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Ms. Sumiti Ahuja, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi,

Ms. Sumiti Ahuja completed her LL.M. from the Indian Law Institute with specialization in Criminal Law and Corporate Law, and has over nine years of teaching experience. She has done her LL.B. from the Faculty of Law, University of Delhi. She is currently pursuing Ph.D. in the area of Forensics and Law. Prior to joining the teaching profession, she has worked as Research Assistant for projects funded by different agencies of Govt. of India. She has developed various audio-video teaching modules under UGC e-PG Pathshala programme in the area of Criminology, under the aegis of an MHRD Project. Her areas of interest are Criminal Law, Law of Evidence, Interpretation of Statutes, and Clinical Legal Education.



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Dr. Navtika Singh Nautiyal presently working as an Assistant Professor in School of law, Forensic Justice and Policy studies at National Forensic Sciences University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat. She has 9 years of Teaching and Research Experience. She has completed her Philosophy of Doctorate in 'Intercountry adoption laws from Uttranchal University, Dehradun' and LLM from Indian Law Institute, New Delhi.



Dr. Rinu Saraswat

Associate Professor at School of Law, Apex University, Jaipur, M.A, LL.M, Ph.D,

Dr. Rinu have 5 yrs of teaching experience in renowned institutions like Jagannath University and Apex University. Participated in more than 20 national and international seminars and conferences and 5 workshops and training programmes.

Dr. Nitesh Saraswat

E.MBA, LL.M, Ph.D, PGDSAPM

Currently working as Assistant Professor at Law Centre II, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi. Dr. Nitesh have 14 years of Teaching, Administrative and research experience in Renowned Institutions like Amity University, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Jai Narain Vyas University Jodhpur, Jagannath University and Nirma University.

More than 25 Publications in renowned National and International Journals and has authored a Text book on Cr.P.C and Juvenile Delinquency law.



Subhrajit Chanda

BBA. LL.B. (Hons.) (Amity University, Rajasthan); LL. M. (UPES, Dehradun) (Nottingham Trent University, UK); Ph.D. Candidate (G.D. Goenka University)

Subhrajit did his LL.M. in Sports Law, from Nottingham Trent University of United Kingdoms, with international scholarship provided by university; he has also completed another LL.M. in Energy Law from University of Petroleum and Energy Studies, India. He did his B.B.A.LL.B. (Hons.) focussing on International Trade Law.

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WHITE BLACK LEGAL is an open access, peer-reviewed and refereed journal provided dedicated to express views on topical legal issues, thereby generating a cross current of ideas on emerging matters. This platform shall also ignite the initiative and desire of young law students to contribute in the field of law. The erudite response of legal luminaries shall be solicited to enable readers to explore challenges that lie before law makers, lawyers and the society at large, in the event of the ever changing social, economic and technological scenario.

With this thought, we hereby present to you

COMPARISON OF LAWS REGARDING MARITAL RAPE: AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

AUTHORED BY - ADITI SINGH & DR. AVANTIKA MADHESIYA

“Marriage has historically functioned as a license for sexual access rather than a mutual partnership.”

-Susan Brownmiller (Against Our Will, 1975)

“Violence against women shall be understood to encompass, but not be limited to, physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, including marital rape.”

**-United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (1993),
Article 2**

The global landscape of marital rape is diverse, with most nations having legislation specifically targeting women. Most other countries have laws that make rapes that occur within marriages illegal as well, making marital rape just as criminal as regular rape. Lawmakers and judges were reluctant to amend any rape-related laws for a long time, and it was thought that spousal rape was impossible. In the Mandy Broadman case, the husband drugged and unconsciously raped his wife for three years while doing so. This type of improper framework was evident in the case. The fact that this violence and brutality occurred within a married relationship does not mean that it should be ignored. Shameful, insulting, and a violation against the most fundamental principles of human comprehension, it is.¹ These examples also serve to highlight social injustices, what is improper in a given situation, and the demeaning role that families play in the treatment of women.

