

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024



ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS  
AGAINST LGBTIQ+ PEOPLE IN  
BANGLADESH

FEBRUARY 2025

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024

ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS  
AGAINST LGBTIQ+ PEOPLE IN  
BANGLADESH

FEBRUARY 2025

EDITED BY

AHMAD NAHAS (he/him)

PROGRAM MANAGER

INCLUSIVE BANGLADESH

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024 ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS OF LGBTIQ+ PEOPLE OF BANGLADESH

First Edition: February, 2025

Copyright © 2025 by Inclusive Bangladesh

Published By  
Inclusive Bangladesh

Inclusive Bangladesh is a multi-national, non-profit and transgender-led youth LGBTIQ+ human rights organisation, which promotes human rights in Bangladesh & United Kingdom. We envision creating an inclusive society where every citizen will be a resource for safeguarding each other's human rights and peaceful living. Our work and effort circulate in promoting human rights, gender equality, religious literacy, global citizenship, diversity, and equality. Established in 2013, Inclusive Bangladesh is now working with diverse local and international organisations, multilateral and multi-layered development partners, and active youth changemakers.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, editing, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of the publisher.

There can be an exception in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical reviews and certain other noncommercial uses permitted by copyright law. For permission requests, write to the publisher, addressed "Attention: Project Director," at the email address below.

[contact@inclusivebangla.org](mailto:contact@inclusivebangla.org)

Obtaining Information

This is a free publication and can be used in any human rights advocacy purposes and or in case of training and research. A digital version of this book can be found in the following website.

[www.inclusivebangla.org](http://www.inclusivebangla.org)

Printed in Dhaka, Bangladesh.



This annual report has been published as part of our project titled “Monitor” which is a community-led LGBTIQ+ Human Rights Violations Monitoring initiative of Inclusive Bangladesh. Human rights violations against LGBTIQ+ individuals are increasing in Bangladeshi society as homophobia continues to spread. Despite the frequent occurrence of such violations, there is no systematic monitoring or reporting of these incidents. To address this gap and ensure that relevant stakeholders have access to comprehensive information on the human rights of LGBTIQ+ individuals, Inclusive Bangladesh, in collaboration with its partner organization, Pranto Foundation, has launched this initiative. This project marks the first-ever effort in Bangladesh to document human rights violations against LGBTIQ+ individuals across the country. Launched in 2023, various available data of human rights violations of LGBTIQ+ people across Bangladesh were recorded under this project by the local LGBTIQ+ community members.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## 01 Preface

## 02 Executive Summary

Introduction

Key Findings

Incident Types

Monthly Insights

Geographical Distribution

Victim Demographics

Perpetrators

Implications

Conclusion

## 03 Detailed Report

Introduction

Summary of Incident Nature

Insights of Various Incident Types

Month-wise Various Incident Ratio

Geographical Distribution

District-wise Incident Heat Map

Demography of Incidents

Demography of Victims

Overview of Perpetrators

Conclusion

## 04 Highlights of the Year

January 2024 - Textbook Chapter

June 2024 - Employment Restrictions

August 2024 - Escalation of Violence

## 05 Conclusion & Recommendations

# Preface

The Annual Report on Human Rights Violations Against LGBTIQ+ People in Bangladesh is a crucial initiative by Inclusive Bangladesh, aimed at shedding light on the ongoing struggles faced by the community. As homophobia and transphobia continue to rise, there remains a severe lack of systematic documentation and reporting. This report bridges that gap by providing a comprehensive analysis of human rights violations, exposing the patterns of discrimination, and calling for urgent reforms.

Inclusive Bangladesh, a transgender-led human rights organization, is committed to amplifying the voices of marginalized communities. The publication of this report aligns with our mission to foster inclusivity, equality, and justice for LGBTIQ+ individuals in Bangladesh. The data presented herein serves as a powerful tool for policymakers, activists, researchers, and international stakeholders who are working towards securing fundamental rights for all.

The significance of this report extends beyond awareness—it is a call to action. Government institutions, civil society, and international organizations must collaborate to end discrimination and violence against LGBTIQ+ people. We invite all stakeholders, including human rights defenders, legal experts, and donors, to join us in advocating for policy changes, legal protections, and community-based solutions.

This report is not just about documenting injustices; it is about building a future where LGBTIQ+ individuals can live with dignity and without fear. We encourage continued partnerships, dialogue, and action to ensure that the fundamental rights of every person, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, are upheld.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

---

Bangladesh has witnessed The 2024 annual report on human rights violations against LGBTIQ+ individuals in Bangladesh reveals a distressing landscape of discrimination, violence, and legal challenges. This report synthesizes data on various incident types, victim demographics, and geographical distribution to provide a comprehensive overview of the human rights situation for LGBTIQ+ people in the country.

## KEY FINDINGS

---

### 1. Incident Types:

- **Inhuman Behaviour:** The most frequently reported incident, with 28 cases, underscores the prevalence of degrading treatment.
- **Freedom of Expression:** 21 incidents highlight significant challenges in expressing identities openly.
- **Threats and Torture:** 15 and 17 incidents respectively, indicate severe risks and physical harm.
- **Beatings and Arrests:** 17 and 7 incidents respectively, reflect physical violence and legal challenges.
- **Killings:** 3 reported cases highlight extreme violence.
- **Online Harassment and Racial Discrimination:** Fewer incidents, but significant in digital and intersectional contexts.

### 2. Monthly Insights:

- **February:** Highest number of incidents.
- **September, January, March, and April:** Notable peaks in incidents.
- **May:** Lowest number of incidents.

### 3. Geographical Distribution:

- **Dhaka:** Highest number of incidents across various types.
- **Sylhet, Jessore, Jhenaidah:** Notable for specific types of incidents like arrests, beatings, and killings.
- **Other Districts:** Various incidents reported across multiple districts.



#### 4. Victim Demographics:

- **Gender:** Trans women face the highest number of incidents, followed by individuals identified as "Others" and hijra.
- **Location:** Most incidents occur in urban areas, followed by rural and sub-urban areas.
- **Sexual Orientation:** Lesbians face the highest number of incidents, followed by individuals identified as "Others" and gay.
- **Age Group:** The 18-30 years age group faces the highest number of incidents, particularly trans women and individuals identified as "Others".

