

**REPORT
ON
LAW, SOCIAL CONTROL AND JUSTICE FOR WOMEN
PROTOCOL MEETING OF
ASIA PACIFIC ADVISORY FORUM ON JUDICIAL EDUCATION ON
EQUALITY ISSUES**

**HELD ON
1st - 2nd of January 2004**

**BALL ROOM HOTEL SHERATON DHAKA
AND
DEMOCRACY AUDITORIUM MOMENBAGH DHAKA 1217**

**SUPPORTED BY
CANADIAN CIDA**

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PREFACE

This report is the outcome of the project titled, "Protocol meeting of the South Asia Pacific Advisory Forum on Judicial Education on Equality Issues of Bangladesh". Under this project, Khan Foundation has organized one workshop on 1st- 2nd of January 2004. In this workshop, local and international judges, women lawyers and NGO representatives were present. Representatives of the local government, policy makers and members of the civil society were also present.

If we observe the situation of judges and women lawyers in a holistic approach, the necessity of this type of workshops can be realized easily. Although, sex is determined by nature but the sense of gender, is imposed by the society. From the very beginning of a woman's childhood, the elements of gender are imposed upon a girl by every possible manner. The nature of imposition of gender includes socio-cultural, socio-religious beliefs, taboos and practices. Even in the same society, consisting of different classes of people, towards gender are frequent to impose discrete beliefs and practices.

Gender equality is a way to overcome all prejudices, taboos, misbelieve and thus to create a congenial environment for the women to exercise their rights and liberties guaranteed under the constitution or any other existing law. Gender equality is also concerned for qualitative development of a country and for a new sphere of understanding.

Sharing NGO's experiences by the workshop thus paves the way for sustainable materialization of rights of women in adjudicating process. The judges/lawyers can play a very vital role in this context as the prime objective of law is to guide and control the social relationship and this very weapon "the law" is at the disposal of judges/lawyers for dispensation of justice. Having regard to gender equality from the positive point of view in this country, in the court of law, gender equality will only be possible when the judges/lawyers tend to dispose of cases before women upon objective test rather subjective satisfaction as in most of the cases traumatized victims fail to recall all the facts of the case strictly from the material point of view.

I hope that it will help to dispose similar cases smoothly since the meeting provided the national and international judges with the chance to share their views and experiences. Concerning this, Former Chief Justice Mainur Reza Chowdhury shares his work experiences informing that judges are more open minded now and their increased sensitivity is evident in their judgement, which was thought to be a contempt of court while he was in active service. It is to be noted that Khan Foundation has been organizing this type of meeting, workshop, and training for in-country judges and actively participated in the amendment of Repression of Women Laws, 2003.

All the honorable guests, speakers and particularly the participants played a significant role in the workshop to materialize the project. I am grateful to all of them. The support that the Canadian CIDA has rendered to us specially in the smooth fulfillment of the protocol meeting is irrefutable. I sincerely thank them for everything they have done. Report on this workshop that has been prepared would not have been possible without their invaluable contribution. I hope these will be helpful for the donors, policy makers and the NGOs to plan for the future.

Advocate Rokhsana Khondker
Executive Director.

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Introduction

“All are equal before law and are entitled to protection by the law”-inscribed thus in the article 27 of the Bangladesh constitution aims to ensure and guarantee basic human rights of their people. The human race has been trying to achieve this fundamental goal since time immemorial. This is the very principle that provided impetus to them for creating administration and judicial system. The principles of Khan Foundation is no different in this respect. Khan Foundation has been working to further this objective for more than one decade. As one of their continued concern, Khan Foundation is dedicated to promote the notion of gender equality and effective law-implementation and human rights irrespective of gender and class ensured in the constitution. The Canadian CIDA having the same motto in their mind came out with all out support to help the foundation in materializing the envisaged objective. Canadian CIDA has also realized that women as the under privileged segment of our population, as their decade-long experience confirms, are yet to be protected from violence, physical and mental abuse and resultant trauma and severely in need of legal intervention. To safeguard their basic human right legal intervention is needed and existing laws against violence should be implemented properly as believed by both the organizations.

This protocol meeting is an extension of these objectives aiming to generate social awareness. Before viewing into the details of the protocol meeting let us take a bird's eye view about the backwardness of this region specially Bangladesh to uphold and ensure human rights and how this noble initiative of forming the South Asia Pacific Advisory forum on Judicial Education and Equality issues was created.



A glance of presented Guests

Background:

Human rights are the fundamental rights that safeguard the basic entity of a human being. According to the United Nations, human rights could be generally defined as those rights, which are inherent in our nature and without which we cannot live as human beings. Human rights and fundamental freedom allow us to fully develop and use our

human qualities, our intelligence, our talents and our conscience and to satisfy our spiritual and other needs as well. Without safeguarding the rights and privileges of the people of a country, no nation can ensure social mobilization at any stage. So, the protection of the basic human rights is inevitable for all societal development.

Human Rights and Bangladesh: An Overview

The present status of human rights of our country reflects a very morbid picture, overwhelmed by frequent abuse of fundamental rights of people at all stages. Regardless of the commitment of our Government, human rights record remains poor in many significant areas, and the overall situation is deteriorating. The subject of human rights violence especially of women and children is not a new issue in Bangladesh. Almost every morning one can find newspaper report on killing, abduction, police harassment, murder, rape, forced labour, prostitution and torture of women and children (in particular girls). One may argue that the condition of the people, particularly womenfolk in Bangladesh has improved over the last few years, but at the same time, one must admit that human rights, particularly women's rights are yet to be established in this country in the true sense of the term. In particular a large section of the women and children in this country who reside in the rural areas have no opportunity to receive formal education nor do they enjoy any form of freedom or economic self-sufficiency. As a result they are continuing to be victims of the human rights violation in this country and are quite often subject to torture and cruelty.



A glance of presented Guests

Some of the Areas of Serious Concern

The constitution of our country states " all citizens are equal before the law and are entitled to equal protection by the law;" however, in practice the Government does not effectively enforce laws strongly aimed at eliminating discrimination. Women, children, minority groups, and persons with disabilities often confront social and economic disadvantages.

Violence against women has increased alarmingly over the years. Rape, acid- throwing, battering, trafficking is just a few of them. Even though countless efforts have been made over the years from different corners; i.e., governmental, non-governmental and international organizations, but unfortunately the situation has remained the same and in many instances deteriorated further.

This situation is even darker in the rural areas, where rights of women are severely violated.

Acid attacks are also a growing concern as the number of acid victims has increased dramatically over the last few years. Lack of initiative for rehabilitating the victims and loopholes in the legal system is worsening the situation day by day.

Government has undertaken programs in the areas of primary education, health, and nutrition. Many of these efforts are supplemented by local and foreign NGO's. These joint efforts have allowed the country to begin making significant progress in improving health, nutrition, and education; but ironically the overall status of children remains very morbid especially the girl-child who is severely discriminated not only by the society but also by her family as well.

Situation of Human Rights in Other Asian Countries

The condition of human rights of women is not only deteriorating in Bangladesh, but the condition is not also satisfactory in many of the South East Asian countries. In Bangladesh as well as in those countries, what ever little protection they enjoy are hardly of any help to them due to their ignorance and economic insolvency. To safe guard fundamental rights of women in those countries, it is needed to aware disadvantaged women of the society immediately of their constitutional rights, the laws in their favor and thus help them fight all kinds of repression on them.

Formation of South Asia Pacific Advisory Forum on Judicial Education on Equality Issues

To launch a comprehensive development program and sensitize the issue of gender equality, education and human right in Asia Pacific region and world, in October 1997, Asia - Pacific Advisory Forum on Judicial Education on Equality Issues begun its journey in Delhi on the basis of the agreement of the Management Team (MT) members consisting of judicial members and NGO representatives the forum. Management Team (MT) of the forum consists of members from Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and India. From each country, MT is represented by two judicial members and an NGO.

The Forum identified Sakshi, an Indian NGO working on gender issues, as the facilitators to establish a regional process for judicial education on equality issues focusing on violence against women. At that time the MT was also empowered as supervisory body offering guidance according to the spirit of the mandate. In the MT meeting September 2nd, 2000, all members agreed and produced a five-year plan for the forum in the individual countries and to hold grand protocol meetings. Accordingly, first protocol meeting was held in Nepal from January 4th to January 7th, 2001.

