EDITORIAL

"Coming together is a beginning, Staying together is a progress and working together is a success" said Hervy Ford. Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. The ability to direct individual accomplishments towards organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results.

With the support from each other SPANDON has just been stepped in to it’s 15 years successfully. We would like to convey our heartiest thanks and gratitude to each and every compere of our journey. During this edition of SPANDON (April-June, 2019), we have focused some significant initiatives on reducing on reducing spread of HIV/ AIDS, empowerment, voting rights, paving the way for obtaining their social justice, equality, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and participation of gender diverse population in mainstreaming society. We expect this population will enjoy the fundamental and basic human rights like others in this sophisticated world and this is why we need to bring radical change in our mindset and within the larger society as well.

Surpasses all limitations, we are expecting your cooperation to continue our "SPANDON" in future successfully.

"Еকসার্থে আসা একটি মুন্দো, একসাথে বোধ একটি অপ্রতি এবং একসাথে কাজ করা একটি সফলা” / কথাগুলো বলেছে হারভি ফোর্ড। টিমওয়ার্ক হল একটি বিশ্বাস যা যে কল দেখি সাধারণভাবে দেখে, দলীয় কাজ হল একসাথে কাজ করার ফলমূল। সংগঠনের উদ্দেশ্যের দিকে চিত্র করলে বলা যায় বস্তু সাফল্যকে পরিণত করার ফলমূল। দলীয় কাজ হচ্ছে এমন একটি মানুষী যা মানুষকে মানবিক ফলফল অর্জন করে সহায়তা করে বলে আমরা ধারন করি।

সকলের সহযোগিতায় সম্ভব হয়ে “স্পন্ডন” পার্শ্বের বর্ষা প্রকাশের আমরা আমাদের এই যাত্রার প্রতিষ্ঠান সহযোগিকে আমাদের হস্ত উৎসাহী ধন্যবাদ ও কৃতজ্ঞতা জানাতে চাই। স্পন্ডনের এই প্রধানায় (এপ্রিল-জুন, ২০১৯) আমরা লিখ বৈচিত্রমূলক জনগোষ্ঠীর মধ্যে এই সামাজিক/ এই সামাজিক কার্যক্ষেত্রের সফলতা অর্জনে পদক্ষেপ, ক্ষমতায়ন, ভোটের অধিকার, একই সাথে তারা জানে সামাজিক ন্যায় বিচার, সমাজী অধিকার, যৌবন ও প্রজনন যোগ্যতা ও অধিকার (এসএনএইচআর) এবং সমাজে মূল হৃদয়সাহায্য এই জনগোষ্ঠীর জন্য আংশিক ইতিহাস বিজ্ঞাপন তুলে ধরেছি। আমরা আশাকরি সমাজের সকল মানুষের মত এই জনগোষ্ঠী নেন সকল প্রকার মৌলিক এবং সামাজিক অধিকারগুলো পূর্ণ করতে সম্মত হয়। জন্মা দরকার আমাদের প্রতিষ্ঠান সমাজের বিভাগ এবং মানবনৃত্যু পরিবর্তন সাধন করে।

সকল সীমাবদ্ধতাকে অতিক্রম করে “স্পন্ডন” কে সামাজিক এগিয়ে নিয়ে যেতে আমরা আপনাদের সকলের সহযোগিতায় কামনা করি।
HEALTH CARE SERVICES

19347 Project Participants

2768 Project Participants

2902 Project Participants

1837 Episodes

327 Clients

ADVOCACY PROGRAM

We advocated

1102 Stakeholders

49 Youth participants

802 Different Ambassadors, Educationalists, Law Enforcement Agencies, AIDS/STD Program, Media Channels, Different divisional/district administration, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Department of Social Services, DCs, Women Affair, Civil Surgeon office, INGOs officials, public and private educational institutions, Community Based Organization (CBO) members and other influential’s of the society.

29 Health Professionals

169 Legal Aid Providers

53 Media Journalists

CAPACITY BUILDING

We trained

258 people

94 Relevant Stakeholders

164 Community Members, youth participants, DIC staffs

LEGAL SUPPORT (AIN ALAP)

51 Calls Received and Provide legal information, counseling and support

18 Cases Documented on Human Rights violation

4 Community Based Organization’s implementing small-scale business for their sustainability.

14 Books newly enlisted and 63 persons visited Gender and Sexuality Resource Centre
TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY IN BANGLADESH FINALLY GRANTED FULL VOTING RIGHTS

Bangladesh's transgender community has finally been granted the right to use their correct identity to register as a voter.

