

Orange the World:

Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect!



Orange
the
World

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM
AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
25 November – 10 December 2020

Canada 



Australian
Aid 

 Sweden
Sverige

 UN
WOMEN

Foreword

Shoko Ishikawa

Country Representative of UN Women Bangladesh

This year the whole world was shaken by the unprecedented health and human crisis brought upon by COVID-19. The pandemic has impacted people differently depending on their gender, age, race and ethnicity and other identities and pre-conditions that determined their ability to cope with the socio-economic consequences of the outbreak.

Because of pre-existing gender inequalities, UN Women's rapid assessment of the impact of COVID in Bangladesh in mid-2020 showed that women were generally worse off compared to men in terms of access to relief and support including health care, loss of jobs and income, and increase in family care and domestic work due to an increase in family members staying at home.

Globally it has also been highlighted that COVID-19 has triggered a sharp increase in violence against women, particularly domestic violence, and in April the UN Secretary General called on UN Member States to step up efforts to address this "Shadow Pandemic". In Bangladesh, the pandemic has worsened key risk factors of Gender Based Violence (GBV) such as food shortages, unemployment, fear and insecurity and the country has witnessed an alarming increase in reports of domestic violence, rape and as well as harmful practices such as child marriage since March.

One of the major blockers of gender equality is GBV which is rooted in gender-based discrimination, patriarchy and systemic sexism. The fight against GBV has become more urgent now than ever as we face the risk of decades of progress on women's rights being reversed due to COVID-19. This year the 16 Days of Activism against GBV was commemorated under the theme **Orange Your World: Fund, Prevent, Respond and Collect**. This all-encompassing theme shows that an all-out 360-degree approach is needed to tackle GBV. To this end, UN Women worked with its partners to expose its root causes, highlight the importance of social norm transformation, promote redress, and



advocate for legal and policy changes to create an enabling environment for an equal and just society.

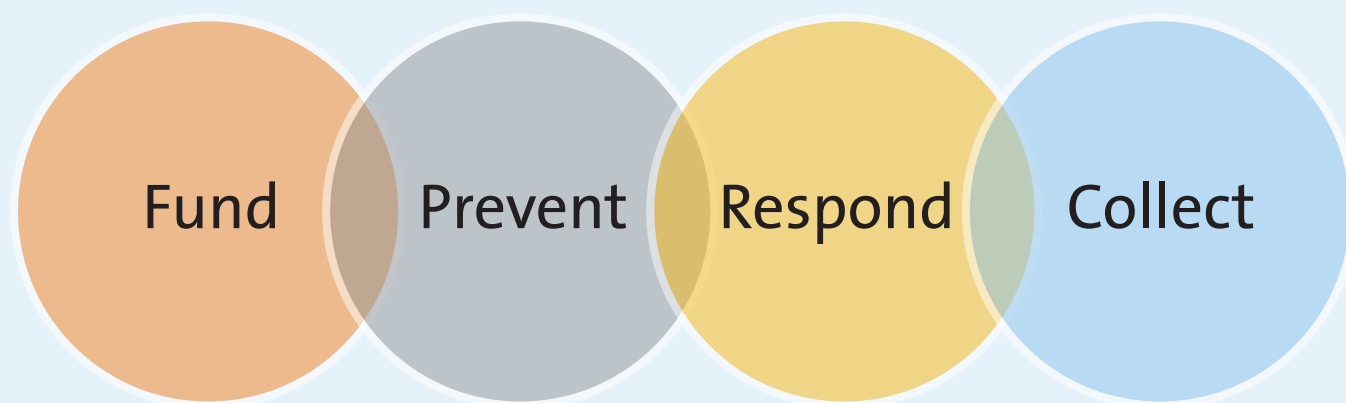
Many of the 16 Days of Activism events took place virtually to ensure safety of participants. Yet we managed to mobilize more than 12,000 people, conduct around 70 dialogues virtually and in-person in courtyards, refugee camps, university campuses, Deputy Commissioner offices and many other places, and reach over 700,000 people through social media. From deepening our pledges towards ending GBV through the National Dialogue on Actions against Sexual Violence, supporting youth, men and boys to take center stage in transforming gender relations, to engaging with GBV survivors including Rohingya refugees to spread their stories of courage and resilience, our outreach has been extensive despite the challenging circumstances. This newsletter provides a snapshot of these events.

As we continue to **"Fund, Prevent, Respond and Collect"** to end GBV, we count on you joining us to achieve a safer and more gender equal Bangladesh for women and girls.

UN Political Engagement Strategy on GBV

In response to the [Secretary-General's call for action](#)¹ and the UN [Inter-Agency Statement on Violence Against Women and Girls](#) in the context of COVID-19, the UN System has designed a political engagement strategy in order to accelerate concrete policy response to gender-based violence in the context of COVID-19 and promote zero tolerance of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) across all spheres of society everywhere. The UN

Political Engagement Strategy aims to be the primary driver of the UN for coherent messaging, uniting our efforts, aligning actors on exemplars of concrete policy change. Hence, aligning with the UN Political Engagement Strategy, this year's global theme for the 16 Days of Activism was: **Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect!**



National Dialogue on Actions Against Sexual Violence

The UN in Bangladesh and the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA) organized a two-part National Dialogue on Actions against Sexual Violence as a follow-up from the 2019's [National Dialogue](#).