#### 5. Perpetrators:

- **State Actors:** Responsible for 23 incidents, particularly involving arrests, freedom of expression violations, inhuman behaviour, and threats.
- **Others:** Responsible for 8 incidents.
- **Hijra:** Involved in 3 incidents.

## IMPLICATIONS

---

### Urgent Implications

- **Targeted Interventions:** Necessary to protect trans women and individuals identified as "Others".
- **Age-Specific Support:** Required to address the needs of different age groups.
- **Awareness and Education:** Crucial to reduce discrimination and violence.

### Social Implications

- **Widespread Discrimination:** Indicates a need for greater societal acceptance.
- **Physical and Psychological Harm:** Highlights the need for protective measures and mental health support.
- **Impact on Freedom of Expression:** Suggests a lack of visibility and representation for LGBTIQ+ individuals.

### **Legal and Policy Implications**

- **Need for Legal Protections:** Stronger anti-discrimination laws are essential.
- **Law Enforcement Training:** Necessary to prevent abuse and ensure fair treatment.
- **Policy Reforms:** Required to address specific challenges faced by LGBTIQ+ individuals.

### **Community and Advocacy Implications**

- **Strengthening Advocacy Efforts:** Data can be used to push for societal and policy changes.
- **Community Support:** Building strong support networks is crucial.
- **Awareness Campaigns:** Important to change public perceptions and reduce stigma.

### **International Implications**

- **Global Attention:** Can draw international pressure for improvements.
- **Funding and Support:** International organisations may provide support for local NGOs and advocacy groups.

## **CONCLUSION**

---

LGBTIQ+ individuals in Bangladesh face systemic discrimination and violence. Key recommendations include decriminalizing same-sex relationships, enacting anti-discrimination laws, and legal gender recognition. Law enforcement must undergo sensitivity training, while protections for freedom of expression and assembly are essential. Social stigma can be addressed through awareness campaigns and engagement with cultural leaders. Economic inclusion through workplace protections and financial access is vital. International advocacy should apply diplomatic pressure for human rights improvements. Systemic reforms and cultural shifts are necessary to ensure dignity and equality for LGBTIQ+ individuals, with ongoing advocacy essential for lasting change.

# DETAILED REPORT

# INTRODUCTION

---

In 2024, Bangladesh underwent a significant political upheaval when mass student-led protests culminated in the resignation and exile of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The interim government, led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, pledged to democratize the nation's institutions. However, this transition has intensified challenges for the LGBTIQ+ community. The political instability has emboldened conservative factions, leading to increased harassment and scapegoating of sexual and gender minorities. Notably, targeted harassment against visible LGBTIQ+ activists highlights a dangerous shift in the current political environment, where not only the progress made for trans inclusion under the previous government is at risk but LGBTIQ+ communities in Bangladesh face increased threats of violence. This report delves into the multifaceted adversities faced by LGBTIQ+ individuals amid Bangladesh's evolving political landscape. The 2024 annual report on human rights violations against LGBTIQ+ individuals in Bangladesh presents a comprehensive analysis of the various forms of discrimination, violence, and legal challenges faced by this community. The data collected highlights the pervasive nature of these violations and underscores the urgent need for targeted interventions, legal reforms, and societal change to protect the rights and well-being of LGBTIQ+ individuals.

## SUMMARY OF INCIDENT NATURES

---

### 1. Inhuman Behavior:

- The most frequently reported incident nature, highlighting the prevalence of degrading and dehumanising treatment faced by LGBTIQ+ individuals. This includes public shaming, bullying and harassment.

### 2. Freedom of Expression:

- Incidents involving violations of freedom of expression are significant, indicating the challenges faced by LGBTIQ+ individuals in expressing their identities openly.

### 3. Threat:

- A considerable number of incidents involve threats, reflecting the severe risks and dangers faced by the community.

### 4. Torture:

- Incidents involving torture are also common, indicating the physical and psychological harm faced by LGBTIQ+ individuals.

### 5. Beating:

- Physical violence is a significant issue, with many incidents involving beatings.

### 6. Arrest:

- Legal challenges are evident, with several incidents involving arrests of LGBTIQ+ individuals.

### 7. Killing:

- There are reported cases of killings, highlighting the extreme violence faced by some individuals.

### 8. Online Harassment:

- A smaller number of incidents involve online harassment, indicating the challenges faced in digital spaces.

### 9. Racial Discrimination:

- Some incidents involve racial discrimination, reflecting the intersectional challenges faced by LGBTIQ+ individuals.

### 10. Right to Assembly:

- Incidents involving violations of the right to assembly are reported, indicating challenges in organizing and participating in community activities.