Government officials have given full recognition to the hijras cultural status by creating a specialist "third gender" category on Bangladesh's national voters list. Previously, the hijra community could only sign up to vote as men or women - but many avoided doing so because they did not feel adequately represented. Now, individuals can register to vote using their own identity as a hijra.

"From now onward, a third gender individual can be a voter with their own identity, as a hijra," said Abdul Baten, the Director of National Identity Registration. "The press has already been ordered to print the new forms. Now they can identify themselves as hijras on the national voters list."

Historically, they enjoyed a semi-sacred status in Bangladesh and earned their living by singing and dancing at social celebrations like weddings. They were even invited to bless married couples and newborn babies. However, over time, attitudes towards the group soured and they have become marginalized within Bangladeshi society, excluded from cultural, religious, political and professional life.

রাষ্ট্রপতি পণ্ডিত নরেন্দ্র মোদি বলেন, বেনামি মহিলাদের সমাজের সমস্ত ক্ষেত্রেই এর জন্যে বিভাজিত রাখা হয়েছে।
স্বরাষ্ট্রমন্ত্রীর বাসভবনে চাকরি পেলেন হিজড়া সম্প্রদায়ের সদস্য

লিঙ্গ পৌরুষের জনগোষ্ঠীকে সমাজের মূল ধারণায় ফিরিয়ে আনতে বিভিন্ন ধরনের উদ্যোগ গ্রহণ করছে বাংলাদেশ সরকার। এরই ধারণাবাহিক কর্মে হিজড়া সম্প্রদায়ের এক ব্যক্তির জন্য কাজের সুযোগ পাওয়া সৃষ্টি করে দিয়েছে স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়। স্বরাষ্ট্রমন্ত্রী আসাদুজ্জামান খান কামালের রাষ্ট্রীয় বাসভবনে কেয়ারটাকের হিজড়া সম্প্রদায়ের সদস্য রিয়াদি শামসের খাতা গ্রহণ করে।

চার বছর আগে পরিবার থেকে বিতাড়িত হন রিয়াদি। এরপর জীবিকার গোপনে যোগ দেন যাত্রা এলাকার একটি হিজড়া সংঘে। তবে অর্থনীতিতে পাশাপাশি পড়ালেখাতেও চালিয়ে যান। হিসাববিজ্ঞানে ডিগ্রি লাভ করেন। কিন্তু চাকরি খোলা থেকেই সমৃদ্ধী হন নানা প্রতিবন্ধকতায়। হিজড়া পরিবেরের কারণে চাকরি পাওয়া অসম্ভব হয়ে পড়ে। একটি বেসরকারী সংস্থার চাকরি জুটিতেও উপহারের শিকার হয়ে কাজটি হারাতে হয়।

এরপর বেঁচে থাকার সাথে হল হয়ে চাকরি খুঁজলেন রিয়াদি শামসের। অবশেষে দীর্ঘ সময়ের পর স্বরাষ্ট্রমন্ত্রীর রাজাইয়ের বাসভবনে চাকরি পান তিনি। বর্তমানে স্বরাষ্ট্রমন্ত্রীর বাসভবনে তিনি একজন পরিচিত মুখ। এখানে তার জন্য কোন সমস্যা তাকে প্রতিবন্ধকতা গ্রহণ করছেন। মন্ত্রীর বাসভবনে কর্মরত অন্যদের পড়াশোনার ক্ষেত্রে সহায়তা করেন রিয়াদি শামসের।

বাংলাদেশে হিজড়ারা একটি অবহেলিত জনগোষ্ঠী। তৃতীয় লিঙ্গের বৈকৃতি পেলেও হিজড়াদের সংখ্যার সর্বমোট অনেক পরিবর্তনের দেই। তবে অতি সম্প্রতি মিলেছে তাদের ভৌতিকতার। সরকারের পাশাপাশি দেশের সমগ্র জনতার হাতে এই জনগোষ্ঠীর জীবনক্ষমতা উন্নয়ন সহায়তা।

MEMBER FROM TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY GOT JOB IN HOME-MINISTER'S OFFICE

Bangladesh government has taken various initiatives to create a bridge between gender diverse and mainstream population. Subsequently, The Home Ministry has created employment opportunities for one person from the Hijra community. Riyadi Shams a representative of this community has appointed as caretaker at Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal's residence.

