EDITORIAL

COVID-19 has become a global pandemic and has had a detrimental effect on people’s lives. Thousands of people around the world have died in this pandemic. It is important to understand that, persons with gender diverse community are constantly facing multifaceted obstacles in accessing and ensuring their basic necessities. They have become one of the most vulnerable community which is giving rise to serious human rights violations including rights to life & dignity, rights to food, rights to employment etc.

In recent months the Government of Bangladesh has taken multiple initiatives to prevent widespread of Corona virus which is impacting the income generating activities of the Gender Diverse Population (GDP). Many community members have lost their job due to global economy crisis and struggling hard to survive! In order to assess the real scenario of gender diverse community during the lockdown, Bandhu already conducted a survey on COVID-19, titled “Quick Survey for Community Response for Transgender and Hijra” in early pandemic situation. Based on this findings, Bandhu Social Welfare Society (Bandhu) has taken multi-level steps including arrangement of relief, ensure mental health support, arrange awareness program, distribution of personal safety equipment, networking and producing & disseminating monthly updates to relevant stakeholders, lobbying for their appropriate treatment, food support at local level.

In this edition, we have highlighted some of regular achievements of Bandhu, as well as some significant achievements for the gender diverse community in the COVID-19 pandemic, which will motivate you to extend your support to this population.

In this edition of Quarterly Newsletter, we thank the writers and editorial team for their tireless work. Our sincere thanks to the readers, because only they serve as our inspiration for the publication.
BANDHU: COVID-19 RESPONSE
01 July to 30 September 2020

- Distribution of Relief: 2873 individuals
- Relief ensured through Networking and Communication: 4063 individuals
- Mental Health Helpline Counseling: 779 individuals
- Awareness Program: 6,95,523 Listeners
- Safety and Security Services: 3553 Equipment’s distributed
- Fund Raising Program: Submitted proposal to UNFPA, Women Fund Aisa and UNHCR and Received grant from Kaagapay, Mama Cash
- Doctor’s Helpline: 189 individuals
- Documentation and Monitoring: Acknowledged by APCOM as Best Practice of Bandhu in South Asia
IT IS STILL CHALLENGING TO WORK TOWARDS ENSURING OVERALL WELLBEING OF GDP:

AMBASSADOR MR. MILLAR

The US Ambassador to Bangladesh Mr. Earl R. Millar said that it is still challenging to work for ensuring overall wellbeing of the Gender Diverse Population (GDP) in the country. In a
UNHCR CASH RELIEF FOR ROHINGYA

Bandhu Social Welfare Society (Bandhu) has provided cash support to the gender diverse population of Cox's Bazar district with support of UNHCR. In current pandemic situation, Bandhu always try to mobilize support for community from number of organizations. World Food Program (WFP) has accepted Bandhu's proposal to provide cash support from UNO Teknaf and Ukhiya following to WFP policy, but unfortunately DC of Cox's Bazar did not give final clearance in that time. Later Bandhu communicated with UNHCR protection and livelihood unit with proposal to cash support to gender diverse community in current pandemic situation. Finally, UNHCR agreed for cash support to GDP in Cox's Bazar district and Bandhu has provided 329 community people list from Cox's Bazar, Ukhiya and Teknaf.

From 6th to 10th September 2020 UNHCR has transferred 4,583 takas directly to each community participants through NAGAD mobile money transaction. In total 11,59,499 taka has been supported by UNHCR among 253 gender diverse people from host and Rohingya community.

courtesy visit to Bandhu Social Welfare Society (Bandhu) on, 26 August 2020, he appreciated Bandhu for taking up this challenging task despite many social impediments and also applauded for its undivided commitment to uphold the health and human rights of this marginalized cluster of the Bangladesh society.

While discussing with Bandhu management and community representatives, he recognized Bandhu's initiatives of engaging journalists to surface the voices and needs of the gender diverse communities and advised to work more with faith leaders to create a tolerant civic space for the community members. He also appreciated the humanitarian supports that Bandhu mobilized for almost 4000 indigent community members during the COVID-19 lockdown.

