

CELEBRATION OF IDAHOT 2019  
JUSTICE AND PROTECTION FOR ALL  
**HUMANITARIAN AWARD  
CEREMONY 2019**

26 JUNE 2019

EDEN BALL ROOM, HOTEL AMARI  
GULSHAN, DHAKA



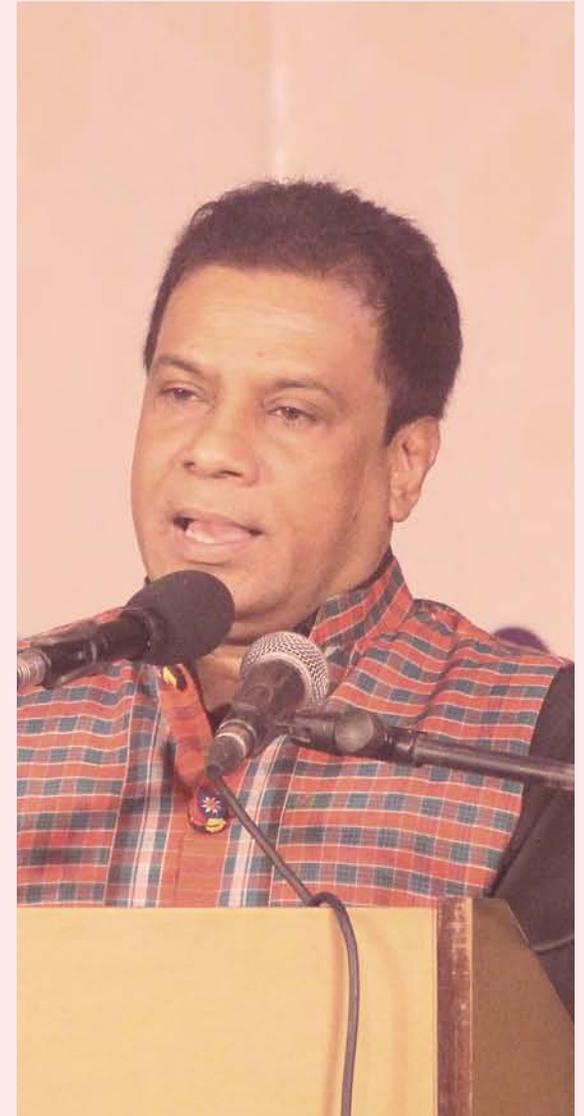
**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



# INTRODUCTION

Over the last two decades Bandhu Social Welfare Society (Bandhu) has reached many milestones with many unconditional supports from different individual stakeholders and institutions, groups and community members. Without their continuous support Bandhu wouldn't be here, where it is today. Bandhu always feel grateful for their support. With a view to recognize their contribution and appreciate their initiatives on the occasion of celebrating IDAHOT 2019 Bandhu organized an Award Ceremony. The ceremony held on 26th June 2019 at Eden Ball Room, Hotel Amari, Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212. This event was jointly supported by AusAID, USAID and Cheap Monday!

More than hundred people were gathered there to attend and enjoy the event. Special guests, Awardees, Executive Committee Members of Bandhu, Staffs of Bandhu and other guests were presented there. The event started with national anthem. Following that the Chairperson of Bandhu Mr. Anisul Islam Hero were called on stage to deliver the welcome remarks. He said that, the starting Bandhu was so challenging. It was hard to believe that Bandhu will reach this position one day. Weis working for ensuring fundamental rights of sexual and gender diverse population. To elaborate the journey of Bandhu, then a short promo was also been showcased. Afterwards, Mr. Anisul Islam Hero thanked all the organizations and individuals who always supported Bandhu's work. He ended his speech by congratulating all the awardees and thanking everyone who were present there.



