



Connecting Girls, Inspiring Change

British Council and National Girl Child Advocacy Forum celebrate together International Women's Day

International Women's Day is a day when women are recognized for their achievements without regard to divisions, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic or political. It is an occasion for looking back on past struggles and accomplishments, and more importantly, for looking ahead to the untapped potential and opportunities that await future generations of women.



Meanwhile basically for future generations of women British Council and National Girl Child Advocacy Forum, on the occasion of International Women's Day, have jointly hosted a discussion session on **“Connecting Girls,**

Inspiring Change’ on Saturday 22 March 2014 at the Senate Bhaban, University of Dhaka .

Some prolific and role women from visual arts, media, music, sports & business who have shared their inspiring stories, experiences and have discussed ways in which that everybody can inspire to bring more change for the positive. Youth audiences from different public and private universities were present there to

share their aspirations, challenges, and achievements in their work in the communities.

The program has started by the welcome speech of Mr. Brendan McSharry, Acting Director, British Council. In his welcome address stated “women and girl child still have long to go, the struggle is continue. The young generation really can make the positive change in the society.”



A short description on Introduction of International Women’s Day has described



by Ms.Taleya Rehman, Executive Director, Democracy Watch. She has mentioned a very brief history of international women’s day. She has described that in 1857 the women labor of a textile industry in USA first have raised their voice for equal wage, fixed up specific working hour and for others opportunities.

After that a great women leader Clara Zetkin had proposed in second International Women Conference at Copenhagen in 1910 to celebrate 8th March as International Women’s Day. In 1977 the United Nations General Assembly invited member states to proclaim March 8th as the UN Day for women’s rights and world peace. Since then this special day has been celebrated around world wide as International Women’s Day. Ms.Taleya Rehman also has moderated the entire discussion session.

After that inspiring life experiences sharing of the invited prolific women had start. An empowered woman Ms. Geeti Ara Safia Chowdhury, Ex-advisor, Caretaker Government of Bangladesh has shared her diversified life experience. She told that “our women have done a lot, they climbed on Everest, so don’t be

pessimist, always try to be optimist; men and women need to walk side by side then success will definitely come.”



Prof. Latifa Akanda, Vice President, National Girl Child Advocacy Forum addressed that our girl child could not enjoy their childhood, from childhood girl child are playing a matured role for their family. But this is the time we need to ensure their rights; we should let them enjoy their childhood.

Narrate her own experience Ms. Rehana Parvin, Ex-National Player and Football Coach said “I don’t want to hear such a negative word “NO” for women, Women have the potentiality to do anything. So be brave and strong, win will come to on feet.”

The admiration identity of Bangladesh, Freedom Fighter Ferdousi Priyovashini stated in her speaks that women have the exclusive power to give birth a baby, so there is not countable any debate about women; just women need to be confident and self-reliant.

Dr. Badiul Alam Majumdar, President, National Girl Child Advocacy Forum has mentioned in his address that for the sake of progress of a nation we can not let women back, otherwise as a nation we have to pay for it.



We need to change our patriarchal mentality and ensure women empowerment in every sphere of the society.

A role woman in music world, “The Queen of Lalon’s Songs” Ms. Farida Parveen has shared her life experience and said “we should give respect to each other then we can ensure equality.”

In the meantime the floor was open for asking questions to the honorable discussants. Youth audiences have asked different valuable questions to them and they have answered one by one.



The program ended by the vote of thanks from Masud Hossain and Nasima Akhter Joly. Ms. Nasima Akhter Joly, Secretary, National Girl Child Advocacy Forum



acknowledging to all for being part of the event and said “we will work together, challenges will come but we will overcome all the challenges.”