The dialogue was a hybrid event that consisted of an in-person series of Experts Meetings, the outcome of which was presented and discussed during a Virtual Dialogue that took place on 25 November to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

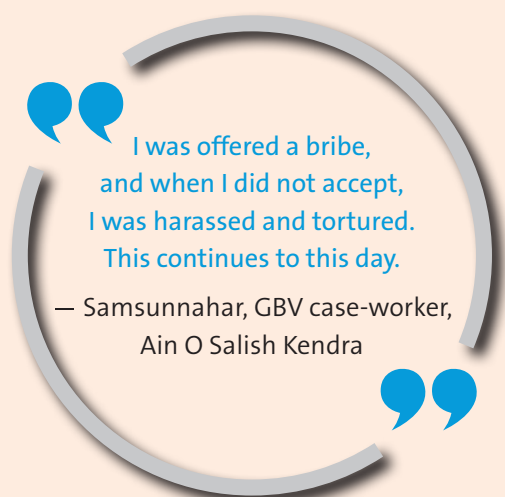
¹ UN chief calls for domestic violence 'ceasefire' amid 'horrifying global surge': <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/04/1061052>

Experts Meetings: 22 November 2020

The three-part roundtable discussions brought together activists, legal experts, government officials, UN Agencies, the judiciary, law enforcement agencies, academia, development partners, civil society organizations (CSOs), youth and media representatives.

The discussions revolved around the drivers of GBV, touching upon issues of patriarchy and systemic sexism, the need for Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) to prevent gender-based violence (GBV), and barriers for GBV survivors to access justice. Experts discussed how to overcome the main challenges and risks factors

of GBV. It was agreed that there is a strong need for the government to utilize the rich civil society expertise to provide survivor-centred services and law reforms to be conducted in line with human rights standards and through meaningful involvement of gender experts and social scientists. It was also agreed that age appropriate CSE and Gender Education (GE) in schools should be delivered in an environment of trust and empathy that teaches the value of gender equality and consent, and the issue of double victimization and prompt delivery of justice should be internalized and addressed within all levels of the judiciary system.



GBV case worker Samsunnahar is recounting her heart-wrenching story in Session 1. Photo credit: UN Women/DEVCOM



Taptun Nasreen, the AIG of Bangladesh Police, speaks about cyber-crime in Session 3. Photo credit: UN Women/DEVCOM





Experts speaking on the issue of Comprehensive Sexuality Education in Session 2. Photo credit: UN Women/DEVCOM

Virtual Dialogue on Actions against Sexual Violence: 25 November 2020

The event was attended by approximately 120 participants from different Ministries, UN Agencies, development partners, government officials and civil society organizations. The Dialogue consisted of an inaugural session, a presentation informed by an analysis of progress on the [10 Action to Stand Against](#)

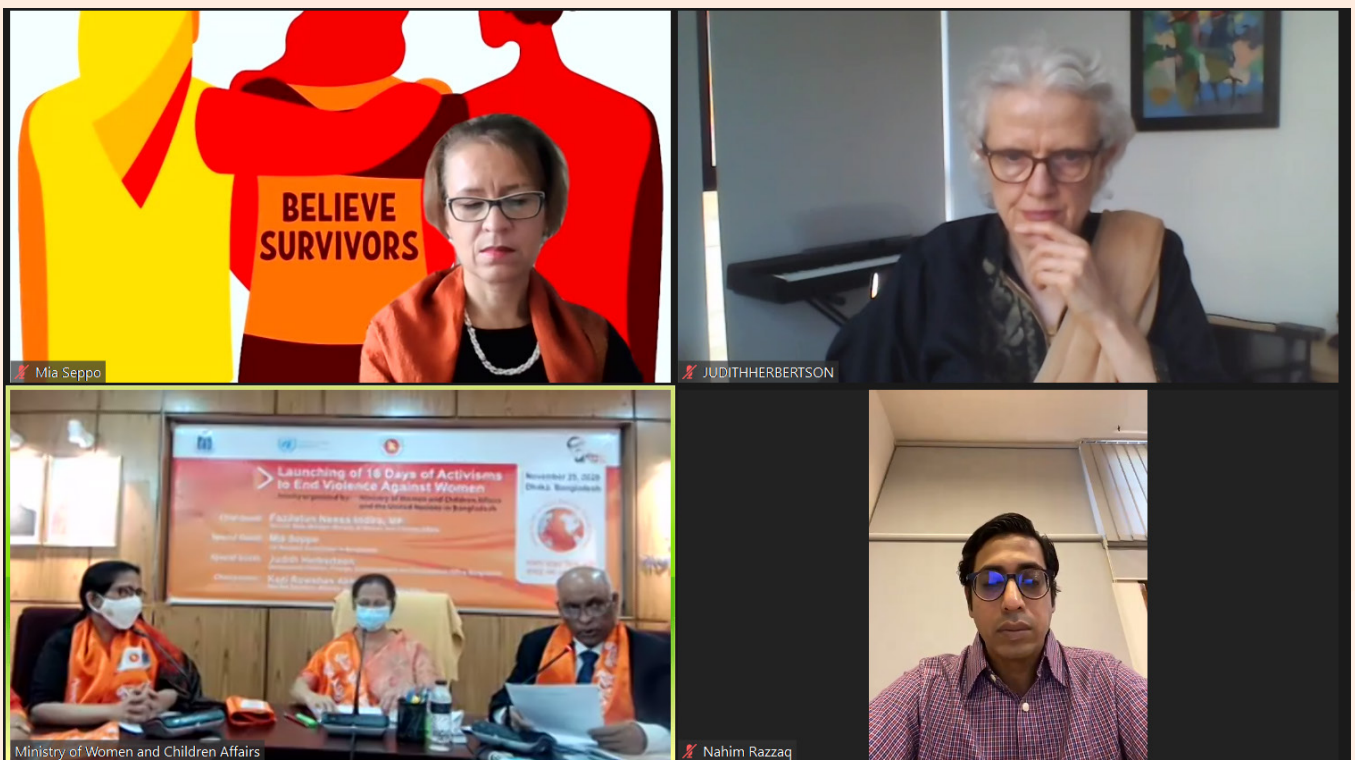
[Rape](#), the recommendations from the Experts Meetings and demands of the newly formed Feminists Across Generations² movement and the Rape Law Reform Coalition³ in response to a recent surge of reports on sexual violence. A plenary session with government representatives was then followed by a Q&A round.



