

***Study on Violence against Transgender
People in Hong Kong***

Transgender Resource Center

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Introduction

This research is the first study conducted in Hong Kong to examine the various forms of violence faced by transgender people. In this study “transgender” is used as an umbrella term to refer to persons whose gender identity and/or expression do not align with the sex they are assigned at birth. The employment of the term aims to capture a variety of the ways in which transgender people transgress the societal gender norms in order to express their gender, ranging from undergoing full sex reassignment surgery to occasional cross-dressing.

In a society that is unforgiving of those who do not conform to the societal gender norms, transgender people face harassment, humiliation and violence on a daily basis. These degrading and discriminatory treatments not only result in exclusion of transgender people from opportunities available to their fellow citizens, but also deeply affect their well-being and may cause self-harm behaviours. A recent survey in Hong Kong revealed that 67% of the sample (87.1% of respondents aged 15–24 years) had contemplated suicide, and 20.8% of the sample (35.5% of respondents aged 15–24 years) had attempted suicide (Suen, Chan & Wong, 2017). In light of these alarming figures, the present study raises the question: What makes their lives unlivable? It aims to shift the public discourse away from portrayals of transgender people as sexual predators that pose a threat to others to a focus on the danger and violence that transgender people encounter in everyday life.

Considerable evidence exists that transgender people experience violence committed by different perpetrators (e.g. intimate partners, family members, strangers etc.) in different settings (such as at home, at work, and in public places) (Stotzer, 2009). The main objectives of the present study are to:

- (1) Document the violence directed against transgender people in four different settings, namely, intimate relationship, family, workplace and public area.
- (2) Examine the multiple forms of abuse (physical, verbal, emotional, economic, etc.) experienced by transgender people.
- (3) Explore how experiences of violence are associated with factors such as age, gender and socioeconomic status.

Literature Review

As this is the first study on violence against transgender people in Hong Kong, we cannot have recourse to previous studies to guide our study. However, we would review existing literature on intimate partner violence (IPV) among same-sex couples in Hong Kong and elsewhere, as well as on violence against transgender people in other parts of the world in order to gain insight into the phenomenon.

As far as IPV of self-identified gays, lesbians and bisexuals (LGB) in Hong Kong is concerned, according to Mak, Chong and Kwong (2010), 47.2% of participants reported to their online survey that they were perpetrators of more than one type of abuse on their partners, while 48.1% of participants reported having experienced more than one type of abuse. A total of 74.6% of their participants reported being the recipient of psychological aggression, 38.9% of physical assault, 23.3% of sexual coercion, and 10% of injury. Mak, Chong and Kwong (2010) found that the

prevalence rate among same-sex couples were higher than those found in heterosexual couples in Hong Kong, and they explained that the homophobic and oppressive environment in Hong Kong might have contributed to the rate of psychological abuse by 6-7% (e.g. questioning one's sexual orientation, isolation from LGB friends, and coercive intimate expression in public).

In a review of 42 studies worldwide, Brown and Herman (2015) found that the lifetime prevalence of IPV among transgender people to be between 31.1% and 50.0%. A comparative study of transgender and cisgender lifetime prevalence of IPV victimization in Colorado revealed that 31.1% of transgender people had experienced IPV, compared to 20.4% of cisgender persons (Langenderfer-Magruder, Whitfield, Walls, Kattari, & Ramos, 2016).

Similar to their LGB counterparts, there are vulnerabilities that are unique to transgender people when they are victimized in intimate relationships. For example, they may be threatened by their abusive partners to expose their gender identity or birth-assigned gender, and abusers may withhold finances the transgender people need for medical services (FORGE, 2011; White & Goldberg, 2006). Another type of abuse that is unique to IPV victimization of transgender people is transphobic emotional abuse which targets transgender-specific vulnerabilities. A study of transgender people in U.K., Scotland and U.S. reported that 73% of respondents had experienced at least one type of transphobic emotional abuse (e.g. "Made you feel ashamed, guilty, or wrong about your trans background or identity"; "Drawn attention to, or focus on, parts of your body that you feel uncomfortable about") (Roch, Morton, & Ritchie, 2010).

Apart from IPV, transgender people face violence within family, at work and in public area. According to a large scale national survey of 6,450 participants in the U.S., 19% of the participants had experienced domestic violence by a family member due to their transgender or gender non-conforming status (Grant et al., 2011). Domestic violence by a family member was found to have profound negative impact on the victims "with domestic violence survivors reporting four times the rate of homelessness, four times the rate of sex work, double the HIV rate, and double the rate of suicide attempts compared to their peers who did not experience family violence" (Grant et al., 2011, p. 88). At work, the same survey found that 50% of their participants were harassed by someone at work, 7% were victims of physical violence, and 6% were the victims of sexual assault (Grant et al., 2011). As far as violence occurring in public area is concerned, Lombardi, Wilchins, Priesing, and Malouf (2001) reported that 55.5% of their participants had experienced street harassment or verbal abuse in their lifetimes.