MT member of the Asia - Pacific Advisory Forum on Judicial Education on Equality Issues in Bangladesh

Khan Foundation is an MT member of the Asia - Pacific Advisory Forum on Judicial Education on Equality Issues. Khan Foundation firmly believes that without reducing human right abuses in the country and protecting vulnerable group, country would lag behind. With this view in mind from its very inception, Khan Foundation has been working effortlessly for safeguarding the basic human right of the people, especially women and girl child at the rural settings. In other words Khan Foundation works for the protection of disadvantaged groups. Unanimously In the first protocol meeting held in Nepal from January 4th to 7th, 2001 it was decided that next grand protocol meeting would be held in Bangladesh and as an MT member it became the Khan Foundation's turn to organize the protocol seminar in Bangladesh in collaboration with Justice M. F. Karim as a part of the Forum programme.

MT meeting at Dhaka:

In the view of the above, Khan Foundation organized a two day seminar of Asia-Pacific Advisory Forum on Judicial Education on Equality and Gender Issues from January 1st to January 2nd, 2004 in Hotel Sheraton. A total of 60 participants took place in the seminar where 35 of them came from different parts of Bangladesh, the rest were foreign participants. The participants comprised of judges, NOG representatives and members from the development partners.

Objectives of the Protocol Meeting:

Though the legal rights are constitutionally confirmed, in practice the Government does not effectively enforce laws meant for eliminating discrimination. Women, children, minority groups and the persons with disabilities often confront social and economic disadvantages.

The condition of human rights of women is deteriorating not only in Bangladesh but also in many South East Asian countries. In Bangladesh as well as in those countries, whatever little protection they enjoy are hardly of any help to them due to their ignorance and economic insolvency. To safeguard fundamental rights of women in those countries, it is needed to aware disadvantaged women of the society of their constitutional rights, the laws in their favor and thus help them fight all kinds of repression on them. Since the judges are actively involved with law and justice they are well equipped and aware of the existing laws and legal terminology. So it is the judges who can easily find out the problems vis-à-vis law and legal barriers to protect women. Advocate Rokhsana Khondker in her inaugural speech outlines the objectives of this Protocol Meeting:

- To sensitize the judicial system to eliminate all kinds of discrimination against women and help reduce violence against them.
- To share in-country and international experiences.
- To help change the mindset of the participants as well as the cross section of the people towards a proactive attitude for eliminating discrimination against women.
- Help to institutionalize the fundamental philosophy of human rights in our society, especially that of women and children by ensuring effective involvement of the civil society.
- Develop and safeguard the status of basic human rights in this region.
- Protect the vulnerable groups of this region specially women and children from human rights abuse.

- Help to institutionalize the fundamental philosophy of human rights in our society, especially those of women and children by ensuring effective involvement of civil society.

Designing of the program:

This protocol meeting is segmented into two sessions: the inaugural session held in the first of January 2004 and the concluding session was held in the second of January 2004. The second day session comprised of four sections titling thus:

- **Women and Law: Access and Equality to Social Justice (section B)**
- **Judicial Decision Making (section C)**
- **Violence Against Women: Bangladesh Perspective (section D)**
- **Recommendations and Suggestions for Change: Next Steps (section E)**

Honourable Guest attend the Inaugural session

Advocate Rokhsana Khondker, Executive Director, Khan Foundation.

Mr. Justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim, Appellate Division, Supreme Court of Bangladesh.

Madam Justice Claire L Heures-Dube, Supreme Court of Canada, Retired.

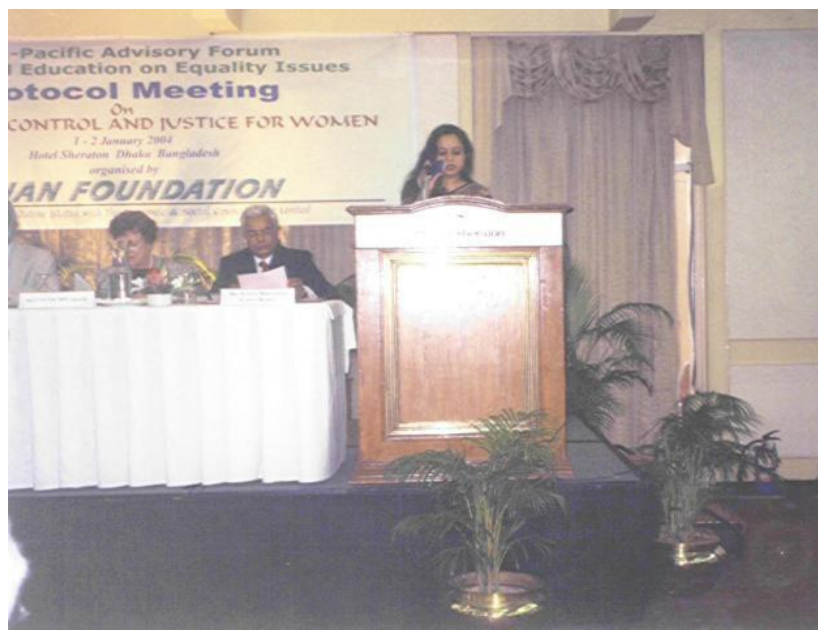
Mr. Justice A M Ahmadi, Former Chief Justice of India.

Mr. Justice K M Hasan, Chief Justice of Bangladesh.

Dr. Abdul Moyeen khan , MP Honourable Minister for Science and Communication Technology, People's Republic of Bangladesh.

Speech by Advocate Rokhsana Khondker

In her inaugural speech, Advocate Rokhsana Khondker welcomes all the participants.



Advocate Rokhsana Khondker, Executive Director, Khan Foundation and Chairperson, Shaishab Bangladesh delivering her Welcome Address

In her address she firstly introduces khan foundation objectives and goal manifested clearly in the watchword-*“Democracy for Development and Development for Democracy”* encompassing the issues concerning basic human rights. This program is a continuation of that process.

Her speech delineates her concern for deteriorating human rights situation for women, lack of legal protection and implementation. Though the legal rights are constitutionally confirmed irrespective of gender and religion, in reality, the laws are not enforced effectively. So violence against women i.e. rape, acid- throwing, marital violence, mental torture has become a common phenomenon. Besides, humiliation, ostracism, lack of education coupled with economic insolvency join together to bar their fair access to law. She opines that little support from the judicial institutions can greatly enhance the moral strengths of the women to seek redress under law.

The objectives of this protocol meeting as she outlines, are to sensitize the judicial system, to eliminate discrimination and violence against women, to share judicial experience at home and abroad to change the strong mindset that bars effective judgment and to focus on the need for institutionalization of the fundamental human rights and to activate effective involvement of the civil society. She further emphasizes the necessity for more sensible treatment and judicial atmosphere for the rape victims since it becomes embarrassing for the rape victims to recount and describe the horrible crime in public. She hopes that the Judges of Bangladesh and abroad, NGO representatives, development partners, government officials and members of the civil society; all can put a combined effort to generate awareness and establish judicial gender equality. She concludes her speech by reaffirming the vision of the protocol meeting that is to bring justice and equality in the society, which cannot be done without ensuring the rule of law. She appeals to every concerned personnel present there for *“a proactive approach towards this issue”* and to take *“added initiative”* to create for the women an effective and ample opportunity to ensure legal access.

Mr Justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim

Appellate Division, Supreme Court of Bangladesh



Mr Justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim is giving his speech

In his speech he talks about the objectives of Asia Pacific Advisory Forum on Judiciary Education on Equality Issues. Bangladesh as a signatory of CEDAW (Convention on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women) should work for the removal of inequality between man and women, he reminds. But violence against women in south Asia particularly in Bangladesh is far more extensive than is generally acknowledged. He alludes to some conventional offences like rape, rape followed by murder, dowry, sexual harassment, trafficking for immoral purposes, trafficking for smuggling outside the country, acid burning, stove burning, eve-teasing, alluring and forcing to commit suicide are rampant in our society. He admits that existing legislation cannot be implemented properly without gender awareness and focuses on the judicial perception of women who come to court in situation of violence. Emphasizing the importance of a consensus to overcome gender bias and discrimination he urges the members of the judiciary “to evolve a mechanism for gender awareness in dispensation of justice.” through interaction among them.

