

2022

ANNUAL REPORT

AN UPDATED STATE OF LGBTQI+ RIGHTS IN BANGLADESH



STATE OF LGBTQI+ RIGHTS IN BANGLADESH 2022

Edited by:

Advocate Shahanur Islam
Founder Secretary General
JusticeMakers Bangladesh (JMBD)
&
Founder President
JusticeMakers Bangladesh in France (JMBF)

Published at & on:

Paris, France
November 2023



Published by:

JusticeMakers Bangladesh in France (JMBF)

107 Rue Galleini 93000 Bobigny, France

Email: contact.JMBF@gmail.com; justicemakersbf@gmail.com

<https://twitter.com/JusticemakersBF>; <https://www.facebook.com/JMBF23>

Copyright © JusticeMakers Bangladesh in France (JMBF), 2023. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior permission of JusticeMakers Bangladesh in France (JMBF).

VISION

A country without any form of Human Rights violation and discrimination.

MISSION

The main spirit covers three main thematic areas: Rehabilitation, Justice and Awareness.

→ To ensure human rights throughout the country through maintaining the legal and financial rights of the all Bangladesh people.

→ To serve mankind especially who are victim of torture, mal treatment and organized violence as well as other human rights violation indifferent to race or religion, sex or age.

→ Enable the government and the non-government organizations to observe, learn and understand closely and concretely the impacts of different legislations on the life and livelihood of common people.

VALUES

Integrity:

We are a responsible and accountable organization, committed to the highest standards of services.

Inclusivity:

We work collaboratively throughout the organization, govt. and with our partners.

Effectiveness:

We ensure the highest level of utilization of time, labor and resources.

CONTENT

01	Our Vision, Mission and Values
02	Content
03	President's, JMBF Forward
04	Chairperson's, JMBD Statement
05	Introduction of JMBD & JMBF: Readers need to know
07	Background and Context
08	Legal Framework and Societal & Religious Context
09	LGBTQI+ Research Findings in 2022
10	General/Common Situation Analytical Review
	i. Types and Forms of Violence
	ii. Geographical Distribution of Incidents
	iii. Profile of Victims
	iv. Types of Violence and Multiple Victimization
	v. Perpetrators and Motivations
19	Violence Against Lesbian (with Case studies)
23	Violence Against Gay
28	Violence Against Transgender
39	Violence Against LGBT Activist
41	Development Towards LGBT
	i. Anti-Discrimination Act-2022 in the parliament
	ii. Identifying Transgender
	iii. Social Integration/SafeNet
	iv. Legal Framework
	v. Tax Exemption
	vi. Representation in Local Government
48	Personal Successful Story
50	Impact & Consequences of Violence
52	Challenges Faced by LGBTQI+ Individuals
53	Recommendations for Addressing Violence

JMBF FOUNDER PRESIDENT'S FORWARD



With a profound mixture of concern and determination, I am honored to present the foreword for the Annual Report on Violence against LGBTQI+ people in Bangladesh for the year 2022. This report represents a landmark achievement as it stands as the inaugural comprehensive documentation of violations against LGBTQI+ individuals in Bangladesh, meticulously compiled by JusticeMakers Bangladesh (JMBD) and published by JusticeMakers Bangladesh in France (JMBF) from Paris, France.

This report is the first and the only focused on the violence faced by LGBTQI+ people in Bangladesh, compiled by JMBD and published by JMBF, monitoring both online and print news media from Bangladesh. Prior to this undertaking, no organization, either within Bangladesh or globally, has ventured to cast such a comprehensive light on the struggles faced by the LGBTQI+ community in our society.

As the Founder Secretary General of JMBD and the Founder President of JMBF, I recognize the solemn obligation we have to confront and rectify the injustices that plague the LGBTQI+ community.

I extend my utmost admiration to the unwavering LGBTQI+ activists, organizations, and allies who tenaciously champion justice and equality. Their unrelenting dedication stands as a motivating force that propels us all to endeavor for a society that embraces diversity and compassion.

I earnestly urge to policymakers, legislators, civil society entities, and community leaders to implore to heed the recommendations enunciated in this report. It is through our collective efforts that we can effectuate positive change and collaboratively construct a future wherein LGBTQI+ individuals in Bangladesh can lead their lives devoid of the omnipresent specter of discrimination and violence.

It should be seriously noted that since this report is based on news published in online and print news media, it may not reflect the actual number of incidents, as many violations remain unpublished due to social unacceptability and occurrences within private spaces such as homes, offices, educational institutions, and workplaces, often escaping the attention of the media.

I ardently urge each and every reader to meticulously explore the revelations and recommendations set forth in this report. Together, let us forge an unwavering path toward a future wherein individuals of all sexual orientations and gender identities can bask in the glory of self-assuredness, liberty, and parity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shahanur Islam', written in a cursive style.

Paris, France
December 2023

Advocate Shahanur Islam
Founder Secretary General, JMBD
&
Founder President, JMBF

JMBD CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

ANONYMOUS

I have the honor in writing this note for Annual Report 2022 of JMBD & JMBF. Before writing a few words about the report, I must express my highest gratitude to the registering authority in France for allowing JMBD for working in France legally. This is in fact, provide a huge opportunity and a legal platform for speaking out about the challenges we face while working for the LGBTQI+ in Bangladesh. I am in debt to them.

This report, in fact, unearths the multifaceted challenges, advancements, and recommendations that encapsulate the experiences of LGBTQI+ individuals in our nation. The hardships they encounter on a daily basis – ranging from discrimination and violence to marginalization – are deeply disconcerting, often stemming from outdated laws, societal prejudices, and a dearth of awareness. The undeniable reality that individuals continue to endure suffering and injustice based solely on their sexual orientation or gender identity serves as a stark reminder of the uphill battle that lies ahead.

The clarion call for prompt legal reforms, the establishment of inclusive safe spaces, and the cultivation of empathy and acceptance resounds powerfully throughout this report. It is our unwavering assertion that the rights of LGBTQI+ individuals are incontrovertibly human rights, deserving of the same reverence, dignity, and opportunities extended to every other member of our society.

Finally, I reaffirm that JusticeMakers Bangladesh (JMBD) and JusticeMakers Bangladesh in France (JMBF) remain resolute in their commitment to upholding egalitarian rights, dismantling discrimination, and fervently advocating for marginalized communities. In solidarity with the LGBTQI+ community, we reaffirm our steadfast dedication to the ceaseless pursuit of justice and equality.

Chairman
JusticeMakers Bangladesh (JMBD)
&
Vice – President
JusticeMakers Bangladesh in France (JMBF)

JusticeMakers Bangladesh (JMBD) that established in 2010, is a-

- Not-for-Profit;
- non-partisan;
- non-political organization and
- non-governmental organization;



It aims to promote, educate, protect, and realize human rights, including civil and political rights, for all individuals, regardless of their sex, caste, race, or faith. Established in 2010, JMBD is dedicated to fighting against all forms of discrimination and impunity, especially those targeting ethnic-Indigenous, religious, social, and sexual minority communities. The organization also provides assistance to victims of torture, extrajudicial killing, forced disappearance, and organized violence, particularly women and children, who have limited access to human rights resources in Bangladesh.

Moreover, JMBD supports human rights defenders, including lawyers, journalists, bloggers, and artists, who face risks while addressing human rights violations in Bangladesh. The organization acknowledges the importance of empowering these individuals in their efforts to uphold human rights principles and hold perpetrators accountable.

One of JMBD's activities is operating a documentation center that systematically collects data on human rights abuses from various sources, including newspapers, online publications, news websites, and its network members. The collected information, including incidents of violence against lawyers and advocates in Bangladesh, is stored in a computer database at the library of JMBD and archived in safer place.

JusticeMakers Bangladesh in France (JMBF)

JMBF is an independent non-profit, nonpartisan human rights organization registered in France with registration number W931027714 under the association law of 1901, dedicated to defending human rights, fighting for justice, and empowering communities in Bangladesh and beyond.



Overall objectives:

The overall objective of JMBF is to contribute to the defense, promotion, education, protection, and realization of human rights, including civil and political rights, regardless of sex, caste, race, and faith.

Aims of JMBF:

i. The aims of JMBF are to defend against all forms of discrimination and impunity against ethnic-Indigenous, religious (Hindu, Buddhist, Christian, Ahmedia), social (Dalit), and sexual (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex+) minority communities, as well as victims of torture, extrajudicial killing, forced disappearance, and organized violence, including women and children, by assisting individuals throughout Bangladesh who have little or no access to human rights resources.

ii. In addition, JMBF aims to extend support to human rights defenders, lawyers, journalists, bloggers, and artists at risk who are dealing with human rights violations in Bangladesh.

iii. JMBF also aims to enable access to existing support services for Bangladeshi-origin asylum seekers, refugees, and immigrants living in France.

Specific Objectives of JMBF:

The specific objectives of JMBF include, but are not limited to:

- I. Upholding the United Nations principles and Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as the European Protocol & Convention of Human Rights, in Bangladesh.
- II. Materializing truth, justice, and complete reparation for serious violations of human rights of minority people in Bangladesh, through legal and political actions at the international, national, and local levels where human rights have been systematically violated.
- III. Ensuring physical, legal, and moral support, as well as social and economic reintegration, to victims of human rights violations against minority people throughout Bangladesh.
- IV. Ensuring education, awareness, training, and dissemination of information related to global human rights instruments among local-level professionals to prevent all forms of human rights violations against minority people.
- V. Ensuring access to support from human rights organizations for victims of human rights violations, which will lead to building up institutions and human rights defenders at the community level in Bangladesh.
- VI. Sensitizing on specific issues of human rights violations, conducting lobbying, campaigning, and advocacy activities at the national and international levels based on research findings on legal and human rights aspects, to protect and promote human rights in Bangladesh.
- VII. Ensuring easy access to support services provided by the Republic of France for Bangladeshi refugees, asylum seekers, and immigrants living in France, by disseminating information and establishing a strong reference mechanism.

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Bangladesh, a South Asian country, has witnessed significant challenges regarding the rights and safety of its LGBTQI+ population. The LGBTQI+ community in Bangladesh faces various forms of violence, discrimination, and marginalization, both within society and legally. The prevailing socio-cultural norms, religious conservatism, and lack of legal protections contribute to a hostile environment for LGBTQI+ individuals. Sadly, many of these incidents remained invisible due to offensive laws and social norms. Understanding the nature and extent of violence against this community is crucial for addressing these issues effectively.

The pervasive violence against LGBTQI+ individuals in Bangladesh in 2022 highlights the urgent need to understand and address the challenges faced by this marginalized community. Bangladesh, a country in South Asia, has been



grappling with deep-rooted societal norms, restrictive legal frameworks, and religious influences that contribute to the discrimination and violence against sexual and gender minorities. The presence of offensive laws and social norms further exacerbates the invisibility and underreporting of incidents, hindering efforts to track and address violence against LGBTQI+ individuals. These laws and norms perpetuate stigma, prejudice, and hostility, creating an environment where members of the LGBTQI+ community are vulnerable to various forms of violence and discrimination.

JMBD is dedicated to promoting justice and human rights, undertook the monitoring & documentation of 51 incidents of violence against LGBTQI+ people in 2022. This monitoring, documentation and research aimed to shed light on the prevalence, types, and geographical distribution of violence, as well as the demographic profiles of the victims. By analyzing the data, the monitoring & research aimed to provide insights into the factors contributing to this violence and advocate for effective measures to address and prevent such incidents.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

While Article 19 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh speaks about equal opportunity, Article 27 ensures the equality of all citizens in the eyes of the law, and Article 28 states the importance of nondiscrimination based on sexual orientation. However, LGBTQI+ rights in Bangladesh are characterized by restrictive and discriminatory laws. Section 377 of the Bangladesh Penal Code, a colonial-era law inherited from British rule, criminalizes "carnal intercourse against the order of nature." This law is often interpreted to target consensual same-sex sexual activities and is used to prosecute and persecute LGBTQI+ individuals.

Furthermore, the Bangladeshi legal system lacks explicit legal protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. LGBTQI+ individuals face systemic discrimination and are vulnerable to various forms of violence, harassment, and human rights violations.

Additionally, the legal framework fails to recognize same-sex relationships or provide avenues for LGBTQI+ individuals to exercise their rights related to marriage, adoption, inheritance, and other aspects of family law. This absence of legal recognition contributes to the marginalization and exclusion of LGBTQI+ individuals in society.

In recent years, there have been some developments in the legal landscape concerning LGBTQI+ rights in Bangladesh. In 2013, a landmark law recognized the rights of hijras (transgender individuals) and directed the government to provide them with various entitlements, such as employment opportunities and healthcare.

SOCIETAL AND RELIGIOUS ATTITUDES

Societal attitudes towards LGBTQI+ individuals in Bangladesh are predominantly conservative and influenced by traditional religious beliefs and cultural norms. Homosexuality and non-conforming gender identities are often stigmatized and considered taboo. LGBTQI+ individuals face widespread prejudice, discrimination, and social exclusion.

Religion, particularly Islam, plays a significant role in shaping societal attitudes towards homosexuality and transgender identities. Many religious leaders and conservative groups view homosexuality as immoral and against religious teachings. As a result, LGBTQI+ individuals often face social ostracism, family rejection, and isolation within their communities.

OVERALL FINDINGS:

i. Types and Forms of Violence: Killings, physical assaults, psychological abuse, attempted suicides, job suspensions, kidnappings, detainments, harassment, ransom and extortion, fabrication of cases, arrests, suicides, and blackmailing were among the various forms of violence perpetrated against LGBTQI+ individuals.

ii. Geographical Distribution of Incidents: The incidents were concentrated in different districts and divisions of Bangladesh, with the highest number of cases reported in the Dhaka division, followed by Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Sylhet, Rangpur, and Barishal divisions. No incidents were documented in the Mymensingh division.