The National Dialogue wrapped up with recommendations to strengthen coordination and accountability across all sectors to end gender-based violence by; addressing the root causes of sexual violence instead of adopting short-term populist measures; changing the narrative from victim blaming to accountability of the perpetrator; moving away from a protectionist discourse and properly framing GBV as the result of patriarchy, power imbalance, toxic masculinity, and gender inequality; creating a bridge between policy makers and CSOs to effectively prevent and respond to GBV; and calling for concrete action of the government to implement the National Plan of Action to End Violence against Women with a feminist approach.

As COVID has laid bare the most brutal side of the patriarchy; the complete failure to uphold the human rights of women and girls, it has re-energised the feminist movement in Bangladesh, and the need for a feminist response, [for] comprehensive action that addresses the root causes of sexual violence, and implementation that puts women and girls' rights at the centre.

— Mia Seppo, UN Resident Coordinator



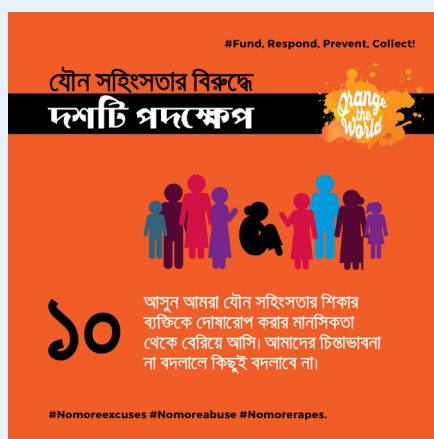
State Minister of MOWCA with special guests (UN Resident Coordinator, Head of FDCO/UK, Member of Parliament, Bangladesh) at the Virtual Dialogue on Actions against Sexual Violence. Photo credit: UN Women

- 2 An intergenerational feminist alliance formed in early October 2020 in protest of a series of high-profile rape cases. The alliance brings activists and other individuals under one platform to stand up against GBV and abuse against women.
- 3 A coalition of 17 non-governmental organizations led by BLAST, advocating for legislative and institutional reform to end impunity for rape.

The 10 Actions to Stand Against Rape: Social Media Campaign

UN Women led a social media campaign to raise public awareness of the 10 Actions to Stand Against Rape, a call for action that emerged from the discussion of 250 experts and activists at last year's National Dialogue on Actions against Sexual Violence. A number of UN agencies and development partners joined the campaign by echoing the messages on the 10 Actions throughout the 16 Days of Activism.

You can see these posts on the [UN Women Bangladesh Facebook page](#).



The UN Women page reached an audience of **12,600** people with **382** post engagements.

Cox's Bazar kicks off 16 Days of Activism: 25 November 2020

On 25 November, UN Women called on all actors to step up efforts to end all forms of violence against women, girls, men, boys, and gender diverse people in the Rohingya and host communities of Cox's Bazar and to stand in solidarity with survivors.



Launching event of 16 Days of Activism in Cox's Bazar.
Photo credit: UN Women

Community Outreach and Youth Engagement

Human Chains as a United Front to End GBV: 25 November 2020

Across the districts of Cumilla, Bogura and Patuakhali, 18 human chains were formed in solidarity with survivors of GBV. Local communities, university students and teachers joined together to illustrate their commitment to ending gender-based violence once and for all. The demonstrations were organized by WE CAN Alliance under the CGBV Project.



Human Chains in different districts across the country. Photo credit: WE CAN Alliance

Community Mobilization

Courtyard Meetings

On 8 December, 44 community activists and members of the Family Prevention Group selected for roll out the module for prevention of GBV at family level joined a discussion in Patuakhali district. A similar session was attended by 22 community activists and members of the Family Prevention Group in Cumilla district on 9 December. The discussions focused

on awareness raising on the harmful practices of violence against women, essential helplines for COVID response and VAW support and the issues experienced because of COVID-19. These discussions were organized by WE CAN Alliance as part of Combatting Gender-Based Violence in Bangladesh Project (CGBV) funded by Global Affairs Canada.



