EDITORIAL

"We are way more powerful when we turn to each other and not on each other, when we celebrate our diversity and together tear down the mighty walls of injustice." Said Cynthia McKinney. With this belief in the very core of its principle, we are delighted to let you know that Bandhu will celebrate its 20 years in 2017. Bandhu is sincerely continuing to serve the communities with undivided commitment and is paving the way for obtaining their social justice, equality, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). We would like to convey our heartiest thanks and gratitude to each and every compeer of our journey. At the same time, it is our strong belief that by working simultaneously, we will be able to defeat any obstacle and turn the limitations to success in the following years.

In this edition of Spandon, Bandhu’s current programs and events have been published in brief along with some international affair news which defrays great magnitude to our motive. By reading this newsletter the reciter will get a vivid notion of how Bandhu is working nationally and internationally.

For the successful publication of the quarterly newsletter, we would like to show appreciation to the writers and editorial team who have made this turn out. At the same time, we convey our advance thanks to our readers as they are the only source of our inspiration for this publication.
KEY figures of Bandhu

HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Received Services

21,443 Beneficiaries

Participated in Group Education Session (GES)

1,858 Project Participants

Received HIV testing and Counseling (HTC) services and knows their results

2,520 Beneficiaries

STTs diagnosed, treated and counseled at field Office/ DIC/ SUD-DIC/ Outlet level

3,810 Episodes

Counseling Session (One to one/ group/ via phone)

256 Clients

Advocacy Program

We advocated

221 Stakeholders

30 Project Participants

85

GO and NGOs includes different divisional/district administration, Social Welfare Department, Women Affair, Civil Surgeon office and NGOs conducting HIV intervention, members of STI/AIDS Network, local media houses, Faith leaders, Teachers, Lawyers, CBO members and other influentials of the society.

19 Health Professionals

59 Legal Aid Providers

28 Media Journalists

CAPACITY BUILDING

We trained

244 people

91 Relevant Stakeholders

153 Emergent CBOs and Community members

LEGAL SUPPORT

131 Calls Received and Provide legal information, counseling and support

13 Cases Documented on Human Rights violation

5 Cases were referred

4 Community Based Organization’s (CBOs) developed their Minimum Capacity

12 Books newly enlisted in Gender and Sexuality Resource Centre
A unique commencement for mental health emotional wellbeing and stress management at Bandhu Central Office

Bandhu Social Welfare Society is an exclusive organization upholding a 20 years history of outstanding social work for the marginalized, socially excluded community in Bangladesh. Bandhu adores and implements all sorts of capacity developmental work for its staffs to ensure a harmonious and prosperous working environment. Concerning the basic needs and professional development Bandhu recently has taken a unique initiation to launch a session on stress management at central office. The session was arranged through an effective partnership with the department of Clinical Psychology under University of Dhaka and was ornamented through the presence of senior management team. The two hours session was designed to enrich the knowledge of each individual staff on stress management. The session started on 29th January 2017 with a view to continue furthermore on the last Thursday of each month.

Being a current mental health issue, stress management is important to address as its effects on wellbeing at different domains. Sustainability of an organization depends on utmost capability of each staff as they all play vital roles through their contribution. Being a part of the organization it is therefore important to manage stress to provide a good quality of service. The initial session helped the staffs to understand better about the basic of stress management. The session began with self introduction of each participant along with assessment of particular needs. A range of initial responses from the participants were observed through active participation and they voluntarily enquired about the solution for their stress as related with anger management, blood pressure control and mutual understanding.
Divisional lawyers' panel conference in Dhaka under USAID's HRID project

Bandhu Social Welfare Society (Bandhu) with support from USAID's HRID project will form Lawyers Panel in all administrative divisions of Bangladesh to provide better legal support to the marginalized community who identify themselves minorities based on their gender identity. In this regard, Lawyers' Fellowship orientation Program was held at CIRDAP center, Dhaka on 18th February, 2017. 23 lawyers from different district of Dhaka participated in that event. Honorable chairman of Bandhu Mr. Anisul Islam Hero presided the program and Sha Migan Shafiur Rahman, PPM, Superintendent of Police; Dhaka was present as chief guest. Representatives from USAID Ms. Habiba Akter, Human Rights and Rule of Law Team Leader, Democracy and Governance Office, Ms. Salvica Radosevic, Deputy Office Director and Ms. Muntaka Jabeen, were present as special guests in the program. Md. Fosiul Ahsan, Director Program, Bandhu, Moshiur Rahman, Asst Manager -Bandhu, Md. Zahid Hossain Legal Consultant, Bandhu Advocate Shihab Shirazi Lawyer, Supreme Court, Dhaka facilitated the program. After all presentation participants Lawyers took part in a group work where they come up with some challenges and recommendations to give legal support to transgender population. Those are:

