



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

### Fifty-first session

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Agenda item 4

### Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

## **Written statement\* submitted by "Women and Modern World" Social Charitable Centre, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[22 August 2022]

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\* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



## **A Case of Systematic Persecution of Minorities (Hindu Community) in Bangladesh**

The persecution of Hindus and other minorities finds its roots in the history of (erstwhile East Pakistan) Bangladesh. Hindu community, in particular, has been subjected to discriminatory and un-empathetic behavior which started right after partition in 1947, followed through at the time of creation of Bangladesh in 1971 and gained unprecedented impetus during the rise of BNP-Jamaat alliance to power in 2001. This trend has been ongoing and even got accelerated when Awami League government decided to try alleged war criminals in 2013. Recently, a new wave of anti-Hindu sentiments has swept Bangladesh in the wake of CAA / NRC which could potentially push millions of Bengali-speaking Muslims from Assam and other parts of India into Bangladesh. My organization want your attention to systematic persecution of minorities, especially Hindu community in Bangladesh whose existence has substantially diminished and decreased in East Bengal / Bangladesh from 28% in 1940s to around 13-14% in 1970s and subsequently stands at around 9% in the recent time.

Hindu community in Bangladesh has been systematically targeted, irrespective of the Bangladesh's government claims of safeguarding the rights of minorities, and the assaults on Hindu community in different parts of Bangladesh has been spiraling at an alarming rate. The chronology of events and incidents show that the violence against Hindu community is far from over and there is no reason to be complacent. People from the Hindu community are abducted, their lands are grabbed, women are raped, and Hindus are forced to convert and their temples vandalized. The recent event of vandalism of four (4) Hindu temples, ten (10) idols, six (6) shops and two (2) houses of local Hindu community in Shiali Purbapara area of Khulna during an attack carried out by unidentified miscreants on 7th August 2021 has been the recent most example of brutality and persecution of minorities rights in Bangladesh. This acerbic anti-Hindu sentiments has peaked and clearly visible in Bangladesh which can only be possible with active and passive consent and support of current regime of Awami League.

Human rights defenders are deeply concerned about the complacent behavior of Bangladeshi government with regards to realization and danger of threats to minorities including Christians and Buddhist and in particular to Hindu community. It is believed that the allegations of government's complacency are founding and the need is urgent to draw the attention of international community / organizations, especially European policymakers, governments and civil society to the challenges and threats being faced by minorities in Bangladesh.

We look forward to a positive response from the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Special Rapporteurs (SR) on this gruesome negligence of the Bangladesh's government and urge to take up the issue of systematic persecution of religious minorities in Bangladesh in the context of basic human rights violations.

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