



COUNTRY OF ORIGIN INFORMATION MEMO

Title: Bangladesh - Risks Facing Women and Children Survivors of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)

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This Memorandum was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available within time limitations. This Memorandum is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for non-refoulement protection under the Unified Screening Mechanism in Hong Kong.

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Executive Summary

The memorandum is presented as follows: a brief background of sexual or gender based violence (“**SGBV**”) in Bangladesh is in **Part 1**. Risks facing victims of SGBV, including broader societal risks or discrimination towards survivors of sexual or gender based violence, are analyzed in **Part 2**, while **Part 3** reviews the accessibility of state protection and other non-governmental assistance for victims of SGBV. **Part 4**. Finally, **Part 5** discusses the barriers to relocation within Bangladesh for victims of SGBV.

1. Background Information

- 1.1.1 Social structures in Bangladesh are largely patriarchal, patrilineal and patrilocal.¹ Most women and girls have restricted access to the public sphere.² Traditional gender roles pervade communities' private lives and work.³ As a result, a culture of men's guardianship and women's dependency prevails, with women traditionally restricted to the private sphere.⁴ Such inequality and power imbalances between women and men are among the root causes of gender-based violence in Bangladesh.⁵ Violence is underpinned by persistent patriarchal attitudes towards women, as well as stereotypical views of their roles and responsibilities.⁶ Discriminatory religious or customary norms and practices also play a part, as the misinterpretation of religion is often used to discriminate against, and to justify acts of violence against, women and girls.⁷
- 1.1.2 Over the years, Bangladesh has made progress in addressing violence against women by putting in place various laws and plans, providing important services, and strengthening the judicial framework for gender justice.^{8,9} Bangladesh ranked 99th place out of 146 countries in the 2024 Global Gender Gap Index, having lost 40 ranks on the index,¹⁰ but still maintained its lead spot as the most gender-equal country in South Asia for the tenth consecutive year since 2014.
- 1.1.3 The status of women in Bangladesh has improved over the past 20 years due to better literacy rates, increased access to formal sector employment and education, and improved access to family planning, reproductive and maternal health care.

¹ FES Bangladesh Country Study, *The Women's Movement in Bangladesh: A Short History and Current Debates*, 2017, available at <http://library.fes.de/pdf-files/bueros/bangladesch/13671.pdf> [accessed 23 January 2023]

² International Labour Organization, *Overview of laws, policies and practices on gender-based violence and harassment in the world of work in Bangladesh*, April 2020, available at https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/-/asia/ro-bangkok/ilo-dhaka/documents/publication/wcms_757149.pdf [accessed 23 January 2022]

³ Ibid

⁴ FES Bangladesh Country Study, *The Women's Movement in Bangladesh: A Short History and Current Debates*, 2017, available at <http://library.fes.de/pdf-files/bueros/bangladesch/13671.pdf> [accessed 23 January 2023]

⁵ UN General Assembly Human Rights Council, *Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Rashida Manjoo: Mission to Bangladesh (20–29 May 2013)*, 2014, available at <https://www.refworld.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/rwmain/opendocpdf.pdf?reldoc=y&docid=539831fb4> [accessed 23 January 2023]

⁶ International Labour Organization, *Overview of laws, policies and practices on gender-based violence and harassment in the world of work in Bangladesh*, April 2020, available at https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/-/asia/ro-bangkok/ilo-dhaka/documents/publication/wcms_757149.pdf [accessed 23 January 2022]

⁷ Ibid

⁸ Human Rights Watch, *"I Sleep in My Own Deathbed" Violence against Women and Girls in Bangladesh: Barriers to Legal Recourse and Support*, 29 October 2020, available at <https://www.hrw.org/report/2020/10/29/i-sleep-my-own-deathbed/violence-against-women-and-girls-bangladesh-barriers> [accessed 23 January 2023]

⁹ International Labour Organization, *Overview of laws, policies and practices on gender-based violence and harassment in the world of work in Bangladesh*, April 2020, available at https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/-/asia/ro-bangkok/ilo-dhaka/documents/publication/wcms_757149.pdf [accessed 23 January 2022]

¹⁰ World Economic Forum, *Global Gender Gap Report 2024*, 11 June 2024, available at https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2024.pdf, [accessed 23 January 2022]

2. Risks to Women and Children of SGBV

2.1 Overview

- 2.1.1 Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) against women and girls, including domestic abuse, rape, dowry-related violence, early and forced marriage, and sexual harassment, is reportedly widespread although sources note underreporting, difficulties with available statistics and the lack of official data. However, in general, women in Bangladesh, including those who fear SGBV, are not at real risk of persecution or serious harm from non-state actors. The constitution, domestic legislation and policies aimed at protecting women remain largely unimplemented due to gender stereotypes and bias, lack of gender sensitivity on the part of law enforcement officials, lack of human and financial resources, and limited witness protection, corruption and delays in the criminal justice system. Police are reported to view domestic violence as a family matter and there may be impunity for perpetrators with ruling party affiliations¹¹.
- 2.1.2 Although the Global Gender Gap Index does indicate that Bangladesh ranks relatively highly in terms of gender equality in South Asia, studies show that SGBV remains prevalent in the country, with sexual assault and domestic violence being the most reported types of violence.¹²
- 2.1.3 Other gender-based issues include dowry-related violence and child marriage. Some NGOs reported violence against women related to disputes concerning dowries, despite dowry demands being illegal. By law, an individual convicted of demanding or giving a dowry could be imprisoned for up to five years, fined, or both, but the practice remain common throughout the country. From January to September 2023, ASK found 114 incidents of dowry-related violence against women, with 51 women killed because of dowry disputes¹³. According to the US State Department report from 2023, a study found that 51% of girls married before the age of 18, and high rates of child marriage resulted in girls leaving school at a higher rate than boys. The US State Department also noted that UNICEF had found that girls who marry in childhood were less likely to remain in school.
- 2.1.4 The Bangladesh government's own statistics were lower than the above study found, but were still high. In June 2022, the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics reported the

