

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



PRIME MINISTER
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
BANGLADESH

25 Agrahayan 1430

10 December 2023

Message

On the auspicious occasion of the United Nations Human Rights Day, I, on behalf of the Government and People of Bangladesh, join the international community in reiterating our unflinching commitment to upholding human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). This year marks the 75th anniversary of this milestone document, which is equally relevant today as it was 75 years ago. The celebration of this anniversary reminds us of the progress made and the work that still lies ahead in creating a world where equality, freedom, and justice genuinely exist for all. Thus, the theme for this year's Human Rights Day, "Freedom, Equality, and Justice for All," is apt and timely.

Bangladesh was born in 1971 out of a long and heroic struggle to establish our rights and uproot inequality. Our enduring experience of being oppressed and deprived guided us to formulate a constitution embracing the UDHR principles under the leadership of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. In his maiden speech to the United Nations General Assembly in 1974, the Father of the Nation stated, "the souls of our martyrs join us in pledging that the Bangalee nation fully commits itself to the building of a world order, in which the aspiration of all men for peace and justice will be realized."

Bangladesh has duly prioritized the human rights issue in its development trajectory. We have taken a whole-of-society approach and ensured no one is left behind in our development interventions. The Government has been working relentlessly to secure the rule of law, fundamental human rights and freedom, equality, justice, and political, economic, and social rights for all citizens. Internationally, Bangladesh has engaged itself in resolving conflicts, establishing peace, and protecting human rights all around the world. Our peacekeepers have contributed to the process of keeping and sustaining peace and upholding the principles of human rights.

Despite significant achievements in many areas of human rights, it is regrettable that injustice and oppression are continuing in different parts of the world, notably the gross human rights violations and brutal persecution that the Rohingyas in Myanmar have faced for generations. For more than two months, the world has been distressingly observing Israel's brazen violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. The horrific and barbaric attacks by Israel have amplified the necessity and urgency for a just, lasting, and peaceful solution for the people of Palestine. The world also faces new and ongoing challenges, such as pandemics, conflicts, exploding inequalities, racism, hate speech, and climate change. Against this backdrop, the values and rights enshrined in the UDHR provide guidelines for our collective responsibility to uphold and protect human rights.

Bangladesh, as a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council, has significantly contributed to the protection and promotion of human rights worldwide. On this International Human Rights Day, we reaffirm our steadfast commitment to establishing a just world free of domination, discrimination, and deprivation.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu
May Bangladesh Live Forever

Sheikh Hasina