



Theme: Dialogue, Tolerance & Peace

MESSAGE'S ON THE OCCASION OF WORLD RADIO DAY 2019



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Promoting Dialogue, Tolerance and Peace through Community Radio in Bangladesh

Youth and Youth women in Bangladesh hate violent extremism – we must teach them Tolerance and Peace. Violent extremists promote fear and division – we must respond with opportunities for citizen's engagement, with skills for intercultural dialogue. Violent extremists preach exclusion and hatred – we must teach human rights, dignity, tolerance and solidarity. Violent extremists breed on mistrust and fears of others, on a lack of confidence in the future. We must provide Youth and Youth women with a renewed sense of belonging to our society with a new vision of the future.

Community Radio stations in Bangladesh have emphasized on community youth and youth women engagement through dialogue and democratic debate issues, such as countering violent extremism (CVE), violence against women, can help to raise awareness among listeners and inspire understanding for new perspectives in paving the way for positive action.

Community Radio programs included live discussion which is popularly known as talk show, magazine programs, broadcast of Public Service Announcement (PSA) and theme song. The outreach activities included group meetings, multi-stakeholders gathering, courtyard meeting, formation of youth listeners club etc.

Promoting Dialogue, Tolerance and Peace must start from all corners of our society by empowering Youth and Youth women in Bangladesh with the right values, skills and behaviours to make the most of diversity, to increase effective Political Participation through Multi –Generation Reach, to develop a more inclusive Public Space through Multi- Platform Presence & Multi –Generation Reach and to Influence Power for Improving responsiveness from power holders, to find decent employment, to live as good citizens, defending human rights and fundamental rights and duty in every instance.

In response to the above phrases, Bangladesh NGO Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC) implementing project on Strengthening Resilience to Violence and Extremism through Community Radio is having partnership with two community radio stations – Community Radio Sharabela in Gaibandha and Community Radio Borendra in Naogaon district. The project was generously supported by Democracy International.

The goal of the project is to contribute towards strengthening community resilience in preventing and countering violent extremism. The project was designed to achieve the following objectives; to enhance skills of young community radio broadcasters to address violent extremism, and to increase the understanding of rural community people regarding Countering Violent Extremism (CVE).

BNNRC is in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) accredited with World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) of the United Nations and UN WSIS prize winner 2016 and Champion 2017. BNNRC represent the community electronic media sector to Government, Industry, Regulatory Bodies, Media, Academia and Development Partners from 2000. BNNRC is supported by contributions from different development organizations worldwide who share a commitment in building a free, independent and pluralistic community media of voices for the voiceless.

The action research project has emphasized soft power approach on community engagement for Countering Violence Extremism (CVE) through community radio programs and outreach activities for social mobilization. Radio program included live discussion which is popularly known as talk show, magazine programs, broadcast of Public Service Announcement (PSA) and theme song. The outreach activities included group meetings, multi-stakeholders gathering, courtyard meeting, formation of youth listeners club etc.

Project contribution targeted in RP3 Model which mean response, protect, pursue and prevent from radicalization and violent extremism, the project activities contributed in those four areas; following evidence justifies the achievement logically.

Community responded positively, their direct and indirect participation in the events, phone calls, mass participation in open dialogues and interaction indicated active response and positive response to prevent and reduce violent extremism from the society.

The community protected and even encouraged the radio broadcasters to organize motivational events in more areas and they willingly extended support for organizing outreach events, and also pursued for similar program in the future. For example- college teachers (female) shared her learning with her students in a college class room after completion of her academic classes.

We wish grand success of 8th World Radio Day 2019.



Ms. Anna Minj
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Dialogue, Tolerance and Peace

13th February is the World Radio Day. The theme of this year is “Dialogue, Tolerance and Peace”. The theme is very crucial in the context of current situation of instability, human rights violation, conflict, violence extremism etc. throughout the world and humanity, tolerance and peace in the mankind is being affected seriously.

Dialogue, music and sound effects are the main components of radio broadcasting. Without these radio is nothing as these three components help the listener imagine and see the story in their minds.

Since 2011, Community Radios in Bangladesh have been broadcasting radio programmes on different issues like violence against women and children, women empowerment, ending child marriage, health, education, culture etc. and playing an important role as a media for the community people towards promoting peace and social cohesion. At present 17

community radios are on air and other 15 are in the process of initiation. The community radio media is disseminating information for local community people relating to their life, livelihood, culture, literature and sports etc. with direct participation of local community people in their local dialects. Community Radios have become the voice of community people especially for women. Now a days the Community Radio programmes have special focus on sensitizing Sustainable Development Goals more specifically on SDG 16 for building peace, social cohesion and addressing violence against women & children considering the current context of the country. This agenda is also priority for Bangladesh Government's 7th five year plan (2016-20).

