



Participants at the Performing Arts and Adda event held on 8th December 2019. Photo credit: UN Women and the Asia Pacific.

Orange the World: Generation Equality Stands Against Rape

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

25th November – 10th December 2019





FOREWORD

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UN WOMEN BANGLADESH

Rape is one of the most horrific and invasive forms of violence against women, affecting approximately 15 million adolescent girls (aged 15 to 19) worldwide. Statistics on rape are notoriously difficult to determine due to barriers to reporting, fears of victimization, and weak support and justice systems. Further, we often shy away from the issue of rape during conversations about gender-based violence. It is critically important that our dialogues include discussions on the more serious forms of violence such as rape and sexual assault.

In order to address these long-standing issues, the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence kicked off on 25th November 2019, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. This year's UN theme was **"Orange The World: Gender Equality Stands Against Rape"**, to highlight the need to end the "rape culture" that is entrenched in our society, whether in times of peace or conflict, at home, in the streets, or in institutions.

We bear daily witness to this pervasive "rape culture", whether we realize it or not. We have become

desensitized to victim-blaming, the objectification of women's bodies in popular culture, the constant use of misogynistic language and the trivializing of rape.

Over the 16 Days of Activism, UN Women coordinated events that shone a light on this issue through national dialogues, training sessions, theatre performances, quiz and cooking competitions, university fair days, videos, radio messages, sporting activities and community consultations. I hope that

as you read this newsletter, you will get a sense of the many stories shared. Despite the communal hardship, the 16 days was underscored by strength, resilience, and hope.

Rape is not an issue to censor. It will not stop unless we bring it out of the shadows, acknowledge the root causes, and then make changes at every level. I urge you to continue this conversation that has been started, and carry with you a strong sense of gender justice all 365 days of the year. Because we at UN Women will not stop advocating for justice until every woman and girl can live free from violence and rape, and we need your help to do it.

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National Dialogue on Actions Against Sexual Violence

25 November 2019

The collective voices of 250 experts and activists called for action to end sexual violence, at the inaugural event of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence.

The UN in Bangladesh, in partnership with the Ministry of Women's and Children's Affairs (MoWCA) and civil society organizations, held a national dialogue to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

We should transform rigid social norms that are fueling and perpetuating gender inequality, address gender biases and stereotypes, and challenge toxic masculinity.”
– Mia Seppo, UN Resident Coordinator.

A 'Calls for Action' emerged from the National Dialogue, and included major legislative reforms, an overhaul of the justice response and essential services, improved data collection and monitoring, comprehensive sexuality education in our schools, and the strengthening and expanding of institutional partnerships to prevent impunity.



Mia Seppo, UN Resident Coordinator, addresses the crowd at the National Dialogue. Photo credit: UNDP.



Participants were invited to share their experiences with the panel and ask questions. Photo credit: UNDP.



Panel members ranging from legal experts, government officials, academics and heads of UN agencies discuss the theoretical framework of gender-based violence. Photo credit: UNDP.

Inauguration of 16 Days of Activism in Cox's Bazar

25th November 2019

In the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, UN Women launched the 16 Days of Activism campaign along with Government counterparts, UN agencies, NGOs, and the Rohingya community.

“Rohingya women are not vulnerable, we are leaders and we are self-organising across all camps”- Chekufa, leader of Rohingya Women Empowerment and Advocacy Network.



Razia Sultana, Rohingya Human Rights Lawyer. Photo credit: UN Women.



Many people gathered to launch the 16 Days of Activism in Cox's Bazar. Photo credit: UN Women.

A consultation meeting was convened between the Norwegian Special Envoy for Women, Peace and Security, Marita Sorheim-Rensvik, and the Norwegian Ambassador to Bangladesh, Sidsel Bleken, along with Razia Sultana, Rohingya Human Rights Lawyer and a group of Rohingya women leaders - elected leaders, volunteers and self-organised leaders - from various camps in the UN Women's Multi-Purpose Women's Center (MPWC) in camp 4.