- BDGmGBW-Gi mn‡hvwMZvq
- eÜzi c¨v‡bj AvBbRxex‡`i
- XvKv wefvMxq m‡¤§jb AbywôZ
- eÜz †mvk¨vj I‡qj‡dqvi †mvmvBwU (eÜz) BDGmGBW-GBP (HRID)
cÖK‡íi mn‡hvwMZvq evsjv‡`‡ki
- mKj cÖkvmwbK wefv‡M AvBbRxex‡`i c¨v‡bj MV‡bi
- D‡`¨vM wb‡q‡Q| †`‡ki cÖvwšÍK Rb‡Mvôx, we‡kl K‡i hviv
- wb‡R‡`i ‰jw½K cwiP‡qi wfwˇZ msL¨vjNy Rb‡Mvôx
- wn‡m‡e g‡b K‡ib Zv‡`i R‡b¨ Av‡iv DbœZZi AvBbx
- mg_©b I mn‡hvwMZv cÖ`vbB GB c¨v‡bj MV‡bi D‡Ïk¨| G
- Dcj‡ÿ¨ 18 †deªæqvix XvKvi wmiWvc (CIRDAP)
- wgjbvqZ‡b †d‡jvwkc Iwi‡q‡›Ukb Kg©m~wPi Av‡qvRb Kiv
- GB Abyôv‡b XvKv wefv‡Mi wewfbœ †Rjv †_‡K 23 Rb
- AvBbRxex AskMÖnb K‡ib
- eÜ zÕi m¤§vwbZ †Pqvig¨vb Rbve Avwbmyj Bmjvg wn‡iv D³ Abyôv‡b mfvcwZZ¡ K‡ib
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gvbevwaKvi I AvB‡bi kvmb wefv‡Mi wUg wjWvi wgm.
- nvweev AvKZvi, †WcywU Awdm wW‡i±i wgm mvjwfKv
- iv‡`v‡mwfK Ges wgm. g ybZvKv Rvweb Ab yôv‡b we‡kl
- AwZw_ wn‡m‡e Dcw¯'Z wQ‡jb| GQvovI eÜzÕi cwiPvjK-Kg©m~wP Rbve dwmDj Avnmvb, mnKvix e¨e¯'vcK Rbve gwkDi ingvb, eÜ zÕi AvBb welqK civgk©K Rbve †gvt Rvwn` †n‡mb, mycÖxg †Kv‡U©i AvBbRxex A¨vW‡fv‡KU
- wknve wmivRx GB Ab yôvbwUi mnvq‡Ki f ~wgKv cvjb K‡ib| g ~j Dc¯'vcbvi ci AvBbRxexMY GKwU
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Recommendations:
1. Create bridge among beneficiaries and Panel Lawyers by which they can be benefitted.
2. Ensure persistency for community awareness through advocacy, counseling and inclusion of positive topics about third gender community in textbook.
3. Ensure necessary assistance and trainings for inquiry officer, doctors and media representatives.
4. Ensure quick legal and finance support for harassment against third gender.

Student Fellowship Award Giving Ceremony and Documentary Screening

Bandhu with support from USAID’s HRID project offered student fellowship to 15 students of 3 different universities (Law department of STAMFORD UNIVERSITY, Media & Mass Communication department of AIUB and Media studies and Journalism Department from ULAB). To this end, Bandhu arranged a Fellowship Award Giving Ceremony Documentation Screening Program at ULAB auditorium on 25thFebruary, 2017 where Prof. Imran , Vice Chancellor of University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) was present as Chief Guest. Jude William R. Genilo, Professor and Head Department of Media studies and Journalism, ULAB, Kevin Gash, Office Director, Democracy and Governance office, USAID/ Bangladesh USAID/Washington were present to enlighten the program as special guests. Other guests from USAID, Bandhu, faculties from different Universities were also present in the program. Around 150 students...
along with their parents were there to enjoy the documentary, dance performance by Hijra community & the fellows and other events of the program.

