

# BANGLADESH POLICE WOMEN NETWORK LAUNCHES 2021–2023 STRATEGIC PLAN

September 7, 2021

**ON 7 September 2021**, the Bangladesh Police Women Network (BPWN) launched the 2021–2023 Strategic Plan at the Bangladesh police headquarters in Dhaka in the presence of more than 300 Bangladesh police officials and BPWN members at the Bangladesh Police Headquarters in Dhaka. The event was jointly organized by UN Women Bangladesh and BPWN. The Strategic Plan will help empower women police officials to express their collective concerns and guide the creation of a framework to address gender issues through the network.

The Strategic Plan aims to ensure stronger gender equality within the police force through meaningful participation, representation, contribution, progression and empowerment of women police officials as well as safety and security of women and girls across communities. It will also act as an important stepping stone for Bangladesh Police to fulfil its commitments within the Bangladesh National Action Plan for Women, Peace and Security (2019–2022) in line with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 over a 3-year period.

In her welcome remarks, Ms. Amena Begam BPM, DIG (Protection and Protocol) SB, of the Bangladesh Police and President of BPWN delved into a brief history of BPWN's journey. Ms. Begam stated that BPWN is a platform currently providing 15,000 women law enforcement officers opportunities for professional growth, including improved services, trainings, modern health care and additional innovative measures. With support from UN Women, the BPWN strategy was initiated in 2018 to strengthen the platform. Ms. Begam later presented the five strategic aims that BPWN will proactively implement within the next three years. The aims are:



**Ms. Amena Begam BPM**, DIG (Protection and Protocol) SB, Bangladesh Police and President of BPWN during her welcome remarks.  
Photo credit: UN Women/CEMS

- (1) Maximizing women's contributions within Bangladesh Police
- (2) Increasing representation of women in Bangladesh Police across all ranks and departments
- (3) Supporting the development and progression of women throughout Bangladesh Police
- (4) Promoting an appropriate working environment for women across Bangladesh Police
- (5) Maximizing the contribution of the BPWN in supporting Bangladesh Police to provide a gender-responsive policing service, thereby improving the safety and security of women and girls within communities.



Senior Police Adviser to UN Women, Ms. Jane Townsley, who has supported BPWN since 2018, joined the event virtually. Shedding light on the urgency of ensuring that the role of women in policing is diversified, Ms. Townsley emphasized how critical it was that every police service in the world should guarantee that women are at the heart of defining and delivering solutions.



**Ms. Jane Townsley**, Senior Police Adviser to UN Women virtually presented her remarks. Photo credit: UN Women/CEMS



**Ms. Mia Seppo**, UN Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh during her remarks. Photo credit: UN Women/CEMS

Special guest Ms. Mia Seppo, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh, took the stage next. Remarking on how male-dominated teams with few women leaders is never the way towards progress, Ms. Seppo urged the importance of maintaining gender parity across ranks to ensure that the specific needs of women and girls was reflected in decisions at all levels. She lauded BPWN's role in leading the way for Bangladesh Police toward gender equality, reaching zero tolerance on sexual harassment, and raising awareness on gender-based violence. Ms. Seppo further stressed how senior-level engagement is crucial in realizing the Bangladesh National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security.

Calling the Strategic Plan a comprehensive and forward-looking guideline, chief guest Dr. Benazir Ahmed BPM (BAR) and Inspector General of Bangladesh Police, during the final remarks of the day, stated that this plan would ensure broader representation of women police officials within the country and help strengthen the vision of gender-responsive policing.



**Dr. Benazir Ahmed BPM (BAR)**, Inspector General of Bangladesh Police during his remarks. Photo credit: UN Women/CEMS

“ We are committed to creating an enabling and conducive working environment for all our women police officials that is free from all forms of harassment. In this regard, alongside the men police officials playing their part, the women police officials also need to voice their rights. This practice of gender-responsive policing needs to start from our homes. ”

**Dr. Benazir Ahmed BPM (BAR)**, Inspector General of Bangladesh Police



Special guests and BPWN officers formally launching the Strategy Plan for 2021–2023. Photo credit: UN Women/CEMS



Bangladesh Police and BPWN officials attending the launch ceremony in-person and virtually. Photo credit: UN Women/CEMS

“ The need to diversify the role of women in policing has never been so critical. Right now, that need is not merely based on fairness, equality or an improvement in our ability, it is based on the need to ensure that the right resources are in place so that our communities can live in safety, and women in those communities have dignity and are respected for the contributions that they make. ”

**Ms. Jane Townsley**, Senior Police Adviser to UN Women



Following the official launch of the Strategic Plan, the chief guest presented honorary awards to Ms. Flora Macula, Head of Sub-Office for UN Women Cox’s Bazar, Ms. Amena Begam and Ms. Jane Townsley for their contribution in gender-responsive policing activity in Bangladesh and the realization of the new Strategic Plan.

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