EDITORIAL

Brian Tracy had said, “Fear cannot help us to achieve anything rather we can be the achiever if we can concentrate if we focus to a specific subject. It requires mentioning that the Bandhu Social Welfare Society (BSWS) working right from its inception in order to ensure social justice, equality and Sexual & reproductive health & rights (SRHR), and the long journey of BSWS could be successful through its fearless steps. Bandhu has achieved a strong position, as it ensured fearless journey through the 20 years and could reach to this successful ground. It has been garneted with two very prestigious international awards, which are Hero award-2017 and Orthonariswara. Hero award was rewarded to Bandhu Social Welfare Society (BSWS) as recognition of its outstanding contribution towards the gender diverse & hijra community within the Asia-Pacific region and the award was handed over by the Thailand based networking organization APCOM. At the same time Thailand based Rainbow Sky Association awarded with “Orthonariswara” Bandhu Social Welfare Society (BSWS) for its excellent contribution towards the gender different & hijra community in order to improve their life & living and their human rights. These awards are undoubtedly an achievement of the Bandhu Social Welfare Society (BSWS) and all of its workers, service recipient and well wishers.

We believe that all these achievements have further more increases the responsibility and those awards have expanded our responsibility and also inspire us to implement more in implement more activities for the target community. This last quarter of this year has published number of activities in brief of the national & international arena, which involved the target community and attempted in improving their capacity. We strongly believe that if private & government development agencies participate in our activities and also extend their support for development in the year 2018 & that may create phenomenal development of the people we work for, and would contribute to achieve the goals of SDG.

We are happy to extend our heartfelt thanks to our writers & board of editors involved with this publication for their invaluable efforts for this publication. At the same time, we extend our sincere thanks to our readers, as it could not be possible to keep up the journey on, without their inspiration.
KEY figures of Bandhu

HEALTH CARE SERVICES

- Received Services

- Project Participants: 21628

- Participated in Group Education Session (GES)

- Project Participants: 2085

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

- Project Participants: 1929

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

- Episodes: 1345

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

- Clients: 568

ADVOCACY PROGRAM

- We advocated

- Stakeholders: 2075

- Faith Leaders: 38

- Health Professionals: 143

- Legal Aid Providers: 68

- Media Journalists: 61

DIFFERENT TIMELINE

1765

Different divisional/district administration, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB), Social Welfare Department, Women Affair, Civil Surgeon office and NGOs conducting HIV intervention, members of AIDS/STD Program, public and private educational institutions, Community Based Organization (CBO) members, INGO officials and other influential’s of the society.

CAPACITY BUILDING

- We trained

- People: 420

- Relevant Stakeholders: 22

- Emergent Community Based Organizations (CBO) and Community members: 398

LEGAL SUPPORT

- Calls Received and Provide legal information, counseling and support

- Cases Documented on Human Rights violation: 11

- Community Based Organization’s (CBO) developed their Minimum Capacity: Shocheton Shomaj Sheba Hijra Shangho, Dhaka.

- Books newly enlisted and persons visited Gender and Sexuality Resource Centre: 36
Bandhu Received Prestigious 'Hero Award' for its Contribution to HIV Prevention, Equality and Rights of Gender Diverse Population

For outstanding services to the HIV/AIDS response and its dedicated efforts towards ensuring Equality and Rights of the gender diverse population, Bandhu Social Welfare Society (Bandhu) received 'Hero Award' from APCOM, a leading regional HIV and SOGI community network which this year hosted RRRAP summit in marking ten years of service to the communities it works with across Asia and the Pacific.

Mr. Shale Ahmed, Executive Director of Bandhu received the award on Sunday 12 November 2017 at the Pullman Bangkok King Power Hotel, Thailand.

The event includes the three-day RRRAP Summit - which stands for Rights, Resources and Resilience Asia Pacific hosted by APCOM - is a five-day event took place at Bangkok on 13 - 17 November 2017; Followed by two days of community seminars and strategic planning.

