



## Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Briefing

### Elections and Human Rights in Bangladesh

#### Panel I



**John Sifton** is the Asia Advocacy Director at Human Rights Watch. He works on South and Southeast Asia, East Asia, the Middle East, and East Africa. Sifton began working at Human Rights Watch in 2001, first as a researcher in the Asia division, focusing on Afghanistan and Pakistan, and then as the senior researcher on terrorism and counterterrorism. He also founded a public interest investigation firm, One World Research, which he directed from 2007 to 2010. In 2000 and 2001, Sifton worked for the International Rescue Committee, primarily in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and in 1999 he worked at a refugee advocacy organization in Albania and Kosovo. He holds a law degree from New York University and a bachelor's degree from St. John's College, Annapolis.



**Dr. Waris Husain** is a Policy Analyst at the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, focusing on South Asia countries. He received his SJD degree from American University Washington College of Law in 2017, specializing in constitutional and comparative law. His dissertation focused on the development of judicial review in the Supreme Courts of Pakistan, India, and the United States, specifically examining the role of the Supreme Court in presidential and prime ministerial disqualifications. Dr. Husain served as a comparative constitutional law lecturer for the United States Embassy of Nepal, expanding person-to-person connections between constitutional academics and practitioners of law in Nepal. He co-founded the South Asia Jurist, an online publication focused on legal developments across South Asia. Dr. Husain also served as a legal affairs writer for Dawn Newsgroup and Express Tribune in Pakistan.



**Laura Bramon** serves as a Senior Program Manager on World Vision's International Programs Group Child Protection and Education team. Her portfolio includes projects to address child labor in Bangladesh, child sex trafficking in India, female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C) in Kenya, child marriage in Mozambique, early childhood education in Jordan's Syrian refugee communities, and early grades literacy in rural Nepal. Previously, Laura served as a Human Trafficking Specialist at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office on Trafficking in Persons (OTIP), where she managed a portfolio of international and domestic anti-trafficking grants for victim identification, regional coalition building, direct services, and the U.S. flagship public awareness initiative, the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC).

### **Moderator**



**Mona Dave** is Senior Program Officer for Asia at the National Endowment for Democracy, where she manages Endowment grantmaking to civil society organizations in South Asia, with particular focus on Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. She also spearheads the Endowment's efforts to build partnerships with Indian think tanks and civil society on issues of democratic cooperation among Asian nations. She is an active member of the Human Rights Funders Network and is a term member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Prior to joining the Endowment, she served as Government Relations Advocacy Associate at Amnesty International USA where she sought to advance legislation and policies on human rights protections, including the rights of ethnic minorities, small arms and light weapons, and universal basic education. She holds a master's in public policy from the McCourt School of Public Policy at Georgetown University.