Method

In order to find out the lifetime prevalence, abusive forms, and associated factors of violence against transgender people in Hong Kong, an online questionnaire survey was carried out during 20 Dec 2016--31 July 2017. Altogether 135 valid responses were received. Participants were recruited through Transgender Resource Center by posting on Facebook (TGR; TGR's secret group with over 4,000 members), sending newsletters to email subscribers (about 500 subscribers), advertising on Facebook, and encouraging attendees at gatherings to take part in the survey.

The questionnaire included 48 questions with five sections: (i) demographics, (ii) violence in intimate relationships, (iii) violence in the family, (iv) violence in the workplace, and (v) violence in public areas. While most questions were close-ended, participants were invited to share their experiences of violence in some open-ended questions. At the end of the questionnaire, participants were encouraged to contact TGR for counselling service if they experience any distress due to the reported violence or other personal issues.

In the following chapters, an executive summary of the major findings will be presented first, followed by the profile of respondents, and findings of the quantitative survey and open-ended questions.

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Chapter 1 Executive Summary

Of the 135 respondents, 45.9% (n=62) reported having experienced violence in at least one of the four settings, namely family, intimate partner relation, workplace and public area.

Family is the most common setting where violence takes place, followed by intimate partner relation. Half of the victims (about one-fourth of the sample) reported violence committed by family members (50%), whereas 27.4% of the victims suffered from intimate partner violence.

The most common form of abuse is physical (62.9%), followed by verbal (58.1%). About one-fifth (19.4%) of the victims had experienced “Attacks with weapons”.

The lifetime prevalence of violence was higher (61.1%) among the oldest group (aged 45 or above). The main type of violence they faced was intimate partner violence, while the respondents of younger age groups mainly suffered from violence in the family.

Of the 135 respondents, more than one-third (36.7%) of those assigned female at birth suffered from family violence, almost double the percentage of those assigned male at birth (18.6%). Victims who were assigned female at birth mainly suffered from physical violence (88%), while those assigned male at birth were mainly subjected to verbal violence (56.8%).

Transgender people with lower socioeconomic statuses tended to have a higher chance of encountering violence. Nearly half of the respondents with monthly income less than \$20,000, compared to 29.4% of the higher income group, had suffered from violence. The lower income group mainly faced the violence committed by family members, whereas the higher income group tended to face intimate partner violence.

The prevalence of violence among the unemployed was about 70%, much higher than that of the employed (40.2%) or students (54.2%). Nearly 90% of the unemployed victims suffered from physical violence, and one-third had been attacked with weapons. The frequency of violent acts suffered by the unemployed victims was also higher, with 44.4% having experienced violence at least once a day.

Recommendations

- Establish a gender recognition scheme in Hong Kong to provide legal recognition of transgender people and to educate the general public about transgender rights.
- Provide 24-hour helplines and other support services for victims, as well as their families or partners. Shelter is also necessary to remove victims from the violence settings.
- Conduct large-scale and representative research to gain deeper and more comprehensive understanding of the violence faced by transgender and other vulnerable groups.

Chapter 2 Profile of Respondents

Table 2.1

Gender identity	
	%
Male-to-female transgender (MTF)	20.7
Female-to-male transgender (FTM)	13.3
Transsexual (TS)	3.7
Transgender (TG)	10.4
Cross-dresser (CD)	16.3
Intersex	3
Transman	5.2
Transwoman	5.9
Agenda	8.9
Queer	11.9
No response	0.7
Total %	100
Total number	135

While “transgender” is used as an umbrella term in this survey, respondents identified their own gender in a wide range of categories.

Table 2.3

Sexual orientation	
	%
Lesbian	24.8
Gay	10.5
Bisexual	29.3
Pansexual	9.8
Asexual	9
Heterosexual	39.1
Total number	135

A relatively higher proportion of respondents identified themselves as heterosexual (39.1%), followed by bisexual (29.3%), and lesbian (24.8%).

Table 2.2

	Sex assigned at birth	Gender in current identity document
	%	%
Male	63.7	61.5
Female	36.3	37.8
No response	0	0.7
Total %	100	100
Total number	135	135

Respondents who were assigned male at birth accounted for a larger proportion in our sample.

Table 2.4

Marital status	
	%
Single	54.8
Stable relationship	26.7
Cohabitation relationship	4.4
Married	10.4
Divorced / Separated	3.7
Total %	100
Total number	135

More than half of the respondents were single (54.8%).