He also praises government’s initiative to incense education for all with gender equality by 2015 through undertaking various social mobilization programs. He hopes that this protocol meeting will help to clarify the understanding of equality issues and substantive law to equip the participants to carry forward the issue of violence against women afflicting our society presently.

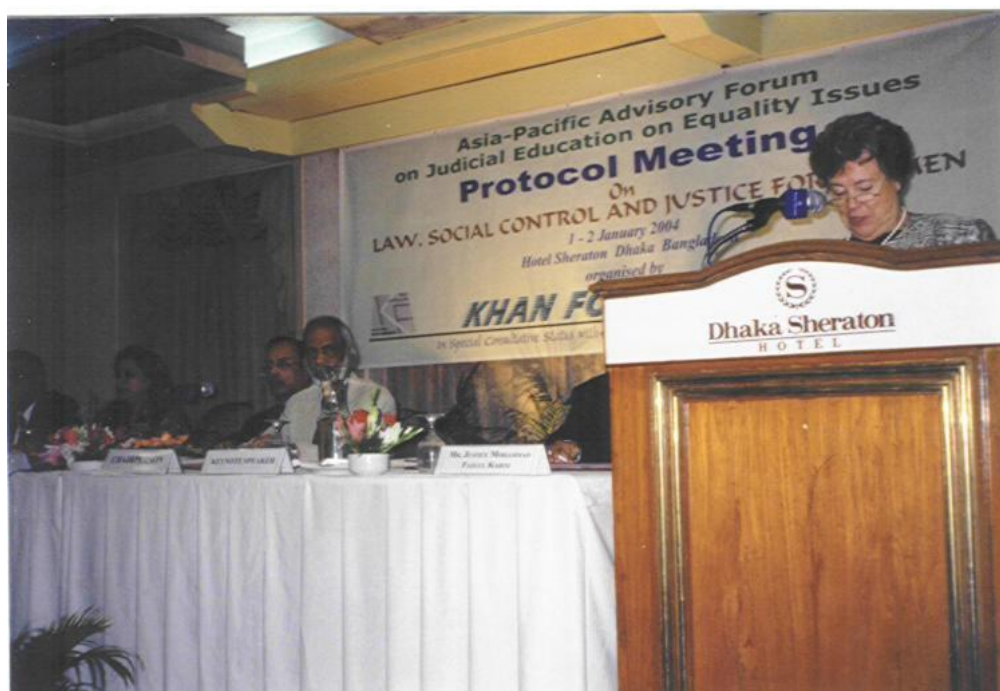
Keynote presentation:

‘Why is equality so important: impartiality and Judging’

Madam Justice claire & ‘Heureux- Dube

Supreme Court of Canada, (retired).

Justice Claire rightly identifies human beings thirst for justice. Justice is indisputably necessary since human being thirsted for this from time immemorial that she thinks, serves as the chief rationale behind judgment and judicial process.



Madam Justice claire & ‘Heureux- Dube, Supreme Court of Canada, (retired), present her paper

This pursuit results in *“truth, impartiality and ultimately equality”*. She identifies the essential elements that incorporate into the art of judging as judicial independence, impartiality, competence and equality.

Judicial independence comprising of institutional and individual independence is fundamental to ensure respect for and confidence in the judicial system. She praised the Supreme Court of Bangladesh for an important judgment that has recently been rendered which served as a reference point. She holds that impartiality on the part the judges, means their independent thinking capability without relying on myths and stereotypes and other biases like prejudice, racism and sexism to reach a pre-ordained results.

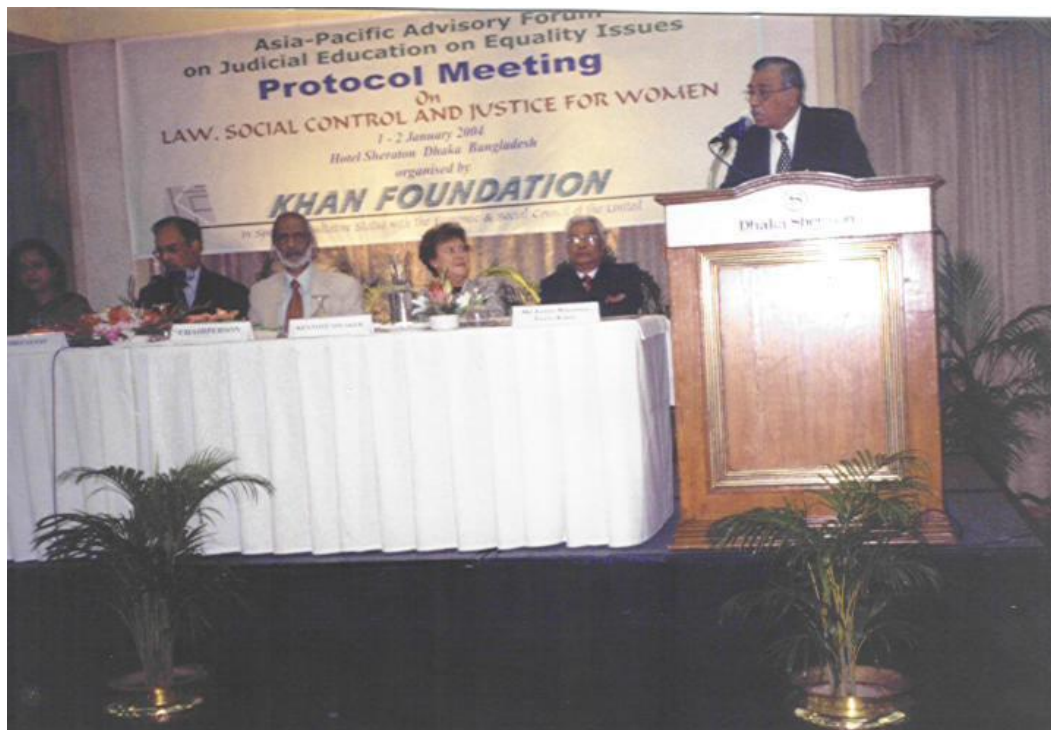
Dwelling on another essential component namely competence, she says that interpretation is at the core of justice and is not made in a vacuum; it functions in a context in which the law is applied. Since legislations cannot be changed every year. So the judges should be aware of the contextual application, and interpretations of laws. The legal community along with the whole world has changed with the advent of globalization and the electronic media. The main factor, however, as far as the legal community is concerned, is the advent of the Universal Declaration some years ago and the adoption by the universal community of a number of international conventions, treaties and protocols which most countries have signed and ratified as well as the adoption of new constitutions in a number of countries. Bangladesh is one of those countries, which has ratified a number of those conventions. The world legal community, she summarizes, now has a common denominator vis-à-vis human rights and *“ a similar language as it deals with similar issues in many countries”*. Competence to day as she defines, means that the legal community and particularly the judiciary must inform itself of these international instruments, conventions, treaties and the jurisprudence developed under the conventions because *‘Ignorance is injustice’*. She praises the judiciary of Bangladesh for demonstrating the awareness of international instruments pertaining to international dialogue.

Emphasizing on the importance of equality she states, *“inequality is injustice.”* She criticizes Aristotelian approach that the equals should be treated equality but ‘unequals’ in proportion to their inequalities that perpetuate inequalities and reinforce disempowerment even more. The notion of equality spurred again by Luther when he complained that differences or inequalities among human being were arbitrary and unacceptable. She alludes to John Locke and later philosophers like John Stuart Mill, Immanuel Kant and Simone De Beauvoir, who pursued the ideal further in a richer version of the interrelationship between human dignity and community who brought a more humanitarian vision and emphasized that equality is about dignity and respect. Human being should be free from the intrusive state and any form of discrimination. So, in our global village, she affirms, equality is an issue that concerns and affects us all.

