

BANGLADESH HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY PROJECT (BHRAP)

The AED Bangladesh Human Rights Advocacy Project (BHRAP) supports civil society advocacy to protect the human rights of Bangladeshi citizens to a safe, secure, and democratic society. BHRAP provides grants, training and technical assistance to NGOs and coalitions engaged in promoting and protecting citizens' rights at local, district, and national levels. We target four priority issues: violence against women, human trafficking, child rights and access to justice. BHRAP strengthens the environment for human rights in Bangladesh by organizing public meetings, sponsoring research on critical human rights issues, and disseminating publications in Bangla and English. BHRAP actively coordinates with other national and international programs for democracy and good governance in Bangladesh.

Project highlights as of July 2006:

- Sub-grants (16) awarded to 14 Bangladeshi NGOs and civil society partners. Key activities include: involving Imams in preventing human trafficking; monitoring and investigating reported rights abuses by police; organizing a Child Parliament to spotlight child rights and train future citizens; increasing the participation of women in community-level justice; providing legal and social services for women and children survivors of trafficking; and civic education enabling citizens to learn about their rights.

- A study tour to visit an Indian domestic violence campaign led 14 NGOs and BHRAP to create a new coalition, the Action Network to Combat Violence Against Women (ANCVAW). ANCVAW is drafting a new law to strengthen the protection for women and children in Bangladesh and conducting nationwide advocacy against domestic violence.
- Training and technical assistance by national and international experts to improve civil society capacity in core skills including: Advocacy, Coalition Building, Social Marketing, Gender Equity, and Investigative Journalism.
- Groundbreaking research produced and disseminated to improve knowledge about women who have been trafficked and the problem of violence against women within marriage in Bangladesh.

BHRAP is managed by AED's Center for Civil Society and Governance (CCSG) and funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The \$8.8 million project runs from 2001 – 2007.

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