Table 2.5

Age group	
	%
15-24	29.6
25-34	34.8
35-44	22.2
45 or above	13.3
Total %	100

A relatively higher proportion of respondents were aged 25-34.

Table 2.6

Educational attainment	
	%
Primary	0.7
Secondary	35.6
Associate degree / Higher diploma	18.5
University	33.3
Master / Ph.D	11.9
Total %	100
Total number	135

The educational levels of our respondents tended to be high, with 63.7% having attained tertiary education and above, as compared to 31.6% in the general population (HK Annual Digest of Statistics 2017)

Table 2.7

Employment status	
	%
Employed	71.9
Student	17.8
Unemployed	9.6
No response	0.7
Total %	100
Total number	135

Despite the high educational attainment, about 10% of our respondents were unemployed, which is much higher the 3% unemployment rate in the general population.

Table 2.8

Monthly income	
\$	%
10,000 or below	34.7
10,001-20,000	37.2
20,001-30,000	12.4
Above 30,000	15.7
Total %	100
Total number	135

Note: Income of part-time job is also included.

Over 70% of the respondents earned \$20,001 or below.

Chapter 3 Overview of the Violence against Transgender People

Table 3.1

Ever suffered from violence	
	%
Yes	45.9
No	54.1
Total %	100
Total number	135

Among the 135 respondents, 45.9% indicated experiencing violence in at least one of the four settings, namely family, intimate partner relation, workplace and public area.

Table 3.2

Violence in different settings		
	% out of the total no. of respondents	% out of the total no. of victims
Family	25.2	50
Intimate relationship	13.8	27.4
Workplace	6.1	12.9
Public area	6.7	14.5
Total %	100	/
Total number	123	62

About one-fourth (25.2%) of the respondents reported experiences of family violence. In other words, of those who had suffered from violence (n=62), half were subjected to violence committed by family members.

Table 3.3

Different forms of violence	
	%
Physical violence	62.9
Attacked with weapons	19.4
Verbal violence	58.1
Psychological abuse	38.7
Sexual violence	3.2
Economic violence	12.9
Total number	62

Note: more than one form of violence can be chosen.

Only respondent who has suffered from violence was counted.

The most common form of abuse was physical violence (62.9%), followed by verbal violence (58.1%). About one-fifth (19.4%) of the victims had been attacked with weapons.

Table 3.4

Frequency of violence	
	%
At least once per day	14.5
1—6 times per week	12.9
1—3 times per month	19.4
Several times / once in every few months	27.4
Once only	3.2
No response	22.6
Total %	100
Total number	62

Note: only respondent who has suffered from violence was counted.

Concerning the frequency of abuse, 14.5% of the victims had encountered violence every day, , and 12.9% were abused 1 to 6 times a week. In other words, more than one-fourth of victims (27.3%) had experienced a high frequency of violence, being abused at least once a week.

Table 3.5

Help-seeking behavior	
	%
Yes	45
No	55
Total %	100
Total number	62

Note: only respondent who has suffered from violence was counted.

Of the respondents who had suffered from violence, more than half (55%) did not seek help.

Table 3.6

Help-seeking behavior	Violence in different settings			
	Intimate relation (%)	Family (%)	Workplace (%)	Public area (%)
Talk to family or friends	77.8	86.7	100	100
Call the police	22.2	20	0	0
Call relevant hotlines	0	6.7	0	0
Lodged complaints to the superiors	N/A	N/A	50	N/A
Total number	9	15	4	3

Note: more than one form of help seeking behaviors can be chosen.
Only respondent who has suffered from violence was counted.

Among the victims who had sought help, most of them chose to talk to family or friends.

Chapter 4 Age, Gender, and Socioeconomic Status

Age

Table 4.1.1

Ever suffered from violence	Age group			
	15-24 (%)	25-34 (%)	35-44 (%)	45 or above (%)
Yes	47.5	46.8	33.3	61.1
No	52.5	53.2	66.7	38.9
Total%	100	100	100	100
Total number	40	47	30	18

The lifetime prevalence of violence was higher among the oldest group. More than 60% of the respondents aged 45 or above had suffered from violence.

Table 4.1.2

Violence in different settings	Age group			
	15-24 (%)	25-34 (%)	35-44 (%)	45 or above (%)
Intimate relation	21.1	22.7	10	63.6
family	57.9	54.5	70	36.4
workplace	5.3	22.7	10	9.1
Public area	10.5	18.2	20	9.1
Total number	19	22	10	11

Note: more than one form of violence can be chosen.

Only respondent who has suffered from violence was counted.

Among the respondents who indicated experiencing violence, the main type of violence faced by those aged 45 or above was intimate partner violence, while respondents of younger age groups mainly suffered from family violence.

