

Role of Prosecutorial Practices in Translating GBV Laws into Convictions and Victim Redress

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Abstract: The past few decades have witnessed a significant global proliferation of laws criminalizing various forms of gender-based violence. However, the existence of robust legislation has not consistently translated into high conviction rates or meaningful redress for survivors. This review paper argues that prosecutorial practices serve as the critical, and often under-examined, bridge between the codified promise of GBV laws and their real-world outcomes. By synthesizing scholarly literature and empirical studies, this paper examines how prosecutorial discretion, investigative approaches, trial strategies, and engagement with victims can either facilitate or hinder successful convictions and victim healing. Key findings indicate that specialized prosecution units, trauma-informed practices, the strategic use of evidence, and a victim-centered approach are pivotal in overcoming the unique challenges of GBV cases. Conversely, reliance on outdated myths, victim-blaming tactics, and excessive prosecutorial caution perpetuate impunity and secondary victimization. The paper concludes that systemic reform focused on empowering and training prosecutors is as crucial as legislative reform itself for achieving justice in GBV cases.

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