

APRIL 2017

[Home](#) / April 2017

We are concluded the following activities, during the period of April 2017 are as follows:

1. **Advocacy meeting with media representatives:** An Advocacy meeting on **"Making an Inclusive Society: Searching rights to Universal Accessibility, Justice and livelihood" of Women with Disabilities** with media representatives was being organized by Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF), at **Prince restaurant, Shyamali, Dhaka-1207**, on Saturday, 1st April 2017. This advocacy meeting was being organized in order to share multifaceted challenges of Women with disabilities in family and society to lead their lives as citizen; specially, inaccessibility in roads, public transport and public buildings, violence against Women with Disabilities and inaccessibility to justice with the representatives of media as well as how media can cooperate to reduce these challenges through media campaign. GC and EC Members of WDDF, Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director and Hasanuzzaman, Program Officer, WDDF share their real and bitter experience about the sufferings of persons and Women with Disabilities in different aspects of lives as well as expect their continuous cooperation to condense the sufferings of Women with Disabilities. A number of representatives from electronic and print media as well as representatives from DPOs were participated in this discussion meeting. All the media representatives are more or less aware about the sufferings of Persons with Disabilities in their daily lives but they've no logical conception about these types of challenges specially the challenges of Women with Disabilities in every step of their lives. They couldn't think that, how the diminutive but technical initiatives of the relevant authorities and their proper accountability of actualizing the activities with responsibility will not only be helpful to make the lives easy of a large number of marginalized population through reducing their regular challenges but also make them contributive to their family and society.

Hence, the media representatives stated that, this advocacy meeting is immensely helpful for them to realize these issues seriously as well as they've expressed their firm commitment to raise their cooperative hands to work with us together in order to reduce the challenges of Persons specially Women with Disabilities in their daily lives which will immensely be helpful to enjoy their basic human rights.

2. **Khulna visit from 1st-6th April 2017:** A number of activities in order to protect Takiya, a Girl with Intellectual Disability and her family from the persecution of Union Parisad Chairman and village people, has been adopted and accomplished by WDDF are as follows:

(A) Date: 2nd April 2017

1. I) Visit Takiya's mother: WDDF representatives includes Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, Khadija Akter, General Council Member and Hasanuzzaman, Program Officer of WDDF have gone to visit Takiya's mother at 10 A.M, on 2nd April 2017 in Khulna city; while she was in her relative's house after getting released from hospital. It would be noted that, Takiya, a 13 years Girl with Intellectual Disability, Vill: Charkushla, 3 Chaklada union, Tha: Terokhada, Dist: Khulna was raped by a Sixty years man in January 2016 and gave birth to a boy baby. On behalf of the offender Union Parisad Chairman proposed the victim girl's family to resolve the incident of this rape through sum compensation but Takiya's family hasn't agree with this proposal and file a case. In order to taking revenge of this incident, on 26th March 2017, Din Islam, Chairman, 3 Chaklada union, Terokhada, Khulna ordered his flatterers to strike Takiya's mother with sharp bellow on her head and even after having she fell down on the ground they're beating her with heavy sticks cruelly until she became senseless. It was a very heartrending scenery, while a group of men with the order of a union parisad Chairman were beating a helpless woman lie down on the ground but nobody has nothing to do. After having stopped their beating, it was seen that, Takiya's mother lied down on the ground losing sense, became injured seriously and nonstop bleeding from her head. Her relatives admitted her in hospital and thirteen stitches had to put on her head. At the time of WDDF representatives visit, she was seriously ill, even she couldn't walk and her whole body grasped with the spot of injury. We were counseling her, suggested her to be patient and assured her that, we are always with you; we've already informed about this shocking incident to the relevant authorities of Dhaka and now we'll report to the local government, media and law inforcement agency of Khulna to handle this issue rightly, seriously as well as to protect your family from this type of in humanitarian torture.
2. II) Shelterhome visit:

WDDF representatives visited Khulna divisional shelterhome on 2nd April 2017 and organized a discussion meeting with MM Shafiqur Rahman, Assistant Director of this shelterhome. Actually, it was a follow up visit of WDDF. In 2014, at the time of shelterhome construction, WDDF made strong advocacy with the relevant authorities of Government in order to making this shelterhome infrastructurally accessible through attaching ramp, accessible toilet for wheel chair users and other essential facilities to ensure accessibility for Women with Disabilities. Simultaneously, to accommodate victim Women with Disabilities through providing their need based services. So, after having been constructed this shelterhome, it was the first time visit of the representatives of WDDF in order to follow up the accessibility of the shelterhome and whether victim Women with Disabilities are getting services or not. After having been completed the shelterhome visit, it would be noted that, this shelterhome is infrastructurally accessible and Women with mild Disabilities are getting services. Besides, this visit will also be helpful for us to disseminate the information about Government facilities for victim Women with Disabilities and victim Women with disabilities from the remote areas of Khulna will get opportunity to accommodate here along with taking services on the basis of requirement.