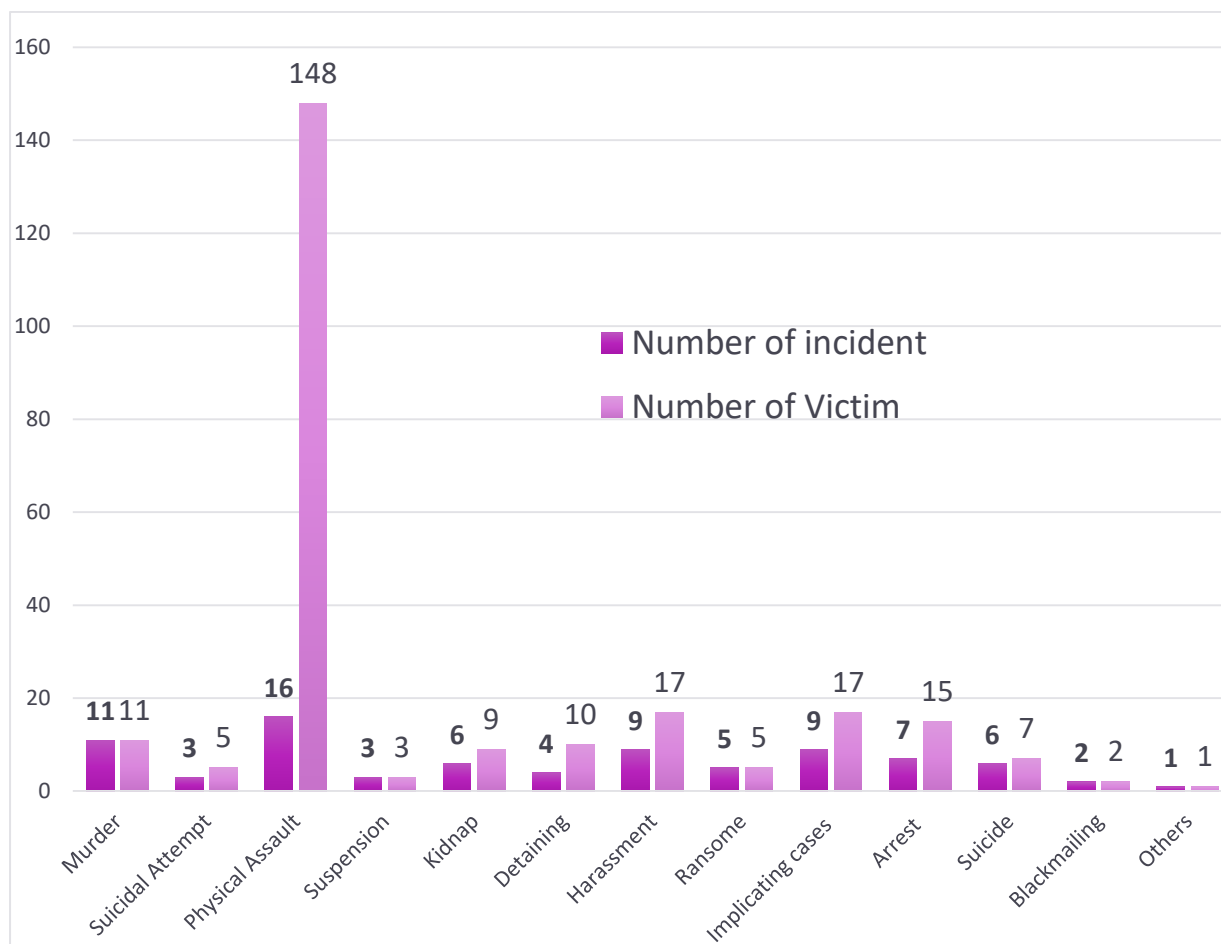
iii. Profile of Victims: The majority of victims were from the Dhaka division, followed by Rajshahi, Chittagong, Khulna, Barishal, Rangpur, and Sylhet divisions. Lesbians, gay individuals, and the LGBTQI+ community as a whole were targeted, with varying degrees of victimization within these groups.

iv. Types of Violence and Multiple Victimization: A significant number of incidents involved multiple types of violence, victimizing individuals with different forms of harm. The paper examines the prevalence and patterns of single and multiple types of violence experienced by LGBTQI+ individuals.

v. Perpetrators and Motivations: The study analyzes the different perpetrators responsible for the violence, including local powerful groups, local government members, organized criminals, members of the police, the victims themselves, miscreants, the Hijra community, and other individuals. The motivations behind the violence, such as pre-existing enmity, financial greediness, social unacceptability, internal conflicts, and socio-political and religious factors, are also explored.

GENERAL/COMMON SITUATION:

204 LGBTQI+ individuals in 51 incident faced significant violence in various forms, including killings, physical assaults, psychological abuse, attempted suicides, job suspensions, kidnappings, detainments, harassment, ransom and extortion, fabrication of cases, arrests, suicides, attempt to forced marriage, attempt to forced conversation, blackmailing, and others in 2022.



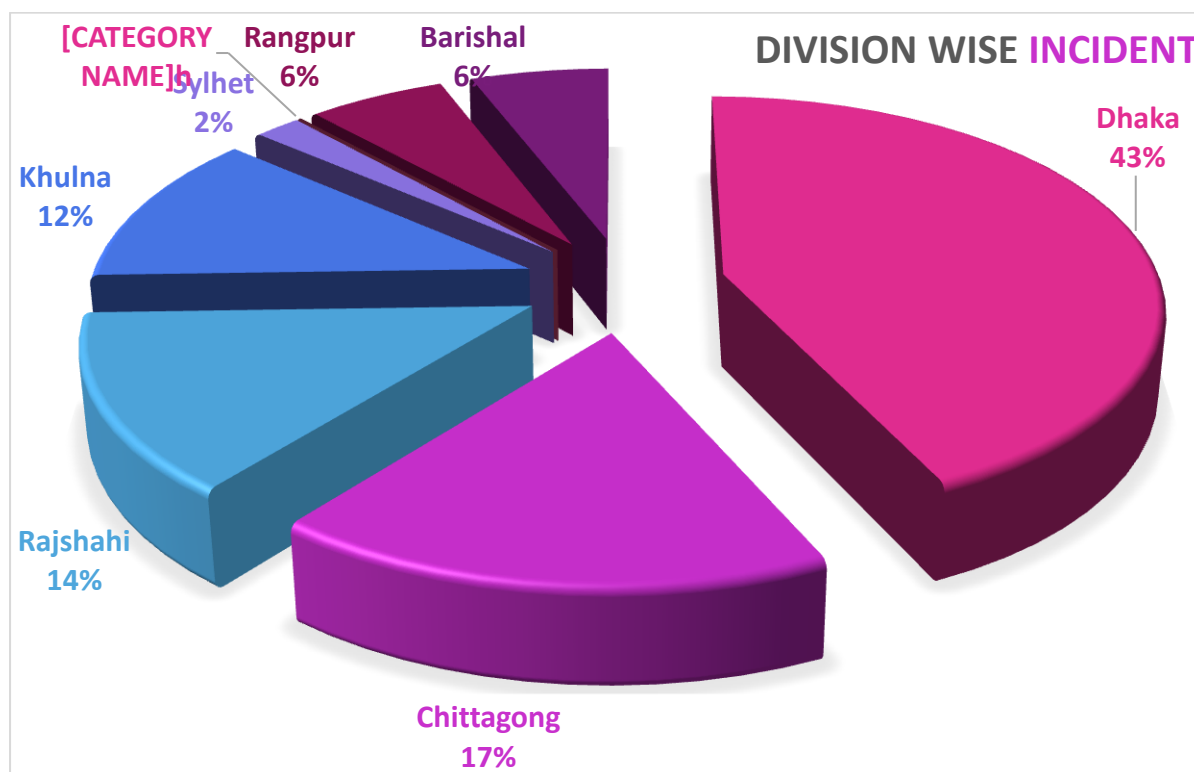
During the reporting period, there were 11 incidents that resulted in the deaths of 11 individuals. In 3 incidents of attempted suicide 5 individuals attempted to take their own lives. Moreover, 16 incidents involved physical assaults, victimizing 148 individuals. Three incidents led to the suspension of 3 teachers from their jobs.

Additionally, 6 incidents involved the kidnapping of 9 minority individuals, and 4 incidents resulted in the detainment of 10 people by local powerful groups and police. In 9 incidents 17 minority individuals experienced physical and psychological harassment. Moreover, 5 incidents involved 5 sexual minority individuals being victims of ransom.

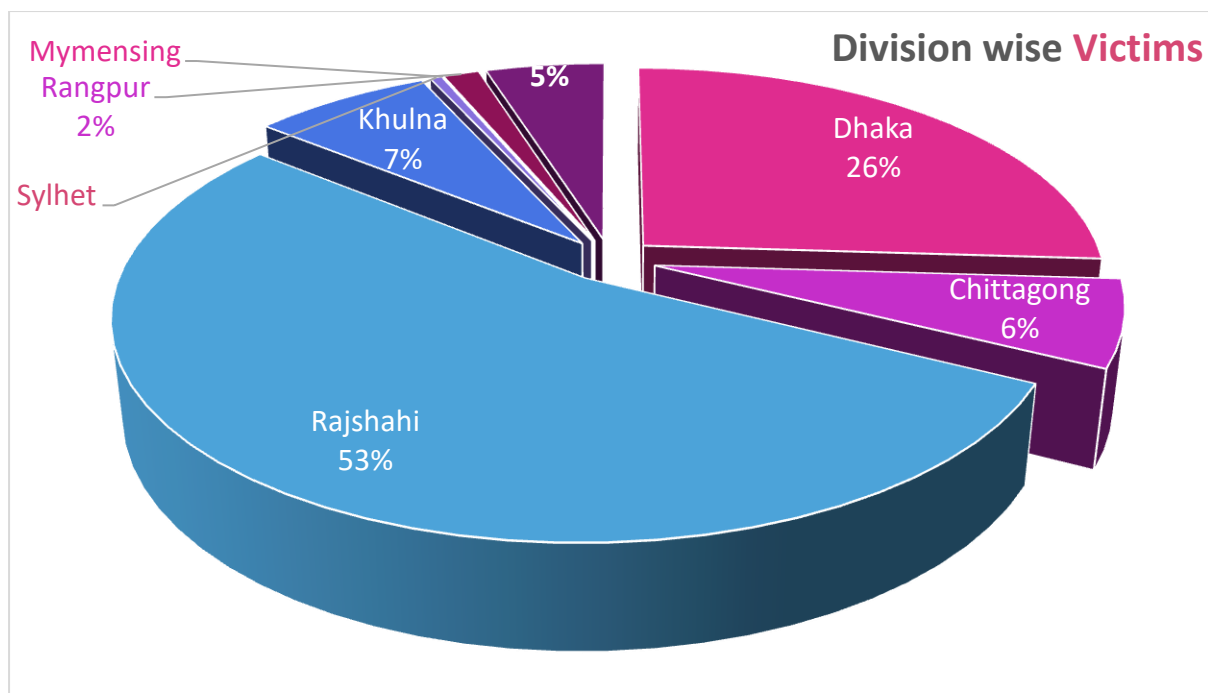
Furthermore, in 9 incidents implicated 17 LGBTQI+ individuals in false and fabricated cases and 7 cases resulted in the arrest and jail custody of 15 individuals. In addition, 7 individuals committed suicide in 6 incidents, and in two incidents two individuals were victims of captivity and blackmailing. Another incident involved violence against one people.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

In 2022, JusticeMakers Bangladesh documented a total of 51 incidents of violence against LGBTQI+ people, involving 204 individuals from sexual minority groups as victims. The incidents were geographically distributed as follows: 22 incidents in the Dhaka division, 9 in the Chittagong division, 7 in the Rajshahi division, 6 in the Khulna division, 1 in Sylhet, 3 in Rangpur, and 3 in the Barishal division.

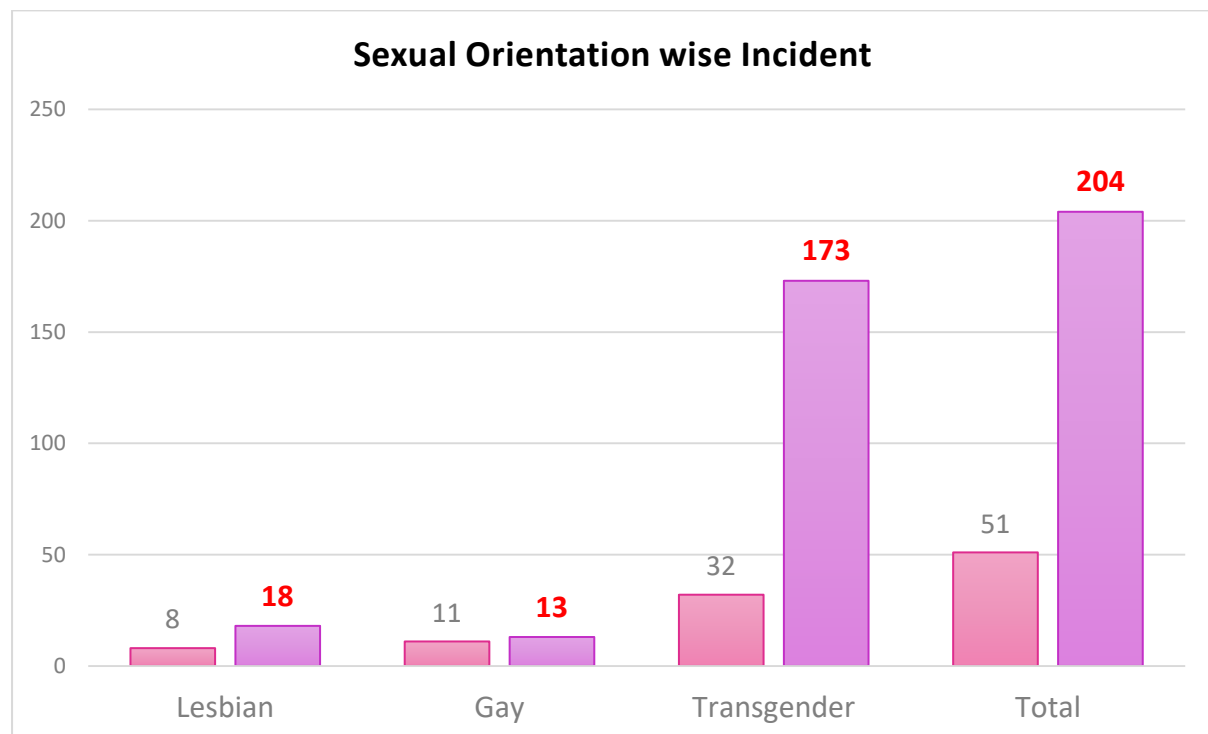


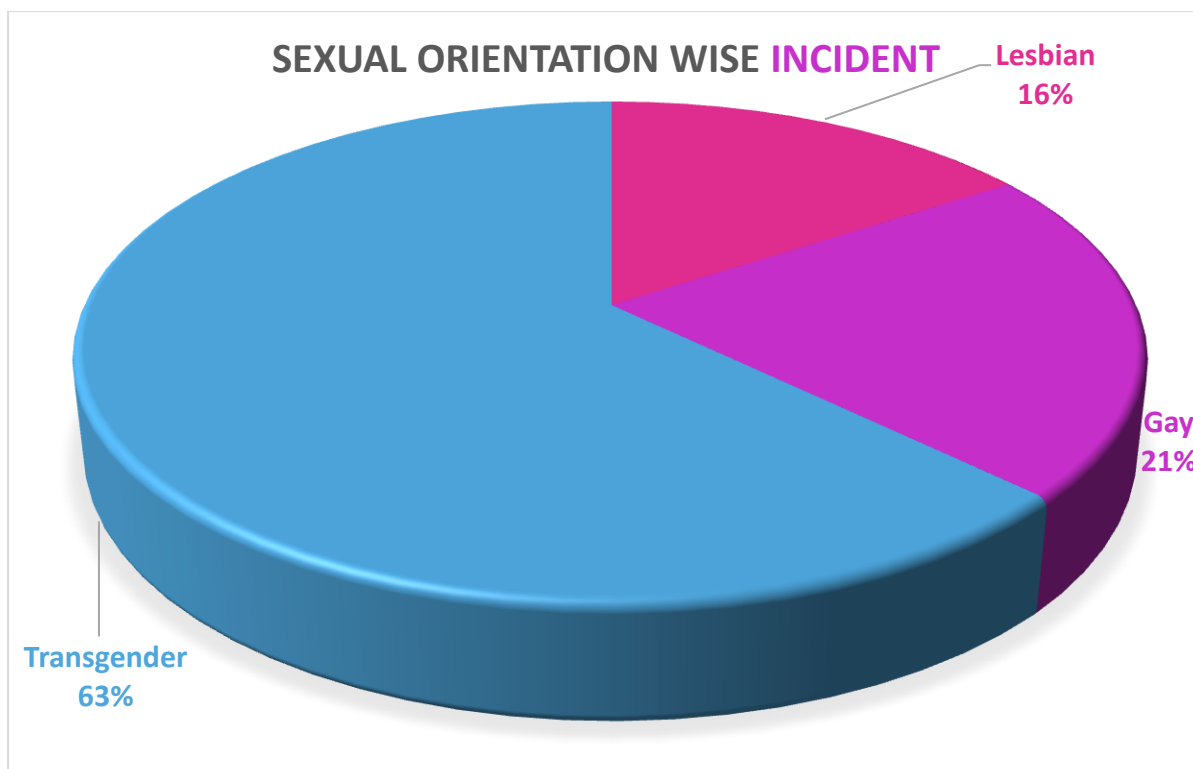
Among the victims, 53 were from the Dhaka division, 13 from the Chittagong division, 109 from the Rajshahi division, 15 from the Khulna division, 1 from Sylhet, 3 from Rangpur, and 10 from the Barishal division. It shows that most of the incidents took places in the Dhaka division where the second is the Chittagong division. Interestingly, the highest number of victims are from the Rajshahi division which is in fact the 3rd number in respect to incidents (graph below- number of victim distribution). Basically, these three mega cities are mostly: populated and the law enforcing agencies failed to ensure the safety and security of the victims.



