

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS
AGAINST LGBTIQ+ PEOPLE IN
BANGLADESH

FEBRUARY 2026

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ANNUAL REPORT 2025 ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS OF LGBTIQ+ PEOPLE OF BANGLADESH

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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.

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MONITOR

Community-led LGBTIQ+ Human Rights Violations Monitoring Project in 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, Prantoz 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.

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Preface

Inclusive Bangladesh is a transgender-led human rights organisation committed to advancing equality, dignity, and justice for LGBTIQ+ people in Bangladesh. Through community-led documentation, advocacy, and rights-based reporting, we seek to ensure that lived experiences of discrimination and violence are systematically recorded and transformed into evidence for accountability and reform.

This 2025 Annual Report presents findings from our Community-Led Human Rights Violations Monitoring Initiative, documenting violations experienced by LGBTIQ+ individuals across Bangladesh between January and December 2025. The report reflects incidents recorded through survivor testimony, community focal points, digital reporting, and verified secondary sources.

The purpose of this report is to:

- Document patterns of human rights violations against LGBTIQ+ people
- Strengthen evidence-based advocacy at national and international levels
- Inform policy dialogue, protection mechanisms, and institutional reform

All data has been anonymised to protect survivors and reporters.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The 2025 Annual Report documents 41 verified incidents of human rights violations against LGBTIQ+ individuals across Bangladesh. These incidents were recorded through Inclusive Bangladesh's community-led monitoring mechanism, incorporating survivor testimonies, community focal reporting, and corroborated secondary sources. Due to fear of retaliation, stigma, and safety risks, many violations remain unreported; therefore, the documented cases represent only a portion of the actual scale of abuse. The report aims to identify patterns of violations, assess the nature of harm experienced, and inform advocacy, policy reform, and protection mechanisms for LGBTIQ+ people.

KEY FINDINGS

1. Incident Types

The most frequently documented human rights violations in 2025 include:

- Inhuman or degrading treatment, representing the most common form of abuse and reflecting routine humiliation, harassment, and demeaning conduct.
- Discrimination, affecting access to services, employment, housing, and social participation.
- Threats and intimidation, often linked to gender expression, activism, or perceived non-conformity.
- Beatings and physical assault, indicating continued exposure to violence.
- Torture and severe abuse, including prolonged physical or psychological harm.
- Violations of freedom of expression, restricting visibility, speech, and identity.
- Arbitrary arrest and detention, alongside violations of due process and fair trial rights.

Many incidents involved multiple violations simultaneously, compounding harm and increasing vulnerability.

2. Monthly Insights

Incidents were reported throughout the year, with notable variation across months:

- **May** recorded the highest number of incidents.
- **March** and **July** also showed elevated reporting.
- **April** and **November** recorded moderate concentrations.
- Other months recorded fewer but consistent incidents, demonstrating year-round risk rather than isolated events.

3. Geographical Distribution

Violations were reported across multiple districts in Bangladesh.

- **Dhaka** recorded the highest number of incidents, reflecting both population density and increased visibility of LGBTIQ+ individuals.
- Other districts, including **Khulna, Jashore, Chandpur, Jhenaidah**, and additional locations, also reported incidents, demonstrating that violations are geographically widespread and not confined to metropolitan areas.

4. Victim Demographics

- **Gender Identity:** Incidents affected Hijra individuals, transgender women, non-binary persons, cisgender men and women, and individuals whose gender identity could not be safely disclosed.
- **Location:** The majority of incidents occurred in urban areas, followed by suburban and rural locations.
- **Age Group:** Individuals aged 18–30 years faced the highest number of reported incidents, indicating disproportionate exposure among young LGBTIQ+ people navigating education, employment, and public life.

5. Perpetrators

Reported perpetrators included:

- State actors, particularly law enforcement and local authorities.
- Local community members and neighbours.
- Political, religious, or social groups.
- Criminal networks or gangs.

Several incidents involved multiple perpetrator types, highlighting the intersection of social hostility and institutional abuse.

IMPLICATIONS

Urgent Implications

- **Targeted Interventions:** Immediate protection mechanisms are required for gender-diverse and young LGBTIQ+ individuals.
- **Age-Specific Support:** Youth-focused safety, legal, and mental-health services are essential.
- **Awareness and Education:** Addressing stigma and misinformation remains critical.

Social Implications

- **Widespread Discrimination:** Persistent social exclusion underscores the lack of societal acceptance.
- **Physical and Psychological Harm:** Survivors face long-term trauma, health impacts, and economic insecurity.
- **Impact on Freedom of Expression:** Suppression of identity limits visibility, representation, and civic participation.

Legal and Policy Implications

- **Need for Legal Protections:** Stronger anti-discrimination and equality laws are essential.
- **Law Enforcement Training:** Sensitisation and accountability mechanisms are urgently required.
- **Policy Reforms:** Legal frameworks must address gender identity, sexual orientation, and procedural safeguards.

Community and Advocacy Implications

- **Strengthening Advocacy Efforts:** Evidence-based data supports national and international advocacy.
- **Community Support Systems:** Safe networks and survivor-centred services remain vital.
- **Public Awareness Campaigns:** Cultural change is necessary to reduce stigma and violence.

International Implications

- **Global Attention:** Documentation can inform international human rights mechanisms.
- **Funding and Support:** International partners play a critical role in sustaining local monitoring and protection initiatives.

CONCLUSION

The 2025 findings demonstrate that LGBTIQ+ individuals in Bangladesh continue to face systemic discrimination, violence, and institutional abuse. Addressing these violations requires legal reform, law enforcement accountability, protection of fundamental freedoms, and sustained community-based advocacy. Structural change, combined with social transformation and international engagement, is essential to ensure dignity, safety, and equality for LGBTIQ+ people in Bangladesh.