রোহিঙ্গা জনগোষ্ঠীর জন্য ইউএনএইচসিআর'র আর্থিক সহায়তা

ইউএনএইচসিআর'র সহায়তায় কর্বাবাজ জেলার লীলাক বৈচিত্র্যময় জনগোষ্ঠীর হাতে আর্থিক সহায়তা পোষ্ট দিয়েছে বন্ধু সোসাইটি ওয়ালেশারকে সোসাইটি (বন্ধু)। সম্প্রতি চলাম হামায়ির পরিষদের লীলাক বৈচিত্র্যময় জনগোষ্ঠীর মামলার জন্য বিভিন্ন সংস্থার কাছ থেকে সহায়তা ব্যারান্স করে যাচ্ছে বন্ধু। মামলার ক্রম দিকে বিভিন্ন সংস্থা কর্বাবাজারের টেকনোকিউম ও উচ্চায় লীলাক বৈচিত্র্যময় জনগোষ্ঠীর জন্য বন্ধু সোসাইটি প্রত্ন গ্রহণ করলেও দুঃখিতে কর্বাবাজার জেলার ভিন্ন সময় জোড়া দেননি। পরবর্তীতে চলাম হামায়ির ৫৫ এলাকার লীলাক বৈচিত্র্যময় জনগোষ্ঠীর আর্থিক সহায়তা প্রত্র নিয়ে ইউএনএইচসিআর'র সুসংগঠন এবং জীবন্তির নির্বাহ ইউনিয়নের সংগঠনের ক্রম যোগ্য করে যাচ্ছে।

ব্যাবহারিক পর্ব বন্ধু প্রত্র গ্রহণ করে ইউএনএইচসিআর। পরবর্তীতে বন্ধু হামায়ির উচ্চায় এবং টেকনোকিউম এলাকার তালিকাভুক্ত ৫৫ জন লীলাক বৈচিত্র্যময় জনগোষ্ঠীর সদস্যদের হাতে এই সহায়তা পোষ্ট দিতে সক্রিয় হয় বন্ধু সোসাইটি ওয়ালেশারকে সোসাইটি।

৬ থেকে ১০ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২০ পর্যন্ত নাদ মোহাম্মদ মাদি ট্রায়ান্সফারের মাধ্যমে প্রতিকীপক্ষে ৪,৫৬০ টাকা পাঠিয়েছে ইউএনএইচসিআর। রোহিঙ্গা সম্প্রদায় এবং স্বাধীন ২৫৩ জন লীলাক বৈচিত্র্যময় মামলায় জন্য পর্যায়ের পর্যায় ১১,৫৯,৪৯৯ টাকা নাদ আর্থিক সহায়তা প্রদান করেছে ইউএনএইচসিআর।
FLAGSHIP COURSE BY BANDHU ON GENDER DIVERSITY

Bandhu has arranged “Gender Academy Flagship Course on Gender and Sexuality” from 25th to 29th September 2020 at Chuti Resort, Gazipur with support of STEP (Mama Cash) and ‘Right Here Right Now (RHRN)’ platform.

The training was to develop the understanding about diversity of gender and sexualities through reanalyzing the gender boxes beyond conventional binary paradigm. It enlightens the intersectionality around gender, sexuality and oppression system in the lenses of law, media, religion and history and understanding the.

The major contents of this 5 days training were Spectrum of Gender and Sexuality, Media aspects, Religious point of view, Intersectionality and Legal rights and structures regarding gender & sexuality areas.

This training was intense and challenging journey for the participants as well as for the facilitators and organizing team. The course has been facilitated by 7 facilitators from Bangladesh, India, South Africa and Netherlands. Due to Covid-19 pandemic most of the facilitators have facilitated the sessions through online video platform. 19 participants from National & International Organizations, Possibility group, RHRN platform, Bandhu have participated in the course.

Participants from different organizations have gained a clear concept on intersectional areas of gender and sexuality and also started sensitization process at their workplaces through conducting sessions with the reference of this training.