# AWARDS

After the welcome remarks the name and profile of the awardees were announced. Ten people were awarded for their special contribution in different sectors. They are; Poly Hijra, President of Diner Alo Hijra Sangho, Rajshahi under the category of Community Entrepreneurship; Professor Dr. Md Shamiul Islam, Director, MBDC & Line Director, TBL-ASP, DGHS, under the category of Health Services; Mr. Bidhan Tripura PPM (Bar), AIG Bangladesh Police under the category of Law Enforcement Agency; Professor Dr. Ratan Siddique, distinguished educator and dramatist under the category of Education; Robaet Ferdous, Professor, Department of MSS Communication and Journalism, University of Dhaka, under the category of Academician; Mr. Kabirul Islam Ratan, Dance Director and Choreographer, under the category of celebrity; National Legal Aid and Services Organization (NILASO), under the category of legal service; Channel I, Dhaka, Bangladesh, under the category of media and communication; Ain o Shalish Kendra (ASK), a legal right and human rights organization, under the category of Civil Society Organization and Denim Expert Ltd., Chattogram, under the category of Livelihood of Transgender population.





# SPEECHES OF AWARDEES

All the awardees were invited on the stage to share their thoughts and feelings for this award.



**Poly Hijra**, President of Diner Alo Sangho expressed her feelings saying that, “One person who would be so happy today that is Maya Khan who established this organization. From the beginning not only Diner Alo but Bandhu also helped us to reach this stage. I am feeling proud that Bandhu chose me for this award. This community will be stronger if we get opportunities like everyone else.”



**Prof. Dr. Md. Shamiul Islam** in speech said that, in medical there was not supposed to be any discrimination on sex or gender. The oath of medical profession is to serve everyone and he is following that oath. He added that, government is also taking initiatives for this community. He believes that this community will prove themselves by their potentials and talent.



**Mr. Bidhan Tripura** started his speech by remembering his father who also worked for social welfare. He stated that, “I also belong to a minority group of Bangladesh, so I always have the urges to work for other minorities.” He also mentioned other works that he has been doing in many other sectors. He shared a very interesting matter that on his daughter’s last birthday he invited some hijra people to celebrate the day with them. HE suggested that hijra community should be included in various works only then the situation can be changed for them. He also brought out the importance of correct calculation of Hijra population.





**Professor Dr. Ratan Siddique** in his speech stated that, he is witnessing the suffering of Hijra community from his childhood. Since then he had it in his mind that he should do something for this community. He gave example of ManobiBandhopadhay, who single handed change a lot of transgenderlife. He said that after he get the chance to work with Bandhu he worked for supplementary reading materials on third gender issue.

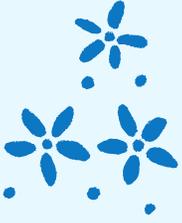


**Dr. Shafiul Islam** was presented there to receive the award on behalf of Robayet Ferdous. He said Bandhu is always acted as a friend whenever someone in need. He said Rubayet Ferdous is so happy and grateful to receiving this award.



**Mr. Kabirul Islam Ratan** in his speech said that he is been with Bandhu since the beginning. He witnessed how difficult it was for Bandhu to work for the gender diverse community. He said that it is unbelievable how talented these people are. He has created various drama, play, and dance drama with Hijra community and each was successful. He looks forward to work more with this community and Bandhu and bring performances to international level.





**Ms. Abida Sultana** (NALSO) in her speech said that everyone is equal before the eyes of law but because of various social reasons they are still not considered as equal. For that reason, this they are still far behind in this society. NALSO has DLAC (District Legal Aid Committee) in every district in Bangladesh where Hijra community can go and seek legal help. She assured Bandhu that not only DLAC but they will work with District judges if needed.



**Mr. Mukit Majumder Babu** said the motive of Channel I is to promote awareness regarding Third Gender Community issues. If these topics are shared in various forums then it would be more benefited. He added that, we can talk about autism so comfortably but whenever it is about gender issue it still become so uncomfortable for people. The job of media is not only to entertain but creating awareness as well. Bandhu alone cannot do everything to raise awareness. Everyone should help them with this.



**Ms. Sheepa Hafiza** from Ain O Shalish Kendra said that ASK is also working for the disadvantaged population. Whenever any incidents of human rights violation occur and ASK gets the information and they try to provide support accordingly. She also added that with the motto of SDG we cannot leave anyone behind. Also, if Bangladesh believes in inclusivity then we shouldn't be worry about the number of the hijra population.