DETAILED REPORT

INTRODUCTION

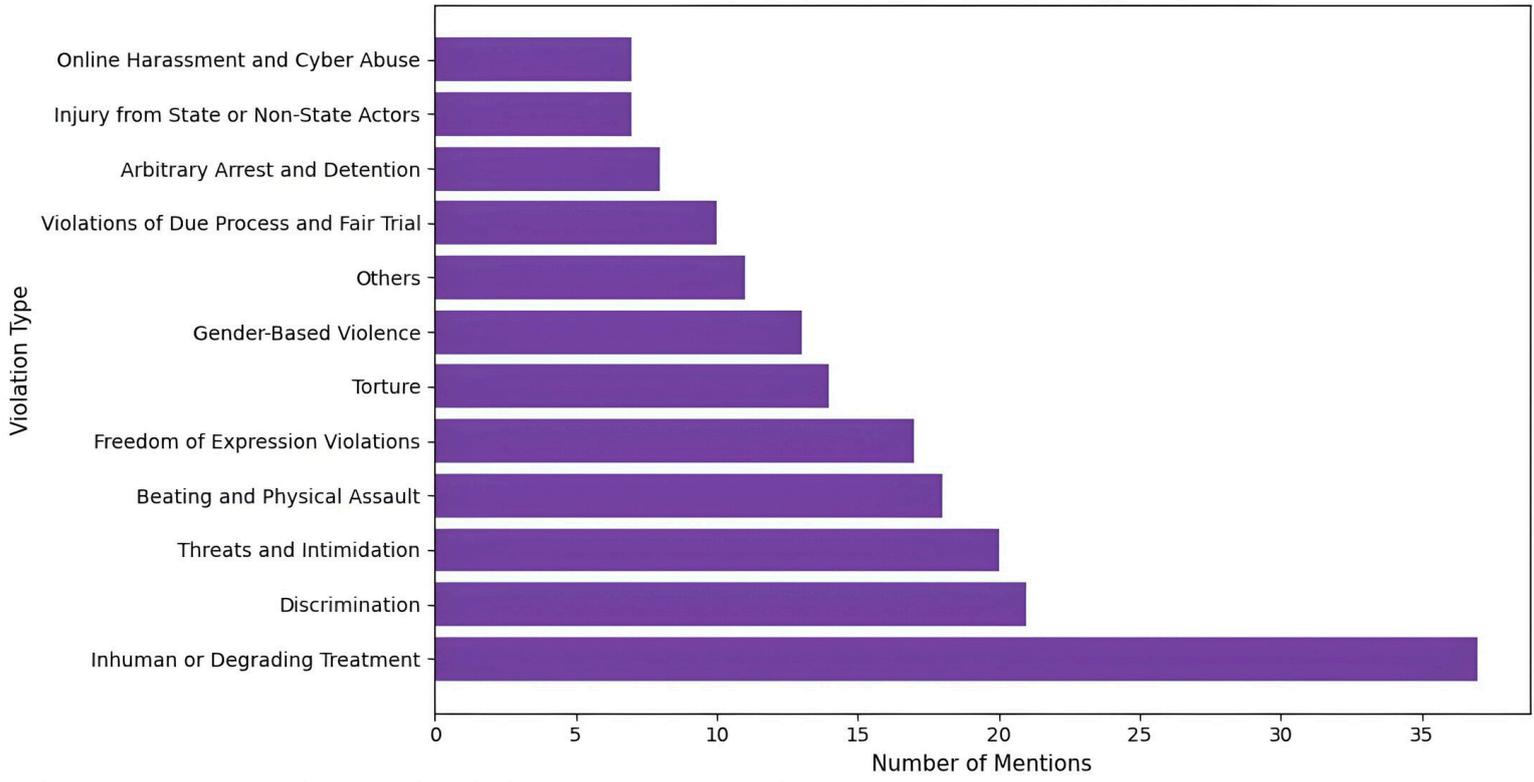
In 2025, LGBTIQ+ individuals in Bangladesh continued to face widespread human rights violations within a context of social polarisation, constrained civic space, and persistent structural discrimination. Sexual and gender minorities experienced heightened exposure to harassment, intimidation, and violence, particularly where visibility, activism, or gender non-conformity intersected with conservative social norms. Data collected through community-led monitoring indicates that violations were both systematic and intersectional in nature. Documented incidents included inhuman and degrading treatment, discrimination, physical violence, restrictions on freedom of expression, and procedural abuses such as arbitrary arrest and violations of due process. These harms occurred across urban, suburban, and rural areas, demonstrating that risks are nationwide and not confined to specific localities. This report presents a structured analysis of human rights violations affecting LGBTIQ+ individuals in Bangladesh during 2025, based on verified cases documented by Inclusive Bangladesh. By examining patterns of abuse, victim profiles, geographic distribution, and perpetrator involvement, the report contributes evidence for national and international human rights mechanisms. The findings underscore the urgent need for strengthened legal protections, accountability of state and non-state actors, and comprehensive measures to ensure equality, dignity, and safety for LGBTIQ+ people in Bangladesh.

SUMMARY OF INCIDENT NATURES

- 1. Inhuman or Degrading Treatment:** The most frequently reported nature of violation, highlighting the widespread prevalence of degrading, humiliating, and dehumanising treatment faced by LGBTIQ+ individuals. This includes verbal abuse, public shaming, harassment, and coercive behaviour aimed at suppressing gender expression and sexual identity.
- 2. Discrimination:** A significant number of incidents involve discrimination, reflecting systemic exclusion of LGBTIQ+ individuals from employment, housing, healthcare, education, and access to public services.
- 3. Freedom of Expression:** Violations of freedom of expression are prominent, indicating persistent challenges faced by LGBTIQ+ individuals in expressing their identities openly, participating in advocacy, or engaging in peaceful public discourse.
- 4. Threats and Intimidation:** A considerable number of incidents involve threats and intimidation, including threats of violence, eviction, arrest, or social exclusion, reflecting the severe risks faced by the community.
- 5. Torture:** Incidents involving torture and severe abuse indicate the physical and psychological harm inflicted on LGBTIQ+ individuals, often in custodial or coercive contexts.
- 6. Beating:** Physical violence remains a serious concern, with multiple incidents involving beatings and assault in both public and private spaces.
- 7. Arbitrary Arrest and Detention:** Legal challenges are evident, with several incidents involving arbitrary arrest or detention of LGBTIQ+ individuals, frequently without due legal process or clear justification.
- 8. Violation of Due Process and Fair Trial Rights:** Some incidents highlight procedural abuses, including denial of legal representation, intimidation during questioning, and prolonged or unlawful detention.
- 9. Online Harassment:** A smaller number of incidents involve online harassment, demonstrating the extension of discrimination and abuse into digital spaces, including threats, hate speech, and targeted harassment.
- 10. Racial and Intersectional Discrimination:** Certain incidents reflect racial or intersectional discrimination, highlighting the compounded vulnerabilities faced by LGBTIQ+ individuals belonging to ethnic, religious, or marginalised social groups.
- 11. Right to Assembly:** Violations of the right to assembly are reported, indicating restrictions on organising, attending community gatherings, or participating in peaceful collective activities.
- 12. Women's Rights:** Some incidents involve violations of women's rights, particularly affecting transgender women and gender-diverse individuals, underscoring gender-specific vulnerabilities and discrimination.
- 13. Others:** A number of incidents fall under the "Others" category, capturing additional forms of harm not confined to a single classification, including economic exclusion, forced displacement, and social ostracism.

