

Sara Hossain

Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh

Partner | Deputy Head of Chambers

Dr Kamal Hossain and Associates

Chamber Building 2nd Floor

122-124 Motijheel C.A.

Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh

T +8802 22338 0655 / 22338 4954 | M +8801713 031828

E shossain@khossain.com

Skype: sarahossain_3

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

1989	Called to the Bar of England and Wales from the Honourable Society of Middle Temple, London, United Kingdom
1990	Enrolled as an Advocate of the District Court, Dhaka by the Bangladesh Bar Council
1992	Enrolled as an Advocate of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh
2008	Enrolled as an Advocate of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh

EDUCATION

1988	B.A. (Hons) in Jurisprudence Wadham College, University of Oxford
1989	Barrister-at-Law Middle Temple, London

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2009-Present	Partner, Dr Kamal Hossain and Associates Practice Areas: Administrative Law; Commercial and Corporate; Company Law; Family Law; General Practice; Human Rights; Litigation.
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2003-2009	Associate, Dr Kamal Hossain and Associates
1997-2003	Legal Officer (South Asia) INTERIGHTS (International Centre for the Legal Protection of Human Rights), UK
1990—1997	Associate, Dr Kamal Hossain and Associates
1989-1990	Pupillage with Mr Aminul Huq, Senior Advocate, former Attorney General of Bangladesh
1989	Pupillage at Syed Ishtiaque Ahmed and Associates

AWARDS AND OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

2016	Received a ‘Women of Courage’ award from the <i>US State Department</i>
2008	Named as a “Young Global Leader” by <i>The World Economic Forum</i>
2007	Named as an “Asia 21 Fellow” by <i>The Asia Society</i> , New York, USA
2005	Named as one of “Top Ten Leading Women”, in annual awards by <i>Ananya</i> (national Bengali language magazine)
1993-1994	Received “Human Rights Lawyer Award” by <i>The Lawyers Committee for Human Rights</i> (now “Human Rights First”), New York, USA

MAJOR CASES

1. Cases on gender equality:
 - Represented petitioners in habeas corpus petition on forced marriage (*Dr. Shipra Chowdhury & Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) v Md. Joynal Abedin and others* 29 BLD (2009) 183, judgment delivered on 19 January 2009)
 - Represented human rights organization, ASK, in an intervenor petition on gender discrimination related to political participation in local government (*Shamima Sultana Shima v Bangladesh* 57 DLR (2005) 201, judgment delivered on 16 August 2004)
 - Represented public interest petitioners in a writ on standard of proof in disciplinary proceedings related to sexual harassment complaints (*Prof Sirajul Islam and others v Jahangirnagar University and others* 61 DLR (2009) 745, judgment delivered on 17 May 2009)

- Represented clients in habeas corpus petitions and related appeals on international child abduction/child custody (*Abdul Jalil v Sharon Laily Jalil*, 50 DLR (1998) AD 55, judgment delivered on 30 March 1997; *Zahida Ahmed Liza* 29 BLD HCD 375, judgment delivered on 16 March 2009)
 - Represented a human rights and legal aid organization, BLAST, as intervenor in public interest litigation on “forced veiling” (*Advocate Salauddin Dolon v Bangladesh*, 63 DLR (2011) HCD 80 judgment delivered on 8 April 2010)
 - Represented development, human rights and women’s groups, BRAC, BLAST, ASK, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Naripokkho, in a public interest petition regarding ‘fatwa violence’ or imposition of extra-judicial penalties (*BLAST and others v Bangladesh and others*, 63 DLR (2011) HCD 1, judgment delivered on 18 July 2010)
2. Cases on life, liberty, fair trial:
- Right to life and livelihood, forced evictions of slum (*BLAST and others v. Bangladesh and others*, 13 BLC (2008) HCD 384, judgment delivered on 15 November 2007)
 - Right to franchise and electoral roll (*Alhaj Advocate Rahmat Ali, MP v. Election Commission & others*, 11 BLC (2006) 380, judgment delivered on 4 January 2006)
 - Arbitrary arrest and ill treatment (*Ain o Shalish Kendra v. Bangladesh*, 56 DLR (2004) HCD 620, judgment delivered on 20 September 2004)
 - Challenge to corporal punishment in educational institutions (*BLAST v. Ministry of Education, Bangladesh: 63 DLR 643*)
3. Cases on freedom of expression and association:
- Challenge to continuation of proceedings relating to allegations of online speech causing ‘hurt to image of the nation’ (*Dr Shahidul Alam v Bangladesh*)
 - Quashment of prosecution for ‘spreading rumours’ and ‘hurt to the image of the nation’ relating to alleged social media comments (*Nusrat Jahan Sonia v Bangladesh*)
 - Bail petitions for bloggers accused of ‘hurt to religious sentiment’ under the Information Communication and Technology Act (*Asif Mohiuddin and others v State*)
 - Prosecution for ‘hurt to religious sentiment’ for alleged interview remarks (*Nurul Alam, Officer in Charge, Motijheel Police Station v. Taslima Nasrin (Complaint Case No. 1315 of 1994)*, unreported)
 - Challenge to proscription of books of Ahmadiya community as violation of freedom of expression (*AMJB v Bangladesh*, pending)
 - NGO governance and freedom of association (*Salima Sarwar v. Bangladesh* 14 BLT 258, judgment delivered on 22 February 2005)
 - Freedom of press (contempt of court), *Ekramul Haque Balbul, Samaresh Baidya and another and Saber Hossain Chowdhury v Muhammad Faiz and others: 67 DLR (AD) 208*