Women and Children Help Desk in Cox's Bazar

27th November 2019

Bangladesh Police, Cox's Bazar and UN Women launched a Women and Children Help Desk, in camp 9, Ukhiya. Over 130 people representing various stakeholders, Rohingya women leaders, Majhis, government high officials, UN agencies, international and local organizations, Camp-in-Charges and different forum members attended the opening ceremony. The launch of the help desk service, the second of its kind, was part of UN Women's campaign for 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. The facility will bolster the presence of female police officers in the camps towards addressing safety and security issues of Rohingya women and children due to prevalence of sexual and GBV such as trafficking and domestic violence.



Flora Macula, Head of Sub Office, UN Women Cox's Bazar and ABM Masud Hossain, Superintendent of Police, B.P.M., officially inaugurate the Women and Children Help Desk. Photo credit: UN Women.

Community Consultation on the High Court Directive for Preventing Sexual Violence

28th November 2019

Under the Combating Gender Based Violence in Bangladesh Project (CGBV), funded by Global Affairs Canada, a community consultation organized by Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), and convened at the Office of the Deputy Commissioner in Comilla, brought together 65 critical stakeholders whose coordination and cooperation are necessary to ensure proper implementation of the High Court Directive (HCD).

Experts from legal, health, social welfare and NGO sectors developed a number of recommendations, highlighting the need for awareness-raising and advocacy of the HCD, training for essential services, establishment of more support centers, and the strengthening of justice systems and laws.



Experts discuss implementation of the High Court Directive during a community consultation. Photo credit: BLAST.

Viral “role reversal” video

3rd December 2019

A viral video posted on the popular Facebook page ‘Daekho’ reveals a parallel world where gender roles are reversed. It follows the experiences of men being harassed in public and private spaces, including an elevator, on public transport, the workplace, at home, and online. The video targeted Bangladeshi youth, and has already been shared more than 3,000 times and has been viewed over 383,000 times. You can watch it here: <https://www.facebook.com/DaekhoTV/videos/535760783673300/>.



“Gender flip” video featured on Daekho Facebook page has been shared more than 3,000 times and viewed more than 383,000 times.

With support from Naripokkho and Protttoy, students and staff at Victoria College undertook training on sexual harassment and the High Court Directive.

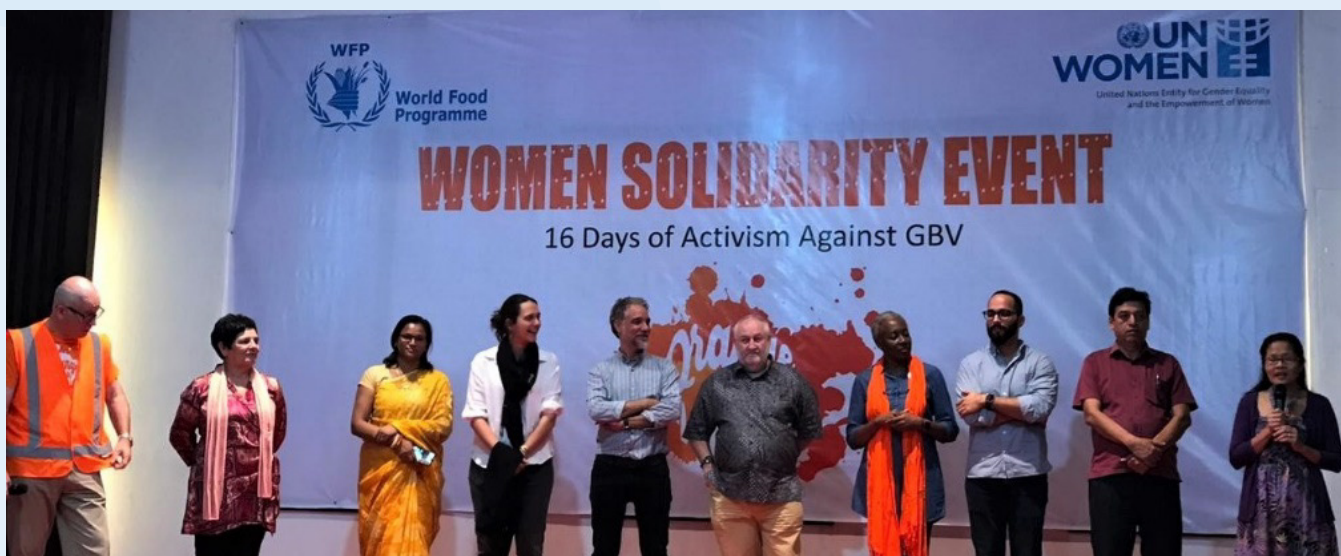


Participants actively engage in the training session at Victoria College. Photo credit: Protttoy.