The award recipients were selected from 21 finalists who were chosen from over 350 nominations that were received from across Asia and the Pacific region. Among the winners in different categories Bandhu Social Welfare Society (Bandhu) received the Community Organization Award for its outstanding work in relation to HIV as well as the health and rights of SOGI population in Bangladesh.
Bandhu Received "Ardhanareeswara" Award from an International platform

Bandhu's dedication towards its mandate of ensuring health and health rights was recognized by different entities through awards many times. In 2017 Bandhu also received an international award named "Ardhanareeswara" in the category of Human Rights Defender from Rainbow Sky Association of Thailand in 2017. Ms. Sukhontha Kongsin, Professor, Public Health Department of Mahidol University received the Award on behalf of Bandhu.

Bandhu Participated in 9th Asia Pacific Conference on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)

Bring about the SDG promise of leaving no-one behind, 9th Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights took at the Quang Ninh Exhibition of Planning and Expo Center, Ha Long Bay, Quang Ninh Province, Vietnam. The Asia Pacific is an area of rapid growth and transition where poor and marginalized communities miss out on good quality treatment and services in terms of health and even more in sexual and reproductive health issues. From 27 - 30 November 2017, the conference held to address these and other equity challenges, there is a need to promote justice in sexual and reproductive health. This requires a rethinking of policies and practices to ensure the marginalized and disadvantaged peoples are placed in center-stages in the regional and international platforms.

মৌন ও প্রজননবিষ্কারা এবং অধিকার বিষয়ক ৯ম আঞ্চলিক সম্মেলনে বন্ধু

"কাউকেই পেছনে ফেলে এগিয়ে যাওয়া নয়" এন্ডিডসিআর (টেক্সিসহ উল্লেখযোগ্য অংশ) প্রতি শিকায় সেরা নির্দেশনায় কেমন নির্দেশনা হল সেরা সেরা, মৌনন্তিক এবং অধিকারের বিষয়ক ৯ম এশিয়া ও প্রজনন মহাসাগরীর সম্মেলন ২১-৩০ নভেম্বর ২০১৭ তারিখে অনুষ্ঠিত হয়েছে। প্রতিষ্ঠানের নতুন নতুন সুবিধাগুলি এবং নায়কের নির্দেশনা করার চাইতে সমাজের মোকাবিলা করার উদ্দেশ্যে এই সম্মেলন। মৌন ও প্রজননবিষ্কারা ধরে উল্লেখ নিশ্চিত তেই ধরণরূপে সম্মেলন প্রক্রিয়ার বিষয়ক ও সুবিধাসহ বিভিন্ন মহাসাগরীর যাতে অধিকারের ও জাতীয় পর্যায়ে গৃহীত পদ্ধতিগুলির কেন্দ্রে থাকে, সেজন্য এই ধরণের সম্মেলনের মাধ্যমে নীতির পদ্ধতি এবং অধিকারের বর্ণনা সম্পর্কে নতুন করে ধিকটা করার সুযোগ বৃদ্ধি হয়।

বন্ধু সোশ্যাল ও সোসাইটিতির (বন্ধু) নির্দেশনায় পরিচালক সালেহ আহমেদ এবং সাধারণ সম্পাদক গামার আহমেদ নিদা/আরএফএসইউ সহযোগিতায় এই সম্মেলনে অংশগ্রহণ করেন। সালেহ আহমেদ এশিয়া ও প্রজনন মহাসাগরীর অন্তর্ভুক্ত বিদ্যমান জনগোষ্ঠীর উদ্যোগের জন্য আয়োজিত একটি স্যাটেলাইট অধিবেশনে
national responses. Supporting such work, civil society movements should also participate as equal partners in decision making to promote person-centered sexual and reproductive health and health care.

Mr. Shale Ahmed, the Executive Director, and Mr. Golam Ahmed, General Secretary of Bandhu Social Welfare Society (Bandhu) attended the conference with the support of SIDA/RFSU.

Shale Ahmed also spoke at the satellite session on advancing the rights of Gender Diverse population in Asia and the Pacific: Universality vs Regional which was hosted by ARROW. The conference presented many interesting papers and gave a regional perspective on how SRHR and Sexual & Gender Diversity issues were addressed in several countries in the Asia Pacific region.

Award Ceremony of Bandhu Media Fellowship 2017

The 7th media fellowship closing and award ceremony of Bandhu took place on 20th December 2017 at Kabi Sufia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum, Shahbag, Dhaka. A significant number of participants including awarded media fellows, journalists from print media, online news portals, electronic houses, community representatives, NGOs and INGOs representatives, lawyers, honorable juries' representatives and students. Mr. Kazi Reazul Hoque, Honorable Chairman, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)
of Bangladesh was there as the chief guest. Mr. Robaet Ferdous, Associate Professor, Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, University of Dhaka moderated the session. The major objectives of this program were to construct a bridge between mainstream and community people for securing health service as well as to make mainstream people aware of the livelihood and living standard of Hijra Community people.