This revitalized international commitment to equality is apparent in a number of conventions and is embodied in the Universal Declaration of Rights as well as in international Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Hopefully this is the dominant theme in many new constitutions such as Bangladesh, South Africa and Canada to name just a few. In these constitutions equality is closely associated with notions of dignity and respect. She ends her presentation by citing the definition of equality given by the Supreme Court of Canada in one of its decisions. Equality means absence of legislative distinctions that treat certain people as second-class citizens, demean them, and treat them as less capable for no good reason or that offends fundamental human dignity. So the meaning of equality today has evolved into a richer substantive human rights notion that every human being is entitled to the same respect, consideration, and dignity.

Speech of the Special Guest
Mr Justice A M Ahmadi
Former Chief Justice of India.

Justice Ahmadi, fore-mostly thanks everyone for providing him with an opportunity to place a speech on such a delicate issue and also wishes everyone a happy and prosperous new year. He tries to remind the participants of the fact that enough of lip services have been provided on this topic and it is high time that the judges made the true resolutions for the year 2004. According to him, the question of gender justice, equality is on a general basis, justice for all. This topic has gained greater and greater concern in the past few years in this region. It is actually the strong mindset of certain group of people based on strong beliefs, which requires correction in order to obtain gender justice in the judicial process, he opined. Justice is also denied when it is delayed but the victims are reiterated about them getting the proper treatment, this according to him is another form of injustice. Every modern constitution speaks of justice and equality; he states that this provision could be use to silent certain interest groups who deny the women of their equality. In his words "*The constitution provides for equality regardless of caste, creed, color or sex.*" Women are denied of equality by having provided for the equality but not enforcing it. The implementation of the constitution often does not take place. The people in concerned, be it politicians, law enforcing personnel, bureaucrats should be made conscious about what is expected of them and what could be the consequences of their failure. The failures can be deliberate at times or can be because of the stringent mindset. The manner in which these mistakes are corrected should be the prime concern. In western countries, the mindset is more or less gone.



Mr. Justice A M Ahmadi, Former Chief Justice of India is giving his speech as a Special Guest

Former Chief Justice also expresses his strong dislike in using the word sensitization rather sharing of experience, in his words is a better way to disseminate the outcome and spread the message of gender equality and justice.

Justice Ahmadi expresses his deep content by stating that the Indian judicial system has taken a leap towards ensuring gender justice because they have a provision for reading

the international laws in their own judgement. So, several radical ratification at several points have given the Indian judges a greater discretion to ensure gender equality as well as to use their own value judgments. That is how, according to him, the development of law takes place. Judges could take a pro-active role in this regard by enforcing the law using their own discretionary power. Along with this he also states a shocking judgement where a sitting judge of the High Court had given a judgement, which not only went against the victim but also violated human rights. But he also reiterates his hope in the judicial system by discussing a way of improving the quality of evidence. He stated that in several places of India he has provided for women justice and public prosecutor. Before women the victim of any unfortunate occurrences could clearly state their statements without much discomfort or hesitation. The success of the system is evident by the rising conviction rate over the years in that region.

Sharing of experiences is another thing, which was first tried out by Justice Ahmadi. He states that he took the initiative to send forty district judges to UK after every three years of interval for one month for sharing the experiences with the British judges, lawyers and academic people. These trained judges can share their experiences with their less fortunate colleagues by pen-men system. Thus the experiences would disseminate, he opines.

He also stresses on the independence of the judiciary system because as long as the judges are not independent of any administrative pressure, it is futile to expect them to be impartial in the dispensation of the judgments. He also suggests the international community to form a body, which would examine the various pressures that the judges face which restrains them from asserting. Then that body could push the government in power to implement the justice properly. This could free the judges from the fear of everything while dispensing their judgement reflecting the true gender equality.

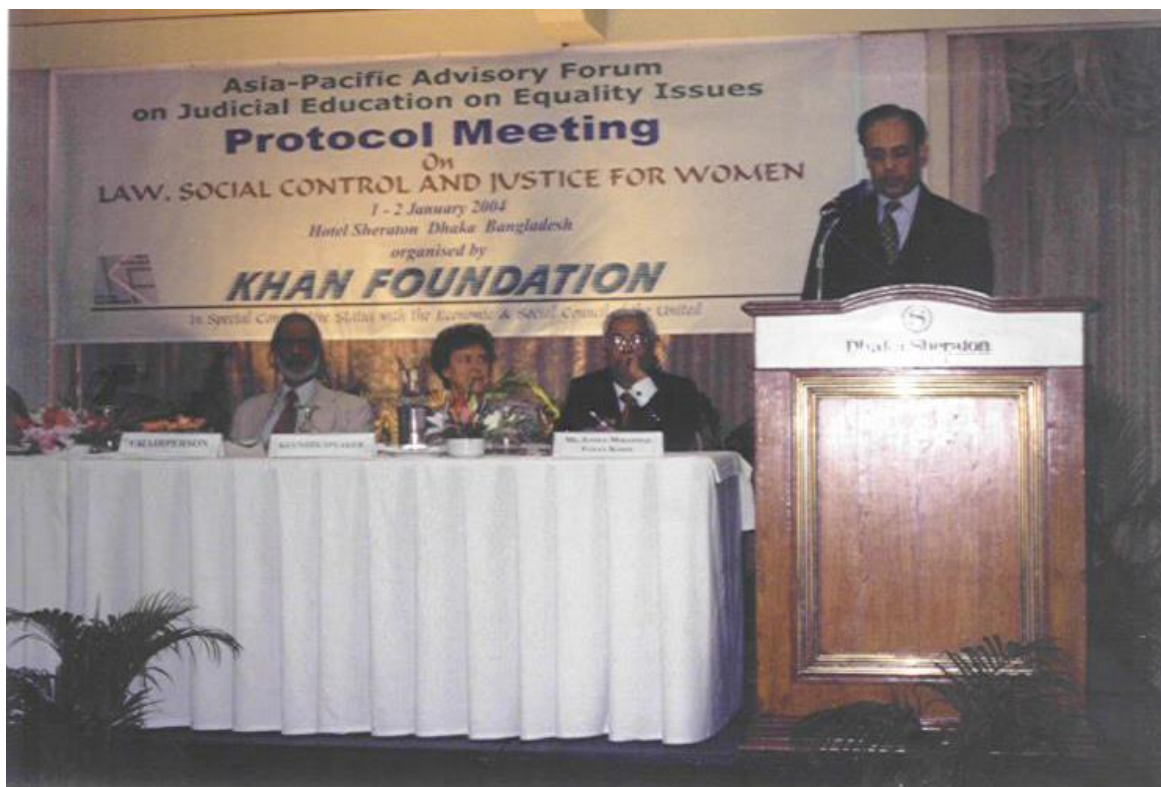
In the end he takes everyone's leave by thanking everyone in a very light mood.

Speech of the Chief Guest:

Mr. Justice K.M. Hasan

Chief Justice of Bangladesh.

Honourable chief guest Mr. Justice K.M Hasan, chief justice of Bangladesh, in his speech opines that gender discrimination does not occur indiscriminately and is mediated through multitude of channels like age, ethnicity, education, socio-economic status and urban-rural location. Gender discrimination weighs more heavily on a poor and rural girl than on a rich and urban girl. Poor and rural women are more vulnerable to gender discrimination than rich, urban women. He assures that Bangladesh is committed to the elimination of gender discrimination since Bangladesh constitution (article 27 & 28) guarantees gender equality. Besides, Bangladesh ratified UNCEDAW in 1984 endorsed CEDAW optional protocol in 1988 and has also adopted the International Declaration of violence against women. Bangladesh is committed, he confirms, to ensure gender equality though it is pervaded everywhere in the world. Focusing on the widespread inequalities, discrimination, abuse and exploitation against women varying in different kinds and degree, he states violence against women is viewed as a crime of lesser degree. Besides intricate laws complicating legal process often results in an intimidating experience for women and a lesser rate of official complaint. He also mentions that the extensive and strong social prejudices against women not only prevent them from availing constitutional and legal rights but also deprives them of religiously sanctioned socio-economic and personal rights. The typical crimes like rape, abduction and acid attack are rampant in the society and the Chief Justice criticizes the law enforcing agencies for their indifferent attitude vis-à-vis crimes and offences against women.



