

Celebration of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence

(25th Nov.to 10th Dec. 2024)



Bangladesh Center for Worker's Solidarity (BCWS)

Introduction:

The Global 16 Days Campaign is an international campaign to address violence against women and girls. The campaign runs every year from 25th November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) to 10 December (Human Rights Day). Originally "16 Days of Activism against Gender based Violence" campaign was initiated in 1991 by the first Women's Global Leadership Institute, held by the Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL), at Rutgers University. Since 1991, more than 6,000 organizations from approximately 187 countries have participated in the campaign.

Likewise, Bangladesh Center for Workers Solidarity (BCWS) made arrangements the whole activities to observe 16 days of activism each year to raise awareness on eradicating violence; establishing gender equity; advocate and provide support to the victims. This year, BCWS celebrated 16 days of activism together with RMG workers (Ashulia, Gazipur and Naryanganj) and with its likeminded CSOs. This year the theme was—

“For Women’s safety: [UNITE!](#) Establish Human Rights to Prevent Violence against Women”

Description of events:

International protest committee against violence against women:

On 25 November, 2024 at Shaheed Minar, Dhaka at 4.00 pm and ends at 5.30 pm Naripokkho organized the event of International protest committee against violence against women. 51 human rights-focused NGOs, came together to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. The Executive Director of Bangladesh Centre for Workers Solidarity (BCWS) Kalpona Akter with her program team attended the program. This year, Naripokkho arranged the celebration around the theme "Bicharer Naame Obichar Hoi, Nari Kothao Nirapod Noy" (Injustice reigns in the name of justice, women are not safe anywhere).

The event began with the declaration speech by Naripokkho and hosted by Bonhishikha. It continued with powerful recitations by Iqbal Ahmed, performance art by Jibon Unnayan Songstha, protest songs by Warda Ashraf, dance presentations by Karmojibi Nari and another recitation by Proshika. The song "Thambe Kobe" (“when will it stop”), uniquely delivered by the committee. Attendees also had the opportunity to engage in a live art session. The day concluded with a torch procession leading to Mishuk-Munir Chattar, University of Dhaka uniting everyone in their shared cause.

Social media campaign:

Bangladesh Center for Workers Solidarity (BCWS) had undertaken an impactful initiative to raise awareness about violence against women and girls. As part of this campaign, BCWS designed and disseminated a series of posters containing key messages aimed at addressing this critical issue. The posters were shared widely on social media platforms to maximize reach and engagement. The aim of this campaign was to create awareness about the prevalence of violence against women and girls, educate the community on its harmful consequences, and encourage collective action to combat this societal issue.

Each poster conveyed a concise, impactful message addressing themes such as domestic violence, workplace harassment, violence in transportation, early marriage, AIDS, physical changed, Justice for survivors, ratify ILO C 190, online harassment, refugee camp violence or war violence, femicide and the importance of gender equality. BCWS used social media platforms, including Facebook, and Twitter to share the posters. The campaign used targeted hash-tags such as #16DaysOfActivism2024, #EndGBV, #EndGenderBasedViolence, #EndViolenceAgainstWomen, #BCWS, and #RatifyC190. The poster campaign contributed to raising awareness, to encourage individuals to reflect on their roles in creating a safer, more equitable society. Additionally, it strengthened BCWS's commitment to advocating for women's rights and workplace safety.

Facebook campaign Links:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/15mtBqPgWP/>,
<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/15ovNhUSr9/>,
<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1FFFLkBcb/>,
<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1B9rxVSMj5/>,
<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/19erC2W6Su/>,
<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/15jwXKY7QD/>,
<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/19ovHtP6QA/>,
<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1XK662o41h/>,

Twitter campaign Links:

<https://x.com/bcws1/status/1861733562594341134>,
<https://x.com/BcwsMedia/status/1862026021408788902>,
<https://x.com/BcwsMedia/status/1862809152642523519>,
<https://x.com/BcwsMedia/status/1863150172345364839>,
<https://x.com/BcwsMedia/status/1863195875121701350>,
<https://x.com/BcwsMedia/status/1863196155469086951>,
<https://x.com/BcwsMedia/status/1863809446549586041>,

<https://x.com/BcwsMedia/status/1864269208189849933>,<https://x.com/BcwsMedia/status/1865722815238086679>,

Worker Leaders photo campaign at Factory Level to address violence against women and girls:

As part of 16 days of activism, Bangladesh Centre for Workers Solidarity (BCWS) had undertaken the task of collecting center-wise (Gazipur, Narayanganj and Ashulia) photos and videos. These worker leaders photo campaign at factory level aims to capture the essence of the activities, engagement, and impact of BCWS's work across various areas. It highlighted the activities of BCWS in addressing worker rights, gender equality, and violence prevention with broader community participation. Four workers from each center- Gazipur, Narayanganj and Ashulia captured their voices through videos and photos to support the victims and take a stand against all forms of violence against women and girls.

Discussion session on 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence:

Bangladesh Centre for Workers Solidarity (BCWS) celebrated 16 days of activism with RMG workers (Ashulia, Gazipur and Naryanganj) at head office, Rampura on 6 December, 2024 with the theme “For Women’s safety: UNITE! Establish Human Rights to Prevent Violence Against Women”

The event outset with the drawing & painting of RMG workers reflecting their thoughts, anger, and hope against violence. Halima Akter, the project coordinator of BCWS made an opening remark explaining every 11 Minutes, a woman is killed and the form of GBV at workplace, transportation and community. She explained about the SRHR, ratification of ILO C 190 to raise awareness about diminishing GBV. She clearly explained the significance of 16 days activism. Workers from Gazipur, Narayanganj and Ashulia shared GBV cases of their life.

