

Overview Justice & Care Bangladesh 2016-2026



Bangladesh

About Us

Justice & Care Bangladesh is a survivor-centred international organisation combating human trafficking and migrant smuggling through integrated interventions across prevention, investigations, aftercare, and prosecution support. Since 2016, we have worked in close partnership with government, law enforcement, and the judiciary to strengthen case outcomes, disrupt criminal networks, and support survivors in rebuilding their lives. By combining frontline casework with systemic reform, we drive lasting change at scale.



Significant Milestones and Highlighted Achievements

- **2016** **Early casework** Justice and Care Bangladesh (JCBD) begins supporting repatriated victims.
- **2017** JCBD **Office opens to coordinate holistic victim-centric care** for repatriated victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation.
- JCBD is invited by the Ministry of Home Affairs to **join the bilateral Rescue, Recover, Repatriation and Integration (RRRI) Task Forces**—formally positioning us to support and influence repatriation practices on a bilateral level.
- **2018** JCBD appointed to government committees for formulating the country's **National Plan of Action (NPA)** to combat trafficking.
- JCBD is responsible for **one third of all repatriations of trafficking victims** from India to Bangladesh.
- **2019** Pioneering new partnership begins with **Border Guards Bangladesh to identify victims at the border**.
- **2020** Invited by the Government to **review and expedite the prosecution of 4,500 trafficking cases** pending trial—the entire national backlog.
- JCBD **wins the Thomson Reuters Foundation Stop Slavery Collaboration Award** for partnership with Border Guard Bangladesh.
- **2021** JCBD releases **landmark report on the backlog of human trafficking cases in Bangladesh**, providing key insights that contributed to multiple national-level initiatives. **JCBD begins a prosecution programme** targeting issues identified in the report
- **2022** Justice & Care's Country Director **wins the US Department of State TIP Report Hero Award**.
- Joined the **UN Migration Network Technical Working Group** on Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants.
- **2023** MoU signed between **Justice and Care and the Department of Social Services (DSS)**, Ministry of Social Welfare. JCBD begins a **programme of work supporting government-run shelter homes**.
- **2024** Jointly with the Ministry of Home Affairs **developed the Human Trafficking Crime and Victim Identification Guideline** adopted by the Government of Bangladesh for nationwide usage.
- Jointly with the Ministry of Home Affairs developed the **Implementation Guideline for Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) in Criminal Matters** endorsed by the Government of Bangladesh.
- **2025** Jointly with the Ministry of Home Affairs, developed the **Digital National Referral Mechanism (NRM)** software, designed to significantly improve access to protection and support for victims of human trafficking by providing a coordinated online platform that connects frontline responders, the Ministry, and registered public and private service providers- access the NRM via this link: nrm.moha.gov.bd
- **MoU signed between Justice and Care and the Law and Justice Division**, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs. JCBD is assigned by the Ministry to train the Tribunal Judges and the Prosecutors and to develop a **digital reporting system for the Anti-Human Trafficking Offence Tribunals**.
- **2026** Received a **commemorative award from the Department of Social Services under the Ministry of Social Welfare on National Social Services Day 2026** in recognition of contributions to strengthening institutional capacity, improving service delivery, and advancing support systems for vulnerable populations.
- **2026** Received **commendation from the Ministry of Home Affairs for providing crucial technical support**—

including expertise, stakeholder coordination, and strategic guidance—in **drafting the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants Act 2026**, recognized as instrumental in strengthening Bangladesh's legal framework and advancing national and international commitments to combat human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

Developed a **Repatriation Data Management System (RDMS)** jointly with the Ministry of Home Affairs (rdms.moha.gov.bd) to expedite the repatriation of the Bangladeshi nationals rescued in foreign countries.

“Justice and Care’s technical expertise, unwavering commitment, and strategic guidance played a pivotal role in the successful completion of this landmark legislation.”

M. Jashim Uddin Khan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Bangladesh

Why Bangladesh

Justice and Care started its journey in Bangladesh in 2017, responding to the urgent need to address trafficking and smuggling of migrants. This work grew out of its experience in India, where it became clear that many rescued survivors were Bangladeshi nationals trafficked across the porous India-Bangladesh border under false promises of jobs or marriage, only to be exploited.