Mr. Shale Ahmed, Executive Director, Bandhu gave opening remarks, briefing on Bandhu and Student fellowship. He thanked everyone for participating in this event and also to the fellows for their sincere effort. A brief on the fellows and their topics was presented by Nabakumar Dutta, Sr. Officer Bandhu and right after his presentation the short documentary had been screened. Then chief and special guests handed over the certificates, crest and awarded amount cheques to the students. Some of the students came on to stage to share their experiences and learning through this fellowship work. They expressed their gratitude to USAID and Bandhu for giving them the opportunity to gather such kind of knowledge about transgender community.

After then Mr. Faisal Ahamed, Lecturer, AIUB and Jude William R. Genilo, Professor and Head Department of Media studies and Journalism, ULAB, Kevin Gash, Office Director, Democracy and Governance office, USAID delivered their speech. In the closing speech chief guest Prof. Imran, Vice Chancellor of University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) appreciated the effort of the students. He also thanked Bandhu and USAID for such unique form of work with students. He said the bridge with the students with transgender community people will definitely eliminate the stigma and this is the way how we can save them from marginalization.
Media is an effective policy influencing tool used around the world to raise public awareness on HIV/AIDS, gender violence and many other issues. Under USAID’s HRID project, for the first time Bandhu has given media fellowship to some journalists. These fellows will produce report on their respective media to bring out the challenges and success stories of transgender populace to sensitize mass population. Journalists from different electronics, printing and online media has applied for the fellowship and Bandhu formed a jury board including Ms. Shahnaz Munni, Chief News Editor of News 24 and Bayezid Ahamed, Special Correspondent of Deepto television who has selected 18 journalists from 6 divisional cities except Dhaka.

On 16 March, 2017 Bandhu arranged an orientation program for the selected journalist at CCDB-Hope Foundation, Savar. In the event Executive director of Bandhu Mr. Shale Ahmed, Director Program Md. Fosiul Ahsan, Deputy Manager and program coordinator of HRID project Md. Moshrih Rahman, Program manager Umme Farhana Zarif Kanta, Sr. Officer Ikram Hossain, Sr. Officer Nabakumar Dutta and Program officer Dr. Tareq Alam were present. Keramot Ullah Biplob Additional Chief Reporter, ATN Bangla Ltd was there as a resource person to brief the journalists about how to produce a fruitful and attractive news report on SOGI issues out of social responsibility. Very innovative and effective suggestions came from the resource person to

বিভাগীয় মিডিয়া ফেলোশিপ
ওরিয়েন্টেশন কর্মসূচি অনুষ্ঠিত

সারা বিশ্বেই এইচআইডি ও এইচসি, লিগের জিয়নস্টা এবং অন্য অনেক বিষয়কে জন সচেতনতা বৃদ্ধি করার একটি গুরুত্বপূর্ণ এবং কার্যকর প্রশাসক মাধ্যম হচ্ছে সাব্দাম মাধ্যম।

ইউএসএইচও-এর এই আর অই ডি (HRID) প্রকল্পের সহযোগিতায় বছর সোশাল ওয়ার্ল্ডের সোসাইটি (বছর) কিছু সংখ্যক বিভাগীয় মিডিয়া ফেলোশিপ প্রদান করছে।

ফেলোগণ জনসাধারণকে আলো সচেতনেশনী ও সচেতন করার তোলার উদ্দেশ্যে তাদের এর নিজ বা সংবাদ মাধ্যমে ট্রাফিংভের জনগোষ্ঠীর বিভিন্ন চালাও ও সফলতার পাদটীকা সর্বনিম্ন প্রতিবেদন তুলে ধরবেন। বিভিন্ন ইন্টারনেট, প্রিং ও অনলাইন সংবাদ মাধ্যমে দেখা যে কিছু সংখ্যক বিভাগীয় মিডিয়া ফেলোশিপের জন্যে আবেদন করছে।

যে তাদের মধ্যে তাদের ফেলোশিপের জন্যে প্রাথমিক বা আইস-এর জন্যে একটি খুঁজো গঠন করে, যেরূপ যদি ছিলেন নিউজ ৪৪ এর প্রথম বার্ষিক সম্পাদক ফিরে, শাহনৌর মুহিমু এবং দীপ্তী টেলিভিশনের বিষয় সূচী মার্কিট আমরা।

তার ডাকতালিকার অর্থের দেশের মধ্যে ১৮ জন সংবাদপত্রকে এই ফেলোশিপের জন্যে নিযুক্ত করেন।

বছর নির্বাচিত সংবাদপত্রকের জন্যে গত ১৬ মার্চ সিসিডিবি এর সংবাদস্থ হেড ফাউন্ডেশন একটি ওরিয়েন্টেশন কর্মসূচি অনুষ্ঠিত করে।

