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Press release

Legal protection is needed to establish the housing rights of climate migrants.

Today 26-July 2022 at 3.30 pm a consultation meeting titled “Climate Justice and Housing Rights: Bangladesh Context” was held at Bishwa Sahitya Kendra under the initiative of Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST).

In this meeting, the speakers shed light on the interrelationship between climate justice and housing rights, the existing legal infrastructure in Bangladesh to protect the housing rights of the poor population dwelling in urban areas, obstacles and steps to be taken in the implementation of the directives given by the High Court in protecting the housing rights of the poor population dwelling in urban areas and the elevation of the housing rights of the urban poor in Bangladesh by ensuring climate justice.

Chaired by Justice Nizamul Huq, Chairman Bangladesh Press Council, Efadul Huq, Assistant Professor, Urban Studies, Smith College, USA, presented the keynote speech at the meeting.

In his keynote address, Efadul Huq said that for the formulation and implementation of a fair urban plan, the relevant authorities, planning agencies and stakeholders of the state should take appropriate steps by recognizing the poor population dwelling in urban areas as residents of the city with equal dignity.

Tanjil Shafique, assistant professor of Sheffield School of Architecture, said that in the 60s and 70s, various countries ensured the rights of the poor population dwelling in urban areas with proper planning. Bangladesh can follow all those examples.

Urban planner Dr. Akter Mahmud said that the Government's shelter and One House One Farm scheme have made an important contribution in protecting the housing rights of low-income people. However, local governments should have appropriate legal powers, adequate budget allocation and oversight to protect the housing rights of climate migrants.

DAP consultant Khondoker Niaz Rahman said, the issue of housing of low-income people has been considered in the detailed area plan. However, there may be various obstacles in its implementation.

Sara Hossain, Senior Advocate, Bangladesh Supreme Court, expressed the view that social justice and climate justice must be ensured in order to deal with the social and environmental instability prevailing as a result of climate change. Justice Md. Nizamul Huq presided over the discussion moderated by Sara Hossain. He said efforts of the last 30 years have established legal safeguards to ensure that slums cannot be evicted without providing for resettlement. Participants recommended that government authorities and all concerned should work together to protect the rights of climate migrants.

For more information:

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