Program opened with the welcome remarks and shared the objectives of this program by Mr. Amisul Islam Hero, Chairperson of Bandhu. Mr. Kazi Reazul Haque, Chairman, NHRC of Bangladesh, appreciated Bandhu for its achievements. He said, "Its good news that government increased the budget for Hijras development." Emphasizing on 'Respect of Humanities' and 'Equalities' he said, "There should be more laws on this issue for a better outcome in future." He declared that NHRC had prepared a draft Anti Discriminatory Law that was going to be submitted to the Government in December, 2017. He committed to requested Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) personally regarding Hijra census throughout the country.

Acknowledging fellow’s efforts and disseminating the reports of fellowship, crests, and certificates; in conclusion, Mr. Shale Ahmed, Executive Director of Bandhu gave a reminder to all the policy makers about one of the goals of SDG- 'Leaving no one behind'. Without bringing gender diverse population on an equal platform, it would not be possible to achieve the target of SDG, he mentioned.
Bandhu Lawyers Fellowship 2017

Bandhu hosted Lawyers Fellowship Award giving ceremony on 10 October 2017 at Daily Star Bhabon where 10 Lawyers had been awarded for their noteworthy contribution to the gender diverse population.

The fellowship to lawyers offered based on the recommendation from different consultation meetings with the lawyers. The objective was to initiate the provision of legal support to the gender diverse community in seven divisions of the country. In the Award giving ceremony, the Chief Guest was Dr. Gowher Rizvi, Advisor-International Affairs of the honorable Prime Minister and the Special Guest was Mr. Z I Khan Panna, Chairman, Human Rights Committee, Bangladesh Bar Association. Dr. Gowher Rizvi expressed that, “There are lots of organizations working on human rights issues, but Bandhu is just doing a wondering job for this community. He also mentioned about the Govt.’s concern and role to ensure gender equality. In addition, he requested all to come forward against the violation to this community and raise social awareness.”

Mr. Z I Khan Panna presented his speech by mentioning gender equality of the constitution. He requested to our fellows to do PLI (Public Interest Litigation) on legal gender recognition of transgender. He also added that lawyers have vast scope comparing to others for doing the country as well as for this community. He emphasized on gender equality for the all citizen of the country.

้าইনজীবীদের বন্ধুর
ফেলোশিপ প্রদান

2017 সালের ১০ অক্টোবর তারিখে বন্ধু আইনজীবীদের জন্য ফেলোশিপ পুরস্কার প্রদান অনুষ্ঠানের আয়োজন করে। এই অনুষ্ঠানে অংশ নিলে সাতজন আইনজীবীকে এই পুরস্কার প্রদান অনুষ্ঠিত হয়। এখানে উল্লেখযোগ্য হলো উক্ত আইনজীবীরা জাতীয় নিয়মে নির্দিষ্ট তথ্য মানুষদের জন্যে উক্ত প্রশ্নগুলির উত্তর দেওয়ার রাশিক কাজের জন্যে, ১০ জন আইনজীবীকে এই পুরস্কার প্রদান করা হয়।

আইনজীবীদের সাথে বিভিন্ন পরামর্শ সভায় সূচালিত হয়ে এই ফেলোশিপের জন্য আইনজীবীদের মনোনয়ন করা হয়। এই ফেলোশিপের উদ্দেশ্য ছিল এদের সাথে নিয়মের লিঙ্গ বৈষম্য জনগোষ্ঠীকে আইনজীবীদের মাধ্যমে আইনী সহায়তা দেওয়ার সুযোগ করা।

