

## **14. Global Mechanisms for Safeguarding Women's Human Rights: An Overview of International Legal Instruments**

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### **Abstract:**

*The international legal structures and processes put in place to safeguard and advance women's human rights around the world are thoroughly examined in this article. It looks at how women's rights have changed throughout time, starting with the fundamental ideas outlined in the UN Charter and continuing with current difficulties and new concerns. The study focusses on important documents including the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), examining its practical implications, implementation strategies, and substantive provisions. The study examines the intricate interactions among international treaty organisations, regional safeguards, and national implementation frameworks, emphasising both successes and enduring difficulties. Emerging problems that put the flexibility of current safeguards to the test, such as intersectional discrimination, the effects of climate change, and digital violence against women, receive particular emphasis. The paper also looks at how important civil society organisations are for keeping an eye on compliance, offering assistance, and pushing for more robust safeguards. The report presents important suggestions for bolstering protection systems at the national and international levels by analysing implementation gaps and effective actions. The results indicate that although enormous strides have been made in creating all-encompassing legislative frameworks to safeguard women's rights, ongoing difficulties in implementation and enforcement need for creative solutions and steadfast dedication from all parties involved. This study advances knowledge on the more efficient use of international legal tools to promote women's rights and reach gender equality on a worldwide scale.*

### **Keywords:**

*Human Rights of Women, UNO, International Legal Instruments, CEDAW.*

### **14.1 Introduction:**

One of the most important updates to international human rights law in the last century is the protection of women's rights. Throughout history, women have been subjected to systematic discrimination, marginalisation, and denial of fundamental rights in many cultures and civilisations, despite making up half of the global population. International human rights law has historically marginalised women's rights, and in spite of its lofty

promises to be inclusive and to defend the fundamental rights of all people, it has not adequately taken into account women's experiences of human rights violations.<sup>1</sup> As the importance of gender-specific protections for achieving true equality and human dignity became increasingly apparent, international mechanisms to protect women's human rights were established. Decades of action, campaigning, and developing jurisprudence have culminated in these international legal instruments. They perform a number of vital tasks, including setting global norms for women's rights, imposing legally enforceable duties on governments, offering frameworks for national implementation, and supplying monitoring and enforcement tools. The evolution of these safeguards is indicative of a significant change in international law, which now acknowledges women's rights as essential human rights issues rather than as incidental matters. Treaties, declarations, oversight organisations, and enforcement mechanisms interact intricately to form the global architecture for defending women's rights. This complex structure includes both soft law tools like UN statements and resolutions and legally binding agreements like the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). When combined, these resources offer a thorough framework for promoting gender equality, combating prejudice, and guaranteeing women's full involvement in social, political, economic, and cultural life.

## **14.2 Historical Development:**

Since the beginning of modern human rights systems, it has been necessary to question the various established approaches to defining and implementing human rights that have prevented women's rights from being recognised and realised. As a result, the story of how this recognition was acquired is one of numerous disputes over definition and meaning as well as battles to obtain the political will and funding required to turn rhetorical recognition into substantive change on the ground.<sup>2</sup> The greater fight for gender equality over the 20th and 21st centuries is reflected in the development of international legal protections for women's rights. The League of Nations made early attempts to address problems like women's and children's trafficking before the United Nations was even established. The UN Charter's ratification in 1945,<sup>3</sup> however, was a turning point as it was the first international agreement to specifically declare "the equal rights of men and women" and forbid sex-based discrimination. The establishment of fundamental principles advanced gradually but significantly between 1945 and 1975. While the Commission on the Status of Women (founded in 1946)<sup>4</sup> started out as a specialised international organisation for promoting women's rights, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)<sup>5</sup> reaffirmed gender equality. Important conventions pertaining to women's political rights, marital rights, and economic prospects were introduced in the 1950s and 1960s.

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<sup>1</sup> Ivana Radacic, "Human Rights of Women and The Public/Private Divide in International Human Rights Law," CYELP 3 (2007) 443-468.

<sup>2</sup> Niamh Reilly, "Women, Gender, and International Human Rights: Overview," in *International Human Rights of Women*, ed. Niamh Reilly (Singapore: Springer, 2019), pp. 1-18.

