An Annotated Bibliography on Violence Against Women in South Asia

Actions and Responses

Compiled by
Bhawani Loganathan

With a Foreword by
Radhika Coomaraswamy

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International Centre for Ethnic Studies
Colombo

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In Memory

of my

Parents

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Foreword

Violence Against Women is an issue that feminists all over the world have addressed in numerous ways over the last two decades. It is an issue that has drawn enormous energy and concern from feminists in South Asia also. Hence, this bibliography is a timely contribution that reflects actions and responses to the different forms of gender based violence in the South Asian region.

During my years as UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women many of my visits in the South Asian region confirmed to me the numerous forms in which women are subjected to violence. These include from domestic violence, to workers rights being cruelly disregarded because of sexual harassment in the workplace, to public harassment on the streets, to violence because of armed, ethnic and religious conflicts.

Reflecting on the scholarly written work and the activism of feminists in South Asia will reveal the very complex and nuanced ways in which feminists in the South Asian region have come to understand the categories of gender based violence. Feminists in the region have carefully studied all the kinds of violence I have mentioned above. As a result of awareness raising on these issues, more and more women have had the courage and support to raise their voices and take the necessary steps to end violence. There have been shelters for battered women, legal amendments that have sent clear signals saying violence is absolutely unacceptable, counselling centres for women who need support to overcome the deep trauma of living with violence.

More and more women have emerged from battered homes, workplaces and conflict areas as survivors today. The tribunal in Vienna in 1994 of women from all parts of the world speaking out about their suffering and speaking out against these atrocities was one such important moment.

This bibliography then captures this activism and some of these efforts and campaigns. It is an important step toward documenting these efforts. We hope that this will be a useful document for researchers and activists when it comes to their future work. Therefore, I am deeply grateful to Bhawani Loganathan for her hard work over the last three years in putting this valuable publication together.

Radhika Coomaraswamy
February 2006.

Introduction

Around the world, at least one woman in every three faces gender-based violence in her lifetime. In South Asia, one in every two women faces violence, the numbers seems so large that the estimate that 50 million women are 'missing' in the region seems not surprising. A recent survey reveals that women in South Asia are in 'crisis' and that one third of all maternal deaths in the world occur in this region.

Gender-based violence consists of physical abuse, often accompanied by psychological maltreatment and sexual brutality. Globally this is defined as "..any act that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm of suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life." Gender violence occurs throughout a woman's life, ranging from threats of foeticide in the pre-natal stage, adolescents facing the risk of sexual abuse, married women victimized by family violence, to aged women facing physical abuse. Statistics on maternal morbidity and mortality in South Asia show that gender violence has a significant impact of women's health, in particular their mental and reproductive faculties.

Many cultures in South Asia legitimize violence against women as 'normal', condoning or tolerating the issue. Justification for violence stems from a rigid, patriarchal conviction of gender norms that leads to distorted views on the roles and responsibilities of men and women in relationships. In the family, unequal and hierarchical gender relationships manifest itself as clear demarcations of sex roles and the sexual division of labour.

Violence against women is a destructive, yet under-recognised form of human right violation. Social customs and attitudes in patriarchal societies of South Asia institute gender violence at all levels – family, community and the State. As such, these pervasive cultures have eroded women's fundamental rights to life, food, work, shelter, health, reproductive ability, security, physical integrity and political participation. In workplaces, women constantly need to negotiate their rights, in order to cope with sexual harassment perpetrated by their employers and, or male counterparts.

Over three decades, women's/human rights groups all over the world have been active in combating violence against women. This has resulted in attention to these issues in global and regional policy debates as a health and human rights issue. However, state interventions to protect women through effective implementation of legislation have been weakened by the lack of support from dominant interest groups within the community.

As part of a research project on violence against women in South Asia, this compilation sheds light on legislations, policies, programmes, effective remedies provided for victims, along with challenges faced to combat such violence in the region. While relating to the efficiency of such mechanisms

and their efforts to change existing social and individual attitudes on the issue, the information relates to the mobilization of all sections of the family, community and society to gain awareness on gender injustice, provide support to victims of violence and to build popular pressure on the State and regional bodies to formulate and implement gender-equitable policies, as national, regional efforts.

The bibliography pays special attention to initiatives made by reproductive health care providers who have a 'long-term' responsibility of caring for the victims of gender violence, which in turn has a major impact on reproductive health and sexual well-being. Arising out of appropriate health policies, appropriate training of health care personnel could develop a clear understanding on how violence and powerlessness affect women's reproductive health and decision-making abilities, with a better response to the physical, emotional and security needs of abused women and girls. This volume relates to efforts made in terms of health care provisions and integrated health systems for a comprehensive health care of victims of violence.

In this volume, the chapters furnish information country-wise and regionally. Responses and affirmative actions in South Asia have been gathered from a wide range of resources such as news clippings, periodicals, reports, training manuals, monographs, brochures, pamphlets, posters, electronic web sites and films that relate to positive actions on the prevention of violence, penalizing its perpetrators and providing protection/support to victims of abuse. The information draws in initiatives and efforts made by women's organizations, social movements, community groups, human rights activists, law practitioners, national action plans, justice systems, health care sector, educational institutions, work places, popular media, religious bodies, law enforcers and armed forces.

Based at ICES, Colombo, it had been a difficult task to collect regional information on South Asia. However, to the best of my ability, information has been gathered from available print- resources as well as web sites, accessed through search engine http://www.google.com. The information seeking process began in 2002, accessing approximately a decade of documents, among which some web articles are no longer accessible to users. However, these entries are kept in the bibliography as the information is valuable and provide guidelines for further search by users. A comprehensive author index is annexed to help readers for quick reference.

I sincerely hope that this annotated bibliography will serve the purpose of identifying gender violence and enhancing the implementation of effective measures to combat the issue at all levels –home, community, state and the region. It is my hope that this publication will helpful to law makers, policy programmers, community workers, gender/human rights activists and all those engaged in the process of eliminating violence against women.

Bhawani Loganathan.
January 2006.

THE PRESENTATION OF BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

The entries in this bibliography are abstracted from a variety of resources such as news clippings, periodicals, reports, training manuals, monographs, brochures, pamphlets, posters, electronic web sites and audiovisuals, in which the description of the documents have been made according to the following rules:

Author(s), individuals or corporate, have been printed in **bold**. In cases where there are more than one author, the first one has been selected, followed by "et al."

Titles have been printed in *italics*

Titles of periodicals and web addresses have been underlined

Titles of generic units (titles of the conference or book, in which the article, chapter has been cited) have been printed in Arial fonts

Place of the publication, if unknown, is given as [s.l] = sine loco.

Name of the author(s), if unknown, is given as [s.n] = sine nominee.

Edition = Ed., Volume =Vol., Number = No.

Number of pages as p.

Bibliographies as biblio. , References as ref.; Illustration as ill.

ABBREVIATIONS

Advisory Council of International Affairs	AIV
Agro-Forestry Basic Health and Co-operatives Nepal	ABC Nepal
Ain O Salish Kendro	ASK
All India Democratic Women's Association	AIDWA
All India Institute of Hygiene & Public Health	AIIH & PH
All Pakistan Women's Association	APWA
Alliance Against Sexual Harassment	AASHA
Alternative for India Development	AID
Asia Partnership For Human Development	APHD
Asian Development Bank	ADB
Asian Human Rights Commission	AHRC
Asian Legal Resource Centre	ALRC
Asian Women's Human Rights Council	AWHRC
Asian Women's Resource Exchange	AWORC
Associated Press Pakistan	APP
Australian Health International	AUS Health International
Bangladesh Mahila Parishad	BMP.
Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association	BNWLA
Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee	BRAC
Bhutan Women & Children Organisation	BWCO
Bhutanese Refugees Aiding Victims of Violence	BRAAVE
Bochasanwasi Shree Akstan ..Swaminarayan Sanstha	BAPS
British Broadcasting Corporation	BBC
Canadian International Development Agency	CIDA
Catholic Relief Services	CRS
Centre for Feminist Legal Research	CFLR
Centre For Health and Gender Equity	CHANGE
Centre for Islamic & Middle Eastern Law	CIMEL
Centre for Policy Alternatives	CPA.
Centre for Reproductive Law and Policy	CRLP
Centre for Women's Development	CWD.
Centre for Women's Development Studies	CWDS.
Centre for Women's Research	CENWOR.
Coalition Against Trafficking of Women, Asia Pacific	CATW
Committee to Protect Journalists Sri Lanka	CPJ, Sri Lanka.
Commonwealth Human Rights Institute	CHRI.
Delhi Commission for Women	DCW.
Domestic Violence Task Force	DVTF.
Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee	DMSC
Family Health International	FHI
Federation of Muslim Women	FMW

Female Health Company	FHCO
Forum for Women, Law & Development	FWLD
Human Rights Commission of Pakistan	HRCP
Humanitarian Action for Women and Children in Afghanistan	HAWCA.
Informal Sector Service Centre	INSEC
International Catholic Migration Commission, Pakistan	ICMC Pakistan
International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh	ICDDR-B
International Centre for Ethnic Stuides	ICES
International Centre for the Legal Protection of Human Rights	INTERIGHTS
International Committee of the Red Cross	ICRC
International Gay & Lesbian Commission for Human Rights	IGLCHR
International Labour Organization	ILO.
International Medical Corp	IMC
International Movement against All Forms of Discrimination And Racism	IMDAR
International Organization for Migration	IOM.
International Planned Parenthood Federation	IPPF.
International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour	IPEC
International Rescue Committee	IRC.
Lawyers for Human Rights and Development	LHRD
Lawyers for Human Rights and Legal Aid	LHRLA
Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam	LTTE
Marie Stopes International	MSS.
Marie Stopes Society	MSS.
Minority Rights Group International	MGR International
National AIDS Control Organisation	NACO, India
National Alliance of Women	NAWO.
National Commission on the Status of Women	NCSW.
National Committee on Women	NCW.
National Development Bank [Sri Lanka]	NDB, Sri Lanka
National Federation of Dalit Women	NFDW.
National Human Rights Commission	NHRC.
National Women's Studies Association, USA	NWSA,USA
Oxfam Community Aid Abroad	Oxfam CAA
Pakistan Women Lawyers Association	PAWLA
People's Union for Civil Liberties	PUCL
Physicians for Human Rights	PHR
Policy Research for Development Alternatives	UBINIG
Positive Women's Network	PWN.
Recovery and Healing from Incest	RAHI
Reproductive Health Initiatives	RHI

Sancharika Samuha	SAS
Society for Education & Developmental Activities.	SEDA
South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation	SAARC.
South Asia Human Rights Documentation Centre	SAHRDC
South Asia Partners International	SAP-I.
South Asian Women's Network	SAWNET
The Asia Foundation -	TAF
Transnational Information Exchange Asia	TIE-Asia
Transnational Psychological Organisation	TPO.
United Nations Children's Emergency Fund	UNICEF.
United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.	CEDAW
United Nations Development Fund for Women	UNIFEM.
United Nations Development Programme	UNDP.
United Nations Economic & Social Commission for the Asia and the Pacific	UNECOSOC.
United Nations High Commission for Human Rights	UNHCHR.
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	UNHCR.
United Nations Integrated Regional Information Networks	UNIRIN.
United Nations Population Fund	UNFPA.
United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS	UNAIDS.
United States Agency for International Development	USAID
Women acting Together for Change	WATCH
Women In Need	WIN.
Women in Politics resource Network	WPRN.
Women in Security, Conflict Management and Peace	WISCOMP
Women Living Under Muslim Laws	WLUML.
Women Working Worldwide	WWW.
Women's Action Research and Legal Aid to Women	WARLAW
Women's Education & Research Centre	WERC.
Women's Foundation of Nepal	WF, Nepal
Women's global Network for Reproductive Rights	WGNRR
Women's Health and Advocacy Partnership	WHRAP
Women's Support Group	WSG.
World Health Organization	WHO.
World Organization Against Torture	OMCT
Worldview International Foundation	WIF.

1.0 National and Non-Governmental Initiatives, Actions and Responses

1.1 BANGLADESH

1. *Action plan for future. P.45-55.* Regional Seminar on Child Prostitution and Trafficking, Siliguri (Bangladesh), 16-18 November 1998. [Source – ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

This report concerns a range of action plans to combat the trafficking of women and children. While commenting on the initiatives of Indian and Nepali police to address trafficking, the report summarises an "open house" discussion held with rescued girl children. It also provides recommendations for action by the family, community, NGOs, law enforcement authorities and the state. Based on them, a working group proposes action plans for advocacy at state and regional levels and for international NGOs working on this issue.

2. **ADB [Asian Development Bank].** *Bangladesh : Combatting violence against women and children : Mukti Nari O Shishu Kalyan Shangstha.* 5p. 2003. [Source – http:// www.adb.org/gender/working/ ; accessed on 18 August 2003].

The number of violent acts against women, in particular acid throwing, rape and trafficking are of great concern to women's NGOs and human rights activists in Bangladesh as the formal structures of law and policing fail to protect women and children. Mukti Nari O Shishu Kalyan Shangstha a women's organisation takes the initiative to foster legal mechanisms for poor rural women who are victims of violence. As poverty, lack of legal awareness and illiteracy prevent them from seeking redress through formal mechanisms, Mukti utilises formal legal and police structures as well as traditional arbitration practices (Shalish) to bring gender justice to women. In partnership with ADB Mukti provides legal aid to women victims affected by sexual violence, divorce, dowry violence, early marriage and polygamy. It also monitors cases referred to various union-level Shalish Committees across districts, in particular border districts where trafficking of women and children are at large. Besides, the Shangstha monitors cases of gender violence in courts, hospitals, police stations etc., conducts gender sensitisation programmes for key stakeholders – women's NGOs, journalists, state officials, legal and police personnel, establishes initiatives for advocacy/lobbying and disseminates information on the issue of gender based violence.