Women's Solidarity Event

5th December 2019

UN Women and WFP jointly organized a solidarity event for female frontline workers, involved in Rohingya refugee's crisis response in Cox's Bazar. It provided an opportunity for women humanitarian responders to network, share ideas, collaborate, and continue the campaign of 16 days of Activism against GBV. Over 400 women of different nationalities participated at the event.



Women's Solidarity Night, Cox's Bazar, Photo: UN Women

GBV panel discussion in Cox's Bazar 8th December 2019

More than 100 key actors including local authorities, law enforcement, host community leaders, camp elected Rohingya refugee leaders, civil society, NGOs, and UN agencies took part in a high-level panel discussion in Cox's Bazar on 8th December 2019. The event was co-led by the Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group and the GBV Sub-Sector, and organized by the ISCG Gender Hub, UN Women, UNFPA, IOM, UNICEF, World Vision International and Action Aid Bangladesh.



The panel discussion provided an opportunity for key stakeholders to come together and discuss the challenges and barriers for effective prevention and response to GBV. Photo credit: UN Women / Khaled Arafat Ahmed.

“Let’s also remember that Rohingya and Host community women and girls are not only vulnerable victims, but leaders and agents of change and we need to listen to their voices and demands today to serve them better” - Marie Sophie Pettersson, Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group Co-Coordinator.

Panelists and participants discussed challenges and practical solutions in accessing services for justice, health, safety/security and self-reliance for the Bangladeshi host community and the Rohingya refugees, under the umbrella theme “Inclusive and Equitable Access to Services for a Multi-Sectoral Response to GBV affecting Rohingya and Host Communities”.



Panelists of the consultation. Photo credit: UN Women / Khaled Arafat Ahmed.

Over 100 of UN Women partners —CSOs, donors, media and activists—gathered on the ‘orange’ front lawn of UN Women Bangladesh to explore the themes of violence, stereotypes and harassment through drama, performance, and music. The crowd revelled in experimental tribal music by F-Minor, the first female Indigenous band in Bangladesh, as well as enjoying provocative performances from Bonhishikha, a voluntary group working to end gender-based violence. Performance monologues raised issues around consent, workplace harassment, and the societal connotations of the “orna” that many women are still, to this day, forced to wear.



A humorous and lively performance unpacks the connotations associated with the “orna”.
Photo credit: UN Women



Performers tackle the issue of harassment at work in a performance piece entitled “Bitch Goddess”.
Photo credit: UN Women



Phedra Moon Morris, Head of Aid Development Assistance, High Commission of Canada; Mia Seppo, UN Resident Coordinator; Shoko Ishikawa, Country Representative of UN Women; and Asa Torkelsson, County Representative of UNFPA.
Photo credit: UN Women



F-Minor, the first female Indigenous band in Bangladesh, serenades the crowd.
Photo credit: UN Women



Participants network and enjoy the evening of performances.
Photo credit: UN Women

Courtyard session in Noapur village 8th December 2019

A courtyard session held in Noapur village, Kalikapur union in Cumilla district focused on the prevention of sexual harassment and violence against women in the community. A total of 41 females and 6 males discussed their experiences on sexual harassment, including harassment by family members and in the wider community. The Vice Chairman of Upazilla Parishad) took a stand against sexual harassment and urged participants to raise their voice to stop gender-based violence.



Community members gather in the courtyard to discuss the issue of sexual harassment and gender-based violence. Photo credit: Naripokkho/Prottoy.

A total of 12 UN agencies stood with the global #HeForShe movement and participated in “Mister Chef, UN” to break down gender-based stereotypes and encourage more men to share household responsibilities. From the Gender Equality Theme Group of the UN which UN Women co-chairs, FAO and RCO led the coordination of the event with substantive support from UN Women and UNDP.

Male participants pledged to be agents of change, end gender-based violence, take part in household labour, and dismantle myths associated with men in the kitchen. Watch the teams battle it out [here](#)!



Teams race against the clock to assemble their dishes. Photo credit: Shabbir Rahman and Evelin Jaita Karmokar.