এই অনুষ্ঠানে বছরের নিবন্ধিত পরিচালক জনব শাহে, পরিচালক-কর্মসূচি জনব ফিসিয়ল আমান, ডেপুটি ম্যানেজার ও এইচ আর অই ডি (HRID) প্রকল্পের কর্মসূচি সম্পর্কে জনব মোঃ মশিউর রহমান, গ্রাহাম ম্যানেজার উদ্ধা ফারহানা জাতিক কার্যকর, সিনিয়র অফিসার জনব ইকরাম হোসেন, সিনিয়র অফিসার জনব বক্সবার তাক এবং গ্রাহাম ম্যানেজার ড. তাকে আলাম উপস্থিত ছিলেন।

এটিদের বাংলার আন্তর্জাতিক টুইটার গ্রাহক করের উদ্দাহরণ অনুসারী ফিজিস্যাপার নির্মিত হবে প্রকল্প হয়ে সায়ামালিক সমস্তকে তথা সেজিজ (SOGI - জাতিস্বরূপ পরিগত ও জেডার পরিচিতি) জনগোষ্ঠীর বিষয়বস্তু সম্পর্কে ফলাফল ও
produce an effectual report. Those are -

- Should try to produce innovative reports which are different from previous approach.
- Title/starting of news should be a bit dramatic to grow interest of the reader.
- Subject of the news should be different for each fellow and Bandhu can co-operate with the fellows here.
- Every report should be precise but informative and fellows can take help of Bandhu's resource center.
- Not only misery but also some encouraging news focusing self-confidence and how some transgender person are living a humanly life.

- Purpose of the report should be effectual. Those are -
  
  - Should try to produce innovative reports which are different from previous approach.
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  - Subject of the news should be different for each fellow and Bandhu can co-operate with the fellows here.
  - Every report should be precise but informative and fellows can take help of Bandhu's resource center.
  - Not only misery but also some encouraging news focusing self-confidence and how some transgender person are living a humanly life.

Legal Support to the Community (Ain-Alap):
Jan.- Mar. 2017

In order to address the violation, stigma and discrimination of the Gender diverse population, Bandhu since 2013 for the
first time in Bangladesh, commenced dedicated service, 'Ain-Alap' to provide legal assistance to the targeted population. Ain-Alap is continuing its service with an aim to provide information related to legal issues to the sexual minority population, identify nature of violation or rights, provide legal counseling, receive complaints from the victims and advocate them in just manner. Graphical presentations on types and nature of violation in different areas during this quarter are as follows.

**Documentation on complaint**

Bandhu legal unit (Ain Alap) documented rights violation of the community members in an easy prescribed format with the help of Watchdog committee members, field office staffs, CBO members and sometimes by the suggestions through help line. In this quarter Ain-Alap unit has documented total 11 complaints where most of the complaints comes from Sylhet district. A range of services has provided to the person who file these complaints. Such as Legal counseling, documentation, follow up etc.

**Partnership between CBOs and Bandhu for Sustainability and Resource Mobilization**

Bandhu since 2015 initiated working on developing minimum capacity building of CBOs irrespective to good governess, capacity building and effective sustainability through resource mobilization. In sequence of
In this regard, a total of 12 Business Plan has already been developed in assistance with Bandhu and 3 businesses amongst 12 are already on board and continuing as per guideline.

Business Plan and quarterly updates of January to March 2017:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of CBO</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Type of business</th>
<th>Overall Investment BDT</th>
<th>Total Profit BDT</th>
<th>Grand/Net Profit BDT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dener Alo Hijra</td>
<td>Rajshahi</td>
<td>Tailoring</td>
<td>51,800</td>
<td>67,750</td>
<td>15,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hijra / MSM Shangho</td>
<td>Bagura</td>
<td>Tailoring</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>14,000</td>
<td>4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siri Samaj Kallyan</td>
<td>Jamalpur</td>
<td>Boutique</td>
<td>70,000</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Meeting on 3rd Cycle UPR Reporting

Human Rights forum of Bangladesh (HRFB) organized a consultation meeting on UPR orientation & selecting issues for 3rd cycle UPR reporting which was held at Nagorik Uddyog 2nd March 2017. This meeting was supported by Bandhu Social Welfare Society and Nagorik Uddyog. The focal person of Ain Alap actively participated in this meeting. The objectives of this meeting were to familiarize and update sharing about the UPR process among the members and also identify the key issues for 3rd cycle reporting. This meeting was followed by homework with preparing write up for UPR shadow report under specific theme and a guideline of draft reporting is developed and shared among the respective organizations.
Bandhu Coordinated Human Chain on "Drug Free Community: Promise for Chittagong"

