

A Review of Global Gender-Based Violence Laws and their Effectiveness in Providing Timely Justice to Victims

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Abstract: *Gender-Based Violence remains a pervasive global crisis, affecting one in three women worldwide. In response, the international community and national governments have developed a complex legal framework aimed at preventing violence, protecting victims, and prosecuting perpetrators. This review paper synthesizes existing literature to critically evaluate the evolution and scope of global GBV laws, with a specific focus on their effectiveness in delivering timely justice to victims. It finds that while significant legislative progress has been made, particularly with the influence of international instruments like the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Istanbul Convention, a substantial "justice gap" persists. This gap is characterized by systemic barriers including poor implementation, inadequate resources, socio-cultural norms, and institutional biases within justice systems. The paper concludes that law reform, while necessary, is insufficient without concurrent efforts to strengthen judicial capacity, ensure adequate funding for support services, and transform the deep-seated gender inequalities that underpin GBV.*

Keywords: Gender-Based Violence, Judicial Efficiency, Victim Protection