<sup>3</sup> <https://research.un.org/en/docs/uncharter/intro>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/CSW60YRS/CSWbriefhistory.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>

A new period of focused international attention on women's rights began with the First World Conference on Women in Mexico City in 1975. The UN Decade for Women (1976–1985),<sup>6</sup> which saw a previously unheard-of level of international mobilisation, came next. An important milestone was reached in 1979 with the approval of CEDAW, which established comprehensive legal criteria for the protection of women's rights. Significant progress was made in the 1990s thanks to the historic Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing (1995) and the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights (1993), which firmly defined women's rights as human rights. These occasions established gender mainstreaming as a worldwide tactic and moved the emphasis from legal equality to substantive equality.

### **14.3 Core International Legal Instruments:**

#### **(A) The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW):**

The most extensive and reputable international legal document pertaining to women's rights is CEDAW, which was approved by the UN General Assembly in 1979 and went into effect in 1981.<sup>7</sup> Often referred to as the international bill of rights for women, CEDAW gives nations legally binding commitments to work towards substantive equality and provides a framework for comprehending discrimination against women.

**1. Comprehensive Definition of Discrimination:** A historic definition of discrimination against women is given by the Convention, which states that it is "any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women... of human rights and fundamental freedoms." Because it covers both deliberate discrimination and actions that have discriminatory consequences whether or not they are intentional, this definition is important.

**2. Core Obligations and Principles:** CEDAW establishes several fundamental obligations for state parties:

- (i) State Responsibility
  - (a) Incorporate the principle of gender equality in legal systems
  - (b) Abolish discriminatory laws and adopt appropriate anti-discrimination legislation
  - (c) Establish tribunals and institutions to ensure effective protection against discrimination
  - (d) Ensure elimination of discrimination by private actors and organizations
- (ii) Substantive Areas of Protection
  - (a) Political and public life participation
  - (b) Education and training opportunities
  - (c) Employment and labor rights
  - (d) Healthcare access and reproductive rights

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.britannica.com/topic/United-Nations-Decade-for-Women>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-elimination-all-forms-discrimination-against-women>

- (e) Economic and social benefits
- (f) Equal rights in marriage and family relations
- (g) Rural women's specific challenges
- (h) Legal and civil capacity equal to men

**3. Implementation Mechanisms:** The Convention establishes robust monitoring and implementation procedures:

- i. Regular Reporting System
  - (a) States must submit comprehensive reports every four years
  - (b) Reports detail legislative, judicial, and administrative measures
  - (c) Implementation challenges and progress must be documented
  - (d) Civil society organizations can submit shadow reports
- ii. CEDAW Committee Functions
  - (a) Reviews state reports and issues concluding observations
  - (b) Develops general recommendations interpreting Convention provisions
  - (c) Considers individual communications under the Optional Protocol
  - (d) Conducts inquiries into grave or systematic violations

**4. Optional Protocol:** Adopted on 6<sup>th</sup> October 1999, the Optional Protocol<sup>8</sup> strengthens CEDAW by:

- i. Establishing a communications procedure for individuals or groups
- ii. Creating an inquiry procedure for grave or systematic violations
- iii. Enabling the Committee to request interim measures
- iv. Strengthening domestic implementation of Convention rights

**5. Impact and Significance:** CEDAW has catalyzed significant changes globally:

- i. Influenced constitutional reforms in numerous countries
- ii. Guided national legislation on gender equality
- iii. Provided standards for court decisions
- iv. Created benchmarks for assessing progress
- v. Empowered advocacy movements and civil society
- vi. Established gender equality as a fundamental principle of international law

Despite widespread ratification (189 states as of 2024),<sup>9</sup> CEDAW faces implementation challenges, including:

- a) Numerous reservations by state parties

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<sup>8</sup> Resolution A/RES/54/4 at the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/optional-protocol-convention-elimination-all-forms>

<sup>9</sup> State and Non-State Parties to CEDAW, <https://cedaw.iwraw-ap.org/cedaw/state-and-non-state-parties-to-cedaw/>

- b) Limited enforcement mechanisms
- c) Resource constraints in developing countries
- d) Cultural and religious opposition in some regions
- e) Gaps between legal equality and practical implementation

### **(B) The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action:**

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which was embraced at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995,<sup>10</sup> serves as a revolutionary guide for furthering gender equality and women's rights. In contrast to the legally enforceable framework of CEDAW, the Beijing Platform functions as an all-encompassing policy statement that has significantly impacted national, regional, and international approaches to gender equality.

