

## SEPTEMBER 2016

[Home](#) / September 2016

### SEPTEMBER ACTIVITY REPORT 2016

We are concluded the following activities, during the period of September 2016 are as follows:

1. Discussion Meeting with the representatives of Christoffel-Blinden Mission (CBM):

A discussion meeting was held between the representatives of WDDF and the representatives of Christoffel-Blinden Mission (CBM) on 5th September 2016, at 11 AM, in CBM office. Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director and Reshma Akter, Project Officer of WDDF attended in the above mentioned meeting. Mr. Andrias, Coordinator, Disability Inclusive Development, Christoffel-Blinden Mission (CBM) expressed his heartiest thanks to the representatives of WDDF.

Afterwards, CBM representative expressed the interest of CBM to develop a network but Ashrafun Nahar enlightened that, there are already Three/four networks are working on disability issue and at present we think that there is no requirement of developing any network rather a consortium might be developed. So, Andrias agreed with the representative of WDDF and she submitted a proposal in order to develop a consortium of DPOs. She also discussed about the consortium of women led organizations. The draft proposal is attached below:

2. General Meeting of CEDAW platform:

A general meeting of Citizen's Initiatives on CEDAW, Bangladesh (CIC-BD) was being organized by Steps Towards Development (STD) in its own office, on 5th September 2016. Mr. Ranjan Kormoker, Executive Director Steps Towards Development (STD) presided over the meeting. Maleka Banu, General Secretary, Bangladesh Mohila Parishad chair this meeting. The agenda of this meeting were-

1. Finalize CEDAW Shadow report and prepare CIC-BD report on *List of Issues* provided by UNCEDAW Committee
2. Finalize list of CIC-BD participants for the upcoming 65<sup>th</sup> CEDAW session as well as *Global to Local Training Program* organized by IRAW-Asia Pacific
3. Finalize CIC-BD activities and funding regarding 65<sup>th</sup> CEDAW session
4. AOB

#### notable discussion and decisions of CEDAW general meeting:

- **The 65th Session of CEDAW** will be held from 24 October – 18 November 2016 in Geneva, Switzerland, where CEDAW Committee will review country reports of 12 countries including Bangladesh. The date of Bangladesh country report review is **8 November**.
- CIC-BD has to send the **CEDAW shadow report** to IRAW-Asia Pacific by **15 September** for their input.
- **Member organizations/thematic groups have to send their suggestions, comments, and recommendations on List of issues or CEDAW Shadow report within 7th September, at best 8 September morning. Because after that it will be a week-long Eid vacation in Bangladesh and it will not be possible to compile it.**
- CIC-BD platform members selected following **3 representatives** to the **Global to Local program** based on the criteria of IRAW funding :

1. Maleka Banu, General Secretary, *Bangladesh Mahila Parishad*
2. Rowshon Ara, Project Director, Naripokkho
3. Shaheda Ferdouse Munni, Coordinator, Steps Towards Development (On behalf of the Secretariat)

- Another 3 participants can attend the Global to Local program and some other participants can attend the CEDAW review session, upon availability of fund. All of the participants' names are not yet finalized.

- The organizations so far confirmed their fund for the above purpose:

1. Nazmun Nahar, Gender Manager, Oxfam
2. Shamim Ara Begum, Polishree
3. Name yet to confirm, PLAN International *Bangladesh*
4. Humayra Aziz, *CARE-Bangladesh* (partial fund)
5. Kashfia Feroz, ActionAid Bangladesh (partial fund)
6. Ashrafun Nahar Misti, WDDF (partial fund, but not yet confirmed)

- Other CIC-BD member organizations that are yet to confirm are requested to raise at least **partial fund** for their representatives so that Secretariat can try to accommodate them in the team, depends on if the rest of the fund can be ensured by another donor.

- CIC-BD members decided to undertake some activities focusing on upcoming 65<sup>th</sup> CEDAW session. These are as follows:

1. Member organizations/INGOs that have foreign linkage can **advocacy and lobby** with the development partners/regional partners/UN Bodies etc. regarding our report and concern issues

2. PLAN Bangladesh will take the responsibility of **publishing CEDAW Alternative and Shadow Report**. The layout of the report should be send to them after design and make-up and a reasonable time must be given before publishing the report to complete their procurement process.
  3. BRAC will publish the **folder** (Set of CIC-BD Recommendations).
  4. CARE-Bangladesh will provide fund for a **press conference** before going to 65<sup>th</sup> CEDAW session.
  5. UN Women will be requested to provide fund for **NGO side events and participation of CIC-BD members** in the 65th CEDAW session.
4. Discussion Meeting with the Director General, NGO Affairs Bureau:

A discussion meeting was held between the representatives of WDDF and the Director General of NGO Affairs Bureau on 20th September 2016, at 11 AM, in NGO Affairs Bureau office.

The representatives of EC including the officials of WDDF attended in the above mentioned meeting.

Md. Ashadul Islam, Director General of NGO Affairs Bureau expressed his heartiest thanks to the representatives of WDDF.

Afterwards, Ashrafun Nahar, the Executive Director of WDDF, on behalf of the representatives of WDDF, submitted a paper including the accomplishment, objectives along with a few proposals and Shirin Akhter, Chairperson of WDDF, submitted a brief report on the activities for the promotion and protection of the rights along with dignity of WWDs to the Director General and call upon to express the solidarity on behalf of NGO Affairs Bureau to these issues. Simultaneously, He adopted decision to take required initiatives to solve the existing complexity and lengthy process of project approval along with the registration process of DPOs. He also said that, present Government is very compassionate to the Persons With Disabilities and very much committed to fulfill their demands.

