Empowering Young Women for Promoting Peaceful, Cohesive and Prosperous Bangladesh
Since July 2018, the Centre for Peace and Justice, BRAC University (CPJ, BRACU) has been implementing a flagship programme titled ‘Empowered Women, Peaceful Communities’ with the support of UN Women at four universities in Dhaka, Mymensingh, and Rangpur. CPJ has successfully implemented four phases of this regional programme. Under the project, CPJ facilitated the establishment of four Peace Cafés as an innovative and pioneering initiative to promote peace and social cohesion. Peace Café nurtures and mentors female-student-led civic engagement and social entrepreneurship activities for peacebuilding and social cohesion.

Key Objectives

1. Improve leadership capacity of university students for promoting peace and social cohesion
2. Facilitate student-led initiatives for promoting peace and social cohesion
3. Enhance evidence on the role of youth in promoting peace and social cohesion
In 2019 CPJ, BRACU facilitated the establishment of two Women Peace Cafés as the hub of civic engagement for students and experiential learning, at Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur (BRUR), and Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University (JKKNIU), Mymensingh. In 2021 CPJ replicated the Peace Cafe at the University of Dhaka and BRAC University. The Peace Cafe envisions empowering young students to promote a just, peaceful, and inclusive society where every human being will be treated with equal dignity and given rights.
In the National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security, Bangladesh identifies 3 pillars (1) Prevention (2) Participation, and (3) Protection, Relief, and Recovery. Women Peace Café Initiative took these 3 pillars of the international and national policy framework into consideration in designing its strategies and activities;

- United Nation Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security
- United Nation Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace, and Security
- SDG- 5, SDG- 16, and SDG- 4 target 7 (education for sustainable development, human rights, gender equality, peace and non-violence, global citizenship, and cultural diversity among others)
- National Youth Policy Bangladesh (Civic engagement of youth)

### Key Functions

- To promote peace, social cohesion, diversity, plurality, inclusivity, tolerance & non-discrimination;
- To prevent gender-based violence, harmful masculinity, abuse & bullying, violent extremism, hate speech, misinformation, and drug addiction among others
- To develop women leadership through nurturing social business ideas and facilitating student-led initiatives and campaigns;
- To create a bridge between students and communities in & beyond the campus as a hub of civic engagement and experiential learning;
- To serve as a co-working and safe space for female students and a platform to raise voice for their rights and policy advocacy

### Capacity Development

### Awareness Raising

### Civic Engagement
WPC Activities

Since 2020, Women Peace Café aimed to nurture innovative social business ideas for the promotion of peace, prosperity, social cohesion and COVID19 resilience in Bangladeshi through following 14 Women Peace Ambassadors Initiatives.

Some Activities of Women Peace Café
To promote the Peace Cafe's activities among the students and communities in & beyond the campus, a total of 116 students (94 female and 22 male) from the University of Dhaka, BRAC University, Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur (BRUR), and Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University (JKKNIU) were selected as Peace Ambassadors through an open call. CPJ has co-designed 14 innovative initiatives by engaging 16 faculty members as mentors. Each group has been awarded seed funds and given technical & mentoring support to implement their ideas for the duration of 4-6 months. They have engaged 290 peace volunteers from 50+ academic institutes and 580 community women from Tea Garden, Bihari, Indigenous, Pottery Communities among others across 30 districts. They have further reached 500 thousands community people, social media users through online activities.

**Activities of Peace Ambassadors Initiatives**
Some drawings, arts and photographs from project activities and contests
Training and Capacity Development

Women Entrepreneurship Training for Peace and Social Cohesion

680 female students from 80+ academic institutes mostly from BRACU, BRUR, DU, and JKKNIU have been trained on Women Entrepreneurship for Promoting Peace and Social Cohesion organised by CPJ BRACU. Among them, 320 students received three-days physical training consisting of two-days business planning boot camp and one-day social innovation training held at BRAC Learning Centre Rangpur and Mymensingh in 2018 and 2019. Other participants received the training virtually in 2021 and 2022. They have consolidated together 75 social business ideas throughout the training.

Mentorship Training for Social Innovation

14 Faculty Members of BRUR and JKKNIU have been trained on Mentoring for Innovation and Social Cohesion on the 5th to 6th April 2019 at Brac University. The 2-day training was facilitated by Prof. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir, Ph.D. SFHEA, Vice-Chancellor, Green University of Bangladesh. They have also received 2-day refresher training at Brac Centre Inn, Dhaka.

