



*we stand for freedom of
expression, human rights
and democracy,
good governance and
independent media*

NEWS
NETWORK

working for
social change and
empowering people

www.newsnetwork-bd.org



>



=



News Network supports freedom of speech and expression, democracy and human rights, good governance, transparency, gender equality and independent media



News Network envisions a nation where citizens are aware of their rights, enjoy freedom of expression, dignity of life and gender equality, and where the media is free.

The organization is committed to promoting democracy, freedom of expression and press, diversity for peace, human rights, access to information and justice, and inclusion of marginalized and ethnic people.

Its efforts focus on enhancing the digital security and physical safety of social actors, supporting media development, strengthening journalists' skills, and empowering human rights defenders (HRDs) to uphold democratic values. Additionally, News Network advocates for civil society engagement in policy planning and socio-economic development. As well as it encourages and empowers women to pursue careers in journalism.

A group of young journalists, media and communication experts, and human rights activists established News Network in June 1994, with a view to bringing social change and empowering the people. It was officially registered by the government in 1995 in accordance with the Foreign Donations (Voluntary Activities) Regulation Act. As a result of its significant efforts, the organization was granted Special Consultative Status by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 2022. Also, it has been accolated the status of an Associate of the United Nations Department of Global Communications (DGC) in 2024. The organisation has strong ties to media outlets, journalists, and civil society organisations (CSOs) around the nation.

Works and Success

News Network maintains a robust nationwide network of CSOs and media outlets. Over the years, it has been experienced with extensive knowledge and expertise to carry out diversified activities in cities to remote areas.

Since launching of its first project in 1995, funded by the Ford Foundation to support investigative journalism, News Network has

expanded its activities significantly in the field of training, research, investigative reporting and promoting women in journalism. With support from national and international donors, as of December 2024 it has successfully implemented over 40 projects throughout the country, demonstrating its sustainable impact on journalism, media development, and human rights.

Strengthening media freedom is one of the core initiatives of News Network. In order to achieve the goal it has undertaken several actions which included, among others, training up and sensitising about 5000 journalists and media gatekeepers including editors, executive editors and news editors on various issues. The issues included a range of topics such as ethical practices of journalism, digital security and legal safety, information accuracy, in-depth and investigative reporting, election reporting, covering news from danger zones, and fighting hate speech, misinformation, as well as the fake news.



Strengthening democracy and human rights are our top priorities to address.

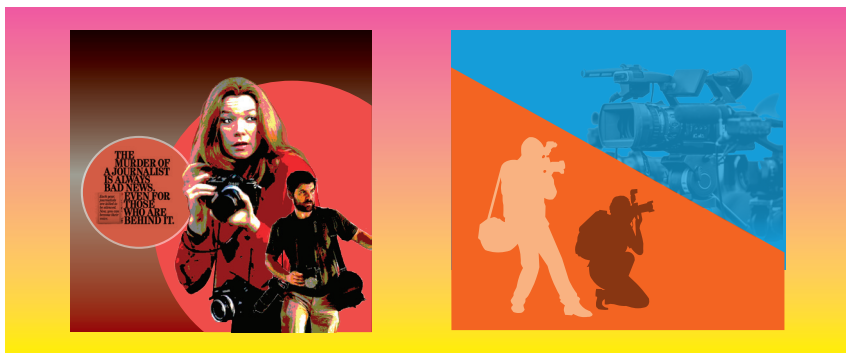
The organisation also provided month-long fellowship to new comers in journalism profession. News Network activities cover almost all divisional cities and districts.

Over the last two decades, the organisation has been offering month-long to year-long fellowships in practical journalism to young women in an effort to encourage them to choose journalism as a career. Until now about 500 young women have been benefited from this fellowship. One of its objectives is to promote gender equality in the nation's heavily male-dominated media industry. The initiative has greatly helped to break the social taboos. At present, a good number of News Network fellows are well positioned in mainstream regional and national print and electronic media. Moreover, it helped the media organisations to change its traditional mind set and encourage hiring

more female journalists.

The organisation strongly upholds its commitment and extends supports to promote human rights, democratic values and other rights based issues. And subsequently, it helps to promote human rights defenders' (HRDs') capacity building. The actions are well aimed to sensitise and train up HRDs on risk assessment, case investigation, advocacy campaign and lobbying for public interest issues and civic engagement in socio-economic development initiatives.