Rape is innately wicked and violates a woman's rights while also demonstrating a total disregard for the existence and fundamental rights of all people. When a woman is the victim of sexual assault, her most fundamental rights are violated. One crucial standard is that a disturbing crime against women shouldn't be justified simply because the attacker is the victim's relative. Financially stable women are viewed as weak, and society has used this as an excuse to mistreat them and place them beneath males. In Indian culture, it is deemed preferable to endure hardships in quiet rather than speak out against one's husband. Not much

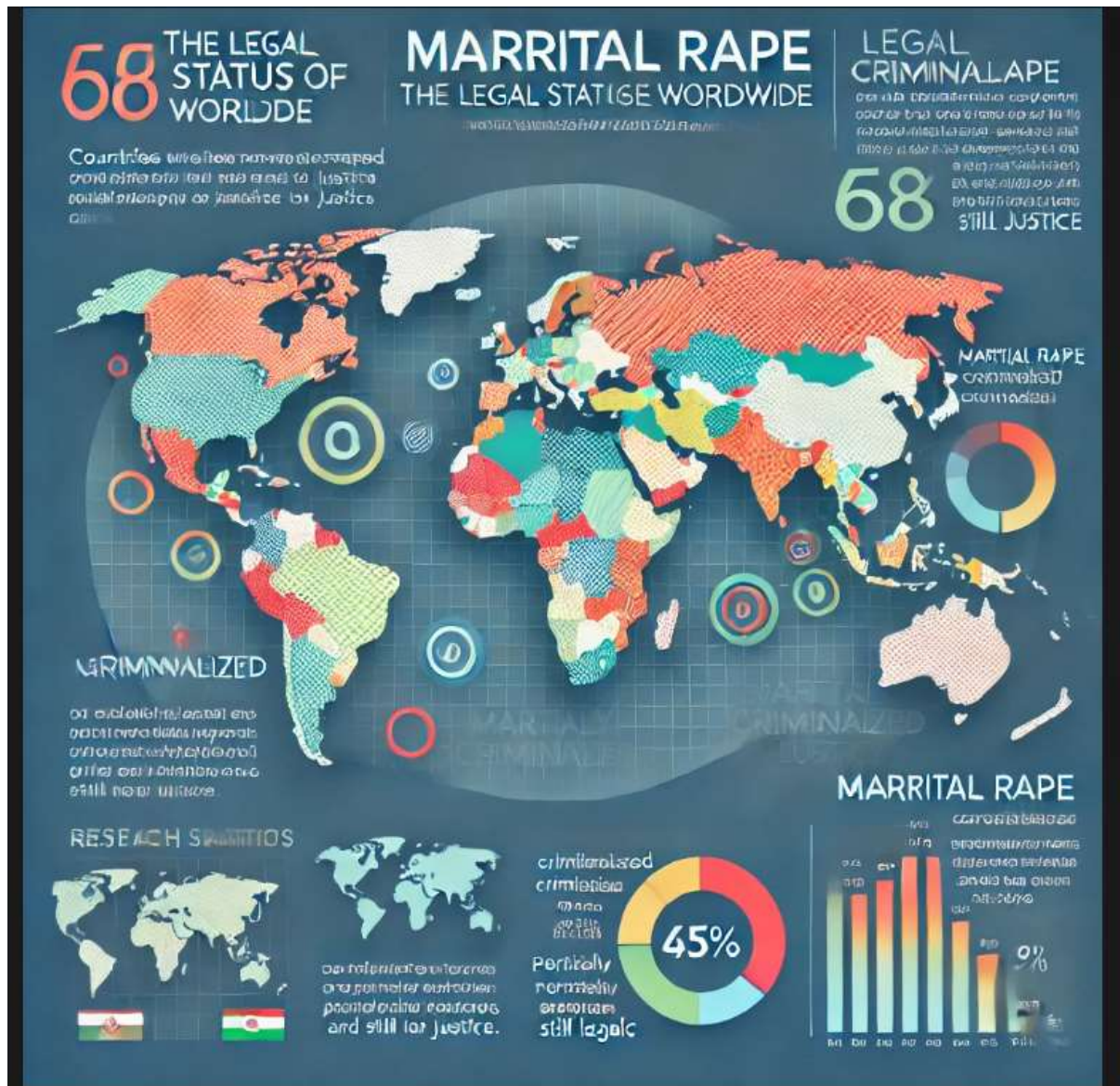
¹ Matt Pearce, “No Prison Time for Indiana Man Convicted of Drugging, Raping Wife”, L.A. TIMES May 19, 2014, (last visited August 30, 2020)

has changed in Indian law, although marital rape laws have altered in many other nations, with some adding it as a criminal offense or doing away with the distinction between spousal rape and other types of rape.

