

**United Nations Study on Violence against Children**

**Response to the questionnaire received from the  
Government of BANGLADESH**

## QUESTIONNAIRE

### **I. Legal Framework**

*This part of the questionnaire aims to determine how your country's legal framework addresses violence against children, including prevention of violence, protection of children from violence, redress for victims of violence, penalties for perpetrators and reintegration and rehabilitation of victims.*

#### International human rights instruments

1. Describe any developments with respect to violence against children, which have resulted from your country's acceptance of international human rights instruments, including, for example, the convention of the Rights of the Child and its optional protocols, the Palermo Protocol or regional human rights instruments. Provide information on cases concerning violence against children in which your country's courts or tribunals have referred to international or regional human rights standards.

**Answer 1:** The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh was among the first country to ratify the United Nations Convention on the rights of the child (CRC) in 1990. As a signatory to the CRC and its protocol the Government of Bangladesh has made various efforts towards implementing the provision of the CRC. The Government has taken prompt action to disseminate the CRC to the stakeholder i.e. policy makers, elected public representatives at grass root level and to the civil society member to aware them about the right of the children. To implement the CRC the government had formed a core group after signing of the CRC and its optional protocol. The esteem Ministry is maintaining a database on violence against children of the country. Total 475 cases were filed in various courts in the year 2003.

#### Legal provisions on violence against children

2. Describe how forms of violence against children are addressed in your country's constitution, legislation and subsidiary legislation, and where appropriate, customary law.

#### **Answer 2:**

(1). **The constitution of Bangladesh provides:**

**The constitution of Bangladesh (Article 27,28 and 31) recognizes the fundamental right to equality before the law and equal protection of the law. It further guarantees that 'the state shall not discriminate against any citizen on the grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth and right to protection of law respectively, lay down the general principles regarding the protection of children and others from all forms of discrimination. The constitution also provides that the state shall not be prevented from making special provision in favor of children.**

**A. Constitutional Provision: Article 14: Prohibits all sorts of exploitation;**

**Article 17: Provides for adopting effective measures for the purpose of establishing a uniform mass-oriented and universal system of education and free and compulsory education to all children.**

**Article 18: Provides that the state shall raise the level of nutrition and improvements of public health.**

**Article 28: the state shall not be prevented from making special provisions in favor of children;**

**Article 34: Prohibit forced labor.**

- B. Legislation: A special Act namely 'suppression of violence against women and children Act 2000'. This law metes out harsh punishment for those convicted for committing violent crimes. This act gives importance to stop violence against children including made provision of harsh penalties for trafficking, rape and abduction. This act states that a woman under the age of 16 years constitutes rape and provides for penalties for violence against women and children, including kidnapping and trafficking. Section 12 of this law stated on kidnapping of children. It states that if anyone illegally imports, exports, buys or sells a child or through these means keeps a child, or transfers the child to another then he or she is subject to death penalty or life imprisonment**

**The suppression of Immoral Traffic Act of 1933 lays down that any person who detains any minor girls (under 18 years of age) in any house or room or place where prostitution is carried out will be punished. Its also stated (section11) if a abducts forces or engaged girls under 18 years for the purpose of commercial sexual use in that case he may be punished with imprisonment.**

- 3. Provide details of any specific legislative provisions on:**
- Prevention of all forms of physical, sexual and mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment sexual abuse;
  - Protection of children from all forms of violence;
  - Redress, including compensation, for child victims or violence;
  
  - Penalties for perpetrators of violence against children;
  - Reintegration and rehabilitation of child victims of violence.

**Answer 3: Nari 'O Shishu Nirjaton Doman Act, 2000(The suppression of violence against Women and children Act) is a good initiative of government to protect the children from violence. It is important to recognize that this law goes further than previous ones to stop violence against children. This law included the provision of harsh penalties for trafficking, rape, abduction and sexual abuse. The news media is forbidden from disclosing any victims, identity, including his or her name and address. Child pornography is also prohibited by this law. Section 292,293and 294 of the panel code (ACT XLV) pertain to the sale, rent distribution exhibition and/or circulation of materials that are obscene. The punishment imposed for selling, renting, distributing, exhibiting and obscenity to young person under 20 years of age is twice as harsh. Section 5-11 of Nari 'O Shishu Nirjaton Doman Act, 2000 stated relevant laws for violence against children. For kidnapping of children the laws states that if anyone illegally imports, exports, buys or sells a child or through these means keeps a child, or transfers the child to another then he or she is subject to death penalty or life imprisonment. Section 10 of this law state for sexual harassment of children a person shall be liable for imprisonment of 10 years. Section 7 and 8 on kidnapping of children states that if anyone illegally imports, exports, buys or sells a child or through these means keeps a child, or transfers the child to another then he or she is subject to death penalty or life imprisonment. The children Act 1974 provided provision of safe home. Government established safe and non-exploitative environment for children.**

4. Indicate whether any specific legislative provisions address all forms of violence including physical, sexual and psychological violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment and sexual exploitation against children which takes place in:
  - a) The family / home;
  - b) Schools and pre-school care and education (both formal and non-formal, state and private);
  - c) Military schools;
  - d) Institutions including care, residential, health and mental health;
  - e) The context of law and public order enforcement including in detention facilities or prisons;
  - f) The neighborhood, street and the community, including in rural areas;
  - g) The workplace (informal and formal);
  - h) Sports and sporting facilities.