Riyadi’s family broke ties with her four years ago. Then she joined the Hijra Sangha in Jatrabari area to earn a living. However, because of her determination and strong will she continued her studies, and got the degree in Accounting. Yet, she faced in many obstacles while looking for jobs. However, she somehow managed to get a job in a private company but lost his job after being ridiculed there. But she didn’t lose hope and continued to look for jobs. Finally, after a long struggle, she got a job at the Home Minister's residence. Now she has become a very familiar face in the Home Minister's residence, and other activists here also accepted her naturally. She also helped others in that residence with education.

Hijra is a neglected community in Bangladesh and there is no census on this community. By providing such opportunities their quality of life can be improved to some extent.
JUSTICE AND PROTECTION FOR ALL: HUMANITARIAN AWARD CEREMONY

On the occasion of celebrating IDAHOT 2019, Bandhu organized an Award Ceremony titled "Humanitarian Award Ceremony 2019: Justice and Protection for All" on 26th June 2019 at Eden Ballroom, Hotel Amari, Gulshan-2, Dhaka. This event was jointly supported by AusAID, USAID and Cheap Monday. More than hundred eminent guests representing awarded guests, journalists from different print and electronic media, community members, NGOs and INGOs, representatives of Embassies USA, Australia and Denmark, USAID, lawyers, Doctors, Law Enforcement Agencies, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Lecturer and Professor from different educational institutes attended. The objective of the event was to develop strong network among the gender diverse population and different stakeholders in Bangladesh.

Chairperson of Bandhu Mr. Anisul Islam Hero thanked all the organizations and individuals who always supported Bandhu's work and congratulating all the awardees and thanking everyone who were present there in his opening remarks.

Ten people were awarded for their special contribution in different sectors. They are; Poly Hijra, President, Diner Alo Hijra Sangho, Rajshahi; Bidhan Tripura PPM (Bar), AIG (Land and Estate), etc.

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Bangladesh Police; Denim Expert Ltd., Chattogram; Robaet Ferdous, Professor, Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, University of Dhaka; Professor Dr. Ratan Siddique, Distinguished Educator and Dramatist; Professor Dr. Md Shamiul Islam, Director, MBDC & Line Director, TBL-ASP, DGHS; National Legal Aid and Services Organization (NILASO); Channel I, Dhaka, Bangladesh; Ain o Shalish Kendra (ASK), A legal right and human rights organization; Kabirul Islam Ratan, Dance Director and Choreographer. Chief Guest and special guests distributed the awards to the awardees. All the awardees shared their note of thanks and their feelings for receiving this award.

H.E. Julia Niblett, High Commissioner of Australia to Bangladesh said "it is great to be here in this occasion and thanked Bandhu for arranging this event. She also praised all the awardees for their contribution. From her experience of Australia, she knows that protecting rights is a tough journey. The works Bandhu does is vitally important. She suggested that all should work together including media and other sectors to reaching the goal. We people of Australia are very proud of the work of Bandhu and I want to salute your courage and all the developments."

H.E. Winnie Estrup Peterson, Ambassador of Denmark to Bangladesh said "It is a real pleasure to be here. And congratulations to all awardees and I am very touched to learn about their works and stories. Gender diversity is one of the areas where humans are differentiating from each other. However, gender individuals still face discrimination in public though they are equal
by law. We must leave no one behind. We must work together and developed agenda. Civil society organizations like Bandhu are playing important role in this sector."

US Ambassador H.E. Earl R Miller addressed "In many countries including Bangladesh and US gender diverse population are struggling just for who they are. All people should enjoy freedom without being discriminated. For the young people in the audience today, this world, even if it is full of chaos and violence and discrimination it is still yours. You should make it a peaceful and equal place for all. When we hear injustice, we can do something but we chose not to do anything. We should make up our mind in such way wherever we will see anything wrong we should raise our voice against it."

Shale Ahmed, Executive Director of Bandhu Social Welfare Society presented the closing remarks and vote of thanks. He addressed "I am pleased and thankful to all for giving their important time. This award ceremony was arranged to give thanks to those who contributed to this community. We will continue to do this so that people have motivations to continue their excellent works."