Gender

Table 4.2.1

	Sex-assigned at birth	
	Male (%)	Female (%)
Ever suffered from violence	43	51
Suffered from family violence	18.6	36.7
Total number	86	49

Since there are numerous categories of gender identity, we have decided to examine the influence of the sex assigned at birth. There is no major difference between the two groups with regard to their overall rates of victimization in the four settings. However, those who were assigned female at birth had a significantly higher chance (36.7%) of experiencing family violence than those assigned male at birth (18.6).

Table 4.2.2

Forms of violence	Sex-assigned at birth	
	M (%)	F (%)
Physical violence	45.9	88
Attacked with weapons	18.9	20
Verbal violence	56.8	20
Psychological abuse	37.8	40
Sexual violence	0	8
Economic violence	8.1	20
Total number	37	25

Note: more than one form of violence can be chosen.

Only respondent who has suffered from violence was counted.

Victims who were assigned female at birth mainly suffered from physical violence (88%), while those assigned male at birth were mainly subjected to verbal violence (56.8%).

Table 4.2.3

Help-seeking behavior	Sex-assigned at birth	
	Male (%)	Female (%)
Yes	37.8	56
No	62.2	44
Total number	37	25

Note: only respondent who has suffered from violence was counted.

Among the respondents who reported violence, those assigned female at birth were more likely to seek help. A total of 62.2% of those assigned male at birth, compared to 44 % of those assigned female at birth, did not seek help.

Socioeconomic Status

Table 4.3.1

Ever suffered from violence	Income group		
	\$10,000 or below (%)	\$10,001-\$20,000 (%)	\$20,001 or above (%)
Yes	47.6	48.9	29.4%
No	52.4	51.1	70.6%
Total %	100	100	100
Total number	56	45	34

Nearly half of the respondents with monthly income less than \$20,000 had ever experienced violence in at least one of the four settings. The prevalence rate was higher than that of the higher income group (29.4%).

Table 4.3.2

Violence in different settings	Income group		
	\$10,000 or below (%)	\$10,001-20000 (%)	\$20,001 or above (%)
Intimate relation	30	18.2	40
Family	63.3	54.5	30
Workplace	3.3	22.7	20
Public area	6.7	22.7	20
Total number	30	22	10

Note: only respondent who has suffered from violence was counted.

The highest income group (\$20,000 or above) tended to face intimate partner violence, while the lower income groups mainly suffered from family violence.

Table 4.3.3

Ever suffered from violence	Employment status		
	Employed (%)	Student (%)	Unemployed (%)
Yes	40.2	54.2	69.2
No	59.8	45.8	30.8
Total %	100	100	100
Total number	97	24	13

Unemployed transgender people were at higher risk of violence. About 70% of the unemployed compared to 40.2% of the employed and 54.2% of students had ever experienced violence in one of the four settings.

Table 4.3.4

Forms of violence	Employment status		
	Employed (%)	Student (%)	Unemployed (%)
Physical violence	56.4	53.8	88.9
Attacked with weapons	15.4	15.4	33.3
Verbal violence	59	46.2	77.8
Mental abuse	41	15.4	66.7
Sexual violence	2.6	0	11.1
Economic violence	12.8	0	33.3
Total number	39	13	9

Note: more than one form of violence can be chosen.

Only respondent who has suffered from violence was counted.

Among the victims of violence, those who were unemployed had a very high chance of suffering from physical violence (88.9%). In addition, one-third of the unemployed victims had faced attacks with weapons, which is double of the rates of the employed (15.4%) and students (15.4%).

Table 4.3.5

Frequency of violence	Employment status		
	Employed (%)	Student (%)	Unemployed (%)
At least once per day	10.3	7.7	44.4
1—6 times per week	17.9	0	11.1
1—3 times per month	20.5	0	22.2
Several times / once in every few months	28.2	23.1	33.3
Once only	5.1	0	0
Total %	100	100	100
Total number	39	13	9

Note: only respondent who has suffered from violence was counted.

The unemployed victims also suffered from violence more frequently when compared with other groups. Over 40% had experienced violence at least once per day.

Chapter 5 Experiences Reported in Open-ended Questions

Intimate Partner Violence

Case 1

Sex assigned at birth: female

Gender Identity: FTM

Age: 20

Seek for help: no

When we had quarrels, she pushed me to the ground and then hit me. Whether we were in argument or not, she would use hurtful words, like I do not deserve to be a man, and I would better stay as a woman instead. Also, she kept comparing me with other men, and judged me in front of her friends. When I did not want to have sex with her, she would say I don't love her or I have changed, and scolded me badly. If I still didn't show care, she would force me to have sex with her. She kept all my money once I got paid because she was afraid that I would go somewhere else. Every day she gave me money for transportation when I go to work. I must tell her how I spent money. If the amount was not correct, she would say I lied to her and must have gone out to play or had another girlfriend. She needed to know exactly and clearly where I was going. She required me to stay with her, and did not even allow me to go down and buy some food or cigarettes. When I was having meals with colleagues or my boss, I had to go home immediately when she asked me to.

