

Bangladesh CSOs' reform proposals on women, labour rights

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Several rights organisations on Sunday placed suggestions to reform commissions, upholding equality and dignity of women in every sphere in society, including workplaces.

At a press conference held at Dhaka Reporters Unity in the capital, Socialist Women's Forum placed a 17-point suggestion to the Women Affairs Reform Commission, a press release said.

Equal inheritance rights, uniform civil code, education and employment opportunities, guarantee for equal pay at workplace, quality health facilities and hygienic sanitation, paid maternity leave, daycare centres, safety at overseas workplace, rehabilitation of destitute women, and safe transports were among the suggestions.

The organisation leaders demanded that the interim government remove Bangladesh's reservations on Articles 2 and 16(1)(c) of the United Nation's Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, widely known as CEDAW, and repeal discriminatory family laws.

Shampa Basu, president of the Socialist Women's Forum, general secretary Dilruba Nuri, Nurjahan Jharna, Manisha Chakraborty and Rukhsana Afroze Asha were present at the briefing.

In another event, the Labour Reform Commission sat with the National Domestic Women Workers Union on the day when the union placed an 11-point reform proposal.

Their proposal includes revising the Bangladesh Labour Act 2006 to include domestic workers, forming a separate minimum wage board and ensuring social protection and pensions for domestic workers.

Reform commission chief Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed chaired the meeting, also attended by other commission members and union leaders Abul Hossain, Murshida Akhter, Shahanur Begum and Mahanur Begum, the release said.

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