In the last part of the event, the "Essence of Soul" performed a beautiful dance performance for the guests. This was a thematic dance presentation titled 'Beautiful Bangladesh' Dance in Bangladesh is predominantly folk based.

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বদ্ধ করতে হবে এবং এর ফলে বাদবাদ করতে হবে। বদ্ধ মত সমাজতিনী সংগঠন এ ক্ষেত্রে ওপরুক্ত ভূমিকা পালন করছে।

মার্কিন রাষ্ট্রপতি জর্জ ওয়াশিংটনের বলেন, 'বাংলাদেশ এবং অ্যামেরিকায় বিশ্বের বিভিন্ন দেশে লিঙ্গ বৈচিত্রময় জ্ঞানোপাধী তাদের পরিচয়ের জন্য সমর্পন করছে।

তার সকলের অভিকার, এক্ষেত্রে বৈষম্য কামা নয়।

অজ্ঞাতকের দাঁড়ানোর থেকে যুবকের উদ্দেশ্যোবলছে, এই বিষয়ে বিশ্বকর্মা, সমাজতন্ত্র এবং বৈষম্য থাকিলেও এই

গৃহীত অপনাই। অপনাইরই এই বিশ্বকর্মাকে সকলের

জন্য সমাজ অভিকারের ভাবের হিসেবে তৈরি করতে হবে।

যখন অমারা অন্যদের কথা ওঁঁহ তখন অমারা

চাইলে হতো কিছু করতে পারি তবে অমারা প্রতিবাদ

করিনা। অমারাদের এই মানসিকতা তৈরি করতে হবে যে,

কোথাও কোন অন্যায় দেখে অমারা তার বিরুদ্ধে কথা

বলবে।

বদ্ধের নির্বাহী পরিচালক সালেহ আহমেদ সম্পাদনী

বক্তব্যে সকলকে ধন্যবাদ প্রদান করেন। তিনি বলেন,

“আমি কৃতজ্ঞ আপনাদের প্রতি ওপরুক্ত সমাজ এখানে

বায় করার জন্য। যারা এই সমাজ পরিবর্তনে বিভিন্নভাবে

অবদান রাখেন তাদের জন্যই মৃদু অজ্ঞাতকের এই

সমাজসভা ব্যবহার। আমারা এই উদ্দেশ্য ভাবিয়েও

অবাধ রাখা যাতে মানুষজন তাদের কল্যাণকর কাজ

চালিয়ে যাওয়ার জন্য অনুশীলণ পায়।

অনুষ্ঠানের শেষ অংশে, জিজ্ঞাস সক্সনার্ডের নাট্যচল

“এমন অন সৌল” অভিধানের জন্য সুন্দর নৃত্য

পরিবেশনা করে। এটি ছিল 'সৌলচর্যার বাংলাদেশ'

শিরোনামে একটি লোকসংস্কৃত।
INFORMATION SAFETY & CAPACITY GLOBAL WORKSHOP IN NAIROBI, KENYA

The Information Safety & Capacity (ISC) Project is focused on providing advanced, sustained information security assistance to civil society organizations, human rights activists, and independent media. As a civil society and human rights organization, Bandhu is working with ISC project since 2017 as a local partner. The ISC Project provides mentoring and support services to assist stakeholders in mitigating threats to their online and mobile communications. These threats can include third-party monitoring of email traffic and content, attacks or forced closure of websites, computer infection by malware and viruses, recording of SMS/text messaging and mobile telephone conversations, and broad censorship of online content.

The Information Safety & Capacity Global Workshop, held in Kenya on 15-17 July, 2019 and participants from South America, Europe and Asia region. In the workshop various session topics that range from how to advocate for a free, open, inclusive, secure, and democratic Internet, to the ramifications that digital surveillance and disinformation campaigns were discussed. The workshop had covered the most up-to-date and relevant trends and threats in the information security and Internet governance field, while gathering leaders in the tech industry and pairing them with frontline activists.

Mr. Rofiqul Islam, Deputy Manager-Information Technology and Mr. Tanvir Islam, Assistant Manager-Legal Support & Security participated from Bandhu at Global Workshop on Information Safety & Capacity and partly represented Bangladesh Platform.