Courtyard meeting in Cumilla. Photo credit: WE CAN Alliance



Courtyard meeting in Patuakhali. Photo credit: UN Women

Engagement with Educational Institutions

Human Chains as a united front to end GBV: 25 November 2020



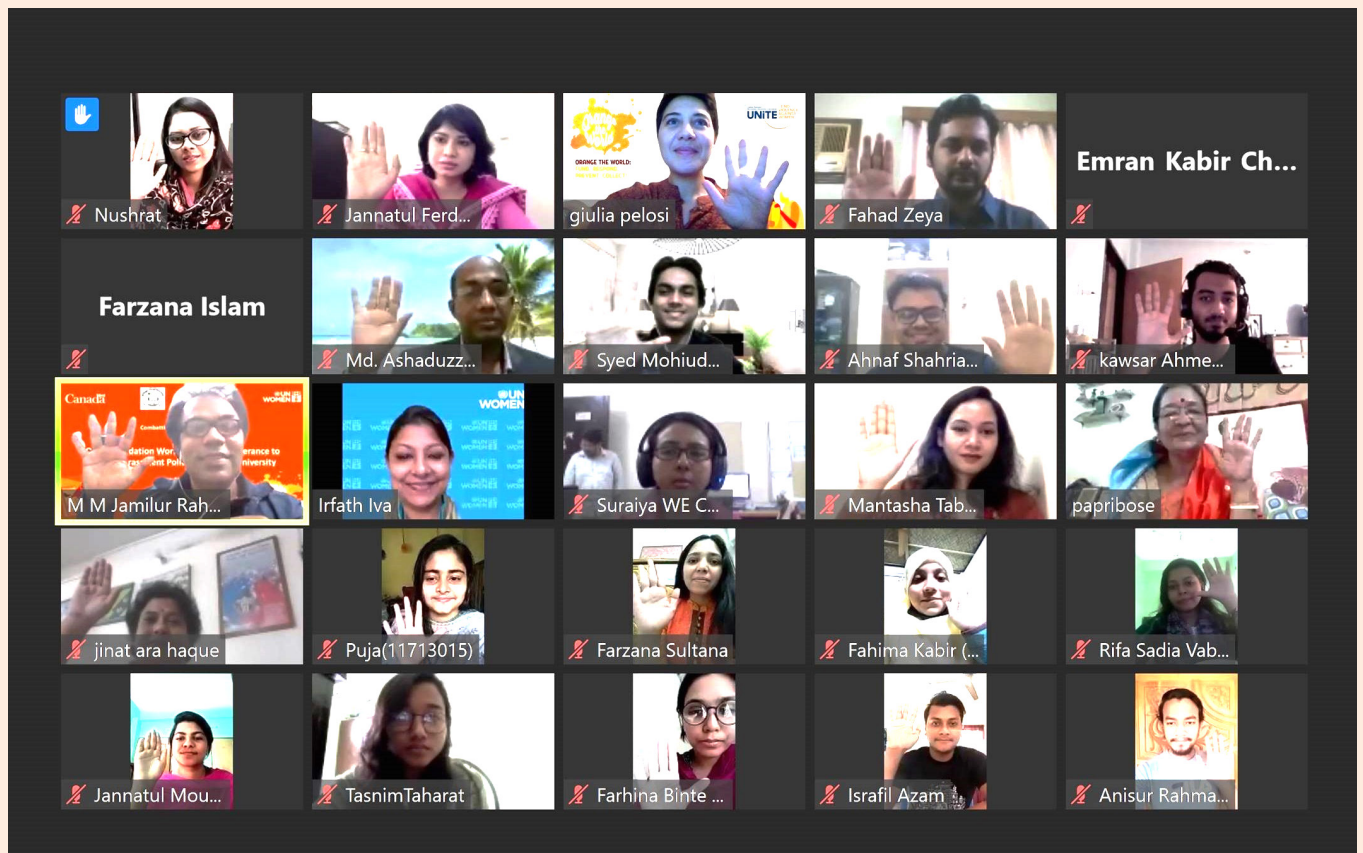
Students and Teachers of Patuakhali Science and Technology University express their solidarity in ending Violence against Women. Photo credit: WE CAN Alliance

Human Chains were formed in six educational institutions that UN Women partners with: Bogura Polytechnic Institute, Government Azizul Haque College, Comilla University, Victoria College Cumilla, Patuakhali Government College and Patuakhali Science and Technology University, in the districts of Bogura, Cumilla and Patuakhali, with students, teachers and institution authorities in attendance.

Validation Workshop of Zero Tolerance to Sexual Harassment Policy for Comilla University: 9 December 2020

On 9 December 2020, more than 100 students from Comilla University participated in a workshop to validate the Zero Tolerance to Sexual Harassment (SH) Policy developed with support of UN Women. The workshop was officially opened by Professor Emran Kabir Chowdhury, Vice Chancellor of Comilla University and Shoko Ishikawa, Country Representative of UN Women.

The Policy will be the first of its kind for Comilla University and will strengthen the management's commitment to put in place concrete measures to create SH free campus.