**Answer4: Suppression of violence against Women and children Act 2000 addresses all forms of violence against children. Some of the section of this law has been amended in the year 2003 to bring it more into line with the CRC. Moreover the Children Act 1974 has addresses various issues to protect children. One of the priority tasks of the Ministry of women and children Affairs is to review the existing laws and policies pertaining to children, and to propose suggestions for revision. A special committee has been working for reviewing the laws. A working group has been set up under the auspices of the Ministry of Law to review all laws related to children. Its objective is to arrive at a consistent definition of the child and increase of the minimum age of criminal responsibility applied to children alleged to having committed a crime.**

5. Indicate if corporal punishment of children, in any setting, including in the family, is explicitly prohibited in your legal system. Provide details of any legal defenses available to those who administer corporal punishment to children, including in the family. Provide information on penalties applicable to those who administer corporal punishment to children, including in the family.

**Answer: The child act 1974 of Bangladesh prohibited corporal punishment of children. Article 6 of this act states notwithstanding anything contained in any law for the time being in force, no children shall be charged with or tried for any offence together with adult. The government is focussing on harmonizing the Children's Act 1974,read with children rules 1976.**

6. Provide information on whether the penal code permits corporal punishment and/or capital punishment as a sentence for crimes committed by less than 18 year olds.

**Answer: Bangladesh Penal code 1860 is being applying for criminal offences. Neither any section to deny corporal punishment nor any section to accept corporal punishment in Bangladesh Penal code.**

7. Provide details on whether bullying/hazing and sexual harassment are explicitly addressed by legislation.

**Answer: Bangladesh panel code 1860 there is some section (82, 83,354,361,366a, 375 312),, which has, addresses sexual harassment. But 'Suppression of violence against Women and children Act 2000 is amended in 2003 that addresses violence and sexual harassment against women and children. The government is also reviewing the existing laws to develop necessary new law to address all types of sexual abuse and exploitation.**

8. Provide information on the way in which harmful or violent traditional practices, including but not limited to female genital mutilation, child marriage or honor crimes and addressed in your country.

Answer: **The Child Marriage Restraint Act 1929 provides 18 years as the minimum age for girls and 21 for men. But the adolescent's girls of Bangladesh are at risk of early marriage on the set of puberty. It is widely accepted that when she reaches puberty she is no longer a child. In contravention of the law, early marriage of girls continues to prevalent in many parts of Bangladesh and which is using as a form of sexual abuse.**

9. Provide information on the applicability or specific provisions to address all forms of violence against children to non-citizens and stateless children, including asylum seekers and displaced children. If specific provisions do not apply to such children, provide details of protection offered to them.

Answer: **In Bangladesh we have no separate or other specific provision to address all forms of violence against children to non-citizens and stateless children, including asylum seekers and displaced children. To date there is no established system for identifying and reporting cases of sexual abuse and exploitation and violence against stateless children. Any complaints received from asylum seekers are resolving through local elected public representatives.**

10. Provide information on any difference in the definition of violence and the applicable legal framework according to;

- a) The sex or sexual orientation of the victim and/or of the perpetrator;
- b) The age of the victim and / or of the perpetrator;
- c) The relationship between the victim and the perpetrator, including, but not limited to infanticide, sexual violence in marriage, incest and sexual abuse within the family, and physical chastisement.

11. Provide information on any recent comprehensive review of the legal framework to address violence against children.

Answer: **One of the priority tasks of the Ministry of Women and children Affairs is to review the existing laws and policies pertaining to children, and to propose suggestions for revision. A working group has been set up under the auspices of the Ministry of Law to review all laws related to children. Its objective is to arrive at a consistent definition of the child and the increase of the minimum age of criminal responsibility applied to children alleged to having committed a crime.**

12. Provide information on any studies and surveys, which have been undertaken to assess the impact of legal measures to address violence against children.

Answer: **No studies and surveys have been under taken to assess the impact of legal measures to address violence against children in Bangladesh**  
Courts tasked with addressing violence against children

13. Identify those parts of the court structure in your country tasked with addressing violence against children. Indicate if your family or juvenile courts have specific responsibility for this issue.

Answer: **Suppression of Violence against Women and Children Act 2000 is (amended 2003) a special act, which is, makes necessary provision for combating violence against children. All offences under this act shall be cognizable. In case of lodging complaints of any offence, investigation, trial and disposed, the provision of the code of criminal procedure shall be applicable and the tribunal shall be deemed as a session's court. The trial of any offence under this act will be conducted by the session court. According to children act 1974**

#### Minimum age for sexual activity

14. Provide information on any legislatively defined minimum age required for valid consent to sexual activity. Is this age different for girls and boys? Is this age different in respect of heterosexual and homosexual activities?

Answer: **The Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act of 1933 lays down that any person who detains any minor girls (under 18 years of age) in any house where prostitution is carried out will be punished. But legal social and cultural norms preclude sex outside marriage. In Bangladesh specific age of sexual consent is still not clear. According to the penal code (Act XLV of 1860) rape with in marriage is not considered a crime unless the wife is less than 13 years of age. Penal code 375 stated that any man who has sexual intercourse with a female with or without her consent when she is under 14 years of age will be said to have committed rape.**

15. Provide information on the minimum age of marriage for women and men.

Answer: **The child marriage restraint Act, 1929, provides 18 years as the minimum age for girls and 21 for men. However, girls in Bangladesh continue to get married at a very young age. Muslim personal Law (Sharia Law), a child under 18 years of age may be given in marriage by a guardian until she or he reaches puberty.**

#### Sexual exploitation of children

16. Provide information on legislation and other measures to prevent the commercial sexual exploitation of children, including through prostitution and other unlawful sexual activities. Provide details on means to ensure that child victims of such exploitation are not criminalized. Provide information on legislation or other measures to prohibit all forms of sale or trafficking in children, including by their parents.

