

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



**PRIME MINISTER**  
**GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF**  
**BANGLADESH**

25 Agrahayan 1428  
10 December 2021

## Message

On the auspicious occasion of the International Human Rights Day, I, on behalf of the Government and people of Bangladesh, join the international community in reiterating our unflinching commitment to the promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedom of all people as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

Since its adoption in 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights continues to be the guiding principle for the promotion and protection of inviolable human rights and human dignity. Over the years, the declaration laid the foundation for many milestone documents and numerous international treaties. We have made remarkable progress in the advancement of human rights.

However, atrocities still plague the conscience of humankind. The decade-long persecution of Rohingyas in Myanmar or the painful sufferings of the Palestinian people is only a few examples of gross violation of human rights. Furthermore, the emergence of new challenges like climate crisis has detrimental impacts on the enjoyment of people's fundamental rights. The pandemic COVID19 has further exacerbated the situation with growing inequality and exclusion. The inequality and politicization with regard to access to the vaccine have further undermined the basic tenants of human rights. Against this backdrop, this year's theme, "*Equality - Reducing inequalities, advancing human rights,*" is very relevant.

Human rights and fundamental freedom are the core values that Bangladesh firmly stands for. The painful experiences and trauma we went through during our heroic struggle during the War of Liberation in 1971 constantly motivate us to adhere to universal human rights principles. Our abiding commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights is shaped by the ideals of our Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who, as a champion of human rights, dedicated his whole life to establishing the rights of the toiling masses. The Constitution of the country guarantees the human rights of all citizens irrespective of religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth.

Our commitment to upholding human rights and fundamental freedom has been manifested in our adherence to all major human rights instruments. As a state party to these instruments, Bangladesh is relentlessly working to ensure equality, justice, the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedom, political, economic, and social rights of all its citizens. Through the legal framework, implementation of people-centric policies, and establishment of strong institutional mechanisms, we are safeguarding the rights of our people. Human Rights remain an integral part of our pandemic response plan.

On this auspicious commemoration of International Human Rights Day, let us join hands and work together to establish an equal, inclusive, peaceful, and more prosperous world for all.

**Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu**  
**May Bangladesh Live Forever.**

**Sheikh Hasina**