Students, teachers, and university authorities at the workshop. Photo credit: UN Women

Survivors speak up and call for community action: 29 November 2020



Adolescent girls' raised placards bearing messages on Covid-19 prevention. Photo credit: UN Women / Monon Muntaka

On occasion of the 16 Days of Activism, Tarango, the shelter home for GBV survivors in Mirpur of Dhaka, organized an event on 29 November to celebrate the contribution of female human rights defenders, many of whom were survivors of gender-based violence. Abu Taher, Ward Councillor, Abul Awal, Imam- Lalkuthi Boro Mosque and Firoz Kibria, Principal of Kabi Nazrul School joint with the GBV survivors to commemorate the International Women Human Rights Defenders Day. Community representatives committed to ending gender-based violence (GBV) through strengthened cooperation between themselves as well as with others who play a critical role in reducing the general level of violence, such as local City Corporation and law enforcement authorities. The event spotlighted the spaces in society where violence can occur. Survivors of gender-based violence residing at the Tarango shelter shared their stories and called on local representatives

to fulfil their duties to ensure prevention and fast response. They reminded the audience to dial 109 or 999 to report violence against women and children through a powerful dance piece.

Every day, I used to wake up and put on my school uniform hoping that my husband and in-laws would change their decision about letting me attend school.

— Putul, a child bride residing at the Tarango shelter

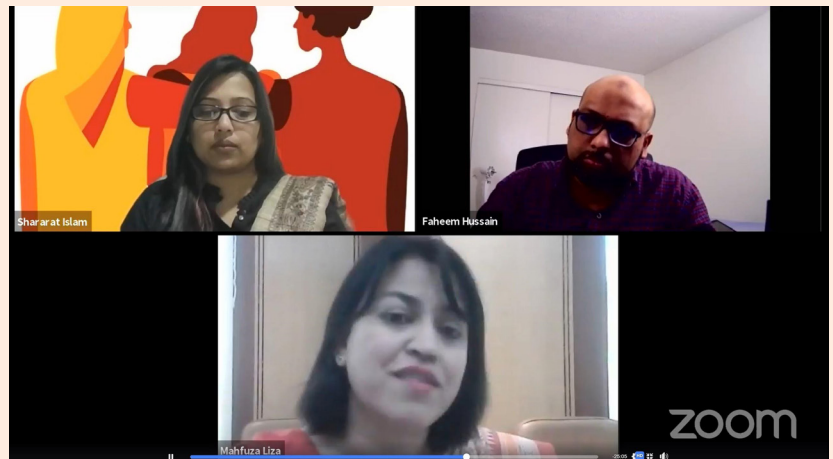
Keeping Youth at the Centre of the 16 Days in Times of COVID 19

Online Safety for Women and Girls Campaign

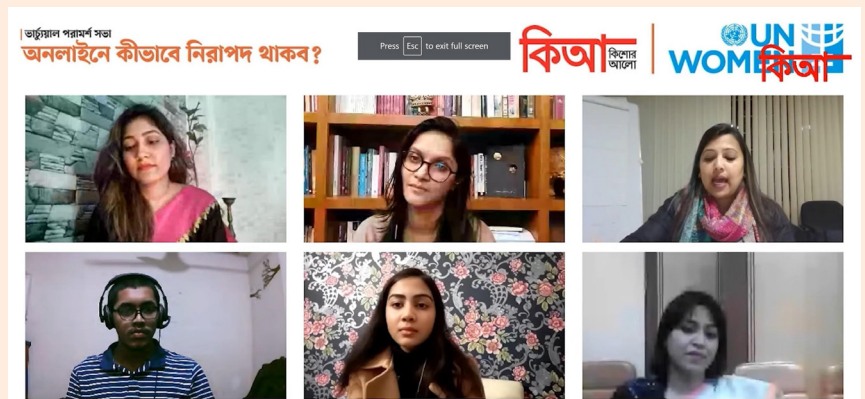
UN Women Bangladesh launched an Online Safety Campaign for women and girls during the 16 Days of Activism to create awareness of digital etiquette and safety. The campaign hosted virtual dialogues with young students (15-26 years old), engaged celebrities to endorse the campaign messages and raised awareness with digital safety content.

The first virtual dialogue, **'Let's stay safe online: What you need to know'**, invited young women, especially university students, to share their thoughts and experiences in an online forum on 30 November. The discussion focused on understanding cyberspace, digital safety guidelines, reporting mechanisms and legal steps to take in cases of cyber bullying and harassment. **Fahim Hussain**, Clinical Assistant Professor at Arizona State University and **Mahfuza Liza**, Additional Deputy Police Commissioner, Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime at Dhaka Metropolitan Police provided expert advice in response to student queries. The virtual session reached an audience of **5,100** with **212** post engagements.

A second virtual discussion on **'How to Stay Safe Online'** was held in partnership with the country's leading youth magazine "Kishor Alo" focusing on how to behave responsibly online, strategies for raising one's voice against cyber bullying and harassment and articulating the role youth play in leading a safe online space for all. A survivor of cyberbullying and harassment, notable model and actor, **Rafiath Rashid Mihtila** joined the discussion to share her experience. **Mahfuza Liza** gave the students an orientation on online safety practices. This was followed by a UN Women representative highlighting the importance of changing the patriarchal mindset to bring about a change in the online space for women. The virtual discussion reached **113,000** people with **1,300** engagements from UN Women's Facebook page.