Among the nations implementing these modifications are Albania, Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, France, Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, the Philippines, Scotland, South Africa, Taiwan, Tunisia, UK, USA, and Indonesia. Marital or spousal rape is illegal in several countries, which makes it abundantly evident that it is against human rights and the very foundations of human dignity.

Although the issue of women's rights against violence in their own homes is becoming more widely acknowledged, the sovereign's assistance for the prevention of rapes within marriages is deficient. Additionally, the legacy of seeing women as inferior to men and treating wives as their husbands' property has prevented even the efforts of highly regarded specialists from resolving this issue, which is why so little attention has been paid to it. Husbands who force their female spouses to engage in sexual acts, whether or whether they are consensual, are given an unfair sense of independence by this lack of acknowledgement. Because of these privileges and benefits, the males are powerful because they believe it is their own free will to degrade their wives' dignity without even asking. It qualifies the entire heinous act of coercive sexual behaviour as something that is acceptable and subject to legal penalties. To curtail such disproportionate authority that has been ingrained in the other gender is a cry for assistance from all women worldwide. It must be addressed right now because it is both a social and legal restriction. It is safe to say that when examining international human rights laws and principles, a sovereign's failure to uphold the international standards of human rights principles is violated when it allows sexual violence in marriage to continue as a lawful practice. The fact that there are still significant inequalities in marital arrangements indicates that the human rights reforms that have been implemented still require a great deal of adjustment. The majority of women are statistically proven to be sexually abused by men in their relationships, whether they be spouses or in any other type of legal partnership, according to research. While it is understood that using violence in domestic relationships violates human rights, sexual violence in marriages and other relationships is still widely underrecognized.

These rights have been provided under the (UDHR)², (ICCPR)³, (ICESCR)⁴ and (CEDAW)⁵.



Lack of Recognition to Criminal Activities within Marriages

Even Nevertheless, there is a broad knowledge of the subject of sexual offences committed during marriage in many countries, and the problem is well understood. However, the scope of these crimes has expanded in the larger context, and because they include the lifting of the veil of matrimony, crimes of this nature committed within intimate relationships are still

² The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948

³ The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966

⁴ The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966

⁵ The Convention on The Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, 1979

viewed as socially reprehensible. This idea has been misunderstood, and not much progress has been made in the fight against sexual assault against women. It is astonishing that while domestic abuse and other forms of violence are generally more accepted, support for victims of sexual assault is rarely discussed. All authorities completely deny the existence of this issue, and instead of taking the appropriate legal action to address it, it is simply privatized.⁶

It is evident that there is a persistent lack of understanding regarding domestic violence in marriages, and that exploitation in these intimate relationships is frequently disregarded, giving men the go-ahead to mistreat their wives. Kersti Yllo, a distinguished expert in identifying the horrors of sexual assault, asserts that the cultural stage is generally twenty years behind where it ought to be by now and is falling well behind. While some countries have made progress, most countries have not seen a significant improvement in their status. The fact that physical abuse can have an impact on a wife's mental and physical health has not received enough attention. In addition to being physically damaging, the suffering is a soul-crushing experience for the victim, a woman who entered the partnership expecting to be cared for and protected.

It is also important to keep in mind that a physical act of violence is not always necessary to prove that someone committed sexual abuse inside a married relationship. Even though the aggressiveness may not be physical, the effects on the wife's body and psyche could be severe. The truth is that to prevent physical abuse, women often embrace and submit to various forms of sexual activity. In the past, the majority of rape theories focused on crimes committed by strangers, giving little thought to sexual attacks committed by close friends or family members. This prevented this topic from being discussed in great detail and left married women uncared for and without appropriate support.⁷

A study carried out in Australia found that extremely few cases of sexual assault were classified as acts of familial animosity. This study revealed that although these individuals were aware of other types of violence and attacks, such as beatings and battering, just 12% of respondents agreed that there might be sexual animosity in marriages and homes. Such an observation may have led to the conclusion that, while determining the horrors committed against women in

⁶ Diana E.H. Russell, *Rape in Marriage* (1982); David Finkelhor & Kerstiyllö., *License to Rape: Sexual Abuse of Wives* (1987)

⁷ Eastel, *Marital Rape: Conflicting Constructions of Reality*, *WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE*, Nov. (1997)

their homes, sexual offenses were not as widely acknowledged as physical abuse or verbal abuse.⁸

