

# Advocacy meeting with National Curriculum and Textbook Board:

*'Social Concern about Unprivileged Hijra community in Bangladesh'*

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# BULLETIN



## INTRODUCTION

On 25 May 2017, Bandhu Social Welfare Society (Bandhu) organized a Advocacy meeting with National Curriculum and Textbook Board titled 'Social Concern about Unprivileged Hijra community in Bangladesh' to incorporate Hijra issues in the national curriculum at CIRDAP auditorium, Chameli House, 17 Topkhana Road, Dhaka-1000.

## OBJECTIVES

Key objectives of this meeting were to foster the progress about the inclusion of Hijra issue in National curriculum and also to outline a resolution based on the discussion, comments and suggestions as a practical pathway for future direction.

The program inaugurated by **Umme Farhana Zarif Kanta**, Manager, MSA

Key note presented by **Md Fosiul Ahsan**, Director - Program, Bandhu

## KEY DISCUSSION

- Importance of inclusion of hijra issues in the National Curriculum for greater awareness and also reducing stigma and discrimination from the early age
- Hijra should stands for themselves first to make social changes by creating positive example in the society
- Offensive behavior by the hijra community members should stop immediately
- Provision for special measures including quota should be initiated for mainstreaming
- Formation of National level hijra committee to raise voice at policy level

A total of 51 admirable members contributed with their lively and vigorous participation during the meeting.

- Professor Narayan Chandra Shaha**, Chairman, NCTB
- Dr. Enamul Haque**- Member, NCCC
- Professor Dr. Ratan Siddique**- Member (Text), NCTB
- Professor Dr. ASM Aman Ullah**- University of Dhaka
- Dr. Jobayda Nasreen**- Asst.Professor, DU
- Farzana Rupa**- Senior Journalist
- Anisul Islam Hero**- Chairperson, Bandhu

The elevated guests representing from National Human Rights Commission, Ministry of Education, Universities, Law Enforcement Agencies, Electronic and Print Media, NGOs, NASP, DG Health and Hijra community leaders treasured the convention with their valuable comments and suggestions.

## CELEBRITY MESSAGES

Professor Mohammad Zafar Iqbal, member NCCC, the prominent writer in Bangladesh sent his heartiest speech showing his solidarity with the Hijra Community.

Zahid Hasan, the most popular Actor, also sent his cordial speech highlighting the honor and need for social respect towards Hijra community.

A video documentary film ' Jibon Jekhane Jemon', produced by Tarana Halim, state minister of the Post and Telecommunications Division , displayed during the meeting which depicts the *MANOB POLLI* and also role of Iqbalur Rahim, Honorbale Whip, Member of Parliament.

## EXCLUSIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Include hijra issues in the secondary level curriculum under 'Saririk Sikkha and Sastho' chapter
- Develop a draft content on Hijra issues and send to NCTB for further review
- Contact with concerned Government Ministry for necessary approval and also place this agenda before NCCC
- Include hijra issues in the teacher's training manual and arrange training for teachers
- Organize Social media campaign about hijra community using Facebook for awareness