



**INTERNATIONAL GAY & LESBIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**  
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## **Violence Against Lesbians, Bisexual Women & Transgender People in Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines and Sri Lanka**

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### **Pakistan Research Highlights**

- Emotional violence was the most widely reported form of violence in the Pakistan study, from sexually explicit verbal denigration on the streets to psychological torture in the home.
- Sexual violence against LBT people in Pakistan involved sexual harassment on the streets or public spaces and sexual violence in the home – by family members or by violent husbands of lesbians and bisexual women, whose parents had forced them into heterosexual marriages.
- Lesbians, bisexual women and transgender men in the Pakistan research who experienced violence by family members attributed it to the tight hold that families have on daughters' sexuality and gender conformity. Parents carried out physical punishment at any signs of "rebellious against social and cultural expectations." In extended families, LBT individuals also faced violence from relatives.
- Transgender women in the study tended to experience most violence in public spaces, on the streets, and while they were working as street dancers, beggars, and/or sex workers. They faced verbal abuse that escalated into physical violence, including beatings and thefts. Perpetrators were usually men on the street.
- Police officers were complicit in street violence against transgender women. Police also lured customers of transwomen sex workers and extorted money from the transwomen and their customers.
- A combination of secular and religious laws prohibiting anal sex, oral sex, and sex outside marriage as well as laws against blasphemy (offending Islam and Prophet Muhammad) were cited as the reasons for "creating a climate of permissiveness" that justified violence against LBT individuals by police, religious leaders, religious vigilantes, and members of the public.

### **Key Findings across all five countries:**

1. Governments in Asia failed to prevent violence against LBT people. Current laws on the books in the five countries that prohibit violence against women are often discriminatory and do not extend adequate or any protections for LBT people.
2. Emotional violence was the most commonly reported form of violence in both the home and in the public sphere. This violence often continued for many years with long-term consequences.



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3. Despite reports of violence by police, religious officers and members of the public, the family was the primary perpetrator of violence towards LBT people in this study.
4. There was an unexpectedly high occurrence of intimate partner violence, including physical and sexual violence.
5. An overwhelming number of perpetrators of sexual violence against LBT people knew their victims. Most perpetrators tended to be heterosexual, cisgender (gender-conforming) males.
6. Greater visibility of non-conforming sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression resulted in greater frequency of violence against LBT people.
7. LBT victims of violence were either denied service or received insensitive services from medical, mental health and State-funded women's shelter networks.