Mr. Justice K.M. Hasan Chief Justice of Bangladesh is giving his speech as Chief Guest

Despite the negative social attitude K.M Hasan assures that Bangladesh has definitely made progress concerning gender equality, health, development and employment opportunities. He enlists the individual and collective initiatives implemented in governmental and non-governmental programs. Legislative steps to address the issue of violence against women and several financial schemes to encourage women's education have been executed resulting in increased access to credit and improved living condition of women in the country. He also stresses the need of special efforts since a lot of women in our country have to support families, earn income, procure food and care for the sick while suffering from illness themselves. The main objective, as he terms, should be *“ To minimize discrimination against women, to spread information, to consult, to educate and to support them with the aim of helping them to equally participate with men in the economic, cultural and social life”*.

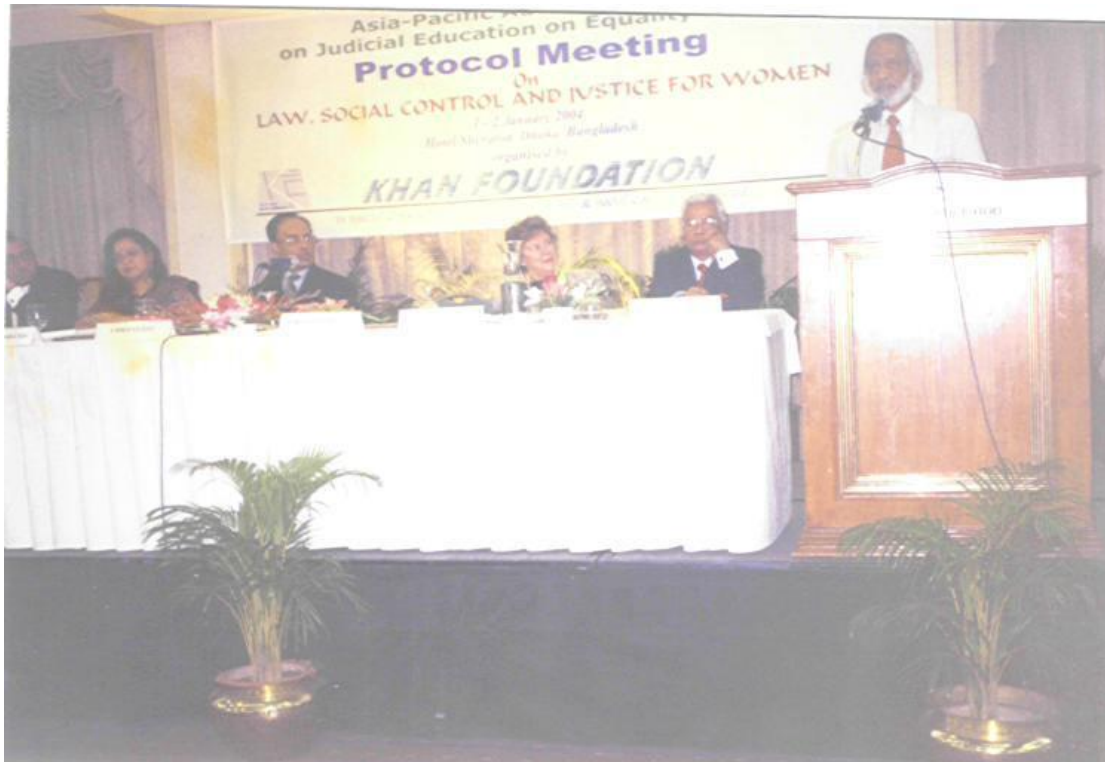
He praises Khan Foundation for their endeavor to promote the issue and mobilizing women in the struggle against the negative forces that affect their lives in public and private. He hopes that this Protocol meeting will serve as a platform for enlarging the intellectual and legal scope of discussion, reflection, debates and consultation since the prevalent ideas of a period may be changed in the same ways they are produced.

Speech of the Chairperson

Dr. Abdul Moyeen Khan, MP

Honourable Minister for Science and Information & Communication Technology
People's Republic of Bangladesh

Chairperson of the session Honourable Dr. Abdul Moyeen Khan, MP, Advisor, Khan Foundation and Minister for Science and Information and Communication Technology said that violence could be anything beginning from verbal abuse to physical torture and even death.



Dr. Abdul Moyeen Khan, MP, Honourable Minister for Science and Information & Communication Technology People's Republic of Bangladesh is giving his speech as Chairperson

There are a multitude of social reasons why Bangladeshi women face mental and physical abuse. He mentioned that in many of the cases decision of the presiding judge reflects male attitude to crime of violence. He focused on women empowerment, and financial independence since the custody of the children lies with the mother. But the rights are not ensured properly due to the loopholes of laws that keeps catering to the offenders personal interest and jeopardizes the trust of people on the legal system. We should focus our endeavor, he opines, on bridging the moral gap that has been created between judiciary and the people. He reminds that laws and rules are created for human being, not vice versa. He emphasized the moral and collective rights of the judges citing a landmark judgment given by the highest court to undo a constitutional reform. So the judges can assert what they believe and help to restore the sense of trust in the judiciary through exercising their discretion and value judgment. “*Phobias are paper tigers*” as Honourable minister nicely phrases, emphasizing the authoritative power of the judges.

Friday 2 January 2004

Speakers of the Second day Session

- Dr. Nazma Chowdhury, Professor, Department of Women's Studies, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- Madam Justice Shiranee Tilakawardane, Supreme Court of Sri Lanka.
- Mr. Justice Douglas R Campbell, Federal Court of Canada.
- Mr. Justice Samaresh Banerjee, High Court of Kolkata, India.
- Madam Justice Claire L 'Heureux- Dube, Supreme court of Canada, Retired.
- Dr. Nusrat Ameen, Associate Professor, Department of Law, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- Mr. Justice Nissanka Udalgama, The Superior Court Complex, Sri Lanka.
- Barrister Moudud Ahmed, MP, Honourable Minister of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, People's Republic of Bangladesh.
- Advocate Rokhsana Khondker, Executive Director, Khan Foundation.
- Mr. Justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim, Appellate Division, Supreme Court of Bangladesh.

SECTION B

Women and Law : Access and Equality to Social Justice

Keynote presentation

“Violence Against Women: An Overview”

Dr Nazma Chowdhury:

She provides a brief overview of the issue of violence against women under the present session on “Women and law: Access and equality to social justice”. She cites the PRA definition of violence against women as she quotes *“any act of gender- based violence that results in, or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty whether occurring in public or private life”*.

She cites the Beijing +5 evaluation meeting held at the 23rd special session of the UN General assembly in 2000, clearly identified violence as an impending factor in full realization of women’s human rights. In Bangladesh there is a sharp increase in the incidence of violence against women. Violence against women, she opines, is a global phenomenon irrespective of culture and social systems though it may differ in kinds. She affirms that deterrent laws or a gender sensitive judiciary might serve a significant purpose but the malaise lies in the patriarchal structure and norms of a society, providing backdrop of such offences. She substantiates this with a country briefing paper, which confirms the existence of class and gender divisions stemmed from traditional patriarchal values.

She points out the dehumanizing experiences that women undergo within the privacy of home, which does not necessarily become visible with physical scars since the verbal abuse and discriminating attitude results in trauma. Moreover, the exiting law proves inadequate to bring the criminal within the legal ambit. She grudges the maxim of liberal democratic principle namely *“equality of all before law”*.

She is hopeful about the protocol meeting that might serve the useful *“purpose of linking together the mechanisms of law with the sensitiveness of gendered understanding of legal issues”*.

Recommendations:

- The role of the state and legal system should be more accountable that often engenders the process of adjudication.
- Necessary steps should be taken to prevent the criminals from taking advantage of the *“loopholes of law”* which tend to make the punishment less severe.
- Initiatives should be taken to gender sensitize the judges and the judicial system.
- To remove gender biases in law and legal system, network should be created and alliances should be formed.
- Initiatives should be taken to establish the ethos of gender equality in all spheres of life and consequently lessen women’s vulnerability to crimes of violence.

SECTION - C

Judicial Decision Making

Mr. Douglass R. Campbell

Federal Court of Canada

Mr. Justice Douglass R. Campbell, who has been judge for 30 years at the federal court of Canada discusses about the art of judging. He admits that we have many laws and rules and the Government look forward to the judges for implementation of law for effective changes. He compares the spatial setup - domestic law, international law, constitution, the courtroom- Douglass defines these as judge's toolbox. But judging, nevertheless, is a very personal discipline.