প্রথমে বাংলাদেশ সরকারের মনোনয়নের আন্তর্জাতিক বিষয়ক উক্তিতে ড. গোহার রিজী এই পুরস্কার প্রদান অনুষ্ঠানে এখন অংশিত হবেন। এখনও এই সময় আইনজীবীর ভূমিকা বিষয়ে উন্নয়ন করার জন্যে সরকারের উদ্দেশ্য চেষ্টা চালাচ্ছে। তিনি এই বিষয়ে সরকারের উদ্দেশ্য উল্লেখ করেন এবং সেই সময়ে নৈতিক সমাজ নিয়ন্ত্রণ করার জন্যে সরকারের ভূমিকা করাতে বন্ধন। এছাড়াও তিনি এই উক্তি জনগোষ্ঠীর অধিকার প্রকল্পের ক্ষেত্রে এগিয়ে আসা এবং সামাজিক সমালোচনা বৃদ্ধি করা যাবে কাজ করার সহায়তায় এগিয়ে আসা আহ্বান জানান।

জনাব জেত আই খান পাতা তার বক্তব্য প্রদানকরে নেপথের সংবিধানে রক্ষিত সেবার সমর্থর কথা উল্লেখ করেন। তিনি ট্রাম্প সেরা জনগোষ্ঠীর আইনী জনগোষ্ঠীর রক্ষণ খাটি শিলালয় (Public Interest Litigation) কর্তৃক জাতীয় পক্ষের জন্যে বন্ধু এই ফেলোশিপের উদ্দেশ্য আহ্বান জানান। তিনি আরো বলেন যে, এই জনগোষ্ঠীর সাথে সাথে নেপথের জন্যে কাজ করার জন্যে আমাদের চাইতে আইনজীবীদের সুস্থা অনন্য বেশি। তিনি নেপথের সাথ নাগরিকের জন্য ইন্দিয় নৈতিক সমাজ নিয়ন্ত্রিত করার জন্যে গুরুত্ব প্রদান করেন।
Consultation Meeting to Create Job Opportunities for Hijra Community

Bandhu has arranged a consultation meeting to sensitize the corporate and media personnel regarding the gender diverse population as well as might generates employment opportunities for them. Under Human Rights in Development Project supported by USAID helped to organize the meeting on 19th December 2017 at Sky City Hotel in Dhaka. Gatekeepers from Corporate and media house participated in the meeting to develop anticipated life and livelihood of gender diverse community of Bangladesh. Meeting’s recommendation would be documented and shared with all participants. Advocacy with different associations of corporate houses could be an effective step to create employment opportunities for the gender diverse people in near future.

The special guest of the event was Thomas Pope, Director, Office of Democracy and Governance, USAID/Bangladesh. The meeting represented by the representative from furniture sector, ceramic sector, leather and footwear sector, agro-food process sector, SME foundation and, media was present. They were found very keen to work with the gender diverse population from their CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) activities. A bunch of important recommendations came out from the fruitful discussion like Hijras are used by their Guru to collect money from different sources, need to motivate them to come out from disgraceful ways of earning. Bandhu can arrange a job fair for the gender diverse population and invite different companies in the fair to recruit Hijra community people.
Launching of Right Here Right Now Bangladesh Platform

Right Here Right Now (RHRN) an initiative towards meaningful and Inclusive Youth Adult partnership towards policy advocacy. Bandhu Social Welfare Society organized launching ceremony of Right Here Right Now (RHRN) Bangladesh Platform on 18th October 2017 as host of the platform in Bangladesh.

RHRN prioritizes multi-level advocacy for Comprehensive Reproductive Health and Sexuality Education. And Increase social tolerance towards gender expressions and towards youth friendly SRHR services. The RHRN partnership envisions a world where all young people are able to access quality and youth-friendly health services and not afraid to openly express who they are and who they love. We believe that young people everywhere have the inalienable right to make their own choices and lead happy and healthy lives with better information, education and access to comprehensive youth-friendly services through sustainable policy changes.

This ceremony was illuminated by the gracious presence of Mr. Kazi Reazul Hoque, Honorable Chairman, National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh, H.E. Ms. Leoni Margaretha Cuelenaere - Ambassador of Netherlands in Bangladesh together with heads of RHRN platform member organizations.
Consultation to Wellbeing for Third Gender Community

Bandhu Social Welfare Society (Bandhu), jointly with National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) organized a consultation meeting titled 'Legal Gender Recognition'. Meeting aimed to analyze the legal and policy gaps that inhibit protection of rights of the third gender community of Bangladesh. On 7th November 2017 at the conference room, NHRCB consultation meeting held with objectives to identify the way forward with set roles for taking initiatives of legal gender recognition.