INSIGHTS OF VARIOUS TYPES OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Top Human Rights Violation Types (2025)

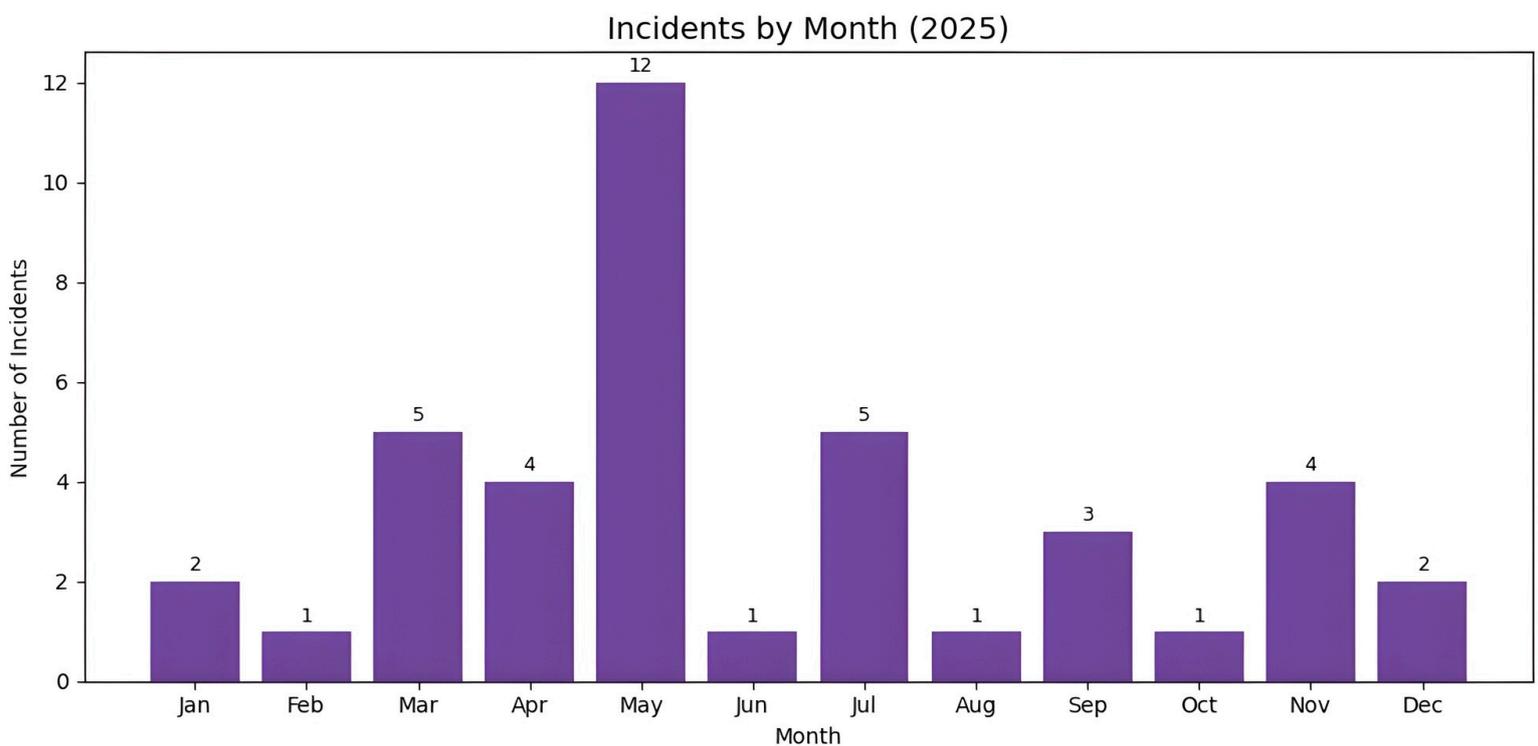


Data documented in 2025 indicates that inhuman or degrading treatment is the most frequently reported violation affecting LGBTIQ+ individuals, with 37 mentions, followed by discrimination (21) and threats and intimidation (20), reflecting pervasive social and institutional harm. Physical violence, including beatings (18) and torture (14), remains a significant concern, alongside violations of freedom of expression (17).

Procedural abuses were also reported, including violations of due process and fair trial rights (10) and arbitrary arrest and detention (8). Gender-based violence (13), online harassment (7), and injuries caused by state or non-state actors (7) further illustrate the intersectional nature of these violations. Additional concerns include violations of women's rights (6), restrictions on freedom of assembly (4), and child rights violations (3). These findings indicate persistent and systemic human rights challenges requiring strengthened legal protections and accountability mechanisms in line with international obligations.

Types of Violations	Count
Inhuman or Degrading Treatment	37
Discrimination	21
Threats and Intimidation	20
Beating and Physical Assault	18
Freedom of Expression Violations	17
Torture	14
Gender-Based Violence	13
Others	11
Violations of Due Process and Fair Trial	10
Arbitrary Arrest and Detention	8
Online Harassment and Cyber Abuse	7
Injury from State or Non-State Actors	7
Violation of Women's Rights	6
Freedom of Assembly Violations	4
Child Rights Violations	3

