

Coordination Meeting with National Human Rights Commission

3 April 2017

Under USAID's Human Rights in Development project, Bandhu has arranged a coordination meeting with National Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh (NHRCB) on 3 April 2017 at the conference room of NHRCB.



Bandhu has been working for sexual minority population for last two decades. One of the key important components Bandhu focuses on is human rights along with HIV/AIDS and health care. Organizational goal #4 of NHRCB best matches the organizational goal of Bandhu. Bandhu has introduced a dedicated Help-Line number by which Bandhu find remarkable number of complaints around the country. Bandhu deals the cases utilizing its capacity and when needs special attention in any particular issues Bandhu seeks supports from NHRCB. The coordination meeting has been arranged to share the activities, achievements of Ain-Alap Unit and collect and disseminate ideas regarding protecting human rights of sexual minority population in Bangladesh. This meeting was definitely an important one as a number of crucial recommendations and future directions came out.

Meeting at a glance

- **Registration**
- **Introduction of participants**
- **Welcome Remarks**
Mr. Md. Nazrul Islam, Full-time Member, NHRCB
- **Briefing on the event and objectives sharing**
Shale Ahmed, Executive Director, Bandhu
- **'Experiences and Expectation' confronting the human rights violation of sexual minority population**
Mr. Mohammad Zahid Hossain, Legal Consultant, Bandhu
- **Open Discussion and Question answering session**
Robaet Ferdous, Associate Professor, Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, University of Dhaka
- **Remarks of USAID Representative**
Kevin Gash, Office Director, Democracy and Governance office, USAID/ Bangladesh USAID/Washington.
- **Remarks of the Honorable Chairman**
Mr. Kazi Reazul Hoque, Chairman, NHRCB
- **Vote of Thanks**
Shale Ahmed, Executive Director, Bandhu Social Welfare Society



Exclusive Output of the Meeting

- Producing a special complain manual regarding the objectives of NHRCB, works of NHRCB and the supports the Hijra population can get from NHRCB with the support of Bandhu.
- Study report on *Understanding the Identity of Hijra: Policy Implication* is under process of reviewing and will be published, translated and disseminated soon.
- A writ petition should be done from High Court under which the hijra people will be able to change their name in NID and other papers easily.
- To reduce deprivations and discrimination to the Hijra people, the Anti-Discrimination Law should be reviewed and enacted.
- Prior to submit the next UPR report in 2017, the Anti Discrimination Law must be enacted with a view to reflecting the actual situation of the hijra population.
- NHRCB intends to arrange an exclusive meeting with Bandhu on Third Gender issues with a view to reflecting in the next UPR report.
- Soon NHRCB will call for recruitment and NHRCB is requesting to the hijra people to apply and they will be given preference.
- Creating pressure to the government to formulate a legal structure to be caring to own hijra children.
- NHRCB and Bandhu can do advocacy with Education Ministry and Education Board to take special measures for the Hijra students, so that they can continue their education.
- NHRCB can negotiate with the association of garment factory owners for recruiting hijra people.
- Shilpakola Academy may take initiative for organizing artistic cultural show where hijra people will perform. Thus they will be able to showcase their culture.
- In Rajshahi University, Folklore Department studies on Hijra culture. In this regard, Bangla Academy and Rajshahi University may work together.



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Concept
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