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Recognition of 'Hijra' as Third Gender in Bangladesh

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Government Recognition and Recent Development

Recognition Hijra as Third Gender





11 November 2013

 A landmark decision made by the government of Bangladesh acknowledging the Hijra's as third gender and this recognition secures their rights, enabling them to identify their gender as 'Hijra' in all government documents, including passports.

 This decision will allow them to identify their gender as 'Hijra' when personal information needs to be furnished. The cabinet secretary noted the community was "being denied their rights in various sectors, including education, health and housing because of being a marginal group."

Government Recognition and Recent Development

Ministry of Social Welfare (MoSW)

-  Allowances for older Hijra's under social safety net program
-  Scholarship on education for Hijra community
-  Livelihood training programs which includes Cooking, Beautification and small grant for starting their own business
-  Hijra pride celebration In November, 2014 in collaboration with BSWS, MOSW and UNAIDS in all divisional and central level to celebrate the day of third gender recognition for Hijra community

Government Recognition and Recent Development

Bank loan Facilities for Hijra Community

10th June 2015

 Hijras and ethnic groups of Bangladesh will receive bank loans for setting up their own business

 The central bank issued a notice to all scheduled banks notifying them to take steps to bring these underprivileged sections within the SME activities.

 Hijra/TG community will be eligible to take the loans directly or via a non-government (NGO) linkage inside the SME loan activities of the apex bank.


 The circular was forwarded to chiefs of all scheduled banks and financial institutions


Government Recognition and Recent Development


Opportunity in Public Employment

The cabinet has decided to recruit Hijra populace in Traffic Police from the next fiscal year.

Inclusion of LGBT issues in Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

 In 2009, First Cycle of UPR GoB mentioned that LGBT issues is 'out of context'

 **NHRC stated on LGBT issues that** "... Dalits and Transgender remain some of the poorest people in Bangladesh and face marginalization and discrimination... Nevertheless, the NHRC believes that it is now time to ensure that all groups, including those who are transgender, intersex or sexual minority, are protected from discrimination. (2nd Cycle-2013)

 **GoB response contained** "... on LGBT, we concur with NRHC that the laws of the land... However, we recognize the need for protecting all vulnerable groups of our population, given their constitutional equal rights and freedoms. Moreover, we do not condone any discrimination or violence against any human being on any pretext" (April 2013)

Draft Anti Discrimination Law


 NHRC Bangladesh and Law Commission jointly drafted a law on Anti Discrimination where the TG/Hijra rights are included with importance.

 A series of workshops and consultation meetings conducted to share this draft law with all the stakeholders

 After compiling all necessary recommendations and feedback this draft law sent to law ministry for final review

 Honorable Law minister committed to place this draft law before the parliament by 2015.




Role of NHRC & BSWS to protect and promote the Rights of TG

 A committee known as Hijra, Dalit and other Excluded minorities formed to protect and promote the rights of all marginalized group of people.

 In the Second Five year strategic plan (2016-2020) the rights of TG has been identified as pressing human rights issue.

 Published booklet in Bangla about Hijra community

Role of NHRC & BSWS to protect and promote the Rights of TG

-  Issued a Demi-Official (DO) letter to the ministry of health on controversial medical testing system to identify Hijra.
-  Initiative to organize training for the lawyers on human rights and Sexual Minority issues.
-  Initiative to conduct a research on understanding Hijra

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Role of NHRC & BSWS to protect and promote the Rights of Hijra/TG



Organized Advocacy Seminar

“Recognition of Hijra as Third Gender and way Forward” -29 April 2015

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Role of NHRC & BSWS to protect and promote the Rights of TG



Consultation meeting on Human Rights of Sexual Minorities

Role of NHRC & BSWS to protect and promote the Rights of Hijra/TG

Awarding Hijra for their Bravery Act

Labonnya Hijra and **Nodi Hijra** have been awarded with Crest in the seminar for their outstanding and bravery attempt in capturing the murderers of blogger **Oyasiqur Rahman Babu**. Each and everyone in the seminar shows respect and acknowledge their contribution and commitment towards the society and feel proud for them.



Role of NHRC & BSWS to protect and promote the Rights of TG

Human Rights Violation Complaints

Since 2014 NHRC received approximately 10 complaints of Hijra/TG and MSM community and address each cases with great care. Some of the cases are as follows-

Tanisha Yasmin Choity Case : A Trans woman wanted to change her gender identity from her all academic certificates and other documents but having problem to fulfill the condition of education board.

Shimul Case : A MSM person bought a property but not having the possession due to his sexual orientation. Influential neighbor grabbed his land and law enforcement agency was not helping him at all.

Role of NHRC & BSWS to protect and promote the Rights of TG



Sohel Rana Case

Sohel Rana a transgender person working as a cleaner in a medical institute. When his identity was disclosed he was fired from his job without being paid due salary and other service benefit.

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Thank You