Answer: **Suppression of Violence against Women and children Act (2000) which was amended 2003 on a number of pertinent areas and made more useful to prevent the violence, commercial sexual exploitation of children. Moreover, the Suppression of immoral Traffic Act - 1933 is protecting children from abduction. This law lays down that any person who detains any minor girl (under 18 years of age) in any house or room or place where prostitution is carried out will be punished. The act defines prostitution as 'promiscuous sexual intercourse for hire, whether in money or kind', and a prostitute as 'any female available for the purpose of prostitution'. According to section 11**

of the said Act if a man abducts, forces or engages girls under 18 years for the purpose of commercial sexual use, in that case he may be punished with imprisonment. The law sanctions the practice of prostitution by the registration of the names of anyone over the age of 18 by legal declaration before a first class Magistrate or through an affidavit acquired from the Notary Public. However, under section 7 of the Act, any person who in any street or public place, by gestures or indecent personal exposure attracts or endeavors to attract attention for the purpose of prostitution shall be punished with imprisonment.

#### Pornography and harmful information

17. Provide information on legislation and other measures to prohibit the production, possession and dissemination of child pornography. In particular, please provide information on any controls on pornography produced and / or disseminated via the Internet.

Answer: **The Penal Code of 1860: in Sections 342-346 states that a maximum sentence of 10 years will be awarded to those involved in procuring a minor girl or dealing in 'slaves'. Sections 363, 365, 368, 372, 373 and 374 of the Penal Code also deal with wrongfully concealing an abducted person, buying and selling minors for the purpose of prostitution and compelling a person into unlawful compulsory labor. Sections 292, 293 and 294 of the Penal Code (Act XLV of 1860) pertain to the sale, rent, distribution, exhibition and/or circulation of materials that are 'obscene.' There is punishment for selling, renting, distributing, exhibiting and circulation obscenity to young persons under 20 years of age. Penalty extended from a prison term of up to three months and/or cash fine up to six months in prison and/or cash fine).**

18. Provide information on any legislation or guidelines to protect children from injurious information and material transmitted through the media, Internet, videos, electronic games, etc.

Answer: **In Bangladesh there is no separate legislation or guidelines to protect children from injurious information and material transmitted through the media, Internet, videos, electronic games, etc. Article 14 of the 2000 Suppression of Violence against Women and Children Act pertains to the right to privacy of victims of violence, giving restrictions as to the disclosure of information in the media on the victim's identity. The legal restrictions and linked imposition of high fines for non-compliance with the law have decreased the practise to a certain extent.**

#### Reporting obligations relating to violence against children

19. Provide information on legislation, regulations or administrative directives requiring reporting of all forms of violence against and abuse of children in all settings to appropriate bodies. If reporting legislation, regulations or administrative directives

exist, please indicate whether all citizens are required to report, or whether the obligation falls on certain professional groups only. Provide details of any sanctions for non-reporting.

**Answer:** Several NGOs organise discussions with journalists to sensitise them on issues around child rights, and sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking. Different trainings were organised for newspaper reporters on ethical reporting. A draft code of conduct on ethical reporting has prepared. The Bangladesh Journalist Forum of Human Trafficking, a group of Dhaka-based journalists reporting on issues of sexual exploitation and trafficking of children and women which is also raising awareness of the issues and the legal provisions relating to disclosure of information. The Forum has expressed an interest to draft a nation-wide **Code of Conduct** for journalists on reporting on sexual exploitation and trafficking of children and women. Informal discussions have started with a number of organisations and lawyers, after which the forum suggests to organise a workshop for senior journalists, reporters, lawyers, NGOs and victims to draft a Code.

**A government circular has been issued to avoid using of picture of sexually abused children in the daily newspapers. Suppression of Violence against Women and Children Act 2000 pertains to the right to privacy of victims of violence, giving restrictions as to the disclosure of information in the media on the victim's identity. Preparing a code of conduct (based on article 12 of the CRC).**

### Complaints procedures

20. Provide information on any complaints procedures relating to all forms of violence against children perpetrated in:
- a) The family / home;
  - b) Schools and pre-school care and education (both formal and non-formal, state and private);
  - c) Military schools;
  - d) Institutions, state and private, including care, residential, health and mental health;
  - e) The context of law and public order enforcement including in detention facilities or prisons;
  - f) The neighborhood, street and the community, including in rural areas;
  - g) The workplace (informal and formal);
  - h) Sports and sporting facilities.