Experts on the Virtual Dialogue on "Let's Stay Safe online: what you need to know"



Experts and participants on the UN Women- Kishor Alo Virtual Discussion 'How to Stay Safe Online'

Celebrity and influencers call attention to online violence against women



Anisul Hoque, Writer and Journalist

In his video message 'Let's Start From Home', notable writer and journalist **Anisul Hoque** urged all men to start practicing equality in their homes by teaching children to respect women and eradicating harmful gender-stereotyping through insensitive comments and jokes-both online and offline. This message reached an audience of **2,700** people with **114** engagements.

Famous comic and social media influencer **Farzana Muna** called on her audience to speak up against online harassment and bullying in her message 'Courage is Contagious'. This reached **24,000** people with **750** post engagements.

Actor and Director **Tropa Majumdar** reached **2,100** people and engaged with **100** individuals when she addressed online harassment and abuse of female *entrepreneurs*.

Youth Icon, influencer and co-founder of Amrai Bangladesh, **Arif R Hossain** educated his followers on online etiquette and the meaning of consent, reaching **1,500** people with **55** post engagements.

Model and actor **Piya Jannatul's** message reached an audience of **42,000** people with **1,600** post engagements when she called for an end to victim blaming online and offline.

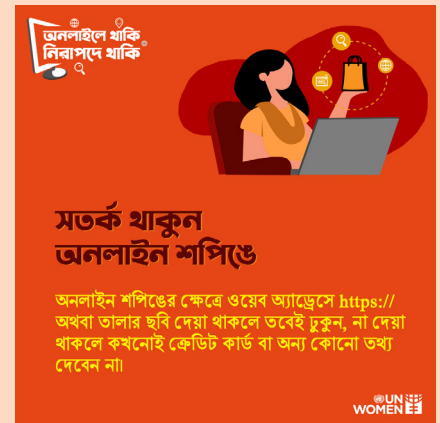
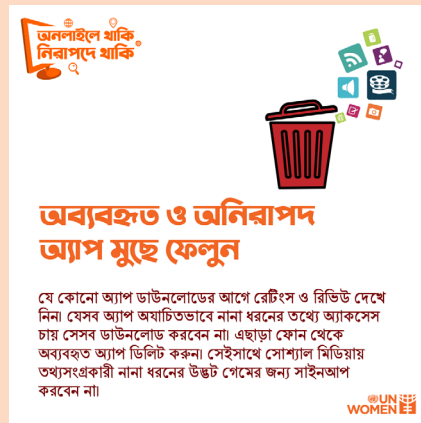
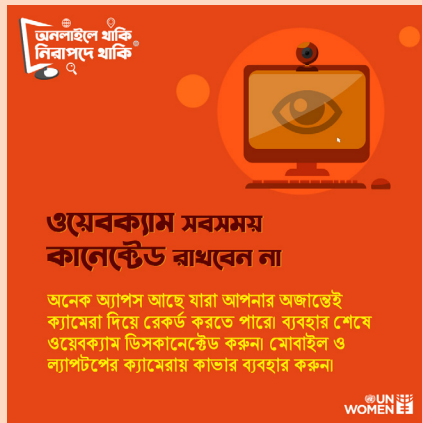
Actor, model, development professional and cyber abuse survivor, **Rafiath Rashid Mithila**, urged Bangladeshi youth to engage in responsible social media behaviour. Her message reached an audience of **282,500** with **8,500** post engagements.



Rafiath Rashid Mithila, Model, Actor and Development Professional

Digital Awareness Safety Tips

12 digital safety tips were shared via social media cards and GIFs that reached **21,300** people with **641** engagements.



Virtual Dialogue of Youth Countering Violence Against Women in COVID

In collaboration with JAAGO, UN Women organized a day-long virtual dialogue providing policy makers, development partners, UN and youth, a platform to discuss the gendered impacts of COVID and how it can be addressed. The three virtual talks discussed the roles of frontline responders, the increasingly unbalanced workload for women and gendered harassment on and offline.

The first session, **‘Frontline response to COVID: Role of youth organizations’** focused on the experiences of frontline responders during COVID, women’s access to information and services, how COVID has been impacting women and the gaps which need to be filled when developing a gender sensitive response. Watch the detailed discussion [here](#).

The 1 hour and 9-minute-long interactive session reached 26, 534 accounts and was viewed 11,000 times with 2331 engagements (likes, comments, shares) on social media.



The second session, **'HeForShe: Unbalanced workload for women during COVID'** addressed the unbalanced workload between men and women during the pandemic with women shouldering most household and care work while working from home. The panel also discussed discriminatory gender norms and the role of youth in bringing a positive change at individual, family and peer levels. Watch the detailed discussion [here](#).

The 1 hour and 6-minutes interactive session reached 18,264 people, was viewed by 13,000 people and engaged with (likes, comments, shares) 1455 times on social media.

The final session **'Sexual Harassment: Online and Offline'** focused on the harassment and bullying of girls and women at schools, colleges and universities on and offline and how COVID-19 has impacted sexual harassment on the streets, educational institutes and the digital sphere. They also looked at prevention and response mechanisms against such violence. Watch the detailed discussion [here](#).

The 1 hour and 32- minutes interactive session reached 30,276 people, was viewed by 20,000 people and engaged with (likes, comments, shares) 1878 times on social media.



