

Photography 'My Life, My Rights'

On November 23, 2017, a five-day photography exhibition titled 'My Life, My Rights' was inaugurated at the Drik Gallery, Dhanmondi, Dhaka.

'My Life, My Rights' is a photography competition for young people (14-30 years), organized by the Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) and the Centre for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR) at the BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University, supported by RFSU (The Swedish Association for Sexual Education). The opening ceremony of the exhibition was held on 23rd November, 2017 where Dr Hamida Hossain, human rights activist attended as chief guest, along with the special guests Khushi Kabir, Coordinator, Nijera Kori and Advocate Z I Khan Panna, Member of Trustee Board, BLAST.

Based on the selection by the Jury Board, the top three photographs were selected for the best photographs, and one for the best photo story and were given certificates, crest and prize money. Apart from this, other photographers of the exhibition were also given certificates for their participation.

At the opening ceremony, Dr. Hamida Hossain thanked everyone and said that youth will have to come forward to fight against the oppression of women. Khushi Kabir stated that positive changes occur in young people through such competition, and they become more aware of their rights. Z. I. Khan Panna said that such competition contributes to the youth's awareness of their own rights and helps to prevent any kind of violence.

The competition aimed to highlight rights relating to consent and choice during and before marriage; in personal and professional relationships, photo liberty, expression and their limits, and issues of representation and communication, including on social media. The photographs are intended to focus public attention on current issues and concerns regarding the right to personal liberty, and freedom of expression and the threats resulting from gender-based violence or discrimination, in particular those affecting young people.

The photography competition and exhibition aim to raise public awareness regarding every individual's freedom to make their own decisions about their lives.

The exhibition was held from 23 – 27 November 2017, 3 – 8 pm.