

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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PRESS RELEASE

U.S. GOVERNMENT HOSTS DIALOGUE TO PROMOTE LEGAL FRAMEWORK ENSURING JUSTICE TO MIGRANT WORKERS

DHAKA, JULY 18 -- Officials from the U.S. and Bangladesh governments, NGO representatives, law practitioners, and recruiting agencies met today to discuss “Legal Redress for Victims and Survivors in the Process of Migration – Framework and Realities.” Part of a \$3.4 million anti-trafficking project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the dialogue generated concrete suggestions to ensure justice for the victims of labor trafficking.

USAID supports advocacy initiatives to promote policy changes that will improve support services for survivors of labor trafficking. Advocacy campaigns and dialogues have identified obstacles victims face in receiving adequate compensation as well as recommendations for policy reform. The purpose of this workshop was to identify specific concerns raised by the trafficked labors and migrants who cannot lodge a legal complaint against the recruiting agencies. USAID will partner with the Government of Bangladesh to incorporate more authority and right into the new comprehensive law against human trafficking where the trafficked migrants can lodge report against the recruiting agencies, and claim for full compensation. Because of the legal loopholes, the recruiting agencies can now get by without compensating the trafficked migrants. The USAID sponsored workshop will recommend specific policy changes into the law so the trafficked migrants can seek help from the government to better monitor labor recruitment agencies

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USAID administers programs in five key areas in Bangladesh: improving health and pre-primary education; creating income opportunities for rural poor; supporting good governance; enhancing food security; and strengthening disaster preparedness and providing emergency assistance following natural disasters. Since 1971, the U.S. Government has provided over \$5.8 billion in assistance to Bangladesh.

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Note: A Bangla translation of this press release is also available at the American Center. If you are interested in the translation, please call the American Center Press Section, Tel: 8837150-4, Fax: 9885688; e-mail: DhakaPA@state.gov; Website: [http:// dhaka.usembassy.gov](http://dhaka.usembassy.gov)