Additionally, some researchers have noted that because a husband and wife's relationship is the closest, it will be difficult for juries and judges to reach a conclusion in this case due to the close proximity that couples have in a married relationship. Furthermore, a jury of this kind can perceive the conduct differently than they would an act by an unknown individual. This means that determining whether or not a sexual assault has occurred requires more than just determining whether it has occurred; other circumstances, such as the assaulter's relationship to the victim and the location of the abuse, may also influence how it is interpreted. These elements will affect how proceedings and actions against the spouse or husband are carried out. They also have an impact on the possible remedies that may be used, and if the attacker is related to the victim, he may be granted unjustified exemptions and immunities. This is a superficial perspective that ignores the reality that women are allowed to suffer everywhere and that neither the government nor the males in the community can be expected to act morally.

Marital rapes are regarded as less serious than ordinary rape offences.

Marital rapes have come to be associated with various meanings. We have all seen movies with rape scenes when women are beaten, attacked, kidnapped, and subjected to sexual abuse. Marriages are actually the same setting in which this crime is actually perpetrated. They can't even say no to their own partners; instead, they are smacked around and have their hair yanked. The only thing that separates them is that women suffer in silence more often in order to safeguard their marriages, their children, or even because they believe it is their responsibility to make sexual approaches to their husbands. Not only do these women not know their own rights, but many also believe that they must satisfy their husbands' demands, no matter how harsh or irrational they may be. The problem women confront when their attackers are the persons, they formerly loved more than anything or anybody else contributes to the underreporting of such crimes. It is upsetting, traumatizing, and perplexing how viciously their loved ones have behaved. There is also a perception gap between marital and ordinary rapes: marital rape is not a major crime and should be forgiven by the women.⁹

⁸ Jennifer A. Bennice & Patricia A. Resick, Marital Rape History, Research, and Practice, Trauma, Violence & Abuse 228, 246 (2003).

⁹ Amnesty Intl, Hungary: Cries Unheard: The Failure to Protect Women from Rape and Sexual Violence in the Home, (May 10, 2007).

Renowned researchers have just recently begun to acknowledge the issue of marital rape. Research indicates that this is a pervasive issue that requires quick attention.

Marital Rape: International Perspectives on Criminalization and Evolving Trends.

The UN established a task force in 2006, and a thorough investigation of all forms of violence against women was conducted during that time. This investigation revealed that a significant number of women were being abused by their spouses and in their own homes, with the results having a negative impact on the psychological, physical, and mental health of the victims. Further it was suggested by reports of World Health Organization (WHO) that in a substantial number of states/ nations out of every four women, one woman has been sexually assaulted by her husband.

For countless women worldwide, this type of gendered maltreatment has been identified as a major contributor to an unfavorable future. It has also been noted that women who experience physical abuse from their male partners have a higher risk of contracting sexually transmitted infections such as gonorrhea, chlamydia, or syphilis itself. Furthermore, there is a higher chance of infection with the fatal AIDS virus among these women. According to additional research, up to 40% of women who experience sexual assault are victims of their own spouses, boyfriends, or lovers.¹⁰

There are two main types of legislation in the United States of America. State and federal laws apply here. There is currently no national law in place for the crime of rape. This implies that, with regard to the crime of rape, each state has its own laws. However, the Uniform Code of Military Justice has defined rape and states that spouse rape is prohibited under its provisions. This reiterates that the accused male cannot use it as a shield. It is currently illegal to rape someone in a marriage in all fifty states. Men used to have the legal right to rape their wives while they were still married, but these rights have now been removed from the system, making it impossible for someone to rape their wife today without suffering repercussions. As of right present, those who commit marital rape are subject to the same penalties as ordinary rape offenders. A spousal rape offence carries a maximum sentence of seven years to life in prison.¹¹

¹⁰ Jacquelyn C. Campbell & Peggy Alford, The Dark Consequences of Marital Rape, 89 AM. J.NURSING 946, 946 (1989).

¹¹ Judith M. McFarlane & Ann Malecha, Sexual Assault among Intimates: Frequency, Consequences & Treatments 3 (2005).

