



## **Bangladesh – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 21 October 2010**

### **Information on the Treatment of Homosexuals**

A report by the *UK Home Office* states;

“Homosexual acts remained illegal but in practice the law was rarely enforced. There were a few informal support networks for gay men, but organizations to assist lesbians were rare” (UK Home Office (20 August 2010) *Country of Origin Report: Bangladesh*)

A report by the *Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada* states;

“The report by the Sexual Rights Initiative indicates that there has never been a case tried under Section 377, but that it is primarily used to "bully Hijra, Kothi and LGBT [lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual] - identified communities" (Feb. 2009, Para. 13). An article in *Himal Southasian*, a regional news and analysis magazine (n.d.), corroborates that Section 377 is "rarely enforced," but also indicates that homosexual sex acts can be punished by deportation, fines, prison sentences of up to 10 years or life imprisonment” (Immigration and Refugee Board Canada (19 July 2010) *Treatment of homosexuals including legislation, availability of state protection and support services*)

A report by *UN committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women* states:

“During the discussion, the Bangladesh Foreign Minister denied the existence of homosexuality in the country” (UN committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (July 2010) *Combined Sixth and Seventh Alternative Report to the UN CEDAW Committee*)

### **Reference**

Immigration and Refugee Board Canada (19 July 2010) *Treatment of homosexuals including legislation, availability of state protection and support services*

[http://www.ecoi.net/local\\_link/147122/248253\\_en.html](http://www.ecoi.net/local_link/147122/248253_en.html)

Accessed 21<sup>st</sup> October 2010

UK Home Office (20 August 2010) *Country of Origin Report: Bangladesh*

[http://www.ecoi.net/file\\_upload/1226\\_1283946879\\_bangladesh-260810.pdf](http://www.ecoi.net/file_upload/1226_1283946879_bangladesh-260810.pdf)

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UN committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (July 2010)  
*Combined Sixth and Seventh Alternative Report to the UN CEDAW Committee*  
[http://www.ecoi.net/file\\_upload/470\\_1283342926\\_citizens-initiative-bangladesh-  
cedaw48.pdf](http://www.ecoi.net/file_upload/470_1283342926_citizens-initiative-bangladesh-<br/>cedaw48.pdf)

Accessed 21<sup>st</sup> October 2010

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

### **Sources consulted**

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Danish Immigration Service  
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