¹¹ UK Home Office, *Country Policy and Information Note Bangladesh: Women fearing gender-based violence*, January 2024, available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bangladesh-country-policy-and-information-notes/country-policy-and-information-note-women-fearing-gender-based-violence-bangladesh-january-2024-accessible> [accessed 30 June 2025]

¹² United Nations Development Programme, *Gender-based violence: taking stock of Bangladesh's shadow pandemic*, 10 April 2022, available at <https://www.undp.org/bangladesh/blog/gender-based-violence-taking-stock-bangladesh%E2%80%99s-shadow-pandemic> [accessed 23 January 2022]

¹³ USDOS – US Department of State, *2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Bangladesh*, available at <https://www.state.gov/reports/2023-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/bangladesh> [accessed 30 June 2025]

number of early marriages involving girls under 15 and 18 years of age had increased significantly over the previous year. According to BBS, 40.9 percent of girls under 18 years of age married in 2022, compared to 32.4 percent in 2021. The rates were higher in rural areas than urban ones. The statistics further showed that 6.5 percent of girls under the age of 15 married in 2022, up from 4.7 percent in 2021¹⁴.

- 2.1.5 Human rights organisations found rape remained a serious issue in the country¹⁵. According to human rights monitors, many survivors did not report rapes due to lack of access to legal services, social stigma, fear of further harassment, and the legal requirement to produce witnesses. The burden was on the rape survivor to prove a rape occurred, using medical evidence¹⁶.

2.2 Risk of Revictimization of SGBV Survivors in Bangladesh

- 2.2.1 In addition to the prevalence of SGBV in Bangladesh, survivors of SGBV in Bangladesh may continue to face revictimization, including in the forms of social stigma, economic disadvantages and forced marriages to perpetrators of SGBV. This section will outline some of the more pertinent forms of revictimization faced by survivors of SGBV in Bangladesh.

a. Social Stigma

- 2.2.2 It has been reported that survivors of gang rape and sexual assault in Bangladesh regularly face social and cultural stigma, a lack of adequate access to psychological services and most importantly, and a fear of losing their “*honour*” and bringing shame to their families when they are raped.¹⁷
- 2.2.3 In a report prepared by the UK Home Office, the Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust reported an observed reluctance among families and communities to take legal action in cases of gender-based violence against women due to the “misplaced social stigma surrounding victims of sexual violence”. All forms of such violence are taboo subjects in Bangladesh and instances are often seen as an “insult” to the male figures of a victim’s family. Commonly victims are blamed for “shaming” their families and ancestors. Influential members of the local community may try to influence the judicial process – especially if they want to protect the perpetrator¹⁸.

¹⁴ USDOS – US Department of State, 2023 *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Bangladesh*, available at <https://www.state.gov/reports/2023-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/bangladesh> [accessed 30 June 2025]

¹⁵ Ibid

¹⁶ Ibid

¹⁷ Global Issues, *Culture of Misogyny and Toxic Masculinity Driving Sexual Violence in Bangladesh*, 11 January 2021, available at <https://www.globalissues.org/news/2021/01/11/27172> [accessed 26 January 2022]

¹⁸ UK Home Office, *Country Policy and Information Note Bangladesh: Women fearing gender-based violence*, January 2024, available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bangladesh-country-policy-and-information-notes/country-policy-and-information-note-women-fearing-gender-based-violence-bangladesh-january-2024-accessible> [accessed 30 June 2025]

- 2.2.4 In June 2023, UN Women observed that, despite national action plans in place to prevent violence against women and girls and to prevent child marriage, ‘Women have limited access to affordable, essential, and adequate redressal services. Simultaneously, the social stigma attached to survivors of violence, restrictive social norms, and behaviours that normalize violence, all hinder women, girls, and sexual minorities from enjoying their human rights and fully participating in public and private life’¹⁹. The stigmatization of rape victims is in part due to the institutional sexism and patriarchy in Bangladesh, where the conception of honor is attached to women’s bodies.²⁰ In an interview conducted by the Al Jazeera news network with a social activist working with sexual assault victims in Bangladesh, it was explained that “the social stigma from rape produces a strong sense of shame for the victims...Alongside shifting the blame onto the victim, it associates a woman’s honour with their bodies. Essentially all honour is lost when a woman is raped and this stigma is translated in societal hostility and rejection.”²¹
- 2.2.5 The October 2020 HRW report, which was based on 50 interviews, including 29 interviews with women survivors of GBV from 6 of the 8 divisions of Bangladesh, and interviews with women’s rights activists, lawyers, and academics, stated that ‘In many cases, women told Human Rights Watch that police would require a bribe before filing a First Information Report, or simply refuse to file a case’²².
- 2.2.6 There is various anecdotal evidence where survivors of SGBV in Bangladesh report that debilitating stigma is attached to rape survivors, with one rape victim expressing that “society makes us believe that we lost our dignity when we were raped.”²³ Likewise, interviews conducted by the *Daily Star* newspaper in Bangladesh with rape survivors in Bangladesh suggests that there is serious social stigma attached to rape victims – one rape survivor interviewed stated that she is never invited to any family occasions and does not get to see her daughter, as her daughter’s parents-in-law do not allow her to visit because of the stigma associated with her rape.²⁴ Another rape victim who was raped by her husband’s relative also stated that as a result of the rape, “[her]

¹⁹ UN Women, ‘In Brief: Ending Violence Against Women’, June 2023

²⁰ Atlantic Council, *Understanding “rape culture” in Bangladesh, India, & Pakistan*, 26 January 2021, available at <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/southasiasource/understanding-rape-culture-in-bangladesh-india-pakistan/> [accessed 26 January 2022]

²¹ Al Jazeera, ‘I’m alive but not living’: Survivors of Bangladesh’s rape crisis, <https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2020/10/26/survivors-of-bangladeshs-rape-epidemic>

²² Human Rights Watch, *“I Sleep in My Own Deathbed” Violence against Women and Girls in Bangladesh: Barriers to Legal Recourse and Support*, 29 October 2020, available at <https://www.hrw.org/report/2020/10/29/i-sleep-my-own-deathbed/violence-against-women-and-girls-bangladesh-barriers> [accessed 30 June 2025]