Bangladesh faces serious challenges from both cross-border and internal trafficking. Porous borders, combined with poverty, limited education, social stigma, and weak protection systems, place many people—especially women and children—at high risk of exploitation.

Recognising that trafficking and smuggling of migrants are complex and interconnected crimes, Justice and Care adopted a comprehensive approach that brings together prevention, victim identification and rescue, survivor aftercare, prosecution support, and cross-border and systemic reforms to ensure safer repatriation and protection.

Since its establishment, Justice and Care Bangladesh has worked from grassroots communities to government systems, developing key initiatives such as the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and the Repatriation Data Management System (RDMS). It has also supported hundreds of national human trafficking cases through comprehensive legal assistance and witness attendance. Through this deep and broad approach, the organisation aims to break the cycle of crime, ensure survivors receive protection and justice, and empower vulnerable populations.



Overview of our programmes

“At first, I didn’t want to testify. I was scared and unsure.
But JCBD supported me...”

Survivor

Investigations and Legal (Prosecution & Justice Support):

JCBD’s Case Investigation Support Unit works in partnership with all branches of law enforcement and a network of partners in India and other destination countries to support human trafficking investigations – assisting with victim identification, logistics, case filing, intelligence and profiling of exploiters. Our work has led to hundreds of victims being removed from situations of exploitation and the identification and prosecution of significant criminal networks.

Our legal team provides specialist support to prosecute human trafficking cases in the 17 anti-human trafficking offence tribunals covering the majority of cases in Bangladesh. We provide training to all prosecutors nationwide including in trauma-informed and victim-centric approaches and application of the rules of the law; as well as technical sessions for judges and District Legal Aid Committees. Addressing the backlog of cases in court, we operate a witness attendance programme that is radically accelerating case progression, and provide protection and assistance to vulnerable victims to testify.

This programme has been independently evaluated and found to **reduce case pending times by 1.5 years, reduce out of court settlement by 400% and contribute to increased conviction rates.**

To date achievements include:

- Directly contributed to the **conviction of >100 traffickers**, representing a significant share of national outcomes—**27% of all trafficking convictions in Bangladesh in 2025 were supported by Justice and Care.**
- Provided **comprehensive legal casework support in >600 human trafficking cases across 24 districts.**
- To increase witness attendance in courts, remove bottlenecks, and expedite the prosecution process, currently supporting **17 Anti-Trafficking Tribunals across 13 districts**, contributing to the handling of **3,000+ trafficking cases** through facilitation of witness production and accelerated prosecution.
- **Trained more than 500 judges and 170 public prosecutors on** victim-centered prosecution, trauma-informed practice, and expeditious case management in human trafficking cases.
- Trained **>2,400 law enforcement personnel**, strengthening investigation practices, evidence handling, and prosecution of trafficking cases.

“Before the intervention of Justice and Care, the conviction rate was alarmingly low... since their active involvement, there has been a significant improvement in both witness attendance and case outcomes.

Judge, Rajshahi Tribunal

Protection: Aftercare & Survivor Support

Our holistic aftercare model provides intensive, individualised support to survivors of human trafficking, empowering them to rebuild their lives. We work with a network of partners and authorities in destination countries including India and Malaysia to facilitate the repatriation of survivors, and then empower survivors to recover and reintegrate. Support includes psychosocial counselling, healthcare, life skills training, vocational training, economic empowerment, family counselling and more, tailored to the needs and aspirations of each survivor. The programme breaks cycles of disadvantage and re-trafficking and transforms the physical, mental, emotional, social and financial wellbeing of participants. Uniquely, we have trained and supported survivors who achieved advanced levels of recovery and reintegration to become Aftercare Case Facilitators, providing care to other survivors as trained professionals. Their lived experience engenders high trust, with survivors viewing them as living role models of hope, emancipation and transformation.

“This job has empowered me beyond measure. Nothing is done in my family without my opinion. I am financially independent and able to care for my parents and daughter freely. I can take decisive action, provide support, and live with dignity and autonomy.

