**CSOs and NGOs working for Business and Human Rights and Women Rights¹**

Name of Organisation: AWAJ Foundation, Bangladesh, 2003  
Facebook of Organisation: [https://www.facebook.com/awajfoundation.org/](https://www.facebook.com/awajfoundation.org/)  
Organisation of DTP Alumni Y/N: Yes

AWAJ, which means “voice” in Bangla, is a foundation that has over 37,000 members and 37 full-time staff. It has helped settle thousands of disputes regarding wages, overtime, holidays and maternity leave from over hundreds of cases from factories.

AWAJ was founded in 2003 by Nazma Akter, who is one of the country’s most respected and influential labor leaders. Nazma values garment factories as she believes the industry provides women with working opportunities as it empowers them to earn a living and have greater choices in life. However, the garment industry has been exploitative and lacks safe working conditions and regulations. Nazma is against this and views that the women should get fair and safe treatment. Nazma argues, “When a woman garment worker knows her rights, she can demand better working conditions from the factory.”

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Email: awaj@dhaka.net  
Website: [http://awaj.info/](http://awaj.info/)  
Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/awajfoundation.org/](https://www.facebook.com/awajfoundation.org/)

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¹ The Diplomacy Training Program (DTP) is an NGO affiliated with the Faculty of Law at UNSW in Sydney. Since 1990, it has provided training to over 2600 human rights defenders and community advocates. These individuals work for a wide range of organisations working to promote shared values of human rights – in different ways. This profile is part of a series developed by DTP (www.dtp.unsw.edu.au) to illustrate the richness and diversity of the organisations working to promote human rights more broadly.