



BANGABANDHU
CENTRE FOR BANGLADESH STUDIES
IN CANADA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: [07 May 2021]
Bangabandhu Center for Bangladesh Studies in Canada -BCBS
Phone: 431-337-3891
Email: kawser.ahmed@crric.org

Webinar: Women, Security and Peacebuilding: A 21st Century Perspective

On 7th May 2021, BCBS in collaboration with the Bangladesh High Commission, Ottawa, Canada, organized the webinar titled **Women, Security and Peacebuilding: A 21st Century Perspective**.

The following distinguished panelists were in attendance at the webinar:

- Md. Shahriar Alam, MP, Honourable Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh
- Mobina S.B. Jaffer, Q.C., Honourable Senator for British Columbia
- Jacqueline O'Neill, Ambassador of Women, Peace and Security, Global Affairs Canada
- Yasmin Ratansi, Honourable MP Don Valley East, Ontario
- Major General (retired) Kristin Lund, Former Head of Mission UNTSO, Norway
- Commander Carla Monteiro de Castro Araújo, MINUSCA, Military Gender Advisor for the Force

Dr. Khalilur Rahman, Honourable High Commissioner of Bangladesh in Canada and Chief Patron of BCBS welcomed the distinguished panelists to the Webinar and made his introductory remarks highlighting the importance of the issue as well as the role Bangladesh and Canada have been playing in promoting women's empowerment, peace and security.

The distinguished panelists made following key points at the webinar:

- The panel applauded Bangladesh's role in the adoption of UN resolution 1325, its national implementation along with the related SDGs to empower women and engage them in peacekeeping
- Canada and Bangladesh will continue to work together in the areas of promoting women empowerment, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding
- Women play an indispensable role in UN peacekeeping and peace-building initiatives and Bangladeshi women peacekeepers' contributions were lauded in this regard
- A need to ensure that the economic impact of COVID-19 does not hinder women's participation in peace-building initiatives and other forms of governance
- Women bring a unique perspective to peace building initiatives; they are seen as assets to local communities
- Implementing gender quotas can help increase women's representation in peace-building missions
- The importance of investing in social infrastructure and programmes alongside military efforts for women empowerment

Dr. Khalilur Rahman, Honourable High Commissioner of Bangladesh in Canada and Chief Patron of BCBS in his concluding remark acknowledged Canada's partnership in women's economic empowerment in Bangladesh and emphasized that extending the duty-free quote-free access of Bangladeshi exports, especially RMG products to Canadian market until 2030, would be a huge contribution by Canada to continuing women's economic empowerment as around 85% RMG workers in RMG sector in Bangladesh are women.

Dr. Kawser Ahmed (Executive Director, BCBS), Dr. Syeed Khan (Director, BCBS), and Mr. Omar Tejada moderated the session.

The video of the session can be found at www.bcbscanada.org; www.crric.org and <https://www.bdhcottawa.ca>