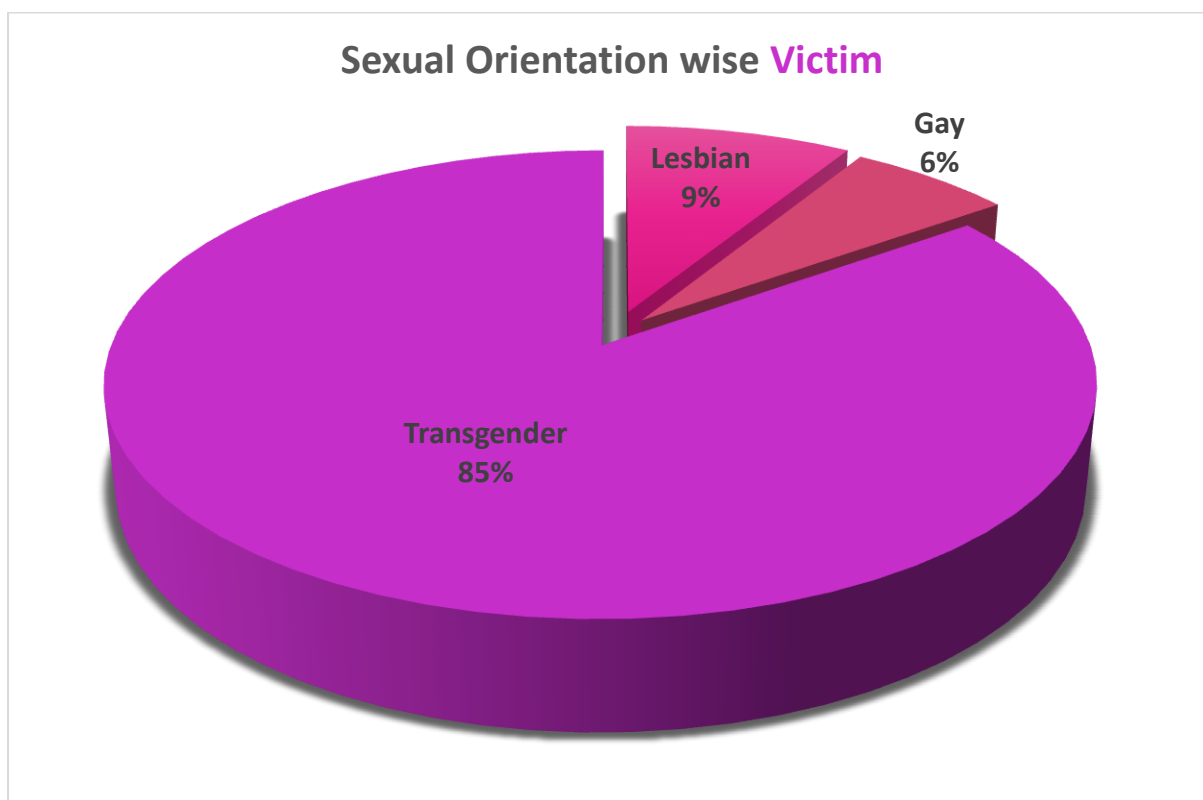
VICTIM DEMOGRAPHICS AND PROFILES

Regarding the demographics of the victims, in 2022 a total of 204 sexual minority LGBT individuals were victimized in the documented incidents. Among them, 8 incidents targeted lesbians, victimizing 18 individuals.





In 11 incidents, the violence was directed against gay individuals, victimizing 13 individuals. Additionally, in 32 incidents, the violence was perpetrated against transgender individuals, victimizing 173 individuals.

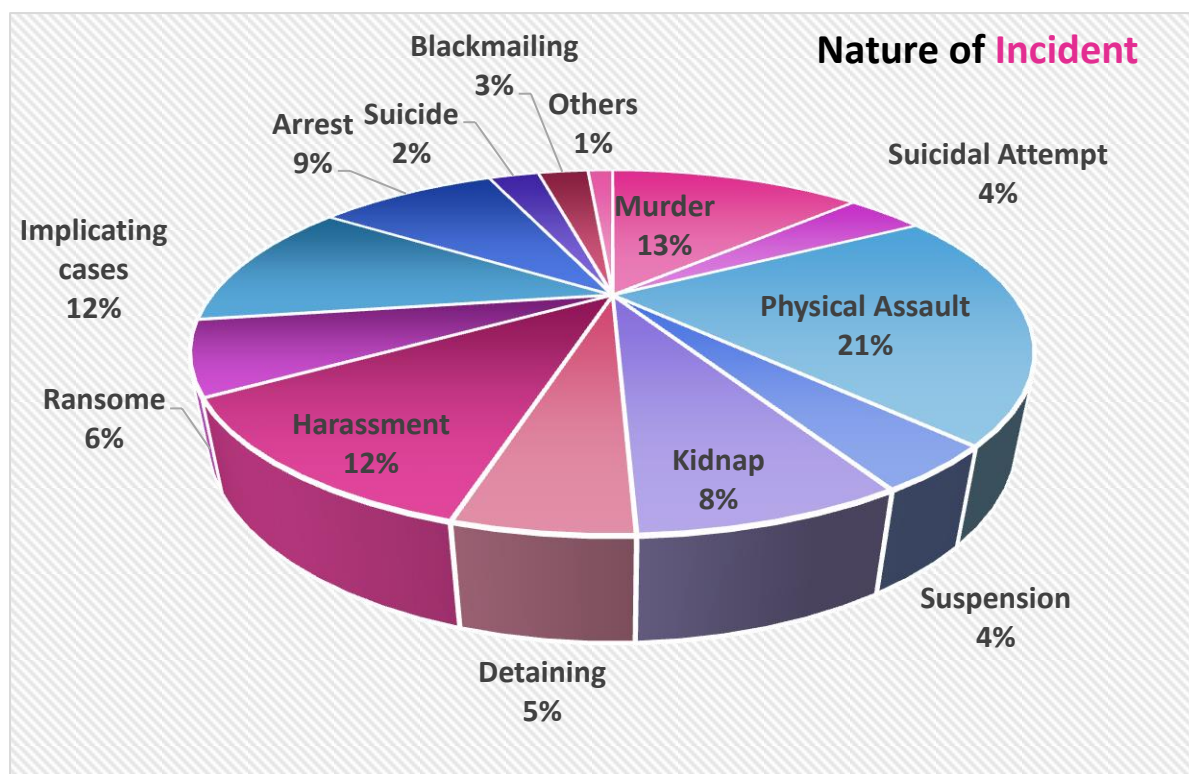


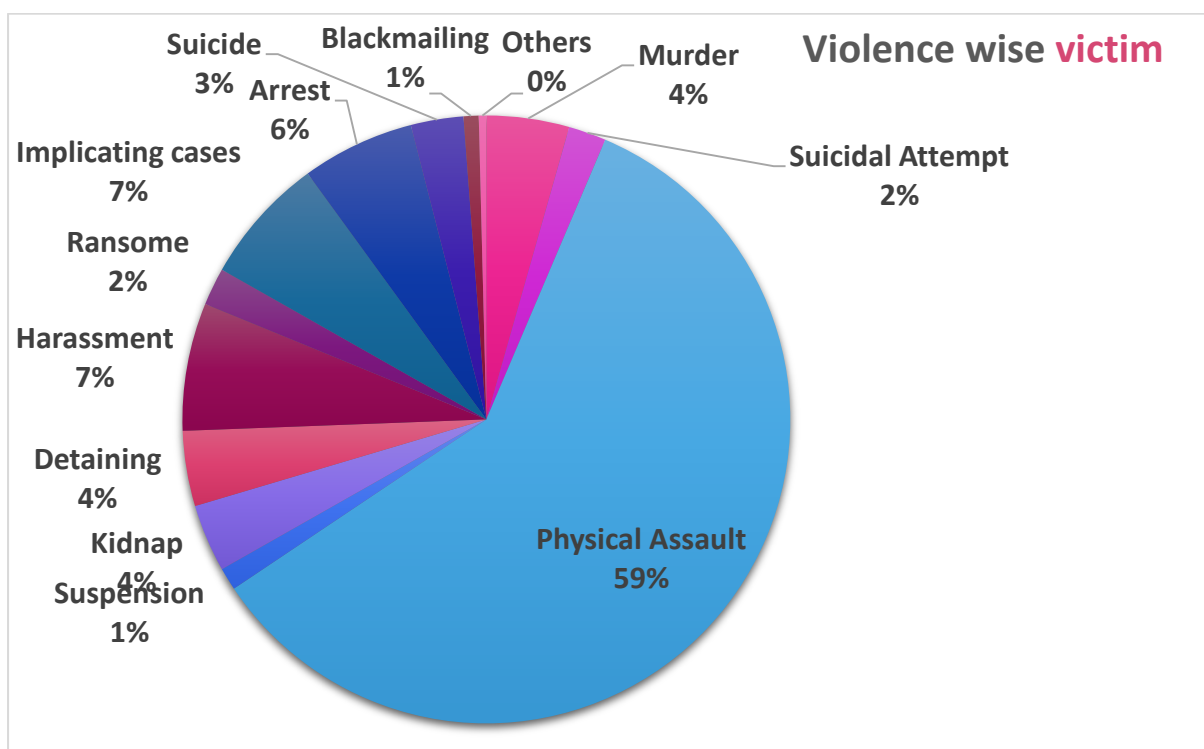
ANALYSIS OF SINGLE AND MULTIPLE TYPES OF VIOLENCE

In 2022, out of the 51 incidents of violence, 32 involved a single type of violence, victimizing 159 individuals. The remaining 19 incidents involved more than one type of violence, with 45 individuals as victims.



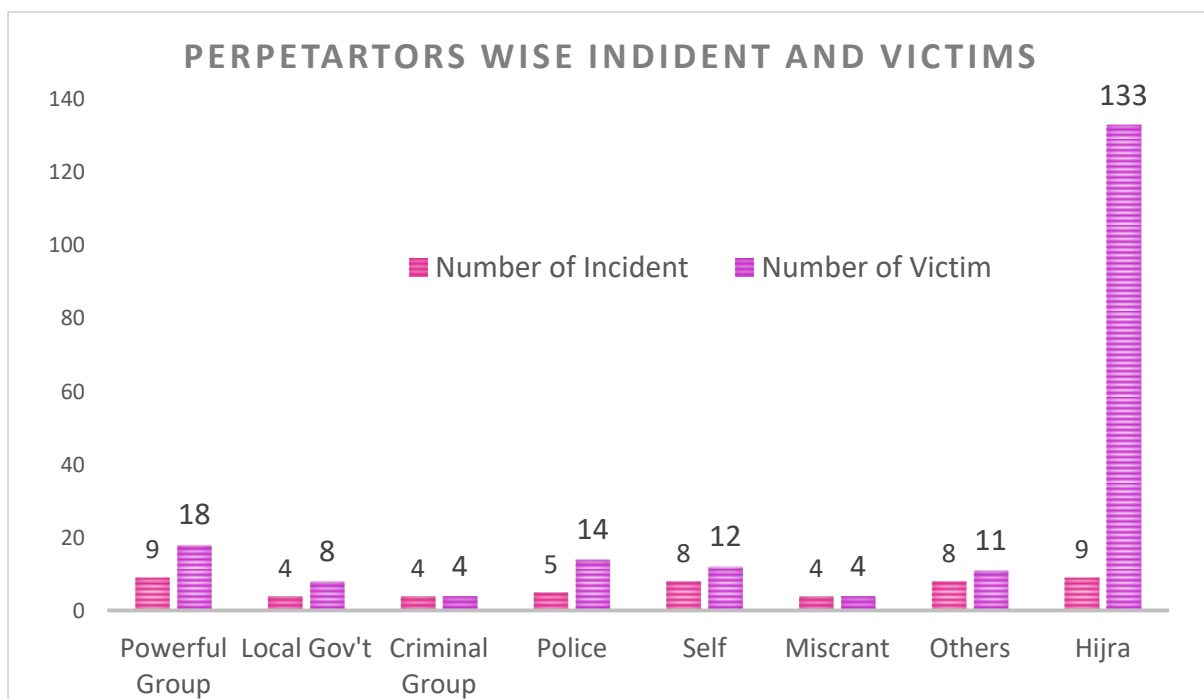
Among the incidents with multiple types of violence, 11 involved two types of violence, victimizing 7 minority individuals. In 5 incidents, 7 minority individuals faced three types of violence, and in three incidents, 6 LGBT people were victimized by four types of violence.





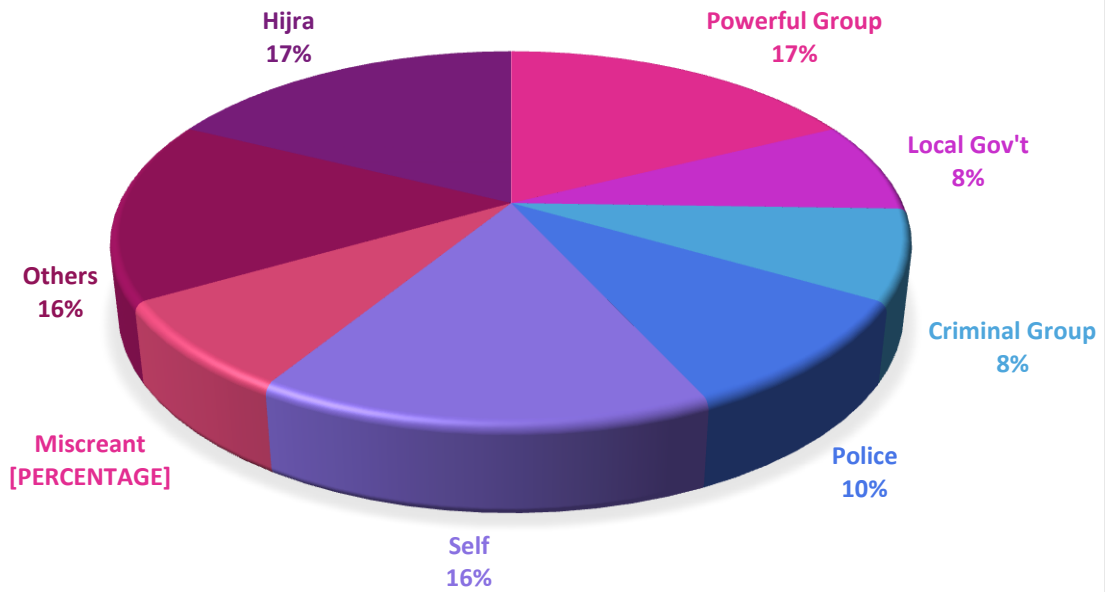
PERPETRATORS OF VIOLENCE

During the reporting period, 9 incidents were perpetrated by local powerful groups, victimizing 18 people and four incidents involved local government members as perpetrators, victimizing 8 people.



