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8.5.3. Reports of discrimination and targeted violence

LGBTIQ persons have been facing various forms of violence, discrimination and harassment, [1134](#) including conversion therapy which is reportedly a widespread practice.[1135](#) Under the former government, organisations and activists advocating for LGBTIQ rights faced legal barriers, limited access to funding, as well as security risks.[1136](#) LGBTIQ activists faced censorship and restrictions,[1137](#) and organisations supporting the LGBTIQ community were hindered in registering their organisations with state authorities.[1138](#) According to human rights organisation Inclusive Bangladesh, legal and social obstacles faced by the LGBTIQ community limit the annual pride festival Dhaka Pride to an online event.[1139](#)

As reported by UN Women, gender-diverse individuals were impacted by the 2024 political unrest. Specifically, gender-diverse individuals faced the highest levels of harassment and violence in the aftermath of the former government's fall according to a survey carried out by the source, with 42 % of respondents reporting incidents including verbal threats (15 %), psychological harassment (12 %), physical violence (7 %), harassment in public settings (4 %) and harassment in institutional settings (3 %). In contrast, 27 % of respondents reported incidents during and 25 % before the unrest. Gender-diverse individuals were reportedly facing 'compounded risk' during recovery due to weakened institutional and social support systems, and 76 % of gender-diverse respondents expressed a heightened sense of insecurity in public spaces. In the same survey, 76 % of gender-diverse respondents had received explicit harassing messages on social media and 16 % preferred not to disclose their experiences of harassment. Fear, stigma, or a lack of trust in available support mechanisms were claimed as reasons for not reporting cases of online harassment.[1140](#)

Organisations advocating for LGBTIQ rights expressed concern of extremist elements gaining ground under the interim government.[1141](#) While Erasing 76 Crimes pointed out the governance vacuum and lack of social protection priorities as a root causes,[1142](#)

ILGA Asia alleged the interim government of aligning with radical Islamist groups who have been a part of anti-LGBTIQ movements, and that '[s]ome LGBTIQ activists who conducted advocacy work with Hasina's government feel [...] threatened' by this.[1143](#) In the aftermath of the former government's fall in August 2024, sources reported on cases of targeted violence and intimidation that resulted in many LGBTIQ persons going into hiding.[1144](#) Individuals identifying

as LGBTIQ faced 'systemic discrimination and violence' as reported in 2024 by Inclusive Bangladesh, who indicated that the political instability 'emboldened conservative factions' leading to increased harassment and 'scapegoating' of LGBTIQ communities, increased threats of violence,[1145](#) and harassment of LGBTIQ activists.[1146](#) Human Rights Watch also reported that LGBTIQ people and advocates faced increased threats of violence in 2024.[1147](#)

Sources reported on LGBT teachers affected by the political turmoil.[1148](#) In October 2024, an assistant professor at the Islamic University in Kushtia was barred from teaching in response to pro-Islamist students' protests that he is gay,[1149](#) and in November 2024, the principal of Kurigram Collectorate School and College was reportedly suspended from his job following 'allegations' of him being gay and subsequent protests.[1150](#) In late 2024, the Islamic University barred two educators from teaching due to student protests accusing them of being gay[1151](#) or 'pro-LGBT'.[1152](#) Around this time a gay kindergarten teacher was killed following an argument about homosexuality with three men.[1](#) Moreover, in January 2025, one student from the Islamic University was expelled and another was arrested after both were accused of being a lesbian couple.[1153](#) In April 2025, JMBF reported on a lesbian woman being arrested for physical assault and other charges, which the organisation claimed to be 'fabricated' charges. JMBF alleged that the woman was arrested because of her sexual orientation.[1154](#)

Violence against LGBTIQ persons continued to be reported in 2025, including:

- in January 2025, a hijra was allegedly murdered in Jashore [southwestern Bangladesh].[1156](#) According to JMBF, the incident demonstrated 'a broader pattern of systemic discrimination against the hijra community in Bangladesh;'[1157](#)
- in February 2025, a transgender activist was murdered by suspected extremists;[1158](#)
- in March 2025, two queer men were sexually assaulted in two separate incidents; according to Erasing 76 Crimes, one of the men was abducted and gangraped; the other man was allegedly sexually assaulted.[1159](#)

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