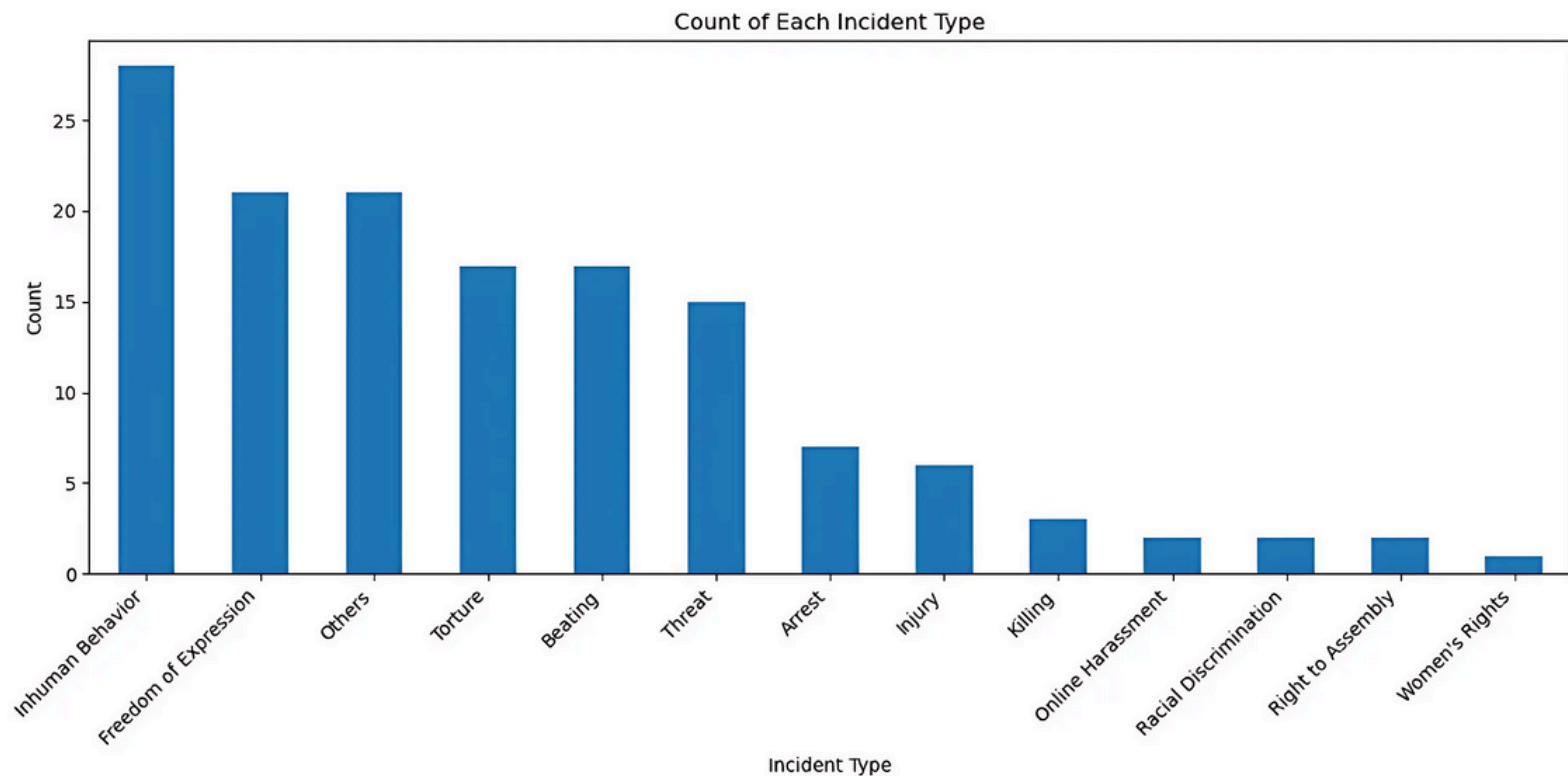
### 11. Women's Rights:

- A few incidents involve violations of women's rights, highlighting the gender-specific challenges faced by LGBTIQ+ women.

### 12. Others:

- A significant portion of incidents fall under the "Others" category, indicating a variety of other challenges faced by the community.

## INSIGHTS OF VARIOUS INCIDENT TYPES

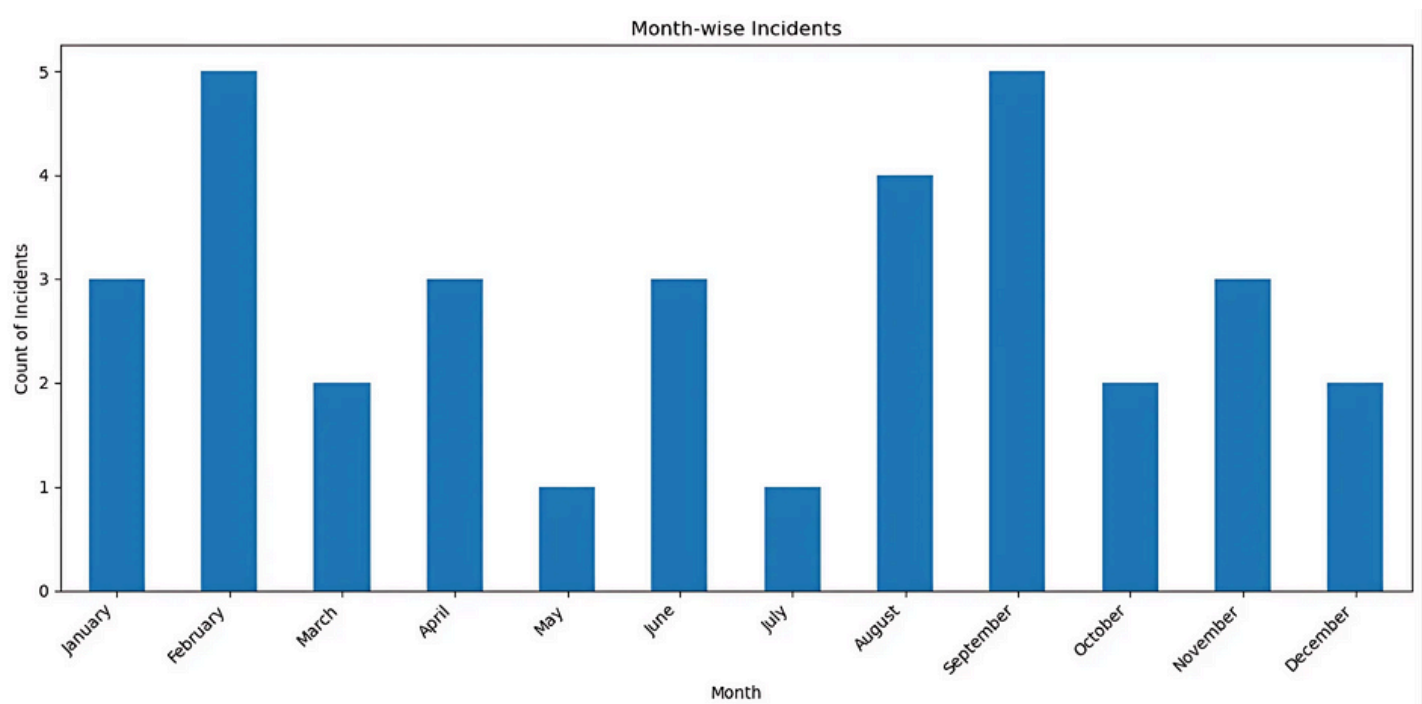


- **Inhuman Behavior:** This is the most frequently reported incident type, with 28 cases.
- **Freedom of Expression and Others:** Both have 21 cases each, indicating significant challenges in these areas.
- **Torture and Beating:** These types of incidents are also common, with 17 cases each.
- **Threats:** There are 15 reported cases of threats.
- **Arrests and Injuries:** These incidents are less frequent but still notable, with 7 and 6 cases respectively.
- **Killings:** There are 3 reported cases of killings, highlighting the extreme violence faced by some individuals.
- **Online Harassment, Racial Discrimination, and Right to Assembly:** Each of these incident types has 2 reported cases.
- **Women's Rights:** There is 1 reported case related to women's rights.

