

Title: The Impact of Nari O Shishu Nirjaton Daman Ain on the Lives of Citizens of Bangladesh

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Abstract:

In 2000 Bangladesh passed a progressive law, Nari O Shishu Nirjaton Daman Ain, in order to reduce violence against women and children. The law establishes special tribunals to prosecute anyone accused of serious offenses against women or children and imposes strict penalties against anyone who is found guilty of violating the law. The law has already become well integrated into society: the tribunals are full of active cases and even a mere accusation of committing a violent act against a woman or child carries a heavy social stigma. This projects seeks to further understand the impact the law has made on the citizens of Bangladesh. I will partner with established NGOs in Bangladesh, such as the Acid Survivor Foundation, the Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust, Madaripur Legal Aid Association, and Nijera Kori, to learn what motivates someone to file a case under the law, how the law has changed the lives of the alleged victims, and even how the law has changed the lives of the accused. I will also speak with lawyers, especially the special public prosecutors, about how the law has impacted their ability to prosecute people accused of violent crimes against women and children. The findings will be presented at a roundtable discussion hosted by the Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust and will be open to all members of the public. A written report will also be prepared and made available to the Government of Bangladesh and the community at large.