3. **ADB [Asian Development Bank].** *Bangladesh: Gender and social justice : Ain O Shalish Kendro–ASK.* 4p. 2001. [Source–http://www.adb.org/gender/working/ ban001.asp ; accessed on 25 June 2004].

Like in most countries, legal procedures in Bangladesh are slow and costly. In order to avoid such obstacles, cases, and in particular those of marital dispute, divorce, rape, desertion, oral divorce, maintenance, adultery, and dowry related violence, are commonly dealt with through Shalish sessions (rural mediation). Such sessions generally rely on customary practices and religious laws and often result in verdicts that are gender biased and contradict the rights afforded under existing laws. ASK with the assistance of ADB provides programmes promoting legal awareness within the Shalish practices by encouraging community participation in such sessions, particularly of women on issues concerning their human rights. The Gender and Social Justice Programme aims to critique Shalish judgments on the basis of discrimination against women. Ain Shohayota Committees (ASCs) are developed, to monitor arbitration practices and to provide a source of arbitration at local level. ASC undertakes community consultations as well as conducts training programmes to raise consciousness of women's rights and prevailing legal standards in order to enable the Shalish procedures to incorporate gender justice into their practices. ASC activities are also supported by a theatre group that promotes women's rights in the context of violence against women, especially in the areas of dowry, divorce, polygamy and for the evils of early marriage for girls.

4. **ADB [Asian Development Bank].** *ADB Loan to Bangladesh for primary health care services.* (News Release No. 076/97). 16 September 1997. 1p. [Source – http://www.adb.org/Documents/News/1997/nr1997076.asp ; accessed on 19 July 2004].

This project is an innovative programme of health care services for the urban poor, in particular the women and children. The first of its kind in South Asia, this Primary Health Care Project contracts the delivery of primary health care services to NGOs and the private sector in Bangladesh. The services include assistance to victims of domestic violence, birth control and family planning, pre-natal care, sexually transmitted diseases, infectious diseases and immunization. Implemented through fully-equipped health care centres located near the urban slums, the project invites proposals from NGOs and the private sector health authorities who are willing to collaborate as partner organisations that prioritise on victims of family violence - medical care, referral to legal aid, counselling and crisis management services. Health workers involved in this programme will be trained to provide emergency psychological support to the victims of domestic violence, detect cases of assault and increase

community awareness on the issue. This project is being executed by the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Co-operatives and financed by a loan granted by the ADB.

5. **Ain O Salish Kendro (ASK).** *Increasing access to justice, rapid response and mediation. P.18-27; tables.* Annual Report 2003. Dhaka. 2004.

ASK enables the poor and marginalised women, especially the workers to access formal and informal systems of justice in solving issues of gender violence, by means of their weekly, legal clinics set up in urban communities. The legal unit comprises the Rapid Response and Mediation Unit (RRM) to address emergencies and negotiate settlements, deals with issues of desertion, polygamy, dowry-related violence, divorce, maintenance and child custody that provide space for negotiated settlements, as well as rescue and repatriation of victims/survivors of trafficking. The Litigation Unit (LIT) conducts court cases through a panel of lawyers handling cases of gender violence, in particular those lodged by women domestic workers subjected to physical/ sexual abuse. Complimenting the legal unit is the Support Services & Half-Way Home (SS & HWH) Unit that monitors the cases prior to dispute settlement. The unit also provides safe shelter for victims of violence, as well as support services on health care, psycho-social counselling, skill development training, literacy and referrals to other women's organisations.

6. **Ain O Salish Kendro (ASK).** *Provision of legal aid services.* P.22-27; notes. Annual Report 2000. Dhaka.

ASK is a non-governmental, law and mediation centre committed to providing free legal aid to victims of violence, and particularly poor women to enable them to exercise their rights. Legal aid is given through legal advice, negotiations and mediation in cases concerning desertion, polygamy, dowry, dower and divorce/maintenance. Litigation is also offered, in cases of criminal offences such as rape, murder, acid burning, trafficking and cases of preventive detention are committed. In addition to following up on cases, ASK finds shelter for women and children victimised by violence, in order to assist them in their rehabilitation and re-integration into society.

7. **Ain O Salish Kendro.** *Country report : Bangladesh. Appendix II,* P. *6-8.* International Workshop on International Migration and Trafficking in Women, Chiangmai (Thailand), 17-21 October 1994.

This report deals with current state policies, procedures and legal standards pertaining to trafficking in Bangladesh. It also provides suggestions for bolstering social and administrative support for victims who are rescued from trafficking operations and require assistance in returning and being reintegrated into their communities to be integrated into society.
The workshop aims at local, national and international actors in all countries where trafficking is prevalent. Among its recommendations, the report highlights the need for women to be given positions of decision-making in planning strategies for combating the trafficking of women and children.

8. **Ain O Salish Kendro (ASK).** *A Law and Policy Reform Forum Report: Preliminary investigations into impact of shrimp cultivation in the Bay of Bengal Region, Bangladesh.* Dhaka. 1995. 24p.; biblio.

In action against the violence faced by women workers in shrimp cultivation, this forum sheds light on socio-economic policies and state machinery. For grass-root activists, this forum is a critique on the existing laws and policies that are unfavourable to women workers. Based on gender equality and the protection of women's human rights, the forum aims to develop a focal point in support of gender-related legal reforms.

9. **Ain O Salish Kendro (ASK).** *Police abuse in Bangladesh. Dhaka.* [1995]. P..

In this response, a Bangladeshi women's NGO condemns the rape and murder of a domestic aid in Bangladesh. In an appeal to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, ASK requests the Government to make an "immediate and thorough investigation" into the death of Yasmin Akthar and to take effective steps in curbing police violence against women.

10. **Ain O Salish Kendro (ASK).** *Investigation Unit [and] Investigation reports. P. 26-28.* Annual Report 1996. Dhaka.

This unit of ASK undertakes fact-finding investigations on gender-related crimes at family, community and state levels. In collaboration with other NGOs and the mainstream media, reports are prepared on field investigations and used for follow-ups, urgent actions, public campaigns and advocacy. The report also provides a table of gender-based crimes committed in the year of 1996 and the follow up action that was taken in response.

11. **Ain O Salish Kendro.** *Monthly statistics on women and children recovered, traffickers arrested from various places in Bangladesh :January to December 1996.* Comp. Zahirul Islam. [Dhaka]. 1997. P... [Source – ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

This is a compilation of information on state action towards the issue of human trafficking in Bangladesh. Collected from mainstream newspapers, this statistics reveal that more children are rescued than women, as women are more vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation and the prevalence of gender biases in a tradition-bound society.

12. **Ain O Salish Kendro (ASK).** *Women and the law : Status under personal laws. P...* Human Rights in Bangladesh. [Dhaka]. 1997.

The Penal Code of Bangladesh deals with gender-based crimes – rape, trafficking, forced abortion, torture, dowry-related violence, but the laws providing penalty for gender crimes are not implemented effectively. This article reveals that the Women and Children Repression Act (1995) providing for rape and trafficking, does not recognise domestic violence and the illegal issuance of [1]Fatwa as punishable crimes. Tables attached to the document show incidents of Fatwa-related violence and cases of rape.

13. **Ain O Salish Kendro.** *Summary of submissions prepared collectively by some women's and human rights organisations in Bangladesh [to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women].* Dhaka. 15 October 1997. P... [Source – ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

This summary is offered by numerous NGOs working to eliminate violence against women in Bangladesh. Appealing to the United Nations for action, the report provides a critical review of the state action against gender-based violence on :

- Rape committed during war;
- Community violence;
- Custodial violence;
- Election violence against women voters;
- Violence due to social and economic policies.

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1 An opinion given by an Islamic scholar in response to a question involving a point of law.

14. **Ain O Salish Kendro**. *Violence against women : 1998.* [s.l]. July 1998. 4p. [Source- ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

This document, compiled on the basis of data from mainstream newspapers, provides statistics on violence against women in the areas of rape, dowry related violence, acid burnings, domestic violence, Fatwa related violence, violence against domestic workers, murder, suicide, forced prostitution and kidnapping. The table provides the general age groupings of victims and the number of cases filed according to each act of violence.

15. **Ali, Salma**. *National report on trafficking of women and Child[ren] in Bangladesh. 40p.* Regional Consultation on Violence Against Women, Colombo, 21-22 August 1999. Dhaka, Bangladesh National Women's Lawyers' Association [BNWLA].

The report overviews government policies, and strategies aimed to combat human trafficking of children applicable to curbing trafficking of women by :

- Dissemination of information and creating public awareness;
- Capacity building of police force and court authorities;
- Rescue, repatriation, rehabilitation and reintegration of victims.

While exploring the legislation against trafficking and the deficiencies in implementation, it is evident that there is no provision "to try its nationals for sexual or any other grievous offences committed against children abroad."

16. **Amin, Sajeda and Hossain, Sara**. *Women's reproductive rights and the politics of fundamentalism. P.32-36.* Women in Action. No.1. 1997.

Referring to the Bangladesh Charter (1975) this article explores the extent of the basic freedom women have to health within the context of religious extremism. The state has implemented a family planning programme that provides all family planning services, except for abortion which is illegal. With a marked increase in the use of contraceptives, the programme aims at fertility control rather than improved access to women's health needs and quality health services. This however, has lead to the criticism of women's groups because the programme does not adequately address women's reproductive health needs and the associated issues such as gender-related violence and safe reproductive technology.

17. **Aminuzzaman, Mahal [and] Aftubudin, Mohammad**. *Violence against women : A situational analysis of physical facilities provided for the survivors of violence in government health facilities. P.13-13; notes.* Expert Group Meeting on State Interventions on Violence Against Women, Dhaka, 14-18 June 1997.

An overview of public health services available for women survivors of violence, treatment provided for injuries, reporting of the crime and the mode of collecting medical evidence. In terms of treating victims of rape and family violence, the two leading medical institutions in Dhaka have inadequate facilities to provide the minimum services. They lack medical infrastructure, patient-care and personnel to file legal action against the perpetrators of violence.

18. **Amnesty International**. *Bangladesh : Girl children raped in custody. P.3-4.* South Asia : Action for Children : Appeal cases. April 1998. (AI Index. ASA 04/03/98).

In this appeal Amnesty International urges the Government of Bangladesh to take action against incidents of custodial rape against girl children. In response to the case of a 14 year-old girl Yasmin Akhter who was raped in police custody in August 1995, the report calls for a stronger enforcement and monitoring of the laws, policies and mechanisms on violence perpetrated on girl children and women in the country.

19. **Asia Partnership for Human Development (APHD)**. *CARITAS Bangladesh raises awareness against trafficking. 2p.* South Asia Regional Program Against the Trafficking of Women :Activities under the programme. [s.l]. 2003. [Source–http://www.aphd.or.th/; accessed on 17 January 2004].

CARITAS Bangladesh has made efforts to raise consciousness at the grass root level to prevent trafficking of women and children, particularly cross-border trafficking. As part of the APHD supported regional programme for South Asia, the agency has distributed posters and leaflets in Bengali warning against the dangers of trafficking primarily to women in slums, young widows, girls, orphans and the poor. The information provided details of the socio-economic conditions of the victims, types of organized criminal networks that partake in trafficking, and the penalties imposed on traffickers and those who support such networks. The documents are distributed through their regional

offices to rural organisations and action groups in order to facilitate the creation of discussion forums, as well as to build community networks to combat trafficking.

20. **Associated Press**. *Three policemen sentenced to death in rape, murder in Bangladesh*. 1 September 1997. [Source – http://www.ap.org/; accessed on 6 February 2003].

Rape and murder are considered as crimes with high penalty according to the laws of Bangladesh. This news item relates to the court ruling of capital punishment on the custodial rape and murder of a teenage girl by police personnel.

21. *Bangladesh. P.48-57.* Public Hearing on Crimes against Women in Recent Wars and Conflicts : A Compilation of Testimonies :11 December, [Tokyo].Women Caucus for Gender Justice. 2002.

Breaking the 'wall' of silence, this is a testimony of a woman victim of rape and torture in the Bangladesh War (1971) and her courage for survival. The Women's Caucus has presented her case in public, where the victim/survivor calls for a trial on the perpetrators of rape. This is an inspiration for agencies involved in re-construction work in a post-conflict community, where the victims of sexual violence face ostracism.

22. *Bangladesh: Counter-Trafficking Conference*. IOM Press Briefing Notes. 12 February 2004.

This conference is an attempt to review the initiatives made by the government of Bangladesh to combat trafficking in persons, especially women and children. Participated by representatives from the government, IOM, the World Bank, USAID and UN agencies, it leads to assess the problem of trafficking in Bangladesh and discuss solutions, in particular policies and programs that would effectively curb trafficking in persons. A notable outcome of this conference has been the establishment of a permanent task force housed within the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs.

