



23 March 2017

Press Release

**University Dialogue on “Raise Your Voice, Break the Silence. Gender Based Violence:
Current Status and Way Forward”**

On 23 March 2017, the Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) and the Centre for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (CGSRHR) of the James P. Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University, jointly organized a University Dialogue titled “Raise Your Voice, Break the Silence”.

The dialogue was organized to catalyse discussion among university students on issues of right to consent and choice, prevention of child marriage, gender based violence, and the social and familial restrictions young and gender diverse persons experience in making decisions and expressing themselves about their personal lives and freedoms.

The dialogue kicked off with a screening of three of the top ten winners of the short film competition organized by BLAST and JPGSPH titled “Jiboner Golpe Cinema Banai” (<https://www.facebook.com/shortfilmsbd/>) or “Making Cinemas on Life Stories” in 2016 for young people aged between 18 to 30 years. The films were “**Cosmic Story**” directed by Mostaque Hasan, “**Sheuli Kotha**” directed by Mrittika Kamal and “**Untold**” directed by Debashish Roy.

At the event, Shireen Huq, Member, Naripokkho; Dr. Firdous Azim, Professor, BRAC University; and Fatama Sultana Suvra, Asst. Professor, Jagannath University were present as the panelists. Ibrahim Khalil, Producer, Cosmic Story and Alauddin Ahmed Rana, Scriptwriter and Actor, Sheuli Kotha also spoke about the making of the films at the dialogue.

Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Professor, JPGSPH and Sara Hossain, Hon. Executive Director, BLAST was also present at the event. Students, researchers, academics from BRAC University, and representatives from civil society organizations participated in the dialogue.

For more information, please contact:

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