লৈখিক বৈচিত্র্যতা নিয়ে বন্ধুর ফ্ল্যাগশিপ জেভার কোর্স

লৈখিক ও যৌন ভিন্নতা বিষয়ক তৃতীয় একাডেমিক ফ্ল্যাগশিপ কোর্স সফলভাবে সম্পন্ন করেছে বন্ধু। 25 থেকে 29 সেptেম্বর 2020, গাজীপুরের চুটি রিসোর্টে এই কোর্সের আয়োজন করা হয়েছিলো। আত্মজিত সংস্থা মামা কাশ এবং রাইট হাইর রাইট নো (আরএইচআরএন) বাংলাদেশ প্রাইটফরেশ আর্থিক সহায়তায় এই ফ্ল্যাগশিপ কোর্সটির আয়োজন করা হয়।

বিদ্বানরা সামাজিক দৃষ্টিভঙ্গির বাইরে যেতে লৈখিক বৈচিত্র্যতা ও যৌন ভিন্নতার বিষয়টি নিয়ে পরিক্ষার ধারণা তেরী করার মূল কর্মশালা ছিলে।

আইনগত দৃষ্টিভঙ্গি, গণমাধ্যম, ধর্মীয় দৃষ্টিকোণ এবং ইতিহাসে লৈখিক বৈচিত্র্যতা ও যৌন ভিন্নতা নিয়ে যে বিভিন্ন ও বিভিন্ন বিষয় আসছে তার ব্যাপকতার বিশ্লেষণ এবং বিশ্লেষণ আলোচনা করা হয় এই কোর্সে। তাই পাঁচ দিনের এই কর্মশালা অংশগ্রহণকারী, প্রশিক্ষক এবং আয়োজনকারীর জন্য ছিলো চ্যালেঞ্জ।

এই কর্মশালার আয়োজন বাংলাদেশ, ইন্ডিয়া, সাউথ আফ্রিকা এবং নেদারল্যান্ডের ৭ জন প্রশিক্ষক অংশ নেন। কোর্স-১৯ এর প্রাধুর্যের কারণ অধিকাংশ প্রশিক্ষক অনলাইনে তাদের শেখনও পরিচালনা করেন। দেশ ও দেশের বাইরের মোট ১৯ জন অংশগ্রহণকারী এই কর্মশালায় অংশ নেন।

এই কর্মশালার মাধ্যমে বিভিন্ন সংস্থা থেকে আসা অংশগ্রহণকারী লৈখিক বৈচিত্র্যতা ও যৌন ভিন্নতা নিয়ে পরিক্ষার ধারণা পেয়েছে এবং তাদের তাদের এই কর্মশালা বরাত দিয়ে যার যার কর্মশূলে লৈখিক বৈচিত্র্যময় জনপোষিত মানুষের প্রতি সংবেদনশীলতা সৃষ্টিতে কাজ করেছেন।
Indian government has completed the initial step to recruit transgender people in the Army, after verdict came out from Supreme Court. Before initiate the recruitment process India's Ministry of Home Affairs sought the opinion of the Central Police Force (CPF). According to the international human right organizations, once all the formalities are done it is going to be a groundbreaking measure for the Indian Government.

There has more plan to include transgender people in the other significant sectors like central government, border police, ITBP, SSB, BSF and CRPF as well. This is why the concerned officials have applauded the initiative of the Ministry of Home Affairs as they wanted to know the opinion of CPF.

If the transgender people are fit enough physically and qualified enough to be officer, there will be no obligation at all, said an official of Ministry of Home Affairs.

Transgender people will need different accommodation space if they are recruited in the force. If Ministry of Home Affairs gets positive response from the CPF, 'Transgender' will be added in application form by December, said another official.

**TRANSGENDER ARE ENACTING IN INDIAN ARMY**

印地语翻译：

印度政府已经完成了在军队中招聘跨性别人士的初步步骤，这一步骤是在最高法院的裁定后进行的。在开始招募过程之前，印度的内政部征求了中央警察部队的意见。据国际人权组织称，一旦所有程序完成，这将是一个开创性的措施，对印度政府来说意义重大。

还有更多的计划将包括跨性别者在内的其他重要领域，如中央政府、边境警察、ITBP、SSB、BSF和CRPF等。因此，有关官员们赞誉了内政部的这一举措，因为他们想知道CPF的意见。

如果跨性别者在身体上足够健康，并且在资格上也足够，那么将没有义务。内政部的一位官员说。

跨性别者将需要不同的住宿空间，如果他们被征召入伍。如果内政部从CPF那里获得积极的回应，那么在12月之前，'Transgender'将被添加到申请表中，另一位官员说。
TRANSGENDER JOYITA APPOINTED AS A JUDGE

Four years ago, she was homeless, she was thrown out from Islampur Hotel located near to the border of Bihar & Bangladesh and she had to spend the night at the bus stand.

Now, that transwoman will be seen as a judge of Mahakuma people's court. She has been appointed as the judge of Islampur people's court from July.