Above all, it is said that, in the present perspective, the adopted initiative by WDDF, of organizing this dialogue between the representatives of WDDF and the authority of NGO Affairs Bureau in order to include the Women with Disabilities in the mainstream of development by ensuring their equal rights along with dignity is really very time required and effective. At the end of the discussion meeting, the representatives after having been attended in the above mentioned meeting expressed their satisfactory feelings and positive remarks.

5. Discussion meeting about the challenges of national and international level NGOs:

A Discussion meeting about the challenges of national and international level NGOs was held amongst the representatives of national and international level NGOs and the Director General of NGO Affairs Bureau at 10 AM, on 21st September 2016, at the auditorium of Campe.

Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director and Reshma Akter, Project Officer of WDDF attended in the above mentioned meeting. Ashrafun Nahar notified a number of important issues. She told that, this is a very effective and time required initiative to organize this discussion meeting which will be very helpful to reduce the existing challenges and gaps amongst the NGOs/Disabled Peoples Organizations (DPOs) and NGO Affairs Bureau. Actually, we've to face multifaceted barriers to continue our organizational activities specially as small organizations/DPOs. Viz:

1. Lengthy process To obtain NGO Bureau registration,
2. II) Complexity and lengthy process to get approval of foreign donation,

III) Unexpected or illogical Propositions at the time of police varification,

1. IV) Complexity about obtaining testimonial from Union Nirbahi Officer and District Commissioner according to the requirement of NGO Affairs Bureau.
2. Discussion meeting with the Director of NGO Affairs Bureau:

A discussion meeting was held between the representatives of Disabled Peoples Organizations (DPOs) and the Director of NGO Affairs Bureau on 24th September 2016, at 11.00 AM, in Turning Point Foundation office. The representatives of EC including the officials of DPOs attended in the above mentioned meeting. Mr. Gokul Krishna Ghosh, Director of NGO Affairs Bureau expressed his heartiest thanks to the representatives of DPOs. Afterwards, the representatives of DPOs shared their types of disability, cause of disability along with their challenging experiences due to disability. Shirin Akhter, Chairperson of WDDF shared her challenging experiences as a Woman with Disability and the initiatives of WDDF for the promotion and protection of the rights along with dignity of Women with Disabilities to the Director and call upon to express the solidarity on behalf of NGO Affairs Bureau to these issues. He assured that, he is very sensitive towards disability issue and after having been informed about their challenges in NGO Affairs Bureau to continue their organizational activities, he will always be sincere and cooperative to solve their problems as much as possible. He also shared his Cell number and email address with all the participants and said that, everybody can communicate with him through email and mobile at any time with any problem for his cooperation.

7. CEDAW platform meeting:

A meeting of Citizen's Initiatives on CEDAW, Bangladesh (CIC-BD) was being organized by Steps Towards Development (STD) in its own office, on 25th September 2016. Mr. Ranjan Kormoker, Executive Director Steps Towards Development (STD) presided over the meeting. The agenda of this meeting were-

1. Finalization of the list of participants who are going to participate in 65<sup>th</sup> CEDAW session according to the availability of funding support.
2. Preparation of the participants for Visa processing.
3. Preparation of the advocacy events will be organized by Bangladesh Citizens Initiative on CEDAW (CICBD) in 65<sup>th</sup> CEDAW session.
4. AOB

8. A preparation Meeting of organizing a round table discussion:

A preparation meeting of organizing a round table discussion on employment was being organized by American Centre in its office, on 26th September 2016. Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, WDDF was participated in this meeting. On behalf of Women with Disabilities, she tried to discuss about the situation of Women with Disabilities in employment and she also emphasized on the complexity Women with Disabilities have to face in working environment and to get employment opportunity.

9. Training on 'Women and Children Repression Prevention Act 2000':

A Training on 'Women and Children Repression Prevention Act 2000' was being held on 29th September 2016, at the auditorium of Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF). This training with the participation of 31 different types of Women with disabilities, is being organized by Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF). A constructive and illustrative presentation is being delivered by the resource person of this training, Mr. Rejaul Karim Siddiquee, Advocate Supreme Court and Senior Researcher Bangladesh Legal Services and Trust (BLAST). This training is being started at 10.00 AM, 31<sup>st</sup> July 2016, with the welcome remarks of Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director of WDDF including the required information and expected learnings/aims of this training. After that, an introductory session of all the participants is being conducted by Ashrafun Nahar and all the participants are introduced with each other in this session

After having introductory session been finished, the resource person started his key presentation on 'Women and Children Repression Prevention Act 2000' and this presentation includes:

1. What is Women and Children Repression Prevention Act?
2. II) How are the women and children benefited through utilizing this legislation?

III) What type of procedures and which articles we've to follow carefully for utilizing this legislation?

1. IV) How can we apply for getting justice through utilizing this legislation?
2. V) which articles are excluded from this legislation?
3. VI) What type of complexity Women along with the Children with Disabilities have to face due to having not addressed their issue totally as well as their special needs according to the types of disabilities?

VII) How to handle rape case? And What is the punishment along with the compensation process of the offender?

Many questions come from participants in the question-answer session, the resource person responded all the questions and he clearly clarified how to utilize this legislation. He also assured that, in collaboration with WDDF, he will always be ready to cooperate Persons specially Women with Disabilities to apply and to obtain information through utilizing this legislation.

From the responses of all the participants, it would be noted that, this is an effective and time required training for them. Most of the participants have no idea about this legislation and easy along with preferable method of getting accurate and required information. The participants are also pointed out that, Persons specially Women with Disabilities of remote areas are deprived from Government services and facilities and due to lack of accurate information they are always left behind. So, considering the susceptibility of Persons Specially Women with Disabilities, this type of training should be organized in divisional and district level.

## 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).

© 2016 wddfbd. All Rights Reserved.



Like

Share 0

Tweet