

CSOs and NGOs working for Human Rights¹

Name of Organisation: Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), Bangladesh, 1986

Website of Organisation: <http://www.askbd.org/ask/>

Facebook of Organisation: <https://www.facebook.com/askbd.org/>

Organisation of DTP Alumni Y/N: Yes

Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), a national legal aid and human rights organisation, provides legal and social support to the disempowered, particularly women, children and workers. Its goal is to create a society based on equality, social and gender justice and rule of law. It seeks to create an environment whereby government institutions provide accountability and transparency of their work.

ASK has no political affiliations and takes a non-partisan approach to its activities. ASK's aim is to establish a rule of law based on principles of democracy, human rights, justice and equality.

ASK's Strategies

ASK's strategies for promotion and protection of human rights are carried out by 17 units. And one component is to create awareness, provide legal and social support, monitor institutional transparency, and campaign and advocate for law and policy reform. ASK's courses on legal and human rights aim to enhance capabilities of human rights' defenders, increase community activism for justice, and encourage interventions to prevent violations and protect survivors.

Promoting Community Activism

In partnership with 10 partner NGOs (PNGOs) and CBOs, ASK has trained and facilitated the formation of voluntary groups to monitor human rights, prevent human rights violations and protect victims in 40 unions in ten upazillas. 52 school teams and 60 youth teams have also learnt of their human rights.

Legal and Social Support/ Advocacy for Law and Policy Reform

Lawyers resolve disputes through mediation or litigation in 10 legal aid clinics in Dhaka. An outreach programme has expanded legal clinics in 7 districts (Barisal, Bogra, Chittagong, Hobigonj, Rajshahi, Satkhira and Tangail). Research into human rights situation and on impact of laws and policies is disseminated in ASK's quarterly Bulletins, books and pamphlets. News clips of legal and human rights violations are compiled from 10 national newspapers. Fact finding investigations into incidents of human rights violations are carried out by ASK staff.

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¹ The Diplomacy Training Program (DTP) is an NGO affiliated with the Faculty of Law at UNSW in Sydney. Since 1990, it has provided training to over 2600 human rights defenders and community advocates. These individuals work for a wide range of organisations working to promote shared values of human rights – in different ways. This profile is part of a series developed by DTP (www.dtp.unsw.edu.au) to illustrate the richness and diversity of the organisations working to promote human rights more broadly.