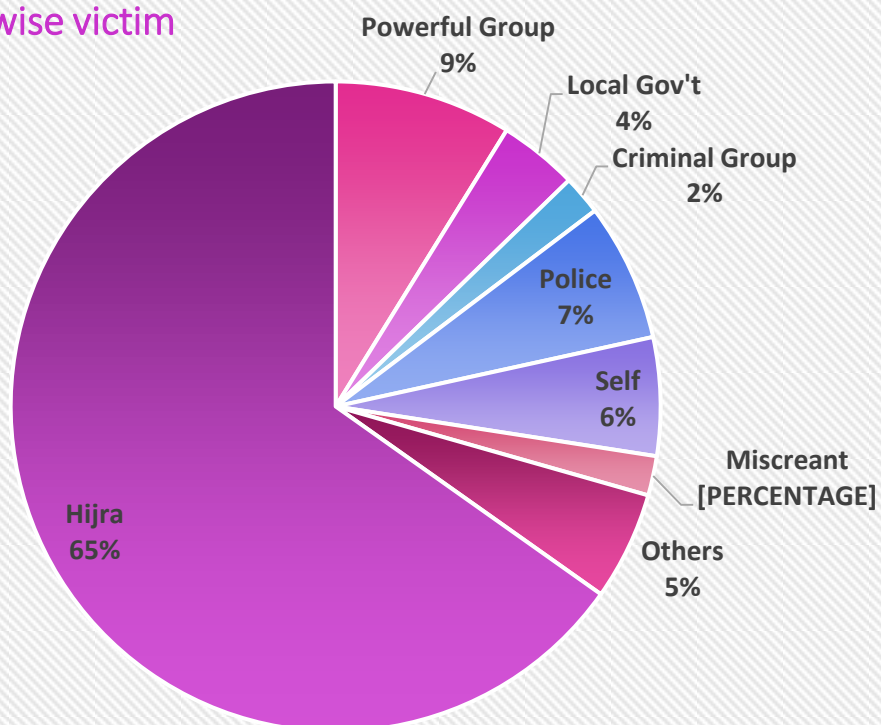
In addition, four incidents were perpetrated by organized criminals, victimizing 4 and also another 5 incidents involved members of the police as perpetrators, victimizing 14 people.

PERPETRATOR WISE OF INCIDENT



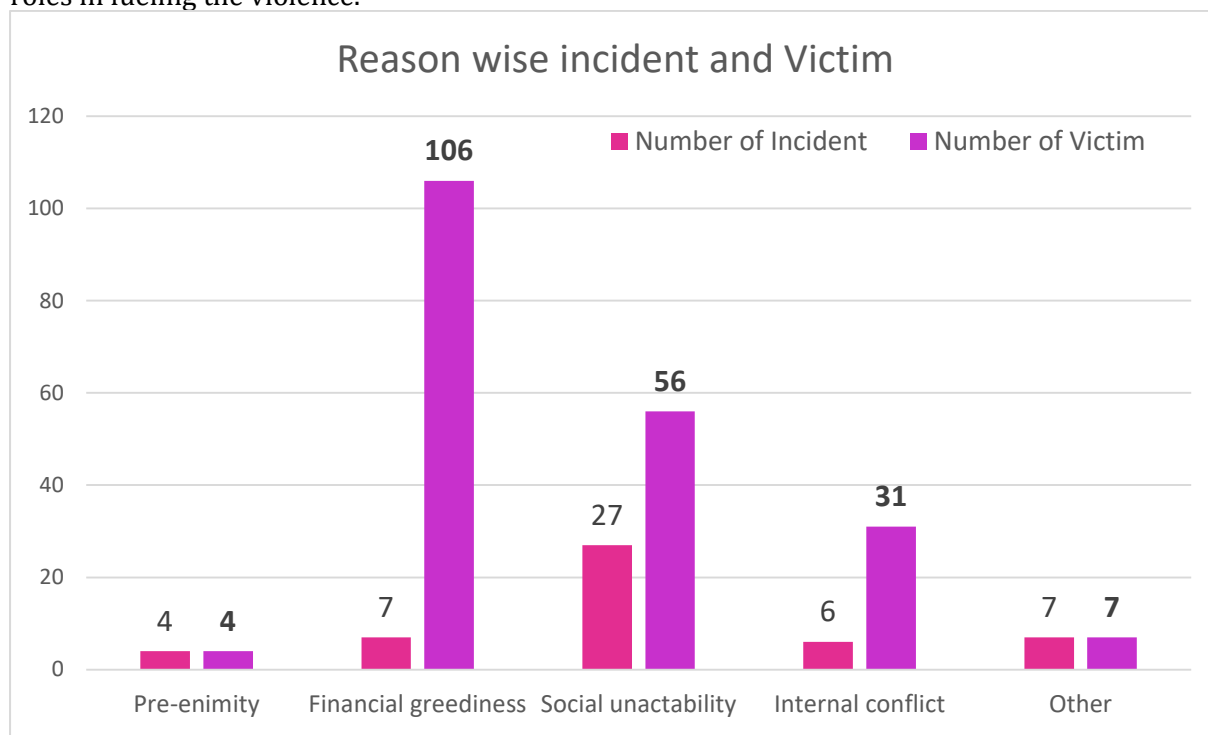
Furthermore, 8 incidents were perpetrated by the victims themselves, victimizing 12 people. In addition, four incidents were perpetrated by miscreants, victimizing 4 people and nine incidents were perpetrated by the Hijra community, victimizing 133 people. Lastly, eight incidents were perpetrated by other individuals, victimizing 11 people.

Perpetrator wise victim

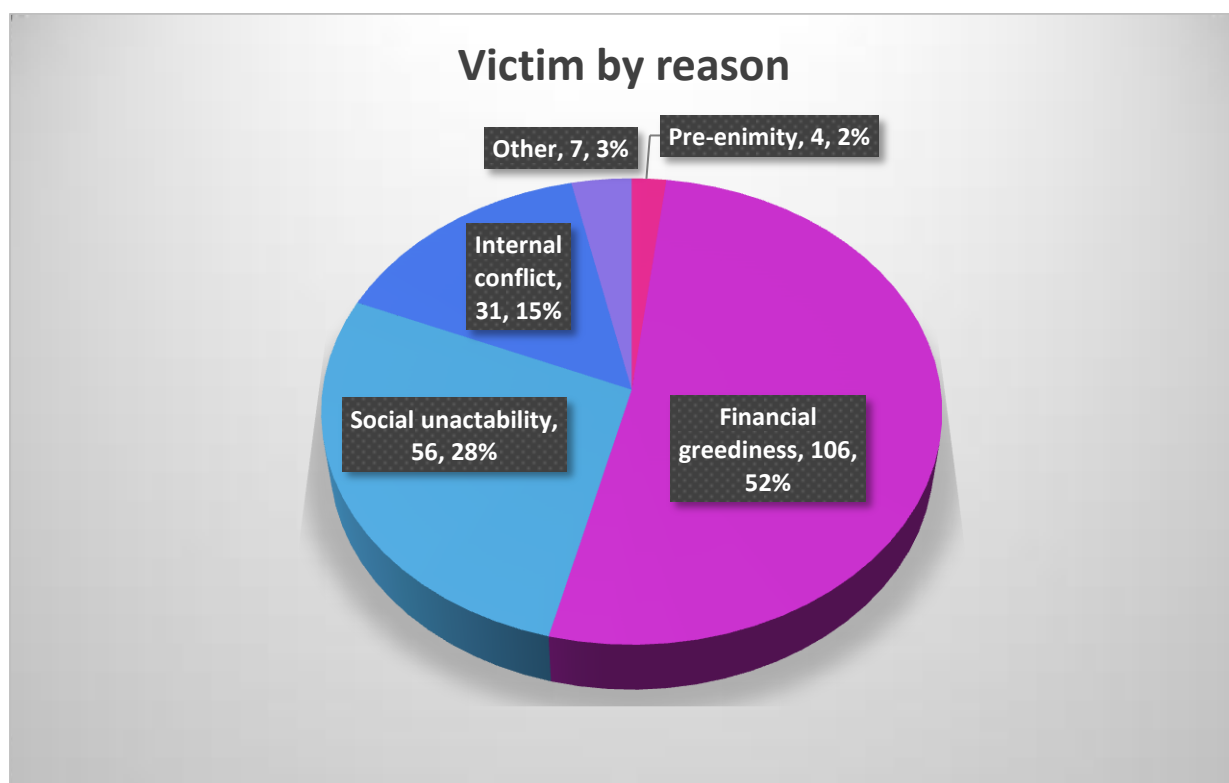


MOTIVATIONS AND CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

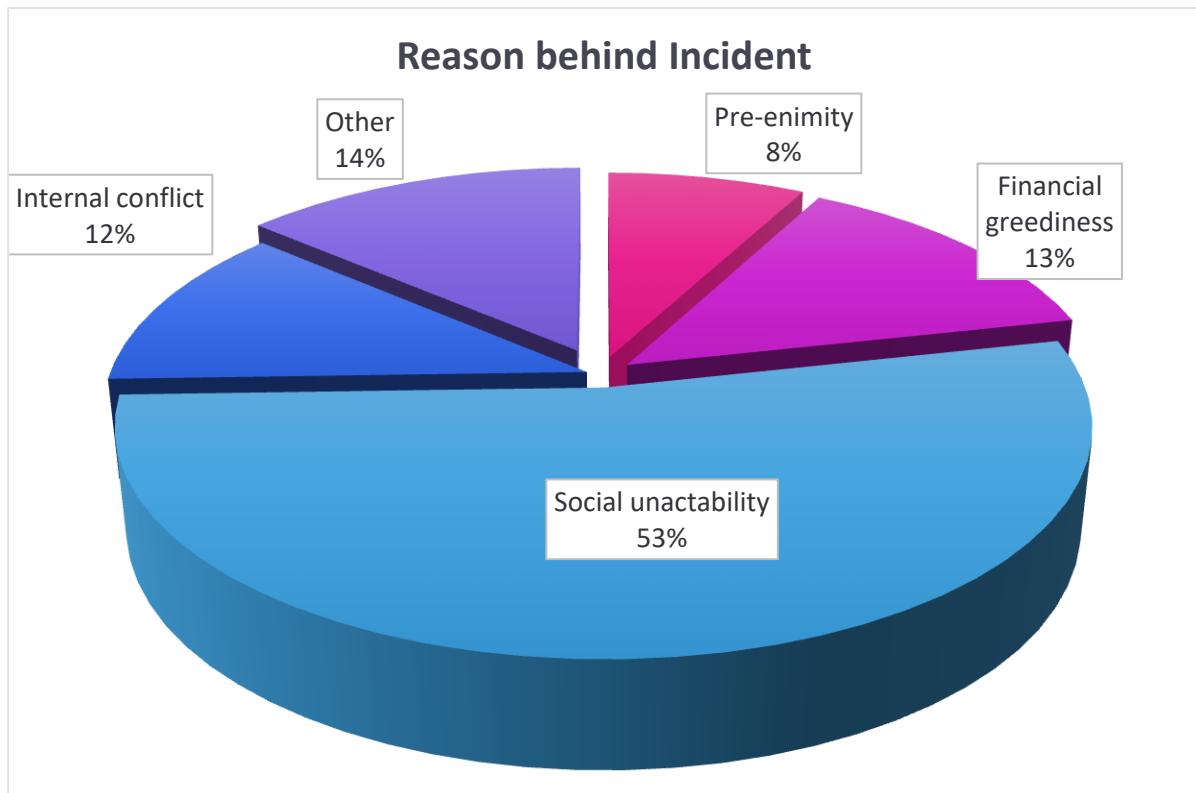
The violence against LGBTQI+ individuals in Bangladesh was motivated by various factors. Societal norms, religious influences, legal limitations, and political dynamics played significant roles in fueling the violence.



During the reporting period, four incidents were motivated by pre-existing enmity, victimizing four individuals and seven incidents were driven by financial greediness, victimizing 106 individuals.



Additionally, 27 incidents were motivated by social unacceptability, victimizing 56 individuals and 6 incidents were motivated by internal conflicts, victimizing 31 individuals. Rest of 7 incidents were motivated by different socio-political and religious factors, victimizing 7 individuals.



VIOLENCE AGAINST LESBIAN (with Case studies):



In 2022, lesbian individuals in Bangladesh were victims of various forms of violations. Out of the 51 reported incidents of violence against the LGBT community, 8 incidents specifically targeted lesbians, resulting in a total of 18 victims. Among these victims, two attempted suicide, three committed suicide, one attempted suicide and was subsequently arrested due to a case filed by her girlfriend's parent, three endured harassment from influential local figures, one was forcibly subjected to a marriage proposal by her parents, one was falsely implicated by her partner, another

was arrested and imprisoned due to false accusations made by her girlfriend's mother, and six faced harassment from both the police and local powerful individuals due to their sexual orientation.

ARRESTS AND FABRICATION CASES

A 21-year-old lesbian woman in Meherpur has been arrested following a case filed by the mother of another lesbian girl at Meherpur Police Station and was placed in jail custody.

On June 29, a 21-year-old lesbian woman from Gaurinagar village in Mujibnagar upazila was arrested by Mujibnagar Police Station following a kidnapping case filed by the mother of a lesbian girl in Meherpur police station. The purpose of the case was to prevent the relationship between the two lesbian girls. Despite the age difference between the two, they had developed a romantic relationship and frequently spent time together.

There were instances when the victim would disappear with the minor girl for several days. Recently, they were rescued from a house in Meherpur and returned to their respective families. However, their association persisted as they continued to run away whenever the opportunity arose. The mother of the minor girl from Gaurinagar village lodged a complaint accusing the victim's father and mother and herself, all residents of the same village. The complaint was filed under the Prevention of Cruelty against Women and Children Act of 2000 (Amended) 2003, specifically citing sections 7 and 30. Both girls appeared before the Judicial Magistrate's court and provided statements under section 22. Following the statements and a medical examination to determine the age of the victim, the court granted custody of the minor girl to her parents and sent the accused victim to jail.



HANDED OVER TO POLICE CUSTODY:

Teenaged lesbian girls were handed over to the police after facing harassment from a local influential group in Hatbari village of Doyle Union in Sarishabari, Jamalpur.

On September 21, 2022, four lesbian girls belonging to the sexual minority were handed over to the police after facing harassment from a local influential group, which included the chairman of the local union parishad, in Hatbari village of Doyle Union in Sarishabari, Jamalpur. The local community accused one girl of marrying another girl, leading to their apprehension. The two young girls and their two companions were taken to Dudu Mia's house in the village, where their interviews were conducted in the presence of hundreds of locals, including Doyle Union Parishad Chairman Abdur Razzak Swapan.



released into the care of their guardian.

Subsequently, the chairman addressed the community and handed over the four girls to the Sarishabari police station. The two girls, aged 18 and 17, had developed a close relationship while attending the same school, which eventually led to a homosexual relationship. After dating for three years, they made the decision to get married. Recently, they married with two other lesbian friends serving as witnesses. However, following the direct intervention of JusticeMakers Bangladesh, the victims were later

Two lesbian girls were apprehended by the local police in Tangail city following the instigation of homophobic individuals at the Kazi office when they arrived at the Battala Kazi office with the intention of marrying.

On September 27, 2022, two lesbian girls were apprehended by the local police in Tangail city following the instigation of homophobic individuals at the Kazi office. The incident unfolded when one lesbian girl arrived at the Battala Kazi office with the intention of marrying another lesbian girl on Tuesday afternoon. Upon learning of their plans, the Kazi informed the police at the Sadar police station in Tangail.

The officer-in-charge (OC) of Tangail Sadar police station, A. Salam, verified the occurrence. He clarified that the two girls hailed from a village in Nagarpur upazila of the district and had visited the Tangail Kazi office to formalize their marriage. As



news of the event spread, local residents began to gather at the Kazi's office, prompting Kazi Shahidul Islam to seek assistance from the police. Consequently, the police intervened and transported both girls to the police station. However, following the direct intervention of JusticeMakers Bangladesh, the victims were later released into the care of their guardian.

ATTEMPT TO FORCED MARRIAGE:

A married lesbian woman was pressured by her parents to enter into an opposite-sex marriage in Lakshmipur Sadar Upazila, Laxmipur.

On September 13, 2022, an attempted forced marriage took place involving a married lesbian girl who belongs to a sexual minority. The parents tried to marry her off to someone of the opposite sex. However, the planned wedding was canceled after a copy of the marriage affidavit was sent to the groom's house.



This revelation of a same-sex love and marriage incident involving two homosexual lesbian teenagers in Lakshmipur district has caused chaos and ignited criticism in the area. The local Union Parishad chairman strongly condemned the incident of same sex marriage, expressing the intention to take action and denouncing it as disgraceful and reprehensible.

