

Exposing Human Rights Violations:

**MEXICO,
INDIA &
NEPAL**

“After my attack, even though I had a qualification and knowledge, it was really hard to find a job... because they just judged me on my external look. Even though I go with certificate they said ‘no you have scar.’ Even I am educated.”



LIVING WITH THE STIGMA OF FACIAL DISFIGUREMENT IN AN LMIC

“We’ve had patients that have left their community because they can’t stand the pressure. We’ve had a family with a beautiful girl, whose mother-in-law told her to leave her, to lose her, to abandon her.”

“They hide them so that the dad and mom don't get discriminated or blamed.”

Facial disfigurement is a globally neglected human rights issue. 1 in 111 people have a disfigurement, (a mark scar or condition affecting appearance) all of whom are subject to stigma, discrimination and exclusion in this modern, appearance-obsessed world where disfigurement means disadvantage.

“The family found out that he had a lip and palate and they locked him up”

- Two new reports created by Face Equality International expose the prevalence of the abandonment of children born with facial disfigurements, along with mothers being left to care for their children alone due to fathers and in-laws rejecting the infant.
- In India, Nepal and Mexico, poverty and facial disfigurement are inextricably linked, especially in an LMIC context where inequitable access to healthcare increases the disabling nature of disfigurement.
- This community is consistently failed by government. Whether it's refusal to regard disfigurement as a disability and thereby offer government support, general ignorance of this often hidden community, or refusal to regard them as a priority.
- A culture of 'victim-blaming' surrounding supernatural or medical beliefs for the causes of disfigurement, for instance mothers using a knife during an eclipse, disproportionately impacts women and heightens gender inequality.