Peace, Gender and Leadership Training

72 Students from BRUR, BRACU, DU, and JKKNIU have been trained on Peace, Gender and Leadership. The 3-days training facilitated by renowned trainer Dr. Motahar Akand using adult participatory learning methods at Brac Learning Centre Rangpur and ASPADA Training Centre, Mymensingh and Hotel Sarina, Dhaka
26 Members of Women Peace Cafés from BRUR and JKKNIU have been trained on Documentation and Operation of Women Peace Cafés at Brac Learning Centre Uttara, Dhaka.

266 female students have received training on 'Positive Content Creation for Online Peacebuilding and Social Cohesion.

A 3-day basic self-defense training was organized by Women Peace Café, BRUR from 21-23 October 2019 for female students of Begum Rokeya University Rangpur. Around 75 students attended the training and as the students felt the importance of the training and were willing to complete the 2-month course of self-defense. The training period was extended and continued through December 2019 and January 2020.

32 participants received a month-long Freelancing Training on Digital Marketing organised by training Women Peace Café, JKKNIU. In addition Women Peace Café, JKKNIU organised a two-day-long mobile film making workshop on Women rights and VAWG Issues from March 3 to March 4, 2020, facilitated by Right Centre and supported by UNDP and Sweden Sverige. 15 WPC members received this training.

CPJ organised a 2-day long Strategic Planning Workshop for Women Peace Café members and mentors of BRUR and JKKNIU on 28-29 February 2020 at BRAC Learning Centre, Madhupur, Tangail. CPJ organised another Capacity Development Workshop for Better Monitoring and Management of Peace Cafe Initiative at BRAC CDM, Rajendrapur on 20 - 21 March 2021.
Events and Activities


On the occasion of International Peace Day WPC JKKNIU & WPC BRUR organised rallies.


Women Peace Café, BRUR organised a skill development workshop on assignment writing & presentation on 29th July, 2019.

Ally-Aid, Joyontika and Adommo Mrinmoyee jointly organised 6 day-long training on Women Mental Health During COVID-19 Pandemic.

CPJ and UN Women Jointly Organized a Training of Trainers on Facilitation Skills at Modhupur BL, Tangail from 1-4 November 2021. Total 29 participants participated in the training from different peace cafes and partner organizations.
WPC JKKNIU and BRUR Celebrated International Human Rights Day in December 2020.

**Events and Activities**

- **Seminar on Depression and Reproductive Health** organized by WPC JKKNIU
- **On the 20th Anniversary of UNSCR 1325 CPJ, UN Women and Naripokkho jointly organised a Virtual Dialogue on Women, Peace, Power: A Youth Perspective**
- **On the occasions of 50th anniversary of Bangladesh, the ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh and CPJ BRACU jointly organised a Webinar on Advancing Peace through Sustainable Development and Social Well-being**
- **Tree Plantation by WPCs BRUR and JKKNIU Campus**
- **Seminar on Depression and Reproductive Health organized by WPC JKKNIU**
- **WPC, JKKNIU members are creating awareness on COVID-19 resilience with Madrasha Students**

**Photography Contest 2020**

- Extended Deadline: 20 September
- Submit your video at sspcontest@bracu.ac.bd
- Awards: Winner: BDT 20,000, First Runner-up: BDT 20,000, Second Runner-up: BDT 10,000
WPC members organised a ramp show on multiple roles of women in Bangladeshi society at the JKKNIU campus. Later they also presented this cultural show at a national event organised by the UN in Bangladesh at BICC, Dhaka.

WPC BRUR members, mentors and CPJ representative visited the Begum Rokeya Memorial Centre at Pairabond, Rangpur. Begum Rokeya was a pioneer of women’s right and empowerment in South Asia.
Events and Activities

Discussion Session on International Women's Day at BRUR campus

ToT certification ceremony was held at BRAC University auditorium. Guests from CPJ, UN Women, and others were present and handed over the certificates.

Peace Adda on the Occasion of International Peace Day 2019 by Women Peace Cafe JKKNIU

Debate Competition organised by Women Peace Cafes BRUR and JKKNIU
Events and Activities

CPJ organised a National Colloquium on Empowering Young Women at BRAC Centre Inn. on March 31, 2019

WPC JKKNIU and Nirvoi Foundation jointly organised Peace Adda with Street Children

Photos of certificate awarding ceremony for 320 participants of Women Entrepreneurship Training at BRUR and JKKNIU
River of Life Drawn by JKKNIU and BRUR Students reflecting their aspiration, upbringing achievement and challenges
Centre for Peace and Justice (CPJ) is a multi-disciplinary academic institute, which promotes global peace and social justice through quality education, research, training, and advocacy. CPJ is committed to identifying and promoting sustainable and inclusive solutions to a wide range of global concerns and issues, including fragility, conflict and violence.