On 20th February 2017, Bandhu of Chittagong division has coordinated an awareness event for drug prevention where other NGOs have also participated. Urgency was felt by Bandhu field observers to save third gender population from drug addiction under ongoing projects: GFTM funding on HIV prevention and UBR funding on HIM project at Chittagong which are focused on youth third gender groups. More than 6 million (source: Daily Star, 14 August 2013) people are drug addicted and among them 90% are young people in Bangladesh.

As from many years Chittagong has used as a strong transit for drug trafficking and illicit use of drugs, NGOs from Chittagong considering this alarming and initiated to organize a human chain following press briefing, moderated by Md. Ali Aslam Hossain, Deputy Director at Narcotics department, Chittagong. Around 100 participants, including 22 journalists from 8 local newspaper channels attended the
event. The event was started by human chain and taking oath for drug prevention, led by Mr. Mashukur Rahman Shikdar, Additional district commissioner. During press briefing a number of distressing issues were discussed based on different articles published in local newspapers. According to the articles published in 2017; in Chittagong, females are more involved than males for illicit drug trafficking as a result female drug users are increasing day by day. Md. Ali Aslam Hossain answered few question asked by general people such as government's initiative to reduce drug use prevalence in Chittagong and he mentioned several well-built steps by the government for drug prevention such as checking different transit points with Myanmar under strong supervision. Through coordination of the event, Bandhu of Chittagong has marked the importance of taking drug prevention initiatives for third gender people in Chittagong.

**Human Rights Based Approach Workshop by UNDP**

Bandhu participated in a workshop organized by UNDP Bangladesh. The Human Rights Programme of UNDP planned to explore Human Rights works/actions and good practices of the Civil Society Organization (CSO) working at local and national levels of Bangladesh. This also contributes to enhance CSO's capacity in applications of Human Rights Based Approach in their actions.

This two-day long event on "Mapping of Human Rights Actions/Good Practices and Applications of HRBA in Human Rights actions of the CSOs" was held at Daily Star Bhaban, Dhaka on 29-30thMarch2017.

The objectives of this workshop are as follows:

- Mapping of human rights works/actions and good practices of the CSOs and CSO coalitions at local and national level of Bangladesh;
• Enhancing knowledge and capacity of the CSOs and CSO coalitions in applications of Human Rights Based Approach;
• Defining knowledge gaps and future priorities for human rights actions/initiatives of the CSOs and CSO coalitions at different level of Bangladesh.

Approximately 30 Participants attended in the workshop from both central and local level working on different issue and marginalized community. During the workshop, good practices in human rights actions of the CSOs and CSO coalitions at local and national level were discussed and identified the knowledge gaps in Human Rights works/actions of the CSOs/CSO Coalitions. The workshop also helps to improve the understanding on Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) to Development, roles/responsibilities of Duty Bearers and Right Holders and applications of Human Rights Based Approach among the participants.

Shima Hijra Honored at International Women's Day-2017

"I may cannot be a butterfly, but I can love you like a butterfly loves a flower", Shima started her pitch with this prosody, in celebration of International Women's Day, 2017, arranged by Nari Jogajog Kendro - Chattogram Mohanagor & UTSA When Shima recited this and announced her ‘third gender’ identity, the whole auditorium was echoed with the appreciation from participants.

At the event, she was honored as a successful person who overcame the stereotype and norms against her gender identity and established herself as an example for the marginalized community. She continued her pitch and said that she is not a curse, but human who dream for life with dignity. She said, hijras can also go side by side with women to overcome challenges and develop themselves under helping hand.

কাজের উদাহরণগুলোর (good practices) মায়াপঞ্জি করা;
• মানবাধিকারি ভিত্তিক ধারণা/কেন্দ্রণ (HRBA) প্রয়োগের জন্য সৃষ্টি সমাজের সংগঠন (সিইএসও) এবং তাদের কোয়ালিশনগুলোর জান ও সমস্তা বৃদ্ধি করা, এবং
• বাংলাদেশের বিভিন্ন পর্যায়ের সৃষ্টি সমাজের সংগঠন (সিইএসও) এবং তাদের কোয়ালিশনগুলোর মানবাধিকার বিষয়ক কর্মসূচি ও পদক্ষেপ গ্রহণের ক্ষেত্রে জানের সীমাবদ্ধতা এবং ভবিষ্যদ্বাণী অধিকারগুলো সংগঠিত করা।