Mr. Shale Ahmed, Executive Director of Bandhu, opined that the definition of Hijras is not being cleared so far and as a result, they are facing a lot of challenges for assessing their gender identity during the medical test in hospitals. Reduce the harassment and unwanted hassle, a legal gender recognition study has been conducted by UNDP but the report is yet to be published by NHRC, he also marked.

The consultation was chaired by Mr. Anisul Islam Hero, Chairperson, Bandhu and equipped by the grace of Mr. Nazrul Islam, full-time member, NHRC. Dr. Megna Guhathakurta, member and Chair of Hijra, Dalit and other excluded minorities committee, Ms. Nurun Naher Osmani, member of NHRCB, lawyers, journalists, students, member of law enforcing agencies, community members and members of civil society organization attended the meeting.
Agreed action items for follow up:

- Create job opportunity for the Hijras at NHRC of Bangladesh
- Hijra study report needs to be placed immediately to the next meeting of national human rights commission as agenda for approval of publication
- New policy/law need to be enacted to ensure the legal rights of Hijra people in the state.
- Public Interest Litigation (PIL) can be filed for formulating specific law and policies for the protection of Hijra rights.

**Annual Review and Planning Meeting of Bandhu**

With a view to celebrating the collective achievements as well as identifying the loopholes and at the same time prioritizing the ways out with staff contribution Bandhu arranges Annual Review and Planning Meeting (ARM) in Paro, Bhutan from 25th to 27th December. ARM brought all sectors’ officials in single a floor to leverage the cooperative and cordial atmosphere in the organization to optimize the collective achievement through an edutainment process. Mr. Anisul Islam Hero, Chairperson of Bandhu delivered his inspirational and appreciating speech followed by the speech of Executive Director, Mr. Shale Ahmed focusing the Organizational Growth and Development.
In the following days, extensive discussion and presentations took place focusing the Development Pillars of Bandhu. All Departments including Human Resource, Finance and Admin, Programs, Training, M & E presented objectives and achievements throughout 2017 lead by Departmental Heads. All the Project Heads also presented projects mostly focusing the promising practices, innovations and crucial achievements. It was an event that allowed all to learn about the tiny to big activities of the projects.

Organizational operational plan for next year (2018) align with the Strategic Development Pillars was set at this meeting.

Meeting with National Technical Working Group

The 5th Technical Working Group Meeting was held on 7 December 2017 at Conference Room, MSA Office, 62/A, Siddeshwari, Dhaka. The objective of the meeting was to bring together the representatives of Technical Working group for aligning policy, reviewing difficulties and challenges, and coordinating action for Gender diversified and TG community and also share the periodic updates among the forum members. A total of 10 admirable members representing National Human Rights Commission, National AIDS/STD Program, Judiciary, Academicians, Law Enforcement Agency, Journalist, Faith Leaders, Civil Society Organizations and Community Leaders discussed about the diverse challenges and categorize strategies and advice for effective programming. Major recommendations of this meeting were to create a link with different academicians for significant studies as public/private universities have their own budget to conduct research. So the necessary topic can be proposed by Bandhu for future research. That evidence may help Bandhu to design more effective
programs for the community. Bandhu should work with different Govt. Medical college Hospitals to ensure appropriate health services and ARV to the community. Committee suggested that Ain-Alap will give information about Complaint lodge mechanism and make communication network. The committee also emphasized on arrangement orientation session with the crime branch and media house.

Success Stories are Contributing to Social Change by Hijra Population

Telling Story -Narira Begum

Generally, Family, school, university, hospital, park, cinema hall, public transport, hospital all kind of institutions are not that much aware of Hijras life. When social change maker tries to create Hijra as role models or bring them to high profile, society gets back a negative reaction and makes a vulnerable situation one again. There limited Hijra people became flourishing by their social work and contribution. Currently, a member of the Hijra community is creating waves in Rangpur city by taking a shot at a councilor post in the near past city corporation election. Nadira Begum is spanned day and night meeting the residents of wards 20, 21 and
22 in the reserved seats for women. Nadira Begum pledged to work for the amelioration of underprivileged communities, including hers if she comes out victorious in the election as a member of the third gender community. Nadira, a Hijra who lives in a rented flat near Rangpur city’s Lalbag Rail gate, has been acclaimed for her work as a social worker and for raising her voice on various issues. After her candidacy was confirmed, she proceeded to distribute leaflets in which she vowed to work for the betterment of everyone in the area, if elected. Women appeared enraptured by her campaign while she has endeared herself to her elders with a strong show of respect. "Voters accepted me more than I expected," Nadira told Bandhu while campaigning at the Babukhun High School ground. "I am receiving a good response from people of all strata and they are helping me in many ways. Many women are voluntarily coming to my aid in the electoral campaign."

