

## Completion Report: Women Awareness Session on Gender Equality and Rights

Organized by: Student Union for Rohingya Development (SURD)

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Date: 20th November 2024

Home-Based Awareness, Block A, Kutupalong Registered Camp

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### Overview



The **Women Awareness Session on Gender Equality and Rights** was a significant step towards empowering Rohingya women with the knowledge and skills to advocate for their rights. Targeting **13 adult women**, the session aimed to address deep-rooted gender inequalities, encourage education, and foster economic independence. By creating a safe and engaging learning environment, SURD sought to inspire women to take proactive steps in shaping their future and contributing to community development.

### Key Activities

The session was designed with a blend of interactive discussions, practical exercises, and resource sharing

#### 1. Interactive Discussions

1. **Understanding Gender Equality:** Explored the basic principles of gender equality and its relevance in the Rohingya context. The session emphasized that equality benefits not just women but entire communities.
2. **Rights Awareness:** Covered women's legal rights concerning education, healthcare, and protection against gender-based violence, contextualizing these within the community's norms.
3. **Breaking Myths and Stereotypes:** Addressed common misconceptions about gender roles through open dialogue, fostering a supportive and reflective space.

#### 2. Scenario-Based Learning

1. Participants engaged in role-playing activities to practice asserting their rights in hypothetical scenarios, such as negotiating educational opportunities for their daughters or seeking vocational training.

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### 3. Confidence-Building Exercises

1. Group activities focused on improving public speaking, sharing personal stories, and fostering mutual encouragement among participants.

### 4. Resource Sharing

1. Provided information about local support systems, including educational opportunities, vocational training programs, and platforms for women to voice their concerns.

### 5. Community Pledge

1. Participants collectively pledged to advocate for gender equality within their families and communities, symbolizing their commitment to change.



## Outcomes and Impact

The session achieved several transformative outcomes

### 1. Empowered Participants

- ✓ Participants reported a greater understanding of their rights and the significance of gender equality. Many expressed a newfound confidence to assert their opinions within family and community settings.

### 2. Motivated Actions

- ✓ Some women shared their aspirations to pursue education or start small businesses, inspired by the session's emphasis on economic independence.

### 3. Ripple Effect in the Community

- ✓ Attendees committed to spreading awareness among other women, amplifying the session's impact and creating a foundation for broader societal change.

### 4. Breaking Barriers

- ✓ The session fostered a supportive network where women felt comfortable discussing their challenges, reducing feelings of isolation and helplessness.



## Challenges Encountered

Despite the session's success, some challenges highlighted areas for improvement

### 1. Cultural Resistance

- Prevalent traditional norms and skepticism among family members initially discouraged some participants from attending. These were addressed through pre-session engagement and outreach by trusted community members.

### 2. Limited Resources

- The home-based setup restricted the session's scale. Expanding to reach more women will require additional funding and logistical support.

### 3. Sustained Engagement

- Encouraging consistent participation remains a challenge, given the competing responsibilities and mobility constraints of women in the camps.

## Funding and Support

This session was made possible through the generous contributions of **SURD representatives** and the **Camp Management Body**, who provided financial and logistical support. Their belief in the power of education and gender equality was instrumental in the event's success.

## Future Plans

SURD is committed to furthering its mission of gender equality and empowerment through

- Expanding Outreach:** Scaling up awareness sessions to other blocks within Kutupalong Camp and beyond, targeting a broader demographic, including younger women and adolescent girls.
- Introducing Vocational Training:** Launching skills development programs tailored for women, focusing on sewing, handicrafts, and other marketable skills to promote economic independence.
- Engaging Male Advocates:** Conducting gender-sensitization workshops for men to foster understanding and support for women's empowerment. This inclusive approach aims to create allies within the community.





4. **Establishing Peer Support Networks:** Creating groups where women can share experiences, collaborate on advocacy efforts, and mentor one another in navigating challenges.
5. **Partnerships for Sustainability:** Collaborating with local and international organizations to secure resources and expertise for ongoing and future initiatives.
6. **Campaigns for Cultural Change:** Designing long-term awareness campaigns that address deeply ingrained norms and promote progressive attitudes towards gender equality.

## Acknowledgments

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to

- ❖ The **participants** for their enthusiastic involvement and courage to advocate for change.
- ❖ The **SURD representatives and Camp Management Body** for their unwavering support and dedication to community development.

SURD remains steadfast in its commitment to empowering Rohingya women. Together, we can build a future where women are equal contributors to a thriving and inclusive society.

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