Shoko Ishikawa, Country Representative, UN Women Bangladesh responding to the question of youth participant during the discussion of unbalanced workload for women in COVID



Zuanid Ahmed Palak, MP; State Minister for ICT giving a presentation on GoB's response to combat online abuse and harassment in the session on sexual harassment: online and offline.

Adolescent girls raise Awareness on Child Marriage in Cox's Bazar: 9 December 2020

A day long awareness session was organized on 'Reducing Child Marriage with Adolescent Girls at Camp-18' that highlighted the causes and negative impacts of child marriage. The session ended with commitments from the Camp-in-Charge (CiC) Office to spread the word amongst Imams, Majhees and the camps to stop child marriages and engage the girls in skills development activities.



Adolescent girls in the session on Reducing Child Marriage.
Photo credit: UN Women

Engagement with Local Government

Training on VAW prevention: 24-25 November 2020

As part of UN Women's CGBV Project, a two-day training workshop on VAW prevention was held from 24-25 November 2020. Government officials from health, social welfare, education and the Islamic Foundation attended the forum at the UNO office in the Dupchacia Upazila Complex. A total of 27 participants received this training, organized by Christian Aid and Gram Bikash Kendra.



Nasrin Parvin Upazila Livestock Officer, Dupchacia Upazila, Bogura participated on sub-district level training.
Photo credit: Christian Aid

Very often we face sexual harassment on public transport. This type of harassment affects our mental health which has serious implications in our personal and professional lives. We cannot express our feelings with our family members, not even with our husbands. If we share, then they will request us to resign from our jobs. Through this training I want to ask the UNO and the development organizations to take necessary action to stop this violence in this upazilla.

— Nasrin Parvin, Upazila Livestock Officer, Dupchacia, Bogura

Launch of Zero Tolerance to Sexual Harassment Policy at the DC Office, Cumilla: 1 December 2020

The Deputy Commissioner of Cumilla launched the 'Zero Tolerance to Sexual Harassment' policy for DC Office, Cumilla on 1 December 2020 with support of UN Women. The policy was launched in the presence of UN Women representatives, implementing partners Christian Aid and AID COMILLA, local government officials, CSO activists and local media. The Deputy Commissioner committed to promoting a workplace free of sexual harassment and gender-based violence. The policy will apply to all staff members, contract personnel and visitors. This policy is the first of its kind for any Deputy Commissioner's Office in Bangladesh.



Deputy Commissioner of Cumilla launching the 'Zero Tolerance to Sexual Harassment Policy for DC Office, Cumilla. Photo credit: UN Women

Gender Responsive VAW Prevention Training at Local Government Institutions: 8 December 2020

With support of UN Women and implemented by Christian Aid, a two-day training session on 'Gender Responsive VAW Prevention at Local Government Institutions' was held in Bauphal Upazila, Patuakhali. Inaugurated by the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO). The training aimed to develop the capacity of local level officials to strengthen institutional practice and mechanisms that prevent and respond to VAW.

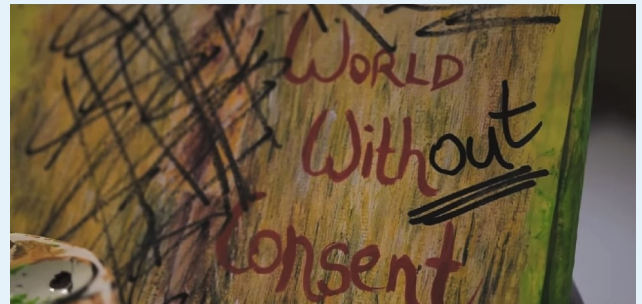


Participants at the Gender Responsive VAW Prevention Training. Photo credit: UN Women

Shadow Pandemic Campaign

“Consent” video

As part of UN Women’s Shadow Pandemic Campaign aiming to galvanize action to end violence against women and girls by transforming social norms, UN Women Bangladesh produced a video to highlight why “consent” matters. The short film humorously depicts a world where people act without the consent of others to spotlight how crucial taking consent is in ensuring a world free of gender-based violence. The video has now been shared more than 1,000 times and viewed over 11,000 times. You can watch it here: <https://fb.watch/2tLbt0whOu/>



Deputy Commissioner of Cumilla launching the ‘Zero Tolerance to Sexual Harassment Policy for DC Office, Cumilla. Photo credit: UN Women

Transport Campaign

Engaging Public Transport Authority to Prevent Sexual Harassment: 26 November 2020

As part of an ongoing Combatting Gender Based Violence project’s transport campaign on ‘How to Prevent Sexual Harassment in public transport’, a consultation workshop was hosted on 26 November with public transport authorities in Bogura. Organized by Christian Aid and Gram Bikash Kendra, the event was attended by 27 stakeholders, including the CNG Chain Master, CNG drivers, CNG owners and the Sub Inspector of Women and Children Help Desk, Bangladesh Police. The campaign aimed to raise awareness on ways the transport sector can prevent all forms of violence that occur on public transport and ensure safe mobility for women and girls.



Consultation meeting with Transport Authority for prevention of sexual harassment in public transports. Photo credit: Christian Aid

If all transport agencies, such as the bus drivers' association, can work together with the assistance of the local administration, sexual harassment can be prevented at the district level. The CNG Chain Master and CNG drivers can also make passengers and drivers aware of the zero tolerance to sexual harassment.