- **Answer: Under section 17 of suppression of violence against women and children act 2000 provided procedure of lodging complaint for any violence against children. The law lays down that the tribunal may take cognizance and continue trial upon written complaint by any person for the offence committed under Sub-Section 1. Section 18 stated that the investigation of the offence under this act shall have to be completed by the concerned police officer within sixty days after receiving the information of the occurrence of the offence or after the magistrate issues order for investigation of the offence. Provided that the Investigation Officer if, upon showing special reason, could satisfy the tribunal that the time limit for the investigation ought to have been extended in the interest of justice, the Tribunal may extend the time limit for a period not exceeding thirty days. If the trial court could not complete the case within the extended time the trial court can extend the time of investigation.** Article 18 amended (investigation of crime), and new Article 31a on accountability of Tribunal. The time span of investigation of an offence committed under this Act and responsibilities of investigation and controlling officers, are clearly specified. Cases related to violence against women and children, including dowry-deaths and rape are tried by a Special Tribunal and must be tried within a time span of 90 days maximum. The Tribunal is held



accountable to obeying this time frame. If not, written report must be submitted to Government within 30 days;

21. Indicate whether children or persons acting on their behalf can access these procedures. Indicate whether legal aid is available to facilitate submission of complaints, and the circumstances in which legal aid will be available.

Answer: **According to suppression of violence against women and children act 2000 (the act was amended in the year 2003) any person can lodge the written complaint for any offence for violence against children.**

**Department of women Affairs providing shelter home services for victim of violence. One of the prominent NGO Bangladesh Nationals Women's lawyers associations (BNWLA) is directly giving legal Aid to facilitate submission of complaints for violence of children. The Government of Bangladesh and several implementing NGOs (Ain O Salish Kendra,INCIDIN,) provide legal assistance to victims of sexual abuse and exploitation including trafficking, among the children. BNWLA, which operates a Legal Aid Cell under which 26 local level legal aid offices are working throughout the country. Their activities includes legal counselling, meditation, and arbitration and litigation services, observing the situation of victims in jails or safe custody, and rescuing and repatriating victims.**

**In 2002 the Government established "one stop centers" in the medical colleges in Dhaka and Rajshahi City Corporations, where adult and child victims of violence, abuse and trafficking receive medical treatment and examinations, and are directly linked with NGOs for legal aid, psycho-social counseling and, if necessary, safe shelter. The "one-stop centers are operated by MoWCA in cooperation with NGOs BNWLA and Nari Pokkho.**

22. Describe steps, which have been taken to raise awareness of possibilities to submit complaints about violence against children.

Answer: **An initiative has been taken to train relevant officials who are responsible for the implementation of Law relating to children. In many cases Police, lawyer, magistrates, judges, prosecutors, probation's officers, and government social worker are not sensitive to the needs or rights of children or the provision of law which provide special protection to them. Trough training participants have received information how to deal with children. The government initiated a training program on child rights to increase the awareness of these rights.**

23. Provide information on any special procedural or evidentiary rules, which may apply in proceedings with respect to violence against children.

Answer: **Women and Child Repression Act 2000 is a special act, which provides special procedure with respect to violence against children. Any offence under this law shall only be tried in the women and children Anti -Repression Tribunal constituted under section 25 of this Act. The hearing of a case once its starts in the tribunal shall continue at a stretch each working day till it is finished. The tribunal shall complete the trial within one hundred and eighty days from the date receiving the case for trial. If the trial of the case is not finished within the time-limit set under Sub-Section (3), the tribunal may release the accused in the case on bail and if the accused is not released so, the tribunal shall record**

**the reasons for it. If a tribunal judge leaves on transfer without completing trial of any case, in that event, at the stage of trial of the case he has left, the judge taking over his place shall take up from that stage and the deposition of any witness, if any, taken by his predecessor shall not be required to be taken once again.**

24. Provide information on the usual outcome of complaints of violence against children (e.g. compensation, punishment of perpetrators, perpetrator rehabilitation, and family therapy).

Answer: **Most of the complaints of violence always settled mutually with the intervention of local elected public representative. Parents of the victim compromise with accused and settled the cases on getting money as compensation. Some of the cases settled by punishment of accused.**

25. Provide information on the usual outcome legal proceedings in which children and juveniles are found guilty of perpetrating violence (e.g. Imprisonment, corporal punishment, community service, perpetrator rehabilitation, family therapy).

Answer: **According to section 20 (7) of Women and Child Repression Act 2000, if a child is accused on charges of committing offence under this act or if he is witness to such offence, in his case, the provisions of the Children Act, 1974 (XXXIX of 1974) has to be followed as far as possible.**

## **II. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK AND RESOURCES TO ADDRESS VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN**

*The aim of this section is to establish if your county has an institution coordination multi-sectoral activities concerning violence against children, which include prevention, protection, redress, reintegration and rehabilitation.*

26. Are there any Governmental authorities, structures and mechanisms, including at federal, state/provincial, municipal and local level which are currently responsible for addressing violence against children?

If YES, Identity these authorities, structures and mechanisms and describe how coordination is ensured.

Answer: **The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs created in 1986 a Central Cell for prevention and repression of violence against women, which under its jurisdiction runs a Women's Support Program offering legal aid, shelter home and rehabilitation programs. It is notable that a large number of women using these facilities are below the age of 18 years. This program offers the following services:**

- a) Legal Aid in 22 districts and 136 Thana level;**
- b) Support Center at 6 Divisional levels offering shelter and training for rehabilitation;**
- c) Employment Agency;**
- d) Sales Center for products made at the training program.**

