

THE GCERF CAROL BELLAMY LEADERSHIP AWARD 2023 AWARDEE REPORT: **ANAGRASAR SAMAJ UNNAYAN SONGSTHA**

AT A GLANCE: ANAGRASAR SAMAJ UNNAYAN SONGSTHA

Anagrasar Samaj Unnayan Songstha (ASUS) is a non-profit organization whose work is focussed on women's empowerment, access to justice, girls' rights as well as ensuring women human rights are respected. ASUS is supported by various international and national donors, and works throughout Bangladesh. ASUS has worked on the wellbeing of women and girls as well as the thematic of countering violent extremism since 1998.



**ASUS has operated
in Bangladesh
since 1998**

PROJECT OVERVIEW

ASUS project pursued the following objectives:

- Enhance the knowledge on P/CVE among women and girls in the community and enable them to develop positive messages.
- Empower women and girls to protect themselves and the members of the community against violent extremist groups and their activities.

In that aim, ASUS chose to create a women defenders group named "ALO" composed of 20 members from their existing beneficiaries, who were trained to develop positive messages and raise awareness on violent extremism within their community.

The "ALO" members stayed in regular contact with the government service providers and CSO network members.



Through this project and the organisation's other actions, ASUS directly addresses the nexus of women empowerment and PVE.

Considering the important role of women and girls in preventing and countering violent extremism, ASUS focuses on developing women and girls leadership skills within their community, as well as train them to identify and counter harmful activities



FORMATION OF THE “ALO” WOMEN GROUP

Following the organisation’s selection guidelines, 30 women and girls working as influencers were selected from an existing pool of beneficiaries.

They were then invited to a formal meeting to inform them about their roles and responsibilities as members of the group.



A DAYLONG WORKSHOP ON LUDO GAME

20 members of the “ALO” group attended a daylong workshop to familiarize with the games and questions they would then disseminate through ludu games.

Practice sessions were conducted, based on interactive methods, as well as a proper ludu games test run.



FUTURE STEPS

The ALO group will now disseminate PVE messages within their community, becoming active actors in countering radicalism, as well as stay in regular contact with the government service providers and CSO networks member.

