



**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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### **Philippines Research Highlights**

- The Philippines study showed that physical, verbal and emotional violence was primarily perpetrated against LBT people in the home, usually after they disclosed their sexual orientation or gender identity, or were accidentally discovered or exposed. Perpetrators were usually older male members of the family or clan
- Transgender women in the Philippines reported being sexually violated at a young age by family members. Many of the respondents did not realize that they had been sexually abused until they were adults.
- In addition to violence in the home, transgender women also experienced physical and verbal violence on the streets, including being beaten up by groups of men, unprovoked attacks with weapons, verbal denigration and sexual taunting.
- Schoolteachers targeted LBT students for lower grades and singled them out for verbal censure, counseling, and, in some instances, religious condemnation.
- Discrimination across multiple sectors denied gender non-conforming women and men jobs, medical services, passports, travel visas, and assistance at police desks for victims of violence.
- According to the Philippines report, the cumulative impact of violence and discrimination on LBT people was depression, self-blame, self-doubt, persistent anger and paranoia.
- Although the Philippines has no law criminalizing same sex relations, there are several laws penalizing gender non-conformity. Article 200 of the Philippines Revised Penal Code (RCP) criminalizes “highly scandalous conduct” which targets gay male establishments for raids. Article 267 has been used to charge butch lesbians and transgender men with abduction and kidnapping when their girlfriends’ parents reject the relationship and want to break up lesbian or transgender couples.

### **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.