Survivor, Bangladesh

A 2 year independent evaluation concluding in 2025 found

- Both Champion Survivors, and the earlier-stage survivors they care for, made **statistically significant clinical gains in their wellbeing and clinically significant decreases in symptoms of psychological ill-health such as depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress.**
- Through our training and economic empowerment, **survivor employment rates increased from 38% - 69%**
- **Survivors gained enhanced social status in their families and communities**

To date the programme has:

- Facilitated the safe and dignified **repatriation of >1000 Bangladeshi survivors**, ensuring linkage to aftercare and protection services.
- Provided **mental health and psychosocial support to hundreds of survivors and vulnerable individuals** (individual, family, and group counselling).
- Successfully **reintegrated >1,100 survivors with their families**, reducing long-term vulnerability and risk of re-trafficking.
- Provided **economic empowerment** (vocational training, job placements, income generation initiatives) to **>600 survivors and vulnerable women.**

In addition to community-based aftercare, JCBD runs a programme to transform care for survivors residing in government-run shelter homes. Since 2023, 920 residents have been provided with in excess of 4,800 services by our team, whilst we sought to institutionalise new standards in the shelters for the long term. Transformation achieved in the shelters includes the introduction of safeguarding training for staff, victim identification procedures, birth registration for those without legal documents, introduction of counselling and psychiatric care and more.



“My own parents refused to accept me; society outcasted me. I was not even allowed to meet with my own children. I could not think of anything but my own death. Only the sisters ... from Justice and Care respected me and listened to my pain and suffering. They taught me how to live.

Survivor

Prevention (Awareness & Sensitization)

Our prevention work takes a targeted multi-dimensional approach – seeking to safeguard the most at risk and to drive norms change on a community level to increase resilience and early warning mechanisms. We identify exceptionally vulnerable individuals and provide them with 1-2-1 support, connection and economic empowerment. We educate at-risk prospective migrants, and train and support youth groups to run awareness events in their villages and report suspected cases of grooming, exploitation and child marriage, and deliver targeted social media and mass communication campaigns.

In a unique partnership with the Border Guards Bangladesh, we train BGB members to identify potential victims of trafficking amongst those intercepted seeking to cross the border illegally and refer them to our care.

- Trained >3,700 Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) personnel in trauma-informed rescue, victim identification, and survivor-centered response.
- Supported BGB to identify and rescue >800 suspected trafficking victims at border points.
- Distributed anti-trafficking awareness materials to 105 garment factories, reaching approximately 56,000 workers.
- Delivered large-scale prevention and awareness activities through multiple channels, including a digital campaign reaching over 500,000 people (1.6 million impressions and 495,000 engagements), school-based campaign programs reaching 9,000+ students across 30 schools via 75 trained teachers, and community events engaging thousands of community members.

Systems change

We have had the privilege of working in close partnership with the Government of Bangladesh over the last 10 years to support their efforts to combat human trafficking. We have seen strong and meaningful progress in the country’s response to human trafficking in this time, including:

- Improved ranking of Bangladesh in the US TIP report from Tier 2 watchlist in 2019 to Tier 2 since 2020, recognising the country’s increased efforts to implement minimum standards and in particular improved enforcement response
- Development and implementation of the National Plan of Action to Combat Human Trafficking (to which JCBD provides input via the GO-NGO committee)
- Establishment in 2020 of the Anti-Human Trafficking Offence Tribunals (the judges and prosecutors of which are trained by JCBD)
- Significant increase in traffickers convicted – from 4 convicted in 2015 to 103 in 2025 (with JCBD directly contributing to more than 25% all convictions nationally in the last 3 years)
- Formal victim identification process established in 2025 (Government adoption of JCBD Human Trafficking Crime and Victim Identification Guideline)
- Launch of a digital National Referral Mechanism for survivor care (underpinned by a tech platform developed by JCBD)
- Enactment of new stronger legislation, the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants Act 2026 (drafted with technical expertise from JCBD)



Strategic Objectives for Bangladesh 2021-2026

- Play a key role in supporting the Government of Bangladesh in Implementing the National Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking, and supporting them to strengthen their performance against international standards
- Drive a minimum 30% national increase in human trafficking prosecutions through our casework and our wider input into the judicial system
- Measurably decrease trafficking and re-trafficking from target source areas through Individualised support to the most vulnerable, coupled with strengthened investigations and Interception at the borders

Justice and Care- core global objectives

- Prevent trafficking in at-risk communities
- Disrupt and dismantle criminal networks
- Rebuild lives
- Drive systems change and share what works





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**Lean more about
Justice & Care**

Website: justiceandcare.org

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