It has been noted that almost 70% of women who experience physical violence endure such horrors from their male partners, even in affluent nations like the United States of America. These kinds of behaviors are common across all sections of society, including the educated class, and are not limited to specific underprivileged groups. According to reports, these violent episodes are observed occurring frequently and there is no legal recourse available for the perpetrators.¹²

Once more, a Canadian survey reported that almost 39% of women reported experiencing some form of sexual abuse in their lifetime, starting when they were sixteen years old. Moreover, nearly half of the women in this nation reported experiencing physical and/or sexual abuse at the hands of their partners, boyfriends, and other people. According to different survey, people who were familiar with the victims' whereabouts and knew them well were responsible for nearly all crimes involving physical abuse and similar offenses.¹⁷⁸ An further evaluation was conducted by the Canadian authorities through a criminal victimization survey, which indicated that 460 thousand women were abused by men other than their husbands, and 600 thousand women suffered from spousal rapes.¹³

Through a criminal victimization survey, the Canadian authorities carried out an additional review that revealed 600,000 women had experienced spousal rape and 460 thousand women had been victimized by males other than their spouses. According to other studies, ten percent of spouses in Bangladesh acknowledged that they had forced their wives or ex-wife to have sex with them. It was only in marriages that sexual offenses occurred in India.

To prevent people from taking advantage of the women in their homes and to instill a sense of respect in their hearts and minds about what women go through and how they should be treated, it is important to address incidents of domestic violence against women that occur in marriage relationships and other intimate relationships. Promoting social, educational, and legal resources is the first and most important step in aiding the victims of these abuses. This will help to create a system that will address the mistreatment of women. In this sense, the most important thing that can be done in countries where marital rape is not yet recognized is to make it a criminal offense. This could be the starting point for modifications to the statutes

¹² Holly Johnson, *Dangerous Domains: Violence Against Women in Canada* (1996).

¹³ Roxan Vaillancourt, *Gender Differences in Police-reported Violent Crime in Canada*, Statistics Canada, May (2010)

pertaining to spousal rape. Despite the notion of close relatives' immunity, this criminalization must nonetheless be implemented. Making one act of abuse non-criminal makes no sense when all other acts of abuse that are physical or sexual in character are criminalized. This is because it puts the criminal offenses in opposition to one another rather than in harmony.

Table: Criminalization of Marital Rape in Different Countries

Country	Marital Rape Criminalized?	Year of Legal Change
United Kingdom	Yes	1991
United States	Yes (All 50 states)	1993
Canada	Yes	1983
India	No (Partial Exceptions Exist)	-
China	No	-
France	Yes	1990
Japan	Yes	2003

1. UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (DEVAW)¹⁴

It has been determined that physical or sexual abuse of women violates their fundamental human rights. It is seen to be an infringement on women's fundamental rights. Rapes that occur within marriage systems or between spouses were also seen as violations of women's human rights in the international system. In the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (DEVAW), this statement was made as early as 1993.

It was determined in 1995 at the 4th World Conference on Women that maltreatment of women in a married setting was included in the category of physical violence experienced by women.¹⁵ These arrangements dictate that mistreatment of women, including physical abuse, sexual abuse, and battering, must be acknowledged to shield women from these kinds of behaviours. For the sake of providing these countries' women with a better quality of life, certain pardons granted to men will be eliminated.¹⁶

It is a well-established truth that physical exploitation of women should be seen as a grave breach of their human rights. Throughout the past thirty years, this truth has been proven. In addition to the fact that women's human rights were being directly violated, this acknowledgment was necessary since it allowed for the proper exercise of all other

¹⁴ U.N. Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, G.A. Res. 48/104, art. 1 (Dec. 20, 1993).

¹⁵ Ruchira Tabassum Naved et al., Men's Attitudes and Practices Regarding Gender and Violence Against Women in Bangladesh (2011).

¹⁶ World Conference on Women, Rep. of the Fourth World Conference on Women, para. 112, 113, 117, 118, U.N.Doc. A/CONF.177/20/Rev.1 (Sept. 15, 1996).

rights, which could not be realized while the primary rights were being violated. The procedure is also impairing other rights, such as the right to a life devoid of torture, the right to live in freedom and dignity, the right to equal protection under the law, security, well-being, and a friendly workplace. It could be safely stated that spousal abuses made an infringement of all the above rights.

International laws and agreements that stipulate that certain conduct will be considered crimes could serve as a basis for creating fully functional legislation that is devoid of any flaws or loopholes. This section will address different legal stances from around the world that may eliminate any illogical exclusions to marital rape.

1. The first step in comprehending the global viewpoint is to discuss the treaties and conventions that have designated spousal rapes as grave violations of fundamental rights.
2. The next step is to provide a clear legal framework for each of these offences, ensuring that any countries that currently exempt spouses from prosecution will do so to eliminate such privileges.
3. Moreover, to create a culture that is welcoming to women and that can appreciate them as they deserve to be, the fundamental thinking must be altered.

