



FACT SHEET

VIOLENCE:

Through the Lens of Lesbians, Bisexual Women and Trans People in Asia

MALAYSIA

IMPACT AND COST

- Malaysian LBT people reported a life time of violence and discrimination, ranging from verbally demeaning treatment, family and community rejection, forced meetings with religious authorities and mental health professionals, religious condemnation, prolonged silent treatment and isolation by family and people they were close to, employment discrimination, and financial deprivation by the family.
- Physical and emotional violence by family members (usually parents, older brothers) occurred most often after LBT people disclosed their sexual orientation or gender identity, after they were accidentally discovered, or after they were exposed as LBT.
- In some cases, parents severely beat LBT children from a young age for displaying non-conforming sexual orientation and gender identity (e.g., gestures, speech, mannerisms that were viewed as deviant).

INCIDENTS

LBT Malaysians also experienced intimate partner violence that included physical and emotional abuse.

Transgender women reported being sexually taunted and physically assaulted on the streets. There were reports of car abductions and forced sexual activity inside vehicles.

State and non-state representatives, specifically, police officers, anti-vice officers, religious officers, religious court judges targeted transgender individuals of lower economic backgrounds for discrimination and violence.

School teachers targeted students with non-conforming gender expression (tomboys, girls with short hair and dressed in shirts and pants, effeminate boys) for disciplinary measures that included being sent to religious camps, school suspensions and expulsions.

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Ethnic Malay and Muslim LBT people were additionally targeted for violence and abuse by the Malaysian government's endorsement of religious, including Islamic fundamentalist enforcement of religious (sharia) penalties for gender non-conformity (cross dressing, gender impersonation) and same sex relations between men and between women. These religious penalties in some of the local jurisdictions include whipping, prison and fines.

Violence by Malaysian police officers and religious officers who are hired to monitor compliance with religious (sharia) laws included threats, verbal humiliation, arbitrary arrest and detention, physical and sexual abuse while in custody, and raids of private premises under the guise of preserving public order and morality.



**INTERNATIONAL GAY AND LESBIAN
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OBSTACLES TO REDRESS

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RECOMMENDATIONS

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