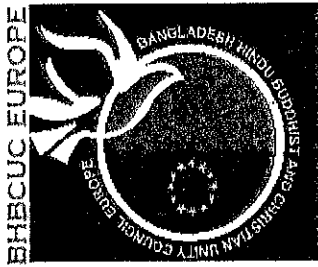


# Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist and Christian Unity Council Europe

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## Fourth Session of the Forum on Minority Issues

Guaranteeing the rights of minority women

Dates: 29 and 30 November 2011  
Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

**Subject: Guaranteeing the rights of minority women**

**Submitted by: Mr. Amarendra Roy, President of BHBCUC Europe and Director Human Rights Congress for Bangladesh Minorities (HRCBM).**

**Honourable Madam Chair, Distinguished Ladies & Gentlemen,**

Thank you for giving me chance to say about 'Guaranteeing the rights of minority women of Bangladesh' on behalf of BHBCUC and HRCBM. The general profile of minority women are that they are economically deprived, have less access to resources, are progressively losing their land and properties, treated as victim to socio-economic and cultural and political exploitation, discrimination and harassment and constantly struggling for their survival and identity. There are exists number of obstacles for development of women issues among the minority community and outside of the community. Poverty, insecurity, lack of access to justice and awareness are common hindrances for development. Forced Conversion to Muslim has also been suffered the Hindu community for getting proper justice and act of needful requirements or special facilities.

### Women's situation in Bangladesh: General Overview

General overview displayed the structure in Bangladesh. Women's role and their activities defined the private matter, which means the domestic affairs and reproduction circle. Although a woman goes to carry out the socially sanctioned duties but women's movement restricted, veiled and keep seclusion which is socially practiced the improper gender based violence in private - public sphere. Progressive minded men recognized to feel equal share/opportunity at home and outside in psychologically but they also silent in practical field. Men considered women's performance as head of house hold and perpetrators of family name and lineages. In general power of domination and preferential treatment to inheritance, position, policies and public affairs considered male preserved area. General position of women's rights, power and position in the country are divided into class, caste and religion. Male dominated social structure and ideology of patriarchy is evident at the national level policy making process, culture and legal instrument. Therefore, existing conflict between man and women make hindrance in gender development and supporting in familial umbrella for rising and pushing traditional boundary. Women issues in Bangladesh are now publicly visible in formal and informal sector. Nonetheless, we observed that economic participation and social perception in women development does not effect in social change or positive respond in share in private or public life.

The area of domestic and non-domestic violence against women including rape, gang rape, sexual harassment, physical assault, fatwa, wife beating, trafficking, dowry, verbal and psychological torture, kidnapping, abduction, force prostitution are high. The data of case study (in bellow) shows increase of nature of violence and its degree of increase. Generally law and public policy targeted the women sufficiently addressed the issues and need for development. Consequently despite this achievement and progress of women's position have not changed the