

CSOs and NGOs working for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples¹



Name of Organisation: Chittagong Hill Tracts Hill Students Council, Bangladesh, 1989

Website of Organisation: <https://pcjss.wordpress.com/>

Facebook of Organisation: <https://www.facebook.com/cht.central.pcp/>

Organisation of DTP Alumni Y/N: Yes

The situation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts as well as across the country in the 1980s was extremely disordered. The entire country was moving against the dictatorship of Hossain Mohammad Ershad and protesting against the use of torture on Jumma people. On 4th May 1989, Longudu Genocide was conducted by Bangladesh army. The Jumma students and Jumma people participated in the movement against Ershad's dictatorship. The Jumma students studying in different institutions throughout the country began to gather in the capital - Dhaka to protest against the genocide. The 20th May marks a memorable historical day in Jumma people's lives. The Jumma students' representatives from different universities unified and formed a single Jumma students' organization, an organisation now known as 'Chittagong Hill Tracts Student's Council'. The Council was formed because there was a lack of uniform thought, ideology, and movement amongst the Jumma students and Jumma people between 1975 and 1989. The Council paved the way for the Jumma people to consolidate their solidarity against human rights violations.

Chittagong Hill Tracts Student's Council's Vision

- Improvement in educational, cultural, and ethical rights with the Jumma community; Preserving education, literature, sports, and culture within the Jumma community;
- Preserving interest and maintaining welfare of Jumma students;
- Expanding education within Jumma peoples; maintaining brotherhood amongst different ethnic groups of Chittagong Hill Tracts;
- Removing segregation, oppression, exploitation, and deprivation of various ethnic groups of Chittagong Hill Tracts;
- Implementing progressive and democratic ideologies within the Jumma students' society;
- Raising the knowledge of the Jumma women on human rights and enabling them to recognise and realise their equal rights

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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 the rights of Indigenous peoples more broadly.

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