These cards commemorate twelve women lawyers, lawmakers or law teachers, litigants, organisers and campaigners, and individuals whose experiences of violence sparked demands for justice and accountability. They are being produced as part of an effort to document histories of individuals and organisations who have fought to establish rights and justice in Bangladesh.

The Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust was set up after a resolution of the Bangladesh Bar Council in 1992 as a dedicated non-governmental legal services organisation, which operates from the frontlines of the legal system - Village Courts and Magistrates' Courts - up to the Supreme Court, providing advice, assistance and representation in criminal, family, civil, land and constitutional law matters, alternative dispute resolution, and undertakes public interest litigation, and legislative advocacy, providing a comprehensive approach to justice for marginalised and vulnerable persons.
Ilona Mitra | 1925-2002 | Organiser | Political Activist
Leader of the Tebhaga movement, Nachole, Chapai Nawabganj. Survivor of police torture. Mobiliser of public opinion and supported the Liberation War of 1971.

Kamini Roy | 1864 – 1933 | Writer | Campaigner for Voting Rights
First woman honors graduate in British India. Member of the Women’s Labour Investigation Commission. Successful campaigner for suffrage in Bengal (achieved in 1925).

Mehrunnnessa Khatun | 1923 – 2013 | Lawyer | Lawmaker | Rights Organisation Founder

Nasreen Parvin Huq | 1958 – 2006 | Campaigner | Health and Feminist Activist
Member of Naripokkho for 20 years. Founder of a national campaign against acid violence against women. Country Director of Action Aid Bangladesh. Member of the Special Program on Reproductive Health, World Health Organisation.

Salma Sobhan | 1937 – 2003 | Lawyer | Teacher | Writer | Rights Organisation Founder
Woman barrister in Pakistan. Teacher at the Faculty of Law, Dhaka University. Co-Founder of Ain o Salish Kendra. Founding Trustee of BLAST. Founder of the Human Rights and Legal Service Programme of BRAC. Founding member of Women Living Under Muslim Laws. Public interest petitioner on women’s and worker’s rights. Author of publications on law and justice and women’s rights.

Safia Kamal | 1911 – 1999 | Poet | Social Activist | Women’s Organisation Founder
Poet. Editor, Begum magazine. Founder of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad. First Chairperson of BRAC.

Budrunnessa Ahmad | 1929 – 1974 | Lawmaker | Women’s Organisation Founder

Kamrun Nahar Lally | 1935 – 1984 | Lawyer | Women’s Organisation Founder
Woman lawyer in the Dhaka High Court in the 1960s. Woman notary public in Bangladesh. Founding member of the Bangladesh National Women’s Lawyers’ Association.

Noorjahan Munshid | 1924 – 2003 | Lawmaker

Ferdousi Priyabhashini | 1947 – 2018 | Campaigner | Survivor

Kalpana Chakma | 1976 – missing from 1996
Organiser | Political Activist
Organising Secretary of the Hill Women’s Federation, Rangamati, Chittagong Hill Tracts. Allegedly abducted on 12 June 1996 from her home at Lallyaghona village, Rangamati.

Jahanara Imam | 1929 – 1994 | Campaigner | Teacher | Writer
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Photo Credit: Al Mazi | Shahriar Kabir
Photograph used with consent and for commercial purpose.
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Salma Sobhan

25th Anniversary
Bangladesh Legal and Agricultural Textile Society
www.blats.org.bd
www.salma-sobhan.org
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Woman lawyer in the Dhaka High Court in the 1960s. Woman notary public in Bangladesh. Founding member of the Bangladesh National Women’s Lawyers’ Association.

Photo Credit: Shoma Zahid
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Noorjehan Murshid | 1924 – 2003
Lawmaker

Member of the Constituent Assembly, 1972.

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