**National Children's Council is the institution working for development of child under the chairmanship of Minister of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs. The main responsibility of this institution is to provide support to**

highest policymaking body on child welfare. Protect the interest and rights of all children in the country are also the responsibility. Ensure effective application of all laws of the country relating to child rights and interests. Enact new laws and formulate appropriate rules if required. Decide timely amendments, additions and alterations to existing laws for the full implementation of the rights of the children. Bangladesh Children (Shishu) Academy, Ministry of Women & Children Affairs was also established in 1976 for betterment of the Children. The functions of the Academy are to make arrangements for production of children's literature, promotion of cultural, scientific and recreational activities for children and for painting and dramas by children. However, Child Rights Awareness programs have been recently introduced in its activities. Publications and a monthly journal are also part of Academy's operations. The Ministry of Social Welfare also implementing some programmes for the destitute and disadvantaged children of Bangladesh: 73 'Shishu Sadan' or Homes for orphan children aged 06-18 years, with 22 of these designated for the Girl Child. CONCERN-Bangladesh provides curative and preventive health services at 7 of these centers in Dhaka, aimed at preventing HIV/AIDS and also addressing special needs by counseling via trained social workers. Similar service is provided in four out of town homes. A 400 seat Rehabilitation Center for Destitute children aged below 18 years at Konabari of Gazipur District was established in 1982. There are plans to establish similar centers at Chittagong, Barisal, Natore and Khulna District at an expenditure of 5.35 crore. A 200 seat Training home at Tongi of Gazipur District for boys as per the dictates of the Child Act 1973 and the Child Regulations 1976. There is also one 150 seat remand Home at Jessore District.

27. Is there a lead Government authority tasked with responsibility for addressing violence against children?

Answer: **No, There is no lead Government authority is responsible for violence against children.**

28. Are specific financial and / or human resources allocated by your country to address violence generally?

If YES, indicate the extent of these allocations.

Answer: **Ministry of Women and Children Affairs is implementing a project named multi sector programmes on violence against women and children. Legal and medical assistance are providing to those women who is subjected to affect of violence. This project developed one stop crisis center at Dhaka and Rajshahi Division. Department of Women Affairs implementing another project named 'Advocacy end Gender Based Violence through the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs' with the financial assistance of UNFPA, Denmark. Total cost of the project is \$ .331 Million. It is also providing medical assistance to victim and involved in raising awareness of the people at grass root level in cooperation and coordination with other ministries and private sectors. It is expected that this project will bring a positive change in the attitude of man towards women and children of 12 Upazila of occurrence of violence.**

29. Does your country allocate specific financial and / or human resources to activities to address violence against children?  
If YES, provide details.

30. Do international or bilateral donors provide resources to your country for activities to address violence against children?  
If YES, indicate the extent of these resources and the way in which they are used.

Answer: **Yes, international & bi-lateral donors are providing financial & technical assistance for various activities to address violence against children. Ministry of Women & Children Affairs is implementing a project named Empowerment & Protection of Women and Children funded by UNICEF, which is conducting study on sexual abuse and violence against children. This project is conducting a study on 'Child Abuse' to assess the present situation of the violence against children. It is also distributing awareness raising materials to address the violence against children. Different books have been published on violence against children. Reviewing the present law of children, ensure juvenile justice, empowerment of adolescent girls are the main activities of the project.**

31. Does your country provide any assistance to other countries efforts to respond to the problem of violence against children?  
If YES, provide details.

Answer: **If any country submits any request to seeking assistance to the problem related with violence against children to the Government of Bangladesh through its mission of that respective country the Government of Bangladesh normally always provides all types of cooperation and assistance to resolve the problem of violence against children.**

32. If your country has a national human rights institution, such as a human rights commission or ombudsman, or a child-specific human rights institution, does it have any role or competence in the area of violence against children, including receiving complaints?  
If YES, Provide details.

33. Are there any particular parliamentary structures (for example special committees) to address violence against children?  
If YES, provide details.

Answer: **Yes, The NPA Implementation and Monitoring Committee, as well as its sub-committees, are all chaired by high-level Government officials from the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs (MoWCA) and the Ministry of Social Welfare (MoSW). Each sub-committee has adopted a set of Terms of Reference and a one-year work plan indicating priority tasks and responsibilities. A sub-committee on Dissemination was set up to guide and supervise the dissemination process, and has been dissolved.**

**The seven thematic areas addressed in the NPA are inter-linked, and indeed a large number of interventions studied and discussed in the review address sexual abuse and exploitation including trafficking of children in an inter-disciplinary approach, mixing**

strategies aimed at prevention, protection, recovery and/or reintegration. Methods sometimes include a child participatory component.

34. Have there been any recent parliamentary initiatives to address violence against children?

If YES, please give details.

Answer: **Yes, the government of Bangladesh is envisaged for creation of the mandate of a Commissioner for Children with statutory powers and independent of the Government. A committee has been formed to assess the possibility to creation of an Independent Child commissioner. Recently (19/6/2004) the committee seats with the committee..**

### **III. ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN ADDRESSING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN**

*The aim of this section is to elicit information on civil society activities relating to violence against children.*

35. Describe significant civil society initiatives addressing violence against children in your country, including the types of institutions involved (such as academic institutions, professional associations, women's associations, student associations, community-based groups, faith-based groups, child and youth-led groups, trade unions, employer's organizations, national non-governmental organizations, international non-governmental organizations) and the major activities engaged in (including advocacy, awareness raising, research, prevention, rehabilitation and treatment of children harmed by violence, provision of services, provision of resources).