It has been disclosed that the two girls got married on July 8, 2021, through a

notary public, but the information was leaked after a year and a half, resulting in the commotion. The girls had been in a loving relationship for approximately five years, which began during their time as SSC examinees and students from Lakshmipur Sadar Upazila. They developed a close bond and eventually decided to solidify their relationship through a marriage affidavit.

SUICIDE:

Two 15-year-old lesbian students, Juthi Akhtar and Sabana Khatun, tragically ended their own lives in a joint suicide in the Handial area of Chatmohar upazila, Pabna.

On the afternoon of May 21, two close lesbian friends, Juthi Akhtar and Sabana Khatun, both 15 years old and students of class eight, tragically took their own lives in a joint suicide in the Handial area of Chatmohar upazila, Pabna. Juthi and Sabana were known for their close friendship in the local community and had been privately studying under the guidance of Saiful Islam, a teacher at Pakpara Senior Madrasa.

Their families became concerned when they exhibited unusual behavior upon returning home, leading to the discovery of their tragic act. Juthi was rushed to Pabna Sadar Hospital for medical treatment but sadly passed away shortly after, and Sabana's deteriorating condition prompted doctors to recommend her admission to Rajshahi Medical College, where she also tragically died on the way to the hospital.

VIOLENCE AGAINST GAY:

In 2022, there were 11 incidents of violence against gay individuals in Bangladesh, victimizing a total of 13 people in various forms of violation. Among these 13 individuals, one was killed and two others were victimized in kidnappings, ransoms, and then murdered. Four individuals attempted suicide, and one sadly succeeded. One person was implicated in a case, arrested, and placed in jail on allegations of raping a minor boy. Another was a victim of kidnapping, physical assault, and ransom. Additionally, one gay teacher was suspended from their job, another gay teacher was prohibited from conducting classes at their educational institution, and one more was subjected to an attempted suspension from their educational institution.

MURDER:

Rubel Hossain (34), a homosexual man, was killed by organized criminals in the Gazipur district due to his homosexuality.

On 11th November 2022, a gay boy named Rubel Hossain (34) was killed by Tarek Ahmed in the Gazipur district. Rubel Hossain was targeted because of his homosexuality. Tarek and Rubel had been introduced to each other on Facebook. On the day of the incident, Tarek called Rubel to his home. Later, they spent time together, roaming around, eating, and drinking. Around 11:00 p.m., Tarek mixed a sleeping pill with Seven Up and compelled Rubel to drink it, causing him to fall asleep.

Once Rubel was asleep, Tarek used a rope to hang him from the window, resulting in his death. Tarek then buried Rubel's body in a sack in the garden adjacent to the house, under the cover of darkness. That night, Tarek left for his niece's house. While leaving, he intentionally dropped Rubel's mobile phone on a bus in Natore. Even after killing Rubel, Tarek extorted approximately BDT 30,000 from Rubel's family by instilling fear in them.



Police are recovering the melted body of gay victim Rubel Hossain from Tongi, Gazipur where he was buried after murder by an organized criminal group.

Kausar Khan, a gay businessman, was murdered by a man on the bank of the Padma River at Bhangamatha Sura under Char Harirampur Union in Faridpur.

On 25th November 2022, at midnight, Kausar Khan, a homosexual sand trader from Charbhadrasan Upazila in Faridpur, was killed on the bank of the Padma River at a location called Bhangamatha Sura in Char Harirampur Union in Faridpur. The following morning, on November 26, locals discovered Kausar's body and promptly informed the police, who subsequently recovered the body from the scene. Utilizing information technology, the police apprehended a person named Sifat, who was found to be involved in the murder.

During interrogation, Sifat admitted to having a homosexual relationship with Kausar. According to his confession, on November 25, during a sexual encounter between them, Sifat stabbed Kausar in the throat with a knife. Kausar was then repeatedly stabbed in the back, throat, neck, and back of the head, resulting in his death. Based on the information provided by Sifat, the police discovered burnt remnants of a mobile phone, a jacket, shirt-pants, and the knife used in the murder at his residence. A case was filed at the



Charbhadrasan police station, and later, Sifat's father, ShaheenMolla, was arrested for his involvement in the destruction of evidence related to the murder.

KIDNAP & KILLING:

Amir Hossain, a homosexual individual, was kidnapped and killed by an organized criminal group in Tongi, Gazipur.

On 29th December 2022, Amir Hossain (25), a gay man belonging to a sexual minority, was killed by an organized criminal group led by Tarek Ahmed for ransom. Prior to the incident, Amir Hossain had been introduced to Tarek Ahmed through Facebook and had traveled from Begumganj in Noakhali to



Dhaka on December 17, falling into the trap of homosexuality. On December 23, 2022, Tarek called Amir Hossain to his home in Tongi, Gazipur, where Tarek and his friend Hridiya kept him unconscious for seven to eight days by administering sleeping pills.

They demanded a ransom of Tk 10 lakh from Amir Hossain's family, but eventually settled for 50 thousand Taka. However, Amir was killed because they did not receive any money. On April 17, Amir Hossain's elder brother filed a kidnapping case with the Dakkhinkhan Police Station under the Dhaka Metropolitan Police. After killing Amir Hossain, the culprits initially sought refuge at TongiljtemaMaidan. After a few days there, they went to Kakrail Mosque and left with the TablighJamaat. Eventually, Tariq and Hridoy were arrested while hiding with the Tablighi Jamaat.

SUSPENSION FROM JOB:

A gay teacher in the Pharmacy Department of Barisal Institute of Health Technology was suspended for allegedly making advances of a homosexual nature towards students.

On May 26, 2022, a homosexual minority teacher in the Pharmacy Department of Barisal Institute of

Health Technology, was suspended for allegedly making advances of a homosexual nature towards students. He was identifying as a homosexual minority, was initially suspended from his position as assistant superintendent of the hostel. Furthermore, he has also been temporarily suspended from the institute. In response to the complaint, a four-member committee led by instructor Abdus Sattar has been formed to conduct an investigation. The committee has been instructed to submit their report within three working days. He denies any wrongdoing regarding the allegations, stating that there is a deep conspiracy against him.



REFRAIN FROM CLASS:

A gay teacher was compelled to refrain from teaching classes by Upazila Nirbahi Officer at Savar Model College in Dhaka after a demonstration by provoked students.

On August 29, 2022, a gay teacher from a sexual minority group was ordered to refrain from taking classes at Savar Model College, Dhaka. The Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) announced this decision after extensive discussions with the protesting students. Starting from the morning of August 28, thousands of students from Savar Model College boycotted classes and demanded the removal of the homosexual teacher from the Islamic department. UNO instructed the gay teacher to abstain from teaching and not attend classes until further notice.



Interestingly, in 2008, an investigation committee was formed following instructions from the authorities of the Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education, Dhaka, regarding allegations of homosexuality with a student. After the investigation confirmed the allegations to be true, the college sent a letter to the teacher, requesting his statement. However, he did not come to the college and filed a case in the lower court. The case was eventually dismissed due to his non-appearance, but he later filed another case that is currently pending in the Supreme Court. In this context, when the teacher resumed taking classes, the students boycotted and initiated the movement.

SUICIDE:

Two gay friends, Samam Tahmid and Sabbir Ahmed Shishir, tragically died by jumping into the river together in Sherpur, Bogura.

On July 9, 2022, two gay friends, Samam Tahmid (17) and Sabbir Ahmed Shishir (17), tragically took their own lives by jumping into the Karatoa river, despite their parents' objections. The bodies of Samam and Sabbir were recovered by the police from Sherpur police station within a few hours. The two friends, known for their close bond, had gone for a walk in Bogra town on Thursday, July 7.

After spending the night at Samam's house, they left the next morning, Friday, July 8, and committed suicide. Samam Tahmid (17) was the son of Mozaffar Rahman, residing in Baroduari Para village in Sherpur Upazila. He was a student in the 11th grade at Sherwood School and College. Sabbir Ahmed Shishir (17), the son of Lutfar Rahman from Mahipur Jamtala village in Garihda Union, was also studying in the 11th grade at Bogra Cantt Public School and College.



ATTEMPT TO SUICIDE:

Two close gay friends attempted suicide by stabbing themselves in the stomach in Uttorpara village, Gurdaspur police station, under Natore district.



On March 29, 2022, two close friends who belong to the sexual minority gay community, attempted suicide by stabbing themselves in the stomach at Uttorpara village in Gurdaspur police station under Natore district. When the relatives arrived at their house that night, they discovered them in a bloody state. Upon hearing the relatives' cries, the villagers rushed to their aid and brought them to Gurdaspur Upazila Health Complex. Due to their critical condition, the attending doctor promptly transferred them to Rajshahi Medical

College Hospital. As news of their same-sex relationship spread in the area, turmoil erupted within their

families. Fearing dishonor, they had left their homes three days prior to the incident and attempted suicide in a field near their house. They resorted to this extreme action because their homosexuality had become known.

ATTEMPT TO EXPULSION FROM JOB:

The authority at Bhalum Ataur Rahman Khan Degree College in Dhamrai, Dhaka had attempted to expel a senior lecturer in the geography department solely because of his sexual orientation.

In November 2022, attempts were made to expel a senior lecturer in the geography department at Bhalum Ataur Rahman Khan Degree College in Dhamrai, Dhaka, solely based on his sexual orientation. Students at the college filed a complaint with the Upazila Nirbahi Officer, accusing him of engaging in homosexuality with students. In response to the students' complaints, Hossain Mohammad Hi Joki, the Upazila Nirbahi Officer and president of the college's governing body, formed a five-member investigation committee.

After gathering statements from the affected students, Habibur Rahman Habib, another lecturer at the college and the head of the investigation committee, submitted the report on October 3rd. According to Habib, the findings of the investigation are indescribable. He stated that after speaking to the students involved, they have discovered the truth behind the complaints made against the lecturer.



KIDNAP & PHYSICAL ASSAULT:

A gay student in the eleventh grade was victimized through kidnapping, physical assault, and ransom by a group of organized criminals in Mirpur, Dhaka.

On 8th August 2022, Morshed was introduced to a homosexual gay teenager through Facebook. The teenager had recently appeared for the SSC examination in Keraniganj, Dhaka. At some point, Morshed, the accused, enticed the victim to meet him in Mirpur, Dhaka. When the victim arrived in Mirpur, falling into the trap set by Morshed, he was taken to a house where he was confined. In that house, Morshed, along with 4 or 5 other accomplices, physically assaulted and injured the victim.

During the ordeal, the accused criminals demanded a ransom of BDT 50,000 from the victim's parents over the phone. They threatened to kill the victim if the ransom was not paid. In order to secure their son's release, the victim's family paid the ransom of BDT 50,000 through Bkash and Nagad to the accused criminals. Following the payment, the family of the victimized homosexual gay teenager filed a case against the accused

criminals. The detective branch of the police subsequently arrested three of the accused criminals.





VIOLENCE AGAINST TRANSGENDER:

The violence and discrimination against transgender individuals are begun in their homes, which is extends to society, educational sector and work place at large. Despite being assigned male at birth, transgender individuals face violence and discrimination due to their feminine behaviors and self-identification as women. The consequences of this discrimination are severe; many find themselves estranged from their families and isolated from society, enduring a life of exclusion and hardship.

An observation has brought to light a disturbing reality: approximately 65 percent of the transgender community in our country are subjected to various forms of gender-based violence. This is a deeply concerning statistic that underscores the urgent need for change. Adding to their plight, transgender individuals also endure discrimination when it comes to inheriting family property, a clear violation of their rights. Disturbingly, around 70 percent of transgender individuals face torture and abuse in their workplaces, highlighting the extent of the challenges they confront.

It is disheartening to acknowledge that a staggering 70 percent of transgender community members suffer abuse within the confines of their own homes. Such rampant abuse further contributes to their ongoing social degradation, causing irreparable harm. In some heartbreaking cases, families even go so far as to deny their existence, compounding the suffering faced by transgender individuals.

MURDER:

Transgender woman Laboni, alias Lovely, tragically lost her life, having been killed by unidentified individuals near Halsa Bridge in Jessore.

On January 07, 2022, Lovely, a 30-year-old transgender woman Laboni alias Lovely, was tragically killed by unidentified individuals near Halsa Bridge on the Jessore-Chutipur road in Jessore. While she was on her way to work in a battery-powered rickshaw, the miscreants forcibly stopped her and indiscriminately stabbed her. After the incident, her colleagues Najma and Selina came to her rescue and rushed her to Jessore's 250-bed General Hospital. Despite being admitted to the hospital, Lovely passed away at approximately 11:15 am. Lovely, the victim, was the daughter of Abdul Karim from the Bejpara area of Jessore city. She resided in a rented house in the Dharmatala suburb, owned by Farooq Hossain. She was killed while enrooted to a dance performance from her



rented house in the countryside around 8 am. Following the completion of the autopsy, the family claimed the body for further arrangements.

Maksudur Rahman Diana, a transgender woman and U.S. resident, was tragically killed inside her single-story house by her housekeeper in Golapbagh, Dhaka

On August 27, 2022, the body of Maksudur Rahman Diana, a transgender woman, was discovered in a room inside a single-storey house in Golap Bagh, Wari, located in the capital city of Dhaka. The police have apprehended a young man named Shoaib Akhtar Laden in connection with the murder case of Diana, which took place in Golap Bagh, Jatrabari.

Shoaib Akhtar Laden was arrested from Nalitabari in Sherpur on Monday due to his involvement in the murder. Diana was a transgender woman, belonging to the third gender category. She had six siblings, all of whom are US citizens. Diana herself also possessed US citizenship. However, for the past two years, she had been residing in a rented house in Golapbagh, Jatrabari, Dhaka.



Tushar Mia, a 20-year-old transgender woman and member of the LGBTQ+ community, tragically lost her life at the Subhanighat vegetable market in Sylhet.

On September 25, 2022, Tushar Mia, a 20-year-old transgender woman and member of the homosexual community, was tragically killed in Sylhet. Early in the morning, the police discovered her lifeless body in an open area near the city's Subhanighat vegetable market.

Tushar Mia, the deceased, was residing in Saju Mia's rented house in Sylhet city and was the transgender

daughter of Abul Hasem from Mymensingh district. The body exhibited marks on the neck, indicating that assailants had taken her life and abandoned her remains at the location. Tushar would often present herself as a transgender woman and associate with hijras while walking. At the time of the incident, there were three to four other individuals, including Tushar. It is suspected that she was killed by hanging a rope around her neck. Following a post-mortem examination, Tushar's body was taken to Manikpur Hill in the city for burial. Subsequently, a murder case was

filed. Tushar's education had not progressed beyond primary school despite various attempts by her



family. Consequently, she gradually became involved with a group of transgender women. At one point, Tushar began dressing as a transgender woman and would leave the house with her transgender friends.

Nila, a 24-year-old member of the transgender community, was fatally stabbed to death by a miscreant in Paribag, Dhaka, after refusing to engage in a sexual relationship.

On 30th September 2022, Nila, a 24-year-old member of the transgender community, was fatally stabbed in Dhaka's Paribagh area in the early hours of Friday. She was attacked by two youths on the footbridge at Paribagh around 1:30 am. Nila was immediately rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), where doctors pronounced her dead, according to Sathi, another Hijra who spoke to reporters at DMCH.

A case has been filed regarding the incident against two unidentified youths, but the motive behind the killing remains unknown, and an investigation is underway. Nila was stabbed in the throat, and no arrests have been made thus far in connection with the murder. The body has been taken to the hospital morgue for post-mortem examinations.



Joyeey Akter Nagini, a twenty-year-old transgender woman, was tragically killed by her husband in Pirganj, Rangpur.

