



1 May 2017

Press Release

May Day Call by BLAST for Urgent Action to Ensure Equal Pay and End Workplace Sexual Harassment

Today on May Day BLAST calls for urgent action by state and private sector employers to ensure equal pay for women and men, equality at work, and for steps to eliminate sexual harassment at workplaces across the country, in compliance with national laws, and ILO Conventions 100 and 111. It also calls for action to strengthen the existing legal framework to ensure gender equality in the workplace.

BLAST is concerned to note that despite laws and policies mandating gender equality, discrimination continues to be rife in public and private workplaces. For examples, many employers have still not complied with the Supreme Court Guidelines on Elimination of Sexual Harassment, which are binding law for all.

BLAST further hopes that action can be taken to strengthen the existing legal framework by the Government taking steps to incorporate the provision of relevant ILO conventions on gender equality into national law. For example, ILO Conventions No. 100 (on Equal Pay for Equal Work) and No. 111 (on Elimination of Discrimination in Employment and Occupation) have not been fully incorporated into our national laws. In addition, Bangladesh has not yet ratified ILO Conventions No. 156 and 183, on workers with family responsibilities and on maternity protection.

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