2. Criminalization of marital rape: Changing trends

All persons must have their rights granted to them in accordance with the provisions of a created legal framework, considering their specific human rights policies.

Every person will be guaranteed freedom, equality, and liberty as a result. In the year 1988 itself, in the case of *Velasquez Rodriquez v. Honduras*, The InterAmerican Court of Human Rights recognized that occasionally, states fail to take action against alleged criminal activity, allowing the offender to continue their illegal activities while the victim of the violation does not receive a timely and adequate restoration of their rights. As a result, the victim is left dangling and the attacker escapes justice. That indicates that there has been a failure on the part of state authorities to uphold the rights of those who, in a democratic system, are entitled to certain freedoms and liberties. Another example of a state failing to adhere to the convention's norms is when it grants exemptions to particular individuals. It was noted in this instance that states can be held internationally accountable for their failure to take action against illegal acts that violate human rights under the American Convention on Human Rights. This is true not only because the act in question was committed but also because no steps were taken to stop

it from happening in the first place or to protect violations of human rights.

This means that the state has an obligation to ensure that laws are not only made in a way that violates international standards, but also to ensure that it abides by the conventions and treaties it has ratified by being watchful and diligent. Establishing guidelines of this nature is very helpful in ensuring that states remove violent incidents from women's daily life and in advancing effective solutions.

In order to ensure that women who are kept in pain don't have to endure it any longer, these criteria encourage states to restrict abuses of human rights and to put up appropriate systems for crime prevention, punishment, and remediation. The imposition of these criteria dates back to 1993, and their purpose was to shield women from gender-based abuse. According to the DEVAW, any state that was a member of the UN had a responsibility to safeguard its women against any kind of abuse, whether it be sexual, physical, or gendered.

This statement offered the assurance that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, if properly recognized, would aid in the recognition of the existing declaration and serve to enhance the process of ending violence against women.

1. This claim demonstrated that animosity directed towards women constitutes a violation of their fundamental rights and freedoms, and that it has a significant negative impact on their ability to enjoy these rights.
2. It was demonstrated how governments and international leaders have failed miserably to end this kind of assault against women worldwide. Furthermore, it was noted that widespread violence simply serves to highlight the extreme inequality that exists between men and women, which has led to male dominance impeding the development of all women.
3. As a result of this supremacy, women are viewed as inferior beings within their own households.
4. A further issue raised was the large number of women who belonged to underrepresented groups, lived in impoverished and rural regions, were confined, had girls living with them, were in conflict zones, etc.
5. Since these women were more likely to become victims of exploitation, it was imperative that action be made to enforce legislation recommended by international conventions and global norms. They could not be held in such conditions.

3. Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action supported this way of establishing norms 114 for various sovereigns. As many as 189 countries have endorsed this proclamation. The implementation of gender equality and the empowerment of women worldwide was the primary focus of this conference. This platform was created with the idea that all women and girls should be free to exercise their rights and go about without fear of retaliation or violence. Equal decision-making authority and compensation for similar work were the goals. With this proclamation, efforts were made to bring concerns of violence and abuse against women to the attention of the globe.

Numerous modifications have been made after the declaration's inception. As a result, this proclamation marks a significant turning point in the history of enacting laws and policies that defend women's and girls' human rights. Since its origin, there has been an inherent call on all countries to develop legislation and legal frameworks that will safeguard women against abusive and inappropriate behaviour by their husbands, other close family members, and men globally.¹⁷ That made it clear that those who commit crimes should all be held accountable and allowed to live their lives without fear of repercussions. Additional lessons revealed by this declaration were the need for women to advance and flourish across all industries. Paying them for their work is what matters, not how they are sex. When the situation is unfavourable, such as in conflict or detention zones, they must be protected.

In addition, the UNECOSOC issued a resolution in 1994 on a conference on human rights that called for the appointment of a special rapport person to oversee the dissemination of all proceedings that occurred during the meetings. Based on a similar perspective, this resolution stated that states needed to take action to protect women from violence, enact legislation, and discourage women from engaging in it. Whether the acts were the result of the states or of a few people was not thought to be important. The primary goal of these resolutions and policies was to maintain the protection of women as their primary priority. Thus, if access to the several remedies and protective measures that might be implemented for victims is maintained, then such a scenario may be made possible.¹⁸

¹⁷ The Beijing Platform for Action: inspiration then and now; 27 Dec 2015

¹⁸ Commission on Human Rights Res. 1995/86, U.N. Doc. E/CN.4/1995/176, at 253 (Mar. 8, 1995).

