



28 April 2020

Press Release

In light of the COVID 19 lockdown, Coalition for Prevention of Domestic Violence has recommended bringing all cases of domestic violence within the ambit of the proposed virtual court and activating the process of filing General Diaries online

Due to the present situation of the COVID 19 lockdown, women and children who are victims of domestic violence are being provided with legal advice, at governmental and non-governmental levels, through social media, online, and mobile phones. Recently, various news outlets have reported on the rise of incidents relating to violence against women and children. In light of this, an online meeting had been arranged to discuss and exchange ideas on how coordination at governmental and non-governmental levels can be increased. In conclusion of the meeting, women's rights activists, lawyers and legal aid workers have highlighted the following recommendations:

1. Due to the lockdown, all cases of domestic violence across the nation should be brought within the ambit of the proposed virtual court and through it, necessary steps should be taken to provide urgent protection.
2. The process for Bangladesh Police to be able to file General Diaries online should be activated and this service should be implemented nationwide. Further, steps should be taken to ensure that besides treating the COVID 19 situation seriously, the law enforcement should also start taking into serious consideration the issue of eliminating domestic violence and/or oppression. A 'women's desk' should be installed at every police station to ensure that victims of domestic violence receive assistance on a priority basis.
3. The hotline and helpline numbers of all organizations connected to the coalition for the Citizen's Initiative against Domestic Violence (CIDV) should be circulated through various mediums, for the prevention of violence against women and children.
4. As shelter homes at governmental and non-governmental levels, due to the risk of COVID 19, are not currently providing shelter to victims, necessary steps should be taken for the victims to be tested at the shelter homes, so as to ensure proper protection for them.
5. The online and telecounselling numbers for women and children related ministries be circulated more extensively through various governmental and non-governmental media and social media, in order to ensure maximum service.
6. If marginalized people, especially disabled women, women and children from hard to reach areas, and in the Rohingya community are victims of violence during this time, the matter should be treated with utmost importance and urgency.

On the occasion of National Legal Aid Day, and in light of increasing concern arising from the increase in incidents of violence against women and children in the current situation, the coalition for prevention of domestic violence (CIDV Coalition) secretariat, and Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) arranged this discussion.



বাংলাদেশ লিগ্যাল এইড এন্ড সার্ভিসেস ট্রাস্ট (ব্লাস্ট) Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST)

Approximate 35 persons participated in the discussion, including Dr. Faustina Perera, representatives from BRAC University, Centre for Peace and Justice, WECAN, BRAC, Naripokkho, GIZ, Bangladesh National Women Lawyer's Association, Ain o Shalish Kendra, Acid Survivor's Foundation, BLAST, WDDF, YWCA. Also present were lawyers, researchers, women right's activists and representatives from disability rights organizations.

Message Convener

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