23. **Bangladesh, People's Republic of**. *Notable features : Talaq [and] Judicial divorce. P.3-4*. Atlanta, Emory School of Law. [Source – http:// www.law.emory.edu/ IFL/legal/bangladesh.htm ; accessed on19 January 2003]

This web site explores amendments to the Muslim Family Law Ordinance (MFLO), with specific court rulings on the issue of divorce and polygamy. According to the system of "Triple Talaq" the husband has unilateral rights to divorce without the wife's consent, by offering maintenance for a limited period of time. In 1962 the Government introduced new regulations for divorce– every form of Talaq uttered in any form whatsoever (except the third one) has the effective of being single and revocable; formalisation of reconciliation and notification procedures; procedures for recovery of [2]Mahr ; penalties for non-compliances. The Supreme Court in 1995 overturned the judgement of a divorce case by High Court, that a Muslim husband is responsible to maintain his divorced wife by providing her with maintenance on a reasonable scale, for an indefinite period until she re-marries. The Court also grants "Khul" where the woman could independently seek divorce, but waive off her rights to claim maintenance. This however is not practical for those economically dependent on their spouse.
Amendments have been incorporated to the law on polygamy - legislation to encourage/facilitate the registration of marriage under which bi/polygamy requires specific reasons and a certificate of consent from the current wife/ wives. As such, registration of marriage, to some extent has a control on polygamy. The Court has further emphasised that it is practically impossible for a husband to treat co-wives justly, interpreting that the Quranic injunction to 'take in another wife' is virtually a prohibition of polygamy. Thus, it recommends that Section 6 of MFLO should be repealed and replaced by a section prohibiting polygamy altogether. However, this has not been enacted so far.

24. Bangladesh Mahila Parishad [BMP]. *Legal support. P.7-8.* Annual Report: June 2002 – June 2003. Dhaka.

BMP serves women affected by gender violence, enabling them to protect themselves against further abuse by asserting their rights. The organisation adopts informal and alternatives methods of dispute resolution to deal with desertion, dowry violence and polygamy, as well as, it helps the victims file criminal cases for rape, murder and trafficking. The organisation collaborates with the state's social support services department to provide safe shelters, rehabilitation and vocational training for victims.

25. Bangladesh Mahila Parishad [BMP] et al. *A commentary on Bangladesh's combined Third and Fourth Periodic Report for the*

[2] A dowry given by the man to the woman he is about to marry. It is part of the Muslim marriage contract.

members of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women [CEDAW]. [Dhaka]. June 1997. 26p.; annex.

A critique of the report for members of the UN CEDAW brought up by women's organizations viz., BMP, Bangladesh Women Lawyers Association and Naripokkho that occupy leadership positions in the women's movement, in particular eradication of violence against women in Bangladesh. The critique specifically deals with Article 6 and 16 – traffic in women and sexual exploitation, as well as freedom of choice in marriage. Committed to combat all forms of gender violence including that arising out of Fatwa, the organizations demand that the provision and principles of the Convention be incorporated into state policy/programmes, while providing authorities training on the Convention, as well as raising public awareness on the issue at large.

26. Bangladesh Mahila Parishad [BMP]. *Rokeya Sadan : Rehabilitation Centre.* Dhaka. June 2002. 48p.; plates.

Rokeya Sadan is the rehabilitation centre run by BMP for women and girls who are victims of family, community and state violence. This report relates to the activities of the Sadan that aims to make them socially aware by providing free legal aid. While rendering logistic support such as shelter, food, medi-care, education and recreation the centre helps them to acquire vocational training which gears them towards self-reliance.

27. Bangladesh Mahila Parishad [BMP]. *Rehabilitation centre. P.5.* Annual Report: July 2001 – June 2002. Dhaka.

The Mahila Parishad comprises a rehabilitation centre for women victims of violence. Established in 1984 the centre named Rokeya Sadan renders safe shelter to the victims, imparting vocational training that helps to create self-employment opportunities, while trading their products through a small sales outlet.

Activities regarding awareness about women's issues. P.14-15.

BMP has carried out a national campaign against gender-based violence. Coinciding with the 10th National Conference of the Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, pamphlets, newsletters and magazines highlighting the issue of violence against women were distributed to the public.

28. **Bangladesh Mahila Parishad [BMP].** *Bangladesh Mahila Parishad : A women's organisation.* Dhaka. 19... P.. [Source – ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

A brochure of a grass-root, voluntary, national organisation for women of Bangladesh committed to work for women in society, irrespective of their social strata. In view of protecting and promoting women's human rights, the Parishad is a movement to change patriarchal attitudes towards discrimination against women and to eliminate gender-related violence. The organisation with its international networking with other women's groups is active towards:

- Organising for consciousness-raising and capacity building;
- Movement to prevent gender violence;
- Legal reforms to address gender-related crimes;
- Legal support and rehabilitation to victims of violence;
- Income generation projects towards economic self-reliance
- Health, Education and literacy for the rural poor;
- Research, training and information dissemination activities.

29. **Bangladesh Mahila Parishad [BMP].** *Women's rights, law reform and uniform family code.* Dhaka. June 1993. 32p.

Women are subjected to discrimination and gender-related violence, despite gender equality being guaranteed by the Constitution. The draft evaluates women's rights in the areas of :

- Marriage and divorce;
- Maintenance;
- Guardianship;
- Child adoption;
- Inheritance.

A uniform code on family law is recommended so that the Constitution of Bangladesh can be used to effectively implement the provisions of the U.N. Charter on Gender Equality, which has been ratified by the State.

30. **Bangladesh Mahila Parishad [BMP].** *Promotion of human rights of women. P.24-26; tables.* Annual Report : July 1999 – June 2000. Dhaka.

This section of the report deals with the activities of BMP, namely its distribution of legal aid for women victims of violence. The BMP has legal aid committees in and around the districts of Dhaka to assist in providing

legal assistance to poor women for mediation/counselling as well as to lobby law enforcement officials. Victims are provided with shelter as part of the rehabilitation process.

31. **Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee [BRAC] and International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh [ICDDR, B].** *Integrating sexual and reproductive health education into service delivery : A program for rural communities in Bangladesh.* 1999. 4p.

This is an evaluation of a project to integrate sexual and health intervention and education into the health services delivery programme. The project involves a qualitative research and survey in rural areas and training of health workers at community level. Health issues, in particular, rape, sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS, domestic violence, sexual rights, drug/ alcohol addiction are the key areas covered in this programme. This report-in-brief provides recommendations and lessons learned through this research. BRAC is a non-governmental organisation and ICDDR, B is an international institution committed to address health and population issues in the rural and urban communities.

32. *Bangladesh unveils budget with thrust on education, agriculture.* [s.l], Associated Press. 10 June 2004. 2p. [Source – http://www.south-south-ppd.org/links/june-2004-issue-11.asp; accessed on 25 August 2004].

Bangladesh has one of the highest rates of maternal mortality in South Asia, hence gives priority to improve the health sector, in particular health care services for women. As reflected in the budget of 2004-2005 a significant proportion of resources have been allocated for a programme on delivery of health services for pregnant women.

33. **Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA).** *Socio-economic correlates of children and women trafficking : A study of six areas of Bangladesh : October 1998 to October 1999.* Dhaka. 122p.; biblio.

The objective of this research is to propose a plan of action to combat trafficking of women and children, based on research done in various localities of Bangladesh. While providing the metnodology for research, the paper sheds light on the types of victims, techniques of recruitment and the routes used by the traffickers. Annexed with case studies the report gives recommendations

to state agencies, law enforcers, NGOs, media and women's organisations and the community for collective action to eliminate trafficking of women and other gender-related crimes.

34. **BBC World Service.** *Bangladesh women march on domestic violence.* 25 November 2000. 1p. [Source- http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/south_asia/ ; accessed on 20 January 2003]

This is a report on the protest march by women activists and organisations in Dhaka, against domestic violence. Family violence is much prevalent in Bangladesh, besides other forms of violence against women.

35. **BBC News S/W Asia.** *Bangladesh approves new assault laws. 2p.* [London]. 30 March 1998. [Source – http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/south_asia/ ; accessed on 20 January 2003]

The cabinet of Bangladesh has approved new laws, including the penalty for crimes against women, as well as special tribunals to administer timely justice. The bill comprises compensation for victim of rape and stringent penalty for police personnel committing the offence of custodial rape. Moreover, medical examination of the rape victim is to be conducted by women doctors and the victims give evidence behind 'closed doors'. Stricter penalties are imposed on perpetrators of acid-attacks on women, in order to counter the increasing number of cases on the above. Though safe custody for the victim is legally sanctioned, women activists are pressurising for more safe shelters as there is a dearth of them in prisons.

36. **BRAC [Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee].** *Health programmes. 3p.* 2002. [Source- http://www.ips.lk/health/research/financinghealth/ ; accessed on 11 January 2003].

BRAC's health programme provides a wide range of health services to the rural poor, with a focus on women's health - maternal health care. The programme has evolved through distinct phases of training women health volunteers and health workers who raise awareness on health issues. This includes a campaign on the prevention and treatment of diarrhoea targeting rural women. Their Women's health and Development Programme (WHDP) integrates comprehensive community-based interventions focusing on maternal and child health interventions (1997-2000), encompassing 4 major programmes under the framework of national integrated population and health programme:

- Reproductive Health & Disease Control;
- Nutrition Facilitation;
- Health & Family Planning Facilitation;
- Rural Service Delivery Partnership.

BRAC health centres (Shushastho) provide health facilities to rural community through provision of technical and clinical back-up offering secondary level of services. Indoor services include safe delivery, reproductive and post-abortion care, clinical family planning and services on child health and medical emergencies with referrals. BRAC has also undertaken various measures to prevent maternal mortality in their operational areas. The upgraded health centres provide basic and comprehensive emergency care for pregnancy-related complications at cost, offering a safety net provision for poor women.

Rural Development Programme (RDP). 5p.

BRAC takes up appropriate actions against human rights abuses of women – rape, acid burning or other forms of gender-based violence whether or not the victim is affiliated to BRAC. Using their country-wide network to identify cases of acid-violence, they provide emergency medical assistance to victims and refer them to the Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF) for further treatment and follow-up care. The Popular Theatre Programme of the organisation creates awareness among rural women, giving them opportunities to visualise institutional, discriminatory and exploitative norms and practices that govern their lives.
The RDF works with and for the disadvantaged rural communities, in particular women, helping them to attain a higher level of self-reliance to achieve sustainable improvement in their livelihoods. In support of institution building BRAC offers Human Rights & Legal Education (HRLE) to the community, the classes held by the village women trained by BRAC. In collaboration with Ain O Salish Kendra, legal services are provided to those who cannot resolve their problems through local arbitration.

37. Brandt, Michele [and] Kaplan, Jeffrey A. *The tension between women's rights and religious rights: Reservations to CEDAW by Egypt, Bangladesh and Tunsia. P. 42-105.* Journal of Law and Religion, Vol.12, No.1. 1997.

This note explores the controversy between women's rights and the freedom of religion as expressed in state reservations based on religious law, to the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). This problem is real and could be overcome through specific, precisely worded reservations agreeable to the CEDAW provisions and

religious norms. Hence, recommendations are offered that could enhance effectiveness to the Convention.

38. Chanda, Ila. *Women in safe custody in the prison.* Dhaka, ASK. 19.... 2p.; annex.

This concerns the condition of women detainees who are in "safe custody" in the prisons of Bangladesh. Annexed with news clippings from the mainstream news media, ASK provides information on women and children in Dhaka Central Prison during 1997. Posing the question of state ethics with regard to prison conditions, the NGO expresses concern regarding their vulnerability to sex-oriented violence in custody.

39. CIDA [Canadian International Development Agency]. *From concepts to action : Health and population. P. 14-15.* Working with women : CIDA's Gender strategy in Bangladesh. Dhaka. 1992.

Women in Bangladesh have a shorter life expectancy than the men, with a high rate of maternal and infant mortality. This necessitates the need for their increased access to health services in terms of women's reproductive health. CIDA projects aim to identify health disparities between the genders by working with the Government of Bangladesh on the fourth phase of the Population & Health Project. This project focuses on all aspects of women's health by means of statistics and research. Efforts are made to include women representatives at all levels of health service delivery systems, to concentrate on women's general health, family planning and maternal and child health.

40. CIMEL (Centre for Islamic & Middle Eastern Law) [and] INTERIGHTS (The International Centre for the Legal Protection of Human rights). *Bangladesh. p.3-7.* Directory : Initiatives to address 'Crimes of Honour'. London. December 2002.

This directory outlines the activities of individuals and organisations engaged in addressing practices of 'honour crimes' perpetrated upon women in Bangladesh, in particular honour killing, forced marriage, Fatwa-related violence, dowry –based abuse, child marriage, polygamy and violence against women detained under the pretext of 'safe custody'. It encompasses lawyers, activists, researchers, state officials, community-based organisations and women's/human rights institutions listing out their specific tasks and contact information. Activities of ASK, Assistance for Human Rights, Bangladesh

Mahila Parishad, BNWLA, British Council-Bangladesh and Newham Bengali Community Trust are related in particular. The directory serves as a tool to network and exchange information on strategy planning and to facilitate co-operation among activists/institutions to combat violence against women.

41. **CIMEL (Centre for Islamic & Middle Eastern Law) [and] INTERIGHTS (The International Centre for the Legal Protection of Human rights).** *Case summaries : Bangladesh – Rehana Begum v. Bangladesh 50 DLR [1998]557-559. P.55-56.* Preliminary Bibliography: Crimes of Honour. London. August 2000.

This case summary relates the Bangladeshi court ruling on an incident of tradition-bound family violence. Violence in the name of 'family honour' was perpetrated upon a 16 year-old Bangladeshi girl with a British citizenship, on grounds of her choosing a marriage partner. The court of Bangladesh made a ruling in favour of the victim on the basis of religious laws that recognize women's rights in marriage.
This bibliography is a part of the project "Strategies of Response to Crimes of 'Honour'" which provides annotations from a variety of resources, annexed with case studies from several countries.

