

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



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

25 Agrahayan 1426

10 December 2019

## Message

On the auspicious occasion of the International Human Rights Day, I, on behalf of the Government and the people of Bangladesh, reiterate our strong commitment to uphold human rights and fundamental freedoms of all people around the world as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

Human rights and fundamental freedoms are the core values that Bangladesh stands for. Bangladesh achieved its independence through a nine-month long War of Liberation in 1971 that aimed at putting an end to oppression, discrimination and injustice to people of this land. Therefore, the fundamentals of UDHR that "all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights" is deeply embedded in our genesis. Bangladesh's first constitution, which was adopted after the liberation war, thus enumerated all human rights as fundamental rights and fundamental principles of State policy.

Our commitment to human rights is aptly reflected in the maiden speech of Bangladesh to the United Nations General Assembly, where the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman stated "*The very struggle of Bangladesh symbolized the universal struggle for peace and justice. It was, therefore, only natural that Bangladesh, from its very inception, should stand firmly by the side of the oppressed people of the world.*"

Our government has prioritized human rights, especially by creating opportunities for all, irrespective of race, ethnicity, color, religion, caste or/and background guided by the constitutional pledge. We have invested in human development to improve the quality of lives of our people and thus better enjoy of civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights and freedoms to realize our overarching goal for equality, human dignity and social justice.

Bangladesh, as a responsible member of international community also maintains a strong bond of cooperation and collaboration with the international partners including the United Nations and its human rights mechanism. Bangladesh has been actively contributing towards the promotion and protection of human rights for all. We are hosting over one million persecuted Rohingyas from Myanmar in Bangladesh and lead the humanitarian response for them. Bangladesh continues to urge the international community to work towards ensuring the fundamental human rights of the Rohingya population including their right to return to their homeland, self-identification, and other basic human rights and their right to seek justice.

Bangladesh renews its firm commitment to stand by the United Nations and the international community in their efforts towards building a future based on shared values of equality and human dignity.

Joi Bangla Joi Bangabandhu  
May Bangladesh Live Forever.

**Sheikh Hasina**