

CSOs and NGOs working for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples¹



Name of Organisation: Kapaeeng Foundation, Bangladesh, 2004

Website of Organisation: www.kapaeeng.org

Facebook of Organisation: <https://www.facebook.com/kapaeeng.kf?fref=ts>

Organisation of DTP Alumni Y/N: Yes

Kapaeeng Foundation is a human rights organization, which was established on 1 April 2004 with the view to working for promotion and protection of the rights of Indigenous peoples of the country. ‘Kapaeeng’ is derived from indigenous Khumi language, meaning ‘Rights’. The vision of Kapaeeng Foundation is to establish a society based on the values of justice, equity and freedom where fundamental freedoms and human rights of Indigenous peoples are ensured.

Kapaeeng Foundation’s mission is to promote and protect the human rights of the indigenous peoples of the country and to conduct advocacy, lobby and campaign programme for the same at local, national, regional and international level. The organisation aims to establish a strong network and partnership with national, regional and international organizations and individuals working on promotion and protection of human rights as well as Indigenous people’s rights and to raise the capacity of the indigenous peoples in promoting and protecting the human rights. Kapaeeng Foundation has undertaken many lobbying and advocacy activities on local, national, regional and international levels. Kapaeeng Foundation has submitted reports to UN human rights bodies including Special Rapporteur on Indigenous peoples; liaised with National Human Rights Commission on the violations of human rights of Indigenous peoples; participated in meetings with the UN bodies such as EMRIP, UNPFII and meetings with Asia Indigenous Peoples.

The Foundation has been sending young indigenous human rights defenders as representatives to DTP training programs for the last five years. Through DTP, Kapaeeng’s representatives have developed key skills and competencies as leaders in the field of indigenous human rights, a deeper knowledge of international human rights issues and UN human rights mechanisms, and increased confidence in their own work. The Foundation itself has benefited from the new perspectives and fresh ideas brought back by its DTP alumni, and have adopted DTP’s training modules to help it collaborate more effectively with other human rights organisations.

“DTP’s training programs have offered so many potential benefits both to the indigenous youth of Bangladesh and to the Kapaeeng Foundation. By using the tools and information provided by DTP, the secretariat of the Kapaeeng Foundation has advanced its lobbying, advocacy and campaigning activities at regional, national and international levels”.

Contact address: Kapaeeng Foundation, House 23/25 Salma Garden Apartment, Road 4, P C Culture Housing, Block B, Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh

Email: kapaeeng.foundation@gmail.com

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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.