Answer: **Ministry of Women and Children Affairs in collaboration with other NGO's implementing different projects to address violence against Children. The Ministry is also implementing one of the important projects named Jagoron Pada Jatra, through road march to raise awareness among the people to combat violence and trafficking against children. International NGO's "Save the Children Alliance" (SCA) also focusing on child rights training and sexual abuse and exploiting of children. ATSEC (Action against Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation in Children) is a coalition of 15 NGOs active in prevention of child trafficking, protection of victims and assistance in their recovery and reintegration. ATSEC partner organisations are also involved in raising awareness, advocate for legal reform, work to promote child sensitive court procedures, and build the capacity of groups vulnerable to cross-border trafficking. The coalition has among other activities organised a mass information campaign in 20 districts, seminars and workshops. ATSEC will also support border campaigns through drama (including child drama groups, mentioned above, and adult performers' groups), and meetings with law enforcement officials. ATSEC hopes to launch the border campaigns at the same time as the West Bengal ATSEC chapter launches theirs' for maximum effectiveness. The campaign will also include a mobile unit that will be able to distribute leaflets and information and show videos. CARE Bangladesh, BNWLA and INCIDIN are also launching various programmes to address violence against children. The Government and several national NGOs provide safe day/night time shelters and short-term residential homes for children in need of protection from abuse, exploitation and trafficking. Whereas these safe shelters are working from before the development of the NPA on SAECT, most projects promote the contents of**

the NPA and incorporate NPA-related messages into their interventions. Several NGOs operate residential safe homes for children of street-based or brothel-based sex workers, who are highly vulnerable to being return into the business. Nari Maitree provides protection for children of sex workers from Mymensingh brothel and street-based sex workers in Dhaka. KKS (Karmojibi Kalyan Sangstha) operates a safe home for daughters of sex workers of nearby Daulotdia brothel, Rajbari district, and plans to establish a safe home for boys next year. The children have access to the KKS school, where they receive a comprehensive life skills training, including among other issues sex education, child sexual abuse/exploitation, awareness on HIV/AIDS and STIs, drugs and substance abuse. Interesting feature of this initiative is its focus on decreasing social stigmatization by fostering links between the brothel community and the surrounding village. The KKS school caters for children from sex workers, as well as children from the local village (rule is 40% village children, 60% children from brothel-based sex workers), providing the vulnerable village children with life skills.

36. Describe the support provided by your Government for these activities and the efforts made to coordinate civil society and government initiatives.

Answer: **The Government of Bangladesh is providing policy supports to the non-government organization for implementing different activities towards welfare of the children. NGO's are directly receiving financial supports from the Donor .The government also collecting financial supports from the donor and implementing the programme through NGO's.**

37. Describe the role-played by the media in addressing violence against children.

Answer: **The Government is organising training for media personnel, including reporters and publishers from written and broadcasting media. The Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists, which has branches in all divisional cities of Bangladesh, are also involved. Bangladesh Betar, the government-operated radio station, on its weekly Saturday morning channel "Child Development" has featured Child Psychologist Monwara Parveen speaking about sexual abuse. An editorial appeared in the English Daily, the Daily Star praising the government for convening such a meeting to include the problem of child sexual abuse on the agenda and urging the government to undertake action in the area. Moreover, in a five-year initiative that started in August 2001 of the Government and UNICEF, the Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF), Bangladesh Television (BTV) will be airing weekly 25 minute programmes on children's rights to create greater awareness. Messages will include information about child trafficking and child sexual abuse. The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs and Ministry of Information have sponsored television sports on children's rights, which include sexual abuse and exploitation,**

#### **IV. CHILDREN AS ACTORS IN ADDRESSING VIOLENCE**

*This section is designed to extract information of children's activities to address violence.*

38. Provide information on the involvement and consultation of children in designing activities and in implementation and monitoring of programmers and policies to address

violence against the. Provide details, including ages and other details of the children involved.

Answer: **Participation of children in designing any activities and in implementation and policies to address violence is a new concept in Bangladesh. The Government of Bangladesh has prepared a plan of Action to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of children in February' 2002. During preparation of NPA against SAECT series of consultation were organized with children of Bangladesh. The rationale for consulting children before preparing the NPA is based on two principle children's right to be heard and to develop more effective NPA. It is a growing consensus in Bangladesh on the importance of using context appropriate methods to involve children in policies and action to tackle the problems of vulnerable and exploited children. The dissemination of NPA against SAECT also conducted with children to get ideas regarding specific actions children can take, on the one hand to prevent child, sexual abuse. Through the consultations, the views of eight different categories of children with experience of or vulnerable to sexual abuse, sexual exploitation and trafficking were collected on the potential role of children in the implementation of the NPA. These eight categories comprised Girls engaged in street-based sex work; Boys engaged in street-based sex work; Girls engaged in sex work in brothel; Boys living in brothel; Girls rescued from brothel now living in Safe Home. Girls trafficked for sexual purposes within Bangladesh/abroad now living in shelter home. Girls vulnerable to sexual abuse, Boys vulnerable to sexual abuse all the children were aged between 10 and 17 years.**

39. Describe the involvement, if any of children in designing special procedural or evidentiary rules applying in court proceedings with respect to hearings concerning violence against children. Provide details including ages and other details of the children involved.

Answer: **According to section 11 of the Children Act 1974,- if at any stage the Court is satisfied that the attendance of a children not essential for the purpose of the hearing , the Court may dispense with his attendance and proceed with the hearing of the case in the absence of the child. If (Section 12 states) at any stage during the hearing of a case a child is summoned as a witness, the Court may hearing the case or may direct such persons as it thinks fit. Even the court may not consider the children as a party to the case or proceeding. In *this act ' child' means a person under the age of sixteen years.***

40. Describe the amount and type of resources made available to support children's participation in activities to address violence against children.

