Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) has conducted its first BDRCS National Youth Commission meeting at the National Headquarter on 02 April 2018. The BDRCS National Youth Commission is the body that is responsible to support and advise on matters which are related to young volunteers and youth development and work closely with BDRCS Youth and Volunteers Department to promote the implementation of the policies and strategies related to Red Crescent Youth. This newly formed youth commission of BDRCS is the first one ever among the Red Cross/Crescent National Societies in the south Asian region.

The Youth Chief Conference in 2014, Solferino Youth Declaration 2009, 1st and 2nd Asia Pacific Youth Summits respectively in Ajloun and Beijing, and IFRC Youth Engagement Strategy (YES) etc. strongly recommended the need of forming a National Youth Commission in every National Society to promote young voices in decision and policy-making at every level of management, governance, and program and service delivery. Taking that into account, BDRCS formed a Terms of Reference (ToR), which was finalized last year in mid 2017, to form its own National Youth Commission. According to the ToR, BDRCS called for youth representatives from its all 68 branches. A committee led by Youth and Volunteers Department then shortlisted 2 persons against each position based on the submitted nomination form, member profile, and criteria. An interview board, consisting 6 members including the Secretary-General/Deputy Secretary-General, Director of Youth and Volunteers Department, and three other directors and one senior volunteer nominated by the Secretary-General, then recommended 11 Red Crescent Youth volunteers through taking interviews to form the National Youth Commission. Later, the Managing Board of BDRCS has approved the 11 members Youth Commission in its 256th meeting and the Hon’ble Chairman of the Society has endorsed it in March 2018. On 2 April 2018, on the very first meeting of the Commission, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the committee has been elected through voting among all the 11 members. Md. Rakibul Alam, Youth Chief of BDRCS NHQ Volunteer Group, and Md. Elahi Rawshon, RCY Volunteer of BDRCS Bogra Unit has been elected as the Chair and Vice-Chair respectively. The lifespan of this commission is from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2020.

The functions of the BDRCS National Youth Commission include, but not limited to, supporting Youth and Volunteers Department of BDRCS to fulfill its vision towards youth development, assisting Youth and Volunteers Department of BDRCS to implement RCY Co-curriculum programme, providing input and recommendation on all matters concerning youth and youth-related activities throughout the Society etc. The Commission will meet at least three times a year to fulfill its function.

This is the first Youth Commission among the South Asian National Societies. Earlier, two youth members of BDRCS appointed as member of the IFRC Youth Commission respectively from 2009 to 2015.