「嘈交會推我落地，之後會打我，不論嘈交定普通情況，經常講說話傷我，又話我唔配做男人，叫我做返女人算啦，又不斷拎我同男人比較，又同啲朋友講我點點點，我唔想同佢有性行為，佢會話我唔愛佢又話我變咗，係咁講說話俾我聽，我都係唔理就會夾硬要我同佢做，我返工一出糧就話怕我唔知去邊，收起我啲錢，每日俾錢我返工，啲錢用左去邊要同佢講得清清楚楚，少一毫子就話我哋佢，話我去左玩，話我有第二個，我去邊都要查到實一實，甚至要我陪佢，佢連我落街買野食都唔得，落街買煙都唔得，同同事、老細食飯，佢一句要我即刻返屋企我就唔可以推。」

Violence in the Family

Case 2

Sex assigned at birth: female

Gender identity: FTM

Age: 44

Seek for help: talk to friends/family members & called relevant institution/hotline

'Everyday being scolded with vulgar words'

「日日粗口鬧」

Case 3

Sex assigned at birth: female

Gender identity: FTM

Age: 20

Seek for help: no

‘Keep asking me to transition back to be a girl, asking me to get married. Also, they introduced boys to me, and asked me to marry a foreigner and move out of Hong Kong. Not giving me money to go to work.’

「不斷叫我做返女仔，叫我嫁人，仲介紹男仔俾我，又叫我嫁去外國，唔俾錢我返工。」

Violence in the Workplace

Case 4

Sex assigned at birth: Female

Gender identity: FTM

Age: 20

Industry in which the incident occurred: technical (e.g.: chef/driver/technician/architecture/remodeling)

Perpetrators: boss, colleagues

Seek for help: no

‘My colleagues said something bad to me, they said I am not male not female, called me yan yiu (human monster/lady boy), monster, not human not ghost, fucking TB (Tomboy) who fights with men for girls, sissy. They said if they were me they would rather die and said they felt sad for my family members. Even I have enough work experience to be a sous chef, I was asked to be an apprentice for a month before promotion. I worked there for half a year and was still as a junior. On the second day of my new job, another newcomer came. My boss, who was aware of my sexual orientation asked me not to impose bad influence on the newcomer. When I worked in other companies, they told me not to mess around in woman and woman relationship in a sarcastic way. When I went to toilet, they requested me to wait until other female colleagues finished, in case I would do something to them. When I went out to smoke, they requested me to be back in two and a half minutes. No matter what I did, they monitored me. Especially when I talked to female colleagues, they eyed me suspiciously. Some kept asking me how I have sex with females, and if I can provide what men can provide to women. Also, they asked me not to harm people, and said it is fine for me to be abnormal myself, but please do not influence others.’

「同事會俾說話我聽，話我不男不女、人妖、怪物、人唔似人鬼唔似鬼、死 tb 同男仔爭女、乜型，話佢地係我就死左佢，又話替我屋企人傷心。明明我工作經驗可以做到二廚，佢要我做學徒，話試左一個月先再升，做左半年都仲係學徒。有次我轉新工返第二日，有個新人入黎，老細知我性向，同我講叫我唔好教壞佢，其他公司做野佢地會講咩叫我唔好亂搞女女關係，好有骨咁講，我去廁所佢地會要求我等其他女同事去完先，廢事我會對人地做咩，我出去食煙，佢地會要求我兩分鐘就返去，做咩佢地都會睇到實一實，尤其係同女同事講野，佢地啲眼

光會好難睇，有啲會不停問我同女性點樣發生關係，又問男人俾佢地既野我俾到咩？又話叫我唔好害人，我自己唔正常好喇，唔好教壞人。」

Case 5

Sex assigned at birth: female

Gender identity: transgender

Age: 23

Industry in which the incident occurred: Social Services Industry

Perpetrators: boss, colleagues, clients

Seek for help: talk to friends/family members

‘Not male not female, are you man or woman, you cut your hair like a man, your hand is a woman’s hand.’