She has been working as a social worker in Islampur for long, the local administration has given her recognition for her endeavor.

Joyita Mondal used to study BA degree in a college of Netaji Nagar. For the taunting of people, Joyita had to drop out from her college. That time her name was Jayanta Mondal. Later gradually she started developing her identity as Joyita.

First time she visited Islampur while she was working as a volunteer of HIV awareness of a Shiliguri based organization. There she felt urge to work for the welfare of Hijra and transgender people in the remote areas.

NALSAM judgment of 2014 gave the recognition of transgender people which helped people like Joyita, it made their path to struggle a bit easier. State administration of India formed transgender welfare board as well.

Generally, the unsolved cases of district courts and cases of minor offences come to the people's court for final settlement. Former judges, lawyers and honorable persons of the society become the judge in people's court.

District magistrate of North Dinajpur Ayesha Rani said, as a significant social worker Joyita is asset of the administration.

In Islampur, Joyita is working with 197 transgender people. With her effort and her lead transgender people are taking care of the central patient welfare association project or the government old age home.

비상관의 언론

론공인성 소녀

도난주 전에서도 그녀가 온기를 보낸 남자, 비행 도중의 스머지와 해석 이발소의 소녀, 이슬람포의 초녀를 죽여 놓은 청년이 있었습니다.

그녀는 아시아의 사람들들의 주변에 여러 요소들이 일어남 이를 증명하였습니다. 그녀는 4년 전에 가난한 상태였었으며, 이슬람포의 호텔에 산가 투박한 사물고기를 구하며 낮을 보냈습니다.

지난 그녀는 7월에 이슬람포 사람들의 법정의 판사로 임명되었습니다. 그녀는 이슬람포의 사람들에게 인식을 주었습니다. 그녀는 이슬람포의 사람들에게 인식을 주었습니다. 그녀는 이슬람포의 사람들에게 인식을 주었습니다. 그녀는 이슬람포의 사람들에게 인식을 주었습니다. 그녀는 이슬람포의 사람들에게 인식을 주었습니다. 그녀는 이슬람포의 사람들에게 인식을 주었습니다. 그녀는 이슬람포의 사람들에게 인식을 주었습니다. 그녀는 이슬람포의 사람들에게 인식을 주었습니다. 그녀는 이슬람포의 사람들에게 인식을 주었습니다. 그녀는 이슬람포의 사람들에게 인식을 주었습니다. 그녀는 이슬람포의 사람들에게 인식을 주었습니다. 그녀는 이슬람포의 사람들에게 인식을 주었습니다. 그녀는 이슬람포의 사람들에게 인식을 주었습니다. 그녀는 이슬람포의 사람들에게 인식을 주었습니다. 그녀는 이슬람포의 사람들에게 인식을 주었습니다. 그녀는 이슬람포의 사람들에게 인식을 주었습니다.
In favor of gender-neutral greetings, Japan Airlines will not be addressed passengers as 'ladies and gentlemen' anymore. The decision has effective from this July, said the airlines officials.

From now on in the airport premises and on board, the passengers will be addressed as 'attention all passengers' and greeted by 'good morning everyone'. The airlines officials think that by this gender-neutral attribute is being established.

Showing respect to non-binary and different gender passengers, few other airlines across the world are also following the step to bring change in addressing the passengers. Air Canada & European budget friendly airline Easy Jet stopped addressing 'ladies & gentlemen' from last year. Japan Airlines is trying to ensure a positive environment and mannerism for all including the passengers, said JAL spokesperson Mark Morimoto.

He said, Japan Airlines doesn't want to give a hint of discrimination based on any gender, age, nationality, race, religion, disability; gender-based identity or any personal preference.

This change will simultaneously develop our mentality and create a stable environment.
ZE PROJECT: A PLATFORM FOR TRANSGENDER AND HIJRAS IN THE RMG SECTOR

Fashion Theory, a French buying house and fashion solutions company based in Bangladesh, exposed there believes in making inclusion a compliance requirement in Ready Made Garments (RMG) sector.