²³ Vice World News, *As Rape Protests Rock Bangladesh, A Survivor Explains How the Country Failed Its Women*, 21 October 2020, available at <https://www.vice.com/en/article/m7aqyx/as-rape-protests-rock-bangladesh-a-survivor-explains-how-the-country-failed-its-women> [accessed 26 January 2022]

²⁴ The Daily Star, *Rape survivors face cruel realities*, 28 November 2022, available at <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/rape-survivors-face-cruel-realities-3181226> [accessed 26 January 2022]

husband won't sleep with [her], [her] in-laws won't eat with [her], [her] parents won't have [her] around, and nobody in the community will acknowledge [her].”²⁵

b. Economic Disadvantages

- 2.2.7 Where survivors of SGBV are single, divorced or widowed women, they may also face significant economic disadvantages in Bangladesh. Women who are single, especially those from poor backgrounds, face difficulties in finding employment and housing. In a report by the UK Home Office's Fact-Finding Mission in Bangladesh in 2017,²⁶ several sources indicated that it was “very difficult” for a single woman to get a job in Bangladesh. Likewise, a representative from Ain o Salish Kendra stated that: “There are big problems with the social acceptance of single women, even for educated women who are working. There are also financial constraints. To live without male support is almost impossible. Bangladesh is a very family-orientated society. Even educated women are afraid to leave their families.”²⁷
- 2.2.8 Additionally, the government has not effectively enforced laws to prevent discrimination and there is a shortage of shelter for survivors of SGBV. Consequently, it is challenging for single women to rent a place to live in Dhaka. Landlords and other tenants “usually” refuse to rent dwellings to single women, instead “requiring them to be married,” or otherwise only have access to dwellings with the “poorest facilities at incredibly high prices”²⁸.
- 2.2.9 Further, single mothers would also find it difficult to obtain certain types of work, such as being a domestic worker.²⁹ According to sources of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, securing sufficient work and childcare is difficult for single women and being single by choice is virtually unheard of due to social stigma towards single women.³⁰ While employment are accessible to single women, it is mostly only available to those from middle classes with access to family support and “*single women from poor backgrounds would be destitute*”.³¹ For their protection, single women living alone

²⁵ Al Jazeera, ‘I’m alive but not living’: Survivors of Bangladesh’s rape crisis, <https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2020/10/26/survivors-of-bangladeshs-rape-epidemic> [accessed 26 January 2022]

²⁶ Home Office, *Report of a Home Office Fact-Finding Mission: Bangladesh, conducted 14-26 May 2017, September 2017*, available at https://www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/1422109/1226_1516198190_bangladesh-ffm-report.pdf [accessed 7 October 2025]

²⁷ Ibid

²⁸ Canada Country of Origin Information – Bangladesh, 5 January 2023, available here <https://irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/country-information/rir/Pages/index.aspx?doc=458753&pls=1> [accessed 30 June 2025]

²⁹ Home Office, *Report of a Home Office Fact-Finding Mission: Bangladesh, conducted 14-26 May 2017, September 2017*, available at https://www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/1422109/1226_1516198190_bangladesh-ffm-report.pdf [accessed 7 October 2025]

³⁰ Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, *DAFT Country Information Report Bangladesh*, 30 November 2022, available at <https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/country-information-report-bangladesh.pdf> [accessed 27 December 2022], para. 3.119

³¹ United Kingdom: Home Office, *Country Policy and Information Note Bangladesh: Women fearing gender-based violence*, June 2020, available at

are often called *Bhabhi*, which means “sister-in-law”, suggesting they are unfamiliar with or unaccustomed to being with a single woman.³²

c. Forced Marriage to Perpetrators

2.2.10 There have also been reports that rape victims in Bangladesh may be forced or pressured to marry their perpetrators, which serves as a further revictimization of survivors of SGBV.

2.2.11 According to an interview conducted by Al Jazeera with Naila Hossain, a social activist working with sexual assault victims in Bangladesh, it was explained that “if an unmarried woman is raped, she may be shunned by society altogether and deemed not worthy of being married or, in some cases, married off to her rapist to preserve the family’s ‘dignity’.”³³ Likewise, the Union of Catholic Asian News also reports a rising trend of rape victims settling for marriage with their rapists.³⁴

2.3 Risks to children of single-parent families in Bangladesh

2.3.1 The children of single-parent families in Bangladesh also face additional risks, such as a lower level of literacy and increased likelihood of child labor. This section will outline some of the more pertinent forms of such risks faced by children of single-parent families in Bangladesh.

a. Lower Level of Education and Literacy

2.3.2 A study conducted has found an association between single parenthood and lower educational attainment for children in Bangladesh as compared to households with both parents. In households where the head of the household is single, children are more likely to have ever dropped out of school, less likely to have ever attended school, less likely to have been attending school at the time of the study, and less likely to know how to read and write.³⁵ This could be because of the lack of resources in a single-parent family, which results in children are spending more time contributing to

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/896259/BGD-Women-GBV-CPIN-v3.0_June_2020_.pdf [accessed 27 December 2022], para. 4.7.2

³²United Kingdom: Home Office, *Country Policy and Information Note Bangladesh: Women fearing gender-based violence*, June 2020, available at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/896259/BGD-Women-GBV-CPIN-v3.0_June_2020_.pdf [accessed 27 December 2022], para. 4.7.1

³³ Al Jazeera, ‘I’m alive but not living’: Survivors of Bangladesh’s rape crisis, available at <https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2020/10/26/survivors-of-bangladeshs-rape-epidemic> [accessed 26 January 2022]

³⁴ Union of Catholic Asian News, *Bangladesh’s marry-your-rapist trend angers Church, activists*, available at <https://www.ucanews.com/news/bangladeshs-marry-your-rapist-trend-angers-church-activists/96642> [accessed 26 January 2022]

³⁵ Victoria V. Ma, BS., *Children’s Education in Bangladesh: Factors associated with Children’s educational attainment*, 29 March 2022, available at https://repository.library.georgetown.edu/bitstream/handle/10822/1064732/Ma_georgetown_0076M_15199.pdf?sequence=1 [accessed 26 January 2022]

the household income in single-parent families, which is time taken away from schooling.³⁶

