

State Minister of Women and Children's Affairs,
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, MP
57th CSW
Violence Against Women
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Madam Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Participants

Violence against women persists all around the globe. It is not only a grave violation of human rights but an impediment to social and economic development and productivity. It has enormous direct and indirect costs both for the victim survivors as well as the social sector in terms of health, police and legal expenditure. Such violence originates from gender-based discrimination and gender inequality. The obligation of the States to respond to and protect women and girls from such violence has been made a part of global human rights framework. The States are required to take comprehensive measures to prevent violence from taking place on the one hand and responding to incidents of violence on the other.

States must ensure coordinated multisectoral services and access of women and girls in availing the same. Within this framework women and girls with special needs – such as women with disabilities, women in minority communities, adolescent girls must be given special protection by adopting inclusive policies and strategies and ensuring that law responds and caters to their needs.

Combating violence against women requires -

- Effective legal framework wherein laws treat violence against women as crime with appropriate penal provisions.

- Institutional Framework -

Developing effective parliamentary mechanism by setting up special committee to eliminate VAW through awareness raising campaign and advocacy and close monitoring of implementation of law.

Establishing 'Women Caucus' or 'Gender Caucus.'

Making judiciary and law enforcing agencies more gender-sensitive through trainings, workshops, etc..

Women-friendly administrative mechanisms have to be put in place.

Collective response and coordinated efforts of all actors in delivering multisectoral services must be strengthened.

- Engaging and building partnership with men and boys, community leaders at grassroot level and forge alliance.

Education on gender and human rights is an essential component.

Building disaggregated database.

Bangladesh has adopted a whole range of multisectoral service approach to prevent and protect women and girls from violence including police and justice response, necessary laws, shelter, psychological counseling, 24 hour helpline and reintegration.

One Stop Crisis Centers are operating throughout the country and rendering coordinated health service, shelter, rehabilitation and legal and police support. There is Trauma Counseling Center, Victim Support Centers and Legal Aid Services. Effective legal framework is in place including Domestic Violence Prevention and Protective Act, 2010. National Women Development Policy 2011 specifically addresses the issue of VAW.

Bangladesh joined the UNiTE Campaign and took part in the 16 Days Activism on Violence Against Women giving it a special thrust and building momentum in preventing the same. Dhaka Declaration 2011 was adopted with a call to protect women from violence.

Madam Chair

Let us all UNiTE in strengthening our efforts to eliminate VAW and move towards ensuring a more equal, equitable and inclusive world.