Answer: **Financial, institutional and resource persons were engaged to support children's participation. No data is available about financial involvement to support children participation. In July-August a series of consultations programs were held with children on implementation of NPA against SEACT and required \$15000. Each consultation lasted for one full day and was preceded by a half-day briefing session at which the consultation participants were also selected by a larger group of children. A total of 243 children took part in the pre-consultation briefings. The average number of participants (excluding the briefing of young girls in the brothel) was 29. The government provided the research team and facilitator.**

## V. POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES TO ADDRESS VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

*A comprehensive policy for dealing with violence against children is one that addresses multiple forms of violence against children, that works across the different settings in which violence occurs, and which includes components for prevention, protection, victim medical, psychological, legal and social assistance, victim rehabilitation and reintegration, and perpetrator interventions. Such policy is distinguished from specific programs that address selected sub-types of violence against children or its effects in specific populations and settings.*

41. Does your Government have a comprehensive policy concerning violence against children?

Answer: **The Government of Bangladesh, in consultation with stakeholders, duty bearers and rights holders including children and adolescents, and with the technical assistance of UNICEF, developed a National Plan of Action against the Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children including Trafficking.**

If YES, provide details and describe any gender-specific provisions included in policy.

42. Does your Government deliver, or provide direct support for delivery by other agencies, of specific programmes aimed at preventing and responding to violence against children?

If YES, please provide available summary reports, or URLs, of these programs, and indicate, using the table below, which settings and types of violence are addressed by these programmes:

Yes Government of Bangladesh through Ministry of Women and Children Affairs is giving various supports to the victim of violence. The government has been initiated a project named Multi sector programme on Violence against Women. One stop service center are giving direct services to the victims of violence.

	Physical	Sexual	Psychological	Neglect	HTPs	Other
Family / Home	✓	✓	✓			
School						
Institutions	✓					
Neighbourhood / Community						
Workplace		✓	✓			
Law enforcement	✓					
Other						



Answer: **The government in collaboration with several NGOs providing life skills based education to adolescent's boys and girls where they have included messages on protection from violence. One initiative aimed at building the capacity of adolescents, especially girls, working on the basis of peer education and participatory life skills based education, is *Kishori Abhijan*: a pilot project on empowerment and protection of rural adolescent girls which is implementing since 2001.**

43. Does your Government monitor the impact of these policies and programmes directed towards violence against children?

If YES, describe the monitoring systems and provide a URL or other reference where the system and outcomes are described in greater details.

Answer: **The NPA Implementation and Monitoring Committee, as well as its sub-committees, are all chaired by high-level Government officials from the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs (MoWCA) and the Ministry of Social Welfare (MoSW). Each sub-committee has adopted a set of Terms of Reference and a one-year work plan indicating priority tasks and responsibilities. A sub-committee on dissemination was set up to guide and supervise the dissemination process, and has been dissolved.**

**The seven thematic areas addressed in the NPA are inter-linked, and indeed a large number of interventions studied and discussed in the review address sexual abuse and exploitation including trafficking of children in an inter-disciplinary approach, mixing strategies aimed at prevention, protection, recovery and/or reintegration. The Ministry of Women & Children Affairs formed a committee for Prevention of Violence against Women and Children Cell which is (chaired by Secretary, MoWCA), District child right committee, chaired by Deputy commissioner; Upazila Prevention of Violence against Women and Children Committee (chaired by Upazila Nirbahi Officer).**

**The upazila Suppression of Violence against Women and Children Committees are small and meet 4-6 times a year to discuss individual cases of violence against women and children. Their Terms of Reference do not include responsibilities to monitor or co-ordinate activities to implement the NPA at upazila level.**

**Responsibilities with regard to children of district and upazila Department of Women Affairs officials are not well defined, and activities currently depend largely on the commitment and pro-activates of the DWA officer. As they, together with the representative from the Shishu Academy, are the voice of the MoWCA at the sub-national level, their ToR may need to be enlarged.**

44. Does your Government participate in any internationally coordinated activities concerning violence against children?

If YES, please provide details.

Answer: **Since its participation in 1996 in the First World Congress against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Stockholm, the Government of Bangladesh has shown increasing commitment to bring the scourge of child sexual abuse and exploitation including trafficking onto the national political agenda. It has established a comprehensive legal framework to protect the rights of children, among which the Suppression of Violence against Women and Children Act (2000) and the National Plan of Action for Children 1997-2002.**



## VI. DATA COLLECTION, ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH

*This section aims to provide an overview of information systems and information about violence against children that may be used to inform, plan and monitor policy, legal and programmatic interventions concerning violence against children.*

45. Over the past five years, has there been any victimization, epidemiological or other population-based surveys of any forms of violence against children in your country?  
If YES, provide details or references, or attach.

Answer: **Government of Bangladesh is regularly collecting and compiling all data on violence against children. Bangladesh Shisu Adhikar forum a NGO is collecting data on violence against children. No population-based survey was conducted to address the situation of violence. But some case studies and documented data were taken from various newspapers. The reports shows that the violence has not decreased and those steps taken to amend matters are regarded as being of secondary importance. The Bangladesh National Women Lawyer's Association has created this report in order to highlight the various dimensions of violence against women and children and where and how such violence has been perpetrated in the year 2000. Kinds of violence are highlighted by case studies, mainly investigated or documented by the Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA), charts and graphs. Most examples show that many of the cases of violence perpetrated target women of low-income groups. The INCIDIN Bangladesh and UNICEF also conducted some studies on violence against children.**

46. Have there been any small-scale or representative interview studies with parents and children on violent victimization of children?