4. Other cases

- Challenging the failure of the Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB) to take legal action against the Members of Parliaments for non-payment of unpaid telephone bills, (*BLAST v. State*, 60 DLR (2008) 176)
- Challenging ‘fatwa violence’ as a form of cruel, degrading and inhuman treatment, (*Tayeeb and others v. Bangladesh & Others* 67 DLR (AD) 57)
- Challenging the arbitrary exclusion of freedom fighters’ children from a viva voce exam for public service jobs, denying their legitimate expectation, (*Dr. Abeda Begum vs. PSC (Freedom Fighter)* 59 DLR 182)
- Assessment of compensation in tortious claims, (*Catherine Masud and Ors. Vs. Md. Kashed Miah and Ors.* 67 DLR (2015) 523)
- Compensation claims for a fatal road accident, (*Catherine Masud and Ors. Vs. Md. Kashed Miah and Ors.* 70 DLR (2018) 349)
- Challenge to order directing to make partition of land, (*Aberchai Mog and Ors. vs. Joint District Judge, Khagrachari and Ors.* 19 BLC (2014) 358)
- Non-Bangladeshi husbands of Bangladeshi wives allowed to obtain a “no visa required” seal and live with their wives in Bangladesh, (*Natasha Ahmad vs. Bangladesh, Represented by the Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs and Others* (2012) 32 BLD 555)

5. Litigation Support/Intervenor Briefs including in:

- *MC v Bulgaria*, relating to requirement of proof of force in rape as gender discriminatory before the European Court of Human Rights
- *Singharasa v Sri Lanka* relating to fair trial before the Human Rights Committee
- *Elmi v Australia* relating to torture before the Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- *FWLD v Nepal* relating to marital rape as gender discrimination before the Supreme Court of Nepal
- *Ramjattan’s Case* relating to defence of provocation /diminished responsibility in case involving domestic violence survivor, before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

PUBLICATIONS

• Books/Reports

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| 2014 | Remedies for Forced Marriage in South Asia: A Handbook for Lawyers (INTERIGHTS) |
| 2009 | Editor, <i>Bangladesh UPR Forum’s Submission to the Human Rights Council</i> (Human Rights Forum, Bangladesh, Dhaka) |
| 2006-8 | Editor/Co-Editor, <i>Human Rights in Bangladesh</i> , ASK, Dhaka |

2005 Co-editor (with Lynn Welchman) *'Honour': Crimes Paradigms and Violence against Women* (Zed Press, London; Zubaan Press, New Delhi; Spinifex Press Australia)

1996 Co-Editor (with Shahdeen Malik and Bushra Musa), *Rights in Search of Remedies: Public Interest Litigation in South Asia*, University Press Limited, Dhaka

• **Articles**

2020 Sara Hossain and Priya Ahsan Chowdhury, 'Does the Digital Security Act Increase Insecurity for People in Bangladesh?', [*ARROW for Change Volume 26: The Right to Freedom of Speech and Expression*](#)

2010 'Wayward Girls and Well Wisher Parents: Habeas Corpus, Women's Rights and the Bangladesh Courts', in Aisha Gill (ed) *Forced Marriage* (Zed Press, London)

2010 'Confronting Constitutional Curtailments: Attempts to Rebuild Independence of the Judiciary in Bangladesh' in Paul Brass (ed) *Handbook of Politics in South Asia* (Routledge, London)

2008 Iain Byrne and Sara Hossain 'South Asia' in Malcolm Langford (ed), *Social Rights Jurisprudence: Emerging Trends in International and Comparative Law*, Cambridge University Press

2005 'The Right to Marry', in Indira Jaisingh (ed.) *Men's Laws, Women's Lives* (Zubaan Press, New Delhi)

2004 "Apostates, Ahmadis and Advocates: Uses and Abuses of Offences against Religion", in *Women Living Under Muslim Laws, Warning Signs of Fundamentalism*,

2001 Sara Hossain and Suzanne E. Turner, 'Abduction and Forced Marriage: Rights and Remedies in Bangladesh and Pakistan,' in *International Family Law*, March Issue

1996- Contributor, chapters on human rights law or legal developments, *Human Rights in Bangladesh*, Ain o Salish Kendra, Dhaka

1995 Sajeda Amin and Sara Hossain, "Women's Reproductive Rights and the Politics of Fundamentalism: A View From Bangladesh", *American University Law Review*, April 1995, Vol. 44(4), 1319

1994 "Equality and Personal Laws in South Asia", in Rebecca Cook (ed.), *Human Rights of Women: National and International Perspectives*, Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania

• **Consultancy Reports**

2011 Human Rights Expert and consultant/contributor to Report on 'Baseline Survey on Human Rights in Bangladesh' for the National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh

2010 Research on 'Review of Laws and Policies on Sex Workers' Rights' for CARE-Bangladesh/Sex Workers Network of Bangladesh

2010 Report on Judicial Colloquium in Maldives, and Background Paper, OHCHR

2009 Report of the 'Establishment of a Justice Sector Support Facility', UNDP Bangladesh

2009 Contributed to Report on 'Support for the National Human Rights Commission', DANIDA Bangladesh

2009 Contributed to Report on 'Review of ILO Proposal on Facilitating Rights for Indigenous Peoples', DANIDA Bangladesh

2008 Contributed to Report on 'Harmonisation in the Justice Sector', GTZ Bangladesh

2008 Lead Consultant on 'Review of the BRAC Human Rights and Legal Services Programme', BRAC

2008 Report on 'Advocacy and Legislative Reform for Protection of Survivors of Domestic Violence', GTZ Bangladesh

2005 (Co-authored, with Meghna Guhathakurta and Raja Devasish Ray) Report on Access to Justice for Indigenous Peoples, UNDP Regional Centre, Bangkok, Thailand

2005 Report on Proposals for a Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Law, ANCVAW (Action Network Coalition on Violence against Women)

1999 Contributed to report on 'Mapping Legal Rights in Bangladesh', Verulam Associates, Bangladesh

1995 Contributed to report on 'Legal Services for the Protection of Women's Rights in Bangladesh', prepared for the Canadian International Development Agency, Dhaka, (mimeo)

ORGANISING AND CONDUCTING SEMINARS/CONFERENCES

- Organising and conducting training programmes for lawyers and judges nationally (in Bangladesh and Nepal) and regionally (across South Asia/Asia Pacific) on the use of human rights law and mechanisms including on public interest litigation and the domestic incorporation of international human rights standards
- Organising international judicial colloquia for judges of superior courts in the Commonwealth (including Supreme Court of South Africa, House of Lords, Supreme Courts of Bangladesh, India and Pakistan) on Domestic Application of Human Rights Norms
- Organising and facilitating regional judicial colloquia for judges of superior courts across South Asia on 'Access to Justice and Poverty' with the Commonwealth Secretariat and the CHRI
- Facilitating and conducting training programmes for lawyers practicing in Supreme Courts across the Asia Pacific on domestic application of international norms and on use of CEDAW

CONFERENCE/TRAININGS AND SEMINAR ACTIVITIES

- 2020 Speaking/Moderating/Training on freedom of expression and cyber laws:
- Moderator, *Cyber Law and the Right to Communicate During a Pandemic*, Asia Pro Bono & Access to Justice Exchange 2020
 - Panelist, *Shrinking Space: Civil Society under Threat in South Asia*, Bar Human Rights Committee of England & Wales
 - Speaker, *Digital Security Issues in South Asia in the Era of Pandemic*, Asia 21 Young Leaders Initiative
 - Speaker, *Digital Security Law, Democracy and Threat to Rule of Law*, webinar organized by Article19
 - Contributor to Article 19's online course for journalists on the Digital Security Act, 2018
- 2011 Keynote speaker at international conference, 'Beyond Security? Democratic Contestations in Bangladesh and Pakistan', Columbia University, New York

2003-2010

Among others, training of lawyers, lecturing on international human rights law and gender equality in Bangladesh, India, Lebanon, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, UK (with International Women's Rights Watch-Asia Pacific, Interights, at Essex University, LSE, SOAS, Institute of Commonwealth Studies), advocacy and legislative reform for protection of survivors of domestic violence, including:

- Training for government officials from South Asia on the Convention on Migrant Workers, for IOM Bangladesh
- Training for government officials in Bangladesh on the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Facilitation and presentation at Regional Consultation (South Asia Plus) by PLD India with the UN Independent Expert on Cultural Rights, Dhulikhel, Nepal, Sept 2010
- Facilitation and presentation at Regional Judicial Colloquium by OHCHR, Maldives, 2009

AFFILIATIONS/ BOARD MEMBERSHIPS

International

- Honourable Society of Middle Temple, United Kingdom
- Board of Trustees, United Nations Voluntary Fund for the Victims of Torture
- Advisory Board, Open Society Justice Initiative
- International Commission on the Chittagong Hill Tracts
- Advisory Committee, Women's International Coalition for Gender Justice
- Bureau, South Asians for Human Rights
- Advisory Editorial Board, Business and Human Rights Journal
- Editorial Advisory Board, Journal of Gender Based Violence
- Former Commissioner, International Commission of Jurists (until 2015)
- Founding Member of the Board, South Asian Women's Fund

National

- Supreme Court Bar Association
- Dhaka Bar Association
- South Asian Institute of Advanced Legal Aid & Human Rights Studies
- Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs
- Ain o Salish Kendra
- Madaripur Legal Aid Association

LANGUAGES

- Bengali
- English