



ECOSOC
YOUTH FORUM
10TH ANNIVERSARY

#YOUTH2030

10th Economic and Social Council Youth Forum

A Decade of Action: Building a Resilient Recovery

PLENARY SESSION BIOGRAPHIES

7-8 April 2021

#YOUTHLEAD: YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT TO BUILD BACK BETTER



Chandra Tripura

Founder & Director, Hill Resource Centre

Chandra Tripura is a young enthusiastic human rights activist and social entrepreneur from the Tripura Indigenous People of Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh. She has done her Masters in Sociology and Social Policy from Dhaka University. She is a professional dancer and choreographer, and highly dedicated to protecting and promoting indigenous culture. She has started defending Indigenous Peoples' rights, culture and tradition through dance performance from the year 2008 and co-founded Bangladesh indigenous Cultural Forum (BICF) in 2010. Currently she is playing the role of General Secretary and Artistic Director in the organization. It is the first organization in the country that has introduced indigenous dance as a strong tool of advocacy for protecting and establishing IPs' rights both in CHT and the Plains of Bangladesh. The concept was her brainchild since the beginning. In 2012, she joined Hill Women's

Federation, the women political wing of PCJSS that works for establishing women's rights in the CHT. As a member of the Federation, she has attended many national, regional and international trainings and conferences on Indigenous Peoples' rights, women's rights, SDG's, environment and climate change, and so on. In 2013, she became a member of council of leaders of the Asia Young Indigenous Peoples.

In 2017, she joined CHT Headman Network (a capacity building and leadership development organization of traditional and customary leaders in CHT) and its women and youth wings as Coordinator. Her duties and responsibilities for them include liaising with donors, providing capacity building trainings to customary leaders, as well as coordination and communication with stakeholders.

On 1 May 2017, she established a social enterprise and named it Hill Resource Center (HRC). It is a multi-purpose initiative to contribute towards promotion of indigenous culture and community development in the CHT. Since its establishment, it is promoting social entrepreneurship and encouraging youths in creating self-employment so that they can contribute to causes and issues of IPs particularly youths and women. HRC provides financial support to two local primary schools and two student hostels in CHT from its income.

Further, in 2019, she became a member and country focal of Asia Indigenous Youth Platform where she is representing Bangladesh youth. In 2020, during COVID-19 pandemic, she along with some dedicated youth activists established an online platform and named it Banafuler Jonno Jumma Tarunner Valobasha (Love of Indigenous Youths for IPs). The platform has provided cash support and food ration to about 600 families in CHT. Apart from the mentioned experiences, she is also involved with Bangladesh Indigenous Women's Network, Shikha Unnoyon Songstha, and Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council.

She envisions for an inclusive, diverse and a just society where there is no conflict and discrimination, poverty and inequality, and no violence against marginalized communities and vulnerable groups particularly indigenous youth, women and children.