15-17 জুলাই, ২০১৯-তে কিনারিয়ায় অনুষ্ঠিত ইনফরমেশন সেক্টরের প্রযুক্তি কাপাসিটি গ্র্যাবাল ওয়ার্ডশিপ দক্ষিণ আমেরিকা, ইউরোপ এবং এশিয়া অঞ্চলের অংশ নেয়। কর্মশালায় একটি উল্লেখযোগ্য উপকূলীয় এলাকায়, প্রযুক্তি শিল্পের নেতাদের একটি কর্ত্রিক করতে এবং ফ্রন্টলাইন নেতাদের সাথে তাদের জীবন করার সময় এই কর্মশালায় তথ্য সুরক্ষা এবং ইন্টারনেট পরিচালনার ক্ষেত্রে সর্বাধিক আন্তর্জাতিক ও প্রযুক্তি প্রকৌশল এবং হ্রাসকারী প্রযুক্তি অভিযোগ করার হয়।

তথ্য নিরাপত্তা ও সংক্ষমত বিষয়ক বৈশিষ্ট্য কর্মশালা, নাইরোবি, কেনিয়া
BANDHU OBSERVED NATIONAL LEGAL AID DAY-2019

National Legal Aid Day -2019 was observed by Bandhu Social Welfare Society on 28 April, 2019. According to the tagline “বর্ষক্ষেত্রে সোনার বাংলায় শেখ হাসিনার অবদান, বিনামূল্যে লিগ্যাল এইড আইনী সেবাদান” Bandhu conducted various activities at seven regional areas including Dhaka, Chattogram, Khulna, Mymensingh, Sylhet, Barisal and Cumilla. The objective of this event was to create positive awareness on legal related issues and to provide Legal support to our Beneficiaries.

At Dhaka Bandhu participated in a Rally and a Seminar at Hotel Intercontinental organized by National Legal Aid Services Office. The seminar was inaugurated by The Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina. On the other hand, Bandhu also hired a stall of legal aid fair at Ravindra Sarovar, Dhaka and DC office premises Chattogram where Bandhu representatives shared legal related information with mass people. During the fair many guests visited Bandhu's stall and gave their valuable feedback and suggestions.

To celebrate the National Legal Aid Day Bandhu also organized rally at other six areas. The rallies were
SENSITIZATION MEETING WITH DIVISIONAL JOURNALISTS

Right Here Right Now (RHRN) Bangladesh platform initiated to work together with media to create mass awareness on gender diverse communities on third gender issues and increase social acceptances.

The sensitization meeting took place at Sylhet division to sensitize journalist on third gender issue. One of the most significant achievements of this meeting was our team eliminated their wrong idea about "real hijra" and "fake hijra". Most of the journalists have a misconception that all the Hijras are intersex. The concept of transgender was unknown to them. The community participants made it clear by telling them about Hijra culture and why a person joins Hijra community. Journalists, who were presented there, understood the sufferings of this population. Many recommendations came from the participants as well, such as; Sadikur Rahman Saki from Channel I and Radio Today said that there should be quota system for the Hijra population. Also, the participants came up with some action plans as well. Right after the event we received many news coverages of the event and the journalist participants also promised to do positive news report on transgender/ hijra community. We hope this kind of meeting will have meaningful effect on the society as media always plays a huge role on shaping public support and believe.

If we look back at the media reports few years ago most of them portrayed Hijragiri negatively and that should be changed. We hope by these sensitization meetings journalists will be more understanding while making a report on Hijragiri in future.
Most of the gender-based agenda evoked in our society is mainly because of gender-based roles, responsibilities, power exercises, policies and practices. Patriarchal gender norms basically create inequality, injustice, stigma, discriminations and all other imbalances in the society. So, it is crucial to redefine and restructure gender roles and responsibilities with a view to creating an inclusive, resilient and equality-based society. Realizing these factors, project Possibility had arranged a training on Gender Transformative Approach (GTA) for gender diverse youths on 23rd and 24th April, 2019. This was financially supported by Mama Cash by targeted SDGs.

In the training, trainers introduced that Gender-transformative approach promotes gender equality and social justice - the shared control of resources and decision-making - and women's/transgender women's empowerment are central to an intervention. This activity was expected to be promoting gender equality and achieving positive development outcomes including shared power, control of resources, decision-making, and support for gender diverse community. The participants understood the need of embed gender transformative approach. They enriched with the knowledge of social norms and the way how people can avoid those in their practical life. It demonstrated that everyone has both masculinity and femininity but the only difference is quantity. Without considering one's sex and gender, importance should be given on qualifications.