- 2.3.3 In turn, the lower level of education is also associated with other risks, such as an incidence of child marriages. Bangladesh currently ranks third on the list of countries with the highest rates of child marriages in the world.³⁷ While the minimum legal age for marriage in Bangladesh is 18 for girls and 21 for boys, the Child Marriage Restraint Act of 2017 includes a loophole where a court can allow child marriage for “special cases” without explicitly defining what these “special cases” may be.³⁸ 51% of girls in Bangladesh marry before age 18 and 16% marry before age 15³⁹.

b. Child Labor

- 2.3.4 Additionally, it has also been noted that children from families which are headed by single mothers are more likely to be involved in child labor, due to the lower earning power and lack of financial resources associated with single mother families.⁴⁰ This includes engaging hazardous labour such as working in factories, building construction, and chemical factories.⁴¹

3. Availability of State Protection

3.1 Overview

- 3.1.1 Article 28(2) of Bangladesh’s Constitution, effective since 1972 and last amended in 2018,⁴² states that “women shall have equal rights with men in all spheres of the State and of public life” and so the basic principles of equality and non-discrimination are codified into law.⁴³

³⁶ Victoria V. Ma, BS., *Children’s Education in Bangladesh: Factors associated with Children’s educational attainment*, 29 March 2022, available at https://repository.library.georgetown.edu/bitstream/handle/10822/1064732/Ma_georgetown_0076M_15199.pdf?sequence=1 [accessed 26 January 2022]

³⁷ Girls Not Brides, *Bangladesh*, available at <https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/learning-resources/child-marriage-atlas/regions-and-countries/bangladesh/> [accessed 19 December 2022]

³⁸ Girls Not Brides, *Bangladesh*, available at <https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/learning-resources/child-marriage-atlas/regions-and-countries/bangladesh/> [accessed 19 December 2022]

³⁹ Girls Not Brides, *Bangladesh*, available at <https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/learning-resources/child-marriage-atlas/regions-and-countries/bangladesh/> [accessed 30 June 2025]

⁴⁰ Samina Nawshin and Youxin Li, *Vulnerable Labour Condition of Single Mother’s Children in Bangladesh and Comprising a Special Law to Sustain Their Rights*, 2019, available at <https://iiste.org/Journals/index.php/JLPG/article/viewFile/47664/49219> [accessed 26 January 2022]

⁴¹ Samina Nawshin and Youxin Li, *Vulnerable Labour Condition of Single Mother’s Children in Bangladesh and Comprising a Special Law to Sustain Their Rights*, 2019, available at <https://iiste.org/Journals/index.php/JLPG/article/viewFile/47664/49219> [accessed 26 January 2022]

⁴² WIPO, *Constitution of Bangladesh*, 8 July 2018, available at <https://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/legislation/details/21188> [accessed 20 December 2022]

⁴³ International Labour Organization, *Overview of laws, policies and practices on gender-based violence and harassment in the world of work in Bangladesh*, 2020, available at https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---ilo-dhaka/documents/publication/wcms_757149.pdf, [accessed 18 December 2022], page 23.

- 3.1.2 In general, the state is able but unwilling, to provide effective protection to women who have a well-founded fear of gender-based violence. Decision makers must consider each case on its facts, with the onus on the person to demonstrate that effective protection is not available. According to a 2024 report by the Home Office of the UK Government, support services are available across the country through the Multi-Sectoral Programme on Violence Against Women (MSPVAW), under the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, providing health care, police assistance, social services, legal assistance, psychological counselling and shelter services in one place through One Stop Crisis Centres. However, the number and capacity of services and shelter homes, which often only provide immediate and short term accommodation, are inadequate compared to the need⁴⁴.

3.2 Assessment of State Protection and Assistance

- 3.2.1 The conviction rate for rape and sexual offences is extremely low, at about 3%,⁴⁵ compared to rates of acquittal for cases brought before the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act Tribunals.⁴⁶ Laws aimed at protecting women continue to remain largely unimplemented due to stereotypes and gender bias, lack of gender sensitivity on the part of law enforcement officials, lack of expertise, facilities, resources and witness protection, inefficient prosecutorial systems and absence of modern forensic medicine infrastructures, as well as delays in the criminal justice system and the lack of training and capacity among judges and lawyers.⁴⁷ In general, the state is able, but frequently unwilling, to provide effective protection to women fearing gender-based violence.⁴⁸
- 3.2.2 Corruption continuous to be a mainstay in the Bangladesh justice system which, aggravates gender-based violence victim's ability to obtain reparation. The UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, noted in her report, that: "Corruption was also identified as one of the main obstacles to women's access to justice, as bribes and/or influence are often required for cases to move through the different stages of the criminal justice system. Victims and their families

⁴⁴ UK Home Office Report on Women fearing gender violence – Bangladesh, accessible here https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65a7d524b2f3c6000de5d410/BGD_CPIN_Women_fearing_gender_based_violence.pdf [accessed 30 June 2025]

⁴⁵ Reliefweb, "Rape laws across South Asia insufficient, inconsistent, and poorly enforced, leaving women at heightened risk of sexual violence" available at <https://reliefweb.int/report/bangladesh/rape-laws-across-south-asia-insufficient-inconsistent-and-poorly-enforced-leaving>, April 21, 2021, [accessed October 7, 2025]

⁴⁶ Taslima Yasmin, "Sexual Violence in Bangladesh: Addressing gaps in the Legal Framework", Dhaka University Law Journal, 28 (2017), p. 109.