MONTH-WISE INCIDENT RATIO

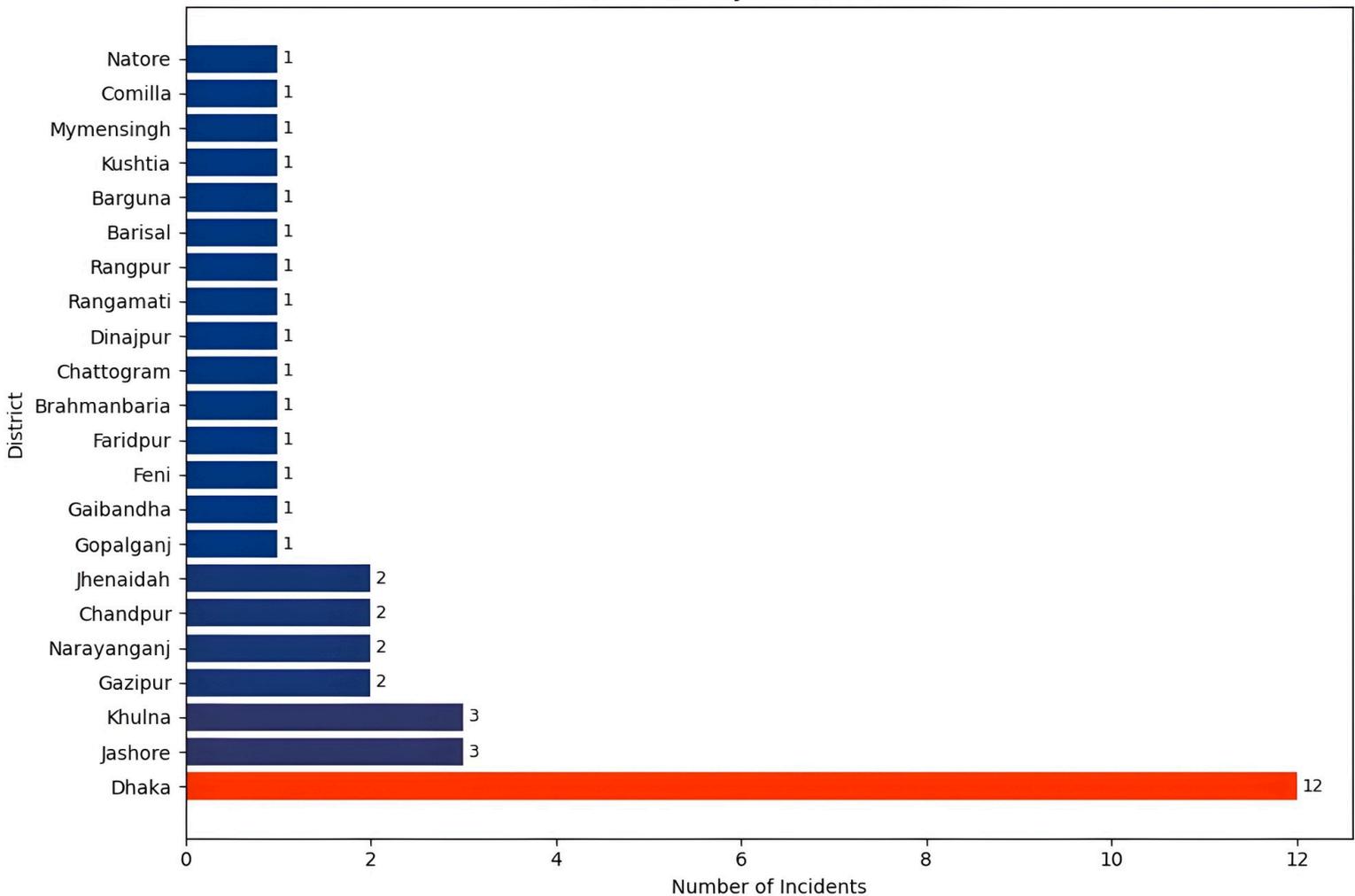


- **May:** This month records the highest number of incidents, indicating a clear peak in reported cases.
- **March and July:** These months also show a notable number of incidents, representing secondary peaks during the year.
- **April and November:** Both months record moderate levels of incidents, indicating continued risk during these periods.
- **January, February, June, August, and October:** These months report lower numbers of incidents, though violations were still present, demonstrating year-round vulnerability.

The concentration of incidents in May, with additional peaks observed in March and July, suggests the presence of contextual factors that may be influencing periods of heightened risk for LGBTIQ+ individuals. These fluctuations may be linked to socio-political developments, community-level dynamics, or heightened visibility during specific periods. Further correlation analysis with key events—such as political activities, public demonstrations, religious observances, or administrative actions—would assist in identifying underlying drivers of these spikes. Conversely, months with lower reported incidents may reflect either a temporary reduction in violations or limitations in reporting and documentation, underscoring the need for continued monitoring and qualitative investigation.

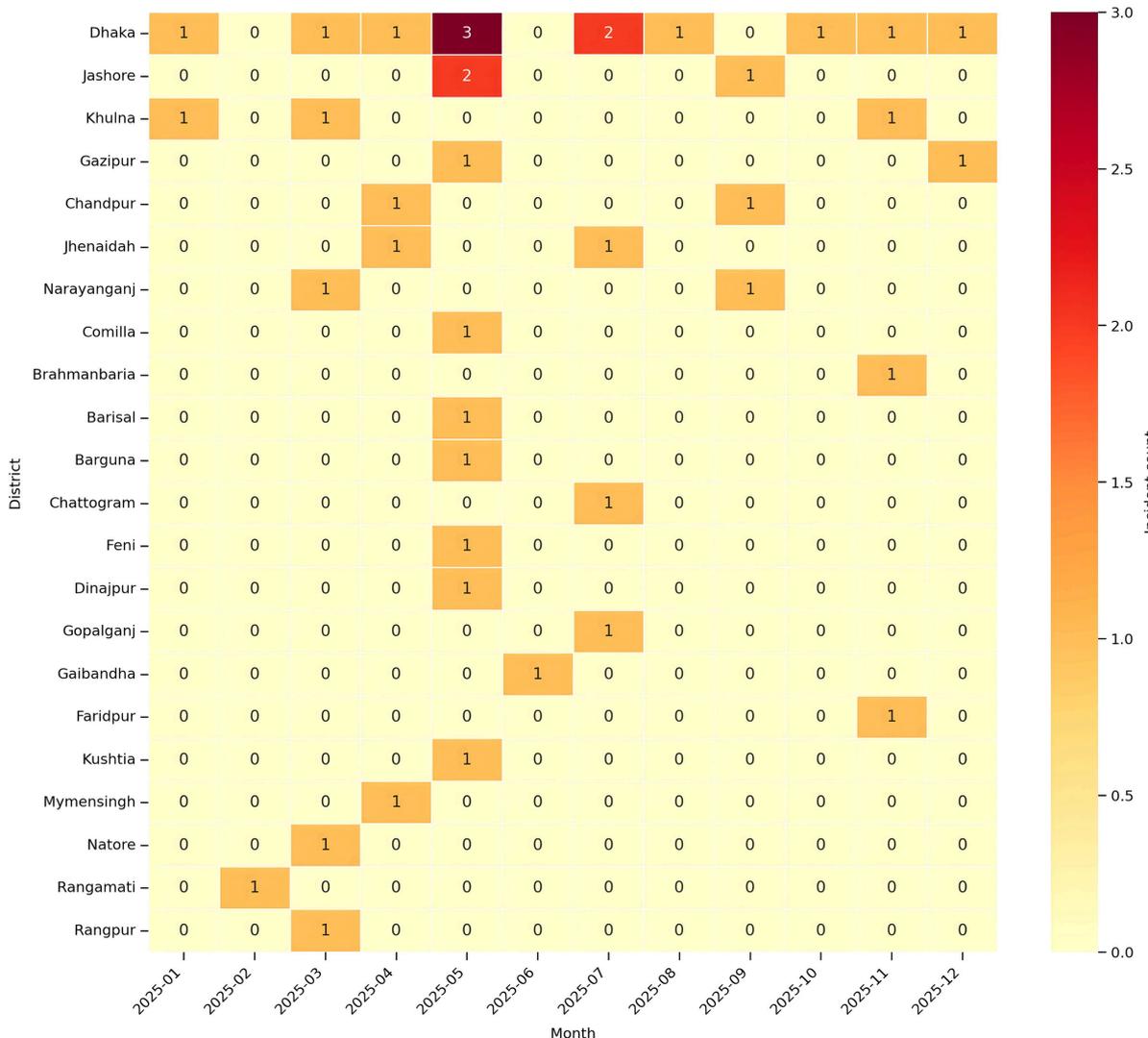
Dhaka's position as the primary concentration of reported incidents is consistent with its role as the capital and a densely populated urban centre, where LGBTIQ+ visibility, community presence, and reporting mechanisms are comparatively higher. However, the recurrence of incidents in Jashore, Khulna, Gazipur, Narayanganj, Chandpur, and Jhenaidah indicates the presence of localized patterns of violence beyond the capital. These trends warrant closer examination to assess whether specific socio-political, cultural, or administrative factors contribute to heightened targeting of LGBTIQ+ individuals in these areas. The reporting of incidents across a wide range of additional districts further suggests that discrimination and violence against LGBTIQ+ people are geographically widespread and not confined to specific regions.