জি প্রজেক্ট: তৈরী পোশাক খাতে ট্রান্সজেভার ও হিজরা জনগোষ্ঠীর নতুন কর্মক্ষেত্র

ফ্রাঙ্কের বারিং হাউজ এবং ফ্যাশন সলিউশন সংস্থা ‘ফ্যাশন থিওরি’ বাংলাদেশের তৈরী পোশাক শিল্পে একটি নতুন ও ক্রমবর্ধমান খাত। এ বছর আগস্ট মাসে বড়ু সোশ্যাল ওয়েবসাইটের প্রস্তাবে বড়ুর সহযোগীতায় তৈরী পোশাক খাতে ট্রান্সজেভার জনগোষ্ঠীর জন্য কর্মসংস্থান তৈরীর উদ্দেশ্যে ‘জি প্রজেক্ট’ নামে একটি নতুন উদ্যোগ নিয়েছে ফ্যাশন থিওরি।
In August, Fashion Theory in collaboration with BANDHU launched a project named 'Ze Project' - an initiative to create job opportunity for gender diverse people in RMG sector.

With inclusion as a core ideal, the project aims at promoting gender diversity awareness within apparel companies. This would happen in phases, starting with workshops about third gender identities and issues, to reduce stigmas and misconceptions and improve empathy within the company culture. The next step would be to develop and implement company policies that foster a safe, supportive and inclusive working atmosphere for gender diverse workers. The final stage would be to facilitate employment opportunities for the gender diverse workers.

Ze Project has sum of 1000USD per year as revenue for local NGO partner, who are responsible for conduct workshop in company premises to sensitize and create job opportunity mediation through hotline and in direct with employers.

The launching ceremony was held at the Nordic Club on 27 August 2020.

Bandhu’s Executive Director Shale Ahmed stressed the need for such awareness programs in order to not just help the communities to escape from discrimination and lift themselves out of the crippling poverty they experience, but also need to help them to feel the society more safe and secure.

Anne Laure Pedegert, CEO, Fashion Theory, also added "For Bangladesh, in particular, pushing for inclusivity compliance protocols can be a strong branding statement, a unique selling point to counter perceptions that global consumers have about its RMG sector that aren't necessarily positive."
'COUNT ME IN': HIJRA/TRANSGENDER TO BE INCLUDED AS SEPARATE GENDER IN NATIONAL CENSUS 2021

Hijra will be included as separate gender identity besides men and women in upcoming National Census of 2021 said Mohammad Tajul Islam, Director General of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics. "Necessary preparations are completed, the census will start from the beginning of January 2021" Mohammad Tajul Islam informed in a Consultation meeting on 'Inclusion of Hijra/Transgender Community in National Census 2021' jointly organized by Bandhu Social Welfare Society Bandhu and National Human Rights Commission on 16th September 2020 in online conference. He also said, "There will be separate option for Hijra gender along with men and women option in the specific form for national census". However, he showed diffidence about to identify the exact number of Hijra population. He added, "As most of them live without out of family and floating life, so it will be a challenge to include each of them in the national census."

Ms. Nasima Begum, Chairman of National Human Rights Commission said, "Self-Acceptance is important for every person and that is why Hijra population should include themselves in the national census willingly. For this everyone from the society should come forward along with the family members of Hijra people". She also mentioned, people who will work on recording data for census should be trained and oriented well on Hijra Issue. Bandhu Social Welfare Society with the help of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics can play a role to train the field level worker of national census.
With the support of National Human Rights Commission, Bandhu Social Welfare Society is working with Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics to include Hijra people as a gender in National Census since 2018. Habibur Rahman, BPM (BAR) PPM (BAR), Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) expressed his gratitude towards Bandhu Social Welfare Society for their initiative to include Hijra people in national census as a separate. He mentioned that, this is a big achievement for this population after got Hijra gender recognition. If the exact number of Hijra population can be determined in census, it will be easier to work for improving their quality of life.

The presented guests in consultation meeting agreed upon- including Hijra as a gender in National census will be marked a milestone to achieve 'Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)-2030' for the Government.
TRANSFORMING HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR THE TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY

"For the first time in my life, I felt that I was treated like a normal human being", says Kajli, a member of the transgender community.

As part of the UN's efforts to provide relief to vulnerable communities prior to a natural disaster, Kajli received a dignity kit from UNFPA which was specifically designed to meet the needs of the transgender community during humanitarian emergencies.

The kits are packed with basic supplies that enable recipients to take care of their sexual and reproductive health and personal hygiene. Given the ongoing pandemic, the kits also included flashcards with COVID-19 precautionary measures, as well as helplines to report incidents of gender-based violence.

