

Prof Morshed advocates for designing safe public spaces for women

City planners and architects need to start designing gender-friendly spaces and take sensitivities into account so as to avoid creating isolated sections and enable community vigilance to ensure safety for women, said Professor Adnan Z Morshed.

A liveable city is where people feel safe to use public places and transportations, he said, adding that witnesses of wrongdoings in such places commit a moral crime if they shirk away instead of raising their voice in protest.

Professor Morshed, chairperson of the Department of Architecture of BRAC University (BRACU), was addressing a forum titled "The Invisible Violence" organised by the department at its exhibition space in BRACU's Mohakhali campus on 5 June 2018.

The forum aimed at providing a platform for female students in particular to share experiences of being sexually harassed in public places and transportations and raise awareness among policymakers to address the issue.

Most of the students spoke of falling victim to frotteurs in buses, meaning passengers who took advantage of cramped spaces and rush of crowds to inappropriately touch women.