প্রাতিষ্ঠানিক জনপ্রতি এবং বিভিন্ন বিষয়ের ৩টি কর্মকাণ্ড সীমাবদ্ধতা এবং ব্যক্তিগত পর্যায়ের বিভিন্ন সংগঠন থেকে প্রায় ৩০ জন প্রতিনিধি এই কর্মকাণ্ডে অংশগ্রহণ করেন। কর্মকাণ্ড চালানো সীমাবদ্ধতা এবং জাতীয় পর্যায়ের সৃষ্টি সমাজের সংগঠন (সিইএসও) এবং কর্মকাণ্ডে তাদের কোয়ালিশনগুলোর মানবাধিকার বিষয়ক কর্মসূচি ও পদক্ষেপ গ্রহণের ক্ষেত্রে যেসব প্রাতিষ্ঠানিক তথ্য এবং সংগঠি সমাজের সংগঠন (সিইএসও) এবং তাদের কোয়ালিশনগুলোর মানবাধিকার বিষয়ক কর্মসূচি ও পদক্ষেপ গ্রহণের ক্ষেত্রে জানের সীমাবদ্ধতা ও তাদের ভবিষ্যৎ যুক্তি করা হয়।

আন্তর্জাতিক নারী দিবস -
২০১৪ সীমা হিজ্ড়া সম্মানিত

“আমি একটি প্রাকৃতিক হতে পারবোনা, তবে আমি আপনাদের এমনভাবে ভালোবাসতে পারবো যেমন করে একটি প্রাকৃতিক একটি ফুলকে ভালোবাসেন।” এই উদ্ধৃতিপ্রলেব দিয়ে সীমা হিজ্ড়া নারী দিবস - ২০১৭ এর অনুষ্ঠানে তাঁর বক্তব্য ঘোষণা করেন। নারী যোগাযোগ কেন্দ্র - চট্টগ্রাম মহানগর ও উত্তর এর উদ্যোগে আন্তর্জাতিক নারী দিবস ২০১৪ উপলক্ষে আয়োজিত অনুষ্ঠানে সীমা হিজ্ড়া তাঁর বক্তব্য এ কথা বলেন। তিনি এই সঙ্গে তাঁর ‘কৃত্তিয় কেন্দ্রা’ পরিচালনা ১ প্রক্ষেপে কথা যোগ করেন। এই যোগ এবং সীমা হিজ্ড়ার বক্তব্য শুনান পর সকল অংশগ্রহণকারীর কুমল কর্মকাণ্ডে অস্বাস্থ্য তুলনায় মুখ্যত হয়ে ওঠে।

এই অনুষ্ঠানে তাকে একজন সকল মানুষ হিসেবে সমানান্ত করা হয়, যিনি জেলার পরিচালকের কর্মকার সকল বার্ষিক বিষয় পাপ হয়ে আসতে কর্তব্য হবে এবং নিয়ন্ত্রণ আন্তর্জাতিক জনপ্রতি মাধ্যম থেকে একজন সকল মানুষ হিসেবে প্রতিষ্ঠিত করেন।

সীমা হিজ্ড়া তাঁর বক্তব্যের আলোচনা করেন, যিনি কোন অভিশাপ নন বলে তিনি একজন মানুষ যিনি মর্যাদার সাথে জীবন-যাপনের জন্য খুব দেখেন। তিনি বলেন, সকল চালস্কে মাকালয়
Shima shared her measurable life story about unbearable discrimination at her school and family for her gender behavior. She dropped out from school after SSC and soon after she declared her identity as Hijra. However, she was rejected to live within her family with her new gender identity and expression; but she did not stop there. Besides belonging to her Hijra community, she took training from Bandhu Social Welfare Society and developed herself as a peaceful and responsible citizen of country. Without compromising her gender dignity, she demonstrated her eligibility as another general citizen in the country by being a respective job holder at Bandhu and lives with head high with mainstream community. During her speech, she thanked Bandhu for having trust upon her; at end note she expressed her dream to mobilize Hijra community in cooperation of others.
A memorable day with HE Swedish, Norway and Denmark Ambassadors

Bandhu Social Welfare Society (Bandhu) was invited by HE Ambassadors to host a community dialogue to discuss about provision of current programmes in Bangladesh for sexual and gender diversity populations including future scope of work.

