**Platform to Prevent Online Violence against Women and Children**

**Concept Note**

**Introduction:**

Since Bangladesh is shifting towards digitalization, the use of the internet has now reached both urban areas and marginalized communities. In that context, the protection of our digital rights is needed now more than ever. A considerable number of women and children endure online violence on a daily basis, yet they refrain from taking necessary measures to address or alleviate the situation.

Many organizations provide various types of support to protect women and children who are victims of online violence. To maintain coordination of the work of such organizations requires the creation of an appropriate platform, where all members involved in the protection of women and children victims of online-based violence will work together.

**Vision:** Safe online space for women and children.

**Mission:** Prevention and remedy of online violence against women and children through public awareness, proper implementation of laws & policies and ensuring justice.

**Activities:**

1. Introducing mutual referral system of stakeholders to provide legal assistance for victims in cases of digital rights violations to ensure justice,.
2. Advocating for proper implementation, amendment or modification of relevant laws and policies.
3. Conducting campaigns to prevent and protect online-based violence among people of all classes and professions, including women and children, from the grass roots of the country to the national level.
4. Platform members are encouraged to collaborate through various means such as training sessions, workshops, technology sharing, and skill exchange, all tailored to their individual expertise. This collaboration aims to enhance their capacity in relevant areas.
5. Platform members collect data on violence from various sources, store statistics and share with platform members.

**Context:**

Various reports published in recent periodicals show that Bangladesh has more than 52.58 million internet users which is about 31.5% of our total population[[1]](#footnote-0). Moreover, 55.89% people use mobile phones and most of them use smartphones[[2]](#footnote-1). By 2025, the percentage of smartphone usage in our country will increase to 63%[[3]](#footnote-2). And with that, the number of violations of people's digital rights will also increase. Reports are also show that 63.51% women face online harassment[[4]](#footnote-3). Additionally, more than 88% women don't take any legal action against it because they don't have proper understanding about the complaint process and procedure.[[5]](#footnote-4)

On December 26, 2022, BLAST arranged an idea-sharing meeting, to address the prevailing issue of online violence targeting women and children. Subsequent to the discussions held during the meeting, a platform named 'Prevention of online violence against women and children' was established, comprising various organizations dedicated to safeguarding digital rights.

**Members of the Platform:**

Individuals or representatives from organizations engaged in the prevention and protection of women and children against digital or online violence will act as representatives for themselves or their respective organizations.

**Results:**

The enhancement of awareness regarding online-based violence and the assurance of justice for its victims will be achieved through the implementation of a referral system, rigorous enforcement of relevant laws, and dedicated advocacy endeavours.

1. DIGITAL 2022: BANGLADESH, <https://datareportal.com/reports/digital-2022-bangladesh#:~:text=There%20were%2052.58%20million%20internet,at%20the%20start%20of%202022> [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
2. Dhaka Tribune, “Census 2022: 55.89% of Bangladeshis use mobile phones” (2022), <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/2022/07/27/census-2022-5589-of-bangladeshis-use-mobile-phones> > [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
3. Halima Binte Islam, “Smartphone users will grow to 63% by 2025: Report” (2022), <https://www.tbsnews.net/tech/smartphone-users-will-grow-63-2025-report-455654> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
4. Actionaid, Research Findings: Online Violence Against Women in Bangladesh, <https://www.actionaidbd.org/storage/app/media//Research%20Findings\_Online%20Violence%20Against%20Women.pdf> Accessed on 12th January 2023 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
5. Ahmudul Hasan, “আইনি পদক্ষেপ নেন না ৮৮% ভুক্তভোগী” (2022), <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/6fd5i4uux7> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)