**Mr. Sarwar Jahan Shovon**, Executive Director, Denim Expert said that their organization has been creating opportunities in terms of employment of Third Gender population. He thanked Bandhu for taking the initiative to acknowledge their work.



# AWARD GIVING

After their speeches chief guest and special guests presented the crests and certificates to the awardees. After the distribution of the awards a group picture was taken with the awardees, the guests and the organizers.





# SPEECHES FROM THE SPECIAL GUESTS



H.E. Julia Niblett, High Commissioner of Australia to Bangladesh said it is great to be here in this occasion and thanked Bandhu for arranging this event. She also praised all the awardees for their contribution. From her experience of Australia, she knows that protecting rights is a tough journey. The works Bandhu does is vitally important. She suggested that all should work together including media and other sectors to reaching the goal. Bandhu is doing a remarkable work for a long time. Bandhu has also put together A high quality briefing note which is really praise worthy. We people of Australia are very proud of the work of Bandhu and I want to salute your courage and all the developments.”



H.E. Winnie Estrup Peterson, Ambassador of Denmark to Bangladesh said “It is a real pleasure to be here. And congratulations to all awardees and I am very touched to learn about their works and stories. Gender diversity is one of the areas where humans are differentiating from each other. However, gender individuals still face discrimination in public though they are equal by law. We must leave no one behind. We must work together and developed agenda. Civil society organizations like Bandhu are playing important role in this sector.”





# SPEECH FROM THE CHIEF GUEST



US Ambassador H.E. Earl R Miller addressed “In many countries including Bangladesh and US sexual minorities are struggling just for who they are. All people should enjoy freedom without being discriminated. For the young people in the audience today, this world, even if it is full of chaos and violence and discrimination it is still yours. You should make it a peaceful and equal place for all. When we hear injustice, we can do something but we chose not to do anything. We should make up our mind in such way wherever we will see anything wrong we should raise our voice against it.”





# VOTE OF THANKS

Shale Ahmed  
Executive Director of Bandhu  
Social Welfare Society  
presented the closing remarks  
and vote of thanks. He  
addressed “I am pleased and  
thankful to all for giving their  
important time. This award  
ceremony was arranged to  
give thanks to those who  
contributed to this  
community. We will continue  
to do this so that people have  
motivations to continue their  
excellent works.”