Ideas, he confirms, are what our mind constitutes of and prejudices is one of the components that can bar effective judgement. However, Douglass rightly interprets the judging process as a social phenomenon and judging as a complex crux that demands knowledge skill prudence and discretion notwithstanding the power of argument in courtroom. Since judges are human and social being themselves, the judging process entails amore personal involvement and discretion that has popularly been assumed.

Mr. Justice Samaresh Banarjee

High Court of Kolkata, India

Mr. Justice Samaresh Banarjee opines that the constitution guarantees equal treatment but the implementation is different because society treats them differently. Like the previous speaker he also emphasizes that the judicial decision making is a difficult process and as a social being every judges carry an invisible social baggage comprising of some culturally fixed notions and elements like sex, caste, color, religion, political status, environment, education and experience. Inherited from and nourished in our culture this inevitable social baggage weighs heavy on the judging mind, affects the assessment of a particular case. For example, our preconceived notion that a girl should not go out at night can very well affect a judgment concerning violence against women. However, he is hopeful that this can be avoided by a conscious effort and a careful watch over the social baggage.

Madam Justice Claire L'Heureux Dube

Supreme Court of Canada, Retired

In the third segment of this session Madam Justice Claire L'Heureux Dube starts with the proposition that the judges are there to render justice through the law. She elaborates the idea of judicial decision making process and emphasized the role of myths and stereotypes as "one of the prime components of inequality that is detrimental to equality". She resents the fact that even in Canada in 21st century, judges are basing their judgment on myths and stereotypes. She defines myths and stereotypes as the popular assumptions; a blend of facts and fictions prevalent in the society. She scrutinizes and condemns the role of myths concerning women affecting invisibly but inevitably the judicial decision. She cites examples collected from the newspaper, internet, and several other media. She talks about rape victims' reservations to report the crime and admits that she would have done the same if similar incident happens with her. Moreover victims previous sexual promiscuity often denies her the legal rights For example, if the rape victim was dressed up 'provocatively' then the victim herself will be held responsible for bringing the crime upon her. Justice Claire also defines sexual assault as "*a crime of*

sexual clash". She congratulates Indian Supreme Court's decision to categorize rape as a crime against basic human rights. *"If you are consented once you are consented for life"* - she cites her legal experiences and reveals a peculiar judgment coming from the highest court reinforcing and perpetuating the prevailing myths and stereotypes.

However, she aptly recognizes the existence of an international dialogue, a globalized legal community, the universal declaration of rights, global judiciary since the inception of and access to the electronic media.

SECTION D

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: BANGLADESH PERSPECTIVE

Keynote Presentation

Violence Against Women: Bangladesh Perspective

Dr. Nusrat Ameen

Associate Professor, Department of Law, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

This session chiefly constituted of Nusrat Ameen's dissertation on violence against women in the context of Bangladesh. Nusrat Ameen presented her paper titling "Violence against women in Bangladesh: A legal perspective". She discusses various facets of violence and presents some case studies such as - Nurjahan and Jarina vis-à-vis prevalent violence against women. She cites about her fieldwork and questions the current method of estimating the number of domestic violence based on reported incidents since the society tends to view the crime against women as "*not uncommon or unusual behavior*" (Commonwealth Secretariat: May 1987). She also questions society's camouflaging role to label the crime as "personal matter". Cataloguing different forms of violence against women i.e. murder of women / wives, wife abuse, acid burn, rape / rape in custody, fatwa related violence, trafficking, kidnapping, abduction, wrongful detention, police violence and so forth. She also points out the prevalent patriarchal attitude towards women.

The weakness of law, she adds, lies in the fact that "*both substantive and procedural law is not gender neutral*". The laws governing women's private lives are discriminatory. They also discriminate against women of the same community against men, for example, women have either delegated right of divorce or that the court has to be satisfied on their behalf that the husband should release them of the marriage contract. They do the same between women from different communities too, for example, a Hindu woman does not have the right to divorce in Bangladesh. She scrutinizes further the relevant laws i.e. the Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act, 1933 meant for curbing prostitution but in reality, she opines, "*prostitution and immoral trafficking are two sides of the same coin*". She discusses about The Children Act, 1974 aiming to provide protection for children fails because of the improper implementation. Criminal law as a relief for women in Bangladesh in the penal code (act XIV of 1860) e.g. kidnapping/abduction, wrongful detention, wrongful restraint/confinement, slavery/forced labour causing miscarriage etc. hurt, criminal force /assault etc. were also included in her dissertation. She further throws light on the drawbacks and loopholes of criminal laws relating to physical harm, the criminal offences relating to marriage and criminal law on sexual harassment. She also points out the dearth of adequate and effective civil law provisions to which victims of violence and wife abuse can resort. Divorce, polygamy, non-maintenance, child marriage are the several of the facets that women of this country has long been subjected to. She suggests prohibiting polygamy in Bangladesh like Turkey. Her informative account of violence against women also deals with the special laws to prevent violence against women e.g. Dowry Prohibition Act, 1980; Cruelty to Women Ordinance 1983; Repression Against Women and Children Act 1995; Women and Children Act 2000; Women and Children Repression Prevention 2003; Acid Crime Prevention Act 2002; Acid Control Act 2002.

In her dissertation she also questions the authenticity and reliability of existing laws and acts more often fail to provide legal support and to ensure protection and safety for women. She discusses several legal phenomenon, loopholes in existing laws meant for protecting women, administrative corruption, disparity of property inheritance, lack of divorce, lack of reforms in Hindu law and more broadly the lack of implementation of the law.

Recommendations:

- A social atmosphere should be created to restore the faith in society's sense of justice and rights among the disadvantaged.
- Approach that is more diligent is needed to handle the problem of family court.
- Government policies should be more accommodative about women's issues and implement a comprehensive effort to raise awareness in national and regional levels through educational systems, community organizations, mass media, legal aid and by establishing women's studies as a serious and legitimate field of study.
- The police should act in accordance with the law as well as the public interest litigation should be geared towards safe guarding women's rights. More writ petitions should be filed in courts against offenders and more press conferences should be held to highlight specific cases.
- The government and non-government organizations should join hands to uphold and ensure women's rights and combat violence against women.
- The government should concentrate more on implementing the existing laws rather than enacting new laws since the new special laws remain unimplemented as well.
- The legal procedure should be more simplified and consolidated. The confusion regarding their application should be removed.

Section E:

RECOMMENDATION AND SUGGESTIONS FOR CHANGE: NEXT STEPS

Address by the Chairperson

Mr Justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim

Appellate Division, Supreme Court of Bangladesh

The chairperson of this session Fazlul Karim confirms that nobody feels more discriminated in this society than women. Though they constitutes half of the population, he explains that discrimination lies not in voting right but in the social hierarchy, education and politics. He emphasizes that no development is sustainable with half the population left over off the development process. Women often do not get any redress for the offence committed against them due to the faulty investigation as in the case of Seema, Yasmin and so forth. He thanks the law minister for his necessary initiatives to institutionalize the prosecution cadre well trained in modern method for impartial investigation which is indispensable for quicker and sound legal system and for setting up speedy trial court to provide access to justice for the women and the underprivileged. He also thanks all the keynote speakers, the participants, and the officials of Khan Foundation who had worked relentlessly to make this protocol meeting successful.

Speech of the Chief Guest

Barrister Moudud Ahmed, MP

Honorable Minister of Law Justice and Parliamentary Affairs \
Peoples Republic of Bangladesh

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Barrister Moudud Ahmed urged the judges to review the women repression cases with a practical and sensible outlook instead of sympathy alone to ensure fair justice. *“They need to realize the background more deeply”*. He comments in the concluding session of the protocol meeting on “Law, Social control and Justice for Women”. Barrister Moudud Ahmed said that in most cases the women victims, particularly in the event of violation, do not file any cases or complain to any judicial body seeking justice due to social attitude towards them. “ If somebody files cases they cannot explain their tragic feelings properly during the prosecution period and the judges take such cases poorly resulting in deprivation of justice”- concerning this problem he holds that judges responsible for sensitizing for the sake of neutral investigation of cases. Referring to the speedy Trial Tribunal, the minister said that the people want justice and it should be provided as early as possible. *“Some 288 sensational cases have been disposed in the last nine months by the speedy Trial Tribunal”*, he gracefully adds. Barrister Moudud Ahmed reiterated Government’s plan to set up an Independent Investigation Unit relieving the police of manifold duties of registering investigation and prosecution of a case as well. He said that the Government is also planning to create a public prosecution service for doing the job perfectly. However, he is hopeful about the increasing awareness among women, which is evident from the participation rate of women (87%) in the last election. The minister urged the NGOs to supplement the Government initiatives to create social awareness on women repression and stresses on combined and united efforts of judges, police and lawyers in combating the violence against women.