Incidents by District (2025)



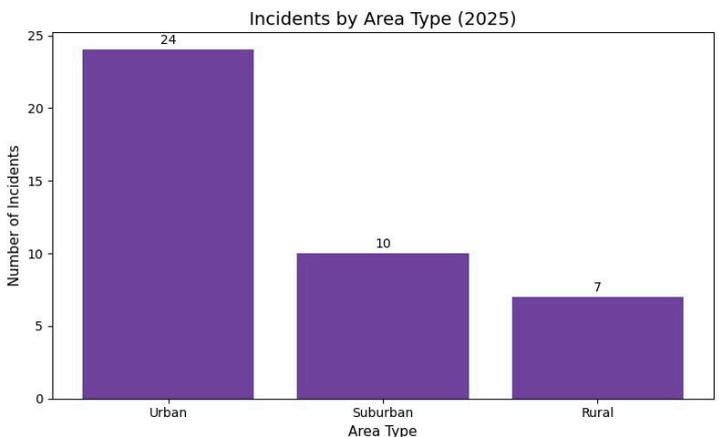
- **Dhaka:** Records the highest number of incidents, encompassing a wide range of violation types, including inhuman or degrading treatment, discrimination, threats and intimidation, freedom of expression violations, and physical violence.
- **Jashore and Khulna:** Both districts report multiple incidents, indicating recurring patterns of violations, including inhuman treatment, threats, and physical assault.
- **Gazipur, Narayanganj, Chandpur, and Jhenaidah:** These districts record moderate numbers of incidents, involving violations such as inhuman behaviour, discrimination, threats, and restrictions on freedom of expression.
- **Other Districts:** Incidents are reported across a range of districts including Gopalganj, Gaibandha, Feni, Faridpur, Brahmanbaria, Chattogram, Dinajpur, Rangamati, Rangpur, Barisal, Barguna, Kushtia, Mymensingh, Comilla, and Natore, reflecting the geographically widespread nature of human rights violations against LGBTIQ+ individuals.