⁴⁷ Home Office, *Country Policy and Information Note, Bangladesh: Women fearing gender based violence*, June 2020, available at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/896259/BGD-Women-GBV-CPIN-v3.0_June_2020_.pdf [accessed 10 January 2023], pg 10

⁴⁸ Home Office, *Country Policy and Information Note, Bangladesh: Women fearing gender based violence*, June 2020, available at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/896259/BGD-Women-GBV-CPIN-v3.0_June_2020_.pdf [accessed 10 January 2023], pg 10

often have to pay bribes or use political connections to register a complaint before the police and to have investigations conducted. It is not uncommon for perpetrators to have more connections, power or resources than victims, which are deployed to influence the police, stall investigations or harass and pressure victims to drop charges.”⁴⁹

- 3.2.3 Outside of the justice system, Bangladesh is also currently lagging in terms of its adequacy of gender-based violence service institutions. According to the Australian government’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (“**DFAT**”), the number of women’s shelters and legal aid services nationwide remains inadequate compared to the need, and existing shelters rely heavily on project funding, leading to questions over sustainability.⁵⁰ The April 2020 UN Women Rapid Gender Analysis on cyclone Amphan noted, regarding women seeking support for gender-based violence, that:

“... only 21 percent respondents reported to have access to GBV services (i.e. health, legal, psycho-social). Respondents aged below 18 and women headed households have reported less access to these services in comparison to above 18 and male headed households. Additionally, respondents who are living in their own houses are higher in percentage to seek GBV services than those who are displaced from their shelter. This indicates that intersectional marginalisation perpetuates among the younger aged women from women headed households and displaced women pertaining to seeking services for GBV. On the contrary, 91 percent respondents reported to go to community leaders and women representatives of local government for help if any GBV case occurs. Safety to travel to seek services, non-functional services in the areas and not having enough money to pay are considered as significant reasons for not seeking GBV services.”

- 3.2.4 Although government support services established under the MSPVAW, such as the OCCs, have bolstered the availability of assistance to victims of gender-based violence, a 2016 survey of such centers revealed that in-court cases filed by the crisis centers usually took between five to six years to resolve whereas settlements take between one to five months.⁵¹ Similarly, despite the number of calls women have made to the hotline, few women have been referred to safe shelter, legal aid, and counselling.⁵² Additionally, there are still barriers to accessing these service. Support services are

⁴⁹ Home Office, *Country Policy and Information Note, Bangladesh: Women fearing gender based violence*, January 2018, available at <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/5a9021ca4.pdf> [accessed 22 January 2023], pg. 32

⁵⁰ Home Office, *Country Policy and Information Note, Bangladesh: Women fearing gender based violence*, June 2020, available at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/896259/BGD-Women-GBV-CPIN-v3.0_June_2020_.pdf [accessed 10 January 2023], pg. 39

⁵¹ Human Rights Watch, *“I Sleep in My Own Deathbed” Violence against Women and Girls in Bangladesh: Barriers to Legal Recourse and Support*, 29 October 2020, available at <https://www.hrw.org/report/2020/10/29/i-sleep-my-own-deathbed/violence-against-women-and-girls-bangladesh-barriers> [accessed 19 December 2022]

⁵² Human Rights Watch, *“I Sleep in My Own Deathbed” Violence against Women and Girls in Bangladesh: Barriers to Legal Recourse and Support*, 29 October 2020, available at <https://www.hrw.org/report/2020/10/29/i-sleep-my-own-deathbed/violence-against-women-and-girls-bangladesh-barriers> [accessed 19 December 2022]

often difficult to access, especially in rural areas or remote regions;⁵³ travel time and costs incurred by survivors to reach the relevant facilities are still considerably high.⁵⁴ Even when they are accessible, many victims may be reluctant to reach out of fear of the social repercussion from accessing these services. The UK Home Office Fact Finding Mission cited the National Human Rights Commission official as stating with regards to support for victims of gender-based violence that 'if women went to shelters away from their communities they would find it difficult to reintegrate back into those communities due to social stigma.'⁵⁵

3.3 Availability of Non-Governmental Services

3.3.1 A range of non-state institutions (such as NGOs) also provide additional support for women against gender-based violence in Bangladesh. However, these resources are insufficient for a population of that size. For example, Human Rights Watch estimates that there are approximately 36 shelters run by the government and NGOs for a population of over 80 million women and 64 million children.⁵⁶

3.3.2 Below is a table outlining some of the larger and better known NGOs in the country and their missions. However, there are also many other local organizations and groups working to fight gender-based violence that have not been included in this list below. For example, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), a global organization dedicated to saving lives, protecting rights and building a better future for refugees, forcibly displaced communities and stateless people, works to support the Government of Bangladesh to provide essential services and meet the protection needs of Rohingya refugees in camps in Bangladesh, including initiatives to strengthen the quality of GBV case management service offered to such refugees.

Non-State institution	Mission
Ain o Salish Kendra ("ASK")	ASK is a national legal aid and human rights organisation that provides legal and social support to the disempowered, particularly women, working children and workers. ASK partners with other NGOS to train and facilitate volunteer groups to monitor human rights and protect victims throughout 40 unions

⁵³ World Bank Blogs, *Strengthening Systems to Support Survivors of Gender-based Violence*, 9 December 2022, available at <https://blogs.worldbank.org/endpovertyinsouthasia/strengthening-systems-support-survivors-gender-based-violence> [accessed 27 January 2023]

⁵⁴ UNFPA, *Putting survivors' needs first: Courts support gender-based violence survivors to access crucial services in Bangladesh*, 5 December 2021, available at <https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/news/putting-survivors%E2%80%99-needs-first-courts-support-gender-based-violence-survivors-access-crucial> [accessed 25 January 2023]

⁵⁵ Home Office, *Country Policy and Information Note, Bangladesh: Women fearing gender based violence*, June 2020, available at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/896259/BGD-Women-GBV-CPIN-v3.0_June_2020.pdf [accessed 10 January 2023], pg. 40.