42. **Coomaraswamy, Radhika**. *Bangladesh. P.19-23.* Integration of the human rights of women and the gender perspective : Violence against women : Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences. Ms.Radhika Coomaraswamy, in accordance with Commission on Human rights resolution 2000/45 :Addendum : Mission to Bangladesh, Nepal and India on the issue of trafficking of women and girls (28 October-15 November 2000). 6 February 2001. 40p.; append. (E/CN.4/2001/73/Add.3).

Bangladesh is declared the second highest in the world in the prevalence of violence against women. Reports show a high percentage of cases on domestic violence, dowry-deaths, custodial rape, acid-attacks and trafficking of women and children. This report submitted to the UN High Commission for Human Rights explores the existing legal framework against gender crimes, policies and programmes to combat trafficking and the criminal justice system. Further, the report analyses the social welfare programmes available for the victims rescued and the role played by international agencies and NGOs in this context.

43. **Coomaraswamy, Radhika**. *Bangladesh. P.6-7.* Integration of the human rights of women and the gender perspective : Violence against women :

Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences. Ms.Radhika Coomaraswamy, in accordance with Commission on Human rights resolution 1997/44 : Addendum :Communications to and from Governments. 27 January 2000. 26p.; append. (E/CN.4/2000/68/Add.1).

The UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women appeals to the Government of Bangladesh regarding the recent police violence perpetrated upon women and children from the brothels of Tanbazar and Nimtoli in the Narayanganj District. The sex workers were forcibly evicted by law enforcement officials and sent to state shelters and vagrant homes where they were subjected to torture and "sexual favours" by state officials. According to the Government, this "action" was in response to public protests on the free movement of sex workers and the subsequent murder of one worker. The Department of Social Welfare is arranging counselling for the workers and their families to facilitate their rehabilitation. Moreover, vocational training and credit facilities are to be provided for them to resort to alternative employment.

44. Das, John Asit [and] Khatun, Julie, Rahima. *Custodial violence.* Dhaka, ASK. 19... 3p.

Concerning police attitudes towards women, the investigation team of ASK probes the extent of custodial violence against women, perpetrated by the police force of Bangladesh. The report sheds light on specific cases of death threat and torture to women in custody, and urges for action against gender violence.

45. *Development in women's human rights in The Commonwealth : Bangladesh. P.5-7.* CHRI Newsletter. Vol.5, No.5. April1998.

This newsletter comments on both the rape laws in Bangladesh as well as issues pertaining to violence against women. It is evident that the laws are of little value and trials are not properly enforced. A more appropriate reform of the criminal justice system would be the implementation of on-going programmes promoting women's rights in the context of gender-based violence.

46. Dhaka Ahsania Mission. *Child and Woman Trafficking Prevention Programme (CWTP).*P...Dhaka. 2003. [Source – http://www.undprcc.lk; accessed on 28 January 2003]

The overall aim of this programme is to reduce and prevent the incidence of women/children trafficking and offer support to those rescued. Objectives of CWTP are:

- Indentifying the most vulnerable areas and initiating intensive mass consciousness raising activities;
- Networking with local and national organisations working on the issue;
- Liaison with humanitarian agencies in countries through which and where Bangladeshis are trafficked;
- Sharing resources and expertise in launching joint action and providing services for victims.

The components of the programme are community awareness, repatriation, reintegration and rehabilitation where the immediate needs of the victims are addressed by means of a shelter home that provides basic support – health services, counselling, vocational training and literacy. The victim/survivors are also provided with micro-credit facilities to initiate income generating activities towards economic self-reliance.

47. Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs. *Violence against women. P. 33-35.* National Report : Women in Bangladesh: Equality, Development and Peace. Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, [September] 1995.

Economic marginalisation and lack of access to resources are the root-causes for violence against women in Bangladesh where men control the economy. This paper provides the legal measures to eliminate gender violence - laws that govern dowry-related violence, cruelty, child marriage, polygamy, torture (acid-throwing), marriage, divorce, child custody and abduction of women. In order to enhance the security of women in society, the state has encouraged the participation of women in law enforcing agencies – police, judiciary and village defence committees, as shown by the statistics of 1994.

48. Guhatkaturta, Meghna. *Violence and victimization : Responses of the women's movement. 26p.; ref.* "Bangladesh 1971-1996 : Past, Present and Future", London, 13-15 December 1996.

This document maps the issues on gender oppression and related violence in a traditional society, and the progress of women's movement against the violation of women's rights. With selected case studies of violence against women, the paper reviews the dynamics of the women's movement and role

played by civil society organisations in providing a support base for victims of violence.

49. *Historian wins Guggenheim Fellowship to study forgotten victims of war in Bangladesh.* [s.l], Carolina News Service. 13 February 2004. 2p. [Source – http://www.sawnet.com ; accessed on 20 March 2004].

This web page relates to the first comprehensive study on sexual violence against women in the national liberation war of Bangladesh, 1971 by Dr.Yasmin Saikia. This historian, in order to overcome the 'silence' of the rape victims, has conducted interviews where the women were reluctant to speak because of the social stigma attached to the crime. These are to be documented as the sufferings of women during the civil war, which is often side-lined and forgotten without any gender justice.

50. **Habiba, Shumi Umme.** *Let justice be done : A very brief outline paper on "Mass rape and violence against women in the 1971 armed conflict of Bangladesh" : Justice and other issues.* International Conference on Violence Against Women in War and Armed Conflict Situations, Tokyo, 31 October – 3 November 1997. 10p. [Source – ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

This paper provides facts on mass rape and other gender-related violence committed by the Pakistan forces during 1971, ascertaining these as crimes under the international humanitarian law, human rights law and the Municipal Law of Bangladesh. With regard to the rehabilitation and reparation initiatives by the State and NGOs in Bangladesh, women's issues have been neglected as "justice has been done according to the norms of a patriarchal society.." and not from a gendered perspective. The paper demands that justice be granted to the women victims through:

- War crimes trials to punish the perpetrators of rape and other forms of gender violence;
- Compensation from the Pakistan Government;
- Rehabilitation programmes by the Government of Bangladesh.

51. **Home Office Working Group.** *Information gathering exercise on forced marriages : Submissions by the International Centre for Legal Protection of Human Rights (INTERIGHTS), Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) and Shirkat Gah [Women's Resource Centre].* [London]. March 2000. 32p.; append.

This report highlights the abduction and forced marriage of women and girls from the U.K. to Bangladesh and Pakistan, through the information collected by women's NGOs in the two countries - ASK from Bangladesh and Shirkat Gah Women's Resource Centre in Pakistan. While exploring the commonalities of cases from the U.K. to Pakistan and Bangladesh, the submissions review the legal remedies available to the victims and the international obligations of these two countries to address the practice of forced marriage. The report draws on strategies towards policy reforms and practices in the U.K. so as to ensure effective redress of abduction and forced marriages in the Asian community.

52. **Huda, Sigma**. *Trafficking and prostitution in Bangladesh: Contradictions in law and practice. P.142-148; notes.* Making the harm visible : Global sexual exploitation of women and girls :Speaking out and providing services. Ed. Donna M.Hughes et al. Rhodes Island, Coalition Against Trafficking of Women and Girls. 1999.

Huda explores the laws that prohibit trafficking and prostitution in Bangladesh and the 'loop holes' in their implementation. Furthermore, the issue of cross-border trafficking, involving the intervention of neighbouring states, such as India and Pakistan as per their Acts relating to foreign nationals, which pose restrictions on action against the incidence of human trafficking. NGOs, such as Marie Stopes Centre and Bangladesh Women's Health Coalition, work to eliminate prostitution by providing health facilities for the women, while the Bangladesh Women's Lawyers' Association and a few others prevent girls from being drawn into the trade and deals with sex workers detained by police. The author argues that banning of prostitution is not the answer to eliminate the offence, rather a united movement for the gradual absorption and reintegration of victims of prostitution is a more viable alternative.

53. **Hussain, Abid**. *Bangladesh. p.5-6.* Question of the human rights of all persons subjected to any form of detention or imprisonment : Promotion and protection of the rights to freedom of opinion and expression : Report of the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Abid Hussain to Commission on Human Rights Resolution 1993/45. 22 March 1996. (Doc. No. E/CN.4/1996/39).

The Special Rapporteur reports to the UN Commission on the case of Taslima Nasreen a feminist author who has been charged with an alleged crime of "..offending the religious feelings of a section of the population." According to the state, legal action has been taken "to protect public order and respecting the rights and reputation of others."

54. **Huq, Ershadul**. *Awami League demands Pak apology.* [s.l], India Abroad News Service. 2 December 2000. P.. [Source– http://www.indiaabroad.com/; accessed on 22 January 2003].

This is a news item discussing the state response towards incidences of rape and sexual abuse on Bangladeshi women, committed by the armed forces of Pakistan. The ruling Awami League demands a formal apology from the Government of Pakistan for rape, genocide and other war-related crimes committed by Pakistan forces in 1971.

55. **Huq, Nasreen**. *The other side of the laws*. Dhaka Courier. 11 February 2000.

An overview of the recent Suppression of Violence Against Women and Children Bill that provides for sexual abuse and harassment against women and the legal constraints in seeking justice for victims. This bill is compared with Public Safety (Special Provision) Law of 2000 that claims to address gender related violence.

56. **International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF).** *Country profile : Bangladesh. 2p.* 20 November 2002. [Source – http://www.ippf.org/ ; accessed on 24 January 2003].

In Bangladesh the risk of maternal health increases with the first pregnancy as early marriages, large families and son-preference are the traditional norms. Despite the high level of awareness on family planning in the public, the use of contraceptives is relatively low. Further, unsafe abortion is the major cause of maternal death as abortion is a legally punishable offence. The Government of Bangladesh is strongly committed to family planning, prioritised by the National Population Programme that has created a cultural shift towards propagating small families. As such the programme encompasses aspects of maternal and child health care, on breast feeding, nutrition, immunization, oral hydration and literacy for women with efforts to draw in sex education concerning the prevention of HIV/AIDS. The Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB) is the oldest and the largest NGO in the country supported by professionals and volunteers working at all levels of the society. FPAB has now moved away from a target-based approach to that of a client-centered, reproductive/sexual health-related approach to women's empowerment and gender equity. Aiming to increase male involvement in their programmes, the Association encouraged a gendered participation in their programmes, including other groups such as youth, volunteers, religious/community leaders

and health personnel. The projects are cost-effective and sustainable, geared towards the neglected rural areas and urban slums. In addition to health services provided for women, the FPAB facilitates women's empowerment through skills development projects providing financial/logistic support for income generating ventures. Talk shows for young women and men have been launched on the television network to create gender awareness through topics on adolescence health, gender discrimination and sexual harassment. Peer education programmes have also been designed for youth on reproductive health issues and training programmes to improve the skills of health volunteers, traditional birth attendants (Mid-wives) and community health workers.

57. **Jahan, Roushan**. *Reduction of gender-violence : Recent policies and actions. P.125-138.* Hidden Danger: Women and family violence in Bangladesh. Dhaka, Women for Women. 1994.

Action against gender-based violence can be grouped into 2 categories – alleviation and elimination. This chapter deals with state and non-governmental action in terms of alleviation – support, protection and redress to victims of violence. State efforts towards reduction in gender violence include legal measures, support services for victims, and affirmative action for gender equity. Laws on dowry prohibition, Promulgation of Muslim Family Law and Cruelty to Women (Deterrent Punishment), provision of capital punishment for acid-throwing and the Family Court Ordinance are briefed here. Women's NGOs have taken specific actions of advocacy, provision of support services for victims, while drawing in the mass media to create awareness on violence against women by means of programmes and campaigns.

58. **Jahan, Roushan.** *Hidden wounds, visible scars : Violence against women in Bangladesh. P.....*; ref. 19... [s.l.] . [Source – ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

This document explores the multi-faceted problem of gender related violence in Bangladesh and action by the state, non-governmental organisations and media to address such violence. The paper relates legal reforms on dowry, torture/cruelty to women and family laws, and addresses the responses of women's NGOs to counter violence against women. In the conclusion, the need for integrated action programmes to make the above successful, is discussed.

59. **Jenkins, Carol**. *Sex work and dignity in Bangladesh. P. 21-23.* Namaskar. Vol.3, No.1. November 1998.

The article explores the collective efforts of women's NGOs in Bangladesh towards HIV/AIDS prevention among sex workers. In collaboration with CARE Bangladesh, the NGOs developed a model – Shakti Project encompassing:

- Clinical and contraceptive services for women;
- Literacy;
- Peer education for sex workers and their partners;
- Supplementary income generation;
- Advocacy towards prevention of violence against workers;
- Community management.

The women involved in sex work learn to practice safer sex and social awareness on other related issues such as repressive laws and customs concerned with their profession.

60. **Kamal, Nashid.** *The influence of husbands on contraceptive use by Bangladesh women. P.43-51; notes; tables; ref.* Health Policy and Planning. Vol.15, Issue.1. 2000.

This research sheds light on the role played by the spouse in promoting women's reproductive health – a survey on the women's perception of her husband's approval of her use of modern contraception for family planning. In some regions of Bangladesh, the spouse's disapproval of family planning has a major impact on the woman's reproductive health and fertility control. Apparently, no specific measures have been taken to increase the use of male contraception or spousal support for women users, or to provide information on the issue. Hence, there is a need to involve men extensively in the family planning programme through a holistic approach to reproductive health care. The paper suggests that:

- Male members in the community be sensitized through suitable programmes, for example, forming men's clubs at grass root level for discussions on issues related to reproductive/sexual health;
- Mass media share the responsibility of portraying positive gender images;
- Advocating the use of condoms for dual benefits – safeguard against AIDS and for family planning.

