



MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate use

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District 'Human Security' concerns and recommendations presented

With an appeal to work together for Human Security, the Bangladesh National Women's Lawyers Association (BNWLA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) today presented district-level human security concerns and potential solutions during the final session of a nation-wide Human Security campaign.

During the past year, the key findings of a report produced by UNDP in 2002 were taken directly to the people and decision-makers in 61 districts throughout Bangladesh. In each district the Commissioner, key government officials, judiciary members, civil society representatives, and ordinary citizens were invited to participate in seminars and goodwill football matches.

During each of the 61 events, local human security concerns were brought to the table. BNWLA presented the main concerns and recommendations from the districts during the closing seminar in Dhaka today. Among the concerns were: lack of accountability among police, violence against women and children in prison, inaccessibility of the judiciary, lack of decision making power among local authorities, and lack of education among Shalish members about laws.

Among the recommendations from the districts were: strengthening cooperation between police and judiciary, separate prisons for women and children, training of UP chairpersons on access to justice, Section 54 of Criminal Procedure Code needs to be abolished, a call for celebrities and media to become more involved with spreading recommendations for improving Human Security.

In each district an ambassador was selected to carry on community-level initiatives for Human Security in their districts.

UNDP first launched the Human Security campaign in 2002 in Dhaka. The initiative was subsequently taken forward by BNWLA, which organized over sixty events in different parts of Bangladesh.

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