— Statement from
The CNG Chain Master

মাস্ক ছাড়া ভ্রমণ নয়  ইচ্ছাকৃত ধাক্কা দেয়া, স্পর্শ করা অপরাধ অর্থায়ন: প্রোবল এ্যাক্সেসার্স কানাডা Canada

কোনো অভিযোগ ও সহায়তার জন্য **999** নম্বরে ফোন করুন

অশ্লীল মন্তব্য ও অঙ্গভঙ্গি করা থেকে বিরত থাকুন UN WOMEN এবং হিউম্যান এইড

এ বাহনে ধূমপান সম্পূর্ণরূপে নিষেধ 

Engaging Men to end GBV

On 25 November, a workshop on male engagement to end GBV was held with the Majhees of Camp 9 in Cox's Bazar. Male participants pledged to be agents of change and to end gender-based violence by raising more awareness around issues of domestic violence, rape and other forms of GBV through discussions with their families and communities.



Participants at the Male Engagement Workshop in Camp 9, Cox's Bazar. Photo credit: UN Women

Webinars on Compensation for Rape Survivors and Existing Rape Laws



Speakers at the “No Justice Without Reparation: Why Rape Survivors Must Have A Right To Compensation” webinar.
Photo credit: BLAST

UN Women’s partner, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) organized two webinars on 2 and 8 December respectively building on research on rape law reform that UN Women has supported.

While plenty of laws are in place to ensure capital punishment for rapists, are there enough present to ensure sufficient compensation or reparations for the survivor? These are the issues that the webinar ‘**No Justice Without Reparation: Why Rape Survivors Must Have A Right To Compensation**’ (live-streamed via The Daily Star’s Facebook page), gave the audience a chance to explore. The webinar informed of renowned legal experts, representatives from the government and UN Women, had over 4,500 views.

It is essential to ensure punishment for rapists, but we must also investigate the factors at work to create rapists, and the perpetuation of the existing rape culture.

— Rita Das Roy,
Capacity Building Manager, GIZ



Speakers at the “Rape Victims Receiving Justice: Reviewing Law & legal Information” webinar. Photo credit: BLAST

There is a disproportionality in terms of power and rights of the victim. Victims will only be encouraged to come forward when we can ensure access to justice for them.

— Qurratul-Ain-Tahmina - Special News Editor, Prothom Alo

On 8 December, the webinar ‘**Rape Victims Receiving Justice: Reviewing Law & legal Information**’ moderated by Sara Hossain, HED at BLAST, discussed in depth the various loopholes within the archaic definition of rape and existing laws.

The speakers at the webinar were Shoko Ishikawa, Country Representative of UN Women; Taqbir Huda, Research Specialist of BLAST; Fowzul Azim, Chief Legal Researcher at the Bangladesh Law Commission; Qurratul-Ain-Tahmina, Special News Editor at Prothom Alo; Taslima Yasmin, Associate Professor at Dhaka University; Ainunnahar Siddiqua, Supreme Court, Bangladesh; Farjana Hossain, Legislative Draftsman, Joint District and Sessions Judge; Tanzina Ismail, District and Sessions Judge (retired); Ahona Hassan, Feminists Across Generations. The webinar garnered more than 21,000 views.

Journalism and GBV: 4 December 2020

A dialogue on ‘Gender-Responsive Journalism for Reporting on Gender-Based Violence’ was organized by UN Women in Cox’s Bazar on 2 December with the participation of local journalists, change agents, guests from local women’s rights and gender equality organizations and representatives from the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs. The main objective of the session was to promote media’s engagement in the 16 Days of Activism campaign and to discuss and raise awareness among local journalists about ways to promote gender-responsive reporting and address gender-based violence through the media.



Guest, speaking on gender responsive journalism.
Photo credit: UN Women

Adolescent Girls raise awareness against Child Marriage through Arts and Stories: 10 December 2020

On 10 December 2020 UN Women organized an art competition and storytelling event by adolescent Rohingya girls at Camp-12 in Cox’s Bazar. The 16 teenage girls who joined the event used art and storytelling to raise awareness against child marriage and violence, what initiatives can be taken to end child marriage and the support that would be needed from the Camp-in-Charge (CiC) office.



Adolescent girls showcasing their hand prints at the event.
Photo credit: UN Women

Marking the end to the 16 Days: 10 December 2020

On 10 December, the Gender Hub (in partnership with GiHA WG, GBV SS, UN Women, UNFPA, UNHCR and WFP) hosted a closing event for the 16 Days of Activism campaign across the Rohingya Refugee Crisis Response in Cox's Bazar. Five female leaders spoke about how gender-based violence impacts their communities, the Rohingya and host communities, the transgender community, women living with disabilities and frontline aid workers. The event was attended by the UN Resident Coordinator, Heads of Sub-Offices, the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs, development partners and other members of the response. The day concluded with participants outlining the actions they would commit to ending gender-based violence.



Mia Seppo, UN Resident Coordinator, speaking at the closing ceremony of the 16 Days.
Photo credit: UN Women / Gaia Paradiso



The Panel, speaking on issues GBV and the impact on their communities. Photo credit: UN Women / Gaia Paradiso

Join UN Women next year for the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

25 November – 10 December 2021



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and the Empowerment of Women