61. **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.** *Safe Motherhood : A woman's rights to live.* [Dhaka]. 28 May 20... p..; plates.

An information kit aiming to raise consciousness on women's reproductive health, the booklet concerns issues on maternal morbidity and mortality. It highlights the role of the public, social workers, policy makers and medical personnel on preventing maternal deaths and to promote safe motherhood. While briefing on the emergency obstetric care towards those complications arising during child birth, this resource leads to create awareness on a gendered contribution towards society and women's right to safe motherhood.

62. **Ministry of Women and Children['s] Affairs. Government of Bangladesh**. *Commercial sexual exploitation of children : Concerns and measures for future strategic actions. 12p.* Regional Consultation on Measures Taken to Address Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, Bangkok, 28-30 August 2000. [Source – ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

The paper highlights the characteristics of child abuse and state action to prevent sexual trafficking of girls. The state policy, National Policy on Children and the National Action Plan for the Girl Child are scrutinised in this context. A summery of the laws against trafficking and other child-related crimes are provides in this report, with the programmes for child victims of sexual abuse implemented under the Action Plan.

63. **Ministry of Women & Children['s] Affairs**. *National Plan of Action for Women's advancement.* [Dhaka]. December 1997. 3p. [Source – http:// www.mwca.gov.bd/ action.htm; accessed on 24 January 2003]

This web document relates to the agenda for women's welfare and empowerment including health care, in particular, health services related to *gender-based violence. It stresses on training health personnel to provide* services to community women.

64. **Ministry of Women & Children['s] Affairs**. *Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. P.18.* National Action Plan [NAP] for women's advancement : We will implement it together. [Dhaka]. [1997].

This workbook delves on the initiatives of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to implement health services for women victims of violence. The agenda of the ministry includes:

- Health care and treatment for cases of gender-based violence;
- Prevention of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases;
- Gender sensitive training of health personnel.

It also discusses concepts within the NAP and the gender oriented activities of the various ministries, proposed work plans, resource needs and the development of monitoring indicators for the activities. The Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs is to provide training for the judiciary on women's rights, in order to prevent [3]Fatwa against gender-based allegations.

65. **Mulay, Shree.** *Covert trials, overt violation : The case against Quinacrine method of sterilisation.* [s.l], 19... 7p.; tables. [Source – ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

A criticism on the medical ethics involved in the use of Quinacrine that is an anti-malarial drug, in sexual sterilisation of women in Bangladesh. It concerns the complications caused by this drug as a contraceptive (1990-1996), "... an assault on the bodies of women is done in the name of providing for greater reproductive freedom and wider contraceptive choices." The article emphasises the importance of including family planning within the agenda of primary health care and women's health in population control.

66. **Mullins, Jim [and] Boatwright, Alice.** *Banchte Shekha : Women helping women in Bangladesh.* 25 August 2001. 11p. [Source – http:// www.jim-mullins.com/ Bangladesh.html ; accessed on 18 July 2004].

A "one-woman-crusader" with her awareness and courage has set up this shelter home as an initiative to counter family violence among poor rural women. Supported by women who are widowed, divorced and deserted, this non-governmental women's NGO has implemented income-generating projects for women by teaching them business skills. Most of the beneficiaries indulge in agricultural farming as micro entrepreneurs, selling their products to outsiders. The members are given practical, basic education focusing on economic self-reliance. Training programmes on traditional midwifery are also a part of the agenda of reproductive health services for the rural poor. With a revolving fund set up for rural credit, the Shekha has grown into a women's movement towards gender-integrated social participation and women's empowerment.

67. **Murshid, Tazeen Mahnaz.** *Women, Islam and the State : Subordination and resistance.* London. [2001]. 7p.; notes. [Source-http://www.lib. uchicago.edu/e/su/southasia/ Tazeen.html ; accessed on 20 September 2004].

[3] Penalty sanctioned by religious extremism

This paper is a study of the status of women in Bangladesh in an era of religious extremism and the resistance of the women's movement against this gender oppression. The women's movement in Bangladesh has combatted the manipulation of religion to ensure male dominance, reflected in family law of Bangladesh. While using case studies of Naripokko and Oikya Badhya Nari Samaj on work against gender-related violence and discrimination, the paper probes the role of women's movement in influencing the state policy towards women's equality and in promoting legal amendments to ensure women's rights and protection against gender violence.

68. **Naripokkho.** *Gender and judges : A pilot study in Bangladesh.* Dhaka. December 1997. 26p.; append.

A survey conducted by Naripokkho to examine the nature and level of gender bias among judges when handling cases of violence against women. The study attempts to assess their understanding on the concept of gender crimes as opposed to testimonies given by women victims and women lawyers. It also documents the nature of the court atmosphere where women seek justice, and the extent of knowledge of the judiciary on CEDAW when dealing with gender crimes as a human rights issue. This study is based on a collection of court cases, interviews with women victims, observation on the court environment and research on individual judgements. The pilot study would lead to sensitising the judiciary on gender issues/crimes.

69. **Naripokko.** *Complaints and investigation procedures relating to violence and threats of violence against women.* Prp. Safia Azim P. 8; annex. Expert Group Meeting on State Interventions on Violence Against Women, Dhaka, 14-18 June 1997.

This paper informs the procedures deployed in investigating crimes of violence against women in Bangladesh, collected through interviews with the police, medical, paramedical and legal personnel. The field observations are based on systems of accountability and gender attitudes of the personnel reporting the crime. Attached to the document is:

- Information on reporting and investigating procedures;
- Forensic facilities for examining rape, and performing autopsy;
- Documenting cases of gender-related crimes.

In conclusion, recommendations are given to improve the above areas.

70. **Naripokko.** *Women's access to the criminal justice system : An overview.* P.20-23; annex. Prp. U.M. Habibuness et al. Expert Group Meeting on State Interventions on Violence Against Women, Dhaka, 14-18 June 1997.

Criminal justice system is an area that needs reform, especially when it concerns dealing with violence against women. This paper discusses the problems encountered by women victims of violence when approaching the judicial system with issues related to:

- Poverty;
- Trial procedures on domestic violence and rape;
- Legal protection to victims.

Annexed to the report is an outline on the structure of the judicial system with the hierarchy of courts and statistics on women in judicial services.

71. **Naripokkho.** *Combatting acid violence.* Dhaka. 20... 2p.

Naripokkho is a women's NGO working with victims of acid attacks which is a common form of gender violence in Bangladesh. This brochure relates to the organization's action against acid attacks as a special effort that involves facilitating medical treatment to the victim, and support for proper and timely investigations of the crime. The victims/survivors are encouraged to form a solidarity network for action against the crime – organizing mass protests, creating public consciousness, communication with medical sector on the course of treatment, pressurizing the legal system for justice, as well as provision of counselling services, special education and skill development for the survivors.

72. **Naripokko.** *Comments on the proposed Nari O Shishu Nirjaton Domon Act 1998.* Prp. Sadaf Siddiqu et al. Dhaka. June 1998. 32p.

This is a critique of the proposed Act on Suppression of Violence Against Women and Children by a women's NGO in Bangladesh. Comments and recommendations based on a consultation with legal personnel and state authorities involved in seeking gender justice are given here. A comparison on the Act of 1995 and the Bill of 1998 is annexed to the document.

73. **National Labour Committee.** *Wal-Marts shirts of misery.* 9 September 2001. 7 p. [Source- http://www.maquilasolidarity.org/campaigns/; accessed on 25 May 2003].

This is part of a signature campaign led by the National Labour Committee, USA, against the maltreatment of women workers in the export processing zones of Bangladesh. While referring to the working conditions of the women in the garment factories in the export processing zones, the article specifically refers to Wal-Mart of USA and its contractor Beximco in Dhaka. The campaigners demand that the employers and buyers recognise domestic labour laws in Bangladesh, end the maltreatment of workers, guarantee payments, savings and maternity benefits and respect the workers' rights.

74. *No to Norplant : The need to correct specific contraceptive use for population policies. P.25-26.* People's Perspectives. Nos. 9 & 10. April-May 1994.

Norplant is a long-acting, injectable hormonal contraceptive method introduced to the Third World Countries on an experimental basis. This article questions the acceptance of Norplant in the population control programme of Bangladesh where rural, poor women are the prime targets. The women have little or no information on the possible side-effects of the drug and have to depend on trained medical staff to administer the contraceptive. UBINIG a women's NGO working on reproductive health issues, urges the Government, UN Bodies and Women's Groups to call for the withdrawal of Norplant from the family planning programme and to provide safe and user-controlled contraception.

75. **Odhikar**. *Protective laws and policies for women and children in disadvantaged positions. Part I, P.4-27.* Women and children in disadvantaged situations. Dhaka. 19..,

This chapter deals with laws and policies formulated for the protection of women and children in Bangladesh, where the state constitution emphasises gender equality and equal protection by the law. Gender-related crimes of rape, murder, acid throwing, wife abuse, trafficking, child marriage, abduction, violence in detention and child marriage are dealt under the following laws:

- The Penal Code (1860);
- Code of Criminal Procedures (1898);
- The Jail Code (1894);
- Child Marriage Restraint Act (1929);
- Vagrancy Act (1950);
- Children's Act (1974);
- Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act (1933);
- Prevention of Repression against Women and Children Act (2000).

Bangladesh is a signatory to CEDAW, Convention Against Torture & Other Cruel Inhuman degrading Treatment of Punishment (CAT) and the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women. In this context, the country has formulated the National Policy for the Development of Women, a broad-based, 5-year plan to achieve the objectives for the improvement of women's status in Bangladesh.

76. *One prostitute killed, thousands displaced in Bangladesh. P.2.* Coalition : Asia Pacific Report. Vol.4, Nos.4-5. April-September 1999.

Women's groups in Bangladesh have gathered under the CATW (Coalition Against Trafficking in Women – Asia Pacific) Bangladesh, launching a protest campaign against the maltreatment of sex workers by the state machinery. The workers have been assaulted by the police physically and sexually and forcibly displaced under the proposed "rehabilitation programme" that is launched by the Social Welfare Department under UNDP sponsorship.

77. **Oshuchi.** *Student movement against campus rape : Selected writings from the Jahangirnagar University '98 Movement.* Dhaka. January 1999.

This collection of news reports from mainstream news media addresses incidents of rape on university campuses. Evidently, public protests against rape and sexual harassment of female students have grown into a movement, demanding legal action against the perpetrators of sexual violence. News articles are critical of the attitudes of university authorities and police, in taking action against these perpetrators.

78. *Oxfam Community Aid Abroad - Development and emergency programs around the world : Bangladesh: sex worker rights. P...* Connexions. May 20002. [Source –http:// www.connexions.gov.uk/; accessed on 23 January 2003].

A coalition of human rights, women's groups and a sex worker organisation called Shonghoti fought the eviction of sex workers, mostly women with children. In the name of 'social rehabilitation' sex workers of Tanbazar were evicted by the police on 24th July 1999. Hundreds of workers were forcibly taken to government-run vagrant homes while others were left on the streets, vulnerable to violence and exploitation. This court case was won, resulting in a movement for the rights of sex workers. Oxfam Community Aid Abroad is

now helping fund a broader Oxfam program, supporting sex workers to strengthen their organisations; educate their children; lobby for their rights with the police, government and in the Bangladesh media; fight violence against women; and create links and share information with other sex worker organisations.

79. **Oxfam Community Aid Abroad**. *Women's groups in Bangladesh coming together for change*. P... May 1999. 1p. [Source –http:// www.oxfam.org.au/oxfamnews/ ; accessed on 24 February 2003].

Barendra Development Organisation (BDO) is a local NGO with a partner of the Community Aid Abroad, works for the welfare of impoverished women in the District of Naogoan through their collaboration with women's groups, in particular the Tularbayal Landless Women's Society comprising landless women agricultural workers. While raising community awareness on traditional practices that oppress women and their socio-economic empowerment, take on gender issues in the family and community that lead to violence against women. Identifying issues of gender-oriented violence such as domestic abuse, child marriage and dowry-related violence perpetrated by the husband and in-laws, the group raises community awareness of their rights and responsibilities and relevant laws to punish the offenders. Alternatively, the group attempts to resolve any problems faced by the members of their society.

80. **Projonmo '71 (Children of the Martyrs of Liberation War)**. *Urgent Action [: Trial of three war criminals]*. 17 May 1995. 2p. [Source – ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

An appeal made to the United Kingdom regarding the prosecution of war criminals on gender-based violence in Bangladesh. The open-letter requests all human rights organisations and activists to appeal that Choudhry Mueeen, Uddin Abu Sayeed and Lutfer Rahman now residing in Great Britain, be prosecuted for rape and kidnapping of innocent women during the Bangladesh liberation struggle.

81. **Sacerdoti, Guy**. *Gaining power through local government : Poor women are making their voices heard through local authorities and improving their livelihoods*. P... ADB Review. January-February 2004.

This article relates to training programmes for women members of local government in awareness raising and leadership qualities and to hold

discussions at the community level on the current legal remedies for cases of violence against women victims, with particular reference to acid-throwing. The programme is developed by the ADB in partnership with women's NGOs - Sthri Sakti and BRAC, drawing in grass-roots women to play active and responsible roles in the community. Similar programmes are being conducted in Nepal and Pakistan, in collaboration with the local women's organisations, to create awareness on gender issues and to encourage their socio-political participation.

82. Santos-Abrams, Elyssa [and] Meekins-McClelland, Ndenisarya. *Bangladesh. 14p.; notes.* [s.l], 3 December 1999. [Unpublished].