It is our expectation that increased number of community radios in Bangladesh will facilitate wider reach out of grassroots for ensuring right to information towards building tolerant and peaceful society. In the process, it's important to emphasize increasing participation or engagement of women and youth in radios. Our commitment in the observance of World Radio Day this year is to strengthen women's participation in community radios in particular in dialogues for building tolerant and peaceful society.



Ms Nyma Nargis
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Radio for 'Tolerance and Peace' World Radio Day 2019

Radio is the most effective tools proved to be the most effective media in promoting education and development. Radio has been used extensively as an educational medium in developing countries like Bangladesh. From the time of the liberation of Bangladesh Radio is being used as agent of change makers that can transmits information to create public opinion and bring out the desired change in the society. Radio- irrespective of FM and Community Radio have been used in different formats for educational purposes the world round.

Radio is a tool for quick information delivery and aware mass people in an easy semantic way, so now it is the high time to use this powerful medium to bring dialogue among the people to promote tolerance and peace. The power of radio helps raising awareness among listeners, while offering new perspectives and paving the way for positive action. By stimulating the public debate on matters of common interest Radio facilitates unity among its listeners. The effective functions of radio can - Embrace differences, engage audience, listens and answer, foster partnership, inspire listeners, participate, reflect change, celebrate community spirit, put words into action most importantly RADIO empower the voiceless.

Let us participate to celebrate the power of radio as UNESCO is calling on radio broadcasters worldwide to take part in the celebration by, for example, hosting discussions on otherness, involving their audiences, giving a voice to the voiceless, inviting listeners to speak of their experiences and promoting participatory actions in a spirit of tolerance and peace.

Let us bring the change---



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“Dialogue, Tolerance and Peace”

In the modern digital age of transformation, radio has got a critical role in shaping a healthy and better world. The theme of this year’s World Radio Day - “Dialogue, Tolerance and Peace” is a compound one and very relevant to current global scenario. Radio is a strong platform by which we can enhance the essence of culture of dialogue, tolerance and peace in home and abroad. In Bangladesh, radio is still one of entertaining and informative tools, remotely. The increasing accomplishments of community radio and FM bands, despite regular radio services, are becoming popular, but availability of relevant contents still remain a challenge.

We need to concentrate on best possible ways of interacting with audiences to make the radio transmissions more dynamic and result-oriented. Promoting 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, leaves no one left behind, in Bangladesh should be one of key objectives of radio in disseminating messages. Peace and development are interconnected, we need work for both through dialogue and tolerance. There are enormous prospects in development initiatives in Bangladesh in line with national development plan and SDG targets, and radio can efficiently mobilize those initiatives.

I trust that promotion of the theme of World Radio Day will have a significant impact in making a better world. In this connection, I conclude with a quote from the message of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on World Radio Day 2019 - “On this World Radio Day, let us recognize the power of radio to promote dialogue, tolerance and peace.”



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World Radio Day-2019

Perhaps today's world is more interactive and at the same time insecure, dangerous, and risky than ever before. Certainly, the extensive use of Cyber Technology has made human life interactive and easy, but it intensified gradually the senses of isolation and segregation. The feeling of isolation is now becoming a threat to traditional relationships, social unity and harmony. Social media, for example, as a form of cyber communication has become a new phenomenon of ‘power’ that

encourages people to practice self-narrowness, celebrate relationships between hi-tech 'screens' and 'individual' rather than traditional human relations.

But over half of the total population of this Universe is living their life without web-based communication and access to the internet. Where, radio is playing a vital role in inter-race-religion-cultural networking and communication. Radio is used as a daily servitor for the individual, professional, family and community matters. Radio communicates huge number of people to organize a shared listener group and community. Moreover, radio becomes an agent to provide social or cultural needs by arranging community discussion on subjects including social, religious or cultural events, politics, elections and other service activities. Radio plays a significant role also to resolve social and cultural conflicts of different race or groups of people.

In the World Radio Day- 2019, I wish that the radio will become the symbol of hope for the people; will become the medium of community tolerance; and will be the prolocutor to ensure a peaceful relationship of different groups.