Incident Nature	Count
Freedom of Expression	15
Inhuman Behavior	28
Threat	15
Torture	17
Beating	17
Arrest	7
Killing	3
Online Harassment	2
Racial Discrimination	2
Right to Assembly	2
Women's Rights	1
Others	21

The report highlights "Inhuman Behavior" as the most frequently reported category, with 28 cases. This underscores a deep-seated culture of dehumanization towards LGBTIQ+ individuals, suggesting that discrimination is not just systemic but also normalized within societal structures. The high number of incidents related to "Freedom of Expression" (21 cases) indicates significant suppression, potentially enforced by both state and non-state actors. The presence of physical violence (beatings and torture) and legal repercussions (arrests) further suggests that law enforcement may be complicit in sustaining this hostile environment. While only three killings are reported, the existence of such extreme violence demonstrates an alarming level of danger for LGBTIQ+ individuals.

## MONTH-WISE INCIDENT RATIO

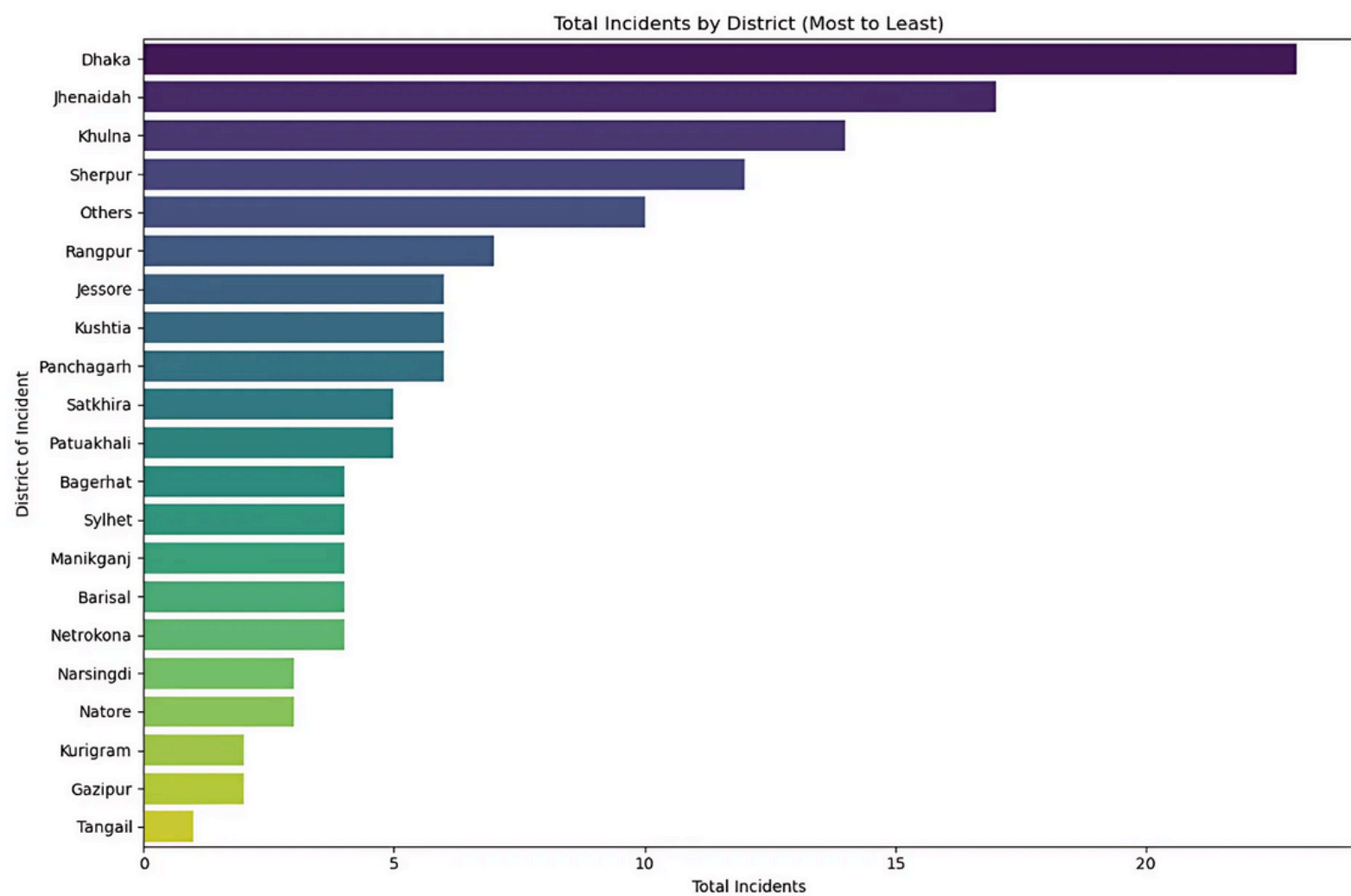


- **February:** This month has the highest number of incidents, indicating a peak in reported cases.
- **September:** Another month with a significant number of incidents.
- **January, March, and April:** These months also have a notable number of incidents.
- **May:** This month has the lowest number of incidents reported.

The highest number of incidents occurring in February, with additional peaks in January, March, April, and September, suggests potential socio-political or religious triggers influencing these spikes. The data would benefit from a correlation analysis with key events, such as political movements, religious festivities, or changes in legislation, to better understand these patterns. The low number of incidents in May could indicate either a genuine reduction in violations or underreporting, warranting further investigation.

## GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

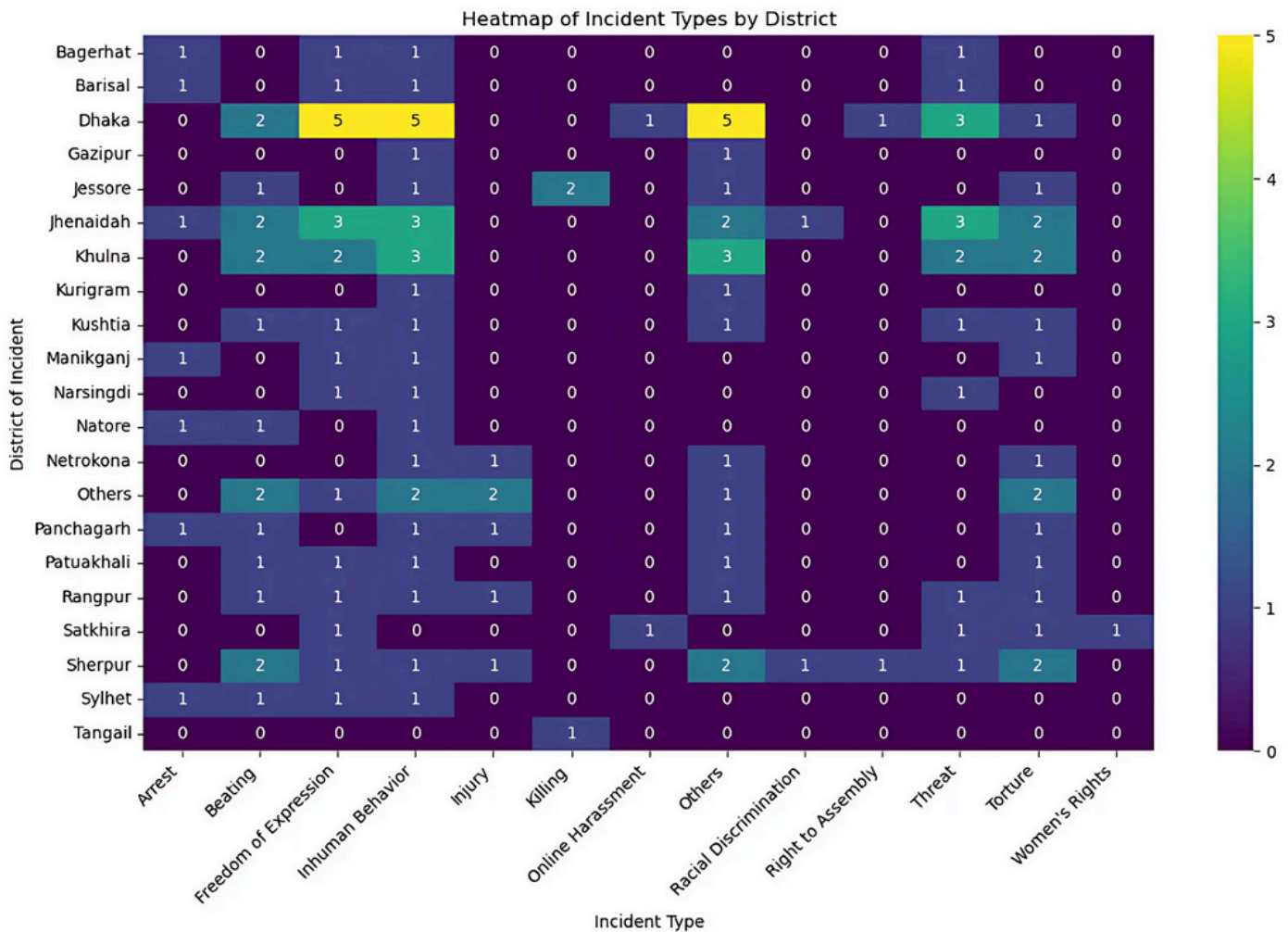
Dhaka being the epicenter of incidents is not surprising given its status as the capital and a highly populated urban center where visibility of LGBTIQ+ individuals is higher. However, the significant occurrences in Sylhet, Jessore, and Jhenaidah point to localized patterns of violence that merit closer examination. It is crucial to determine whether these areas have specific socio-political factors contributing to the heightened targeting of LGBTIQ+ individuals. The distribution of incidents across various districts suggests that discrimination is widespread and not confined to particular regions.



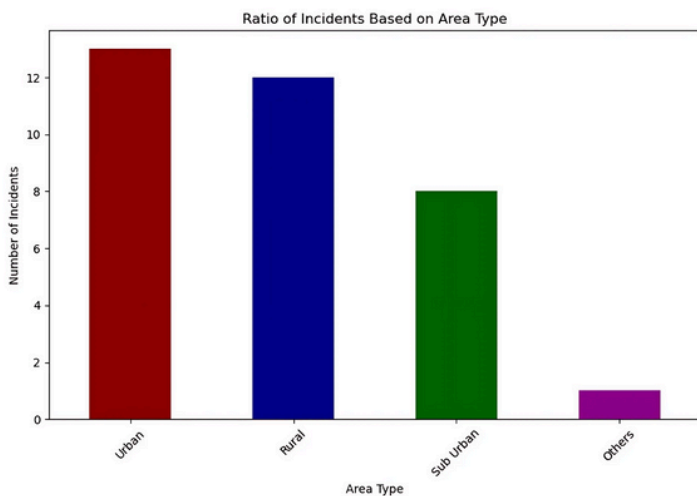
- **Dhaka:** The highest number of incidents, with a variety of types including freedom of expression violations, inhuman behavior, threats, and others.
- **Sylhet:** Notable for incidents involving arrests, beatings, and inhuman behavior.
- **Jessore:** Incidents include killings and inhuman behavior.
- **Jhenaidah:** Multiple incidents involving freedom of expression violations, inhuman behavior, and threats.
- **Other Districts:** Various incidents reported across districts like Satkhira, Rangpur, Narsingdi, Barisal, Manikganj, Gazipur, Natore, Bagerhat, Kushtia, Sherpur, Tangail, Netrokona, Panchagarh, Kurigram, and Patuakhali