The venue of the meeting was at Residence of HE ambassador of Norway. A number of 15 community representatives were participated in the meeting. A range of issues linked with SRHR and safety were discussed in the meeting. Participants shared their own adverse experiences regarding the issues and the struggle they are facing in their daily life.

Mr. Shale Ahmed informed the ambassadors about the programmatic aspect of Bandhu how it works as platform for Gender Diversity community. Honorable Ambassadors expressed their willingness to be with the community on SRHR and security issues and showed interest to advocate on different agenda related with them in upcoming years.

Sujden, Norwane o Denmark manubor radhoduganer sahe akti shonorey din

মানবৰ রাষ্ট্রদূতগণ বঙ্গ সোয়াদ ওয়ালেকেয়ার সোনাইটিকে (বলু) একটি কমিউনিটি সলাগো এর ব্যবস্থা করার জন্য আম্বাসার জানান। এই সংগায়ের উদ্দেশ্য ছিল বাঙালিদের নেতিবাচক ও ভিন্ন জেডিয়ার জনগোষ্ঠীর জন্য আয়োজিত বক্তব্যায়ে বলুর কর্মসূচির কার্যক্রমগুলো সম্পর্কে অবহিত হওয়া এবং এই সব কর্মসূচির ভাবিতেন সম্পর্কেও অবহিত হওয়া।

বলুর মানববর রাষ্ট্রদূত এর বাসভবনে এই সংগায়ের আয়োজন করা হল। এই সংগায়ে উদ্ধৃত জনগোষ্ঠী থেকে ১৫ জন প্রতিনিধি অংশগ্রহণ করেন, যেমন: সুইডেন, নরওয়ে ও দেনমার্কের রাষ্ট্রদূতগণ উপস্থিত ছিলেন। সংগায়ে যৌন প্রস্তাব বায়ু ও অধিকারের সাথে সম্পর্কিত (SRHR) বিষয় ও জনগোষ্ঠীর নিরাপত্তা সম্পর্কেও ওড়বুকুর্য আলোচনা হল।

সংগায়ে অংশগ্রহনকারীরা এই সব বিষয়ে তাদের প্রতিকূল অভিজ্ঞতা এবং তাদের প্রাত্রত্যিক জীবনে তারা মনোর সংঘায়ের মুখেমুখি হচ্ছেন সোনালো সম্পর্কেও সাবাইকে অবহিত করেন।

বিষয়ের পরিচালনকারী জনসাধারণ বলুর মানববর আহমেদ লিঙ্গ বিভিন্নতা সম্পর্কে মানুষের জন্য বঙ্গ কৌতুহলে উদ্ধৃত প্রাথমিক হিসেবে কাজ করছে এবং বঙ্গদের বিভিন্ন কর্মসূচি সম্পর্কে রাষ্ট্রদূতের অবহিত করেন। রাষ্ট্রদূতগণ যৌন প্রস্তাব বায়ু ও অধিকারের সাথে সম্পর্কিত (SRHR) বিষয়ে এবং তাদের নিরাপত্তা বিষয়ক করার জন্য উদ্ধৃত জনগোষ্ঠীর সাথে কাজ করার ইচ্ছা প্রকাশ করেন। একই সাথে তারা সমাজের বর্তমানের জনগোষ্ঠীর সাথে বিভিন্ন বিষয়ে যৌনতা নিয়ে আপাতভাবে করেন বলু আরও একুশ প্রকাশের মধ্যে।
Pay Compensation to Trans People: An example of Sweden

The Swedish government on Friday, March 24, 2017 to pay a financial compensation to forcibly sterilized trans people in Sweden. This is a great victory for the trans community in Sweden. "This is the first time a state has recognized forced sterilizations of trans people in legal gender recognition procedures as the human rights violation and financially compensates victims.

The Swedish Minister for Public Health, Healthcare and Sports, Gabriel Wikström, announced that the Swedish government has agreed to financially compensate forcibly sterilized trans people with the amount of 225,000 SEK, approximately €23,600, per person.

The compensation will be available for anyone who was forcibly sterilized by the Swedish state from 1972-2013 in order to comply with the previous requirements in the Swedish legal gender recognition act.

In April 2016, the government first announced that it had agreed to pay out compensation, after lengthy pressure from Swedish SOGI rights organization, RFSL. RFSL had worked for financial compensation since forced sterilizations were removed in 2013, and collected testimonials from over 160 forcibly sterilized people in order to take the case to court.

