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Z\_` I thvMvthvM chj<sup>3</sup>i  
tKškj MZ e`envi



This campaign is organised by the Association of Progressive Communications, Women's Networking Support Programme (APC WNSP)

APC WNSP is a global network of more than 175 women in over 55 countries promoting gender equality in the design, implementation, access and use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) and in the policy decisions and frameworks that regulate them.



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## Reclaiming ICT to End Violence against Women

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## What is Violence Against Women (VAW)?

VAW, or violence against women, means any act that results in harm and disproportionately affects women. The root cause of VAW lies in unequal power relations between men and women in almost all facets of life. Some examples of VAW include domestic violence, rape and sexual harassment.

The United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women defines VAW as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life”.

VAW was recognised as a violation of fundamental human rights in 1993, less than two decades ago, officially through the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women by the United Nations General Assembly. Women's movements across the world are continuously bringing to light new dimensions and different forms of VAW.

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## What is ICTs?

ICTs, or information and communication technologies, broadly means tools and platforms that we use for our communication and information needs. Some examples include radio, mobile telephones, television broadcasts, and the internet.

Sometimes ICTs are understood in “old” and “new” forms. Simply put, “older” forms of ICTs are where information is transmitted in analogue format like radio, and “newer” forms of ICTs are those transmitted in digital formats like wireless technology.

In reality, the distinctions are not absolute, and there are many kinds of ICTs that move from one to the other. The important point is that ICTs carry different meanings and value in different contexts, and impact upon societies significantly in different ways.

## Violence Against Women (VAW) & ICTs

Both ICTs and VAW affects our capacity to completely enjoy our human rights and fundamental freedoms. There is an increased recognition of the connection between VAW and ICTs. For example, the websites can be a useful place for women in violent relationships to get information and help. However, tools like spyware and GPS tracking devices have been used by

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abusers to track and control their partner's mobility.

There are at least two ways to see how ICT impact power relations:

## Representation

ICTs are able to transmit and disseminate norms through representations of “culture” and social structures and relations. Often also acting as media, images reinforce notions of “difference” between men and women by normalising stereotypes of gender roles as reality.

However, this dynamic is not straightforward or simple, as cultures are not homogeneous or static. The increased diversity of content producers on the internet also allows an array of representations that affect gender relations in complex ways. The strands of gender, sexual, cultural, and racial discourses communicated through ICTs must be unravelled to assess their role in affecting culture and norms.

## Communication

The speed, vastness and relative ease of use, especially of “new” ICTs reduce distance and time between people. This can have a great influence on social relations. ICTs can allow survivors of VAW to seek information and assistance, but can

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also endanger survivors if utilised without an understanding of their dimensions. Local strategies by organisations can be compromised by ICTs through issues of privacy, misrepresentation and misunderstanding.

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ersj v`tk bvi xi cōZ minsmZv vej vtc Z\_ I thvMthvM ch<sup>3</sup>i tKškj MZ  
e`envi K`v`úBb



grow the campaign  
take on the issue and localise it!



**Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC)** is a national networking body working for building a democratic society based on the principles of free flow of information, equitable and affordable access to Information, Communication Technology (ICT) for remote and marginalized population.

BNNRC is registered with the Ministry of Law, Parliamentary and Justice Affairs, as a trust and NGO Affairs Bureau, Office of the Prime Minister, Government of Bangladesh according to the foreign donation (Voluntary Activities) regulation ordinance 1978 as an organization on Information, Communication and Technology for Development (ICT4D) established in 2000 as per Article 19 charter of UN bill of rights.

Currently, with congenial support from Cordaid (a Netherlands based funding partner) BNNRC is implementing a project **Promoting Appropriate Technologies and Policies to Uphold the value "ICT as Basic Human Right"**.

BNNRC now strive for following core interventions to achieve PRSP, WSIS action plan and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

1. Awareness on correlations of ICT, poverty alleviation and Institutionalization of Democracy and Right to Information (RTI)
2. Establishment of ICT Resource Center and Promotion of Radio Listeners Club as primary ICT catalyst in remote rural areas;

3. Advocacy and Campaign for Bridging the Digital Divide/Information Divide/Knowledge Divide and open up air waves for Community Radio - voices for the voice-less;
4. Piloting ICT4D projects at rural areas to create show case examples for greater multiplication through Rural Knowledge Center (RKC).
5. Establishment of Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES) for Disaster Preparedness and Risk Reduction through Amateur Radio (HAM Radio) promotion .
6. Establishment of People's Right in Telecommunication/ Global Commons/Country Commons.
7. To Promote the adoption of Free/Open Source Software(FOSS), open standards, and open content for development

BNNRC has been undertaking pioneer approaches to integrate ICT for Development (ICT4D), related policy advocacy for good governance, people's rights, global/ country commons and poverty alleviation with community development work at the grassroots through its networking members in Bangladesh. BNNRC's outreach extends to local national and international forums.

BNNRC is affiliated with

- Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP),
- World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC),

- World Association for Christian Communication (WACC),
- Developing Countries Farm Radio Network (DCFRN),
- Freedom of Information Advocate Network (FOIA),
- Commonwealth Human Right Network (CHRN),
- One World (TV, Radio, Net),
- One World South Asia (OWSA),
- Asian South Pacific Bureau of Adult Education (ASPBAE).

We update our web site regularly with details of our recent activities. best practices, publication and other materials related to promoting ICT as basic human right. We appreciate your visit to our web site and strengthening the movement we are striving for.

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