

Show of support from **ACROSS THE GLOBE**

Bangladeshi students around the world express solidarity with quota reform protests

CAMPUS DESK

In a show of support for the quota reform protests that galvanised all students across the country, Bangladeshi student associations in the United States (US), China, Australia, Canada, and the United Kingdom (UK) and other parts of Europe have organised rallies and protests. Student associations in India have also released statements and organised protests in favour of the protests and as a show of support to the protestors.

Bangladeshis in Budapest, Hungary, came together on July 16 to voice their support. Students in other Hungarian cities also did the same in their respective areas. Budapest locals showed their support and concerns regarding the situation in Bangladesh.

Student associations in different Canadian universities including University of Manitoba, University of Waterloo, University of New Brunswick, University of British Columbia, and University of Saskatchewan, organised protests and rallies in and around their respective campuses and cities. In Australia, the Bangladeshi students' community in Melbourne organised a similar protest and show-of-support rally on July 17 at 11 AM in front of State Library Victoria, Melbourne.

The UK saw 200 British university academics, student groups, and workers show their solidarity with the quota reform protests in Bangladesh. In a statement published on July 25 and coordinated by the UK-Bangladeshi organisation "Nijjor Manush", the 200 signatories call for academics and university workers in Bangladesh to support their students during these challenging times.

The signatories include students, academics, and workers from universities like the University of Oxford, University of Cambridge, University College London, University of London, University of Manchester, University of Glasgow, University of Nottingham, University of Essex, University of Birmingham, University of Edinburgh, King's College London, amongst others.

Bangladeshi student associations from US universities, including Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), University of North Texas, Baylor University, University of Virginia, University of Utah, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, University of Kentucky, and Pennsylvania State University, also arranged rallies around their respective campuses in the States as a show of support for the quota reform protests. They also released statements in favour of the Quota Reform Movement, condemning the attacks on protestors and urging the Bangladeshi government to protect the rights of the protestors and ensure their safety.

In India, the All India Students' Association (AISA) released a statement on their Facebook page on July 17 regarding the protests in Bangladesh saying, "We stand in absolute solidarity with the fighting students of Bangladesh!"

AISA then shared a joint statement the same day, alongside several other student associations from Nepal, Sri Lanka, Australia, and the UK, that read, "We urge the international student community to support the protesting students and youth of Bangladesh in their justified call for fair appointments based on merit and the elimination of any discriminatory practices in obtaining government jobs. We appeal to the Bangladesh Government to address the issues raised by the students and youth and to guarantee equal and dignified job opportunities for everyone."

Last week, AISA, along with three other student associations in India, organised a solidarity march towards the Bangladesh High Commission in Kolkata, showing their support for the quota movement and condemning the violence against students and protestors.

This show of solidarity by our international students, academics, and their foreign peers was first expressed through statements and rallies sometime between July 16 and 17. As the situation surrounding the protests had worsened, the international communities became more vocal. At the time of writing this article, protests and rallies are still being held across the countries mentioned above.

