Bandhu Social Welfare Society, organized a two-day long workshop with influential religious leaders of Bangladesh during 16th & 17th September 2019 where 22 participants attended including TG women, Buddhist Monk, Hindu Priest, Christian Pastor and Islamic scholars. The Independent Consultant, Imam Muhsin Hendricks from South Africa facilitated the whole training.

The objectives of the workshop were to building the capacity of Faith Leaders on alternative gender identities and analyze their current attitudes towards third gender community. The workshop also aimed to produce some recommendations and develop timebound actions for further advocacy.

Positive aspects of the workshop

There was an appreciation also for the organizers in having brought together a diverse faith leader including TG community in one room.

The facilitator was commended for his chosen workshop methodology, ability to maintain equal respect for religions and aesthetic presentation.
Most religious leaders admitted that they had very little knowledge of the transgender community prior to the workshop thus improved during two days’ workshop. It was concluded by the Imams that if someone is fully identified as a female and live as a female even though they have male genitals, should be respected as a woman and be granted equal rights as a woman.

**Actions to be taken**

- The Imams and Khatibs committed that they will regular discuss on Hijra issue during the `Jummah Prayer’ where the other religious leaders will do something in their arena.

- Some of the religious leaders who are affiliated with various `Madrassa’, invited Bandhu to conduct orientation sessions on TG community with their students.

- During Ramadan month, some imams will take initiative to organize a talk show on Hijra issues in electronic Media.