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# **LEAD** *Action* NEWS

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## *Article 7*

# ***Observation of International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action 2017, Bangladesh***

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**Celebrating 5 Years of the  
WHO Lead Week of Action**



## Observation of International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action 2017, Bangladesh



*Written By: Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO Bangladesh*

Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO started the Lead Free Paint Campaign in 2008 and has been observing the International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week-ILPPW since 2013. As a regular program, last year in October, ESDO organized a high-level policy dialogue involving government representatives with a view to drawing government's attention to enact ban on lead paint in Bangladesh. Along with this, a human chain and rally was also being conducted with the theme of 'Learn the Risks, Educate Community and Ban Lead Paint' where around 200 girl guides and young members of green club of ESDO took part.

Addressing the emergence of an immediate regulation on Ban of Lead Paint in Bangladesh, ESDO organized a high level policy dialogue on 'Learn the Risks and Ban Lead Paint' on 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 at ESDO Head office. The main agenda of the policy dialogue was the enforcement to enact a standard for limiting of maximum lead content in paints in Bangladesh to fifty (50) parts per million within 2017. Emergence of establishing a national regulatory framework to control the manufacture, legal and illegal import, export, sale, and use of lead paints and products coated with lead paint immediately was another major issue discussed in the meeting. Government officials from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Department of Environment (DoE), Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI), and ESDO officials were present at the meeting. Government delegations urged for an immediate regulation to ban hazardous lead paint by 2018 and expressed the necessity to immediately publish the gazette for a standard of 90 ppm lead content in paint. Representative of Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institutions-BSTI informed that the gazette notification on restriction of the lead content of paint in Bangladesh to be 90 ppm is about to publish within a very short time.

An awareness raising rally and human chain were also conducted by ESDO team with a view to creating public awareness and drawing government's attention for an immediate regulation to ban lead paint in Bangladesh. ESDO organized the human chain and rally on 28, October 2017. As a part of the observation of 'International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week-2017, youthgroup formed the human chain demanding for an immediate ban of lead paint in Bangladesh by 2017. A total of 200 youth from girl guides' and ESDO initiated



Green Club members took part in the human chain and rally on 'Learn the Risks, Educate Community and Ban Lead Paint'. They were holding festoons, banners, and placards in front of the National Press Club, Dhaka. Apart from the human chain; a rally was also brought out from press club to Supreme Court to create mass awareness. The rally was held with a demand of immediate enforcement of legislation regarding the ban of lead contained paints in order to protect the environment and avoid human health hazards. Fact sheets and posters were distributed to passer-by. The electronic and print media covered the event widely with high attention (human chain and rally).

### Pictorials: High Level Policy Dialogue



Fig: Experts take part in the discussion



Fig: Participants demand Ban of Lead Paint

### Rally and Human Chain



Fig: Children support Ban Lead Paint in Bangladesh



Fig: Youth group and Children support Ban Lead Paint in Bangladesh



Fig: Youth group and Children support Ban Lead Paint in Bangladesh



Fig: ESDO chairperson along with the young participants in the rally in support of Ban Lead Paint in Bangladesh