This paper concentrates on the levels of enforcement of the law that provides against gender-related violence – cruelty to women, property rights, marriage and divorce. Illustrated with case studies, The Women and Children Repression Control Act and the New Draft Bill on Protection of Women's Human Rights (Rape and Acid-attacks) are analysed here. Based on the ratification of Bangladesh to international treaties against discrimination of women, recommendations are given to prevent gender crimes and protect women's rights.

83. SAWNET. *Bangladesh : A new draft bill providing for capital punishment for cases of violence against women and children* . [s.l]. 12 October 1999. 2p. [Source – http://www.sawnet.com; accessed on 26 February 2003].

Women's groups and religious bodies are critical of a new draft bill that sanctions capital punishment for rape that contains a clause that makes the rapist responsible for the child born out of rape. Women's organisations have met the Minister of Law, urging him to remove all the loop-holes and inconsistencies in the draft bill and the state to take responsibility for children born to the victim. This bill approved by the Cabinet meeting calls for a camera recording of the statement of victims. It also specifies that those who are directly involved in gender crimes will not be granted bail, while setting of gender guidelines for media restricting the publication of photographs of the victim without the court's permission.

84. Shamin, Ishrat. *Trafficking in women and children : A human rights crisis.* Dhaka, Centre for Women and Children Studies (CWCS). June 1997. 6p.

The Oppression Against Women and Children (Special Act) of 1995 provides penalties for gender-oriented violence, in particular trafficking and kidnapping. This report condones the strategies of CWCS to combat the problem of trafficking, in terms of advocacy, awareness and action. CWCS is active in :

- Campaigning among state agencies, NGOs, police, community and at grass roots level;
- Organising regional consultations and fact-finding discussions;
- Launching a Traffic Watch with the NGO network;
- Out-reaching the media for raising awareness.

85. **Shettu, Fayazuddin Ahmed.** *Relevant law for war crimes.* Transl. Syed Masius Hassain. [s.l], 19... 2p. [Source – ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

This article concerns the armed massacre in Bangladesh during 1971 and the significance of a war crimes tribunal in prosecuting the war criminals from Pakistan. According to the International Crimes (Tribunal) Act of 1973 and the Geneva Convention (1949) persons found guilty of rape, murder and arson will not receive amnesty. Examining the policies of war trials, First Amendment of the Bangladesh Constitution (1973) and the Convention, the author calls for "justice for two lakhs of raped women", by bringing the war criminals to trial.

86. **Shonghoti.** *Forced eviction in the name of 'rehabilitation' : Tan Bazaar, Bangladesh.* 23 August 1999. 3p. [Source- http://www.hivnet.ch:8000/asia/bangladesh/ ; accessed on 27 February 2003].

This online statement by Shongoti a NGO working on the welfare of sex workers, relates to state sponsored atrocities against sex workers in Dhaka. On the pretext of 'rehabilitation' the women have been physically and sexually abused by the police and forcibly evicted. The NGO request appeals for protests against the state violence leashed upon the sex workers and abuse of their human rights.

87. *Some activities in trafficking.* Bangladesh Jatiyo Mahila Ainjibi Samity [BNWLA] Bulletin. October 1998. 19p.; charts; maps; plates.

A report on the problems faced by BNWLA a women's NGO committed to work with women victims/survivors of trafficking. The report explores laws,

international conventions and SAARC commitment to counter trafficking and prevention through awareness raising campaigns.

88. **South Asia Partners International [SAP-I]**. *Legal measures. P. 64 - 66.* [and] *After Stockholm - responses to CSCE. P. 67-75.* Commercial sexual exploitation of children : A review of South Asia – Bangladesh perspective 2001. Colombo. December 2001.

In Bangladesh the laws regarding children's rights and protection are not contained in one statute, but in various laws and statutes. The following laws are relevant to sexual exploitation of children, in particular the girl child:

- Bangladesh Penal Code (1960);
- Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act (1933);
- Cruelty to Women (Deterrent Punishment) Ordinance (1983);
- Children's Act (1974).

A plan of action focusing on child trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children, in particular the girl child has been facilitated by the coalition of NGOs, GOs and UN Agencies. Through a series of sub-national workshops a draft NPA has been formulated with strategies on protective measures for child victims of trafficking and prostitution. The trafficking legislation in the country is ineffective, in part due to the alliance between law enforcers and traffickers. Hence the state has collaborated with NGOs to implement preventive measures to tackle the commercial sexual exploitation of children.
A number of NGOs are working towards combating child sexual abuse such as BNWLA working against child trafficking, acid-throwing and on the cross-border trafficking of women and girls, while rescuing victims from brothels and providing safe custody. NGOs are working for policy changes through advocacy, development of social awareness, and by means of rescue, rehabilitation and re-integration of victims in the society.
In response to the epidemic of HIV/AID and sexually transmitted diseases the UN Theme Group aim to promote safe sexual practices, preventive measures, treatment to victims, reduction of the transmission of HIV through improved health services, care and support for victims of AIDS, strengthening the national programme on AIDS prevention and monitoring the spread of the epidemic.

89. **Ubinig [Policy Research for Development Alternative]**. *Bangladeshi women got compensation for using Dalton Shield : A dangerous birth control device.* [Dhaka], 19... 5p.; append.

This is a case of action against the use of a contraceptive that is unsafe for women's health and well-being. Manufactured by an international company, Dalton Shield is an Intra Uterine Device (IUD) which has serious side-effects on women's health. Following the banning of this in USA, the women's organisation has sued the company to pay compensation to Bangladeshi women who have used this contraceptive through the family planning programme. Appendix to this article provides a list of developing countries to which Dalton was exported.

90. **Ubinig**. *Situation of trafficking in women and children in Bangaldesh. 9p.* South Asian Dialogue on Trafficking in Women and Children : Towards the Adoption of the SAARC Convention, Wattala (Sri Lanka), 11-12 February 1999.

This paper refers to the guidelines of the SAARC Convention on combating the trafficking of women, related to traffic prevention in Bangladesh. It elaborates on the socio-economic status of women, legal provisions against trafficking as a crime and initiatives taken by the State and NGOs to prevent trafficking. Ubinig is a women's community-based organization working against trafficking and prostitution of women and children in Bangladesh.

91. **Ubinig**. *Resisting Norplant : Struggle against coercion and violence.* Prp. Farida Akhtar. Dhaka, Narigrantha Prabartana. 195. 142p.; plates.

This volume reveals issues on women's health for impoverished women in underdeveloped countries. In Bangladesh pre-introductory clinical trials are carried out on poor, urban women as a substitute for sexual sterilisation under the sponsorship of the state family planning programme. Heavy advertising campaigns and services have been launched for the use of Norplant – a chemical contraceptive claiming to "ensure sterility up to 5 years" implanted under the armpit of women The volume relates to the investigations carried out by Ubinig, a Dhaka-based women's NGO on the ill-effects of Norplant on its users who are mostly illiterate, poor, slum women. The Resistance Network Against Abuse of Contraceptives on Women's Bodies has mobilised the women to demonstrate against the use of Norplant and the indiscriminate use of contraceptives. As a result, the women in slums have built a resistance to the administration of contraceptives without proper medical guidance.
The publication also relates to the victory of the women's movement – their action against the promotion of contraceptives that cause harmful effects on its users. Ubinig had filed a lawsuit to a US-based manufacturer of intra-uterine devices viz., Dalton Shield which caused serious side-effects of profuse

bleeding, inflammatory infection and even death to women users. Sixty-three Bangladeshi women have received compensation for damages and this case has created a public awareness on the selective use of contraception.

92. **UNDP**. *YOU AND AIDS : The HIV/AIDS Portal for Asia Pacific : Bangladesh at a glance. P. 3* [New York]. December 2004. [Source – http://www.youandaids.org/ ; accessed on 17 March 2005].

According to statistics, a significant percentage of women, in the age group 15-49 are infected with AIDS. The Ministry of Health and Family Planning has launched a national programme to combat the issue by drawing on community leaders to create mass consciousness on HIV/AIDS. The strategies attempt to prevent the transfer of AIDS virus through sexual and perinatal transmission. UNFPA in support of the state initiative has integrated HIV/ AIDS in the various components of their Reproductive Health Programmes. In this context, UNDP has developed activities in support of institutional capacity building, blood safety and adolescent health services. DFID provides assistance to the Shakti Project of CARE, Bangladesh, which works with vulnerable groups among women. The support allows for the provision of technical/financial aid to local NGOs in order to ensure policy makers focus on migrant workers. In close involvement with the UN agencies, the World Bank supports projects that focus on:

- High-risk behaviour change intervention;
- Advocacy and communication;
- Institutional capacity building.

93. **UNICEF**. *Domestic Violence : What UNICEF is doing*. 31 **May** 2002. 1p. [Source - http://www.unicef.org/ ; accessed on 21 July 2003].

UNICEF takes a rights-based approach to domestic violence, viewing it as part of gender discrimination that undermines women's rights. In Bangladesh, their country programme integrates gender concerns to build a global network to eliminate violence against women. UNICEF works with victims of acid-attacks where the "Help Acid Survivors" initiative is involved in the treatment and care of victims. Supported by CIDA this has lead to the establishment of Acid Survivors Foundation that provides treatment and rehabilitation to the victims, enabling them to reintegrate into society.

94. **UNICEF & Government of Bangladesh.** *Legislation. P.130-131.* Situation assessment and analysis of children and women in Bangladesh. [Dhaka]. December 1999.

This part of the report relates to the laws available with regard to the trafficking of women and children for sexual exploitation. As trafficking in Bangladesh is a "cross-border crime", the laws have not had a significant impact on the increasing trend of trafficking. This calls for a "legal understanding" between Bangladesh and the neighbouring countries that are recipients of trafficked persons.

95. **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**. *Bangladesh. P. 1-10.* National policies and programmes of the family in Asia and the Pacific. New York, UN. 1993.

This paper refers to the national policies benefiting the family, where the women play a crucial role as half the population in the country and as heads of households. The state policy therefore, includes the following issues for a gender-integrated development plan:

- Implementing women's programmes;
- Poverty alleviation among women;
- Training and employment projects for women;
- Promoting women's NGOs.

Roles played by Grameen Bank, Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare are explored in this context. The paper also relates to legal reforms on child marriage, polygamy and guardianship towards empowering women and the family.

96. **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**. *Proceedings : Women and health : Initiatives to increase women's access to health care services. P.49.* Women in Asia and the Pacific : High-Level Intergovernmental Meeting to Review Regional Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, [New York], 26-29 October 1999 : New York, United Nations. 2000.

Bangladesh has adopted policy measures to eliminate harmful medical and family planning interventions for women. A medical code of ethics is being formulated, with mandatory birth and death registrations. The Health Population Sectoral Programme is a gender-responsive body for health care and caters to the special needs of women. The programme however faces obstacles such as limited resources, lack of medical/health personnel to implement the health policy and harmful family planning practices deep-rooted in the society.

97. United Nations. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. *Bangladesh : Violence against women. P.40-46.* Promoting women's rights as human rights. New York, United Nations. 1999. (Studies on Women in Development – 2).

As a result of an increased number of gender crimes and protests by women's groups the Penal Code of Bangladesh has incorporated laws relating to violence against women including homicide and 'physical hurt'. The Cruelty to Women (Deterrent Punishment) Ordinance 1983 specifies stringent punishment for rape, dowry-related violence, trafficking and grievous hurt or death due to rape. These laws however are poorly implemented because the law enforcement institutions fail to recognise domestic and family violence and are unwilling to intervene on behalf of the women victims, reinforcing the traditional subordinate status of women. In this context, marital rape is not a punishable offence. Furthermore, Fatwas are being issued to women for the usage of contraceptives and their efforts to educate themselves. In declaring the National Policy on Women on the 8th March 1997 the government has identified actions against gender-based violence as a priority issue for intervention. The policy focuses on the eradication of physical, sexual and mental abuse at family and social levels; forced prostitution and rape; dowry and gender-based violence. While proposing amendments to the existing laws the policy recommends supportive measures to victims of rape and trafficking, a gendered participation in the police and judicial services and simple legal/judicial procedures for timely action against gender crimes.

98. United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. *Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Mongolia and Philippines : Draft resolution : Traffic in women and girls.* (E.CN.6/1997/L.11). 18 March 1997. 4p.

Bangladesh is one of the countries where women and girls are trafficked across to bordering nations and the Far East. This resolution is a follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing (1995) on the implementation of strategic objectives and action against this gender crime. The Commission calls upon the government to take preventive measures to eliminate sexual and other forms of exploitation by the traffickers facilitating the Special Rapporteurs to report on trafficking as a form of violence against women and girl children.

99. United Nations High Commission for Human Rights. *Bangladesh. P.12.* Interim Report on the elimination of all forms of intolerance and

discrimination based on religion or belief. Prp. The Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights. Geneva, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. 23 September 1999. (Doc. A/54/386).

This report relates to an over-ruling made by the Supreme Court of Bangladesh in recognising the rights of a divorced Muslim woman, upon the Muslim Family Ordinance which places women in a disadvantaged position. The current legislation protecting women from 'arbitrary' divorce does not cover unregistered traditional marriages in rural settings, and the alimony is sanctioned only up to 3 months from the date of the divorce. However, the court ruling in 1998 has resulted in the restoration of a law where the alimony should continue until she remarries or dies.

100. **USAID**. *Combating trafficking in women and children in Bangladesh, Cambodia and Nepal.* [s.l]. 31 October 2003. 2p. [Source –http:// www.usaid.gov/locations/ asia_near_east/ features/trafficking ; accessed on 11 January 2004].