District-wise incident heatmap (District x Month), 2025

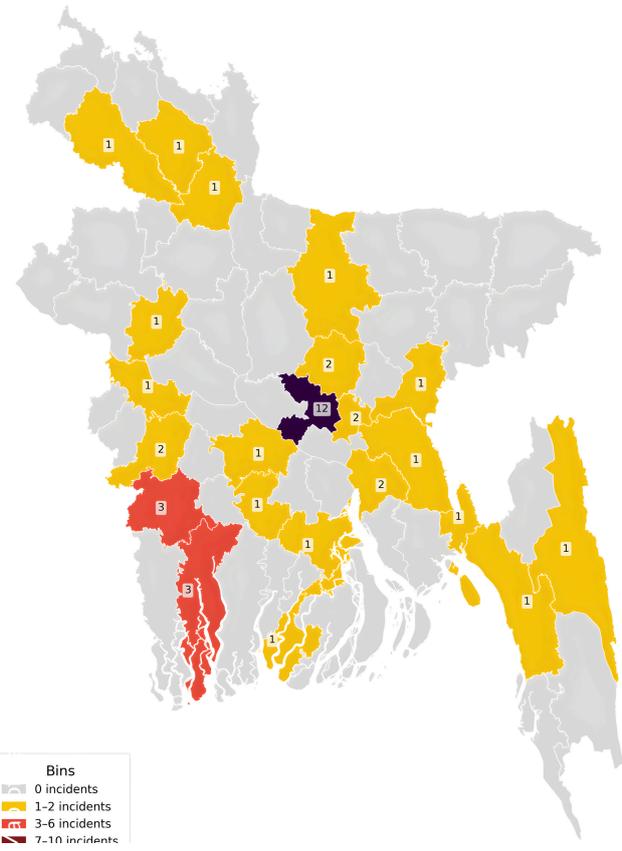


DISTRICT-WISE INCIDENT HEAT MAP

DEMOGRAPHY OF INCIDENTS



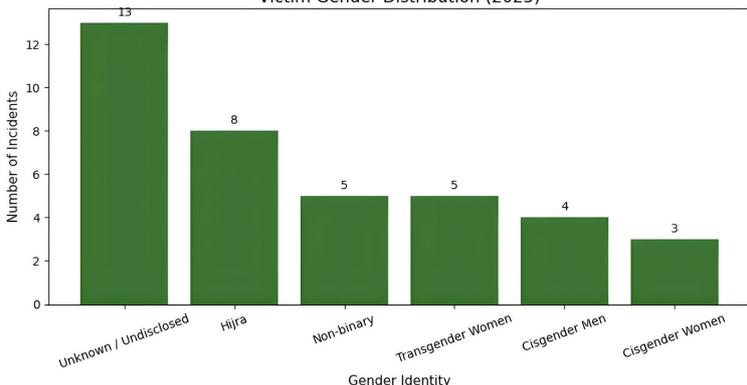
- **Urban Areas:** The highest number of incidents occurred in urban areas, reflecting greater visibility of LGBTIQ+ individuals and higher reporting capacity in metropolitan settings.
- **Suburban Areas:** A notable number of incidents were reported in suburban areas, indicating that risks extend beyond city centres into peri-urban communities.
- **Rural Areas:** A significant portion of incidents also occurred in rural areas, highlighting continued vulnerability despite lower visibility and reporting mechanisms.



Bangladesh: District-wise Incident Density (2025 monitoring data)
Numbers indicate incident records per district

DEMOGRAPHY OF VICTIMS

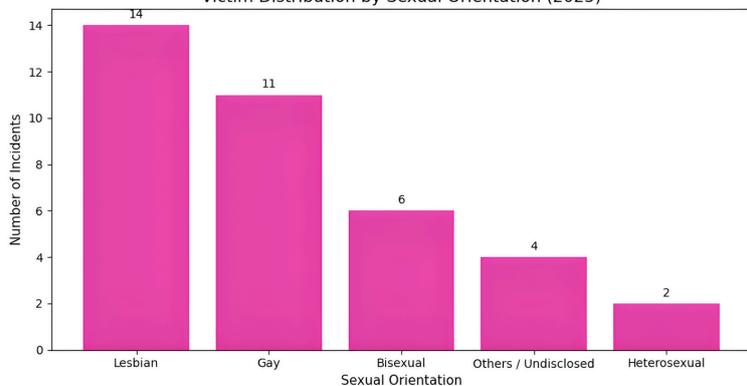
Victim Gender Distribution (2025)



Gender Distribution:

- **Unknown / Undisclosed:** The highest number of incidents involve individuals whose gender identity was not specified, reflecting safety concerns and limitations in disclosure during reporting.
- **Hijra:** A significant number of incidents involve hijra individuals, indicating continued vulnerability and targeted discrimination.
- **Transgender Women:** There are notable incidents involving transgender women, highlighting persistent exposure to violence and rights violations.
- **Non-binary Individuals:** Several incidents involve non-binary individuals, demonstrating risks faced by gender-diverse persons.
- **Cisgender Men and Cisgender Women:** A smaller number of incidents involve cisgender men and cisgender women.

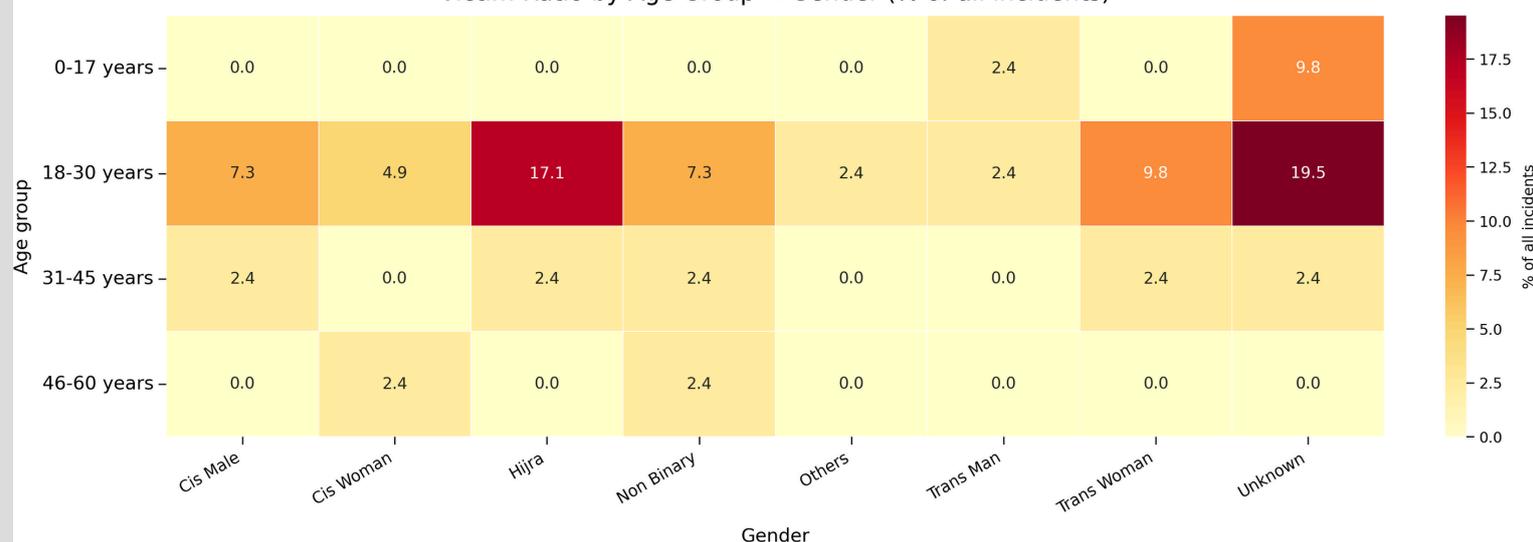
Victim Distribution by Sexual Orientation (2025)



Sexual Orientation Distribution:

- **Lesbian:** The highest number of incidents involve individuals identified as lesbian, indicating significant exposure to discrimination and violence.
- **Gay:** There are notable incidents involving individuals identified as gay, reflecting continued vulnerability within this group.
- **Bisexual:** A smaller but significant number of incidents involve bisexual individuals, highlighting intersectional risks.
- **Others / Undisclosed:** Several incidents involve individuals whose sexual orientation was recorded as "Others" or not disclosed, reflecting safety concerns and reporting limitations.
- **Heterosexual:** A limited number of incidents involve individuals identified as heterosexual.