On 9th October 2022, Pirganj police station recovered the dead body of a transgender woman lying in the Patal field of Laldighi after receiving information about her killing. Nahid, also known as Joyeey Akter Nagini (20), was a resident of Panchil village in Panchbibi Upazila, Joypurhat. She had been living in Pirganj as a transgender woman. During her time in Pirganj, she met Sajal Chandra Sarkar, the helper of a Laguna car and son of Dilip Chandra Sarkar from Rampura village in Pirganj. They gradually fell in love

with each other, and Sajal verbally married Nagini in secret two years ago. On the afternoon of October 7, Nagini came to Pirganj bus stand and took Sajal with her. That night, they sat in a potl land at Laldighi and discussed their future. At one point, Sajal asked Nagini to forget him, leading to an argument. Suddenly, Sajal strangled Nagini by using his waist belt around her throat and left her lifeless body behind.

The police arrested Sajal for his alleged involvement in the murder and recovered the belt and mobile

phone used by the deceased. Later, Sajal initially confessed to the murder, and he was produced before the Rangpur court. The father of the deceased, Hafizul Islam, filed a murder case against the unknown



perpetrator with the relevant police station on Sunday night. He mentioned that Nahid, also known as Nagini, used to dress in girls' clothes since childhood and eventually left home and came to Pirganj.

KIDNAP & PHYSICAL ASSAULT:

Two transgender individuals were beaten, and one transgender hijra was kidnapped in Bandar Amin residential area by direction of councilor, Narayanganj City Corporation.

On May 30, 2022, two transgender hijras named Sumi and Sohana were beaten, and another transgender hijra named Urmi was kidnapped in the Bandar Amin residential area, allegedly on the orders of local



councilor Shahenshah from Narayanganj City Corporation. The injured hijras revealed that they had abstained from collecting money for a week. Meanwhile, a group led by a neighboring hijramokhtar began collecting funds in the Amin residential area. Upon learning about this, Sumi and Sohana went to the residential area, where they were violently assaulted, and Urmi was abducted. Around 70 to 80 individuals, following Councilor Shahenshah's instructions, participated in the assault and subsequently took Urmi to the councilor's office.

Transgender women Sandhya and Rubina, were abducted from Shyampur in Meherpur Sadar Upazila, Meherpur, and brutally beaten by a group of hijra individuals.

On 18th December 2022, two transgender hijrawomen named Sandhya and Rubina were abducted from Shyampur village in Meherpur Sadar Upazila. The perpetrators, a group of hijras including Rekha, Sohagi, Shimran, Subarna, Lata, and Shipan, subjected them to inhumane torture.

This horrifying incident occurred due to a previous dispute within the Hijra community. The police rescued Sandhya and Rubina while they were unconscious and admitted them to the Meherpur 250-bed General Hospital. A complaint has been filed at Meherpur Sadar Police Station.





Five transgender individuals were physically assaulted, and three were beaten after being kidnapped in Khoksha, Kushtia, by an opposing hijra group

On August 11, 2022, a targeted attack was occurred in Taltala village of Baliakandi, Rajbari, aimed at asserting supremacy over the hijra community. As a result, five transgender women sustained injuries. The injured hijras, who are residents of Kalukhaliupazila, were admitted to Kalukhali Health Complex for treatment. The names of the injured individuals are Sumi Akhter (26), Golap (25), Shikha (21), Tumpa (15), and Ganga (17). A case has been filed at the local police station regarding this incident. On Thursday, a group of 10 to 11 hijras, led by Sumi Akhter, visited Taltala village in Baliakandiupazila to perform a baby dance at the residence of Mannan and Akil. During their visit, they were attacked by a group led by Sadia, comprising approximately 20 to 25 people, including Maleka. Following the attack, Sadia took three injured individuals in a microbus to Khoksa, as pre-arranged. There, they were subjected to further torture before being released after signing a document with a white stamp. They were also threatened with death during this ordeal.

PHYSICAL ASSAULT:

Four transgender women were physically assaulted in the capital city of Dhaka, and were subsequently admitted to the emergency department of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH)

On September 15, 2022, four transgender women were physically assaulted by hawkers in Paltan, the capital city of Dhaka. They were rescued and admitted to the emergency department of Dhaka Medical



College Hospital (DMCH). The names of the victims are Russia (18), Kamala (19), Liza (20), and Rumi (21). Raisa, a transgender individual, stated that they were having a meal at a rice hotel in Paltan when the hawkers entered and asked them to eat quickly and leave. When they protested, the hawkers attacked them, causing injuries in various parts of their bodies. They received treatment in the emergency department of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

PHYSICAL ASSAULT & EXTORTION:

Saad bin Rabee Saad Mua, a transgender beauty blogger, was held captive and tortured by a man and a woman in a residential area in Bashundhara, Dhaka, due to her transgender identity.

On January 10th, 2022, Saad bin Rabee Saad Mua, a transgender beauty blogger, was held captive and tortured by a man and a woman at a residential area in Bashundhara, Dhaka, due to her transgender identity. On that day, she went to the home of the accused Istiak Amin Fuad, whom she had recently met on Facebook, upon his request to meet his wife. However, upon entering the room at the man's house, another man and a woman appeared and began recording videos while asking Saad various questions. They also made derogatory remarks about her gender, insinuating that she was involved in immoral activities by being present there.

These individuals falsely claimed to be law enforcement officers and coerced Saad into complying with their demands or paying a ransom, threatening her with harm. They proceeded to sexually harass her, forcibly undressing her while recording videos, and subjected her to severe beatings. During this distressing ordeal, they demanded one lakh taka as ransom and confiscated her mobile phone, chain, and Bikash money. Subsequently, she was forcefully taken in a car, presumably to a police station, but eventually, they dropped her off at an eatery in Rampura, Dhaka.



Monika Akhtar Moni (28), a transgender woman, was forcibly stripped, physically assaulted, and extorted, along with her mother, due to her marriage to a man.

On 10th October 2022, Monika Akhtar Moni (28) a transgender woman organized a birthday celebration at a community center, where she exchanged garlands with her boyfriend in the presence of invited guests. Following this event, on October 11, Tuesday, a group of 30 to 40 hijras, led by Pinki Hijra, visited her Star World Beauty Parlor and demanded an extortion amount of 10,000 BDT. The victimized transgender woman paid them four thousand taka. The situation escalated on Wednesday, October 12, around 3 pm, when the same group of 30 to 40 hijras, led by Pinki Hijra, returned to her business establishment. They attacked her, questioning why she had



married another person when she is assigned male at birth. The accused hijras dragged her outside the parlor by her hair, forcibly stripped her naked, and subjected her to physical assault, resulting in swollen and bloody injuries all over her body. The victim's mother, who attempted to intervene and protect her, was also beaten and injured by the accused hijras. During the incident, the accused hijras forcibly took the victim's gold chain, gold bangle, gold pendant, and diamond ring. They recorded the entire incident on their mobile phones. Subsequently, they threatened to harm the victim and her family if she reported the incident to the police or did not shut down her business within seven days.

AREEST & FABRICATION CASE:

Four hijras were arrested and placed in jail custody on charges of extortion from two couples in Dhaka's Uttara area who recently welcomed two daughters.

On August 14, 2022, the police arrested four hijras on charges of extortion for demanding money from two couples in Dhaka's Uttara area who had recently welcomed two daughters. The individuals who were arrested are Alo (28), Sharmin (23), Mim (30), and Ruma (25). One of the tenants residing in a building in Uttara Sector-9 had a daughter on August 6, while another tenant in the same building had a daughter two months ago.

The four members of the transgender community approached the families and demanded Tk 20,000 from each of the newborns' families. They threatened to take away the babies if the demanded amount was not paid. The families managed to give them Tk 3,000 at one point. However, the hijras began kicking the front door and shouting. Upon receiving information, the police promptly arrived at the scene and arrested them. A case was subsequently filed at the police station, charging them with extortion. They were then presented before the court, which sent them into custody.



The Uttara Paschim Thana of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police arrested four transgender women on charges of extorting money from a transport counter in front of BNS Tower in Uttara, Dhaka.



On 3rd September 2022, the Uttara Paschim Thana of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police arrested four transgender women on charges of extorting money from paribahan counter in front of BNS Tower in Uttara Sector 7, Dhaka.

The transgender women who were arrested are Moushumi (32), Anika (29), Tuli (24), and Duli

(25). On that day, in front of BNS Tower in Sector 7 of Uttara Paschim Police Station, they demanded BDT 2,000 from Ziaul Haque, the manager of Ena Paribahan. When he refused to pay, they started misbehaving with the passengers. Subsequently, they took 1010 BDT from the manager's pocket and began shouting at the counter for another 490 BDT. The incident was reported to the police, who promptly arrived at the scene and arrested the four transgenders. They were later presented before the court on charges of extortion, and the court sent them into jail custody.

HARRASMENT BY POLICE:

Transgender woman Monika and her 10-year-old daughter were detained and harassed by the police in Tangail while they were traveling by bus from Jamalpur to Dhaka.



On February 17, 2022, Monika, a transgender woman known as a Hijra, and her 10-year-old daughter were detained and harassed by the police in Tangail. They were traveling by bus from Jamalpur to Dhaka when passengers became suspicious upon seeing children with transgender individuals. One passenger even called 999. When the bus reached the Rabna bypass intersection of Tangail city, the police arrested Monika and the child, taking them to the outpost. Monika, the transgender woman, claimed that before transitioning, she was known as Md. Kamruzzaman. In 2010, she married PopiKhatun, and their daughter was born. However, she noticed changes in her body after giving birth, and Popi eventually left her. Monika also stated that she went to Jamalpur last Saturday to bring her daughter to Dhaka. She was arrested from the bus on Thursday and taken to the police station. Upon hearing the news, other transgender individuals who knew Monika surrounded the police station and attacked the outpost in the evening. To handle the situation, the police arrested three transgender people. Later, Monika and her daughter were released after verifying all the information. However, the three transgender individuals who were involved in the outpost attack were falsely charged and sent to jail custody.

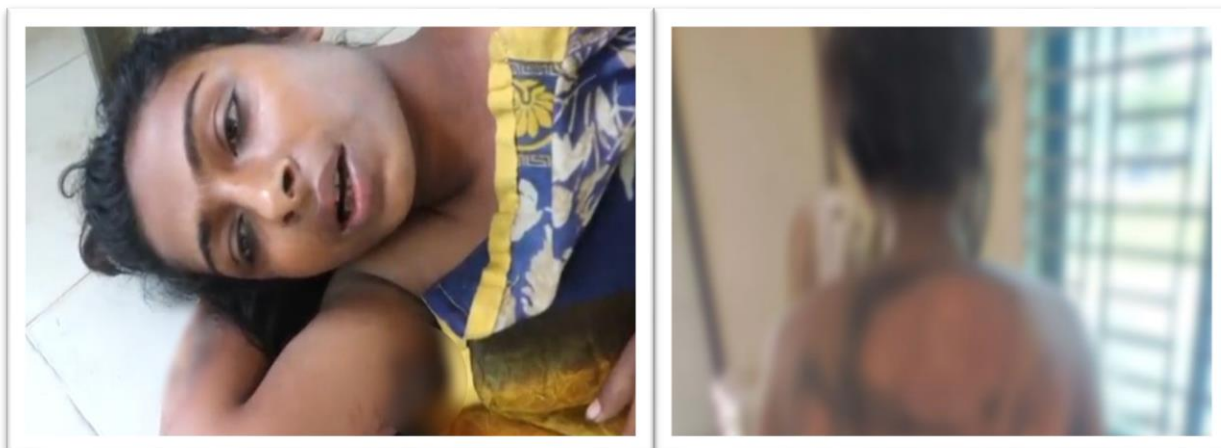
SET ON FIRE:

Transgender Woman Chumki Set on Fire by Local Powerful Group, Doused in Kerosene, in Senbag Upazila, Noakhali District

On March 17, 2022, in Nijsenbagh village of Senbag Upazila under Noakhali district, a horrifying incident occurred involving Chumki (26), a transgender woman who belongs to a sexual minority. She was the victim of a brutal attack where a local powerful group poured kerosene on her body and set her

on fire. This tragic incident has resulted in three individuals being arrested by the police, including two women.

The incident took place on a Thursday around 2 pm, just days before a child's aqeeqah ceremony scheduled to take place at the Razzak police house in Nijsenbagh village. Two transgender hijras had come to ask for financial assistance for the Akika ceremony. Initially, they were given two hundred taka,



but they demanded more money. In a horrifying turn of events, members of Zahirul Nayan's family poured kerosene on Chumki's body and set her on fire.

ISOLATION:

Transgender woman Ho Chi Minh and her family were compelled to isolate from society by a local powerful group at Nishindara Union of Bogura Sadar Upazila in Bogura.

Ho Chi Minh is the daughter of the late Nazrul Islam from Baropur Talukdarpara in Nishindara Union of Bogura Sadar Upazila, Bogura. In 2020, Ho Chi Minh made the voluntary decision to transition into a transgender woman. However, when the villagers learned about this, they began harassing her family in various ways. A few days ago, Ho Chi Minh's uncle, Rezaul Karim, claimed to Ho Chi Minh's mother that, according to the law, her two children are entitled to a share of their brother's property since they are girls. In light of this, Rezaul Karim held a meeting with the villagers on this matter. However, when the family refused to comply with his demand to divide the land, Rezaul Karim began planning to isolate Ho Chi Minh's family and started threatening them in various ways.



As a result, Ho Chi Minh was compelled to file a General Diary (GD) at the Sadar Police Station. On March 13, they were called to the police station and reached a compromise. However, Rezaul Karim did not take kindly to involving the police in the matter. This incident further infuriated him against Ho Chi Minh's family. On the night of Shab-e-Barat, Rezaul Karim held a meeting at his residence. After the discussion, it was decided that nobody in the village would be allowed to associate or communicate with Ho Chi Minh's family. Apart from Ho Chi Minh's uncle, Rezaul Karim, former members of Nishindara Union, such as Ahsan Habib Harun, Rahizul Islam Talukder, Khairul Islam, Shaheen, and others, were present at the meeting.

INTERNALLY CLASH:

Seven transgender individuals have been seriously injured during an internal clash between two groups vying for dominance in the Banglabazar Battala area of Bhola Sadar Upazila in Bhola.

On April 11, 2022, a clash occurred between two groups of transgender individuals vying for dominance in the Banglabazar Battala area of Bhola Sadar upazila. As a result of the clash, seven transgender individuals sustained serious injuries. The injured individuals, namely Swarna, Ridila, Zara, Sumna, Sagarika, Papdi, and Sharmin, were admitted to Sadar Hospital for treatment.

In the evening, a group of seven transgenders from Sadar went to the Banglabazar area to collect money for Eid. At that time, they were unexpectedly attacked by Mona, a hijra leader from Daulatkhan upazila. Some local residents also joined in the attack. The assailants used rods to beat the seven individuals, causing severe injuries. With the assistance of locals, the injured individuals were later taken to Bhola Sadar Hospital for medical attention. A complaint was filed at



Bhola police station that night.

Sadia Akhter, the leader of the transgender hijra community, was assaulted by a rival hijra group led by Mojahar for collecting money from the market in Baliakandi, Rajbari.

On 28th April 2022, Sadia Akhter, the leader of the transgender hijra community in Baliakandi, Rajbari, was assaulted by Hijra Mojahar for collecting money from the market. Following the incident, Sadia Akhter filed a complaint naming four individuals at the Baliakandi police station. Sadia Akhter, the plaintiff in the case, mentioned that they have had control over the Sonapur market for nearly 20 years, and many hijras from Baliakandi rely on the money collected from that market.

On Thursday morning, when they went to withdraw money, Hijra Mojahar and her gang verbally abused them. When they requested them to stop the abuse, the situation escalated, and Hijra Mojahar, along with others, began physically assaulting Sadia, kicking her in the chest, back, and groin. When Pari and Happy, two transgender members accompanying Sadia, tried to intervene, they were also severely beaten. The attackers fled and threatened to kill them when locals responded to their cries for help.