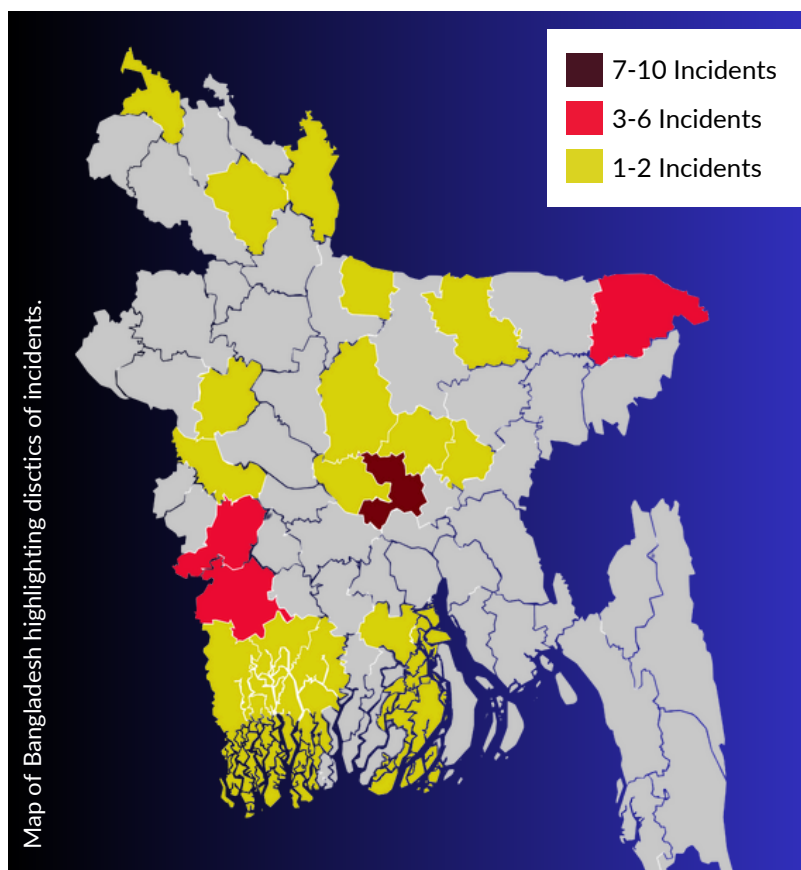
# DISTRICT-WISE INCIDENT HEAT MAP



## DEMOGRAPHY OF INCIDENTS

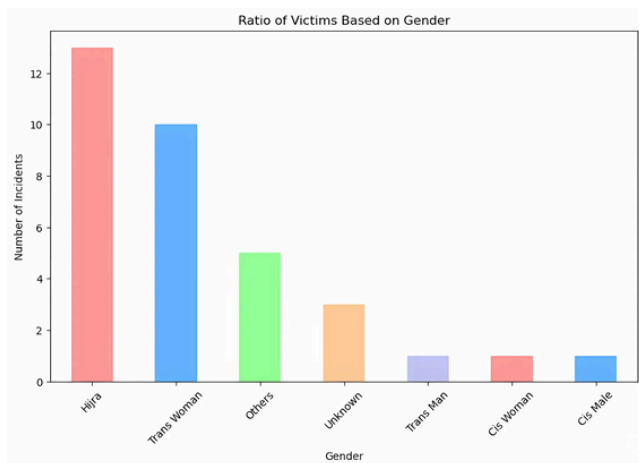


- **Urban Areas:** The highest number of incidents occurred in urban areas.
- **Rural Areas:** A significant portion of incidents also occurred in rural areas.
- **Sub-Urban Areas:** There are notable incidents reported in sub-urban areas.
- **Others:** A smaller number of incidents occurred in areas categorized as "Others."



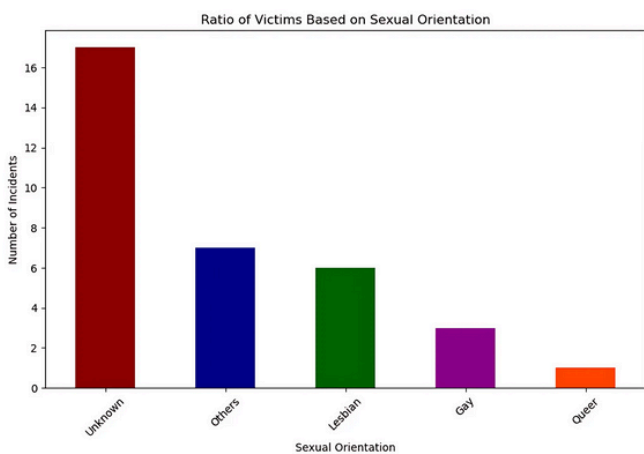


# DEMOGRAPHY OF VICTIMS



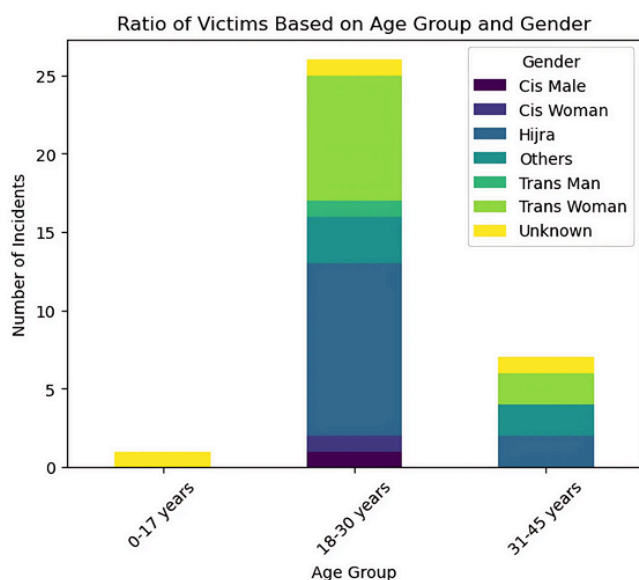
## • Gender:

- Trans Women: The highest number of incidents involve trans women.
- Others: A significant portion of incidents involve individuals identified as "Others."
- Hijra: There are also notable incidents involving hijra individuals.
- Cis Women: A smaller number of incidents involve cis women.
- Unknown: Some incidents involve individuals whose gender is not specified.



## • Sexual Orientation:

- Lesbian: The highest number of incidents involve individuals identified as lesbian.
- Others: A significant portion of incidents involve individuals identified as "Others."
- Gay: There are also notable incidents involving individuals identified as gay.
- Queer: A smaller number of incidents involve individuals identified as queer.
- Unknown: Some incidents involve individuals whose sexual orientation is not specified.