Though Nadira was completed Masters at Rajshahi University in 1999. Nadira said she faced difficulties in finding employment because of her gender. Finally, she wasn't able to succeed that election but received 7026 (Total voter were 25000) people’s mandate favor of her commitment towards the larger society.

Telling Story: Mx Poli & Joyeeta Award

Mx.Poli is Hijra identified community soldier for keeping our Hijra's respect, dignity as a human being in Rajshahi. She used to receive misbehaved even from her mother as they carried the social justice in their mind setup. She liked to do dressmaking by sewing machine and applique work. But nobody recognized her skilled as hijra fashion creator. After a certain time she became
mentally strong and started new life journey with own vision. Talk with her mother and sister about her feelings and future thought. In the meantime communicate with local community friends to create something else. She knew that she can make difference by their potentiality. Many of Hijra developed community-based organization (Denar Alo Hijra Shangha) for upholding their social life and status. Gradually she received much training from Bandhu and increased her diverse skilled for resource mobilization and sustainability purpose. She started her small tailoring business with the support of Bandhu technical group and promoted her product for marketing.

Cultural evening of 'Essence of Soul (Sattya)'

In 12th October 2017 Bandhu arranged a cultural event at Mohila Samity Milonayoton, Baily Road where Essence of Soul performed dance and Fashion show. In that program, Chief Guest was Abu Muhammad Yusuf, Director-Department of Social Service, Ministry of Social welfare. Two actor and actress ABM Sumon and Quazi Nawshaba Ahmed from the movie "Dhaka Attack" was present as Special Guest. More than 300 audiences gathered to enjoy the enchanting performance of gender diverse community members.

'Essence of Soul (Sottya)’ was formed in February 2006 as a response to the social exclusion and stigmatization that gender diverse populace face in the country. From the

বন্ধুর সাংস্কৃতিক ইউনিট

‘অ্যাসেন্স অব সোল (সত্য)’র সাংস্কৃতিক সম্মান

২০১৭ সালের ১২ অক্টোবর বন্ধু তার বেইলি গেজেড মহিলা সমিতি মিলনায়তনে মনোজ সাংস্কৃতিক সম্মান আয়োজন করে। এই আয়োজনে ‘অ্যাসেন্স অব সোল (সত্য)’ একটি নৃত্যলেখা পরিবেশন এবং ফাশন শো প্রদর্শন করে।

এই অনুষ্ঠানে প্রধান অতিথি হিসেবে উপস্থিত ছিলেন সমাজ বল্য়ার মনোজ এবং তার দৌড়ের পরিবেশন অত্যন্ত মুহূর্ত। এছাড়াও ‘টাকা আটক’ চলচ্চিত্রের অভিনেতা ও অভিনেত্রী একিম সুমন ও কাজি নখশাবা আহমেদ বিশেষ অতিথি হিসেবে উপস্থিত হয়ে অনুষ্ঠানকে অনুপ্রেরণা করেন।

উল্লেখ্য, ২০০৬ সালের ফেব্রুয়ারির মাসে ‘অ্যাসেন্স অব সোল (সত্য)’ গঠিত হয়। দেশের বেইলি বৈচিত্র্য জনগোষ্ঠী
ancient time, Hijra community is culturally enriched and attached with a variety of sectors like dance, singing, acting in theaters etc. In order to relate to them, the mainstream audience needs to be sensitized about the livelihood, struggles, desires, aspirations of this community. So Sottya/Essence of Soul became that platform where they can display their cultural knack to the mainstream audience.

Event

Daylong Orientation Program with civil surgeon office at Cumilla

Bandhu celebrated World AIDS Day 2017

Consultation Workshop with Service Providers on Stigma and Discrimination Free Health Access to PLHIV

Human rights day celebration, 2017

WRITERS OF THIS EDITION