Judges and supporters taste the food prepared by the Mister Chefs. Photo credit: Shabbir Rahman and Evelin Jaita Karmokar.



The judges deliberating the winning UN agency. Photo credit: Shabbir Rahman and Evelin Jaita Karmokar.

Fair Day at the University of Comilla

15th December 2019

UN Women and its partners Naripokkho and Prottoy hosted a day-long event at the University of Comilla. The day was packed with interactive activities such as signing pledges for the Clothesline Project on campus, student debates, film screenings, theatre performances and youth-led entrepreneurship's. The winners of UN Women's Innovators Against Gender Based Violence Competition also presented on their journey and hosted a stall to launch their product. The Fair Day worked to engage with youth through edutainment to raise issues around the root causes of sexual violence, gender biases and stereotypes, and jointly discuss possible solutions moving forward.



The Vice-Chancellor of Comilla University addresses the students. Photo credit: UN Women/Dibarah Mahboob.



The winners of the Innovators Against Gender Based Violence Competition launch their product. Photo credit: UN Women/Dibarah Mahboob.



A student writes her pledge in support of the Clotheslines Project. Photo credit: UN Women/Dibarah Mahboob.



Students engage in a lively debate. Photo credit: UN Women/Dibarah Mahboob.

But wait...there's more!

Throughout the 16 Days of Activism, UN Women Bangladesh engaged with the community and shared key messages about gender equality and violence against women through quizzes, stories, fact sheets, and more.

Quiz competition at Shwapno Supershop



Participants network and enjoy the evening of performances. Photo credit: UN Women and the Asia Pacific.



Participants network and enjoy the evening of performances. Photo credit: UN Women and the Asia Pacific.

Over the 16 days, a quiz competition was held at five branches of Shwapno Supershop. The quiz explored the root causes of rape, and reached approximately 1000 shoppers across all outlets.

The UN Women Country Representative, Youth representative Shobarna Afrose Jemy shadowing Shoko, and Elita Karim, singer and journalist, together went to one of the Shwapno outlets on 4th November 2019 and encouraged all shoppers to take part in the contest. Three celebrities also went live from UN Women Facebook page to endorse the competition: Elita, Rumana Ahmed, captain of the Bangladesh female cricket team Rumana Ahmed, and Sabina Khatun, captain of the Bangladesh football team. You can view their inspiring messages [here](#).

Four winners were chosen to go live on Colors FM, and each winner was joined by one of the celebrities. Radio messages about ending violence against women were also broadcast at regular intervals on Colors FM over the 16 days, targeting youth.

Social media

The inspiring stories of real people produced by the UN Communication Group were posted on UN Bangladesh Facebook – one for every day of the 16 Days of Activism. We heard from women and men from different communities, including shadow members, entrepreneurs, human rights activists, transgender community members, and many more.

There was also a number of interactive videos, statistics and posts unpacking “rape culture”, consent, and changing the narrative from blaming women to holding men accountable for the violence they perpetrate.

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

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#OrangeTheWorld
#GenerationEquality
#16DAYS

“ Being a woman from Dalit community I faced discrimination at all levels. To improve the condition, I educated myself, I learned about human rights, gender equality and now I raise my voice on behalf of other women of my community to ensure their access. ”

Moni Rani
Shadow Panchayet Member

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#GenerationEquality
#16DAYS

“ I feel myself as a woman and like to wear veil. My society is not accepting me but I continue to fight for establishing my human rights and that’s why I keep wearing veil ”

Megh
Cross-Dresser

RAPE REPORTING IN ADOLESCENCE

Only
1%

of adolescent girls who have experienced forced sex reached out for professional help.

*Based on the data from 30 countries

SOURCE | UNICEF, 2017

UN WOMEN

#16days

f LIVE

HOSTED BY
Elita Karim
Journalist, Singer, Performer, Anchor and Voice artist

UN WOMEN

#16days

f LIVE

HOSTED BY
Sabina Khatun
Captain of Bangladesh women's football team

UN WOMEN

#16days

f LIVE

HOSTED BY
Rumana Ahmed
Captain of Bangladesh women's cricket team

UN WOMEN



**end rape
culture**

Join UN Women next year for the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, 25th November – 10th December 2020.



Photo credit: UN Women/ Evelin Jaita Karmokar

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