## • Age Group:

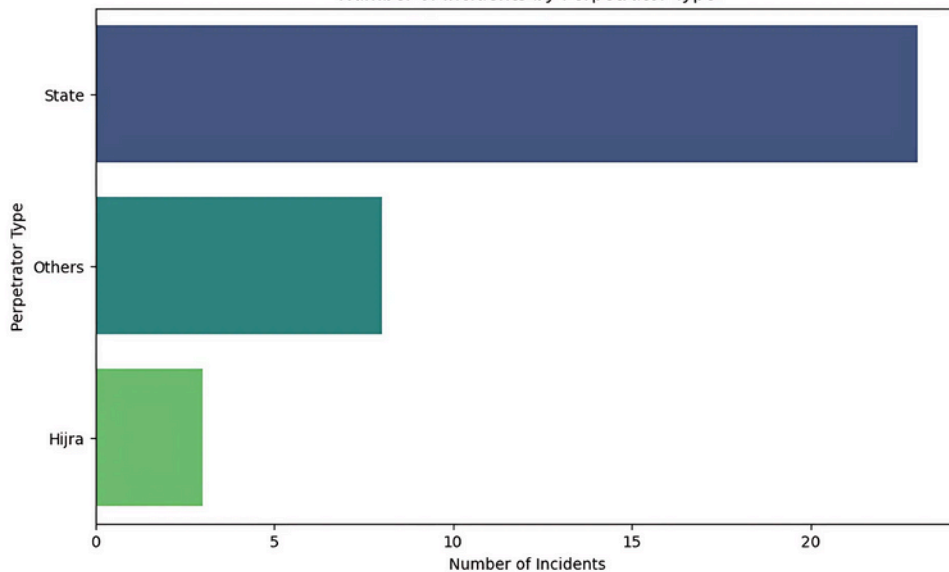
- 18-30 Years: This age group has the highest number of incidents across various genders.
  - Trans Women: A significant number of incidents involve trans women in this age group.
  - Others: There are also many incidents involving individuals identified as "Others."
  - Hijra: Notable incidents involve hijra individuals.
  - Cis Women: A smaller number of incidents involve cis women.
- 31-45 Years: This age group also has a notable number of incidents.
  - Trans Women: A significant portion of incidents involve trans women.
  - Others: There are incidents involving individuals identified as "Others."
  - Hijra: Some incidents involve hijra individuals.
- 0-17 Years: There are incidents reported in this age group as well.
  - Trans Women: Incidents involving trans women are present.
  - Others: Some incidents involve individuals identified as "Others."
  - Cis Women: A few incidents involve cis women.

## • Comparative Analysis

- **Trans Women:** Across all age groups, trans women are frequently targeted, indicating a high level of vulnerability and discrimination faced by this group.
- **Others:** Individuals identified as "Others" also face significant incidents, highlighting the challenges faced by those who do not conform to traditional gender categories.
- **Hijra:** The Hijra community faces notable incidents, particularly in the 18-30 years age group.
- **Cis Women:** While fewer in number, cis women also face incidents, particularly in the younger age groups.

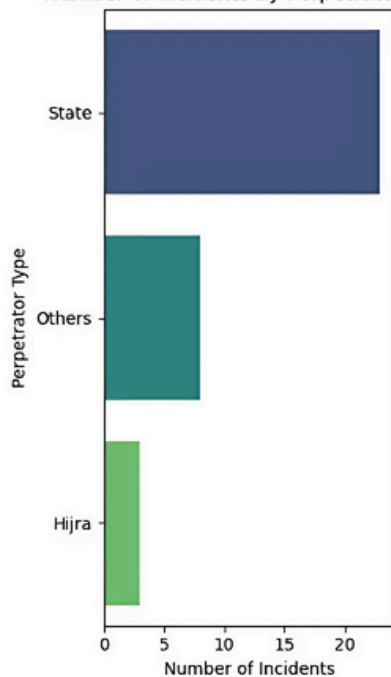
# OVERVIEW OF PERPATRATORS

Number of Incidents by Perpetrator Type

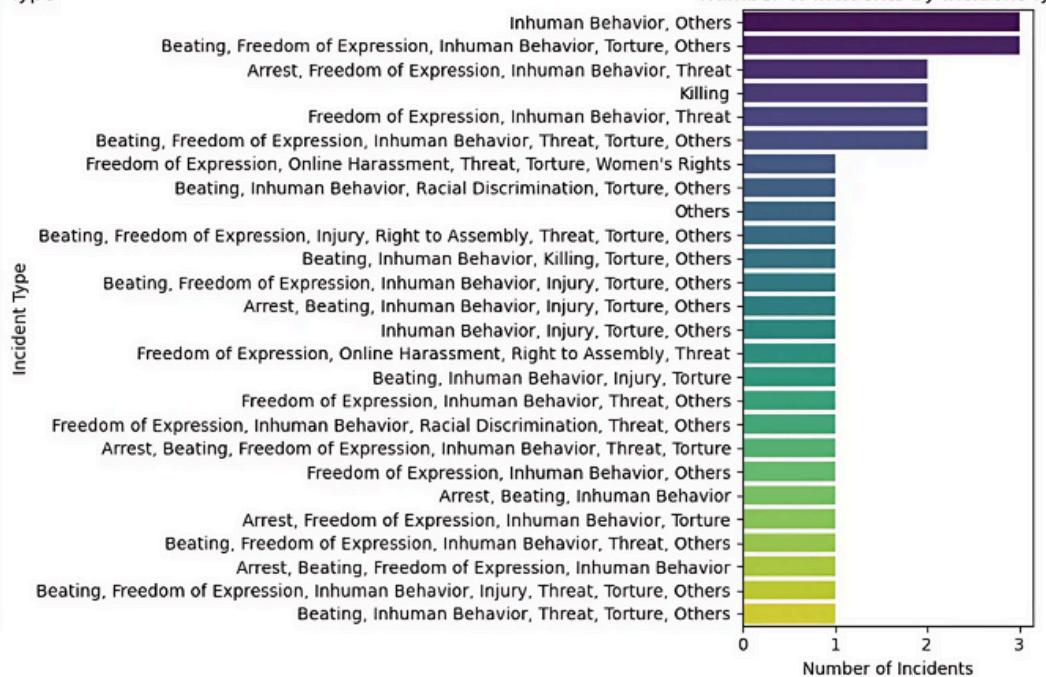


- Perpetrators:
  - **State:** 23 incidents
  - **Others:** 8 incidents
  - **Hijra:** 3 incidents

Number of Incidents by Perpetrator Type



Number of Incidents by Incident Type



- State Perpetrators:
  - The most common incident type is "Arrest, Freedom of Expression, Inhuman Behaviour, Threat" with 2 incidents.
  - Other frequent incident types include "Beating, Freedom of Expression, Inhuman Behaviour" and "Inhuman Behaviour, Others".
- Other Perpetrators:
  - The most common incident type is "Freedom of Expression, Inhuman Behavior, Threat" with 1 incident.
  - Other frequent incident types include "Arrest, Beating, Inhuman Behaviour, Injury, Torture" and "Freedom of Expression, Online Harassment, Threat".

