



VIOLENCE AGAINST
WOMEN

INDIA AND THE WORLD



Violence against women and gender discrimination is not unique to Indian society, but a global phenomenon. It exists almost in all societies – ‘East’ or ‘West’, ‘Developed’ or ‘Developing’ – irrespective of religious faith and economic status.



CEDAW

The General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the Declaration on Elimination of Discrimination against Women on 7th November, 1967. The Declaration was deemed to be a preceding step before the **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), 1979.**

It addresses the multifaceted nature of women's discrimination and the need for comprehensive social, political and economic remedies. It monitors enforcement by requiring member states to report every four years on compliance

DECLARATION ON THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, 1993

The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, 1993 is the first international women rights instrument to exclusively deal with the issue of violence against women.

The major turning point, however, was the **Vienna Conference on Human Rights in 1993**. The Conference promulgated the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, which “expressly recognized that the human rights of women are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

In 1978, The National Coalition against Domestic Violence initiated the introduction of the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act in the U.S. Congress. In 1984, the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act was passed. In 1993, **Marital Rape** became a crime in all 50 states.

The Violence against Women Act (VAWA), 1994 is a landmark piece of legislation that sought to improve the criminal justice and community-based responses to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking in the US.



JAPAN

The law for the Prevention of Spousal Violence and the Protection of Victims was enacted in April, 2001. It was first such law in Japan. It stipulates the function of Spousal Violence Counseling and Support Centers, which provide victims with consultations, counseling, temporary protection and information.

The Law also has provisions for protection orders to be issued by the court against the perpetrators on the petition of the victim.



INDIA

Position prior to the enactment of Act, 2005

The criminalization of domestic violence in India was brought only in the early 1980s after a consistent campaign by feminist groups and women organizations across the country.

The fierce demand for criminalization of dowry death and domestic violence resulted in the enactment of **Section 498-A** in the Penal Code (IPC) in 1983, **Section 304-B** in 1986 and corresponding provision **Section 113-B** in the India Evidence Act, 1872.



Protection from Domestic Violence Bill was introduced before the Indian Parliament on December 22, 2002. After the assent from President, The **Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005** came into force from 26th October, 2006.

Primarily, the Act is meant to provide protection to the wife or female live-in partner from violence at the hands of the husband or male live-in-partner or his relatives.