‘Tutor in the centre: Can’t you see the one near you is a boy?’ Colleague: ‘damn’

「不男不女、你究竟係男定係女、你個頭髮剪到成個男人咁、你隻手係女手」

「中心導師：隔離果個咪係仔囉！ 同事：妖！」

Case 6

Sex assigned at birth: male

Gender identity: MTF

Age: 32

Industry in which the incident occurred: Service and Sales (e.g.: cashier/ security/ waiter/ insurance/ real estate /salesperson)

Perpetrators: boss, colleague, client

Seek for help: talk to friends/family members

‘Disrespectful. They revealed my real identity no matter what’

「唔尊重，係都要踢爆真實身份。」

Case 7

Sex assigned at birth: male

Gender identity: queer

Age: 25

Industry in which the incident occurred: clerical work (e.g.: secretary / clerk)

Perpetrator: colleagues

Seek for help: no, don’t know which institution(s)/ hotline(s) I can seek help from

‘Since I told my colleagues I am a homosexual, some same-sex colleagues laughed at me. For examples, you leave so early, are you rushing to pick the soap up? We no longer have meals together outside during lunch time.’

「自從向同事表示自己是同性戀後，間中受到部份同性同事嘲笑，例如：咁早走，趕住執番規呀，及 lunch time 再沒有一同外出用膳。」

Violence in Public Areas

Case 8

Sex assigned at birth: female

Gender identity: transgender

Age: 23

Seek for help: talk to friends/family members

‘Men touched my breasts and bottom’

「被男性摸胸部和臀部」

Case 9

Sex assigned at birth: male

Gender identity: transgender

Age: 48

Seek for help: no

‘Nonsense gossips. Eyed me queerly.

「閒言閒言，報以奇異目光。」

Case 10

Sex assigned at birth: Male

Gender identity: crossdresser/transvestite

Age: 35

Seek for help: no

‘Mainly verbal abuse, for example some people (completely strangers) scolded me as

‘Fucking yan yiu’ (fucking human monster/ ladyboy), or said wow this is a woman? etc.’

「主要是言語暴力，例如比人（完全唔識的路人甲）無端端罵死人妖，嘩女人黎架.....等等。」

Case 11

Sex assigned at birth: Male

Gender identity: MTF

Age: 32

Seek for help: talk to friends/family members

‘Beware of this kind of people. Don’t get touched by them...’

「小心啲呢啲人呀，唔好俾佢掂到呀...」

Case 12

Sex assigned at birth: Male

Gender identity: crossdresser/transvestite

Age: 26

Seek for help: talk to friends/family members

‘Having meal at a restaurant with friends, but they hurled invectives loudly at me and made fun of me.’

「同朋友在餐廳食飯，但遭友人在餐廳內大聲地惡意漫罵和取笑。」

Case 13

Sex assigned at birth: Female

Gender identity: agender

Age: 25

Seek for help: no

‘Language violence when I expressed my gender view’

「當我表達有關性別的意見時，對我使用語言暴力。」

Case 14

Sex assigned at birth: female

Gender identity: FTM

Age: 20

Seek for help: no

‘Holding hands with my girlfriend on a bus, some people said I am publicly displaying homosexual behaviour and stared at me weirdly.’

「搭巴士同自己女朋友拖手，俾人話我當眾搞基，又用啲其怪眼光望我。」

Case 15

Sex assigned at birth: female

Gender identity: FTM

Age: 33

Seek for help: forgot if I had talk to friends/family members

‘Shoved me provocatively’

「挑釁性嘅推撞。」

Chapter 6 In-depth Interviews

Ah Yin

Gender Assigned at Birth: Female

Gender Identity: Male

Sexual Orientation: Heterosexual

Age: 20+

Yin was raised like a boy by his mother. His grandmother took care of him after his mother passed away. When Yin was in Form 2, he started to search online for information regarding homosexuality and transgenderism. When Yin was 17, he realized he wanted to be in relationships with girls but as a man in a man's body and not as a lesbian. Later, the new principal of his secondary school required female students to only wear girls' uniforms in school. This measure was nauseating to Yin as he mostly wore the PE uniform to avoid wearing dresses. This caused his classmates to gossip about him a lot. Thus, he quit school and started to work at 16. In recent years, Yin has been saving money for top surgery in Taiwan, hoping to live as a man in the future.