It was the first time that UNFPA specifically designed dignity kits for the transgender community in Bangladesh.

Although recognized as Hijra gender since 2013, most of the transgender community - locally known as Hijra community, live in a precarious condition. Misconceptions and superstitions about these groups of people still exist largely in society. Many of them are not given the opportunity to integrate into wider society and end up living on its margins. Due to the community's
isolated position, their particular needs are often overlooked in decision-making, which further increases their vulnerability to dangers.

The tailor-made dignity kits by UNFPA for the transgender community may be a small action, but it makes a big difference. Kajli says that receiving the dignity kit for her community is a reassuring sign amidst a very difficult time. In her view, the only way to improve the acceptance of the transgender community is if more actions are taken to specifically to address their needs and concerns.

**CONSULTATION ON GENDER IDENTITIES IN BARISHAL**

A Consultation meeting with Divisional Faith Leaders on Hijra, Transgender and Gender Diverse Issues was held on 9th September 2020 at Barishal. Faith Leaders from four major religions of Barishal division partaken in the consultation organized by Bandhu Social Welfare Society with ‘Right Here Right Now’ Bangladesh Platform. A number of 16 faith leaders from Muslim, Christian, Hindu and Buddhist community attended the event. Community leader also participated in the event.

The event was filled of significant discussion with the faith leaders followed by the information sharing on Hijra and Transgender issues by Shale Ahmed, Executive Director of Bandhu through virtual call and the organizers. The Hijra participants shared their heart wrenching experiences and stories with presented faith leaders.

Few key recommendations are given below:

1) Faith leaders can create a list of Transgender population of their area.
2) Faith leaders can say few good words for the transgender and Hijra community during their regular agitation.

3) Training and workshops can be arranged for the transgender community so that they do not act vulgarity.

4) Faith leaders can make the parents understand to treat their Hijra/Transgender child equally.

5) Many faith leaders are related educational institutions, they can teach the students to be more sensitive to this people.

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BREAKING THE SILENCE

Bandhu Social Welfare Society has published a Storybook titled 'Breaking the Silence' with the real-life stories of joys, love and dreams of Hijra and other gender diverse communities. Stories are also built on breaking the barriers and struggle of their life. The Canadian High Commission, Australian High Commission and UNAIDS Bangladesh extended their support to this initiative.

The launching ceremony of this Storybook was held on July 13, 2020 with the presence of the...
writers and representatives of gender diverse communities and different organizations.

With words soaked in emotions, the writers in the storybook have surfaced their humble plea to the larger audience to support their causes and, advocate where possible, for their social acceptance and stigma-free, non-discriminated access to all public facilities including health.

This book opened a space for the gender diverse community to share their story, their life, their struggle and pain in a creative way and connect with mass people through their stories. This book will always exist and will remind us the talent that gender diverse community has and they can flourish that if they get the opportunity and space.

Mr. Benoit Prefontaine, the High Commissioner of Canada to Bangladesh, Mr. Jeremy Bruer, the High Commissioner of Australia to Bangladesh, Dr. Saima Khan of UNAIDS were present as distinguished guests of the ceremony.
BANDHU’S PARTICIPATION IN AIDS 2020 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

23rd International AIDS 2020 conference took place between 6-10 July 2020. For the first time this conference happens through virtually due to COVID-19 pandemic throughout the globe. A number of 4 participants includes Executive Director Shale Ahmed, Umme Farhana Zarif Kanta, Director Policy Advocacy & Human Rights, Md. Masbah Uddin Ahmed, Manager Training and Capacity Development and Mohammad Rofiquil Islam, Manager Training & Counseling participated the conference. Three of them have been awarded scholarship by the conference secretariat while Mr. Ahmed participation was sponsored by UNFPA Bangladesh.

As always while participation at the conference, Bandhu kept priority of the global health issues and community development of gender diverse community in regards prevention tools, strategies and social engagement with multi-level national regional and international stakeholder. AIDS 2020 conference Bandhu's abstract on photographs exhibition "Asian Voices" exhibition Booth "Bandhu & Art" accepted and presented accordingly.

Some key indicators of Bandhu’s performance at the conference are below;

1) In the virtual Global Village, Bandhu’s booth was visited by different participants more than 8,000 times over the 5 days.

2) 954 resources, films, performances, sessions, and art exhibits in the Global Village were viewed almost 105,000 times.