**1. Strategic Framework:** The Platform identifies twelve critical areas of concern requiring urgent action:

- (a) Women and Poverty - Addressing the persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women
- (b) Education and Training - Ensuring equal access to education and eliminating gender disparities
- (c) Women and Health - Promoting comprehensive healthcare access and reproductive rights
- (d) Violence Against Women - Preventing and eliminating all forms of gender-based violence
- (e) Women and Armed Conflict - Protecting women in conflict situations and promoting peace
- (f) Women and the Economy - Advancing economic rights, independence, and access to resources
- (g) Women in Power and Decision-making - Ensuring equal participation in governance structures
- (h) Institutional Mechanisms - Strengthening national mechanisms for women's advancement
- (i) Human Rights of Women - Promoting and protecting women's fundamental rights
- (j) Women and the Media - Addressing stereotypes and promoting balanced representation
- (k) Women and the Environment - Involving women in environmental decision-making
- (l) The Girl Child - Eliminating discrimination and protecting girls' rights

### **2. Implementation and Review Mechanism**

- (i) The Platform establishes a robust follow-up process:
  - (a) Five-year review cycles (Beijing+5, Beijing+10, etc.)
  - (b) National action plans and reporting requirements
  - (c) Regional review meetings and consultations
  - (d) Global assessment of progress and challenges

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<sup>10</sup> Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women 1995: Conference Report A/CONF.177/20/Rev.1, <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n96/273/01/pdf/n9627301.pdf>

- (e) Multi-stakeholder engagement processes
- (ii) The Beijing Platform's enduring influence stems from its:
  - (a) Comprehensive approach to gender equality
  - (b) Clear strategic objectives and actions
  - (c) Regular review and adaptation mechanisms
  - (d) Strong focus on institutional change
  - (e) Recognition of intersecting forms of discrimination

#### **14.4 Implementation Mechanisms:**

##### **(A) Treaty Bodies and Monitoring Systems:**

- 1. The CEDAW Committee:** The major monitoring body for the Convention is the CEDAW Committee, which is made up of 23 impartial experts chosen by the State parties<sup>11</sup>. Its mandate includes several vital tasks. When reviewing periodic reports, the Committee engages in productive discussions with State parties to discuss the Convention's implementation issues and advancements. It addresses new problems and current difficulties by offering authoritative interpretations of the Convention's provisions in its General Recommendations. The Optional Protocol's individual communications mechanism enables the Committee to take into account complaints from people or organisations about rights abuses under the Convention. The Committee can also launch private investigations into claims of serious or persistent violations and offer suggestions for corrective measures. The Committee's final remarks and suggestions are useful instruments for advocacy and policy change at the federal level.
- 2. Special Procedures of the UN Human Rights Council:** One of the most important independent human rights monitoring instruments in the UN system is the Special Procedures. The Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women<sup>12</sup> conducts national visits, addresses individual complaints, and creates theme reports on new concerns in order to investigate and report on violence against women around the world. Finding and correcting prejudice in law and practice, advancing best practices, and aiding legal reform initiatives are the main objectives of the Working Group on prejudice Against Women and Girls. These systems are able to conduct fact-finding missions, react quickly to emergency circumstances, and communicate directly with governments on particular cases. Along with offering helpful suggestions for improving the protection of women's rights, their yearly reports to the General Assembly and Human Rights Council also aid in the creation of international norms.
- 3. Independent Expert Monitoring Mechanisms:** Special Procedures and formal treaty organisations are supplemented by independent expert monitoring mechanisms that perform specialised oversight tasks. These mechanisms include independent commissions of inquiry, fact-finding missions, and expert panels that are set up to look into certain cases or topics that have an impact on women's rights. Their frequently lenient directives let them to collect evidence, speak with witnesses, and record

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<sup>11</sup>The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), <https://www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/cedaw>

<sup>12</sup> Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/sr-violence-against-women>

infractions using creative techniques. Their findings are often used to promote lobbying efforts, aid in accountability procedures, and inform policy creation. When dealing with complicated issues that need for in-depth research or specialised knowledge, like gender-based violence in conflicts or persistent discrimination patterns, these strategies are very helpful. Additionally, they are essential to the creation of standards and best practices for examining and recording abuses of women's rights.