This training was the first ever of its kind in Bandhu in many ways such as among others, two participants were from intersex community. Some important recommendations came from the participants which will be addressed in further training and/or workshop.
DANCE MOVEMENT THERAPY HELD FOR MENTAL WELLBEING OF GENDER DIVERSE YOUTHS

Dance Movement Therapy (DMT) is a psychotherapy which includes diverse activities and physical movements to reduce mental stress and increase inner peace. It is not like traditional dance forms rather focuses more on rhythmic movement. As a modality of the creative arts therapies, DMT looks at the correlation between movement and emotion using music, color and different other objects. Similar to music therapy, dance therapy aims at expression own self. In addition, dance therapy is said to reduce stress, improve self-confidence, and enhance mobility and muscle coordination.

Realizing the necessity of this psycho-physic therapy, Possibility has arranged a workshop for gender diverse youths from 29th June to 1st July 2019 with the financial support of Mama Cash. The principal goal of the workshop was to accelerate the capacity of gender diverse youths to cope with their day to day stresses. The facilitator of this workshop was Monami Nandy from Sappho for Equality, Kolkata. It helped the participants to meet with their inner self. Participants experienced the strategies of dealing with their aggression, love and different hidden emotions and acknowledged their self-power that made them stronger to deal with their daily challenges.
3rd GENDER ACADEMY
FLAGSHIP COURSE

Gender Academy is not just a regular training course of Bandhu rather a mission to reflect the spotlight in every gender identity. There is a remarkable propensity to view and discuss gender spectrum in a single lens and concentration is mostly given to binary gender (man and woman) and cis-normativity while gender issues are dealt with. This practice eventually devoid gender inclusiveness and integrity in developmental strides. However, Bandhu Social Welfare Society (Bandhu) intends to disseminate its 20 years plus experience of practicing gender inclusive interventions with other stakeholders with a view to increasing engagement of all gender irrespective of sexual orientations and all other biological and social identities, in activities and organizations. Bandhu ensures viewing gender through intersectional lenses in its every level of interventions and organization. In addition, gender inclusiveness helps to lessen discrimination, level of stigma, and gender-based violence.

Bandhu's way of explaining gender and sexuality might be useful to other stakeholders also to ensure executing developmental activities. 'leaving no one behind' with this philosophy, Bandhu arranges an intensive flagship course titled 'Gender Academy' once in a year through Possibility platform. This prestigious four-day long course is facilitated by a group of resource persons from home and abroad. Sessions plan of this course is designed with a view to challenging the conventional gender concepts and disseminate true base of knowledge. Bandhu expects, this initiative will result in a positive and resilient change in gender development interventions taken by national and international organizations.
LIVING WITH DIGNITY: SOUTH ASIA REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON, EQUALITY, NON-DISCRIMINATION AND THE JUSTICIABILITY OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Human rights agenda is one of the focused agendas according Bandhu’s 4th strategy plan. Bandhu always encourage inclusivity, diversity, collective voice and integratory approach. Based on the approach in consultation with ICJ Bandhu nominated 4 participants to attend this regional workshop from 28th - 30th June 2019 at Annapurna Hotel, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Al Mahmud Faizul Kabir, Director Complain and inquiry (district and session judge) and M. Rabiul Islam Deputy Director represented National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh (NHRCB), Ms. Abeda Sultana, joint District Judge and Deputy Director National Legal Aid Services Organization, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Ms. Anannya Banik, President, Sada Kalo and Mr. Mohammad Rofiqul Islam, Manager “Training & Counseling” represented Bandhu in this workshop.

The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) is organizing a South Asia regional workshop to provide a platform for judges, NHRLs, civil society activists, lawyers, and human rights defenders to discuss
pertinent human rights concerns around the principles of non-discrimination in the application of all human rights and particularly the justiciability of economic, social and cultural rights.