Ah Yin experienced different levels of verbal and physical violence. When he was in Form 4, some Form 1 students questioned him about using the girls' washroom. They discussed among themselves and they asked, "Are you a boy or a girl? I saw you coming out from girls' toilet, but why do you look like a boy? Did you steal somebody's dress?" Some classmates even told the others, "Don't get close to these kinds of people. You will become abnormal if you get close to them." Frequent sarcastic remarks put Yin under tremendous pressure, causing him to have low self-esteem. He felt like a monster. Gradually he stopped going to school. Ah Yin has suffered from both verbal and physical violence in his previous relationships. An ex-girlfriend who is heterosexual mocked him publicly on Facebook after they broke up. She said, "Remember you are a girl. Don't tell me you really think you are a boy. You don't have a 'dick'. I want a real man. It feels better with a 'dick'." This post was public and could be seen by anyone. Another ex-girlfriend's mother didn't want her daughter to have a same-sex partner. She always said in a mean tone, "Is he sick? Does he have any problem? He made my daughter become like this." Another ex-girlfriend always hit him with fists and kicked him when they argued, giving Yin bruises. Once, when Yin was sitting on a computer chair, his ex-girlfriend pushed over the chair, causing Yin to fall to the ground and to hit the back of his head. During the fight, she also swore at Yin, "You are so cheap. Are you a man? No wonder you can't be a real man. You are definitely a girl. Why have girlfriends? You don't even have that 'thing' that makes you a man!"

In another career-related incident where Yin attended a job interview, a male staff member passed by and spoke in a volume that Yin could hear clearly "Wow! Cross-dresser! Transvestite!" Yin was a kitchen staff in a restaurant in Tsim Sha Tsui. While he was smoking on the backstairs, his colleague said deliberately and loudly that "the fucking TB is over there. I don't know why our company hired the kind of person who's neither man nor woman. What does he make our company

look like?’ Moreover, a colleague in Yin’s company would always give him unfriendly look. Whenever Yin sought help from this colleague, he rejected Yin with a sneer. Also, some colleagues gossiped about him behind his back: “Why doesn’t the boss fire him? It is so disgusting to work with this kind of person.” When Yin accidentally touched a colleague when they were working together, that colleague would rush to wash his hands as if he had been infected with some horrible diseases.

Yin had also experienced verbal violence and discrimination in public places. Once he took the bus with an ex-girlfriend from Mongkok to Sheung Shui and they kissed lightly inside the lower deck of the bus. An elderly passenger sitting near them shouted, “You are engaging in public homosexual activities!” His voice was so loud that all the passengers gazed at them. His ex-girlfriend was very embarrassed and angry. Besides, there were times when Yin wanted to sit on the empty seat in a bus, the adjacent passenger would stand up immediately and moved to another seat, or rather stood during the whole journey. Once, when Yin was accompanying his friends shopping and when was looking at the women’s clothes, a customer in the boutique said, “If I had a daughter like him, I would rather throw my daughter out on the street. He looks like a ‘human monster’” Verbal violence like this has made Yin avoid approaching others. He mostly stays at home except when he goes to work.

阿賢

原生性別: 女

性別認同: 男

性傾向: 異性戀

年齡: 20+

阿賢的母親從小便把他當作男孩照顧，直到母親去世，他的婆婆把他接回家一起生活。在他就讀中學二年級那年，他開始在網上搜集有關同性戀、跨性別的資料。直到他十七歲時，他發現自己想以男性的身體與女性交往，並不是女同性戀者。後來他就讀的中學的校長更換了，新上任的校長嚴厲規定女生平日上學只可穿著校服，這對於多數穿著 PE 運動服以避免穿著校服的他甚為反感，加上周遭同學們的言語中傷，他在十六歲時中途輟學，投入社會謀生。近幾年，他在儲錢計劃去台灣先做上身手術，希望將來以男性身份生活。

阿賢遭到不同程度的言語及肢體暴力，可以先從學校說起。他就讀中四的時候，使用洗手間時，被中一的同學質疑他為何使用女性洗手間，且對此議論紛紛，“其實你係男定女？點解我見你係女廁出黎，但你成個男仔咁，係咪偷人地條裙黎著呀？！”有些同學甚至會對其他同學說：“你唔好接近佢呢D人呀，接近佢地你都會唔正常架。”一再被同學冷嘲熱諷的情況下，使他承受了不少壓力，且自我形象低落，覺得自己像怪物似的，遂日漸減少上學。

阿賢曾經先後有過幾段關係，那些對象卻帶給他言語或肢體上的暴力。首先有一名前直女友，在他們分開後，於 Facebook 公開諷刺他：“你記住你始終都係女黎架，你估你真係仔咩，你無棍架，我都係同男人一齊好D，有棍舒服D”——這

個 post 不論他們的朋友與否都可以看到。另一名前女友的母親，不喜歡女兒的對象是同性，常常用很刻薄難聽的說話指摘他：“佢係咪有病？有問題？攞到我個女變成咁。”還有一位前女友，當大家吵架時，經常對他拳打腳踢，造成瘀傷，有次他坐在電腦椅上，前女友把椅子推倒向後翻，使他後腦著地受傷。期間還以粗言穢語謾罵他：“你好 Cheap，你係咪男人黎，抵你做唔到男人，不如你做番女算啦，同咩女仔拍拖，你都無 X 用既！”

