

Note on Contributors

Elaine Alam is a development and human rights practitioner in Pakistan, working in the sector since 2007. She is also the founder member and Secretary General of Formation, Awareness and Community Empowerment Society (FACES) Pakistan. She has extensive experience in poverty reduction programmes and community development in both policy and practice and specialises in Development Management. She is also currently one of the key actors providing technical support to the human rights policy and implementation authorities in Punjab province.

Tehani Ariyaratne is a researcher, currently based in Sri Lanka. She holds a Masters degree in Human Rights and Democratisation, and has a decade of experience working in the development and human rights sectors in South Asia. Her research areas include women's labour and migration, environmental justice and women's access to justice.

Jeevan Baniya has an MA from GSIS Ajou University, South Korea, and a PhD in Political Science from the University of Oslo, Norway. He is the Assistant Director of Social Science Baha, Kathmandu where he is involved in proposal writing, planning and implementing research projects, writing articles and reports, coordinating research projects, supervising researchers, and liaising with partners and stakeholders, among others. He has also been serving as a faculty member at Tribhuvan University (TU), where he teaches Masters and PhD degree courses and supervises students in dissertation work. He has published books, book chapters, articles, and research papers on labour and migration, democracy, peace and conflict, gender and social inclusion, disasters, etc.

S M Masum Billah is Associate Professor of Law at Jagannath University Dhaka. He holds a PhD from the School of Law, Victoria University, Wellington. His area of interests includes law and language, human rights, land law and poverty, legal history and constitutionalism of South Asia. He has published papers on issues of empowerment, property law, human rights and constitutionalism in referred journals. Dr Billah was a visiting fellow at the South African Chair in Property Law, Stellenbosch University, Capetown (2019). He is the author of *Ainer Vab o Ovab* (The Art and Inert of Law). His forthcoming book is *The Politics of Land Law: The Case of Bangladesh*.

Hassan Ali Faiz has wide experience and numerous accomplishments in the areas of human rights, rule of law and gender in Afghanistan. He has been active in the field of human rights for 15 years. His major research focus is on human rights and women's rights. He currently works as the Research Director at the Civil Society and Human Rights Network, which is an umbrella organisation comprised of 160 members. From 2010 to 2013, he worked as the head of Human Rights Support Unit in the Ministry of Justice, supported by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). He was the director of Daikundi Office of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) from 2008 to 2010; and from 2004 to 2007, he worked as a Child Rights Protection and Promotion officer with AIHRC. He was a minority fellow with the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in 2017.

Yangchen Dolker Gurung was till recently Senior Research Associate at Social Science Baha. She has a Master's degree in Public Policy from the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA), Columbia University, New York. During her time at Social Science Baha, she worked on projects related to social inclusion and minority rights, including the research project titled 'State Delivering for Poor People: Improving Outcomes through Stronger Evidence' in collaboration with Effective States and Inclusive Development (ESID) Research Centre at the University of

Manchester. Her research interests include social inclusion, gender and minority rights, migration and refugee rights.

Sajjad Hassan is the Founder and Director of Misaal Foundation, India, and currently the Convenor of The South Asia Collective. He holds a PhD in Development Studies from the London School of Economics, UK, and has a number of years of development sector experience in India and the South Asia region, with grassroots networks, development agencies and governments.

Zakir Hossain heads the Nagorik Uddyog (Citizens' Initiative), a human rights organisation working to promote human rights, access to justice and good governance in Bangladesh. Mr. Hossain has been an active, vocal and well known human rights and environmental activist in Bangladesh for the past 20 years. He contributes mainly by engaging in the struggle for realizing human rights and empowering marginalised communities, including the indigenous, socially excluded and Dalits. His focus is also on ensuring access to justice, realizing informal sector labour rights, promoting composite heritage, promoting peoples' right to food and right to information through mobilisation, organising and researching.

Abhimanyu Suresh is a researcher with Misaal Foundation, India, where he leads the South Asia Collective initiative, in addition to working on issues relating to hate crimes and police atrocities against minorities, and state accountability. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Financial & Investment Analysis from the University of Delhi, and a Master's degree in Development Studies from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai.

Sudeshna Thapa is a lawyer based in Kathmandu. She holds an LLM in International Human Rights Law from Lund University, Sweden. She has previously worked as a Research Assistant to the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Toxics. During her tenure, she was involved, among others, in research related to the human rights implications of exposure to toxic and hazardous

substances on minority groups including indigenous communities and workers. She is currently a Senior Research Associate at the Centre for the Study of Labour and Mobility, Social Science Baha, where she is primarily involved in research and writing on issues pertaining to Nepali migrant workers. Her research interests include labour rights, international migration and minority rights. She writes regularly on a range of socio-legal issues including minority rights and social inclusion.