It is also noted that, Takiya, a Girl with Intellectual Disability of Terokhada Thana, after having raped and given birth to a boy baby, had been accommodated in this shelter home with her baby and her mother; which was immensely helpful for the victim family and also for WDDF to advance the work of supporting Takiya.

III) Chotomonir Nibas visit:

WDDF representatives visited Chotomonir Nibas on 2nd April 2017 in order to discuss about the issue of Takiya's baby with the authority of Chotomonir Nibas as well as seeking information about physical along with health condition of this baby. WDDF representatives organized a meeting with Kazi Ibrahim, Chief of Chotomonir Nibas including superintendent and discussed about the incident of Takiya's baby elaborately. Simultaneously, we sought out the information about food and living standard of these children of Chotomonir Nibas. We met with Takiya's bay, the baby is very cute suffering from mal nutrition by birth. So, the baby is very weak and thin.

1. IV) Discussion meeting with the lawyers of BLAST:

A discussion meeting was being organized with the representatives of WDDF as well as the lawyers of BLAST at 3.00 PM, on 2nd April 2017. Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF on behalf of the representatives of WDDF were discussed about the overall situation of Takiya and her family including their extreme sufferings and torture by Union Parishad Chairman and village people due to filing litigation about the heinous offence of raping Takiya as well as collected update information of this litigation. The lawyers of BLAST Mr. Ashok and Fatima informed about the present situation of Takiya's rape case, another litigation of torturing Takiya's mother on 26th March and provide the papers of two litigations. The lawyers were very cordial and cooperative to us. They're determined and committed to continue these litigations with responsibility and sincerity. They're also committed to provide their continuous cooperation to complete our tasks in Khulna.

1. V) Discussion meeting with media representatives:

A discussion meeting was being organized with the representatives of WDDF as well as the representatives of media, such as Ittefaq, Daily probaha and others at 5.00 PM, on 2nd April 2017. Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF on behalf of the representatives of WDDF were discussed about the raping incident of Takiya along with the overall situation of her family including their extreme sufferings and torture by Union Parishad Chairman and village people due to filing litigation about the heinous offence of raping Takiya as well as expect their all types of cooperation on behalf of print media in this regard.

The representatives of media became shocked and surprised listening these heartrending incidents and expressing their solidarity with us. They stated that, it is an extreme violation of human rights so, they're committed to provide their possible cooperation to come forward with this issue.

1. B) Date: 3rd April 2017

2. I) Discussion meeting with SM Habib, President, Khulna Press club, Regional Head, ATN Bangla:

A Discussion meeting was being organized with the representatives of WDDF as well as SM Habib, President, Khulna Press club, Regional Head of ATN Bangla, at 10.00 AM, on 3rd April 2017, in the office of ATN Bangla, Khulna.

SM Habib, President, Khulna Press club, Regional Head of ATN Bangla expressed his heartiest thanks to the representatives of WDDF. Afterwards, Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF on behalf of the representatives of WDDF were discussed about the raping incident of Takiya along with the overall situation of her family including their extreme sufferings and torture by Union Parishad Chairman and village people due to filing litigation about the heinous offence of raping Takiya, the progress of rape case and call upon to express the solidarity on behalf of ATN Bangla to this issue. The representative of ATN Bangla was very cordial and cooperative to us and he expressed his firm commitment to adopt any type of initiative to support and highlight the issue But he suggested that, as the legal process of the rape case is going on, so, for the greater interest of litigation, we should move forward in accordance with the suggestion of this litigation supervising lawyers. Hence, After having discussed with lawyers, SM Habib decided that, the representatives of ATN Bangla, representatives of print media including representatives of WDDF and lawyers would visit Takiya's house, offender Barik Mollah's house, organize meeting with Upazila Chairman, Union Nirbahi Officer (UNO), OC of Terokhada thana in order to notifying them the issue of rape case properly and collect direct interview with VDO of Takiya, her family, Barik Mollah's family, representatives of WDDF and the representatives of Local Government. So, The representatives of WDDF were agreed to organize this visit and on the basis of discussion it is decided that, this visit is going to be organized on 5th April 2017.

