

19th June 2023: Short bio of speakers

Supporting Rohingya Community in Bangladesh: Future Challenges

Mrs. Shireen P Huq (the Chair of the session)

Shireen Pervin Hqu is a women's rights activist and founder member of *Naripokkho* and *Moulik Odhikar Shurokkha* Committee. She is the Honorary Coordinator of Naripokkho's programme "Standing with Rohingya Women", and is member of the Working Groups on "Women's Health & Rights", "The Forgotten Women of '71", and "WarChildren71".

Mr. Gawher Nayeem Wahra, Disaster Forum and Human Rights Activist

Gawher Nayeem Wahra is specialized in Child Protection, Disaster Risk Reduction, and Disaster Management and has years of experience in managing Emergencies and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) at local, regional, national and international levels. He also has extensive knowledge of child-focused and rights-based Development and Emergency Response programs, including the Tsunami (Tamil Nadu) and earthquakes in Kashmir and Nepal. He was an advisor of "Prothom Alo" and has been writing articles on the daily on disaster preparedness, governance, and human rights. Mr. Wahra is the founder convener and is currently acting as the member secretary of the Foundation for Disaster Forum in Bangladesh.

Mr. Asif Munir, Independent Consultant

Asif Munir has 30 years of experience in the development sector in Bangladesh, including 14 years on labour migration and 9 years on displaced Rohingya issues. Career began with human rights NGOs focusing on advocacy and rights based programming. Eventually worked with different UN agencies in various capacities. Also, a social and cultural activist on secular Bangladesh.

Mr. Abdul Latif Khan, Independent Consultant

Abdul Latif Khan, have 30 years of experiences in administration, management, development projects, disaster management and response, policy review, Finance, Administration and Training. Mr. Khan established NIRAPAD, a network of local NGO's working in the field of disaster management. He is also a founder member of Disaster Forum, a network of NGO's working in the field of disaster management in Bangladesh. Member of Durjog Nivaran a network of Disaster Management activates and NGO's working in South Asia. He also has 25 years of working experience with the Ministry of Disaster Management, Disaster Management Bureau and Department of Disaster Management. Mr. Khan was one of the initiator for establishment of Disaster Management Bureau in Bangladesh. He is consultant and author of different books and reports relating to disaster management in Bangladesh.

AKM Jashim Uddin, Director, ADAB.

AKM Jashim Uddin, Director- ADAB (Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh) is the Chief Executive of the largest NGO Network in Bangladesh. He has over 30 years of experience in Bangladesh development sector. From his childhood, he has been engaged with different socio-cultural activities. He started his development career with BRAC in 1987. During his long profession, he worked with National and Local NGOs. Since June 2014, he is working with ADAB as the Director.

Ms. Asma Saleem, Deputy Regional Representative Asia Pacific (ICVA)

Asma Saleem has over 10 years of experience working with the government, NGOs, and private sectors on organisational development, partnerships, and community development. In her role as Deputy Regional Representative for the Asia Pacific, Asma provides support in setting the direction of ICVA's work within the region and strengthening meaningful participation and linkages of regional and local actors in humanitarian coordination, preparedness, climate action, and partnership development. She holds M.Phil. degree in International Relations and a bachelor's in behavioral sciences.

Mr. Gopal Siwakoti, INHURED and APRRN

Gopal Siwakoti is the Founding President of **INHURED International** which enjoys Special Consultative Status, UN-ECOSOC, Dr. Siwakoti has been in a high profile leadership position since the inception of the **Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN)**. He is currently Chair of Durable Solutions Working Group with a special focus on Afghanistan and Myanmar. He has led delegations in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, Bangladesh, India, Australia and New Zealand in an effort to explore durable solutions for refugees. Honored by the Swiss Bureau of Statistics under "Who is Who-2000" on "Refugee Protection in South Asia", he has also been conferred several awards including Person of the Year-2008; Global Nonviolence Advocate-2010; and National Peace Award-2010 and Human Rights Hero-2022. Dr. Siwakoti has been an influential civil society leader for the adoption of the twin Global Compacts for Refugees, and Migration by the UN General Assembly in 2018.

He has authored and edited several books, research reports, films and documentaries on refugees, human rights, peace, disaster displacement, climate change, safer migration, counter-trafficking, etc.

Hafsar Tameesuddin, Co-Secretary General, APRRN

Hafsar Tameesuddin is a former Rohingya refugee from Myanmar and currently lead as the Co-Secretary General at the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN). Prior to this, Hafsar served as the Chair of the network until February 2023. They are a founding and leading member of several committees, including the Asia Pacific Network of Refugees (APNOR), the Global Refugee-Led Network (GRN), New Zealand Country Coordinator of Free Rohingya Coalition (FRC), and a Board Director at Forces of Renewal Southeast Asia and an interim working group member of the Global Movement of Statelessness. Hafsar also served as an interim Advisory member of the UNHCR Advisory Group. Hafsar has been involved in different advocacy and activism at regional, national and international levels for over a decade. Hafsar worked with refugee communities on the prevention and response to sexual gender-based violence and child marriage in Malaysia for 8 years.