⁵⁶ Human Rights Watch, *"I Sleep in My Own Deathbed" Violence against Women and Girls in Bangladesh: Barriers to Legal Recourse and Support*, 29 October 2020, available at <https://www.hrw.org/report/2020/10/29/i-sleep-my-own-deathbed/violence-against-women-and-girls-bangladesh-barriers>

Non-State institution	Mission
	and ten upazilas. This is a small part of Bangladesh given that there are over 4,571 unions in the country.⁵⁷ ASK also provides legal aid clinics, advocates for law and policy reform, engages in public interest litigation and provides courses on legal and human rights to public defenders.⁵⁸ ASK also provides emergency support accommodation for women and girls fearing gender-based violence.⁵⁹ ⁶⁰ASK noted that ‘Clients can usually stay in the Halfway Home for 10-15 days. During this time ASK arranges long-term shelter for clients and/or refers them to other partner organizations for further support and follow-up. If clients cannot be referred to other organizations for long-term shelter, their stay can be extended at ASK up to six months to one year.’⁶¹
Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (“BMP”)	BMP is a non-profit, non-government organization in Bangladesh working since 1970 to achieve women’s human rights, women’s empowerment, and gender equality in Bangladesh. BMP provides shelter and support to women fearing gender-based violence in its rehabilitation centre, Rokeya Sadan, Dhaka ⁶² .

3.4 Other risks or discrimination

a. Societal risks or discrimination

- 3.4.1 The Constitution of Bangladesh guarantees women’s equal rights and participation,⁶³ and various legislative provisions seek to eliminate violence against women, including

⁵⁷ Union of Catholic Asian News, *Church official condemns Bangladesh poll violence*, 19 November 2021, available at <https://www.ucanews.com/news/church-official-condemns-bangladesh-poll-violence/95027> [accessed 21 December 2022]

⁵⁸ Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), *About Us*, available at <https://www.askbd.org/ask/about-us/> [accessed 18 December 2022]

⁵⁹ ASK, ‘Halfway Home’, undated, available at <http://www.askbd.org/ask/about-us/#09> . [accessed 20 December 2022]

⁶⁰ Home Office, *Report of a Home Office Fact-Finding Mission: Bangladesh, conducted 14-26 May 2017, September 2017*, available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bangladesh-country-policy-and-information-notes> [accessed 18 January 2023], pg. 63

⁶¹ ASK, *Halfway Home*, undated, available at <http://www.askbd.org/ask/about-us/#09> [accessed 24 June 2025]

⁶² Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, *Rokeya Sadan*, undated, available at <http://mahilaparishad.org/rokeya-sadan/> [accessed 24 June 2025]

⁶³ International Labour Organization, *Overview of laws, policies and practices on gender-based violence and harassment in the world of work in Bangladesh*, April 2020, available at https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/-/asia/---ro-bangkok/---ilo-dhaka/documents/publication/wcms_757149.pdf [accessed 24 June 2025]

rape and sexual harassment.⁶⁴ Despite these statutory protections, societal attitudes continue to stigmatize survivors of gender-based violence in Bangladesh.⁶⁵

- 3.4.2 Survivors are often blamed for the violence they experience and may face exclusion, humiliation, or even violence from their communities and families.⁶⁶ The honour of a family may be attacked by the rape and that if a girl or woman herself brings “shame” on the family, she will face exclusion and ostracism and become vulnerable to other abuses, such as trafficking.⁶⁷ Victims are sometimes driven to suicide.⁶⁸
- 3.4.3 Social acceptance of single women is also low and the ability to live alone is likely to be limited to women from higher socio-economic backgrounds who have family and financial support.⁶⁹ Living without male support is very difficult due to social and financial constraints (see Section 3(a)(ii) above for more details).⁷⁰ Women’s lower social status is reinforced and reproduced by low literacy, rural residence, lack of economic independence, abusive in-laws, and disempowering sociocultural practices such as child marriage and dowry, handed down through generations.⁷¹ Discrimination is compounded for women who belong to marginalized groups, such as indigenous communities or lower socio-economic classes.⁷²

b. Limited access to core basic services

i. Employment

- 3.4.4 Although the Constitution and labour law prohibit discrimination in wages based on sex or disability, enforcement is weak and does not cover other forms of discrimination such as social status, caste, or sexual orientation.⁷³ It has been noted that the

⁶⁴ Ibid.

⁶⁵ US Department of State, 2023 Human Rights Report: Bangladesh, available at: <https://www.state.gov/reports/2023-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/bangladesh/> [accessed 24 June 2025]

⁶⁶ United Kingdom Home Office, *Country policy and information note: Women fearing gender based violence Bangladesh*, January 2024, available at [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bangladesh-country-policy-and-information-notes/country-policy-and-information-note-women-fearing-gender-based-violence-bangladesh-january-2024-](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bangladesh-country-policy-and-information-notes/country-policy-and-information-note-women-fearing-gender-based-violence-bangladesh-january-2024) accessible https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/655451/Bangladesh_FFM_report.pdf [accessed 24 June 2025]

⁶⁷ Ibid.

⁶⁸ Ibid.

⁶⁹ Ibid.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ Ibid.

⁷² United Nations Development Programme, Human Development Report 2020, available at: <https://hdr.undp.org/system/files/documents/hdr2020.pdf> [accessed 24 June 2025]

⁷³ US Department of State, 2023 Human Rights Report: Bangladesh, available at: <https://www.state.gov/reports/2023-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/bangladesh/> [accessed 24 June 2025]

government does not effectively enforce the law, and that the penalties were not commensurate with those for similar crimes.⁷⁴

- 3.4.5 According to an official from the National Human Rights Commission, “Employment would be accessible to single women but mostly available to those from middle classes with access to family support.”⁷⁵ Single women from poor backgrounds would be destitute.⁷⁶

ii. Housing

- 3.4.6 As noted in Section 2.2 above, there is a shortage of safe shelters for survivors of gender-based violence. There are only 36 facilities estimated to be available for a population of over 80 million women and 64 million children.⁷⁷ Many short-term shelters have restrictive access rules, and women staying beyond a few days may be denied support.⁷⁸
- 3.4.7 Moreover, as noted in Section 2.2 above, social prejudice also affects single women’s ability to rent accommodation independently, as landlords often refuse to rent to them without a male guardian.⁷⁹
- 3.4.8 The UK Home Office cites a human rights organization as stating that it is “difficult” for single women to rent property, adding that “[l]and owners will say that [a single woman] cannot live alone in a house”.⁸⁰ The UK Home Office report also indicates that according to the National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh, affluent and educated single women have more ability to relocate in comparison to poor, single women.⁸¹

iii. Education for children

⁷⁴ Ibid.

⁷⁵ Ibid.

⁷⁶ Ibid.