Speech of the Special Guest
Justice Mainur Reza Chowdhury
Former Chief Justice of Bangladesh

Justice Mainur Reza Chowdhury in his short address opines that the judges should be increasingly sensitized which was thought to be a contempt of court while he was in active service. *“Treat women differently than men”*- Justice Chowdhury urged the judges.

Recommendations and Suggestions

- To eliminate violence against women we should implement nine internationally recognized law.
- The intellectual standard of the judges should be improved.
- Judges should understand the issues from the perspective of the repressed women.
- Women have to be treated differently from men since they have long been the underprivileged section of the society.
- A comprehensive plan should be setup to reduce the rate of violence against women.
- Judges, lawyers and police should work in harmony to remove problems in judicial system.
- Present investigation system by the police is not proper, accurate and adequate.
- An independent Investigation Cell may be established to investigate the cases. There should be guidelines for the investigators and they should receive adequate and proper training on how to take report of sex crimes and domestic violence, how to respond and enforce the protections available to ensure the safety of victims and witnesses.
- Public Prosecutors should be trained to eliminate gender bias in their approach especially in the cases of sexual assault or domestic violence. The Public Prosecutors should have effective training on the terminology, significance and courtroom use of medico-legal evidence.
- Independent mechanisms may be established to monitor and oversee police treatment towards female victims of violence.
- There should be guidelines for police intervention in case of domestic abuse.

Direct and Indirect Beneficiaries:

Two groups will be benefited from this protocol meeting.

- ◆ Judges/ Justices of Bangladesh and abroad, NGO representatives, development partners Government officials and members of the civil society. The projected participants are the people who can play vital role to establish judicial gender equality.

- ◆ Women and children of all categories, persons with disabilities and the people of the society should be treated with sensitivity and equality, because judgment given by the motivated judges would make precedent. They are expected to advocate the issues and launch awareness on gender equality everywhere.
- ◆ At present Khan Foundation is working with elected members of the Union Parishad especially women, women & children of the slums with especial emphasis on the adolescents. It has so far formed Elected Women Representative Forum (Around 200 Nos) Women Lawyers Network (600 Nos) and Network for the Local NGO's (Around 1000 Nos).
- Khan Foundation has already made linkages among these three groups with ultimate aim to benefit the women, children victims of the society. As a result of this type of meeting, members of the Women Lawyer's Network would be able to draft their cases related to gender abuse. It would also help them to organize meetings, workshops in their area. This type of meeting would sensitize all the members of Women Lawyer's Network & NGO Network to consider the cases of abuse of Women and Children tinged with a sense of gender equality.
- Because of the provision of speedy tribunal and in-camera trial some 288 sensational cases have been disposed in the last nine months by the speedy trial tribunal as pointed out by Barrister Moudud Ahmed, MP.

The Matrix of the activities

Activities/Inputs	Expected results	Achieved results
Meeting/discussion comprising of formal sessions, paper presentations, open/group discussion, brain storming. • Inaugural session • Concluding Session ✓ Women and Law: Access and Equality to Social Justice (section B) ✓ Judicial Decision Making (section C) ✓ Violence Against Women: Bangladesh Perspective (section D) ✓ Recommendations and suggestions for change: Next Steps (Section E)	✓ It will sensitize both in country and international Participants on gender issues. ✓ Help to find out the loophole of existing laws. ✓ Identify their roles and responsibilities.	✓ Amendments/reforms of law or establishment of new law as Barrister Moudud Ahmed informed that 288 sensational cases have been disposed in the last nine months by Speedy Trial Tribunal and reveals Government's plan to set up Independent Investigation Unit. He told in his speech that further changes are on the way. ✓ Mr. Justice K M Hasan, Chief Justice of Bangladesh, in his speech assured that Bangladesh is committed to the elimination of gender discrimination since Bangladesh constitution (article 27 &28) guarantees gender equality. Besides, Bangladesh ratified UNCEDAW in 1984, endorsed CEDAW optional protocol in 1988 and has also adopted the International Declaration of violence against women. Bangladesh is committed, he confirms, to ensure gender equality though violation of human rights that is pervaded everywhere in the world.
Sensitize Judges on various critical issues of violence against women ✓ Women and Law: Access and Equality to Social Justice (Dr. Najma Chowdhury) ✓ Violence Against Women: Bangladesh Perspective (Dr. Nusrat Ameen)	✓ Judges will play vital role in establishing judicial gender equality. ✓ Reduce the lengthy procedures of court. ✓ Under privileged group including women and children will get good justice.	✓ Reduction of violence against women & Children, reduction of trafficking of women & children. ✓ Quick disposal of cases. ✓ Attitudes towards women will be changed and it will reflect in judgement.
Sharing Experiences ✓ The Art of Judging: A Very Personal Discipline. (Douglas R. Campbell) ✓ Mr. Justice Samareesh Banarjee ✓ Madam Justice Claire L 'Heureux- Dube	✓ National and international judges will consider good judgment as precedent. ✓ Solidarity among the participants will be increased.	It will help to dispose similar cases smoothly since the meeting provided the national and international judges with the chance to share their views and experiences. Concerning this Former Chief Justice Mainur Reza Chowdhury shares his work experiences informing that judges are more open minded now and their increased sensitivity is evident

		in their judgment, which was thought to be a contempt of court while he was in active service. It is to be noted that Khan Foundation has been organizing this type of meeting, workshop, and training for in-country judges. And actively participated in the amendment of Repression of women Laws, 2003.
Change in mindset of the participants and judicial system	Reflection in the judgment of cases.	Attitudinal change of the judges concerning judgment as Douglas R. Campbell's dissertation on Judicial Decision Making was very effective on this regard. Former Chief Justice Mainur Reza Chowdhury also alluded to the increased sensibility among the present generation of judges. Participant judges also opined, as is evident in the evaluation sheet, that this kind of protocol meeting has a positive effect on them along with an increased understanding and sensibility about women issues.
There were several loop-holes in the Elimination of Women and Children act, 2000. Some of them are: ✓ The non-inclusion the following offences: incest, marital rape and child abuse. ✓ No change had been made in Section 155(4) of the Evidence Act, 1872 and the burden of proof in a rape case was shouldered exclusively by the survivor. ✓ The non-deletion of the provision of sexual intercourse without consent (for a girl under 14), because any such consummation is tantamount to rape. ✓ The law did not incorporate that the field level officials should be appointed by the PSC and their training manuals should contain human rights and women's rights issues. ✓ No provision was made for an independent investigation agency to investigate crimes against women. ✓ The law failed to specify	Several other positive changes in the amendment is expected such as: ✓ The law will include indirect crimes against women such as forced suicide, pornography, and obstruction of free movement. ✓ There will be provisions to prosecute people who bring about false cases and waste the state's time and money. ✓ The law will be amended to empower the judge to make sure that he/she obtains the preliminary report from the investigation officer. The IO should be required to visit the place of occurrence and submit the report before framing the charge. ✓ There will be a provision whereby the lower courts could grant bail to the accused.	As a result of the relentless activities of Khan Foundation along with other NGOs several ratification were made to the legislation and the amended form included the following fruitful changes: ✓ An extended definition of dowry is given. ✓ The punishment for provoking suicide on the part of a woman is minimum 5 and maximum 10 years of imprisonment and an additional fine. ✓ The punishment for any kind of sexual harassment, be it severe or mild, is minimum 3 years and maximum 10 years of imprisonment. ✓ The punishment for grievous hurt towards women is minimum 5 years and maximum 12 years of imprisonment and that for simple hurt is imprisonment of 1 year in the minimum and 3 years in the maximum in addition to fines. ✓ The state will be responsible for a child born out of rape up till the age as mentioned in the previous legislation. The state will also have the authority to exert the money out of the property of the perpetrator of the rape.

