

DU teachers, students protest at violence, harassment against women

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University Teachers' Network organises a protest rally at the foot of Aparajeyo Bangla Sculpture on Dhaka University campus protesting against on-going violence against women across the country on Sunday. | New Age photo

Teachers and students of different departments of Dhaka University protested against on-going violence and harassment against women across the country staging demonstrations on the university premises on Sunday.

They demanded the government to bring the culprits involved in violence and harassment against women to book and ensure exemplary punishment of those responsible.

Teachers and students blamed the government and law enforcers for their failure to ensure women's safety and security as several incidents of rape, oppression and harassment against women were taking place across the country.

Criticising the role of the home adviser lieutenant general, retired, Jahangir Alam Chowdhury for the deterioration of the law and order situation, they also demanded the removal of the adviser for his failure to ensure the safety of women.

DU teachers and students under the platform of University Teachers' Network held a protest rally at the foot of Aparajeyo Bangla Sculpture on the campus.

Presiding over the rally, DU mass communication and journalism department professor Gitiara Nasreen said that culprits were continuing violence against women as they knew that there would be no punishment for their crimes.

'The culprits must be brought to book,' said the professor, demanding exemplary punishment for rapist, women oppressor and harasser.

Criticising the home adviser's role, DU English department associate professor Tasneem Siraj Mahboob said that resignation could be an honourable exit for the home adviser but demanded the removal of the adviser as he was not resigning from the post.

On behalf of the platform, sociology department associate professor Samina Luthfa raised a four-point demand regarding the recent incident of sexual harassment against a DU female student.

The demands included, punishment for the responsible police officers for their negligence in their duties as the victim's personal information was leaked from the police station; punishment for involved persons in bullying and threatening the victim; bringing the mob under proper investigation and justice; and dismissing the DU staff involved in sexual harassment and moral policing through proper process.

Accounting department associate professor Moshahida Sultana criticised DU administration for not playing a responsible role regarding the recent incident of sexual harassment against a DU female student by a DU staff.

She condemned the administration for recommending the victim to file a case in the police station without taking action under the university's anti-sexual harassment cell.

Besides, DU students and teachers of different departments, including the English department, public administration department, health economics institute, physics department and others held separate rallies and brought out processions on the campus protesting recent incidents of rape and harassment against women.

Earlier, a large number of female students brought out processions from different halls early Saturday protesting against recent rapes, especially the rape of an eight-year-old girl in Magura.