Eight transgender hijra individuals, including senior hijras Dalia and Sonia, were injured in clashes between two groups of the third gender in Sharsha upazila, Jessore.

On May 18, eight transgender hijra individuals, including senior hijras Dalia and Sonia, were injured in clashes between two groups of the third gender in Jessore's Sharsha. The clashes occurred separately in Goga village of Sharsha and in the afternoon in BenapolBhabarberd village. The injured hijras are currently receiving local treatment and staying in Hijra Para. The injured hijras stated that senior hijras Dalia and Sonia were suddenly attacked in Goga village last Wednesday morning. When others came forward to rescue them, approximately 25 individuals, including Bobby, Apu, Abdullah, Bhavna, and Chandni, launched an attack. Later, in BenapolBhabarberd village, they attacked us again and took away the gold ornaments we had.

They are attempting to frame us by tampering with their own house's gender identity documents.



FORCEFULLY DIVORCED

Controversial Marriage Takes a Twist as Transgender Spouse Stages Hunger Strike Over Alleged Betrayal and Forced Divorce

A transgender woman has been forced to divorce her husband by her father-in-law after staging a hunger strike to draw attention to establish the rights of the marriage in Sirajganj. Antar (18), an 11th-grade student at Sahebganj GR College and the son of Erfan Ali, an assistant teacher at Dadanpur Government Primary School in Hatikumrul Union of Solanga Police Station, developed a



romantic relationship with Phuljan (17), a transgender woman residing in Priya Neer, Sherpur, Bogura district. Later, Antar married Phuljan, who identifies as a third-gender person. However, after the marriage, Antar allegedly received 3 lakh taka and gold jewelry from Phuljan on various occasions. Subsequently, Antar ceased contact with his wife Phuljan. As a result, Phuljan went to Antar's home in Dadanpur, Hatikumrul, staging a hunger strike to draw attention to the details of the marriage. Following this, on 2nd September 2022 local powerful people including Antar's father, engaged in arbitration and

forced Phuljan to divorce her husband, taking BDT 70,000 taka as dowry.

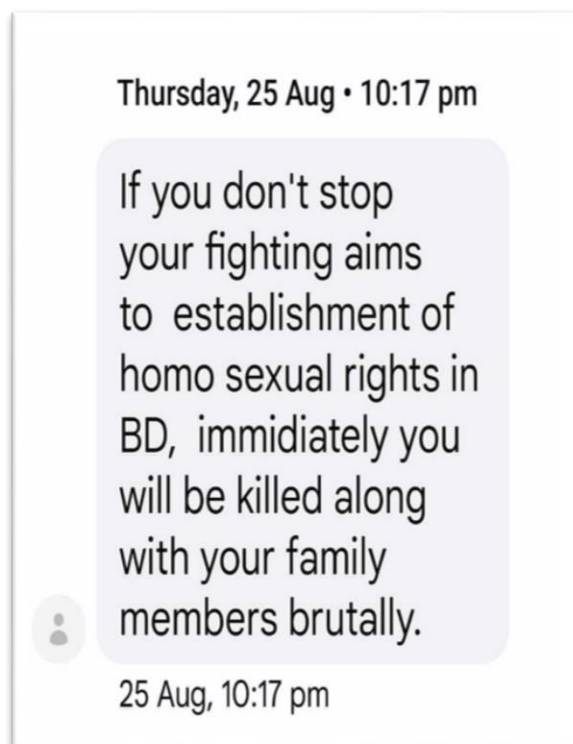
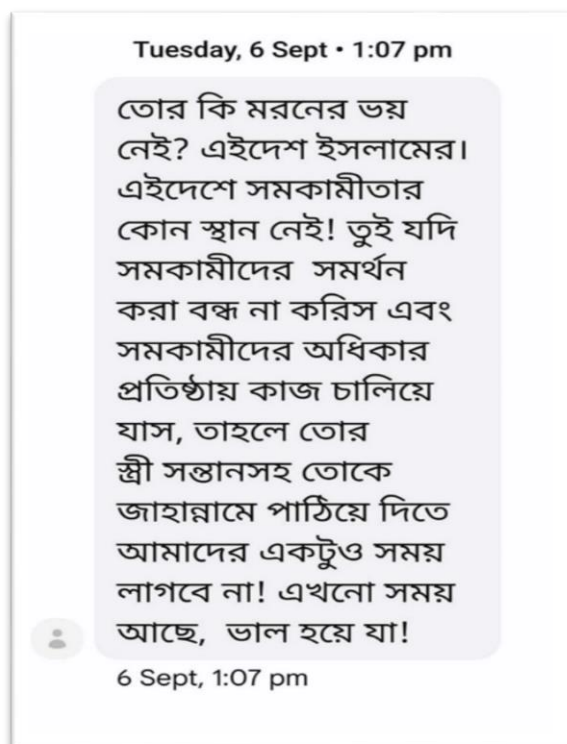
VIOLENCE AGAINST LGBT ACTIVIST

ADVOCATE SHAHANUR ISLAM LGBTQI+ RIGHTS LAWYER

Prominent LGBTQI+ Rights Activist and Human Rights Lawyer along with his family members faced repeated Death Threats, Intimidation, and Physical Assaults in Bangladesh for his unwavering Advocacy for LGBTQI+ Rights.

Advocate Shahanur Islam, a prominent human rights lawyer and LGBTQI+ rights activist, as well as the Founder Secretary General of JusticeMakers Bangladesh and Founder President of JusticeMakers Bangladesh in France (JMBF), has been repeatedly victimized by threats, including death threats, intimidation, and physical assaults. He has also been falsely implicated in a fabricated case due to his strong advocacy for the rights of LGBTQI+ people in Bangladesh over the past couple of years. Furthermore, the lives of his wife and children are at risk of kidnapping and murder due to his activism.

On October 26th, 2022, Advocate Shahanur Islam received death and kidnapping threats targeting him and his family from various telephone numbers due to his strong advocacy for legitimate



LGBTQI+ rights in Bangladesh.

Prior to this, on October 6th, 2022, Shahanur Islam and one of his transgender cousins, Saidul Islam, were forcibly detained by a group of individuals in Kolabazar, Naogaon district. They threatened

him with death if he did not withdraw the cases against Jahurul Islam and the individuals who had physically assaulted him at the Naogaon district court premises in 2020.

Earlier, on September 6th, 2022, Advocate Shahanur Islam received a death threat via SMS in Bengali language, which stated, "Do you have no fear of death? This country is only for Islam. There is no space for homosexual people in this country. If you do not stop supporting homosexual people and continue your activities to establish their rights, we will not hesitate to send you to hell along with your wife and child. There is still time; be well!"

Before this, on August 25th, 2022, Advocate Shahanur Islam also received a death threat via SMS stating, "If you don't cease your fight to establish homosexual rights in Bangladesh, you and your family members will be killed immediately and brutally."



DEVELOPMENT TOWARDS LGBT:

The situation for transgender individuals, particularly hijras, is gradually improving as significant steps are being taken to protect their rights. The government has initiated procedures to identify genuine transgender individuals and is actively working on incorporating them into the national identity card system. The National Human Rights Commission has also taken steps to draft the Transgender Rights Protection Act, aiming to safeguard the rights of the transgender community.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Land has submitted a draft proposal to the cabinet department with the goal of ensuring property rights for transgender children from their parents. The government has introduced a special tax exemption budget for transgender people, recognizing their unique needs. Transgender individuals have been included in the vaccination program to ensure their protection against the coronavirus.

A significant milestone in transgender representation has been achieved with the election of a transgender woman as a member of the Union Parishad. Additionally, a Bangladesh court has passed a judgment in a murder case involving a gay individual, addressing issues of violence against the LGBTQ+ community. These developments represent positive changes in the legal and social landscape for transgender and LGBTQ+ individuals in Bangladesh.

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION ACT-2022 PLACED IN THE PARLIAMENT

Anti-Discrimination Act-2022" Presented in Jatiya Sangsad for the Elimination of All Forms of Inequality and Discrimination Based on Sex, Caste, Ethnicity, and Gender Orientation

On April 5, 2022, the "Anti-Discrimination Act-2022" was introduced in the Jatiya Sangsad (parliament) to tackle human rights violations. Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Anisul Huq presented the bill, which has been forwarded to the parliamentary standing committee for further scrutiny. The Cabinet, under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, endorsed the draft on January 17, 2023. The legislation aims to eliminate inequalities in alignment with international conventions. A monitoring committee, led by the President, will be established at national and divisional levels to oversee human rights violations. The Central Committee, chaired by the Law Minister, with a member secretary from the legislative wing, will coordinate these efforts. Additionally, an anti-discrimination cell will be formed to create national, divisional, district, and other committees. These committees will work to prevent discriminatory activities and provide immediate remedies.

IDENTIFYING TRANSGENDER:

The government is conducting medical examinations to identify genuine transgender individuals due to cases of individuals falsely claiming hijra status for criminal activities under the guise of hijra customs

The government has initiated to conduct medical examinations to identify genuine transgender individuals because there have been cases of fake hijras engaging in criminal activities under the guise of hijra customs. If deemed necessary, DNA tests will be performed to confirm their biological characteristics. Based on the genetic identification results and in accordance with Muslim Sharia Law and the Constitution, hijras will be entitled to a fair share of their parents' property. If identified as a son, they will receive a share as a son, and if identified as a daughter, they will receive a share accordingly. This initiative aims to protect the rights of authentic hijras while addressing issues related to fraudulent activities conducted by those falsely claiming hijra status.



SOCIAL INTEGRATION/SAFENET:

The government is proactively integrating transgender individuals into the national identity card system, granting them a monthly allowance, and providing income-generating training to enhance their social integration

The government is actively working on incorporating transgender individuals into the national identity card system. Currently, among the 11,000 hijras over the age of 50, a monthly allowance of 500 taka is being provided. In addition, stipends are being offered to the children of hijras, with a particular focus on those from hijra families. A diverse range of training programs, including sewing, mobile servicing, computer training, and parlor training, among others, are being made available. Upon successful completion of the training, a payment of 10,000 taka is provided. Efforts are underway to increase this amount to BDT 50,000.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK:

The National Human Rights Commission has taken steps to draft the Transgender Rights Protection Act with the aim of safeguarding the rights of the transgender community

In 2022, The National Human Rights Commission has initiated steps to draft the Transgender Rights Protection Act, aiming to safeguard the rights of the transgender community. A comprehensive law will be formulated, incorporating input from various stakeholders, and subsequently submitted to the Ministry of Law for further consideration. Following that, the proposed legislation will be presented to Parliament for deliberation and, upon approval, will be enacted into law. The implementation of the Transgender Rights Protection Act will follow this legislative process.



The National Human Rights Commission has expressed concerns regarding the process of conducting medical examinations to identify genuine transgender individuals.

The National Human Rights Commission sent an official letter to the Department of Social Services, expressing concerns raised by various transgender-focused NGOs. The letter emphasized that the process of medical

examinations to identify genuine transgender individuals may subject them to potential "sexual harassment." In light of these concerns, alternative suggestions have been made to identify authentic hijras based on gender identity and self-presentation, including clothing. These alternative methods aim to uphold the rights and dignity of transgender individuals while avoiding the potential for harassment associated with medical examinations.

A draft proposal has been submitted to the cabinet department by the Ministry of Land with the aim of ensuring the property rights of transgender children from their parents

In 2022, a draft proposal was submitted to the cabinet department with the aim of securing the property rights of transgender children from their parents. The proposal, sent by the Ministry of Lands to the Cabinet, suggests that the



ভূমি মন্ত্রণালয়
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

determination of gender identity for third gender individuals should be based on a doctor's certificate, which would then enable them to inherit their rightful share of wealth. In cases where it is not possible to

ascertain the gender identity, an approach could be adopted where half of the property is inherited, with the amount derived from both male and female inheritance. These proposals will be subject to further amendments based on the input of all stakeholders, and subsequent steps will be taken accordingly.

TAX EXEMPTION:

The government has introduced a special tax exemption in the budget for the year 2022-23 to foster employment opportunities for individuals from the disabled and transgender communities

A special tax exemption has been introduced in the budget for the year 2022-23 to promote employment opportunities for individuals from the disabled and transgender communities. Under the new provisions, if an organization employs 10 percent or more than 25 persons with disabilities or



transgender persons out of its total workforce, the employer will be eligible for a tax rebate. The tax rebate will be either 75 percent of the salary paid to those employees or 5 percent of the tax payable, whichever is lower. In 2021, the condition for hiring transgenders was to employ 10 percent or more than 100 employees.

However, this time the requirement is for the organization to employ more than 25 individuals from the transgender community. The provision for granting a tax rebate of 5 percent of the tax payable to the employer remains unchanged if they hire at least 10 percent of their total employees as persons from the third gender. The aim of these measures is to encourage organizations to provide employment opportunities to individuals with disabilities and those from the transgender community.

COVID-19 VACCINATION:

Transgender individuals in Dhaka South City Corporation have been vaccinated as part of the floating population vaccination program

Transgender individuals have been included in the vaccination program to ensure their protection against the coronavirus. They have long faced challenges with regards to birth registration, obtaining national identity cards, and accessing healthcare services. However, thanks to a collaborative effort with the Dhaka South City Corporation, transgender individuals have received vaccinations as part of the floating population vaccination program.

Previously, they had visited vaccination centers multiple times but were unable to receive the vaccine. The transgender community is extremely happy and grateful to finally receive the vaccination. Despite the coronavirus outbreak starting two years ago, they encountered various complications related to age,



registration, and acquiring voter identification. However, this time, birth registration or a national identity card is not required for vaccination.

ELECTED IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT:

Transgender individual Payal Khatun has been elected as a member of the Kanchanpur Union Parishad in the Kushtia, making her the first elected public representative from the third gender in the country

On 4th November 2022, Payal Khatun, a transgender woman, has been elected as a member of the Union Parishad in the Kushtia district of Bangladesh, making her the first elected public representative of the third gender in the district



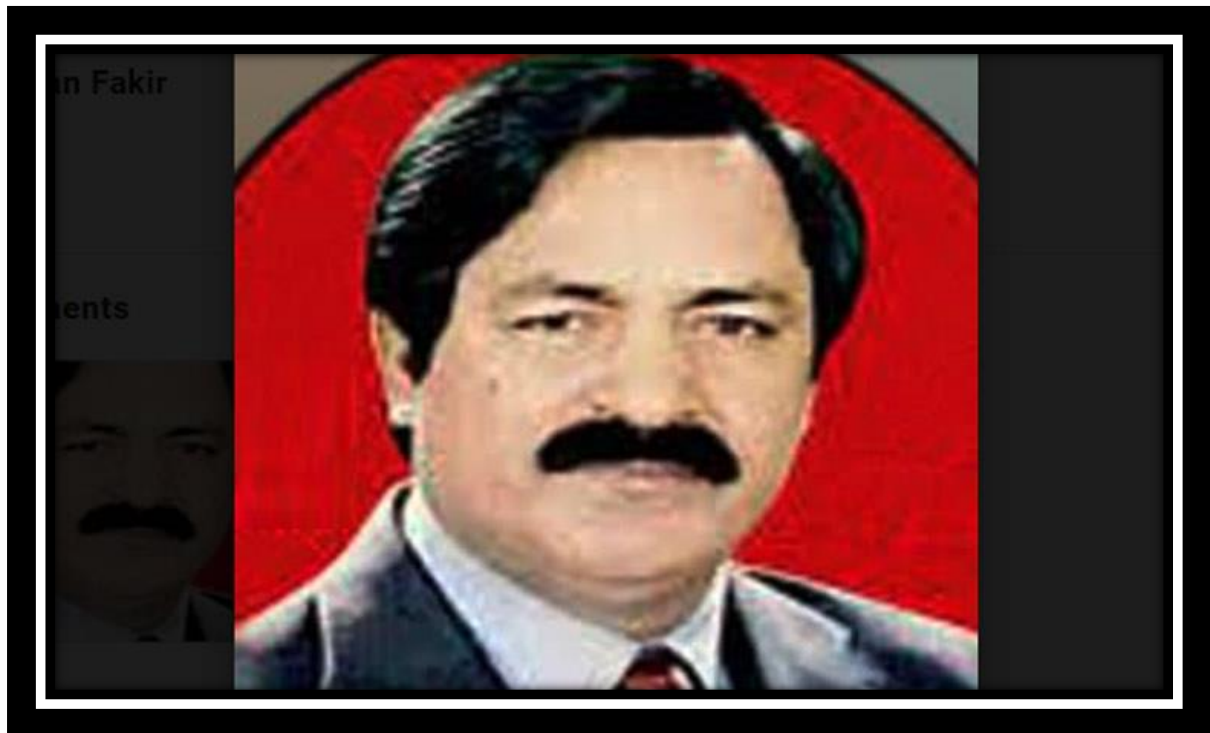
Payal secured her position as a UP Member by receiving 1,623 votes. She is the son of Liaquat Ali from Belgharia village in Kanchanpur Union. According to local residents, Payal was assigned male at birth. However, around 2010-11, while in Kolkata, Payal underwent a gender transition due to significant changes in her body. Previously known as Helal when she identified as male, Payal has long demonstrated leadership qualities and has consistently stood up for people in times of danger. Consequently, she has gained immense popularity in the area, leading to her election victory.

