

Gender Diverse Bridal Campaign by Zainah Habib

The inequality existent in our nation, in respect to gender identity, diversity and recognition, bothered Zainah Habib greatly. After completion of her studies, Habib finally decided to do something about it.

"At the beginning, I was rather vocal about the rights of the transgender community in our society. Then I realised, I was not the only one supporting the cause, there were many others with similar convictions. That's when I firmly decided to advance my plans to promote the rights of the distressed; be it the transgender folks who are continuously looked down upon, the plus-sized women who are unnecessarily mocked, or the dusky complexioned girls whose confidence is shattered by the people around her, including loved ones," Habib said.

Based on her concerns, Habib decided to bring all the mentioned categories under a single platform — the wedding dais. She planned on using special models to portray themselves as brides and show the world that they could also look equally beautiful.

"Whenever we discuss a bride, we refer to her as being fair, skinny and tall. Somehow, anything different from the aforementioned adjectives does not represent the typical idea of a 'beautiful bride;' my plan is to shatter the pre-conceived colonial view of the masses regarding feminine beauty.

"I want to show the world that a transwoman can also be a beautiful bride, the plus-sized next-door neighbour can be stunning, and the dusky girl that we see in our everyday lives can look gorgeous, any given day. Fair and skinny can no longer be the only two qualifiers to defining the term beautiful," she said.

In order to promote her beliefs, and normalise the concept of diversity in beauty, Habib, who owns FlexBiz, which is an online platform that promotes start-



ups, established businesses and myriad endeavours and projects, arranged a range of photo-shoots, termed as Gender Diverse Bridal Campaign, to promote the new definitions to beauty.

"At FlexBiz, we rejoice as a community, irrespective of one's gender, class and ethnicity," stated Habib.

Here's to wishing Zainah Habib more

strength and courage in bringing many more such unconventional projects to limelight because after all, without respect towards all human beings irrespective of their gender, colour and race; humanity cannot survive.

By Mehrin Mubdi Chowdhury
Photography: Raufun Nur Ratul
Model in this photo: Srabonti Srabon

Campaign Models: Srabonti Srabon, Urmi Rahman Mishti, Aishwariya Ayshe, Mayesha Chowdhury
Makeup: Makeup Fusion by Anfisa Wamik
Wardrobe: Belora by Biva Mosharraf
Jewellery: Zevar by Resma Islam
Accessories: Jhooli by Nasreen S
Location: Ziaur Rahman, The Secret Garden

◆ HOROSCOPE ◆



ARIES (MAR. 21-APR. 20)

Don't discuss personal matters with others. Changes at home will be favourable. Spend more time with your partner. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.



TAURUS (APR. 21-MAY 21)

Pay heed of your surroundings. Don't overspend on luxury. Any investment is a bad idea. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.



GEMINI (MAY 22-JUN. 21)

Find ways to lift your spirits. Learn to say no. Focus your attention at work. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.



CANCER (JUN. 22-JUL. 22)

Avoid confrontations with loved ones. Direct your energy wisely. Find ways to make extra money. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.



LEO (JUL. 23-AUG. 22)

Don't let anyone put you down. Keep your plans secret. Your contributions will be valued. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.



VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEP. 23)

Check everything before making a move. Plan somewhere to travel to. Time to fix things with your partner. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.



LIBRA (SEP. 24-OCT. 23)

Look into real estate investments. Social activities will be enjoyable. Don't fall for get-rich-quick schemes. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.



SCORPIO (OCT. 24-NOV. 21)

Don't torment yourself. Disharmony at home will be stressful. Go out with friends. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.



SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

Don't spend extravagantly this week. Be prepared to lose friends. Concentrate on your future. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.



CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 20)

Keep track of your legal documents. Look into a healthier diet. Catch up on correspondence. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.



AQUARIUS (JAN. 21-FEB. 19)

Don't go overboard with your plans. Business plans will go smoothly. Make informed decisions regarding investments. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.



PISCES (FEB. 20-MAR. 20)

Start saving. Helping out at home will be appreciated. Try not to gossip. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.