1. II) Discussion meeting with the Public Prosecutor (PP) of Khulna:

A Discussion meeting was being organized with the representatives of WDDF as well as Sultana Rahman Shilpi, Public Prosecutor (PP) of Khulna at 3.00 PM, on 3rd April 2017 in Court building. Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF on behalf of the representatives of WDDF discussed about the complexity of Women with Disabilities in access to justice along with the inaccessibility in Court building and call upon her solidarity to this issue.

Sultana Rahman Shilpi, PP of Khulna was very cordial and cooperative to us and she expressed her commitment to adopt required initiative to reduce these challenges of Women with Disabilities.

III) Discussion meeting with Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Khulna:

A Discussion meeting was being organized with the representatives of WDDF as well as Najmul Ahasan, Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Khulna at 5.00 PM, on 3rd April 2017 in DC office. Najmul Ahasan, Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Khulna expressed his heartiest thanks to the representatives of WDDF. Afterwards, Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF on behalf of the representatives of WDDF were notified about the raping incident of Takiya along with the overall situation of her family including their extreme sufferings and torture by Union Parishad Chairman and village people due to filing litigation about the heinous offence of raping Takiya, the progress of rape case, the incident of in humanitarian torture has been happened to Takiya's mother on 26th March simultaneously, request to adopt required initiative for getting justice and taking security measures for Takiya and her family through calling upon to express the solidarity on behalf of Government to this issue. Najmul Ahasan, DC of Khulna was very cordial and cooperative to us. He told us to meet with UNO and to inform the whole incident with his reference. He also told that, he discussed with UNO and ordered to take required initiative for ensuring security for Takiya along with her family as much as possible.

1. C) Date: 4th April 2017

2. I) Discussion meeting with District Women Affairs Officer:

A Discussion meeting was being organized with the representatives of WDDF as well as Ms Nargis Fatema Jemin, District Women Affairs Officer of Khulna at 11.00 AM, on 4th April 2017 in her office. Ms Nargis Fatema Jemin, District Women Affairs Officer of Khulna expressed her heartiest thanks to the representatives of WDDF. Though she has already been informed about the situation of Takiya and her family through Shirin Akhter, Chairperson of WDDF over phone briefly and helped the victim girl and her family to accommodate in Women Shelter home of Khulna, but as this is the first meeting of WDDF representatives with the officer, Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF on behalf of the representatives of WDDF were expressed their sincere gratitude for her time required cooperation as well as notified about the raping incident of Takiya along with the overall situation of her family including their extreme sufferings and torture by Union Parishad Chairman and village people due to filing litigation about the heinous offence of raping Takiya, the progress of rape case, the incident of in humanitarian torture has been happened to Takiya's mother on 26th March and call upon to express the solidarity on behalf of Government to this issue. Ms Nargis Fatema Jemin of Khulna was very cordial and cooperative to us and she expressed her commitment to provide all types of cooperation to Takiya and her family.

1. II) Discussion meeting with Police super of Khulna:

A Discussion meeting was being organized with the representatives of WDDF as well as Police Super (SP) of Khulna at 12.00 PM, on 4th April 2017 in his office. Police Super (SP) of Khulna expressed his heartiest thanks to the representatives of WDDF. Afterwards, Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF on behalf of the representatives of WDDF notified about the raping incident of Takiya along with the overall situation of her family including their extreme sufferings and torture by Union Parishad Chairman and village people due to filing litigation about the heinous offence of raping Takiya, the progress of rape case, the incident of in humanitarian torture has been happened to Takiya's mother on 26th March simultaneously, request to adopt required initiative for getting justice and taking security measures for Takiya and her family through calling upon to express the solidarity on behalf of Law Enforcement Agency to this issue. SP of Khulna was very cordial and cooperative to us. He instantly ordered to the Assistant Police Super

along with OC of Terokhada Thana to investigate these incidents with seriousness and to take required initiative to ensure security for Takiya along with her family as much as possible.