Total number of visits to "Bandhu & Art" booth over the week of AIDS 2020 was more than 193 times.
I have been experiencing neglect/disrespect from the early days of my life when I started to understand things. Even the footpath, sunken stone and the tree has companion but it was only me, who was deprived, neglected, banished at my own parent's home. What awful days those were! Everybody forgot that I am a human too. What a pain! What a grieve! Neither was I allowed to sit on the boys' side, nor on the girls' side in my school. Students of my school used to push me away, as if they would feel like vomiting on me.

This is why I couldn't continue my schooling far enough. Being neglected by my classmates, I had to drop out from school. Right after that the hard time of my life started. My mother was my only shelter. I became helpless after my mother's death as if I was a crow struck by storm. After three days of my mother's burial, my elder brother broke my left arm. My fault was I behave like a girl. Nobody came forward to help me that day. The extreme pain of a broken hand was giving me reminder of my helplessness again and again. I realized how lonely I am!

A sister from my neighborhood took me to hospital after one day of the incident. She could not bear the pain I was going through. Gradually my injury healed, but by that time I realized that my home didn't belong to me anymore.

That sister gave me an address of a shelter. Following that I shifted to Chittagong eloping from my home.

A new chapter of my life was opened after that. That house gave me shelter and managed a job for me.
Suddenly one day I was introduced with Rubi Hijra who was working as a Peer Educator in Bandhu DIC office in Chittagong. From there I got information about the reproductive health, life skill, gender and sexuality in detail. Besides, I was informed about legal procedure and online help system as well. I met more people who were just like me. Rubi Hijra provided me a job from where I was making more money than before.

I don't feel like an alien anymore. Counseling and discussion sessions from Bandhu changed my life. It was like a blessing for me.

We don't own the world as long as we don't accept ourselves the way we are. Everything fixes by itself right after we learn to accept. Bandhu Social Welfare Society did exactly that work. They introduced me with my identity. For the first time they made me feel that I am a human too. I have right to live as well.

SERVE TO HUMAN IS MY VOW: SHOJIB

I am Shojib Shotej (my full name is Ashikul Islam Shojib). I am a transgender person. By profession I am a dancer.

I was born in Dhanbari, a sub district of Tangail. I have completed my study from political science department of Chattogram University.

After completing my Honors' and Masters' degree from that institute, I joined one of the reputed educational institutes "Quantum Cosmo School" as a dance trainer and choreographer.

মানবেবাই আমার ব্রত: সজিব

আমি সজিব সড়জ (পুরো নাম আশিকুল ইসলাম সজিব)। আমি একজন ট্রান্সজেন্ট। পেশায় সুন্দরী। আমার জন্ম টাঙাইলের হোকারী। পাড়াশাখা। টাঙাইলের বিভিন্ন জায়গায় জিজ্ঞাসার কাজ করে। সেখান থেকে আমি প্রারম্ভ করে একজন মাস্টার এবং ডিপলম শেষ করার পর গোপনি করি দেশের অন্যতম অন্যান্য শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠা। একটি প্রথম এবং ডিপলম বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের রাজনীতি বিভাগ। সেখান থেকে আমি অন্যান্য শিক্ষার মাস্টার ও ডিপলম শেষ করে পর গোপনি করি দেশের অন্যতম অন্যান্য শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠা। একটি প্রথম এবং ডিপলম বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের রাজনীতি বিভাগ।
This school, which is located in Llama of Bandarban is working for the deprived children of the society. I feel that, not only the deprived children found their rights in the school, but also a transgender person like me got a position.

Just for the girly behavior, where we are deprived and neglected from every aspect of the society and work field, I got respect from Quantum Foundation.

Quantum Foundation gave me an opportunity to work as a trained volunteer in the field of 'Corona War', when the whole world was turning into a dead valley and people terrified with the outbreak of Corona virus. Being a trans person, I was fortunate enough to be able to take part in an honorable service as burial during the period. So far, I have buried 120 dead bodies of those who died of Corona Virus. There were four freedom fighters, one Russian citizen and few people from other religion too. I have buried them with my own hand maintaining the individual religious' ritual. Till now I am involved with this service.

I have one request to all, please consider your child as a human only, not as a 'Hijra' or transgender. With proper care and opportunity, they will also be able to be identified as a good citizen.