## **(B) Regional Mechanisms:**

- 1. European System:** One of the most advanced regional frameworks for defending women's rights is the European system. With specific guidelines for prevention, protection, and prosecution, the Istanbul Convention (2011)<sup>13</sup> is the most extensive agreement addressing domestic abuse and violence against women. The European Court of Human Rights has established substantial jurisprudence on gender discrimination and violence against women as a result of the European Convention on Human Rights. Member states have changed their laws and policies as a result of the Court's binding rulings. Furthermore, the Gender Equality Strategy of the European Union offers thorough guidance for promoting women's rights, bolstered by directives on work-life balance, gender-based violence, and equitable treatment. While the Commissioner for Human Rights promotes women's rights throughout the member states of the Council of Europe, the European Institute for Gender Equality keeps an eye on developments and offers technical assistance.
- 2. Inter-American System:** The Convention of Belém do Pará (1994),<sup>14</sup> the first legally binding agreement in the world to particularly address violence against women, lies at the heart of the Inter-American system's strong procedures for defending women's rights. A Special Rapporteurship on the Rights of Women is part of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and is responsible for conducting research, visiting countries, and writing thematic reports. Individual petitions may be submitted to the Commission, and in an emergency, preventative measures may be issued. The Inter-American Court of Human Rights has established ground-breaking precedent regarding due diligence requirements, state accountability, and gender-based violence. Recognising intersectional discrimination and emphasising structural reforms to alleviate gender inequality are two of the system's unique strengths. The member nations of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI) receive technical assistance and routine monitoring.
- 3. African System:** The Maputo Protocol (2003),<sup>15</sup> which addresses the unique issues faced by African women, such as political involvement, inheritance rights, and harmful traditional practices, is largely responsible for the notable evolution of the African

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<sup>13</sup> The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, a (Istanbul Convention), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention>

<sup>14</sup> Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women "Convention of Belém do Pará" (1994),

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/resources/educators/human-rights-education-training/5-inter-american-convention-prevention-punishment-and-eradication-violence-against-women-convention>

<sup>15</sup> Protocol To The African Charter On Human And People's Rights On The Rights Of Women In Africa,

[https://au.int/sites/default/files/treaties/37077-treaty-charter\\_on\\_rights\\_of\\_women\\_in\\_africa.pdf](https://au.int/sites/default/files/treaties/37077-treaty-charter_on_rights_of_women_in_africa.pdf)

system in defending women's rights. A Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women is part of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, and she works for women's rights throughout the continent and keeps an eye on their implementation. Although direct access is still restricted, claims concerning abuses of women's rights can be heard by the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights. In an effort to balance cultural values with human rights principles, the system places special emphasis on the connection between women's rights and traditional customs. Provisions pertaining to peace processes, economic empowerment, and reproductive rights are noteworthy aspects. The 2010–2020 African Women's Decade program has sparked tangible steps to put these rights into effect at the national level.

4. **Asia-Pacific Framework:** The Asia-Pacific area has created substitute systems for safeguarding women's rights in the absence of a comprehensive regional human rights framework. A sub-regional framework for advancing and defending women's rights in Southeast Asia is offered by the ASEAN Commission on the Rights of Women and Children<sup>16</sup>. National initiatives are supplemented by the Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). Regional cooperation is guided by a number of declarations and action plans, such as the Asia-Pacific Declaration on Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. While civil society networks enable cross-border campaigning and knowledge sharing, national human rights agencies are essential for monitoring and implementation. Gender considerations are being more and more integrated into the frameworks and policies of regional economic forums.

#### **14.5 Contemporary Challenges and Emerging Issues:**

- (A) **Implementation Gaps:** International instruments pertaining to women's rights suffer many systemic obstacles in their actual application. Particularly with regard to personal status laws and family connections, state parties' reservations to CEDAW frequently compromise the Convention's efficacy. Since many states are unable to successfully integrate treaty provisions into their national laws, international obligations usually lack domestic teeth due to a lack of enforcement tools. Resource limitations significantly affect developing countries' ability to set up the required institutional frameworks and deliver basic services. There are still societal and cultural barriers in many places where patriarchal views and customs run counter to global norms. There is still a large difference between formal and actual equality, and even with legal protections, women still encounter real-world barriers when trying to exercise their rights. Furthermore, effective remedies for rights violations are hampered by inadequate legal systems and restricted access to justice.
- (B) **Digital Violence Against Women:** Gender-based violence has taken on new forms in digital settings due to the rapid expansion of technology. The rights and safety of women are increasingly under risk from cyberstalking, online harassment, non-consensual sharing of intimate photographs, and technology-facilitated trafficking. Protection gaps arise because existing legal frameworks frequently find it difficult to adequately handle these new types of abuse. For the legal and law enforcement

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<sup>16</sup> ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children, <https://acwc.asean.org/>

institutions, the global aspect of digital violence creates jurisdictional issues. The content moderation standards and practices of social media platforms sometimes fall short of providing sufficient protection for female users. The intersection of traditional forms of gender-based violence with digital violence necessitates new ways to respond and prevention. Addressing digital violence while upholding fundamental rights is made more difficult by worries about privacy and data protection. Because of the speed at which technology is developing, protective systems must constantly adjust.