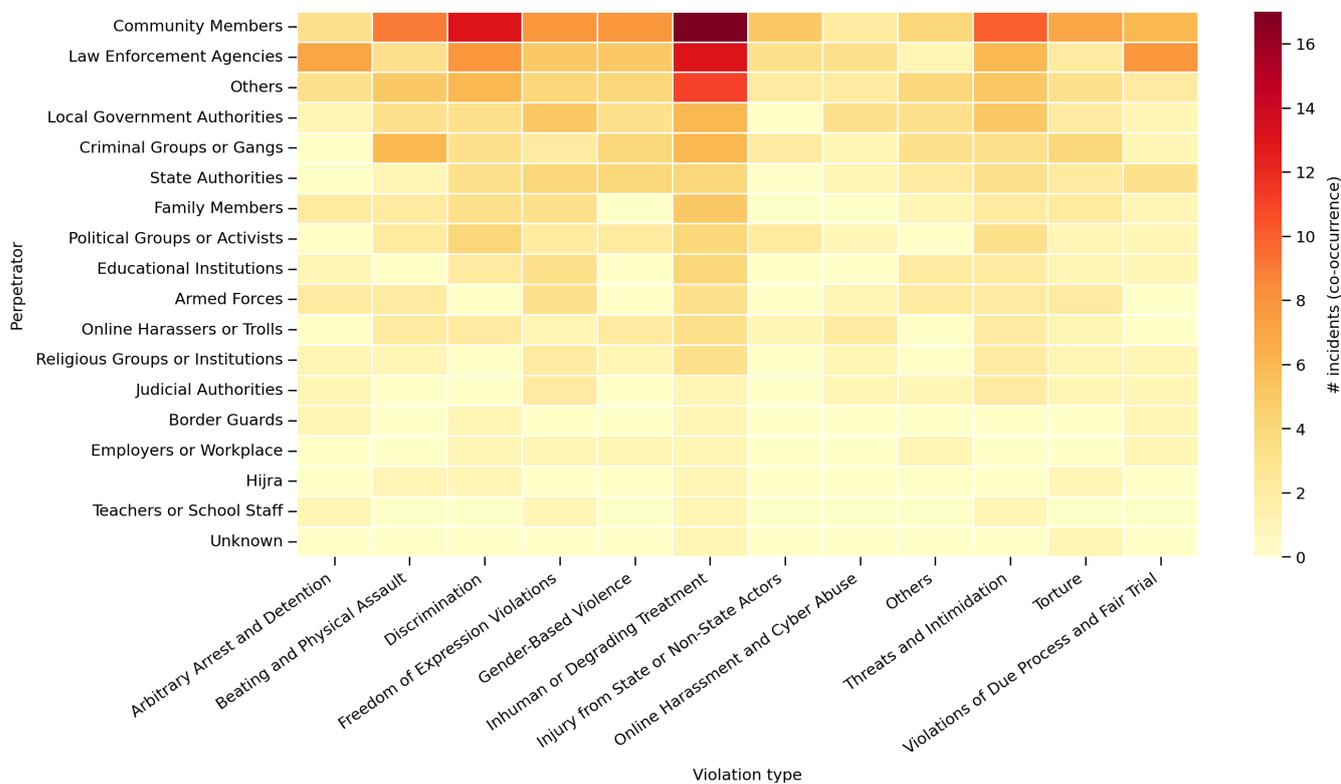
Victim Ratio by Age Group x Gender (% of all incidents)



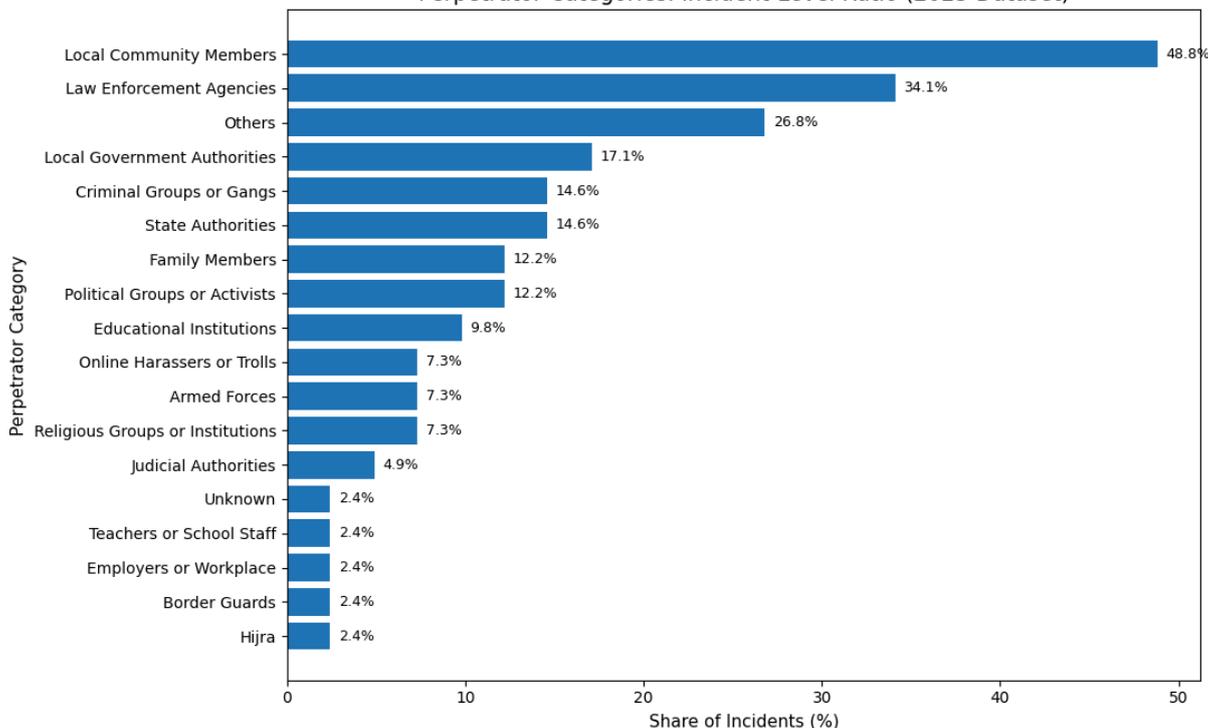
The data shows a pronounced concentration of incidents among individuals aged 18–30, indicating heightened vulnerability among young LGBTIQ+ people. Within this group, Hijra and transgender women are disproportionately affected, reflecting persistent structural discrimination and targeted violence against gender-diverse communities. The substantial proportion of cases recorded as unknown or undisclosed suggests ongoing barriers to safe disclosure, likely resulting in underreporting of violations.