III) Discussion meeting with the Secretary, Bar Association of Khulna:

A Discussion meeting was being organized with the representatives of WDDF as well as Bijon Krisna Mandal, Secretary of Khulna Bar Association at 3.00 PM, on 4th April 2017 in Court building. Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director and Md. Hasanu zzaman, Program Coordinator of WDDF attended in the above mentioned meeting.

Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF on behalf of the representatives of WDDF submitted a few proposals and Shirin Akhter discussed about the complexity of Women with Disabilities in access to justice along with the inaccessibility in Court building and call upon his solidarity to this issue.

Bijon Krisna Mandal, Secretary of Khulna Bar association was very cordial and cooperative to us and he expressed his commitment to adopt required initiative to reduce these challenges of Persons specially Women with Disabilities access to justice.

1. IV) Collect short VDO of Takiya's baby:

A visit was being organized with the initiative of WDDF and the representatives of ATN Bangla in order to collect a number of VDOs of Takiya's baby including the children of Khulna Chotomonir Nibas at 5.00 PM, on 4th April 2017.

The authority of Chotomonir Nibas was very cordial and cooperative to us and we collected the VDOs spontaneously in order to preserving information about the existing situation of Takiya's baby.

1. D) Date: 5th April 2017

2. I) Visit Takiya's village:

A day long visit at Takiya's village was being organized with the initiative of WDDF in order to observe the situation of Takiya and her family including existing torture is continuously happening to them along with counseling Takiya's neighbours through notifying them the real incident as well as the ongoing activities of WDDF regarding this issue on 5th April 2017.

The representatives of WDDF, representatives of electronic and print media, lawyers and Government officials were participated in this visit. We visited Takiya's home and noticed that, all the family members are scared and frustrated; they're totally deprived and isolated from the society. We discussed the whole issue with Takiya's family members, shared all the initiatives we've taken for their security simultaneously counseling their neighbours to cooperate them continuously. Media representatives have collected interviews of Takiya along with her parents, simultaneously we've visited offender's home and collected interview from his wife along with his neighbours.

1. II) Discussion meeting with Upazila Chairman:

A Discussion meeting was being organized with the representatives of WDDF as well as Md. Bacchu Miah, Upazila Chairman of Khulna at 12.00 PM, on 5th April 2017 in his office. Md. Bacchu Miah, Upazila Chairman of Khulna expressed his heartiest thanks to the representatives of WDDF. Afterwards, Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF on behalf of the representatives of WDDF notified about the raping incident of Takiya along with the overall situation of her family including their extreme sufferings and torture by Union Parishad Chairman and village people due to filing litigation about the heinous offence of raping Takiya, the progress of rape case, the incident of in humanitarian torture has been happened to Takiya's mother on 26th March simultaneously, request to adopt required initiative for getting justice and taking security measures for Takiya and her family through calling upon to express the solidarity on behalf of Government to this issue. UPazila Chairman of Khulna was very cordial and cooperative to us. And he expressed his commitment to provide all types of cooperation to Takiya and her family. Media representatives have collected his interview regarding this issue as well as his commitment to take security measures for Takiya and her family.

III) Discussion meeting with Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) and OC of Terokhada Thana:

A Discussion meeting was being organized with the representatives of WDDF as well as Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Terokhada at 1.00 PM, on 5th April 2017 in his office. Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Terokhada expressed his heartiest thanks to the representatives of WDDF. Afterwards, Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF on behalf of the representatives of WDDF notified about the raping incident of Takiya along with the overall situation of her family including their extreme sufferings and torture by Union Parishad Chairman and village people due to filing litigation about the heinous offence of raping Takiya, the progress of rape case, the incident of in humanitarian torture has been happened to Takiya's mother on 26th March simultaneously, request to adopt required initiative for getting justice and taking security measures for Takiya and her family through calling upon to express the solidarity on behalf of Government to this issue. UPazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Terokhada was very cordial and cooperative to us and he has responded with very seriousness along with sincerity in this issue. He called OC of Terokhada at once and ordered to investigate these incidents with seriousness and to take required initiative to ensure security for Takiya along with her family as much as possible. Besides, he informed us that, he and OC of Terokhada would go to visit Takiya's home at evening to investigate these incidents directly simultaneously to inform them that they're out of risk as well as law enforcement agency will always try to provide all types of cooperation to them through observing their security measures.