⁷⁷ Human Rights Watch, “*I Sleep in My Own Deathbed*” *Violence against Women and Girls in Bangladesh: Barriers to Legal Recourse and Support*, 29 October 2020, available at <https://www.hrw.org/report/2020/10/29/i-sleep-my-own-deathbed/violence-against-women-and-girls-bangladesh-barriers> [accessed 20 June 2025]

⁷⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁹ United Kingdom Home Office, Country policy and information note: Women fearing gender based violence Bangladesh, January 2024, available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bangladesh-country-policy-and-information-notes/country-policy-and-information-note-women-fearing-gender-based-violence-bangladesh-january-2024-accessible> [accessed 24 June 2025]

⁸⁰ Home Office, *Report of a Home Office Fact-Finding Mission: Bangladesh, conducted 14-26 May 2017*, September 2017, available at https://www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/1422109/1226_1516198190_bangladesh-ffm-report.pdf [accessed 7 October 2025]

⁸¹ Ibid.

- 3.4.9 Education is free and compulsory through eighth grade by law, and the government offered subsidies to parents to keep girls in class through 10th grade.⁸² Teacher fees, books, and uniforms remained prohibitively costly for many families, despite free classes, and the government distributed hundreds of millions of free textbooks to increase access to education.⁸³

iv. Health care

- 3.4.10 Primary healthcare services are “officially” free in Bangladesh at upazila (sub-district) and levels below it, however most people still pay for services.⁸⁴ Consequently, the people either do not attend the public facilities and instead, those who can afford, turn to private practitioners or continue to remain without any healthcare services at all.⁸⁵ Health care services are mostly delivered by the private sector which actually means that a vast majority remains outside of any health care service network as they can’t pay the expenses.⁸⁶ Meantime, the public health service network remains vastly inadequate, plagued with systemic and institutional shortcomings and budgetary constraints, leaving the vast majority of the poor totally exposed to virtually no effective healthcare.⁸⁷
- 3.4.11 Health resources available to violence survivors are also very limited in Bangladesh. According to a 2020 Human Rights Watch report on violence against women and girls in Bangladesh, based on 50 interviews including 29 interviews with women from six of Bangladesh’s eight divisions who are survivors of gender-based violence, as well as interviews with women’s rights activists, lawyers, and academics, “[e]xisting government facilities for burn treatment are overburdened and primarily centered in Dhaka”, and the same report notes that “oral morphine is only available in Dhaka”.⁸⁸ In addition, although One-Stop Crisis Centers were set up in major hospitals as part of the “Multi-Sectoral Programme on Violence Against Women”, these crisis centres are “not following up on protocol”, and the space where the crisis centre was “originally set up” in Dhaka Medical College Hospital was ultimately repurposed when “they gave

⁸² US Department of State, 2023 Human Rights Report: Bangladesh, available at: <https://www.state.gov/reports/2023-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/bangladesh/> [accessed 24 June 2025]

⁸³ Ibid.

⁸⁴ UNFPA, Health Sector Response to Gender-Based Violence in Bangladesh, 2021, available at: <https://bangladesh.unfpa.org/en/publications> [accessed 20 June 2025]

⁸⁵ Association for Land Reforms and Development, *An Alternative Report of the Civil Society on the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)*, 15 February 2018, available at https://www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/1425787/1930_1519911058_int-cescr-css-bgd-30304-e.doc [accessed 20 June 2025]

⁸⁶ Ibid.

⁸⁷ Ibid.

⁸⁸ Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, *The socio-economic situation in Dhaka and Chittagong [Chattogram], including rates of criminal violence and political violence; access to housing, including the tenant registration system, employment, education, and healthcare services in Dhaka and Chittagong (2019–December 2021)*, 13 January 2022, available at <https://irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/country-information/rir/Pages/index.aspx?doc=458524> [accessed 20 June 2025]

that space to a blood bank".⁸⁹ Only two hospitals in Bangladesh reportedly provide trauma counselling and such services are not part of routine public hospital services.⁹⁰

4 Availability of Internal Relocation

4.1 Overview

- 4.1.1 The Constitution in Bangladesh guarantees its citizens the legal right to relocate and move internally within the country as well as overseas.⁹¹ Article 36 of the Constitution states: "Subject to any reasonable restrictions imposed by law in the public interest, every citizen shall have the right to move freely throughout Bangladesh, to reside and settle in any place therein and to leave and re-enter Bangladesh."⁹²
- 4.1.2 However, the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office advises against all but essential travel to the Chittagong Hill Tracts region due to security concerns, where there are regular reports of violence and other criminal activity, particularly in more remote areas.⁹³
- 4.1.3 This section outlines a combination of social, safety and financial barriers that stop victims from relocating within the country.

4.2 Social Stigma and Retaliation

- 4.2.1 Survivors of rape are discouraged from seeking medical help or reporting attacks to authorities due to the fear of humiliation and are often ostracized.⁹⁴ Victims of sexual and gender based violence face cite fear, shame and embarrassment as reasons which prevent them from seeking support.⁹⁵ More than 70% of women never tell anyone despite experiencing violence and fewer than 3% take legal action.⁹⁶ Such fear of ostracization is a barrier to survivors seeking help or attempting to relocate.
- 4.2.2 Police officials, community leaders, and religious clerics continue to blame women for rape incidents due to their dress, unrestricted physical movement or other personal

⁸⁹ Ibid.

⁹⁰ Ibid.

⁹¹ Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh: Legislative and Parliamentary Division, *Laws of Bangladesh: The Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh*, 1972 (updated as of 2019), available at <http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/act-367/section-24584.html> [accessed 20 June 2025]

⁹² Ibid.