If so, please give details.

Answer: **In Bangladesh there is no studies with parents and children on violent victimization of children.**

47. Over the past five years, has your Government conducted or commissioned any scientific research projects on the problem of violence against children?

If YES, indicate the subject of this research and where the findings of these projects may be consulted in more detail.

Answer: Government of Bangladesh under Ministry of Women and Children Affairs under taken a project named multi-sector programme on violence against women and children. Another project named 'Advocacy to End Gender Based Violence Through the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs have under taken studies to know the situation of violence against women and children. The Ministry of Women and children Affairs with the support of UNICEF had completed a study on "Good Practice and Priorities to combat Sexual abuse and Exploitation and taken an initiative to conduct a survey on 'Child Abuse' and violence against children. NGO's namely Bangladesh Nationals Women's Lawyers association (BNWLA) conducted a study on violence against women in order to highlights the various dimension of violence against women and children. Case study and documented data has taken from various newspapers.

48. Have studies or surveys been undertaken into the impact or legal measures to address violence against children?  
If YES, provide details or references, or attach.

Answer: **There is no direct studies and surveys have been undertaken to assess the impact of legal measures to address violence against children**

49. Does your Government have a system for formal inquiries into all child deaths in which it is known or suspected that violence may have played any part?

Provide details.

Answer: **On receipt of any written complaints from any person any authorized person of Government of Bangladesh would initiate a case for formal inquiries of any children who had abnormal/suspected deaths.**

50. Are regular (e.g. annual) reports published describing the statistical profile of the known or suspected violent deaths investigated by the system?  
If YES, what proportion of all homicide deaths are under the age 18? ....., %

Sex	
Age	
Ethnicity	
Manner of death (homicide, suicide, undetermined)	
External causes of death (firearm, strangulation, etc.)	
Geographical location of incident (address)	
Scene of occurrence (home, school, etc.)	
Time and date of incident	
Victim-perpetrator relationship	
Other	

Answer: **Not available.**

52. Provide the total number of reported cases of violence against children in 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003.

Answer: **Collected & attached with the answer sheet.**

53. Provide the total number of convictions and reported cases for the various categories of crimes of violence recorded against children in 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003.

Answer: **Data not available.**

## **VII. AWARENESS, ADVOCACY AND TRAINING**

*This section is aimed at gathering information of any awareness raising, advocacy and training activities relating to violence against children, which may have been conducted by your Government.*

54. Over the last five years has your Government conducted or commissioned any campaigns for raising awareness of and preventing violence against children?

If YES, please describe any recent campaigns, including the settings and types of violence that were the subjects of the campaigns and the target audience (general public, caregivers, teachers, etc.).

Answer: **Jagoron Pada Jatra one of the attractive Road March Campaign programme of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs for raising awareness of mass people on combating violence against children. Moreover, multi-sectoral programmes or violence against Women/Children project also initiated various awareness raising program. As a direct implementation effort of the NPA on SAECT, the MoWCA has launched in August 2002 the Coordinated Program to Combat Child Trafficking (CPCCT), a 3-year pilot project implemented through ten national NGOs in 25 districts. The project focuses on awareness building activities at Union Parishad and village level, among which workshops for stakeholders, street drama, courtyard meetings with vulnerable children and families, rallies at upazila level, publicity through microphones and distribution of information material. The first cycle of the CPCCT pilot project will be completed in July 2004. ATSEC (Action Against Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation in Children) is a coalition of 15 NGOs active in prevention of child trafficking, protection of victims and assistance in their recovery and reintegration. ATSEC partner organisations raise awareness, advocate for legal reform, and seek to promote child sensitive court procedures, and build the capacity of groups vulnerable to cross-border trafficking. The coalition has among other activities organised a mass information campaign in 20 districts, seminars and workshops.**

- a) **Answer: The Ministry also Organizing workshop and seminars in coordination with NGO,s to raise the awareness of parents ,local public representatives and other family member . Providing training to different professional groups, (social/religious leaders, employer and media representatives) to protect violence against children. Published different printing materials (poster, leaflet) to distribute among the stakeholders. For raising awareness regarding different laws government has taken an initiative to prepare a special legislation.**

55. How were the campaign messages and information disseminated (check all that apply)?

Print media	✓
Radio	✓
Television	✓
Theatre	✓
Schools	✓
Others	Folk songs

56. Over the last five years, has your Government provided commissioned of sponsored training programmes in the area of violence against children?

If YES, indicate which of the following areas were addressed by the last such training programmes and which provider groups received training (check all that apply).

	Prevention	Protection	Redress	Rehabilitation	Panalties
Medical Professionals (including pediatricians, nurses, psychiatrists and dentists)	NO	✓			
Public health practitioners					
Social workers and Psychologists		✓		✓	
Teachers and other educators	✓	✓		✓	
Courts officials (including judges)	✓	✓		✓	
Police	✓	✓		✓	
Prison Officers					
Juvenile offenders personnel Institution personnel Parents / guardians	✓	✓		✓	
Other (please specify)					

Pleased provide details.