**REPORTS ON DISCRIMINATION, SEGREGATION AND THE RIGHT TO ADEQUATE HOUSING**

QUESTIONNAIRE

**BASIC INFORMATION**

1. Name of Individual, Organization, Institution, Agency or State: **Habitat for Humanity Bangladesh**

Type of Entity\*

National Government or federal governmental ministry/agency

Inter-governmental organization or UN agency

Local or regional government, agency, representative or mayor

Association, tenant union or housing cooperative

NGO network, umbrella organization

**Community-based NGO**

Academia

Foundation

National human rights organization, ombudsperson

Real estate, urban planning or construction

Real estate investor or investment fund

Trade Union

**Other: Global non-profit housing organization**

2. Categorization of your Work

Please select one or more responses, as appropriate.

Public administration

**Advocacy**

**Funding**

Legal Assistance

**Networking**

Policy

**Research**

**Technical Assistance**

**Training**

N/A

**Other: Direct support on housing**

3. City/Town: **Dhaka, Kurigram, Satkhira, Patuakhali**

4. State/Province: **Dhaka, Rangpur, Khulna, Barishal**

5. Country (please indicate your region or “international” if focus the work of your organization covers multiple countries); **Bangladesh, International**

**HOUSING DISCRIMINATION**

7. What specific forms of de facto or legal discrimination or barriers towards equal enjoyment of the right to adequate housing do the following groups face in your country (please provide evidence with examples, studies, reports and relevant statistical information):

* People of African Descent, or Roma
* Racial, caste, ethnic, religious groups/minorities or other groups
* Migrants, foreigners, refugees, internally displaced persons
* Women, children or older persons
* Indigenous peoples
* Persons with disabilities
* LGBTQ persons
* Low income persons, including people living in poverty
* Residents of informal settlements; persons experiencing homelessness
* Other social groups, please specify
* **The Constitution of Bangladesh prohibits discrimination on grounds of race, religion, caste or sex, and states that no one can be detrimentally affected in respect of life, liberty, body, reputation or property (part III, art. 31). The pattern of discrimination against occupational groups related to caste systems has been recognized in the National Strategies for Accelerated Poverty Reduction. In the strategies, the Government envisioned that disadvantaged and stigmatized groups could be included into the mainstream by allowing their participation in socio-economic activities. While this is a strong step, more practical action is needed to redress this discrimination, such as the enforcement of current laws and the creation. [Source: Annual report for the Human Rights Council, 17th session, June 2011 (A/HRC/17/40)]**

8. Discrimination in housing can affect various dimensions of the right to adequate housing and other human rights. Could you provide more details regarding the specific areas in which housing discrimination is experienced? Below are examples of various forms of discrimination that can be experienced in relation to different dimensions of the right to adequate housing:

*Accessibility*

* Discrimination in relation to access to land, including water and natural resources essential for habitation;
* Discrimination in relation to housing for rental or for acquisition or in accessing public or social housing;
* Access to emergency and/or transitional housing after disaster, conflict related displacement or in case of homelessness, family or domestic violence;
* Accessibility of housing for persons with disabilities or older persons, including access to housing for independent living or to care homes;
* data collection or requirements to furnish certain certifications resulting in theexclusion of particular persons from accessing housing;

*Habitability*

* discrimination in relation to housing conditions, overcrowding or housing maintenance;
* Exposure to health risks within the home, including lack of ventilation, heating or insulation, exposure to fire or housing collapse risk, unhealthy building materials, or other unhealthy housing covered by the WHO Guidelines on housing and health;
* Exposure to other risks which render housing uninhabitable, including sexual or gender-based violence, interference with privacy and physical security in the home and neighbourhood;
* Discrimination in relation to housing renovation or permission of housing extension;

*Affordability*

* Discrimination in relation to access to public benefits related to housing;
* Lack of equal access to affordable housing;
* Discrimination in public and private housing financing;
* Discrimination related to housing and service costs, housing related fees, litigation or taxation;

*Security of tenure*

* Discrimination in relation to ownership or inheritance of housing and land and related natural resources including water including on the basis of a distinction between formal and informal tenure arrangements;
* Discrimination in relation to evictions, resettlement and compensation for loss or damage of housing, land or livelihoods;
* Differential treatment in land or title registration, permission of housing construction;

*Availability of services, materials, facilities and infrastructure*

* Discrimination in relation to access to work, schooling, health care or public benefits based on the residential address or related to a lack of an official address;
* Public transportation services and transportation costs;
* Provision of water, sanitation, energy, waste collection and other utility services; their quality or cost, including interruptions/blackouts including policies relating to disconnection from utility services;
* spatial disparities in access to health care, education, child care, cultural and recreational facilities;