⁹³ Government of United Kingdom, *Bangladesh foreign travel advice*, 20 June 2025, available at <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/bangladesh/regional-risks> [accessed 20 June 2025]

⁹⁴ Al Jazeera, *'I'm alive but not living': Survivors of Bangladesh's rape crisis, 26 October 2020*, available at <https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2020/10/26/survivors-of-bangladeshs-rape-epidemic> [accessed 20 June 2025]

⁹⁵ United Nations Development Programme, *Gender-based Violence; Taking Stock of Bangladesh's Shadow Pandemic*, 10 April 2022, available at <https://www.undp.org/bangladesh/blog/gender-based-violence-taking-stock-bangladeshs-shadow-pandemic> [accessed 20 June 2025]

⁹⁶ Ibid.

activities.⁹⁷ While fleeing or relocating is commonly a solution for these survivors, they suffer the risk of their new community finding out about their past and then experiencing the same humiliation all over again. As a result, many survivors choose to flee the country and move to a place where there is less social stigma and where no one will recognize them, despite the financial difficulties that may come with the process.⁹⁸

4.3 Fear of General Safety

4.3.1 The greatest barrier to relocation for victims of sexual and gender based violence is the fear for safety. According to Al Jazeera, women in Bangladesh live under constant fear of being attacked, evidenced by the fact that morning classes in universities are packed with women while evening classes are packed with men.⁹⁹ A 2022 survey covering 24 districts found that 87% of women reported experiencing sexual harassment at least once, and 36% reported regular harassment on public transport.

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4.3.2 Conviction rates for rape cases in Bangladesh are around 3%, further eroding trust in the justice system.¹⁰¹ Police frequently ask victims what they are wearing, why they are out at night and delay the process of delivering justice to the victims.¹⁰²

4.4 Financial and Legal Barriers

4.4.1 Economic independence remains limited for most women in Bangladesh.¹⁰³ According to the 2024 World Economic Forum report, in the past five years, economic gender parity in Bangladesh has “deteriorated significantly”, leaving Bangladesh with a wider gender gap. In 2024, the economic parity score of 31.1% is the lowest achieved by Bangladesh since 2014 and the lowest ranking globally in the 2024 index.¹⁰⁴ Gender disparity in labour-force participation has rolled back the gender gap from 42.5% in 2018 to 30.7% in 2024. Income inequality between men and women in 2024 has increased nearly five times over since 2018. Women’s representation in senior

⁹⁷ Harvard International Review, *Rape in Bangladesh: An Epidemic Turn of Sexual Violence*, 11 January 2021, available at <https://hir.harvard.edu/rape-in-bangladesh-an-epidemic-turn-of-sexual-violence/> [accessed 19 June 2025]

⁹⁸ London School of Economics Centre for Women, Peace and Security, *Rejecting notions of “honour” to mitigate stigma*, 2021, available at <https://www.lse.ac.uk/women-peace-security/assets/documents/2021/WPS27Gopalan.pdf> [accessed 20 June 2025], page 11

⁹⁹ Al Jazeera, *‘I’m alive but not living’: Survivors of Bangladesh’s rape crisis*, 26 October 2020, available at <https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2020/10/26/survivors-of-bangladeshs-rape-epidemic> [accessed 20 June 2025]

¹⁰⁰ UN Women, Gender Equality in the Wake of COVID-19, 2022, <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/09/gender-equality-in-the-wake-of-covid-19> [accessed 20 June 2025]

¹⁰¹ Vice World News, *As rape protests rock Bangladesh, a survivor explains how the country failed its women*, 21 October 2020, available at <https://www.vice.com/en/article/m7agyx/as-rape-protests-rock-bangladesh-a-survivor-explains-how-the-country-failed-its-women> [accessed 20 June 2025]

¹⁰² Ibid.

¹⁰³ World Economic Forum, Global Gender Gap Report 2024, 11 June 2024, available at https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2024.pdf [accessed 20 June 2025]

¹⁰⁴ Ibid.

leadership roles has also decreased, resulting in a 92% gap to bridge. Additionally, in 2024 women encompass just one-fifth of professional and technical workers. Where Bangladesh performs well is in educational attainment, gender parity in literacy rate of 93% and gender parity in tertiary enrolment of 84.1%.

- 4.4.2 Only 36% of women in Bangladesh have a formal bank account while over 65% of men have formal bank accounts.¹⁰⁵ Most working women still have to hand over their earnings to the men in their family.¹⁰⁶
- 4.4.3 Alongside these difficulties for women to build wealth in Bangladesh, victims of sexual and gender based violence also have little recourse to claim compensation from their perpetrators, adding another financial obstacle to their lives.¹⁰⁷ Most laws in Bangladesh do not address the issue of compensation for victims of any crime.¹⁰⁸ Courts can impose fines in civil court but these are up to the discretion of the Court and are not mandatory. For some specific crimes such as rape, the Court can issue fines and order compensation to the victim, but are not required to do so. The State, however, is responsible for the maintenance of children born as a result of rape, and will provide maintenance fees by collecting costs from the perpetrator's existing property. There is no other law entitling victims of rape to compensation by right.¹⁰⁹
- 4.4.4 Some judicial precedents in Bangladesh courts such as *Al Amin v. The State*, *The State v. MdMoinulHaque and Others*, and *SohelRana v. The State* have called for the need to institute fines and compensation by right, and have acknowledged the inefficacy of the law, but there are still many gaps in the justice system. Not only is rape not defined as a civil wrong in Bangladesh tort law, the order of compensation is ultimately still up to the judge's discretion and not guaranteed by law.¹¹⁰

¹⁰⁵ Umbrella Facility for Gender Equality, *Accelerating Women's Financial Inclusion in Bangladesh's Garment Sector*, available at <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/799881593459995313/pdf/Accelerating-Womens-Financial-Inclusion-in-Bangladeshs-Garment-Sector.pdf> [accessed 20 June 2025]

¹⁰⁶ The World Bank, *Bangladesh Can Prosper With More and Better Jobs for Women*, Report Says, 28 April 2019, available at <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2019/04/28/bangladesh-more-and-betters-jobs-for-women-needed-for-faster-growth> [accessed 20 June 2025]

¹⁰⁷ IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science, *Compensating to Rape Victim: Bangladesh in Context*, October 2020, available at <https://www.iosrjournals.org/iosr-jhss/papers/Vol.25-Issue10/Series-8/H2510085158.pdf> [accessed 20 June 2025]

¹⁰⁸ Ibid.

¹⁰⁹ Ibid.

¹¹⁰ Ibid.

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