Incidents among individuals aged 31–45 occur at lower levels but across multiple gender identities, demonstrating continued exposure beyond early adulthood. Although fewer cases are reported for those aged 0–17, the presence of incidents involving minors raises serious child-protection concerns and highlights gaps in confidential reporting mechanisms. Overall, the data underscores the intersection of age and gender in shaping risk, with young, gender-diverse individuals facing the greatest documented exposure to human rights violations.

Perpetrator × Violation (Top 12 violations) — co-occurrence by incident



Perpetrator Categories: Incident-Level Ratio (2025 Dataset)



OVERVIEW OF PERPATRATORS

The distribution of perpetrators in the 2025 dataset indicates that local community members constitute the largest share of reported incidents, accounting for nearly half of all cases. This underscores the pervasive role of societal stigma, social surveillance, and community-level hostility in driving human rights violations against LGBTIQ+ individuals. The substantial involvement of law enforcement agencies and local government authorities raises serious concerns regarding misuse of authority, lack of accountability, and inadequate protection obligations under international human rights law.

The presence of state authorities, armed forces, judicial actors, and border guards—even at lower reported levels—highlights risks of institutional complicity and procedural abuse. Violations perpetrated by family members, educational institutions, and workplaces further demonstrate how discrimination extends into private, educational, and economic spheres, restricting access to safety and livelihoods. The diversity of perpetrator categories suggests that violations are not isolated acts but occur within an enabling environment shaped by social norms and institutional failures. These findings point to the urgent need for comprehensive prevention strategies, law-enforcement reform, accountability mechanisms, and community-based interventions consistent with Bangladesh’s international human rights obligations.

Comparative Analysis of LGBTIQ+ Human Rights Violations (2024–2025)

A comparison of monitoring data from 2024 and 2025 indicates that human rights violations against LGBTIQ+ persons in Bangladesh remain systemic, entrenched, and widespread, with no evidence of meaningful structural improvement. Across both years, recurrent patterns include inhuman and degrading treatment, discrimination, physical violence, threats and intimidation, arbitrary arrest, and restrictions on freedom of expression and assembly. While the 2025 report adopts a more explicit rights-based and legal framing—mapping incidents to due process, non-discrimination, and fair trial standards—the persistence of these violations highlights continued gaps in State protection and accountability.

A significant shift observed in 2025 is the increase in cases where victims' sexual orientation or gender identity is recorded as “unknown or undisclosed.” This does not reflect reduced victimisation, but rather a shrinking space for safe disclosure. Notwithstanding this trend, lesbian individuals continue to represent one of the most affected groups by sexual orientation, alongside transgender women, hijra, and non-binary persons. The sustained targeting of lesbians underscores the gendered nature of violence and discrimination, intersecting with patriarchal norms and moral policing.

Age-disaggregated data from both reporting periods shows that young adults aged 18–30 years remain the most affected group, with incidents also involving children and adolescents, raising serious concerns under international child rights standards. Geographically, Dhaka continues to record the highest number of reported incidents; however, repeated violations across multiple districts confirm that abuses are nationwide and structural, rather than isolated or urban-specific.

In terms of perpetrators, the comparison indicates an apparent shift from predominantly State-identified perpetrators in 2024 to increased involvement of local community actors in 2025, alongside continued allegations involving law enforcement and local authorities. This reflects a dual failure of protection: violence and intimidation by private actors combined with inadequate prevention, accountability, and redress by State institutions. These findings reinforce the need for heightened UN scrutiny and sustained follow-up under the UPR and treaty body mechanisms, particularly CEDAW, ICCPR, CAT, and CRC.

Conclusion & Recommendations

The 2025 findings demonstrate that human rights violations against LGBTIQ+ individuals in Bangladesh remain systemic, intersectional, and persistent, with patterns shaped by age, gender identity, sexual orientation, and the nature of perpetrators. The data indicates that young adults aged 18–30 are disproportionately affected, reflecting heightened exposure linked to visibility, employment precarity, social participation, and engagement in public or digital spaces. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and gender-diverse individuals—particularly Hijra and transgender women—continue to face elevated risks of violence, discrimination, and degrading treatment.

A defining feature of the 2025 dataset is the predominance of local community members as perpetrators, pointing to a broader culture of mob violence, social surveillance, and collective punishment. This pattern aligns with wider national trends of community-led violence and underscores how stigma and moral policing enable group-based attacks against LGBTIQ+ individuals. The substantial involvement of law enforcement agencies and local authorities further indicates failures in protection, accountability, and due diligence, with some state actors contributing directly to harm rather than preventing it.

The persistence of incidents involving undisclosed gender identity and sexual orientation highlights ongoing fear of retaliation and barriers to safe reporting, suggesting that documented cases represent only a portion of actual violations. Taken together, the 2025 findings reveal an environment in which community hostility and institutional shortcomings mutually reinforce each other, sustaining vulnerability for LGBTIQ+ people across Bangladesh.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Inclusive Bangladesh recommends the following measures to address the patterns identified in 2025:

1. Strengthen Protection for Young LGBTIQ+ Individuals
2. Develop age-responsive protection mechanisms, including confidential reporting, psychosocial support, and legal aid, with particular attention to individuals aged 18–30.
3. Address Community-Led and Mob Violence
4. Implement targeted community-level interventions to counter mob violence, including public education, early-warning mechanisms, and accountability for collective attacks driven by stigma or moral policing.
5. Ensure Law Enforcement Accountability and Reform
6. Establish mandatory training for law enforcement and local authorities on sexual orientation and gender identity, alongside independent oversight mechanisms to investigate abuses and prevent impunity.
7. Improve Safe and Confidential Reporting Systems
8. Expand survivor-centred documentation frameworks that allow safe disclosure of gender identity and sexual orientation without fear of retaliation.
9. Protect Freedom of Expression, Assembly, and Association
10. Safeguard the rights of LGBTIQ+ individuals and organisations to express identity, organise peacefully, and engage in advocacy without harassment or criminalisation.
11. Align National Practices with International Obligations
12. Review laws, policies, and enforcement practices to ensure compliance with Bangladesh's obligations under international human rights treaties, including ICCPR, CAT, CEDAW, and CRC.

Sustained structural reform, combined with community-based prevention and survivor-centred accountability, is essential to reduce violence and ensure dignity, safety, and equality for LGBTIQ+ people in Bangladesh.

END OF DOCUMENT