The Executive Director took the floor after sharing the GBV cases by the workers. She mentioned that the activism of violence against women isn’t the issue of 16 days. Education starts with family. So, family member should teach what should be behavior of a man to woman. On the other hand, a woman should raise her voice against any kind of violence. Man should respect every woman. BCWS always supports the victims. They organize training to boost up their confidence and advocacy.

The photo session with holding various colorful festoons by Worker's Participation both Men & Women made the event graceful. The event was ended with the hand print of workers reflecting together we can achieve zero tolerance of violence against women.

Human Chain Demonstration:

Bangladesh Center for Workers Solidarity (BCWS) organized a human chain demonstration as part of 16 days of activism to violence against women and girls on 6 December, 2024 at BCWS head office. Workers from Gazipur, Narayanganj and Ashulia had participated on this. This peaceful yet impactful event served as a platform to amplify voices, and foster unity.

Short Documentary Development:

Bangladesh Center for Workers Solidarity (BCWS) developed a short documentary as part of its advocacy and awareness-raising initiatives. This documentary highlighted key issues such as violence against women, workplace safety, and workers' rights, showcasing BCWS's commitment to creating a just and equitable society. This document shared on BCWS's social media platforms for broad outreach.

Short Documentary link: <https://fb.watch/wMLtm8hL9g/>

Recommendations:

- ✚ This is the high time to ratify ILO C-190 to eliminate workplace harassment & violence.
- ✚ Need to functionalize anti-harassment committees (AHC) in the workplace to prevent all kinds of violence and embed gender equality in all sectors.
- ✚ Execute effective day care centers in workplaces as per Bangladesh Labor Law - 2006 to avert workers specially women workers from falling out from their factories.
- ✚ Ease the process to get justice against GBV.
- ✚ Secure women's safety to empower female force.
- ✚ Increase male counterparts' participation to eradicate violence against women in all walks of life.
- ✚ Incorporate operative policies & laws and strengthen monitoring mechanisms of the relevant govt. departments to take fair actions against gender-based violence.

Snap Shots of the Event:



Dance presentation and poet recitation



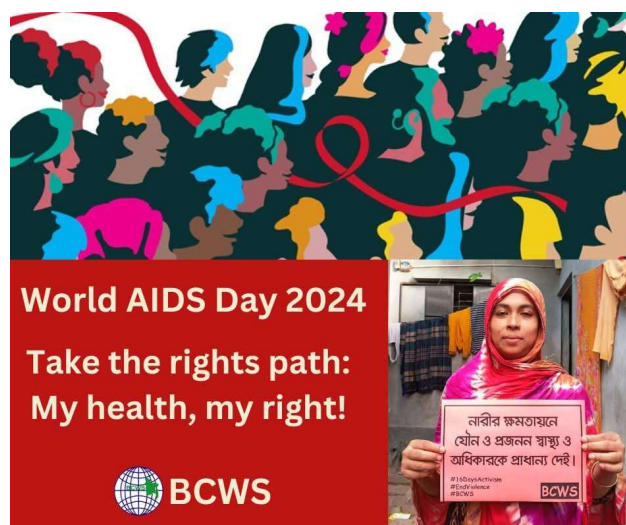
A glimpse of BCWS program Team attending International protest committee against violence against women



Performance art by Jibon Unnayan Songstha



A torch procession leading to Mishuk-Munir Chattar



Social media campaign: Poster highlighting SRHR education for health and rights



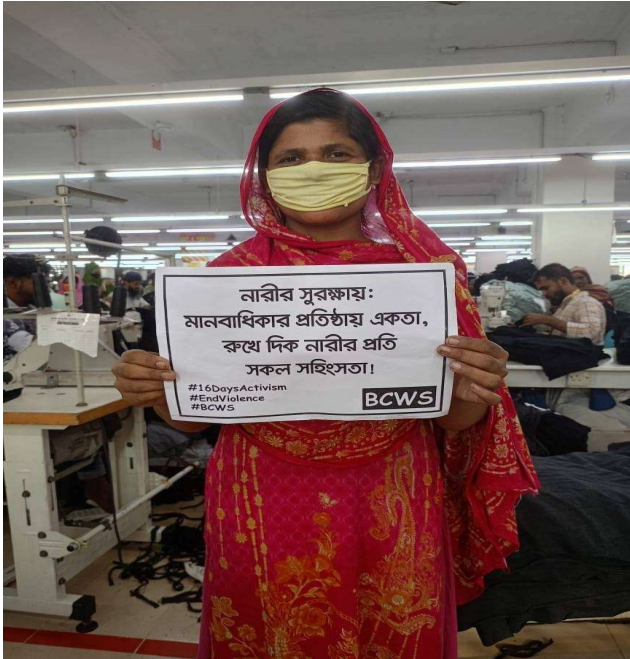
Social media campaign: Poster highlighting prevent violence and stand together with physical challenges



Social media campaign: Poster highlighting make the world free from violence and ensure security and dignity for refugees



Social media campaign: Poster highlighting stand together against femicide



Worker Leaders photo campaign at Narayanganj to address violence against women and girls



Worker Leaders photo campaign at Gazipur to address violence against women and girls



Worker Leaders photo campaign at Ashulia to address violence against women and girls



Worker Leaders photo campaign at Ashulia to address violence against women and girls



Opening remarks of 16 Days of Activism by the Project Coordinator of BCWS



Kalpona Akter, Executive Director of BCWS presented her remarks to address violence against women & girls



GBV Protest through Art by RMG workers



GBV Protest through Art by RMG workers



GBV case sharing by participants



Protest of RMG workers to address violence against women and girls



Protest of RMG workers to address violence against women and girls



Hand print of workers reflecting zero tolerance of GBV



Human Chain Demonstration



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