3. **Discussion meeting of Nari Nirapatta jote:** A discussion meeting of Nari Nirapatta jote was being organized by We Can in its office, on 5th April, 2017. In this meeting, the representatives of women and human rights organizations discussed about taking initiatives on how to reduce violence against women at the time of Bangla Nababarsha celebration. Jesmin Ara, Accounts Coordinator, WDDF was participated in the abovementioned discussion meeting.

4. **4. Roundtable Conference:** A roundtable conference on "Political Rights and Participation of Women With Disabilities" is being organized with the initiative of seven organizations Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF), Access Bangladesh Foundation, Visually Impaired Peoples Society (VIPS), Disabled Child Foundation (DCF), Disabled Welfare Society (DWS), National Council of Disabled Women (NCDW), Turning Point Foundation, from 9.30 AM to 1 PM, on Wednesday 19th April 2017, at VIP Lounge, National Press club, on the issue of Women With Disabilities are excluded from their equal rights including political rights and participation" We Urge for an inclusive, antidiscriminatory and Women With Disabilities friendly society for all". These Seven Organizations led by Women with Disabilities having united and working as collective force for their participation in mainstream of the society. The keynote paper was jointly being presented by Shikha Khatun, Capacity Building officer, Turning Point Foundation and Morjina Ahmed, Executive Director, Disabled Welfare Society (DWS). In this paper they mentioned that the estimated number of Women With Disabilities (WWDs) in Bangladesh, is around 12 million people (According to the "World Report on Disability" June 2011), which constitutes 7.5 % of total population. This large number of girls and Women with Disabilities in Bangladesh are one of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged segment of the society. They are always discriminated based on gender, disabled and all too often, poorest of the poor. They are frequently subjected to discrimination both directly and indirectly and also negative attitudes. WWDs are deprived from practicing and enjoyment of political rights and participation though UNCRPD Article-29 'Participation in political and public life' noted that, states parties shall guarantee to PWDs political rights and the opportunity to enjoy them on an equal basis with others. In the consequence of our continuous advocacy and voice raising, 'National Action Plan' on 'Women Advancement Policy 2011' has been mentioned Two reserve seats for WWDs in National Parliament but no initiative has been adopted to implement or actualize this decision.

In the light of realizing this situation, the seven women led organizations have organized this roundtable Conference due to advancing forward with this issue. The participants of the open discussion have clearly been stated that, without having been enjoyed political rights and participation, all types of Women with Disabilities haven't been included in the

mainstream of development and in this consequence, national development will extremely be interrupted.

M.A Mannan MP, State Minister, Ministry of Finance was attended as Chief Guest in the program. Besides, Zebunnasa Afroz, Member of Parliament, National Parliament, Quazi Rosy, Member of Parliament, National Parliament,

Prof. Momtaz Begum Advocate, (Former MP) Chairman Jatiya Mahila Sangstha and Zakia K Hassan, President Women for Women were present as Special Guest and Mr. Julian Francis, Coordinator, British Women Association was present as Honourable Guest in this roundtable Conference. The Chief Guest, M. A Mannan MP, State Minister, Ministry of Finance, supported our issue very cordially and spontaneously. He has already informed through open discussion that, Women with Disabilities are participating in Local Government election and after having won they carried out their responsibilities as Upazila Vice-Chairman and Woman member for reserve seat of Union Parishadhe successfully. Besides, Nasima Akter, President, NCDW participated in Union Parishad election but she couldn't win only for 34 votes. So, Mr. M.A Mannan MP expressed his interest to go to Mithapukur, Union of Nasima to cooperate in her election proclamation on behalf of her. Zebunnasa Afroz MP also cordially supported our issue and expressed her commitment to discuss the issue with the Prime Minister in the upcoming Parliamentarian session. Prof. Momtaz Begum, Advocate, Zakia K Hassan and Julian Francis supported our issue very cordially as well as expressed their commitment that they will always be cooperative with us to become successful in this issue. Besides, This Roundtable Conference is moderated by Ashrafun Nahar Misti, Executive Director, Women With Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF). Welcome Speech is being delivered by Nasima Akter, President, National Council of Disabled Women (NCDW). Closing speech and vote of thanks is delivered by Mohua Pal, Chairperson of Roundtable Discussion and Vice Chairperson Access Bangladesh Foundation.