Many resentful women were dissatisfied with how their complaints were handled by their various governments for nearly ten years following the turn of the twenty-first century. They were utterly incompetent at providing such women with protection. These are some of the cases that are mentioned –

Bevacqua and S v. Bulgaria¹⁹: In this particular case, the husband and wife were living apart from each other and he consistently mistreated her. The husband was compelled to take custody of the child from his then-separate wife. The spouse frequently threatened the wife and the child and occasionally used violence against them. In order to avoid prosecution, he was granted custody of the child, but he also physically mistreated the child. The lady eventually won custody of her child, but the Bulgarian courts pitifully failed to hold the father accountable for any abuse or maltreatment of the wife and the child that he despised. The European Court of Human Rights ruled in this regard that the Bulgarian government was negligent in providing timely custody and in failing to shield the girls from excessive violence and hostile behavior.

A.T. v. Hungary²⁰: Once more, the Hungarian authorities was powerless to defend a woman who was subjected to frequent beatings, assaults, and physical abuse at the hands of her husband. This government maintained that women's rights could not be maintained above the rights to property or privacy. In this case, CEDAW had to step in and saw flagrant violations of a woman's human rights. It was determined that the authorities had breached Articles 2 (a), (b), and (e) by implementing laws that would have assisted in the protection of women. In the process, there was also a violation of Article 5 of the CEDAW, which attempted to stop discrimination and stereotypes against women. Additionally, it was determined that Article 16's guarantees of equality in marriage and family life had been broken.

It was rightly observed in the case of ***Lenahan v. United States***²¹ that the due diligence technique is universally acknowledged as the gold standard for establishing laws, rules, and processes to combat the issue of gendered violence and heinous acts against women. This consensus is valid even when it comes to the issue of domestic abuse. As a result, it can be said that the fact that all nations and sovereigns have come to this kind of consensus conclusion shows how women-centric issues are currently being

¹⁹ Bevacqua and S. V. Bulgaria, App. No. 71127/01, Eur. Ct. H.R. (2008)

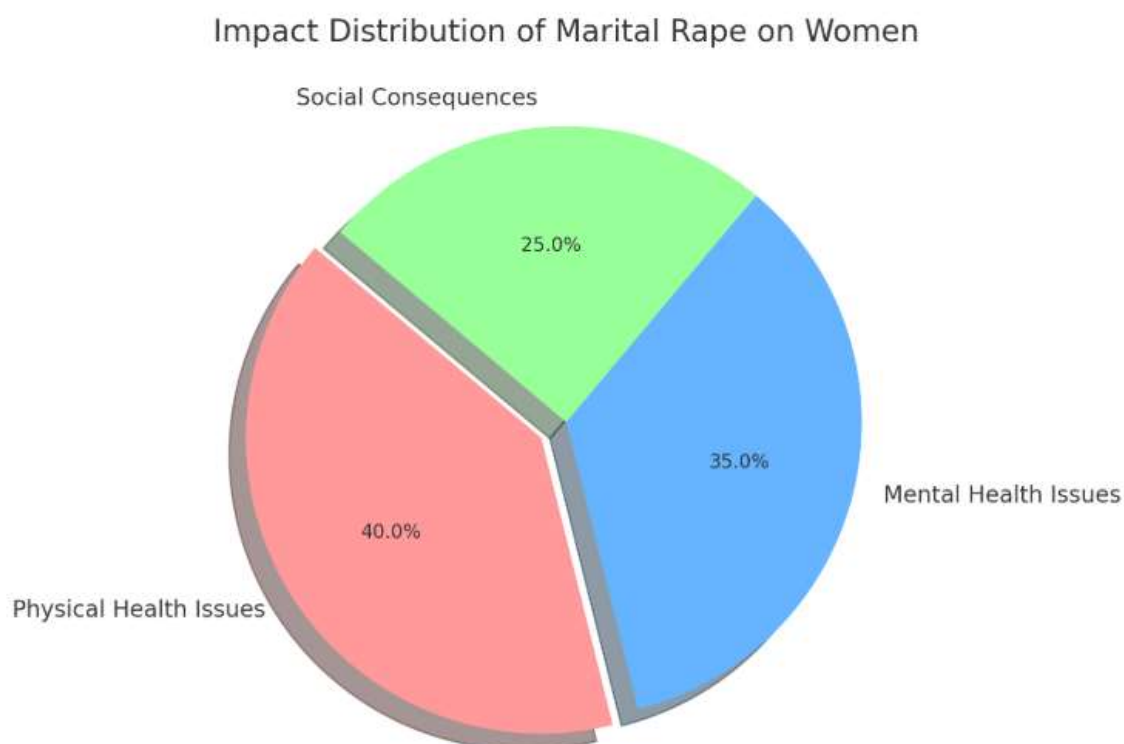
²⁰ Ms. A. T. V. Hungary 9.3.4, CEDAW/36/D/2/2003 (Jan. 26, 2005)

