



E - STREET VOICE

International Women's Day 2026: From Awareness to Action

Every year on March 8, the world unites to celebrate International Women's Day, a day that honours the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women, while also serving as a powerful call to action for gender equality. In 2026, the message is clear: awareness alone is not enough; the time for collective action and shared responsibility is now.

The United Nations theme, "Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls," reminds us that equality must be inclusive and far-reaching. It calls for stronger systems that ensure women and girls, especially those on the margins, can access their rights fully and without discrimination. Justice must not remain an ideal; it must be experienced in everyday life.

Complementing this, the International Women's Day campaign theme, "Give to Gain," introduces a refreshing perspective. It emphasizes that achieving gender equality requires a spirit of generosity, sharing opportunities, resources, and support. Progress is not a competition but a collaboration, where empowering others ultimately strengthens society as a whole.

The significance of International Women's Day is deeply rooted in history, emerging from early 20th-century labour movements and later gaining global recognition through the United Nations in 1975. Today, it stands as both a celebration and a reminder of how far we have come and how far we still need to go.

Despite progress, critical challenges persist. Issues such as gender-based violence, unequal access to education and employment, and barriers to healthcare continue to affect millions of women and girls worldwide. Addressing these concerns requires not only policy changes but also active participation from communities, institutions, and individuals.

The colours of the day, purple for dignity and justice, green for hope, and white for purity, symbolize a vision of a more equitable world. But symbols alone cannot drive change. Real transformation comes through sustained effort: raising awareness, advocating for rights, supporting one another, and holding systems accountable.

As we mark International Women's Day 2026, let us move beyond celebration to commitment. Let us give to uplift, to support, and to empower, so that together we may gain a future where equality is not an aspiration, but a reality for all women and girls.

Fr. KJ Joseph, SDB

Street Presence

BOSCO Nivas

A meeting was conducted at the centre for 18 parents on March 18, 2026, to create awareness about the child's progress at school and about taking proper care of them during the examinations.



BOSCO Nilaya

Adolescent Girls' Meetings held for the children of the Study Centre and Computer Training Children during the month.



Bus Stand

Programme to create awareness among the public about child safety issues and to educate them on protecting children from risks such as labour, trafficking, and missing cases at KSRTC Terminal 2 on March 13, 2026.



Magadi Road

A CRC meeting held on March 18, 2026, for the CRC members of Kadapa Swamy Math School in collaboration with the CSN team.



Gandhi Nagar Area

Public Awareness Programme conducted at Gandhi Nagar on March 17, 2026, on child rights, child protection mechanisms and child-related issues by distributing pamphlets.



Components

CSN

A Caring Community Group Meeting was organized at the MCTC quarters on March 23, 2026, to foster a sense of shared responsibility among community members in addressing child-related issues.



Foster Care

An awareness session on the Foster Care concept was conducted for 100 headmistresses of all the high schools from the South Division during the Sinchana Training Programme held at GKEMPS High School, Chamrajpet on March 10, 2026.



Health Care Programme

Health Camp for the Migrant community at Bangarappa Gudde on March 16, 2026, benefitting 62 migrants and their children.



Family Restoration and After Care

Parents' Meeting organized at BOSCO Yuvakendra for the parents of the children restored to their families and those in After-Care



Migrants' Help Desk

Distribution of Solar Lamps to the Migrant families during March 2026.



Juvenile Advocacy

Screened Motivational Talks by Dr. Gururaj Karajagi for the children of Observation Home in Madiwala on March 20, 2026.



HRD

Orientation programme organized for the students of Christ College on March 3, 2026.



RMT

The Taj Hotel team conducted engaging programmes such as a drawing competition, flower bouquet making, and napkin folding for the youths of BOSCO Yuvakendra on March 24, 2026.



Child Care Institutions

BOSCO Mane

On March 15, 2026, a specialized eye check-up camp was organized at Bosco Mane in collaboration with the Karnataka Retina Organization. The primary objective was to ensure early detection of vision problems and provide professional consultation to children in need of care and protection.



BOSCO Vikas

Students from Swarga Rani School visited BOSCO Vikas on March 14, 2026, and participated in a volleyball match with the children, fostering interaction and sportsmanship.



BOSCO Rainbow Home

Visit of the Tally Prime team, led by Mr. Abhijeeth, on March 11, 2026 and distribution of Gift hampers to the children.



BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan

International Women's Day Celebration on March 9, 2026.



BOSCO Sumanahalli

Mr. John Joshua, Coordinator from the BOSCO Homelink Department, conducted a session on AI for the centre trainees on March 27, 2026.



BOSCO Yuvakendra

Life Skill session on Problem Solving by Enfold Volunteers for the youths of the centre on March 18, 2026.



