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COI QUERY RESPONSE

BANGLADESH – WOMEN

In May 2025 *Odhikar* notes that: “Between January and March 2025, widespread violence against women occurred across the country. Lack of the social security nets for victims and the country’s dysfunctional judicial system contribute to why most of the perpetrators of violence against women go unpunished, leaving victims deprived of justice.”¹

The *Independent* in May 2025 notes: “...a sharp rise in violence and discrimination against women...”²

Human Rights Watch in May 2025 states that: “The Bangladeshi government should comply with its obligations under international human rights law to ensure gender equality, including Bangladesh’s obligations as a state party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The government should also withdraw Bangladesh’s two remaining reservations to CEDAW.”³

In March 2025 *Business Standard* states that: “Even though the domestic violence law exists, implementation is weak...”⁴

The *Government of Bangladesh* in February 2025 states that: “Nearly half of ever-married women still experience physical violence at some point in their lifetime. Moreover, in the last 12 months alone, one in every ten women has faced such violence.”⁵

¹ Odhikar (14 May 2025) Quarterly Human Rights Report : January-March 2025, p.32

² Independent (13 May 2025) Islamist protests threaten to derail women’s rights reforms in Bangladesh, p.1

³ Human Rights Watch (5 May 2025) Bangladeshi Women’s Rights Opposed by Hardline Religious Groups

⁴ Business Standard (7 March 2025) How legal failures and social taboos embolden intimate partner violence in Bangladesh, p.2

⁵ Government of Bangladesh (27 February 2025) Bangladesh Key Findings of Violence Against Women Survey 2024, p.6

A report issued in February 2025 by *Odhikar* reviewing events of 2024 states that: “In 2024 acts of violence against women reached a highly disturbing level. Until the removal of the Sheikh Hasina government, the then ruling party members continued to enjoy impunity in most acts of violence against women under a subjugated justice system; and victims were denied justice. Violence against women has continued during the interim government’s time as well.”⁶

A report issued by *Human Rights Watch* in January 2025 commenting on events of the preceding year states that: “Sexual and gender-based violence are widespread and women and girls in Bangladesh have little recourse to seek protection or access justice for these crimes.”⁷

In 2025 *Freedom House* issued a report reviewing events of 2024 which included stating that: “Domestic violence survivors receive little assistance from government-run shelters or support programs.”⁸

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⁶ Odhikar (10 February 2025) Annual Human Rights Report 2024

⁷ Human Rights Watch (16 January 2025) World Report 2025: Bangladesh, p.4

⁸ Freedom House (2025) *Freedom in the World 2025: Bangladesh*, p.12

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