This comparison highlights that state perpetrators are more frequently involved in incidents involving multiple violations such as arrest, freedom of expression, inhuman behavior, and threats. In contrast, other perpetrators have a more varied distribution of incident types.

# Highlights of the Year

## January 2024 - Textbook Chapter

---

In January 2024, a part-time lecturer at a university publicly tore pages from a seventh-grade textbook during a seminar, claiming it promoted homosexual and transgender concepts. This act sparked significant controversy, with a viral video leading to widespread debate. The university chose not to renew the lecturer's contract, prompting protests from students who accused the institution of promoting LGBTQ+ agendas and organized demonstrations.

The incident fueled anti-LGBTQ+ sentiments, leading to increased discrimination and hostility towards the community. Public figures and politicians made derogatory remarks, further marginalizing LGBTQ+ individuals. The Ministry of Education formed a committee to review the contentious textbook chapter, which recommended omitting the story after four months. These events heightened anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric and actions, contributing to a climate of fear and repression for the LGBTQ+ community.

## June 2024 - Employment Restrictions

---

In June 2024, a private bank and a group of companies that hired transgender individuals imposed direct and indirect restrictions on their transgender employees' social media usage, public presence, and mentioning their employment affiliation in public due to increased anti-transgender movements. This caused those transgender employees to face isolation within their workspace, bullying, harassment, and significant humiliation by their immediate supervisors. Some transgender employees, who were also active in human rights advocacy and had temporary employment contracts, were sent on paid leave for months ahead of their contract expiry. While some received contract renewals, others received end-of-employment letters without any stated reason.

## August 2024 - Escalation of Violence

---

From August onwards, violence against transgender and Hijra people surged throughout the country. Several armed assailants attacked Hijra residences, vandalized property, and physically assaulted and publicly humiliated residents. One transgender person was reported killed. While many incidents of violence occurred, the majority remained unreported and thus were not included in this report.

# Conclusion & Recommendations

The findings of this report reveal a distressing reality for LGBTIQ+ individuals in Bangladesh, who face systemic discrimination, violence, and legal challenges. The patterns of abuse, including inhuman behavior, threats, torture, physical violence, and even killings, indicate an urgent need for immediate interventions. The suppression of freedom of expression, targeted arrests, and employment discrimination further emphasize the extent to which the fundamental rights of LGBTIQ+ people are being violated. Additionally, the geographical distribution of incidents suggests that discrimination is not localized but widespread across both urban and rural areas.

To address these violations and ensure the protection of LGBTIQ+ individuals, a multi-stakeholder approach involving civil society, international organizations, government agencies, and grassroots activists is essential. Below are key recommendations:

## 1. Strengthening Legal Protections

- **Decriminalization of Same-Sex Relationships:** The government must repeal Section 377 of the Penal Code, which criminalizes same-sex relationships and is often used to justify discrimination and violence.
- **Anti-Discrimination Legislation:** Enacting and enforcing anti-discrimination laws specific to gender identity and sexual orientation to protect LGBTIQ+ individuals from employment, housing, healthcare, and educational discrimination.
- **Legal Gender Recognition:** Implementing a simple and accessible legal gender recognition process for transgender and non-binary individuals without invasive medical or psychological requirements.

## 2. Law Enforcement Accountability and Training

- **Police Sensitization Programs:** Providing mandatory human rights training to law enforcement officers on gender and sexual diversity to prevent harassment and wrongful arrests.
- **Monitoring and Redress Mechanisms:** Establishing independent human rights monitoring bodies to investigate and address cases of police brutality and state-led violence against LGBTIQ+ individuals.
- **Inclusive Law Enforcement Practices:** Encouraging the recruitment of openly LGBTIQ+ individuals in law enforcement and security services to foster institutional inclusivity.

### 3. Safeguarding Freedom of Expression and Assembly

- **Protecting LGBTIQ+ Advocates:** Ensuring safety for activists, journalists, and human rights defenders who speak out against discrimination.
- **Preventing Censorship:** Halting book bans, online content removal, and academic restrictions that target LGBTIQ+ narratives and discussions.
- **Recognition of Pride and Public Gatherings:** Ensuring that LGBTIQ+ organizations can organize community events, Pride marches, and awareness campaigns without threats of violence or state suppression.

### 4. Addressing Social Stigma and Violence

- **Public Awareness Campaigns:** Launching educational initiatives to counter misinformation and challenge deep-seated prejudices against LGBTIQ+ people.
- **Engaging Religious and Cultural Leaders:** Collaborating with progressive faith leaders and cultural figures to promote messages of inclusion and non-discrimination.
- **Community-Based Protection Mechanisms:** Establishing safe houses, legal aid services, and emergency response hotlines for LGBTIQ+ individuals facing immediate threats.

### 5. Inclusive Economic and Employment Policies

- **Workplace Protections:** Ensuring that both private and public sector workplaces have non-discrimination policies and diversity training.
- **Access to Financial Services:** Encouraging financial institutions to adopt inclusive policies, allowing LGBTIQ+ individuals to open bank accounts and access credit without fear of discrimination.
- **Skills Development and Employment Programs:** Creating employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for transgender and marginalized LGBTIQ+ individuals through government and private sector partnerships.

### 6. International Advocacy and Diplomatic Pressure

- **UN and Human Rights Bodies Engagement:** Encouraging international human rights organizations and the United Nations to increase pressure on the Bangladeshi government to uphold LGBTIQ+ rights.
- **Leveraging Foreign Aid Conditions:** Advocating for international donors and development partners to link aid and trade agreements to human rights improvements for LGBTIQ+ individuals.
- **Regional Collaboration:** Strengthening alliances with South Asian LGBTIQ+ organizations to push for regional human rights standards and protections.

The human rights violations faced by LGBTIQ+ individuals in Bangladesh are deeply rooted in social, political, and legal structures that enable discrimination and violence. This report highlights an urgent need for systemic changes, from legal reforms to cultural transformation, to ensure that LGBTIQ+ individuals can live with dignity and equality. While the challenges are significant, proactive measures, international solidarity, and community resilience can pave the way for a more inclusive and just society. Inclusive Bangladesh and its partners remain committed to advocating for these necessary changes and supporting LGBTIQ+ individuals in their fight for fundamental rights and recognition.

END OF DOCUMENT