BOSCO Yuvodaya

Awareness for the parents of the children at the Open Shelter on March 31, 2026.



Talent Enhancement and Recreation Programme



The Migrant Help Desk team organized a Talent Enhancement and Recreational Programme for the Yadava community at Horamavu Agara on March 3, 2026. The programme included a cricket tournament for youth, a rangoli competition for women, and various group games for other members of the community. Prizes were distributed by Fr. Deepu, Director of the Migrant Help Desk Project. A total of 200 migrants and children benefited from the programme.

Orientation Programme



An orientation program was conducted for the students from Christ University MSW Department and Mariyam Nilaya Novitiate at BOCO Yuvodaya on March 3, 2026. The Executive Director, Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, oriented the students on the BOSCO organization and its various activities. He explained the history of BOSCO Bengaluru, its Vision and Mission, and elaborated on the different programmes and projects through a PPT presentation.

Mr Ramaswamy, Coordinator, BOSCO Yuvodaya, further explained the organisation's functioning and ongoing activities. Videos on Foster Care and Girl Child were shown to help the students understand the rescue and rehabilitation process of children.

The students interacted with the staff members and children to gain a practical understanding. They also interacted with Mr. Niyan, HR Executive, to understand social work practice in India, especially in the context of child care institutions and organizational functioning.

The orientation program clarified the organisation's aims and objectives and provided practical insights into the programs and projects implemented by BOSCO.

The participants included 10 BSW foreign students from Christ University, 1 faculty member, and 4 students from Mariyam Nilaya Novitiate. In total, there were 15 participants. The visit was part of their academic exposure and field learning programme.

Child Safety Community Force Meeting

A meeting was organized in Gandhinagar to strengthen the Child Safety Caring Community Force and review the activities carried out over the past year at BOSCO Yuvodaya on March 5, 2026. The meeting also aimed to encourage collective community participation in making Gandhinagar a Child Labour Free Zone and to plan future actions to prevent child labour and promote child rights.

Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director of BOSCO Bengaluru, addressed the gathering and spoke about the importance of building child-friendly communities. He emphasized that ensuring the safety and well-being of children is a shared responsibility of the entire community. He also highlighted the ongoing initiative to make Gandhinagar a Child Labour Free Zone. Participants were invited to share their expectations from the programme.



A brief overview of the previous year's activities was presented, including awareness programmes, mothers' meetings, school enrolment support, and various community outreach initiatives. Fr. Johnson outlined the way forward and encouraged sustained community involvement in upcoming efforts.

The meeting helped strengthen collaboration between BOSCO staff and community members. Participants appreciated the work carried out so far and expressed their willingness to actively support future initiatives. A total of ten members of the Child Safety Community Force participated in the meeting.

International Women's Day Celebrations at BOSCO Centres

BOSCO Rainbow Home, Sumanahalli, Vatsalya Bhavan, Magadi Road area, Nilaya and Nivas celebrated International Women's Day at the respective centres on March 8, 9, 27 and 29, 2026, under the theme "Give to Gain."

BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan celebrated International Women's Day along with course completion certificate distribution to the trainees of the Tailoring and Beautician Trade on March 9, 2026. Course completion certificates were given to 20 computer trainees at BOSCO Nilaya during the celebrations.



As part of the cultural programme, children performed a dance, which added joy and vibrancy to the celebrations. Various interactive sessions and party games were also conducted, encouraging active participation from the children and women. The celebration continued with cake cutting. All the Directors also spoke on the occasion and delivered an inspiring message on the significance of giving and its impact on personal growth and community development. Accenture Team, Sr. Sagaya FSI, Ms. Nelly Pichard, Social Activist and Humanitarian, Smt. Amrutha, SMVT Police official, Mr. Harish, Police Official, Cantonment Railway Station and Fr Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, were present in the celebrations.



Certificate Distribution Ceremony

The students who had completed the Computer training course on Basics of Computer and Tally from December 2025 to February 2026 were given the course completion certificates on March 7, 2026, at BOSCO Mane. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, explained the importance of receiving the certificate and knowledge of computers in one's life. He highlighted the BOSCO activities and guided them to improve their knowledge and skills. Fr. KJ Joseph, Director, BOSCO Mane, was present on the occasion. A total of 21 youths received the course completion certificates.



The trainees who completed the tailoring training and beautician course were awarded course completion certificates on March 9, 2026, by BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan. While addressing the gathering, the dignitaries motivated and encouraged the students to persevere in their careers despite the challenges and difficulties in life. They also emphasized the importance of holding their certificates with pride as a symbol of their perseverance and commitment towards their goals. The students were appreciated and congratulated for their achievements.



Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, Ms. Sheeba Thomas, Director, BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan, Ms. Roopa, Partner, Lakme, Ms. Prachi, Trainer Head, Lakme and Ms. Deepika, Skin Specialist, Lakme were present in the ceremony. Course Completion certificates were given to forty trainees of the Tailoring Trade and eighteen trainees of the Beautician Course.

Bridal Make-Up Competition

BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan Beautician Trade unit organized a competition on March 13, 2026, to evaluate the learning capacity of students in makeup skills. The students who completed the one-month makeup course were evaluated through a competition. For this event, the students hired models from outside their classroom and demonstrated their skills by creating different types of bridal looks.



There was a wide variety of brides chosen, and each look included unique makeup styles, saree draping, and hairstyles. The participants showcased their creativity and technical skills in all aspects of bridal styling. The brides were judged in different categories, including Best Makeup, Best Hairstyle, Best Saree Draping, and Overall Best Bridal Look.

All the students were appreciated for their effort, creativity, and skills displayed during the competition. Ten trainees participated in the competition.

Parents Meeting at BOSCO Mane

BOSCO Mane and Vikas, organized a meeting for the parents of children from the centre on March 18, 2026. The purpose of the meeting was to interact with parents before sending their children home for the summer vacation, promote family bonding, provide guidance on parenting, and share information about government facilities available for children.

Mr. Mallikarjun, the Centre Coordinator, addressed the gathering and emphasized the importance of children staying with their families. He noted that a home environment plays a crucial role in helping children develop meaningful family relationships. He also informed the parents about an upcoming meeting scheduled for April 2026.



Mr. Balraj briefed the parents about the Family Restoration and After-Care Programme. He explained that children who have been restored to their families, as well as those under after-care, would receive support in the areas of nutrition and education.

Br. Jubin was also present at the meeting. A total of sixty-two parents attended the session.

State Consultation and Workshop for Foster Care Organization/ Stakeholders

Foster Care Programme, BOSCO Bengaluru organized State Consultation and Workshop for Foster Care Organisation/ Stakeholders Meeting at BOSCO Mane, Bengaluru, on March 25, 2025. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, shared BOSCO's activities and milestones of Foster Care, and signed an MoU with the ICPS Director. He shared the responsibilities of the stakeholders.

Ms. Asha, District Child Protection Officer, Bengaluru South and West Division, expressed her gratitude to Asha Workers and Anganwadi Teachers for their dedicated service. She emphasised that children should be placed legally within a family environment and encouraged stakeholders to spread awareness about foster care. Mrs. Nagaveni, District Child Protection Officer, Bengaluru North Division, said that adoption is often a lengthy process, whereas foster care provides a quicker way to place a child in a family environment.



Fr. Siju, Director of BREADS, emphasized the important role of stakeholder meetings in strengthening foster care initiatives. He concluded by stressing the importance of follow-up after such meetings, ensuring that stakeholders have shared the concept with others and have taken steps to identify potential parents and children.

Mr. Shivamallu, Coordinator, Foster Care, welcomed the participants, and Mr. Obalesh, Social Mobilizer proposed the vote of thanks. Seventy-eight stakeholders from Bengaluru Rural, Bengaluru Urban, Chikkaballapura, Kolar, Ramanagara and Tumkur participated in the meeting.

Library Inauguration at BOSCO Sumanahalli



The Library Inauguration Ceremony was conducted in a joyful and meaningful atmosphere at BOSCO Sumanahalli on March 31, 2026. The new library was formally inaugurated by Fr. Mathew Vadakel, SDB, followed by the blessing by Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru.



The library is well-arranged with books and learning materials, creating a conducive environment for reading and study. The presence of children and staff added enthusiasm and energy to the event.

BOSCO HOMELINK MONTHLY REPORT

	Male	Female	Total
Children rescued	79	24	103
Service provided	42	14	56
Grand Total	121	38	159

1. New Children Data of Contact Center/Area:

Contact Point	Fresh		Repeated		Total
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	
Railway Station DCPU Staff	12	05	01	00	18
Bus Stand BMTC	30	02	00	00	32
Bus Stand KSRTC	19	08	00	00	27
BOSCO Yuvodaya	00	00	01	00	01
BOSCO Yuvakendra	01	00	00	00	01
BOSCO Nivas	02	00	00	00	02
BOSCO Nilaya	01	00	00	00	01
BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan	00	01	00	00	01
CSN	06	01	01	00	08
SMVT	05	07	00	00	12
TOTAL	76	24	03	00	103

Final Action Taken

Placement	Male	Female	Total
Under follow-up in BOSCO Centres	08	07	15
Home Placement (CWC R)	46	04	50
Direct Home Placement	12	02	14
Referred to other institutions	03	02	05
TOTAL	89	24	103

STAY CONNECTED WITH BOSCO



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