The Objectives of the workshop were analyzing the international human rights law principles of non-discrimination, the right to equality. Discuss the impacts of criminalization of identities, and behaviors through penal codes, police acts. Discuss the lacunae in access to economic, social, and cultural rights such as access to work, health, education, housing, cultural spaces, public transport due to discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics;

Bangladesh team recommendations the Bangladeshi team defined there are many successes already such as inclusion Hijra/TG and others gender inclusion national HIV and AIDS policy in 2017, acknowledgement of Hijra as gender through gazette notification in 2013, Included youth Hijra into adolescent Health Strategy of Bangladesh 2017-2021, NHRCB included Hijra agenda of their strategy plan. Ministry of social welfare allocated budget a project better livelihood for Hijra, Passport office introduce the "others" category.

GLOBAL PROGRAMME
MEETING OF RIGHT HERE
RIGHT NOW (RHRN) IN
NAIROBI, KENYA

RHRN is a five-year program and global strategic partnership that is active in ten countries including Bangladesh and the Caribbean sub region. The partnership envisions a world where all young people are able to access quality and youth-friendly health services, and are not afraid to openly express who they are! RHRN believes that young people, everywhere, have the inalienable right to make their own choices, and lead happy and healthy lives.

How can Right Here Right Now continue to further advance young people's SRHR in challenging contexts? What strategies can guarantee the inclusivity of all young people? And how can the partnership sustainably build on its outcomes and lessons learned? The Global Meeting, held in Kenya in June 2019, brought together national coordinators and platform members of the 11 RHRN platforms, as well as the RHRN consortium members, including the

কেনিয়ার নাইরোবিতে অনুষ্ঠিত হলো রাইট হিয়ার রাইট নাউ
(আর.এইচ.আর.এন) এর
বৈশিষ্ট্যমূলক সভা

আর.এইচ.আর.এন একটি পঞ্চাশবর্ষী প্রোগ্রাম এবং বৈশিষ্ট্যকৌশলগত জোট যা বাংলাদেশ এবং কারিগীরিয় অঞ্চলের দশটি দেশে সক্রিয় রয়েছে।

এই জোট এমন এক বিষয়ের স্থপত্তি দেখে যেমন সকল যুবক মানুষের এবং সকল যুববক্ষের প্রয়োজন পেতে এবং একের নিজস্ব মত প্রকাশ করা একটি মিল স্থাপন করবে।

আর.এইচ.আর.এন বিশ্বাস করে যে, তাদের সকল সুনামের লোকের নিজের প্রয়োজন পেতে এবং সুন্দরী এবং স্বাভাবিক সুন্দরী লোকের অধিকার আছে।

এই যুবকের ক্ষেত্রে এই চালোকের প্রসঙ্গে যুবকদের যৌন এবং নাগরিকতা অধিকারকে আরও আরো দেখে পড়ে পারে, কী ধরনের বৈশিষ্ট্যকৌশল তাদেরকে এই কমিউনিটি অন্তর্ভুক্ত করার নিয়ম দিয়ে পারে? এবং কিভাবে এই জোটকে পূর্ববর্তী অভিজ্ঞতাকে কেন্দ্র করে টেকসই পদ্ধতি হিসেবে গড়ে তোলা যেতে পারে? ২০১৯ সালের জুন মাসে
Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It excelled in being inclusive and strengthening country ownership and leadership, where countries co-led planning and implementation processes of the meeting content, methodology and facilitation.

Mr. Shale Ahmed, Executive Director of Bandhu and Host organization of RHRN Bangladesh Platform and Ms. Saraban Tahura Zaman, National Coordinator of RHRN participated at Global meeting and represented Bangladesh Platform.

**LEADERSHIP AND PEOPLE MANAGEMENT TRAINING FOR FIELD OFFICE MANAGERS**

One of the major niche areas of Bandhu is the capacity building for the organization, community and staffs, so that all could be able to better serve the community population. Bandhu is keen to explore different opportunities with government, social welfare department and different bi-lateral agencies which require leadership and people management skills.

Bandhu has been awarded a capacity development project from Orange.
Knowledge Programme Tailor Made Training (MDF). Under this project, head office and field office-based staffs have had the opportunity to enhance their knowledge and skills through the leadership and people management training. This training was conducted during 23-25 March 2019 and 21 field office managers attended the training including staff from Partner organization who are working with the Global Fund project. The objective of the training was to enable the participants to adapt leadership style in order to strengthen management skills.

The training covered the contents like basic concepts and skills of leadership and people management, leadership categories, conflict management and team management, among others.

