local Anti-Discrimination Committees- according to section 7 of the bill, ensuring the inclusion of representatives of Dalit community in all committees from national to local level, formation of standing committee of local government and ensure representation of Dalits.
6. **In the section 8:** Using the non-governmental organizations who are representing Dalit communities as a supporting force to create public awareness about discriminatory practices.
7. **Section-9. Complain and redressal etc.-**
  - **include mobile courts in law**
  - **prescribing punishment in customary law, otherwise, it will create a prolongments**
  - If any crime is organized or happened, so a person or community aggrieved or aggrieved by discrimination or any person or any organization/institution, it or they can file a written complaint with the police station which will be considered as declaration.
  - A case can be filed by filing a petition directly in court and in that case the court can take cognizance of the offense under Section 200 of the Code of Criminal Procedure by examining the accused or send to any Judicial Magistrate for judicial enquiry and the Judicial Magistrate will investigate within 30 (thirty) days.
  - Complainant has to wait 105 days to file complaint and get redressal (District-30 days, Divisional-30 days and National Committee-45)
  - If the National Committee fails, the complainant can file a case in the appropriate court and the court will execute the judgment within 105 working days.
  - **In sub-sections of complaint and redress etc. described in Section-9:** It is important to add the community organization, the civil society organization and the platforms who are working for this purpose as the complaints and redress.

- **In section-9:** The Dalit representatives or the representatives of dalit community development organization will be involved in preparing the report and in the investigation Committee.

#### **8. Section-10: Judgment by the court: -**

- Only monetary penalties are mentioned by the court as for remedies, imprisonment also needs to be mentioned here.
- Protection of victims and witnesses and to provide compensation to the affected person.
- Establishment of special courts and creation of Dalit commissions for elimination of discrimination

#### **9. Sectio-12: Mentions only the company.**

- But need to include the public, private and autonomous institutions.
- Need to add the public representatives in the monitoring committee

#### **Necessary Action Point:**

1. All the feedback and recommendation will be sent to all the Parliament Members by email, currier/by post or it can be physical.
2. At the same time, above mentioned feedbacks and recommendations should be submitted to the Parliamentary Standing Committee of law and justice.
3. Providing a list for inclusion of Dalit representatives in all-party parliamentary committees.

#### **Major challenges we faced to implementing this program:**

1. It was very difficult for every participant to attend in such kind of advocacy meetings in at a time.
2. In a very short period of time find out the gap in the law and let the guest know about the law was quite difficult.
3. At the same day being the different political program, some invited participants could not attend this program.
4. A lot of momentum had to be gained while implementing the programs with a very limited budget.

#### **Actions and ways to overcome the challenge:**

- 1) In the beginning of this program we communicated with the participants in several times.
- 2) All are requested to remain united in matters concerning the interests of Dalits above all ideologies.
- 3) The copies of the draft law were mailed to the dignitaries and was notified by letter.
- 4) The budget was breakdown so correctly and that is exactly how the budget was operated, but Parittran has also supported in this program in financially.
- 5) The guest has been informed about the restrictions of the program.

#### **Learnings from this Consultant Meeting:**

- a) If we implement the program with different representatives of the district, divisional and all categories the wide range of idea and skills will be gained.
- b) If we can talk on the basis of evidence definitely get a benefit.

#### **Materials that used in consultation meeting:**

1. Multimedia and Projector
2. Power point presentation
3. Folder
4. Pad
5. Pen
6. Banner
7. Handout
8. Attendance and Conveyance Sheet
9. Mask and Hexisol
10. Clip board

## Pass the Anti- Discrimination Act with necessary amendments: Menon

own reporter Ushala

published: 21 December 2022, 18:36



Member of Parliament Rashed Khan Menon addressed the meeting titled 'Anti-Discrimination Bill- 2022: Expectations of Dalit Community' | Photo: Collected

Rashed Khan Menon, President of Workers Party and Member of Parliament, demanded the passage of the anti- discrimination law with necessary amendments in the next session of the National Parliament.

Menon made this demand at the national consultation meeting titled 'Anti-Discrimination Bill- 2022: Expectations of Dalit Community'. Shahid Dr. Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) building in the capital. The meeting was held in Shamsul Alam Khan meeting room. Non- governmental human rights development organization Paritran and Bangladesh Dalit Parishad (BDP) Central Committee organized the meeting.

Menon urged the leaders of the Dalit community to express the amendments in writing through discussion with the parliamentary standing committee before the anti- discrimination bill is passed into law. He also said that if the Bill is passed in the Parliament in its present form, then the long- standing aspirations of the Dalit community will not be fulfilled.

Shamima Akhter Khanam, Member of Parliament for reserved seat, was the special guest of the event. The meeting was presided over by BDP's Dhaka Divisional Committee President Chan Mohan Ravidas.

Manoranjan Ghoshal, artist of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra, Sohrab Hasan, joint editor of Prothom Alo, Kajal Debnath, member of the presidium of Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Oikya Parishad, Rabindra Ghosh, president of Bangladesh Minority Watch, Husne Quaderi, capacity building specialist of Plan International Bangladesh, Hex Iper, spoke as honored guests at the meeting. Project Manager Ishrat Jahan. Milan Das, executive director of Paritran, gave a welcome speech at the consultation meeting.

## PAPER LINK

- a) <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/capital/se7u3t1f7g?fbclid=IwAR0f7C-kZLQort5pWBCX2k5N3ErU9DKBmIhvMLfrnwUZhp8ZarS9Oodf To>
- b) <https://www.facebook.com/100003571570881/posts/pfbid02xZK8DnCG8cCMZo75eDcrpQzBAu1TijqVvHURrUinmkxQtr2rflX1Hzzw6uidEvEcl/>
- c) <https://www.facebook.com/100083255166555/posts/152716557513516/?mibextid=Nif5oz>
- d) <https://bangladesherbarta.com/বেসরকারি-উন্নয়ন-সংস্থা/>
- e) <https://muktijoddha71sangbad.com/বেসরকারি-উন্নয়ন-সংস্থা/>
- f) <https://upakuliabarta.com/2022/12/21/1806/>
- g) <https://dalitvoice24.com/%e0%a6%86%e0%a6%97%e0%a6%be%e0%a6%ae%e0%a7%80-%e0%a6%85%e0%a6%a7%e0%a6%bf%e0%a6%ac%e0%a7%87%e0%a6%b6%e0%a6%a8%e0%a7%87%e0%a6%87-%e0%a6%aa%e0%a7%8d%e0%a6%b0%e0%a7%9f%e0%a7%8b%e0%a6%9c%e0%a6%a8%e0%a7%80/>
- h) <https://bdmetronews24.com/archives/85142>