



# FACT SHEET

## VIOLENCE:

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

#### DISCRIMINATION

- › LBT women reported they were often denied employment despite being better educated and having equal or better qualifications than other applicants.
- › Transgender women were told upfront that they were denied jobs because they did not conform to gender normative dress codes.
- › LBT women said they were physically barred from entering gender-segregated public washrooms or forced to leave after they had entered, and denied access to train carriages for females and parents with young children.
- › Transgender women were routinely harassed and discriminated against when applying for passports and other travel documents.

## PHILIPPINES

The pervasive and repressive religious environment and Roman Catholic majority in the Philippines ... often disenfranchises already vulnerable sectors of the population, including LGBT people.

– *VIOLENCE: Through the Lens of Lesbians, Bisexual Women and Trans People in Asia, 2014*

#### DOMESTIC AND PUBLIC VIOLENCE

LBT women in the Philippines reported very high levels of violence in the home, including physical, emotional, and sexual violence.

Perpetrators of family violence against LBT women were usually fathers, brothers, uncles and stepfathers.

Family perpetrators used emotional and physical violence to punish LBT women for their sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression and force them to change.

Transgender women reported the highest incidence of childhood sexual abuse by family members. Most of the perpetrators were uncles.

Family violence forced LBT women to leave home at an early age. In some instances, this disrupted their education

and affected future opportunities for employment.

Transgender women reported being verbally denigrated, sexually groped, randomly chased and assaulted, and threatened with physical harm by members of the public.

Teachers appeared to impose their personal values on gender non-conforming students by pressuring them to change, singling them out for attention, and giving them lower grades than they deserved.

Transgender women reported that police officers and members of the military harassed, bullied and ridiculed them. In some instances, they were arbitrarily detained and ordered to provide sexual favors.



# PHILIPPINES

## LEARN MORE



<https://iglhrc.org/lbtviolence>



<https://iglhrc.org/content/philippines>

## DISCRIMINATED BY LAW

- › Philippines law still considers transgender women male, which impacts passport application, travel, and employment abroad.

## LAWS THAT TARGET LBT PERSONS

- › **Anti-Prostitution Law: Article 202, Philippines Revised Penal Code (RPC)**  
Used to routinely harass and arrest transgender women without formally charging them. No investigations are conducted.
- › **Grave Scandal Law: Article 200, RPC**  
Used to raid gay establishments on the basis that they “offend decency or good customs by highly scandalous conduct.”
- › **Acts of Lasciviousness: Article 336 RPC and Corruption of Minors: Article 340, RPC**  
Frequently used as a pretext to arrest, detain, charge, convict and sentence transgender women, effeminate or gay men for having same-sex relations.
- › **Kidnapping and Serious Illegal Detention: Article 267, RPC**  
Used to charge lesbians and transgender men with abduction and kidnapping, which generally occurs when parents of daughters who have eloped with their lesbian or male transgender partners call on police to threaten the couple and force them to separate.
- › **Offenses Against Decency and Good Customs: Article 201, RPC**  
Used as a pretext for enforcing unjustified searches on leisure establishments for “immoral doctrines, obscene publications and exhibitions and indecent shows” such as pornography, proof of stripping or theatrical displays of sexual intercourse.
- › **Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act 2003**  
Used to justify surprise searches of establishments frequented by transgender women and effeminate men or gay men in order to obtain evidence of transactional sex. Raids are designed to harass and extort patrons and staff who are then arrested for trafficking, then invariably released with no formal charges.