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Police need to be more gender-sensitive, says ex-adviser

 **STAFF REPORTER**

Former adviser to the caretaker government and Adviser on Police Reform project Development Programme (UNDP) ASM Shahjahan has said that the police need to be more sensitive in the police stations so that women in need of service feel comfortable and safe. "The gender-sensitive policing approach would also contribute to progressive improvement of police service in Bangladesh," he said at the inaugural function of a two-day orientation programme for police officers on "gender sensitivity: key to prevent violence against women" held at the city yesterday.












The Police Reform Programme (PRP) organised the orientation programme that aims to train police officers to become well-aware of the issues relating to gender, understand the concept of gender as well as undertake measures against domestic violence, trafficking and sex abuse at the model police stations.

DMP commissioner, acting project manager and PRP's anti-trafficking in human rights prevention and community safety adviser and gender consultant were present at the function. In 2005, Bangladesh government, UNDP and the Department for International Development launched the first phase of the PRP that aims at improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Police by supporting key areas of access to justice including investigations, prosecutions, human resource management and training, strategic capacity and oversight. The programme is being implemented by the Home Ministry and Bangladesh Police Commission is also a major partner in the programme.

The overall purpose of the PRP is to develop a safer and more secure environment for human rights and equitable access to justice through police reform, transforming it from a public service one, which is responsive to all of the Bangladesh population, to a public service one, which is responsive to all of the Bangladesh population, vulnerable, women and children.

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Published by the Editor on behalf of Free Press Ltd. and printed by him at Media Printers, 32 Kazi N:
Commercial Office: 145, Monipuri Para (2nd Floor), Airport Road, Tejgoan, Dhaka-1215, Banglade:
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