- (C) **Climate Change Impacts:** Women are disproportionately impacted by climate change, especially in underdeveloped nations, which makes protecting their rights more difficult. Environmental deterioration and extreme weather events make gender disparities worse by limiting women's access to resources, means of subsistence, and essential services. Women's security and well-being are especially impacted by climate-induced displacement, which frequently makes them more susceptible to exploitation and violence. Under climatic stress, traditional tasks in family care, water collecting, and food production become increasingly taxing. The gender responsiveness of adaptation plans is impacted by women's low involvement in climate policy and decision-making processes. Vulnerabilities are increased when poverty, gender inequality, and climate change collide. In order to address these climate-related effects on women's rights and guarantee women's meaningful involvement in environmental governance and climate action, international procedures must change.
- (D) **Intersectional Discrimination:** The intricate interactions between various types of discrimination are becoming more widely acknowledged in the current understanding of women's rights. Women who encounter intersecting kinds of marginalization—whether because of their age, socioeconomic situation, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, or disability—face particular and frequently more severe rights breaches. These nuanced experiences are not sufficiently captured by conventional single-axis approaches to discrimination. Effectively addressing intersectional discrimination requires modifications to legal frameworks and implementation procedures. Systems for gathering and tracking data frequently lack the sophistication necessary to identify intersectional discriminatory tendencies. Ongoing difficulties arise from the requirement for focused treatments that address particular vulnerabilities while preserving universal protection. The voices of varied women are still not sufficiently represented in decision-making processes, which hinders a thorough comprehension and resolution of intersectional discrimination.
- (E) **Conflict and Crisis Situations:** The protection of women's rights is particularly difficult in armed conflicts and humanitarian disasters. Conflicts frequently lead to a rise in gender-based violence while also weakening defences. Access to basic services, such as healthcare and education, is hampered by displacement. Despite international agreements made under UN Security Council Resolution 1325,<sup>17</sup> women's involvement in peace processes and post-conflict rehabilitation is still limited. International judicial systems are still being challenged by the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war. The unique needs and vulnerabilities of women are frequently not sufficiently addressed by humanitarian solutions. Complex protection issues arise when war intersects with other issues like economic instability and climate change. Women's rights breaches

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<sup>17</sup> UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women and peace and security (2000), <https://www.unwomen.org/en/docs/2000/10/un-security-council-resolution-1325>

associated to conflicts may not be adequately addressed by traditional legal systems, necessitating creative ways to responsibility and reparation. In order to address the issues of sexual exploitation and abuse, the international community must give priority to and support initiatives aimed at eradicating social, economic, legal, and political disparities. This will enable women to overcome the disadvantages brought on by conflict.<sup>18</sup>

#### **14.6 The Role of Civil Society:**

Civil society organizations (CSOs) are essential pillars of the worldwide framework for women's rights, driving development via a variety of channels and serving as vital bridges between local realities and global mechanisms. In addition to conducting independent research, shadow reporting, and documentation of violations, these organizations—which include both grassroots women's groups and international NGOs—also carry out crucial tasks in multi-level advocacy by lobbying governments, launching awareness campaigns, and forming strategic alliances. In addition to offering crucial direct services like legal assistance, support for victims of violence, and capacity-building initiatives, CSOs also offer technical assistance through stakeholder training, methodology development, and expert testimony. They ensure that international norms reflect women's lived experiences and reinforce accountability systems by recording rights breaches, preparing alternative reports for treaty organisations, and taking part in universal periodic review processes. Through community involvement, educational efforts, and economic empowerment programs, civil society organisations also play a crucial role in putting international norms into practice locally and converting international commitments into tangible actions. This thorough involvement guarantees that international protection mechanisms remain relevant and sensitive to women's changing needs and concerns in a variety of situations and cultures, in addition to improving their efficacy. CSOs assume no single development model, but rather focus on empowering people and their organizations, who are free to make choices over how they will develop.<sup>19</sup>