*Location*

* Discrimination in relation to freedom of choice of the place of residency within the country, within a particular region or location;
* Discrimination based on place of residence or address, such as exclusion from invitation to job interviews or access to credit;
* Exposure to environmental health risks, such as external air quality, flooding, toxic ground exposure; noise; risk of landslides etc.;
* Living quality and physical security in the neighbourhood, including geographical disparities in policing and law enforcement;

*Cultural adequacy*

* Discrimination in relation to the recognition of culturally adequate dwellings as housing as well as equal access to public space;
* Prohibition of accessing, maintaining or constructing culturally adequate housing;
* Lack of recognition of mobile forms of residency.
* **In Bangladesh, discrimination in areas like accessibility, affordability, location, and secure tenure can affect various dimensions of the right to adequate housing and other human rights.**

9. Are there any particular current laws, policies or practices in your country, region or town/community that contribute to or exacerbate discrimination in relation to the right to adequate housing?

**- There are laws and policies which are enabling environment to avoid any discrimination and relation to rights to adequate housing. However, the vulnerable groups are not adequately protected, example: The Dalit community in Bangladesh is considered 'unclean' in society, and are therefore forced to live separately from other so called 'clean' groups in their own neighbourhoods; a circumstance exacerbated by the GoB's rule of housing in a particular locality. Dalits are not allowed to rent or build houses outside these designated localities. (Source: The human rights situation of Dalits in Bangladesh-by International Dalit Solidarity network)**

10. Can you explain exemptions in national law that allow (certain) public, private or religious housing providers to give preferential or exclusive access to housing to members of a particular group, for example based on membership, employment contract, public service, age, disability, civil status, sex, gender, religion, income or other criteria?

**- Marginalized groups including disable, elderly, homeless, low-income community, and government employees are given exemptions.**

11. In case there may be differential treatment of particular groups in relation to housing, please explain why such treatment could be justifiable according to international human rights standards - for example positive measures benefiting a particular group to overcome systematic discrimination or disadvantage-or if it would amount to discrimination?

**N/A**

**SPATIAL AND RESIDENTIAL SEGREGATION**

12. What forms of spatial segregation along racial, caste, ethnicity, religion, nationality, migration status, heritage, economic status/income or other social grounds can be observed in urban and urban-rural contexts in your country?

**- POPULATION DISTRIBUTION AND INTERNAL MIGRATION IN BANGLADESH, Population monograph: volume 6. Link:** [**http://203.112.218.65:8008/WebTestApplication/userfiles/Image/PopMonographs/Volume-6\_PDIM.pdf**](http://203.112.218.65:8008/WebTestApplication/userfiles/Image/PopMonographs/Volume-6_PDIM.pdf)

13. What impacts do these forms of spatial and residential segregation have on affected communities? Please point to indicators such as rates of poverty, un-employment and under-employment; prevalence rates of malnutrition; disparities in access to services and facilities (such as access to schooling, health care or other public benefits); disparities in access to infrastructure (lack of and/or poor quality provision of water, sanitation, transportation, energy, waste collection and other utility services); rates of exposure to environmental health risks (poor air quality, flooding, toxic ground exposure, etc).

**-The impact of spatial and residential segregation have been observed in poor water and sanitation and below average health care.**

14. Have any particular historical or current laws, policies or practices in your country, region or town/community caused or exacerbated segregation?

**- Not evident.**

15. In your view, what factors (current or historical) are the principal *drivers* of spatial and residential segregation in urban and urban-rural contexts in your country?

**- Castes, religion, income generating opportunities (readymade garments sector), industrialization, natural disasters, etc.**

16. Are there examples in your country of where spatial and residential clustering has been a result of voluntary choices of residence by members of particular groups?

**- Minority groups (indigenous and religious minority, Dalit/out casts), Readymade garments (RMG) workers.**

17. The preservation of cultural identity, the right to self-determination of indigenous peoples and the protection of minority rights are examples of grounds for which groups may choose to live separately. Can you comment on how these forms spatial/territorial separation are evidenced in your country, if these communities they are subject to discrimination and suffer adverse consequences from spatial segregation such as through disparities in access to services, infrastructure, living conditions, etc.?

-**Indigenous and religious minority, Dalit/out casts, Readymade garments (RMG) workers faces discrimination and faces adverse consequences and disparities in access to services, infrastructures and living conditions.**

18. In your view, are certain forms of observed residential separation/voluntary clustering compatible with human rights law and if so why? (for example to protect rights of minorities or to respect the freedom of choice of individuals to decide with whom to live together).