This article relates to the role of media and theatre in raising awareness on the issue of trafficking, among the rural poor and urban slums, where many women and girls are victims to cross border trafficking to Nepal and other countries. Assisted by USAID, Bangladesh Institute of Theatre Arts (BITA) is a travelling theatre group committed to raising awareness through plays and screening of feature films that warn people against the ill-effects of trafficking. The issue is also incorporated into the Imam training activities, so that the topic could be conveyed in the sermons given at mosques. Helping the survivors and prosecuting the traffickers is yet another activity within the campaign on anti-trafficking, where victims/survivors are helped to reintegrate into society through the centres for legal counselling, which also provide information on trafficking cases.

101. **USAID**. *Frontlines : Demographic and health surveys helped Bangladesh : Track and reduce rate of population growth. 2p.* March 2004. [Source – http:// www.usaid.gov/our_work/global_health/pop/ news/frontlines_dhs2.html ; accessed on 11 January 2005].

A fertility survey conducted in the country found that 68% of the mothers have had 'unwanted' pregnancies and only 13% of the respondents had ever used contraceptives. In order to promote maternal health and family planning, the Ministry of Health has drawn in women health advisors from the rural communities who work at satellite centres created by USAID, to offer family

planning and health care services for women. Health clinics run by local NGOs with the assistance of USAID encourage women to obtain contraceptives and go for regular health check-ups, while conducting workshops for women and girls to raise consciousness on issues related to maternal health.

102. UNFPA. *Campaign to End Fistula. P.54.* State of World Population 2004 : The Cairo Consensus at Ten : Population, reproductive health and the global effort to end poverty. New York. 2004.

[4]Obstetric Fistula is a major cause of maternal morbidity and child mortality. In Bangladesh, a large number of women live with fistula and are socially ostracised. Under the sponsorship of UNFPA, the Global Campaign to End Fistula aims to create awareness on the issue, often neglected by health care services. The campaign surveys the needs assessment and promotes the prevention and treatment of fistula. In this context, a Fistula Repair Centre is established within the Dhaka Medical College to deal with cases and train service providers in South Asia to cope with the issue.

Reaching adolescent girls in rural Bangladesh. P.79.

In Bangladesh, the average age for child bearing is 20. However, in traditional, rural societies, the existing health services tend to ignore the reproductive health needs of young girls, where information and services need to be made available to them to understand sexuality, protection from unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases and the subsequent risk of infertility. UNICEF and UNFPA, together, have sponsored a programme entitled "Kishori Abjijan" to encourage adolescent leadership of women, where reproductive health and marriage-age are focused upon. Working in partnership with the Population Council, BRAC and the Centre for Mass Education in Science, the programme is based on non-traditional, livelihood skill development training such as journalism and photography, with the aim of raising consciousness on the reproductive health/rights of women.

103. *Violence against women - Bangladesh. P.108.* Solidarity : SAARC Women's Journal. Issue.5, 1998.

Gender-based violence in Bangladesh has been a major threat to women's advancement in the recent years. This article explores the state action in terms

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[4] Obstetric fistula is a hole that forms between a woman's vagina and bladder or rectum, as a result of prolonged and obstructed labour. Fistula leads to death of the baby and causes social ostracism of the woman.

of legal reforms to combat gender violence. Considering the issue as a social problem, this paper calls for the launching of awareness-raising campaigns to sensitise both the public and the law enforcement authorities as to how to deal with gender crimes.

104. Warzazi, Halima Embarek. *Summary of information received on measures to eliminate harmful traditional practices : Bangladesh. P.23-24.* Review of further developments in fields with which the Sub-Commission has been concerned : Study on traditional practices affecting the health of women and children. [s.l]. 5 July 1991. (Doc. No : E/CN.4/ Sub.2/1991/6).

This section of the report imparts information on state measures to eliminate harmful traditional practices against women and the girl-child in Bangladesh. The Government of Bangladesh aims to eliminate violence against women and gender oppression through the implementation of:

- Dowry Prohibition Act of 1980;
- Cruelty to Women (Deterent Punishment) Ordinance, 1983;
- Child Marriage Restraint Act Amendment Ordinance, 1984;
- The Muslim Family Law Ordinance of 1961 (as amended in 1982);
- The Penal Code (Second Amendment) Ordinance providing capital punishment for causing grievous hurt as a result of acid-attacks on women.

105. Women and Global Human Rights. *The atrocity of acid attacks.* [s.l]. 5p. [Source – http://www.acidsurvivors.org/ ; accessed on 20 January 2003].

A recent trend of women's protests in Bangladesh is against acid attacks perpetrated upon women, in particular adolescent girls. In the process of asserting their human rights, women's groups believe that they have a right to reject marriage proposals in a society where women were passed from father to husband as serfs. This online paper concerns the incidence of acid attacks as a gender crime and support measures provided to victims of attack by the health care services and NGOs. Further, it explores the state legislation as the Women and Child Repression (Control) Act that sets death penalty as the maximum punishment for the offenders. In practice, this law proves ineffective in punishing the attackers, as the victim and her family are often under threat to withdraw the police complaint. Hence, it is in the interest of women's/ human rights organisations to press for a more effective law that provides protection to the victim.

106. Women Living Under Muslim Laws [WLUML]. *Grahankal (Eclipse): A documentary film. P.135-138; notes.* Fatwas against women in Bangladesh. Grabels (France). 1996.

A documentary film made by the WLUML International Solidarity Network in response to violence perpetrated against women due to religious extremism. Produced as part of an outreach programme, the film documents incidents of violence as a result of [5]Fatwas or penalties sanctioned to women by community/religious elders. Focusing on incidents that occurred during the past 2 years, the film places them in a historical context of political change, tying these events to the role of religious extremism and authoritarian politics controlling women's autonomy, and the use of religion as a tool to suppress social movements for democracy and secularism.

107. Women Living Under Muslim Laws [WLUML]. *Alert for Action.* Grabels. 9 October 1995. P..

A protest by the women's groups in Bangladesh, under the banner Sammilito Nari Samaj (United Women's Movement) launching a public campaign to protest police violence against women. The Samaj appeals for state investigation on the incident of rape and murder of Yasmin Akhtar a thirteen-year old housemaid, perpetrated by the police of Bangladesh.

108. Women Living Under Muslim Laws. *[An appeal on the case of Sultana Kamal].* [s.l], May 1995. [Grabels, (France)]. 2p.

An appeal to the police force and Ministry of Home Affairs of Bangladesh, on the case of Sultana Kamal a victim of religious fanaticism. The letter condemns the inaction of the police during the incident, and calls for urgent action against the culprits of mob violence leashed upon Sultana and her family members.

109. Women Living Under Muslim Laws [WLUML]. *Plan of Action : Dhaka. 1997.* Lahore. [1997]. 24p.

This booklet provides the strategies and programmes of WLUML to address gender-related violence in the rise of religious extremism, militarisation and cultural practices that are detrimental to women's health. Formed in response to situations that require urgent action (1984-85) against atrocities committed

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[5] Punishment sanctioned by village courts

on women, WLUML has created a network among women and women's groups within Muslim countries and communities. This women's NGO is action-oriented against gender oppression and violence targeted against women in armed conflict. The programme for 1997 falls under the following themes:

- Solidarity efforts;
- Collective projects;
- Women and law – Outreach programmes;
- Capacity building.

See also Citation Nos. 382, 462, 491, 677, 766, 795, 842, 961-63, 966, 968-71, 976, 978, 979, 981, 983-86, 990, 993, 1002, 1004, 1012 & 1022.

1.2 BHUTAN

110. Bhutan Women & Children Organisation (BWCO). *[A report on BWCO].* Prp. Pratima Khadka. Kathmandu. 16 February 1999. 9p. [Source – http://www3.undp.org/ ; accessed on 22 February 2003].

BWCO is a pioneer women's NGO established in 1990 by the Bhutanese women refugees in exile. This web document outlines their activities in terms of protecting, promoting and defending women's rights. In keeping with CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action the BWCO works towards eliminating gender-related violence and discrimination. To highlight the plight of women refugees and to create solidarity at grass root level the organisation has launched programmes of hunger strikes, group discussions and campaigns in India and Nepal.

111. *Bhutanese refugee women see action. P.4-5.* Women's Rights News. Vol.1, Issue.1. Spring/Summer 2005.

Following a [6]report published by the Women's Rights Division of Human Rights Watch, the government of Nepal, UNHCR and NGOs operating in Bhutanese refugee camps have improved security measures, created referral systems for cases of domestic violence and better coordination of health and legal services for survivors of violence. In response to the high prevalence of sexual exploitation and domestic violence in the camps, the counselling services have been improved with increased community support through "women's focal points" that monitor gender-based violence. Awareness raising initiatives with legal aid have lead to a better access to a justice system for the survivors of violence. In cases of domestic violence, the ration cards have been 'split' to make provision for women refugees, while seeking to ensure separate housing for those fleeing from abusive spouses. The Human Rights Watch constantly monitors the reforms in order to provide a greater level of independence and freedom from violence for the women refugees.

112. BRAVVE. *The empowerment of women :Opportunities realised in adversity.* [Kathmandu]. 2001. 3p. [Source – http://www.reliefweb.int ; accessed on 22 February 2003].

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[6] "Trapped by Inequality :Bhutanese refugee women in Nepal" by Human Rights Watch, September 2003.

This website explores the activities of Bhutanese Refugees Aiding Victims of Violence (BRAVVE) a community-based NGO founded by the Bhutanese women in exile. Metamorphosed from the Women's Forum of Refugees (WFR) in the camps of Nepal, BRAVVE supports women victims of rape, torture and forced displacement from Bhutan. As a positive action against the experience of violence and trauma, women refugees are provided with counselling services, social mobilisation, vocational training, access to micro-credit facilities and non-formal education to build up their self-esteem, towards economic independence.

113. CEDAW-in-Action List Archives. *[CEDAW] Educating refugee women from Bhutan.* Prp. Pratima Khadka. Kathmandu. 17 February 1999. 1p. [Source – http://www3.undp.org/ww/lists/cedaw/msg00012.html ; accessed on 22 February 2003].

This article is a summary of activities of the Bhutan Women and Children organisation (BWCO) concerning the state of refugee women living in Nepal. BWCO is a non-governmental, community-based women's organisation established to organise themselves for protection, promotion and empowerment in exile. While launching hunger-strikes and rallies to highlight the status of women refugees, the organisation is engaged in educating women on the CEDAW principles and conducts forums to create awareness of women's human rights and the rights of the child.

114. Greene-Roesel, Justin [and] Hinton, Rachel. *Gender, participation and institutional organisation in Bhutanese refugee camps. P.210-226; notes ; ref.* The myth of community : Gender issues in participatory development. Ed. Irene Guijt et al. New Delhi, Vistaar Publications. 1998.

Women constitute the most vulnerable group among those who fled to Nepal in the mid 90's as a result of political and ethnic persecution. This chapter examines how 3 organisations viz., the Refugee Development Programme (RDP), Union of National Societies for Investment in Development (UNSID) and Links in Service Fund (LSF) falling under the discipline of UNHCR, have systematically increased the participation of women refugees at all levels in camp activities. The paper highlights the framework presented by the NGOs to assess the level of women's participation and to analyse the implication of such activities, with an overall objective of enhancing women's autonomy in decision-making about matters affecting their lives, pertinent to gender/ community relations.

115. Kingdom of Bhutan. *Statement by H.E. Ambassador Om Pradhan Permanent Representative of Bhutan to the United Nations and Head of Delegation of the Kingdom of Bhutan. 2p.* Women 20000 : Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the Twenty First Century. New York. 9 June 2000.

This statement condones the status of women in Bhutan, where by law there is gender equality in matters of family, inheritance, marriage and divorce. In 1996 the national assembly amended the Marriage Act of 1980, in order to ensure that women received gender justice in marriage and divorce. With regard to women's employment, legal provisions are formulated to prevent discrimination/exploitation of women employees.

116. National Women's Studies Association [NWSA]. *NWSA/USA Workshop at the World Social forum. 2p.* Maryland. July 2004. [Source – http://www.nwsa.org; accessed on 12 September 2004].

Women refugees from Bhutan presented their cases at a [7]workshop held by NSWA in collaboration with the World Social Forum, Mumbai. This workshop formed a forum for the refugee women to express themselves on issues faced during the conflict in Bhutan, and forced migration to other Asian countries. In order to support them, two South Asian human rights groups are working in collaboration with the Government of Finland, to provide socio-monetary support for the displaced women, in particular empowerment training to enhance their status.

117. Park, Eric. *Domestic violence against women.* Transl. Wolfgang Lunscher. [Source - http://www.sawnet.com; accessed on 19 January 2003]

The author interviews Bhutanese women in the refugee camps of Nepal where the prevalence of domestic violence is high. Case studies focus on the patriarchal traditions of Bhutan reflecting patterns of wife abuse and marital rape within the camp. The interviewees expressed the fact that Nepalese and Bhutanese social structures do not acknowledge unwed-motherhood and no social network support is available for unwed mothers.

118. Royal Government of Bhutan. *National Report for the Fourth World Conference on Women to be held in Bejing (China), from 4 to 15*

[7] "Women Re-Imagining the United Nations : Making Change", Mumbai, 18 January 2004

September 1995. Thimpu. 1994. 17 p.; annex. Pre-seminar Information Package : Seminar on "Implications of the Fourth World Conference on Women for Bilateral Development Cooperation", Chennai (Madras), 23-25 April 1996.

