

18th session of the UN Forum on Minority Issues

Item 2: Recognizing the full contribution of minorities to the economic, social, cultural, political and institutional fabric of society

Friday 28 November 2025

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DALIT

Thank you Chair,

Inclusion is not charity, “it’s about justice and respect. It’s about seeing people who have always been part of the story, yet too often left out of the picture”.

In Bangladesh, Dalit communities live this reality every day. They clean our cities, craft leather goods, and keep society running. Yet they remain among the most excluded groups. Their homes are segregated, their children face stigma, and many struggle to access basic services and fair jobs.

Dalit women face double discrimination, both as Dalits and as women. They are often subjected to gender-based violence and sexual harassment, with limited access to justice. Many work in low-paid, insecure jobs where they earn less than others for the same labour.

However, we also see strength and leadership. Dalit-led organisations are raising their voices, promoting education and demanding justice. Their resilience shows us what inclusion really means - not only being counted but being heard.

We recommend that the Government of Bangladesh:

- Enact the Non-Discrimination Act.
- Make public services accessible and stigma-free for every Dalit family.
- Create opportunities for Dalit youth and women through skills development, decent jobs and leadership roles.
- Ensure political representation so Dalit voices are heard in decision-making spaces.

These efforts must be *with* Dalit communities, not *for* them. When they lead, the change lasts.

Thank you!