the role of public prosecutors to ensure fair and speedy trials and their unbiased appointments. ✓ Methods and procedures of the trial were not altered and application of Section 155(4) was not limited. ✓ The law failed to ensure the security of witnesses. ✓ Separation of judiciary from the executive was not ensured. ✓ The did not specifically provide what should be the duties and responsibilities of the concerned hospitals, community clinics and NGOs working on women's rights and development. ✓ In Section 10, the provision relating to "obscene body gesture" was not removed because the definition had made the section silly and hard to prove. Sexual harassment was not specifically defined in the law. ✓ The definition of a child was not increased from 14 to 16. ✓ The scope of dowry mediation was not deleted from section 10. ✓ In the case of physical assault, the term "grievous hurt" was not defined, the definition provided by the 1995 act could be introduced once again. The women lawyers associations, NGOs along with Khan Foundation have been trying hard to amend the law and make them more congenial. As a result of such activities, several amendments to the legislations were made in 2003 and it is expected to yield many other fruitful results.	✓ Attempted rape will be brought under a separate section coming out of the Section 10(1). ✓ Section 22 will be altered to include a provision to obtain a judicial statement by the first trial court that can be submitted as an exhibit to second trial court. No court will take cognizance of the statement unless the same is proved after cross-examination by the counsel of the opposing party. ✓ Doctors will be held liable for medical certificates. ✓ If the police refuse to accept a case, there should be provision for a complaint case with direct cognizance of the statement of the complainant. ✓ Some punishments are too harsh and do not accurately fit the crime, as such these cases are harder to probe. In these cases penalties should be relaxed to make convictions more probable.	✓ Several renovations have been made in ensuring the speedy tribunal procedures and facilitating the investigation process and medical tests of the victims.
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CONCLUSION

As a MT member of the Asia Pacific Advisory Forum on Judicial Education on Equality Issues, Khan Foundation has organized the protocol meeting on 31st December 2003 to 2nd January 2004 on “Law, social control and Justice for women”. Khan Foundation has taken initiatives on the issue because it believes that democracy and development is interrelated. It also believes that unless the discriminations against women are not reduced, violence against them are not stopped or trafficking is continued, democracy will never be established in the country and hence the good governance will remain as a dream. As a result of which the women will never be able to get justice.

ANNEXURE

List of the Participants:

International Participants

Sri Lanka

1

Hon'ble Justice Shiranee Tilakawardane
The Superior Court Complex
Hulftsdorp
Colombo 12, Sri Lanka

2

Justice Nissanka Udalgama
Superior Courts Complex
Hulftsdorp
Colombo, Sri Lanka

Nepal

3

Justice Kalyan Shrestha
The Court of Appeal
Butwal, Rupandahi
Lumbini Zone, Nepal

4

Mr Prakash Mani Sharma
Senior Advisor
Pro-Public
P.O Box # 14307, Anam Nagar
Kathmundu, Nepal

Pakistan

5

Justice Sabihuddin
High Court of Sindh Pakistan

India

6

Justice Ruma Pal
Supreme Court of India
Delhi

7

Justice A M Ahmadi
Chief Justice of India (retd)

8

Justice Samaresh Banerjee
High Court of Calcutta
No 4RA, 3/5 Purvanchal Phase 1

9

Justice Prabha Sridevan
India

10

Ms K. Geeta
Program Coordinator, Sakshi
New Delhi, India

Canada

11

Justice Douglas R. Campbell
Federal Court of Canada
Judge's Chambers Ottawa-K1AOH9
Canada

12

Justice Claire L'heureux-Dubé
Supreme Court of Canada (Retd)
301 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Otaria K1A 0J1
Canada

District Judges Name List

1. Mr Md Shahiduzzaman
District & Session Judge
Mymensingh
2. Mr Syed Enayetullah
District & Session Judge
Kushtia
3. Mr Md Abubakar Siddique
District & Session Judge
Gazipur
4. Mr Abdul Mannan
District & Session Judge
Kurigram
5. Mr Md Mofizul Islam
District & Session Judge
Narsingdi
6. Shakhe Saidul Islam
District & Session Judge
Rajbari
7. Mr A K M Istiquak Hussain
District & Session Judge
Hobigonj
8. Mr Moynul Islam Chowdhury
District & Session Judge
Netrokona
9. Mr Ashis Ranzan Das
District & Session Judge
Sherpur
10. Md Habibur Rahman
District & Session Judge
Sunamgonj
11. Mr Md Miaz Uddin
District & Session Judge
Chapai Nawabgonj
12. Mr Md Masdar Hossain
District & Session Judge
Narail
13. Mr Md Mokter Ahmed
District & Session Judge
Jhenidha

14. Mr Abul Motaket Md Saied
District & Session Judge
Gaibandha
15. Mr K M Zulfiker Ali
District & Session Judge
Panchagar
16. Mr Abdul Quddus Mia
District & Session Judge
Bhola
17. Mr Md Josan Ali
District & Session Judge
Lalmonirhat
18. Mr A N M Bashir Ullah
District & Session Judge
Pirojpur
19. Mr Md Rafiuddin
District & Session Judge
Brammonbaria
20. Mr Md Safiuddin
District & Session Judge
Magura

Nari O Shisu Nirzatan Daman Tribunal

1. Mr Md Afzal Hossain
Judge (District Judge)
Nari O Shisu Nirzatan Daman Tribunal
Faridpur
2. Mr Md Jasim uddin
Judge (District Judge)
Nari O Shisu Nirzatan Daman Tribunal
Moulavibazar
3. Mr Abul Hossain
Judge (District Judge)
Nari O Shisu Nirzatan Daman
Tribunal
Kushtia
4. Mr A S M Zahirul Islam
Judge (District Judge)
Nari O Shisu Nirzatan Daman
Tribunal
Brammonbaria

5. Mr Kader Nawaz
Judge (District Judge)
Nari O Shisu Nirzatan Daman
Tribunal
Bagerhat
6. Mr Md Shahinur Islam
Judge (District Judge)
Nari O Shisu Nirzatan Daman
Tribunal
Khulna
7. Mr Md Mahtab Uddin
Judge (District Judge)
Nari O Shisu Nirzatan Daman
Tribunal
Satkhira
8. Mr Shah Alam Mia
Judge (District Judge)
Nari O Shisu Nirzatan Daman
Tribunal
Patuakhali
9. Begum Monowara Begum
Judge (District Judge)
Nari O Shisu Nirzatan Daman
Tribunal
Tangail
10. Begum Kaniz Akhter Nasrin Khanm
Judge (District Judge)
Nari O Shisu Nirzatan Daman
Tribunal
Dhaka
11. Mr A K M Samsul Islam
Judge (District Judge)
Nari O Shisu Nirzatan Daman
Tribunal
Chittagong
12. Mr Rashidul Hasan Patwari
Judge (District Judge)
Nari O Shisu Nirzatan Daman
Tribunal
Bogra
13. Mr Norandra Chandra Das
Judge (District Judge)
Nari O Shisu Nirzatan Daman
Tribunal
Pabna
14. Mr Muzibul Kamal
Judge (District Judge)
Nari O Shisu Nirzatan Daman
Tribunal
Noakhali
15. Mr Nirmal Kanti Chowdhury
Judge (District Judge)
Nari O Shisu Nirzatan Daman
Tribunal
Comilla
16. Begum Nurun Naher Begum
Judge (District Judge)
Nari O Shisu Nirzatan Daman
Tribunal
Rajshahi
17. Mr Mir Md Aowlad Hossain
Judge (District Judge)
Nari O Shisu Nirzatan Daman
Tribunal
Jessore
18. Mr Md Mozibor Rahman
Judge (District Judge)
Nari O Shisu Nirzatan Daman
Tribunal
Dinajpur
19. Mr A K Roy
Judge (District Judge)
Nari O Shisu Nirzatan Daman
Tribunal
Sylhet
20. Mollah Mostafa Kamal
Judge (District Judge)
Nari O Shisu Nirzatan Daman
Tribunal
Rangpur