



Resolution on Gender Based Violence

Adopted at
Women in Law Conference on Violence
Against Women
in association with UN Women Pakistan

LAHORE | 15 September 2018

Resolution on Gender Based Violence

1. **Recognizing** that gender based violence can include physical, sexual, verbal, and/or psychological harm or suffering as well as deprivation of rights of liberty, property and other economic, social, civil and political rights as well as threats of violence, intimidation or coercion, whether occurring in public or private life, against a vulnerable person or class of persons,
2. **Realizing** that all kinds of violence, including domestic violence against women are linked with the overall disrespect, discrimination and inequality for their gendered role in society,
3. **Recognizing** further that such violence is pervasive in our society and is present in our homes, in our community, and is even structurally embedded in our laws that are anachronistic and which are hugely discriminatory against women and other vulnerable groups,
4. **Recognizing** the challenges in accessing justice for the victims and survivors of such violence and the need for gender sensitization of staff and personnel within the justice process including, but not limited to medico-legal personnel, law enforcement agencies and legal counsels,
5. **Recognizing** further the need for facilitation, support and other aid to such persons or their representatives to access justice and for awareness as to their rights, processes and relief,
6. **Understanding** how difficult it can be for survivors to voice out their plight and to take affirmative action to address their condition and situation,
7. **Acknowledging** the need for pushing for more law reforms and administrative measures including but not limited to providing access through technological innovation, simplified procedures, on-ground facilitation staff and access to information or one-window operations, to promote access to justice and other support including rehabilitation and reintegration into all aspects of social and economic life,
8. **Realizing** that gender based violence is an obstacle to the achievement of the objectives of equality, development and peace as recognized in the sustainable development goals (SDGs),
9. **Restating** that gender based violence is a serious violation of the human rights of the abused which also impacts the society as a whole,

The Women in Law Initiative Pakistan,

- a. **Condemns** gender based violence in all its forms as a general violation of a person's rights as human beings – the right to life, dignity, safety, and physical and psychological well-being,
- b. **Aims to** work towards raising more awareness on violence and in promoting and developing linkages with other institutions, organizations, civil society networks, and people to work collectively towards support, assistance and facilitation of the abused,

- c. **Looks forward to** conduct training and capacity building in gender sensitivity, laws, rights, access and remedies as well as procedures, for men, women and all other stakeholders,
- d. **Seeks to** provide policy input and support for promoting access to justice and to facilitate reintegration of survivors,
- e. **Notes** that women's economic dependency on men makes women easy targets for oppression and abuse, as well as potential victims of prostitution and human trafficking, and affirms the importance of reducing poverty and of actively promoting possibilities for women in the labour market,
- f. **Advocates for** gender equality, access, and inclusion in law and society of women and vulnerable persons to secure for them a level playing field and equality of opportunities,
- g. **Encourages** training in gender sensitivity to be imparted in schools, institutions and other organizations as well as within professional bodies, associations and at home,
- h. **Encourages** the survivors, families, friends, civil society, employers, colleagues, institutions and associations, organizations as well as concerned individuals and other stakeholders to condemn and negate all forms of gender based violence wherever they see it and to collectively raise their voice against this injustice,
- i. **Calls to** stand in solidarity with victims and survivors,
- j. **Recognizes** the need to eliminate the taboo and stigma associated with seeking the treatment, therapy or counselling necessary to address harmful psychological impacts of violence and abuse,
- k. **Encourages** a review of all laws and policies related to civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of people with a view to making them more inclusive, non-discriminatory and accessible to people,
- l. **Urges** the Legislature to ensure adequate legislation to protect women who are victims of domestic violence, including through emancipating victims from vulnerable situations, instituting appropriate restraints on movements by perpetrators, enforcing penalties and sentences, and providing legal assistance, loans and access to property to victims of domestic violence,
- m. **Calls** further on the Legislature to ensure that legislation outlaws all forms of gender based violence, including economic deprivation, psychological harm, and verbal abuse and institutes appropriate penalties and sentences,
- n. **Hopes** that families, educational institutions, employers, lawyers, medico-legal staff and officers, law enforcements agencies, and other officials of the criminal justice process and policy will play their role in raising awareness and in promoting access to justice and rehabilitation,
- o. **Recognizes** the existing and prevalent efforts in this regard of state-run and private institutions and individuals and hopes that the benefit of the same can reach a wider number of affected people,

- p. **Believes** that working collectively through a multidisciplinary approach can ensure a more holistic and comprehensive outcome to address the prevalent challenges associated with violence,
- q. **Invites** members of civil society, friends, families, associations, organizations, institutions, agencies and legal fraternity to join hands for collective efforts to eliminate gender based violence.

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