²¹ Jessica Lenahan (Gonzales) v. United States of America; Case No. 12.626, Inter-Am. C.H.R., ReportNo. 80/11 (2011)

tackled with remarkable progress. The protection of women is becoming more and more popular, and there has been progress in international law.

Recognizing the Need to Criminalize Rape Within Marriage

Every country has its own set of laws. Even though they are all influenced by one another, legal systems around the world differ from one another. While some nations have adopted common law principles, most nations' legal systems are based mostly on customs and tradition. Several Islamic precepts have also been included into the structures of the legal systems in various countries.



Rape is defined differently in each country, and there is variance in the manner that these systems are taught and comprehended. For instance, the definition of rape researched in Hong Kong and India differs greatly from that in Australia. Even if every country follows common law principles, this disparity will still exist. There is still variation in the approaches taken to manage crimes such as sexual assaults and rapes that occur within marriages. Spouses who abuse their wives by raping or attacking them are excluded in many countries. States should legalize marital rapes and change their status from sexual assaults, according to several recommendations, publications, conferences, resolutions, and reports. There are numerous systems in existence for human rights advocacy.

Table: Consequences of Marital Rape on Women

Impact Category	Description
Physical Health	Increased risk of STDs, injuries, pregnancy-related complications.
Mental Health	PTSD, depression, anxiety, suicidal tendencies.
Social Consequences	Isolation, financial dependence, difficulty in leaving abusive marriages.

STATISTICS ON PREVALENCE AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

Marital rape is a prevalent issue at the international level, but due to the sensitive nature of the topic, the lack of reporting, and varying legal definitions across countries, it is challenging to gather accurate statistics on its prevalence. However, several studies and surveys have been conducted that shed light on the prevalence of marital rape in different parts of the world. Here are some key statistics:

1. World Health Organization (WHO)

According to a WHO multi-country study conducted in 2005, between 10% and 50% of women reported experiencing physical violence from an intimate partner in their lifetime. The study found that sexual violence by an intimate partner was the most common form of violence against women, and that marital rape was a significant contributor to this.²²

2. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

A global survey conducted by UNFPA in 2018 found that 23% of women between the ages of 15 and 49 had experienced physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner in the past 12 months. The survey also found that 16% of women had experienced sexual violence by an intimate partner.

3. European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) A survey conducted by the FRA in 2014 found that 22% of women in the European Union had experienced physical and/or sexual violence from a partner since the age of 15. The survey found

²² World Health Organisation Report 2005

that 8% of women had experienced sexual violence by a partner since the age of 15.²³

4. European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights Report 2014

A global study conducted by UNODC in 2018 found that 37% of female homicide victims were killed by an intimate partner. The study found that intimate partner violence was the most common motive for homicide against women, and that sexual violence, including marital rape, was a significant factor.

It is important to note that these statistics are not comprehensive and that the true prevalence of marital rape is likely higher due to underreporting. However, these statistics provide a general understanding of the prevalence of marital rape at the international level.

Table: Global Statistics on Marital Rape Prevalence

Organization	Year	Key Findings on Marital Rape Prevalence
WHO	2005	10-50% of women reported physical violence from an intimate partner in their lifetime.
UNFPA	2018	23% of women (ages 15-49) experienced physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner in the past 12 months.
FRA (EU Agency for Fundamental Rights)	2014	22% of women in the EU experienced physical/sexual violence by a partner since the age of 15.
UNODC	2018	37% of female homicide victims were killed by an intimate partner.

²³ European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights Report 2014