The amount is in line with compensation previously paid out by the Swedish government to other forcibly sterilized people who were affected by Swedish sterilization laws that existed from 1934-1975.

In the same way, the compensation will be made available through a temporary law that will exist for two years from the planned day of enactment, 1 May 2018.
Transgender Inclusion increasing in Nepal's Civil Service

Third Gender Column on Job Application Form Makes a Difference. More than 600 transgender people applied for civil service jobs in Nepal last year, according to a government report released. Gender diverse people's rights activists hail the announcement as practical progress toward implementing Nepal's identity-based legal third gender category.

The civil service's hiring numbers for transgender people - who frequently face employment discrimination - remain unknown. Nepal moved toward recognizing a third gender when the Supreme Court, in 2007, ruled that individuals should have their gender legally recognized based on "self-feeling" and that they should not have to limit themselves to "female" or "male."

But even with legal progress obtaining appropriate documents, many transgender Nepalis struggled to find jobs. Since 1993, Nepal's Civil Service Act has mandated that some jobs be reserved for people from certain castes, ethnic minorities, and women - but never for transgender people. So it was a welcome inclusive signal that civil service application forms included three genders in 2015.

Other countries in the region - namely Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan - now legally recognize more than two genders in some way. Bangladesh in 2013 recognize a third gender "hijra" category, but a program designed to provide government jobs to hijras instead resulted in abusive and humiliating experiences for them. Nepal's example of coupling policy and pragmatic change is an important one. Inclusion is not achieved in court cases and legal change alone, but when participation is encouraged and guaranteed for all.

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Nepal's example of coupling policy and pragmatic change is an important one. Inclusion is not achieved in court cases and legal change alone, but when participation is encouraged and guaranteed for all.
The Commonwealth Equality Network advocacy strategy planning meetings in London, UK: Active participation of Mr. Shale Ahmed, Executive Director of Bandhu

Shale Ahmed invited and participated in the advocacy strategy planning meetings of the commonwealth Equality Network (TCEN) took place between 23-26th January 2017 in London, UK of which Bandhu Social Welfare Society is a member.

The Kaleidoscope Trust, a member of the network based in London, UK, hosted a series of meetings in London, at which TCEN partners come together and develop a common advocacy strategy for the period February 2017 through to the next Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in 2018.

During the meetings, all members received up-to-date information on the Commonwealth and about the Network and contributed meaningfully to the development of a robust Network-wide advocacy strategy and build relationships both with other TCEN members and with UK partners in order to align and enhance strategy delivery.

The final strategy reflected the priorities across the membership, and all members agreed to be
a part to play in its delivery. Through the process, it was aimed to position the Network’s members to be able to continue advancing the human rights of sexual and gender diversity people at national and regional levels up to and at the CHOGM in 2018, building on TCEN’s successes at the 2015 CHOGM in Malta.

Research finding dissemination with Share-Net International in Amsterdam, Netherlands

To contribute to the development of evidence-informed policy and practice and societal-relevant research, Share-Net International aims to share existing knowledge, to generate new knowledge that addresses prioritized research gaps, and to translate knowledge to various audiences. To reach this objective, Share-Net International offers its member organizations funding for knowledge generation, identification, translation and dissemination initiatives, the so-called “Small Grants”. The Small Grants are intended to involve Share-Net International members in small research projects that:

- add to diverse, practical, innovative, short-term and relevant research that is not easily funded by other donors;
- encourage meaningful engagement of, and collaborations between, members. Due to these strong linkages, the project findings can easily be translated into action;
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allow research to be conducted in low-
and middle-income countries other
than Share-Net International's three
focal countries, which have been
awarded NWO-Wotro funding.

On January 17th 2017, the research findings
of the Small Grants projects that were
released in 2014 and 2015 were presented
in Amsterdam, Netherlands. Mr. Shale
Ahmed, Executive Director of
Bandhu presented the study
funding which was conducted
with the financial support of
Share-Net in partnership with
Clinical Physiology department
of Dhaka University. The
subject of the study was
"Exploration of Mental Health
Needs and Support Systems
among Sexual and Gender
Diversity Population in
Bangladesh".

A large number of participants
working in academia, at NGOs
and the Dutch ministry of
Foreign Affairs participated
the meeting. The meeting
was chaired by Ine Vanwesenbeeck, who
works as a Professor Sexual Development,
Diversity and Health at University Utrecht
and is the former chair of the Share-Net
International Steering Committee. The aim
of the meeting was to discuss the lessons
learned and their implications for policy,
practice and follow-up research.

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