5. Multi Log:

A multi log entitled "No looking back"-Post rana Plaza situation was being organized by Actionaid Bangladesh, on 22nd April 2017 in BRAC In Centre. A research report about the sufferings and situation of the victims of Rana Plaza was being published and a number of victims are shared their real experience of sufferings in the period of post Rana Plaza situation. Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Md. Hasanuzzaman, Program Coordinator of WDDF were present in this program. Shirin Akhter asked to the report presenter that, What is the situation of Women, who have become disabled in the Rana Plaza accident? They're included in "Disability survey of Government" or not. Actually, Their situation is extremely vulnerable and they haven't been included in the abovementioned survey as Women with Disabilities.

6. **Focus Group Discussion:** A Focus Group Discussion in order to preparing Voluntary National Report (VNR) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was being organized by National Forum of Organizations Working with the Disabled (NFOWD) in its office, on 27th April 2017.

Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF was participated in this program and discussed about the challenges to include Women with Disabilities in actualization of SDGs and how to reduce these challenges.

7. **Seminar :** A seminar on "Access to Justice for Women with Disabilities" is being organized with the initiative of Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF), at AzimurRahman conference hall, the Daily Star Bhaban, on Saturday, 29th April 2017, from 10 AM to 2 PM. in order to discuss the scenario of access to justice for Women With Disabilities and how their human rights are being violated due to inaccessible and long procedures in justice system. So, we urge for an inclusive, anti discriminatory and Women with Disabilities friendly society for all. WDDF run and led by Women with Disabilities has been working as collective force with the Government, policy makers, representatives of civil society and media for the inclusion of Women with Disabilities in mainstream development process through reducing their challenges and discrimination in the issue of infrastructural and informational accessibility in all aspects including justice system. The seminar was being moderated and keynote paper was being presented by AshrafunNahar, Executive Director, Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF). In this paper she mentioned about the constitutional and legal rights of Girls and Women with disabilities. Most of the litigations, at the time of witness adopting procedures in Court, sign language interpreter aren't being used for the victim girls or women with Speech and Hearing or intellectual impairments. Police officers and medical officers aren't cooperative to file the litigations of victim girls or women with Disabilities and legal institutions aren't disabled friendly. Most of Women with Disabilities (WWDs) are suffering from inaccessible justice system and deprived from their equal citizen rights. In spite of having been arrived in the 21st Century, there are no accessibilityin Judge courts, District courts, even in Supreme Court for Persons with Disabilities. Most of the laws are formulated and enacted without the inclusion and participation of Persons with Disabilities. So, the scenario of the sufferings of Women with disabilities in the ongoing legal support and services is extremely vulnerable in the existing situation. Though UNCPRD Article-13 'Access to justice' noted that, States Parties shall ensure effective access to justice for persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others, including through the provision of procedural and age-appropriate accommodations, in order to facilitate their effective role as direct and indirect participants, including as witnesses, in all legal proceedings, including at investigative and other preliminary stages. The panel discussants of this seminar shared their challenging experiences and complexity to get justice of Women with Disabilities. They also stated that, though 'Persons With Disabilities Rights and protection Act 2013 and UNCPRD mentioned the issue of getting justice for Persons with Disabilities with very significance, With the strong advocacy and voice raising of Women with disabilities Rights activists, only Three legal aid support providing organizations BLAST, BRAC and BNWLA have come forward with their extensive hand to provide legal services for Women with Disabilities. Without having been enjoyed basic human rights including accessibility right in justice system along with participation, SDGs won't be achieved properly. In the light of realizing this situation, WDDF has organized this seminar due to advancing forward with this issue.

The participants of the open discussion have clearly been stated that, Without having been enjoyed basic rights including accessibility right in justice system along with equal participation, all types of Women With Disabilities haven't been included in the mainstream of development and in this consequence, national development will extremely be interrupted.

Kazi Reazul Hoque, Chairman of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), was present as Chief Guest in the program. Besides, Nurun nahar Osmani (Former District Judge), Honorary Member National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Salma Ali Advocate, Executive Director, Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA) were present as special guests, Dr. Zobaida Nasreen, Assistant Professor, Anthropology Department, Dhaka University was present as Honorable Guest as well as a number of lawyers of Judge Court and Supreme Court were present as discussants in the abovementioned seminar. This seminar is being presided over by Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, and Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF).

ABOUT WDDF

The estimated number of Persons With Disabilities (PWDs) in Bangladesh, is around 24 million people, which constitutes 15 % of total population. 15% of Population have a disability.

Half of these are female. This is 12 Million girls and women with disabilities (WWDs).

