

# Bangladesh Women Policy: Cancellation of review body demanded

Saturday 19 April 2008, by [The Daily Star](#) (Date first published: 17 April 2008).

Staff Correspondent

A number of socio-cultural organisations, political parties and non-government organisations (NGO) have demanded cancellation of the committee formed to review the Women Development Policy 2008 and immediate implementation of the policy.

Samajik Protirodh Committee at a protest meeting yesterday urged the chief adviser to implement the Women Development Policy after cancelling the review committee, ban political activities in religious institutions, and clarify the stance of the government on the matter. Dr Hamida Hossain presided over the meeting held at the Central Shaheed Minar.

Karmojibi Nari has also demanded cancellation of the review committee and implementation of the policy.

It also urged the government to initiate trial of war criminals after forming a special tribunal.

Organisation President Shirin Akhter and General Secretary Sharmin Kabir in a joint statement yesterday said, "The Women Development Policy is a significant step by the current government for establishing equal rights and respect for women. But the fundamentalists and war criminals in the country are opposing the policy terming it an anti-Islam policy."

Workers' Party of Bangladesh has condemned the review committee's recommendations for omitting six sections and amending 15 others of the Women Development Policy.

It also called upon the government to implement the policy for establishing the rights of women.

"When the entire nation is vocal about trial of war criminals, a certain quarter is trying to create anarchy in the country in the name of religion," the party politburo said in a statement.

The Workers' Party urged the government to take actions against those responsible for instigating violence near the Baitul Mukarram Mosque.

Samajtantrik Mohila Forum has condemned the move for amending 15 sections and bringing changes in the Women Development Policy.

Those who oppose the idea of establishing equal rights for men and women are against the democratic rights, it said in a statement.

Another NGO Steps Towards Development in a statement signed by its Executive Director Ranjan Karmakar said those who are opposing the Women Development Policy are actually opposing the constitution.

"The quarter that does not recognise the country's constitution is opposing the Women Development Policy," it said adding that the review committee must be cancelled.

Gender and Development Alliance, an NGO working for promoting gender equality, human rights and good governance, said any opposition to the Women Development Policy is similar to taking stance against the constitution.

Urging the government to implement the policy immediately, Bangladesh Trade Union Centre in a statement said a certain quarter has challenged the constitution by opposing the policy. The organisation leaders called upon the caretaker government to take actions against them.

---

**P.S.**

\* From The Daily Star, March 30, 2008. Circulated by South Asia Citizens Wire | April 18-19, 2008 | Dispatch No. 2505 - Year 10 running.