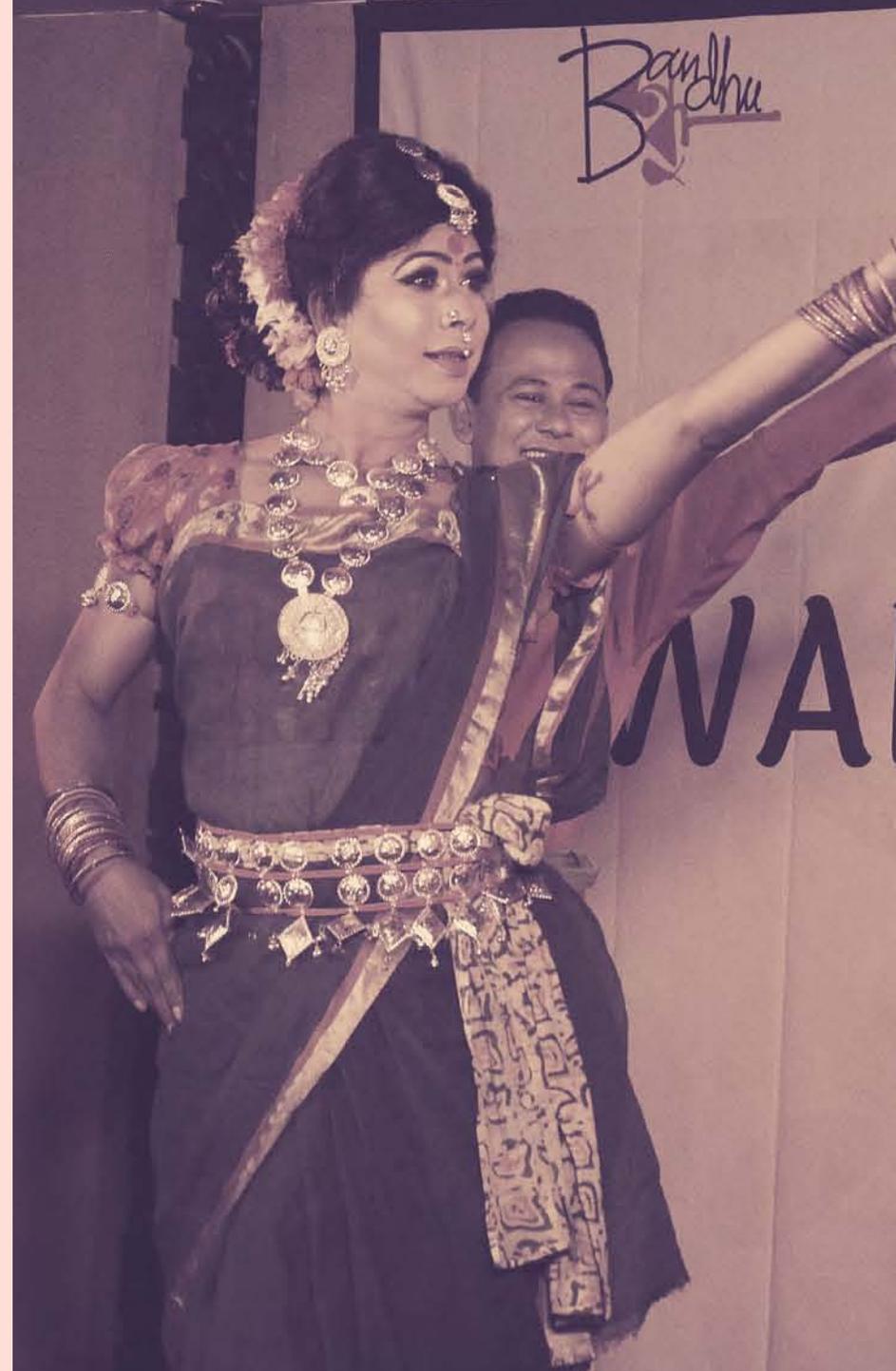




# PERFORMANCE

In the last part of the event, the “Essence of Soul” performed a beautiful dance performance for the guests. Essence of Soul is a dance group that poses, portrays and projects the voice, vulnerabilities and vital needs of the gender diverse population in terms of human rights and health care issues through their mesmerizing performances. With the Bengali name “Sattaya” this dance group transforms the mind frame, social life, and daily challenges of these communities population into art and depicts those to wider audience to advocate for eradicating stigma and homophobia against this gender diverse cluster.

Essence of Soul or Sattaya was formed in 2006 with core support of Bandhu. Collaborating with Essence of Soul, Bandhu has been organizing different cultural programs at home and abroad to aware and advocate for reducing discrimination in the society faced by the gender diverse population.





This was a thematic dance presentation titled 'Beautiful Bangladesh' Dance in Bangladesh is predominantly folk based. It has a very distinct pattern, which evolved from the people's tradition, belief and observances.

This dance reflected the colorful life style, line of work, and beliefs of Bangladeshi people which will include Boatman Dance, Fisherman Dance, Harvesting Dance, Tribal Dance, Snake Charmer Dance, Baul Dance, Manipuri Dance, Weeding Dance, Bangladeshi Dhol and Patriotic Dance. Everyone enjoyed the performance thoroughly and praised that. With that performance the wonderful event ended.





**HUMANITARIAN AWARD CEREMONY  
2019**

**Justice and Protection for All**  
**সুরক্ষা ও ন্যায়বিচারঃ তোমার-আমার-সবার**



**Bandhu Social Welfare Society (Bandhu)**  
**Bringing Changes. Improving Lives. Keeping Promises.**

