

Professor Dr. Mizanur Rahman

PhD, LLM (1st Class Honors), DCL (Double), Dip. In Journalism, MCL (Cum Laude), PGD (Distinction) in (Legal Studies)
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Professor Dr. Mizanur Rahman is an educationist and currently the Director of Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BILIA). Professor Rahman has contributed to the development of legal education in Bangladesh throughout his career by research and experiential learning projects. His work focuses on the development and application of International Law in the global South, with his later teaching years taking a particular shift towards Human Rights Law and reform of legal education.

As an educationist, Professor Dr. Rahman made significant contributions to the development of novel techniques in legal pedagogy through his theory of *Rebellious Lawyering*. In his quest for mainstreaming clinical legal education in Bangladesh, he jointly coordinated the first ever Clinical Legal Education Program at the Faculty of Law, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. In 1990s he served as the founding coordinator of Professional Legal Education (Continuing Legal Education Programme CLEP) of the Bangladesh Bar Council and pioneered curriculum designing for Clinical Legal Education in Bangladesh. He was the first Law teacher to bring Street Law in South Asia. In 2000, he founded ELCOP (Empowerment through Law of the Common People) as a platform for critical human rights education. ELCOP has been conducting grassroots level legal awareness programmes, community based legal reform projects (CLR), Human Rights Summer School (HRSS), and Simulation based investigative lawyering programmes in Bangladesh. His efforts with ELCOP earned him the *Best Law Teacher in South Asia Award* in 2010 and the much coveted *Excellence in Legal Education in South Asia Award* in 2018 from the Society of Indian Law Firms (SILF) and Menon Institute of Legal Advocacy Training.

Professor Rahman served as the Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission from 2010-2016. During his tenure, he represented Bangladesh at the Universal Periodic Review of the United Nations Human Rights Council, worked rigorously on awareness raising programs in the CHT area of Bangladesh, prison reform, recognition of the third gender. He effectually transformed human rights into a household term in Bangladesh.

Professor Rahman has worked as consultant to various INGOs and NGOs including UNICEF, USAID, Ford Foundation (USA and Russia), Save the Children (UK), UNDP, SOROS Foundation, ILO, IOM, Daywalka Foundation (USA) to name a few. In Bangladesh, he closely worked with the government by advising the Press Institute of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Insurance Academy, Academy for planning and Development, Grameen Courts Project and the Task Force to monitor the Judicial Capacity Building Project under the Ministry of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs and financed by the World Bank, and with Public Administration Reforms Commission.

Professor Rahman currently serves as the Director of Centre for Advanced Legal Studies (CALS) at the University of Dhaka; the President, ELCOP (Empowerment through Law of the Common People); and the Advisor, South Asian Network for Justice Education (SANJI).

Professor Rahman has published extensively in national and international peer reviewed journals. He has authored 10 monographs, edited 28 books on Law, Governance, Human Rights, and Legal education. He was a Visiting Professor to Umeo University, University of Oslo, Tver State University. He has lectured in prestigious institutions including NYU, Stanford University, University of Kwazulu-Natal, and Indian National Law Universities.

A life member of Bangla Academy, the Asiatic Society, Bangladesh and ORCA (Old Rajshahi Cadets' Association), he is fluent in Bengali, English, Russian, Spanish and Swedish.