In the VIEW of rapid digital transformation, News Network is worried about the physical and digital safety of journalists and HRDs. To face the challenges, it has undertaken various activities for better understanding and increasing their skills on digital safety and security. These will make them skilled to protect their communication tools from unauthorised access and help them ensure safe communication and data verification



Supporting freedom of speech, and press and working to ensure the safety of journalists and human rights advocates

and transfer, as well as countering misinformation, disinformation, mal information, fake news and hate speech. The organization is also working for enhancing knowledge and capacity of journalists to promote and protect freedom of speech and press and face the new challenges posed by 21st century technological change

News Network is also concerned about the safety and security of media personnel in accordance with the 'UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity'. As a result, it promotes justice for crime against journalists, rule of law and reduce impunity. Feeling worried by amplifying concerns about the safety of journalists and HRDs, the organisation actively pushes for accountability within the justice system. It counters the challenges, works to bolster protections for those at risk, creating a safer environment for journalists to carry out their work without fear.



We aim for a sustainable environment to save the nature and people

News Network is actively implementing a range of impactful projects to strengthen the freedom of expression, safety of journalists, human rights, and inclusive growth. These initiatives will help contributing to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by fostering economic empowerment and supporting social development in communities. Here is some of its on-going and recent projects:

1. Collaborative Action for Freedom of Expression
2. Programme for Promoting Safety of Journalists
3. Strengthening Capacity of Media to Promote Democracy
4. Greater Internet Freedom Project
5. Promoting Advocacy and Rights
6. Illuminating New Solutions and Programmatic Innovations for Resilient Spaces (INSPIRES)
7. Programme for Promoting Digital and Physical Safety of Journalists
8. Supporting Human Rights Defenders Working for Women's and Girls' Rights in Bangladesh
9. Capacity Development of Media People for Promoting Tolerant and Inclusive Society
10. Rural Media Development for Promoting Democracy and Human Rights in Bangladesh

These projects reinforce News Network's commitment to empowering society, supporting inclusive growth, and creating resilient communities while promoting democracy and human rights.



News Network has been working consistently for promoting Sustainable Development Goal 16 in order to achieve peace and justice

Development Partners

News Network's programs and initiatives have greatly impacted the media and the society. With the resources and dynamism, the organization has witnessed a slow but steady growth to become a credible national organization in Bangladesh.

It has attracted funding assistance from many of the reputed international donors and organizations. Some of them are Ford Foundation, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Diakonia, NORAD, DANIDA, The World Bank, UNDP, UNDEF, UNESCO and European Commission, The American Center, USAID-Progati, Internews, Counterpart International, EngageMedia, German Embassy, The Netherlands Embassy, Free Voice, Free Press Unlimited, Canadian High Commission and the Netherlands Embassy.

Governance structure

News Network is governed by a 7-member Executive Council (EC). The EC consists of President, Vice- President, Secretary General, Finance Secretary and three Executive Members. The EC's main responsibilities include making policies, providing advices and suggestions as well as

undertaking major decisions to run the office and activities smoothly. The body is democratically elected by a 21-member General Council (GC) every four years. On behalf of EC, the Secretary General plays a vital role and acts as the Editor and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of News Network.

The Agendas

1. Promoting human rights, democracy, good governance, accountability and transparency and environmental rights
2. Strengthening independent media and promote freedom of expression, freedom of speech, freedom of press, internet freedom and digital rights
3. Promoting access to justice and right to information
4. Undertaking programmes to enhance professional capacity of journalists and HRDs
5. Providing support and encourage young women to choose journalism as their profession
6. Promoting investigative journalism and works to reduce impunity for crime against journalists and HRDs
7. Working for promoting digital security and physical safety of journalists, HRDs and CSOs
8. Supporting media and civil society to face the challenges of climate change and poverty alleviation
9. Promoting women empowerment and gender equality, combatting violence against woman (VAW), gender based violence (GBV), forced marriage and child marriage
10. Supporting religious freedom, social diversity, inclusiveness of marginal people, religious minority and ethnic community people.
11. Conducting research, study, survey and investigation on public interested issues
12. Organising dialogue, seminar, workshops and discussion meeting on issues of national importance.

Partners of News Network



your committed partner in progress

NEWS
NETWORK

working for
social change and
empowering people

NEWS NETWORK

House 8, Road 2, Dhanmoni, Dhaka 1205, Bangladesh

Phone: +88 02 55166238, +88 02 55166239

info@newsnetwork-bd.org, www.newsnetworkbd.org