

# Bangladesh

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The Constitution of Bangladesh guarantees freedom of thought, conscience and speech, but does not mention the right to information. Bangladesh enacted the Right to Information Act on April 5, 2009.<sup>1</sup>

CHRI provided technical support to the civil society coalition for drafting the RTI Bill that was eventually adopted. A joint committee comprising of representatives of Government and civil society drafted the final version of this Bill.

CHRI has published a guidebook in Bangla for implementing the RTI Act in partnership with Nagorik Uddyog.<sup>2</sup> In partnership with Transparency International – Bangladesh, CHRI has published a simple user guide for citizens and civil society groups<sup>3</sup>. CHRI provided technical support to InterCooperation for developing training manuals for the use of administration to implement the law, and for civil society organisations to use the law in public interest.<sup>4</sup> CHRI has also developed educational materials in collaboration with Manusher Jonno Foundation, and Research Initiatives, Bangladesh for spreading awareness about the RTI Act. In partnership with the World Bank Institute and ANSA-SAR CHRI has published a compilation of case studies of the usage of the RTI Act in Bangladesh.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.humanrightsinitiative.org/programs/ACT/Bangladesh/2009 - Right to Information Act, 2009 \(English\).pdf](http://www.humanrightsinitiative.org/programs/ACT/Bangladesh/2009 - Right to Information Act, 2009 (English).pdf)

<sup>2</sup>

[http://www.humanrightsinitiative.org/publications/rti/Implementing\\_Access\\_to\\_Information\(Bangla\)\\_CHRI\\_TIB\\_July2011\\_Dhaka.pdf](http://www.humanrightsinitiative.org/publications/rti/Implementing_Access_to_Information(Bangla)_CHRI_TIB_July2011_Dhaka.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.humanrightsinitiative.org/publications/rti/RTI user guide bangla.pdf](http://www.humanrightsinitiative.org/publications/rti/RTI_user_guide_bangla.pdf)

<sup>4</sup>

[http://www.humanrightsinitiative.org/programs/ai/rti/international/laws\\_papers/bangladesh/rti\\_training\\_manual\\_union\\_parishad\\_Mar11.pdf](http://www.humanrightsinitiative.org/programs/ai/rti/international/laws_papers/bangladesh/rti_training_manual_union_parishad_Mar11.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> <http://wbi.worldbank.org/wbi/Data/wbi/wbicms/files/drupal-acquia/wbi/Final%20version%20-%20The%20Benefits%20of%20Using%20the%20RTI%20Act%20in%20Bangladesh.pdf>