**-Not evident.**

19. Are there any laws or policies requiring certain individuals (and their families) to live in particular housing provided to them or in a particular geographical area (e.g. asylum seekers, migrants, IDPs, refugees, ethnic, religious, linguistic or other minorities, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, public service and military personnel)?

**N/A**

20. In your view, what are the principal *barriers* to diminishing spatial, including residential segregation?

**- Appropriate laws, legislation, policies**.

**MEASURES AND GOOD PRACTICES TO CURB DISCRIMINATION AND REDUCE SEGREGATION**

21. What laws, policies or measures exist at national or local level to prevent or prohibit discrimination in relation to the right to adequate housing?

**- The Constitution of Bangladesh prohibits discrimination on grounds of race, religion, caste or sex, and states that no one can be detrimentally affected in respect of life, liberty, body, reputation or property (part III, art. 31).**

**There are appropriate laws and policies to prevent such discrimination.**

22. Have your State, regional or local Government adopted any positive measures, such as measures of affirmative action, to reduce discrimination, segregation or structural inequality in relation to housing? To what extent have such initiatives been successful to address housing discrimination and segregation?

**- Bangladesh Govt. provided the safety net to the poor and homeless to reduce the discrimination. To some extend those initiatives are successful.**

23. Have any particular laws, policies or measures been implemented to limit or reduce residential segregation? To what extent have such policies raised human rights concerns?

**-It is, but not evident.**

24. What is the role of the media, as well as other non- governmental organizations, of religious and governmental institutions, in fostering a climate that reduces or exacerbates discrimination in relation to housing and segregation?

**- The media and NGOs are playing a vital role but did not play to an extent to see a visible impact**.

25. Which institutional mechanisms exist to report, redress and monitor cases of discrimination or segregation in relation to the right to adequate housing and how effective have they been to address discrimination?

**- There are various Govt. Ministries/departments who monitor such cases: Example:**

**Ministry of Housing and Public Works: Citizen’s Charter, Manual Redressal**

**Ministry of Land: Citizen’s Charter and an online grievance submission system named: Your Complaint.**

**Ministry of Cultural Affairs: Citizen’s Charter, Manual Redressal, Homepage indicates online GRS tool, but the link only loads a page with a GRS policy related document**

**Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs: Citizen’s Charter, Manual Redressal**

**(source:** [**http://socialprotection.gov.bd/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Grievance-Redress-System-in-Bangladesh-Situational-Analysis-Repot.pdf**](http://socialprotection.gov.bd/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Grievance-Redress-System-in-Bangladesh-Situational-Analysis-Repot.pdf) **)**

26. In your view, what are the principal barriers to seek justice for discrimination/segregation in relation to the right to adequate housing?

**- Appropriate institutional mechanisms, education, awareness and enabling environment.**

27. Can you specify how individuals and groups subject to structural discrimination or experiencing segregation can submit complaints to administrative, non-judicial or judicial bodies to seek relief? Please share any leading cases that have been decided by your courts or other agencies in this respect.

**- There are appropriate platform to submit complaints to the Govt. authorities including judicial bodies.**

**DATA ON DISCRIMINATION IN HOUSING AND SPATIAL/RESIDENTIAL SEGREGATION**

28. Is any data on housing disparities, housing discrimination and spatial segregation collected and publicly available? If so where can it be accessed? Are there any practical or legal barriers to collect and share such information in your country?

- There are sufficient data available. The following paper would give some information on housing disparities, housing discrimination and spatial segregation. - Dhaka, the city of rich and poor, An over view of spatial justice: ‘whitening’ and ‘blackening’ of spaces by Tanzia Islam, Doctoral researcher, Technical University of Berlin,

29. Can you kindly share any studies or surveys by local, regional or national Governments or by other institutions to understand better housing disparities, housing discrimination and spatial segregation and how it can be addressed (e.g. title and link, or kindly submit document).

- Seventh Five Year Plan (sector 9), link: <http://nda.erd.gov.bd/files/1/Publications/CC%20Policy%20Documents/7FYP_after-NEC_11_11_2015.pdf>

30. Can you provide information and statistics related to complaints related to housing discrimination, how they have been investigated and settled, and information on cases in which private or public actors have been compelled successfully to end such discrimination or been fined or sanctioned for non-compliance?

-There have been complains and those complains are addressed by appropriate Govt. authority, but we do not have enough information or data to substantiate.