#### **14.7 Key Recommendations:**

- 1. Strengthening National Implementation:** The improvement of national implementation mechanisms necessitates a thorough strategy that starts with the creation of comprehensive, time-bound national action plans that include precise goals and metrics for tracking advancements in the defence of women's rights. Strong national monitoring systems, such as independent oversight organisations with the power and resources to look into infractions and suggest corrective measures, must be put in place to support these initiatives. Gender-responsive budgeting procedures and specific

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<sup>18</sup> V. K. Vojdik (2019) Sexual abuse and exploitation by UN peacekeepers as conflict-related gender violence. In: Reilly N (ed.) *International human rights of women*. Springer, Singapore.

<sup>19</sup> A Draft International Framework For CSO Development Effectiveness, Version 2, November 2010, [https://ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/International\\_Framework\\_for\\_CSO\\_Development\\_Effectiveness\\_Version\\_2\\_November\\_.pdf](https://ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/International_Framework_for_CSO_Development_Effectiveness_Version_2_November_.pdf)

funding streams for women's rights programs and services at all governmental levels are essential for adequate resource allocation. The establishment of interministerial committees and formal coordination mechanisms that guarantee cogent policy implementation, remove duplication of effort, and maximise resource utilisation and impact across various sectors and levels of government must be the top priority for improved coordination between national institutions.

2. **Improving International Oversight:** A multifaceted strategy that emphasises improving the efficiency of reporting and monitoring processes through streamlined processes, better data collection techniques, and increased use of technology for real-time monitoring and verification is required to strengthen international oversight mechanisms. Increasing access to international remedies, lowering procedural obstacles, and creating accelerated procedures for urgent instances involving impending harm to women's rights are all necessary for the creation of stronger complaint channels. Stronger penalties for non-compliance, improved follow-up protocols, and creative ways to guarantee state accountability for abuses of women's rights are just a few of the more effective enforcement measures that need to be created. Increased support for capacity-building, the exchange of best practices, and targeted aid for governments that are having specific difficulties carrying out their international commitments are all ways to increase technical assistance to state parties.
3. **Building Capacity:** The implementation of women's rights safeguards at all levels requires systematic training programs for law enforcement officers, judges, and other pertinent stakeholders as part of comprehensive capacity building projects. By using creative delivery strategies and community-based techniques, educational programs that educate women and girls about their rights and available protective mechanisms must be increased and made more widely available. Increasing funding, providing technical assistance, and providing networking and knowledge-sharing opportunities across industries and regions are all necessary to support women's organisations. Support for academic institutions working on gender issues, research projects, and targeted training programs are necessary to develop specialised expertise in new areas impacting women's rights. Gender perspectives must also be incorporated into all facets of professional development and institutional capacity building. Increasing the number of women in law enforcement and the court, as well as mainstreaming gender in the judiciary, can also help the latter become more sensitive to gender issues and facilitate women's reporting of crimes or requests for help.<sup>20</sup>

## **14.8 Conclusion:**

Dominance on women in the society resulted into backwardness of women in the civil, political, social, economic, political and educational spheres of view. The worldwide legal framework for safeguarding women's rights has developed significantly, resulting in a thorough set of guidelines and procedures. Even though there has been a lot of progress, there are still issues that need to be resolved to ensure proper execution and enforcement. Achieving true gender equality and fulfilling the potential of these legal tools will require sustained international commitment in addition to robust domestic action and civil society

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<sup>20</sup> United Nations Human Rights, "Women's Rights are Human Rights," HR/PUB/14/2, United Nations Publication, New York and Geneva, 2014, p. 117.

involvement. The path forward necessitates not only preserving and fortifying current systems but also modifying them to meet new opportunities and challenges. The continued political will, sufficient funding, and active involvement of all parties involved in the worldwide struggle to defend and advance women's human rights will be necessary for success. If we survive the existential risks facing our world, the tremendous advancements we have witnessed, will have a big impact on the development of human rights into a more powerful, global, inclusive worldview and movement for change.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> Charlotte Bunch and Niamh Reilly, "Women's Rights as Human Rights: 25 Years On," in *International Human Rights of Women*, ed. Niamh Reilly (Singapore: Springer, 2019), pp. 21-38.