CONVITION FOR GAY MURDER:

A court in Khulna, Bangladesh, has sentenced three youths to life imprisonment for the murder of Khan Ibne Zaman, a homosexual individual, after 14 years since the crime occurred.

On July 31, 2022, a court in Khulna, Bangladesh, sentenced three youths to life imprisonment for the murder of Khan Ibne Zaman, a homosexual individual, after 14 years of the crime occurring on October 13, 2008. The convicted individuals are Sheikh Tayebur Rahman, also known as Iran, Apurba Kumar Biswas, and MdShohag Sheikh. The court acquitted AshutoshBapery as the charges against him were not proven during the trial. Additionally, each of the convicts was fined Tk 30,000, and in default, they will face an additional six months of rigorous imprisonment.

The accused attacked Khan Ibne Zaman at his residence in the Khalishpur area of Khulna on October 13, 2013. They hit him on the head, strangled him, and tied his hands and legs with a rope. The following day, MdShahab Uddin Khan, the brother of the deceased, filed a case with the Khalishpur police station, accusing unidentified criminals. On October 21, the police arrested the three convicted criminals in



Khulna and presented them before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court (CMM). The arrested individuals confessed to the crime before the magistrate under section 164 of the Criminal Procedure Code, admitting their involvement in the murder of Zaman due to forced homosexuality.

PERSONAL SUCCESSFUL STORY:

MOU:

Mou's Inspiring Journey from Dinajpur to Dhaka: A Life Upended by Unwanted Changes, Battling Discrimination and Taunts, Finding Solace as a Hijra Beggar in Gulistan, and Questioning Society's Lack of Acceptance.

Born in Dinajpur, North Bengal, Mou noticed a change in her body when she was in ninth grade. Despite hoping to do something meaningful for people, her dream was shattered with the physical changes she experienced.

She had to endure taunts and stares from family members and neighbors. Her siblings, classmates, and friends stopped associating with her, and the torment began. Eventually, her schooling was disrupted, and she had to leave her home. Seeking refuge in Dhaka, she approached a hijra guru in Syedabad, who assigned her the task of begging. Now, her daily job involves begging in the Gulistan area, seeking help from people. Mou questioned, "What's wrong with me? Why won't anyone acknowledge us?" All the money she collects from begging is handed over to the Hijra Guru, who arranges her accommodation and meals.



SUMI:



Sumi's Heart-Wrenching Journey: From a Cherished Daughter to Forced Independence, surviving as a Hijra through Begging in Dhaka's Busy Streets, Shining Light on Inhuman Torture and Injustice Faced by the Community.

Originally from Comilla, she was the cherished daughter of her parents. However, their love didn't last long. When she reached seventh grade, she noticed changes in her body, which led to physical abuse from her family members. Eventually, she was forced to leave her parents' home and voluntarily became independent.

Now, she survives by begging in the Panthapath, Farmgate, and Vijay Sarani areas. Sumi expressed how they have been subjected to inhuman torture and emphasized that hijras can be born into any family. She questioned where their fault lies. Initially, she used to collect money from various offices and bus passengers, but people are no longer willing to pay that way. Even when she visits different offices, she receives no response. Consequently, she is forced to beg at intersections to sustain herself.

MEGHA SHARMA:

From Self-Discovery to Authenticity: Megha Sharma's Journey as a Transgender Woman in Thakurgaon, Bangladesh, Overcoming Challenges and Finding Acceptance in Embracing Her True Identity.

Megha Sharma, a transgender woman from Subal Sheel in Thakurgaon, was born with a male body but exhibited feminine behaviors from a young age. Megha often questioned her own gender identity, wondering if she was a boy or a girl. Despite facing ridicule from her peers for her behavior, she couldn't change her natural inclination towards femininity.



During her childhood, Megha's parents were concerned about her behavior as she displayed traits more commonly associated with girls.

She struggled with her identity, feeling a disconnect between her assigned gender and her true self. Later, she made the decision to transition and began hormonal treatment in a local hospital in 2020, later sought treatment in a hospital in India. In February 2021, Megha successfully underwent gender reassignment surgery and embraced her true identity as a woman. Initially, Megha's parents were hesitant about her decision to transition, but eventually, they accepted and supported her for her happiness. After her transition, locals have shown curiosity, often visiting her home to see Megha. While some make negative comments, many others offer words of encouragement. Megha kept her gender transformation journey a secret from everyone except her family during the treatment process.

BINDU & MIM:

Resilience and Empowerment: Ratna Sheikh, (Bindu), and Mim Akter's Journey as Transgender Entrepreneurs in Narsingdi, Bangladesh, Overcoming Social Barriers to Uplift the Lives of Their Community with a Successful Beauty Parlor and Empowerment Initiative.

Ratna Sheikh, also known as Bindu, is a transgender individual originally from Munshiganj, while Mim Akter hails from Kismat Baniyadi village in Narsingdi Sadar Upazila. About 11 years ago, Mim left home due to negative societal and family attitudes, as well as emotional abuse. After spending some time in Dhaka, Mim illegally traveled to India, where they met Ratna, alias Bindu, from Munshiganj. Following their time together, Mim returned to Bangladesh with cosmetic training acquired in India, and they both settled in Narsingdi.

However, their presence faced social barriers, forcing them to leave home once again. One night, locals surrounded Mim's house, but they were eventually rescued by the police. Later, with support from the local administration, they established a beauty parlor in the city center. This initiative aimed to enhance the quality of life for transgender individuals through inclusion in work-oriented projects. Their beauty parlor quickly gained a good reputation. Despite the societal obstacles faced as transgender individuals, they are now happy with their family and provide free training to underprivileged women to become beauticians.



IMPACTS AND CONSEQUENCES OF VIOLENCE

→ PHYSICAL INJURIES:

Violence against LGBTQI+ individuals can result in various physical injuries, ranging from minor bruises and cuts to severe wounds, fractures, and life-threatening injuries. Physical assaults can lead to pain, suffering, and long-term physical disabilities.

→ HEALTH COMPLICATIONS:

Physical violence can also result in significant health complications for LGBTQI+ individuals. They may experience chronic pain, impaired mobility, and physical disabilities as a result of the injuries sustained. These complications can impact their daily lives, independence, and overall well-being.

→ INCREASED RISK OF STD:

In cases where sexual violence is involved, LGBTQI+ individuals may face an increased risk of contracting sexually transmitted infections (STIs) or HIV/AIDS. Non-consensual sexual acts can lead to the transmission of infections, further impacting their physical health.

→ TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURIES:

Severe physical assaults, particularly those involving head trauma or blows to the head, can result in traumatic brain injuries (TBIs). TBIs can have long-lasting consequences, including cognitive impairments, memory loss, difficulty concentrating, and emotional disturbances.

→ LONG-TERM HEALTH CONSEQUENCES:

The physical effects of violence can have long-term implications for the overall health of LGBTQI+ individuals. Chronic pain, disabilities, and ongoing medical treatments can impact their quality of life, limit their activities, and lead to increased healthcare needs and costs.

→ IMPACT ON PERSONAL SAFETY:

Physical violence creates an atmosphere of fear and insecurity for LGBTQI+ individuals. The constant threat of physical harm can restrict their freedom of movement, limit their participation in public spaces, and curtail their ability to engage in daily activities without fear.

→ POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER (PTSD):

Individuals who have experienced violence may develop PTSD, a mental health condition characterized by recurring intrusive thoughts, nightmares, flashbacks, and intense anxiety related to the traumatic event. LGBTQI+ individuals who have faced violence may constantly relive the trauma, leading to heightened stress levels and a diminished sense of safety.

→ DEPRESSION AND ANXIETY:

The experience of violence can contribute to the development or exacerbation of depression and anxiety disorders. LGBTQI+ individuals may experience persistent feelings of sadness, hopelessness, fear, and worry. They may also have difficulty concentrating, experience changes in appetite or sleep patterns, and have a diminished interest in previously enjoyed activities.

→ LOW SELF-ESTEEM AND SELF-WORTH:

Violence can deeply impact an individual's self-perception and self-esteem. LGBTQI+ individuals who have been subjected to violence may internalize negative societal attitudes and beliefs, leading to feelings

of shame, self-blame, and a diminished sense of self-worth. This can hinder their ability to assert their rights, pursue their goals, and engage in healthy relationships.

→ **SUICIDAL IDEATION AND SELF-HARM:**

The psychological distress caused by violence can increase the risk of suicidal ideation and self-harm among LGBTQI+ individuals. They may feel overwhelmed by their experiences, isolated, and without support, leading to thoughts of ending their lives or engaging in self-destructive behaviors as a coping mechanism.

→ **SOCIAL ISOLATION AND WITHDRAWAL:**

Violence can lead to social withdrawal and isolation as individuals may fear further harm or rejection. LGBTQI+ individuals may distance themselves from friends, family, and community, impacting their social connections and support systems. This isolation can further exacerbate feelings of loneliness, depression, and vulnerability.

→ **TRUST AND INTIMACY ISSUES:**

Violence can erode an individual's trust in others, particularly if the perpetrators were known to them or if the violence occurred within intimate relationships. LGBTQI+ individuals may struggle to form or maintain trusting relationships, leading to difficulties in establishing intimate connections and seeking support from others.

→ **FEAR AND TRAUMA:**

Experiencing violence can instill fear and trauma within LGBTQI+ individuals. The constant threat of physical harm and the fear of being targeted can have a long-lasting impact on their well-being, causing hypervigilance, panic attacks, and a reduced sense of safety.

→ **SUPPRESSION OF RIGHTS:**

Violence against LGBTQI+ individuals often reinforces the suppression of their rights. It creates an environment of fear and silence, where individuals may be reluctant to express their sexual orientation or gender identity openly. This suppression hinders their ability to exercise their rights to freedom of expression, association, and assembly.

→ **EMPOWERMENT CHALLENGES:**

The prevalence of violence can create significant challenges for LGBTQI+ community empowerment. It may discourage individuals from actively participating in advocacy and community-building efforts, fearing further backlash and violence. This hampers the progress of LGBTQI+ rights movements and slows down efforts to create social change.

→ **INTERNALIZED STIGMA AND SELF-BLAME:**

Violence can lead to internalized stigma and self-blame among LGBTQI+ individuals. They may internalize negative societal attitudes, believing that they deserve the violence or that something is inherently wrong with them. This self-blame can contribute to a cycle of self-destructive behaviors and low self-worth.

CHALLENGES FACED BY LGBTQI+ INDIVIDUALS

→ DISCRIMINATION AND VIOLENCE:

LGBTQI+ individuals in Bangladesh face widespread discrimination in various aspects of life, including education, employment, healthcare, and housing. They are at a higher risk of physical and verbal abuse, harassment, and violence, both by individuals and sometimes even by law enforcement officials.

→ CRIMINALIZATION OF HOMOSEXUALITY:

As mentioned earlier, the legal framework in Bangladesh does not provide explicit protections for LGBTQI+ individuals. The criminalization of consensual same-sex activities under Section 377 of the Penal Code leaves them vulnerable to legal persecution and abuse.

→ LIMITED ACCESS TO LEGAL SUPPORT:

Limited access to legal support is a significant challenge faced by LGBTQI+ individuals who experience violence. It can further exacerbate their vulnerability and hinder their ability to seek justice and protection.

→ FAMILY REJECTION:

Coming out as LGBTQI+ often leads to family rejection, loss of support systems, and disinheritance. LGBTQI+ individuals may face pressure to conform to societal norms, undergo conversion therapies, or enter into opposite-sex marriages against their will.

→ LIMITED ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE:

LGBTQI+ individuals often face challenges in accessing healthcare services due to discrimination, lack of understanding, and biases from healthcare providers. This can lead to inadequate or inappropriate healthcare, neglect of specific health needs, and reluctance to seek medical assistance.

→ SOCIAL EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION:

Stigmatization and societal prejudice often isolate LGBTQI+ individuals from their communities and restrict their participation in social, cultural, and religious activities. This isolation can lead to mental health issues, including depression, anxiety, and even suicidal tendencies.

→ LACK OF SUPPORT AND RESOURCES:

Limited support networks, counseling services, and safe spaces for LGBTQI+ individuals contribute to their vulnerability and lack of access to resources that can help them cope with the challenges they face.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDRESSING VIOLENCE:

→ LEGAL REFORMS:

Governments should review and reform existing laws to ensure they protect the rights of LGBTQI+ individuals and criminalize acts of violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression. Laws should be comprehensive, inclusive, and enforceable, providing legal recourse for victims and holding perpetrators accountable.

→ POLICY INITIATIVES:

Governments and relevant authorities should develop and implement policies that promote equality, non-discrimination, and the protection of LGBTQI+ individuals. These policies should address issues such as hate crimes, bullying, employment discrimination, access to healthcare, and education.

→ ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS:

Organizations, activists, and allies should engage in advocacy efforts to raise awareness about the violence faced by LGBTQI+ individuals and the need for societal change. Campaigns should challenge stereotypes, promote empathy, and foster understanding, while highlighting the importance of respect, acceptance, and equal rights for all.

→ EDUCATION AND TRAINING:

Integration of LGBTQI+-inclusive education in schools and training programs for healthcare professionals, law enforcement agencies, and social workers is crucial. Education should aim to eliminate prejudice, challenge biases, and foster a culture of acceptance and inclusion.

→ SUPPORT SYSTEMS AND SAFE SPACES:

Establishing support systems and safe spaces specifically designed for LGBTQI+ individuals is essential. These can include community centers, helplines, counseling services, and support groups that provide emotional support, resources, and information to help individuals navigate the challenges they face.

→ COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS:

Collaboration between government agencies, civil society organizations, human rights groups, and LGBTQI+ community organizations is vital for comprehensive and effective responses to violence. By working together, stakeholders can share resources, expertise, and experiences, amplifying their collective efforts to address violence and promote the well-being of LGBTQI+ individuals.

→ INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION:

Collaboration with international organizations and human rights bodies can help support efforts to address violence against LGBTQI+ individuals. Governments can seek guidance, expertise, and funding from international entities to enhance their capacity in protecting LGBTQI+ rights and implementing effective strategies.

.....XXX.....

Acknowledgement

Edited by:

Advocate Shahanur Islam

Founder Secretary General

JusticeMakers Bangladesh (JMBD)

&

Founder President

JusticeMakers Bangladesh in France
(JMBF)

Photo Credits:

JMBD

Cover page design ©Adobe Stock

