

PRESS RELEASE

21 October 2021

Council of Minorities organised National Annual Minority Leadership Summit - 2021

Tuesday, 21 September 2021: The Council of Minorities, a Human Rights Organization which works for establishing the Rights of different minority communities in Bangladesh organised the National Annual Minority Leadership Summit - 2021 on “Skill & Empowerment in The New Normal” which is due to hold from 19 to 21 October, 2021 at the NGO Forum for Public Health, Dhaka. ***This year, at the summit, Centre for Peace and Justice (CPJ), Brac University, Nagorik Uddyog, and Nationality for All are participating as knowledge partners for the event.***

Mr. Zahid Hossain, Human Rights Officer, inaugurated the session explaining the UN and its mechanism and **Zakir Hossain**, Chief Executive, Nagorik Uddyog, **Manzoor Hasan**, Executive Director, Centre for Peace and Justice (CPJ), Brac University and **Subin Mulmi**, Executive Director, Nationality for All, were Guest speakers at the Summit. The event included presentations and discussions on Minority Reports by **Monjurul Islam**, Nagorik Uddyog; **Sanjeeb Drong**, General Secretary at Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum, and a recorded Statement from **Dr. Fernand de Varennes**, United Nations Special Rapporteur. **Khalid Hussain**, the Chief Executive of Council of Minorities delivered his opening remarks, and the event was moderated by **Shahariar Sadat**, Director, Academic and Legal Empowerment at CPJ.

At this part of the summit **Dr. Motahar Akand**, Chairperson of Right Centre Trust and **Nilufa Sultana Sheta**, Programme Coordinator of CPJ facilitated the leadership training through some engaging activities and focused on philosophy of law for the recognition, protection and fulfillment of rights, difference between gender and sex, gender division of labor through card clustering activity, and power walk exercise discussion. They also conducted brain storming and group work exercises to understand community needs, and taking action to resolve the issues.

On the second day of the summit, **Hannah Sholder**, (Urban Planner) from USA, joined the session through online, discussing land rights and sharing her experience on community-led development projects. **Parveen S. Huda**, Consultant of Human Resources Development Facilitated, a session on developing personal skill and creating opportunity for higher education.

Sumaiya Islam, Senior Programme Manager of OSJI concluded the session online, with a vote of gratitude to everyone that has worked hard to make this event successful. She congratulated the young participant from 13 communities across the country for their amazing endeavors all along this National Annual Minority Leadership Summit and aspired on Skill & Empowerment in The New Normal. *Finally, Certificates of participation were provided to every participant at the summit.*

For any further enquiries, please contact

Md. Wahidul Islam
Communications Officer
wahidul.islam@bracu.ac.bd
01759750557