在工作方面，阿賢曾在某公司面試，當時有男職員在他附近經過，以他能清晰聽到的音量說：“嘩！易服癖，變裝癖。”此外，他在尖沙咀一間西餐廳廚房工作期間，有次在後樓梯抽煙，事前早已通知同事在外抽煙，以免影響廚房運作，卻被同事刻意大聲說：“個死 TB 喺上面。都唔知宜家公司請埋 D 咩野人，唔男唔女，唔知攞到公司點樣既？”再者，公司有位同事常常以不友善的目光對阿賢全身打量，阿賢工作時找他協助，他總會笑著推搪。還有些同事在背後指指點點，說：“不如炒左佢啦，同呢 D 人做野好核突。”平常大家共處工作時，阿賢偶爾不小心碰到某同事，他好像覺得有病毒似的，立即衝去洗手。

在公共空間裡，阿賢也曾遭受到言語暴力及歧視。有次他與前女友乘坐巴士從旺角到上水，途中他們在巴士下層時輕輕親吻了一下，旁邊的老伯竟厲聲喝罵：“你地當眾攞基呀！”這樣鬧哄聲量之大足以導致所有乘客都注視他們，前女友當時除了生氣還覺得非常尷尬。另外，有幾次他剛打算坐在巴士二人座位的空位時，那位乘客立即起身改坐其他空位，或者寧可在巴士上站立。某次他陪伴朋友逛街看女裝時，店裡有位顧客看到他說：“我第時個女好似佢咁，我寧願掙佢落街，成個人妖咁樣。”這些言語暴力使阿賢近年都避免與人接觸，日常除了上班，平常多待在家裡。

Emma

Gender Assigned at Birth: Male

Gender Identity: Female

Sexual Orientation: Bisexual

Age : 30+

Emma, who is now over 30, detested her gender at birth since primary 6. Her family did not understand her, causing her to hide her feelings. She did not know how to reveal her gender identity to others and has had difficulty trusting others. Emma started cross-dressing in secondary school, which her family soon discovered. Since then, whenever her father saw stories or programs on television mentioning transgender people, he would show his disdain and say to Emma, “That will be you in the future.” Emma said she did not understand why her parents could not accept her if they had raised her all these years. Emma was also bullied at school. When she told her family about this, her father would only say, ‘You are so useless. That is how being a boy is like. Go get a knife and cut it (sex organ) off.’

Emma also experienced verbal violence and sexual harassment in public places. For instance, once she was “exposed” by a man and a woman in the street. They called her “Fucking human monster!” Another time she was being called a pervert disguised as woman and was chased by strangers, scaring her. The most

serious incident was when she was being sexually harassed on a bus. Emma was dressed in female clothes and the male passenger sitting next to her grabbed her hands and forced her to touch his thigh for almost 20 minutes until he got off the bus. Emma was so scared and her mind went blank, not knowing how to respond. When asked why she did not resist and cry out, Emma said it was because “my voice is not girly enough”. She was afraid others might discover she is transgender when she cried out for help. Due to the discrimination towards transgender individuals in society, Emma had no choice but to keep silent when being sexually harassed to avoid being hurt again.

Emma

原生性別：男

性別認同：女

性傾向：雙性戀

年齡：30+

現年逾三十歲的 **Emma** 在小學六年級開始討厭自己的原生性別，家人的不理解令她習慣封閉自己的內心，不善與人傾訴，亦很難相信別人。**Emma** 中學時開始在家中變裝，被家人發現了。自此，父親在電視上看見變性人的個案或劇集提及變性人時，便會不屑地對她說：「你將來就係咁架啦。」**Emma** 說不明白為何父母養育她多年都不能認同她。期間 **Emma** 在校內不時被欺凌，她向家人訴說時，只換來父親的責罵：「無鬼用，做男仔係咁架啦，擺把刀切左佢。」

Emma 亦曾在公共地方遭遇語言暴力和性騷擾。例如有一次被街上一男一女「踢爆」，罵她：『死人妖！』另一次在街上被人說她是麻甩仔扮女人，還追著她，令她十分害怕。更嚴重的是發生在巴士上的性騷擾，**Emma** 當天以女裝出街，在巴士上被身旁的男乘客捉住她的手撫摸大髀，持續了十幾廿分鐘，直至男乘客下車。**Emma** 當時很驚，腦海一片空白，不懂反應。問及為何不作聲反抗，**Emma** 說因為「我把聲唔夠女性化」，她怕大聲呼叫時，別人會發現她是跨性別。由於社會對跨性別的歧視，**Emma** 遇到性騷擾時，為了避免二度傷害，只好啞忍。