Among the participants, majority were Drop-In-Center (DIC) Manager who are mainly responsible to day to day implementation of the service programs, coordination with the different local level administration, and intensively work with community people. It was expected that the knowledge they have received from the training would help them to better manage the DIC, the staffs, and the community which is really crucial for every organization.
MOTHERHOOD IS A BEHAVIOUR, IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE GENDER OF A PERSON: GAURI SAWANT

Shree Gauri Sawant, is a well-known transgender activist in India and a role model to the community she belongs to. While the country knows of her as a champion of worthy causes there is another side to her: motherhood. She became a mother when life brought her to Gayatri’s doorstep. Along with adopting a daughter, she has adopted her own community as well to provide the same love and affection she showers on her girl.

Gayatri’s mother was a sex worker who unfortunately succumbed to the deadly HIV and then Gayatri was only four years old. Shree Gauri Sawant who travels through the lanes of brothels helping sex workers and transgenders live a healthy life, heard about Gayatri and immediately decided on adopting Gayatri.

"Motherhood is a behavior and it has nothing to do with the gender of a person," says Shree Gauri Sawant.

The lives of transgenders are very challenging and they are often ostracized by the society. A change is much needed and this is where Shree Gauri Sawant has stepped in. The difficult lives of people living in the red-light district of Mumbai are often overlooked.

“মাতৃত্ব একটি আচরণ এবং কোনও ব্যক্তির জেতারের সাথে এর কোনও যোগসূত্র নেই” - গৌরী সাওয়ান্ত

পৌরী সাওয়ান্ত, ভারতের একজন সুপরিচিত ট্রান্সজেন্ডার কর্মী এবং তিনি তার সম্প্রদায়ের একজন আদর্শ। গোটা দেশ তাকে যোগ করে যিনি চান্নিয়া হিসাবে জানা। তবে তার আরও একটি দিক রয়েছে - ‘মাতৃত্ব’। গায়ত্রী যখন তার জীবনে আসে তখন তিনি একজন মা হন। তার মায়ের পাশাপাশি তিনি নিজের সম্প্রদায়ের সাথে মানীয় নিয়েছেন নেই একই প্রেম ও দ্রুতের জায়গা থেকে যা তিনি তার মেয়ের গুরুত্ব অনুভব করেন।

গায়ত্রীর মা ছিলেন একজন যৌনকর্মী যিনি দৃশ্যপাতকে মারাত্মক এইচওএইচআইতে আক্রান্ত হয়ে আত্মহত্যা করেছিলেন, তখন গায়ত্রীর বয়স ছিল মাত্র চার বছর। শ্রী গৌরী সাওয়ান্ত তিনি যৌনকর্মী ও ট্রান্সজেন্ডারদের একটি বাহ্যিক জীবন্যাপনে সহায়তা করতে পাবেন এমনকি বিশ্বাসগত আলোচনায় যাতায়ত করতেন, তিনি যখনই গায়ত্রীর কথা অনেকে সঙ্গে সঙ্গে গায়ত্রীকে প্রচুর করার সিদ্ধান্ত নেন।

গৌরী সাওয়ান্ত বলেন, “মাতৃত্ব একটি আচরণ এবং কোনও ব্যক্তির জীবনের সাথে এর কোনও যোগসূত্র নেই।”
by many. Shree Gauri Sawant is a strong beacon of light in those dark alleys and to souls that have resigned themselves to sex work.

Extending her branch of motherhood in to other lives, but in a different role, Sawant supports her foundation with her own funds and has helped make a positive change in not only in the lives of people who come here but also in Gayatri’s.

Today, Gayatri studies in a good boarding school and when she comes home, she is pampered by Gauri. She only wishes the best for her daughter and that is to have a safe upbringing and a healthy life moving forward.

In due time when Gayatri is old enough Shree Gauri Sawant hopes for her to take care of the foundation that she built, and take forward the legacy of a mother who gave her the life she deserves.
"Workshop on identifying key drivers of fear, stigma & Cultural barriers to inform social behavioral change communications-SBCC" on 10 April, 2019 at Conference Room, Head Office, Bandhu.

An experience sharing meeting with 21 DIC Managers and Sub DIC In-charges was held on 27-28 March, 2019 at Chelekotha, Dhaka.

**WRITERS OF THIS EDITION**