This report refers to the legal status of women with regard to property rights, marriage and gender-based sexual violence. In keeping with the U.N. Charter, the state has established a women's institution called the National Women's Association of Bhutan (NWAB) to encourage women's participation in nation-building. Statistics on women's education, employment and health is annexed to the report.

119. *Trapped by Inequality : Bhutanese refugee women in Nepal.* 77p.; notes. Human Rights Watch. Vol.15, No. 5 (c). September 2003.

This report relates to the uneven response of UNHCR and the government of Nepal, as indicated by the high incidence of gender-based violence among Bhutanese women refugees in the camps of Nepal - domestic abuse, sexual exploitation, child marriage and trafficking of women and girls in particular. Registration procedures and access to aid in refugee camps are gender discriminatory, violating the guiding principles of UNHCR that recognizes women as heads of households to obtain humanitarian aid independently. The report, while describing the effect of changes in UNHCR guidelines for humanitarian aid and staff since 2002 and the challenges confronting refugee women serving in the camp management committees or as women's focal points, refers to the current security measures of reporting and referral systems. This report recommends that:

- Nepal and Bhutan should abide by their commitments to protect the human rights of women and children as demonstrated by their ratification of CEDAW and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC);
- Nepalese government and UNHCR should improve their response to prevent domestic violence, amend the camp registration system and promote changes in Nepalese domestic law;
- International community should share responsibility for the protection of refugee women and children –in terms of financial aid, political pressure and technical assistance;
- Donor governments, development institutions, and aid agencies should ensure that guidelines and commitments to protecting refugee women result in positive and lasting change.

120. **UNICEF.** *UNICEF - Bhutan : Committed partners in progress.* [Thimpu]. 2001. 3p. [Source – http://www.unicef.org/bhutan/ ; accessed on 29 February 2003].

This web page reports on the progress made by UNICEF in Bhutan, particularly in the area of women's reproductive health care. Faced with a situation of high maternal mortality in the country the health team of UNICEF serves the outreach-clinics and camps at district levels providing services in maternal and child health. In support of the state health care programme the UN Agency provides primary health care for women and children as a national priority.

121. UNDP. *YOU AND AIDS : The HIV/AIDS Portal for Asia Pacific : Bhutan at a glance. 2p.* [Thimpu]. December 2004. [Source – http://www.youandaids.org/ ; accessed on 15 January 2005].

Bhutan's National STD/AIDS Control Programme adopts a multi-sectoral initiative that involves all sections of the society, in particular women and children who are 'high-risk' groups to HIV/AIDS. Integrated with the decentralised administrative system, education and awareness raising on AIDS has been taken to the grass roots, and included in educational curricula as well. In partnership with UNFPA, reproductive health/HIV awareness has been created among women and adolescents through a medium-term plan developed since 1990. The activities of the plan encompass:

- Establishment of a HIV sentinel surveillance system;
- Screening of blood donation at the blood banks;
- Training health workers at all levels;
- Promotion of the use of condom as a preventive measure
- Education/information campaigns aimed at 'high-risk' groups with the support of community leaders.

122. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific [UNECSOC]. *Women and Health : Initiatives to increase women's access to health care services. P.49.* Women in Asia and the Pacific : High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Review Regional Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, 26-29 October 1999 : Proceedings. New York, United Nations. 2000.

In Bhutan the government has sanctioned high priority to programmes on maternal and child health where health and family planning services are delivered through a network of hospitals, basic health units, community health centres and outreach clinics. A reproductive health programme has been established with the aim to:

- Encourage more pregnant women to seek antenatal services;
- Decrease the number of early marriages and teenage pregnancies;
- Decrease the rate of maternal mortality.

Besides the state health personnel, village health workers programmes are established to improve the existing heath facilities and to enhance women's awareness on basic health, nutrition and family planning.

See also Citation Nos. 473, 506, 532, 554 & 976.

1.3 INDIA

123. **Aawaaz-e-Niswan.** *Aawaaz-e-Niswan : An introduction. P.1-5.* Muslim Personal law and Women : A Report of the National Conference, Mumbai, 4-6 June 1999. Bombay. August 1999.

Aawaaz-e-Niswan is a women's group whose primary objective is to work against the oppression of Muslim women, who are suffering within their families and community through the personal law that imposes a gender bias against women. Working with other women's groups with similar motives, Niswan supports individuals in distress both legally and socially. Their major activity is to help women subjected to physical and mental torture, harassed for dowry, forced into divorce through oral Talaq, forced to forfeit their maintenance (Mehr) and abandoned without any form of support. Literacy classes are held for women, in particular, the victims of violence, to increase their awareness and self-confidence. At the Sixth National Conference on Women's Movement in Ranchi (December 1997), the organisation has drawn attention to the Muslim Personal Law and the urgent need for women's education and training.

124. *Abating, or exploding. P.21-23.* The Economist. Vol.371, No.8371. 17-23 April 2003.

Government of India with the aid of the World Bank has set up the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) to oversee the anti-AIDS campaign and the efforts of various state-level organisations that are geared to control the spread of HIV/AIDS. Under this banner, the People's Health Organisation a non-governmental organisation distributes free condoms to sex workers in Mumbai, as a means to control AIDS.

125. **Aberu, Robin.** *Second wife's rights. P.58.* India Today. 2 November 1998.

Bigamous marriages are taking up a large proportion of the work of the family courts in India and it is the women who become victims of such unlawful practices. This news article condones a recent judgement of the Bombay High Court that ruled in favour of alimony to the victim of a 'second' marriage. According to women activists, the legal proceedings have sustained the woman's rights, even though bigamy is a punishable offence according to the Hindu Marriage Act.

126. *Abortion Assessment Project –India [AAP-I]. 5p.* [s.l]. 20... [Source – http:///www.cehat.org; accessed on 15 June 2004].

In India, abortion is legally permitted under prescribed conditions. However, a large number of them are performed in places other than registered, legal institutions, often by untrained persons under unhygienic conditions. This results in many a maternal death. This national project aims to review the policy on abortion care, available abortion services, women's perceptions on the quality of services provided, influence of socio-economic factors influencing the decision for abortion and the causes of abortion morbidity/ mortality. The project leads to advocacy on issues concerning the reproductive right of women, towards quality abortion services and after-care.

127. *Acid attack victim to get relief.* The Hindu. 7 May 2004.

A city court in Bangalore sentenced the perpetrator of a case of acid-attack for 5 ½ years of imprisonment and cash penalty. The victim Ms. Haseena Hussain was paid compensation to enable her to undergo treatment and surgery on her face and affected area of her body. It took a period of 5 years for the conviction of the accused, which raises the question of 'belated' judgement in a case where the victim has suffered prolonged health problems as a result of the attack.

128. *Act against eve-teasing to get more teeth.* The Hindu. 31 October 2002.

In the wake of continuing acts of eve-teasing the State Government of Tamil Nadu has introduced a Bill viz., the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Harassment of Women Act with more stringent provision. This Bill provides for life imprisonment and a heavy fine on those causing death of a woman by eve-teasing or sexual harassment. Significantly, the Bill states that the onus of proving innocence lies on the accused of having caused the "harassment death or suicide" of the victim.

129. **ActionAid India**. *Violent homes : A study of Shakthi Shalini's experience with women victims of domestic violence.* Bangalore. May 1994. 26p.; ref. (Learning from Experience Series No.1).

This study examines the systematic efforts of a women's organisation and the past achievements in providing services to women victims of violence, in particular wife abuse and family-related violence. Based in Delhi Shakthi

Shalini offers services to women seeking help and succeeds in resolving many cases of violence against women. In coordination with other women's NGOs, police, legal personnel, the organisation works towards reducing the outbreak of dowry-related violence through crisis intervention, provision of temporary shelters, skills training for economic independence, emotional support and long-term programmes for the rehabilitation of victim-survivors.

130. Agnes, Flavia. *Contesting rights over children : Custody and guardianship in matrimonial disputes. 2p.* Manushi. No.114. September – October 1999.

This essay is a critical review of a recent [8]Supreme Court ruling (2nd February 1999) which has declared the mother as a natural guardian of her children. Many have interpreted this to mean that a woman separated from the spouse as a result of family abuse/matrimonial dispute will no longer be hounded with the fear of losing her children. The author evaluates such cases under the Hindu Guardianship and Minority Act (1956) that was derived from the Guardian & Wards Act of 1890 based on English Family Law. The article stresses that, in a traditional Indian society where the divorced woman and her children are treated as a 'burden' by the natal family, a vigilant legal strategy is required to ensure regular access to her maintenance from the spouse.

131. *AIDWA Opposes clemency.* The Hindu. 30 June 2004.

The women's wing of the Communist Party of India (CPI-M) and the AIDWA have appealed to the President of India not to grant clemency to Dhananjoy Chatterjee who faces capital punishment for the pre-meditated rape and murder of a school girl. Evidently, the groups are opposed to the liberal use of death penalty, but the 'gruesome' nature of the crime has forced them to demand it. Alternatively, sex workers in Calcutta have staged a demonstration against the punishment and demanded for an exclusion of the punishment from the Penal Code.

132. *AIDWA seeks arrest of Tandon.* The Hindu. 13 April 2004.

Women's organisations have staged a public protest over the stampede and death of women at a 'sari distribution' function organised by a political leader in an area where prohibition orders were in force. The All India Democratic

[8] Case of *Geeta Hariharan* vs. *Reserve Bank of India*, 99(2) SCC. p.228.

Women's Association (AIDWA), National Federation of Indian Women (NFIW) and many women's NGOs condemn this act as a 'political gimmick' for the forthcoming elections, as an act of politicians manipulating poverty and gender for their personal interest.

133. All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health (AIIH & PH). *Respect reliance recognition : HIV/STD Intervention Project.* Calcutta. 19... P.. [Source – ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

This is a brochure on the state sponsored health programme on control of sexually transmitted diseases (STD) at the community level in Calcutta. The programme was conducted for sex workers who are marginalized socially and economically as the community 'at- risk'. Drawing sex workers, mostly women as the peer educators to access the community, the programme includes the following components:

- Provision of health services including treatment for STD;
- Information, education and communication on health;
- Prevention of STD through the Condom Programme.

The programme, with the partnership of local community organisations and the forum for sex workers ensures their rights to safe sex and health.

134. All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health (AIIH & PH). *A dream a pledge a fulfilment : Five years' stint of STD/HIV Intervention Programme [SHIP] at Sonagachi : 1992-1997.* Calcutta.. November 1997. 30p.; ill.; maps.

This report is a follow-up of SHIP, that has ceased to be a medical intervention project alone, but has assumed a wider social perspective of treating human beings with the AIDS question. Experiences gained from the programme reveals that the sex workers can be agents for social change, hence organising them for welfare and protection of their rights is an effective strategy. This document reveals the birth of Durbar Mahila Samanwaya (DMS) as a non-governmental organisation for and by the sex workers.

135. All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA). *The practice of dowry itself is a crime, not just its excess.* Dowry as a Crime-Crime as Dowry :The Expanding Dimensions of Dowry, New Delhi, 1-2 September 2002.

Surveys conducted in various states on the practice of dowry through which activists in the field are learning new methods to understand social realities. This workshop aims at linking the research and the practice of dowry through a series of questions, clarifications and interpretations. The participants stressed that the anti-dowry movement should be taken forward as a social reform movement, calling for a national campaign against dowry practices. The workshop also focussed on the negative impact of television serials and films, which portray women as 'tradition' bound and have to live with customs despite the detrimental effects on their lives.

136. All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA). *Introducing AIDWA*. New Delhi. 20... P.. [Source – ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

AIDWA is a left-oriented women's organisation committed to achieve gender equality and women's emancipation by involving women from rural and urban societies in all the states of India. This brochure outlines the activities of AIDWA, including countering domestic violence through community support, legal advocacy for the victims and campaigns to raise public awareness on the issue.

137. Alternative for India Development [AID]. *National Human Rights Commission [NHRC] : Are women to gain?* Prp. K.S. Sunanda. Chennai (Madras). September 1994. 4p.

This is a critique by AID on the role of NHRC with regard to gender based violence in India. Referring to Article 12 of the State Constitution, this paper questions the stand taken in case of female infanticide, crude/unhygenic abortion and other forms of violence against women. The document highlights the NGO campaign held in Dharmapuri District of Tamil Nadu against the prevalence of female infanticide prevalent in the tribal communities. AID is a non-governmental community organisation working in the States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Tamil Nadu against domestic and traditional forms of violence perpetrated against women, raising awareness towards the vital need for family planning and conducting community health programmes.

138. Amnesty International. *Defending human rights in India. P...* [London]. 26 April 2000. (AI Index :ASA 20/008/2000).

This web document highlights incidence of violence perpetrated against women/ human rights activists by state machinery. In July 1998 a series of criminal cases were filed against the director and members of Bal Rashmi Society of

Rajasthan, which had conducted a campaign to bring justice to a victim of gang rape in Jaipur. Evidently, a girl was raped inside a women's hostel by 15 men including a police officer. The campaign focused on the failure of police to arrest the perpetrators, and was critical of the state non-intervention in this case. Subsequently, Alice Garg the director, and members of the society were accused of criminal offences, taken into police custody and forced to 'confess' to such crimes. After much international pressure and intervention from the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) the government ordered a probe into the allegations, which recommended that the cases be withdrawn. These cases held at the Magistrate's court did not receive due justice, but the High Court of Rajasthan found these allegations 'false' and the activists were released on bail. In this appeal, Amnesty International calls upon the Government of India to "protect human rights defenders and to take steps to ensure that they carry out their work freely."

139. Amnesty International. *India : The battle against fear and discrimination : The impact of violence against women in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan* . [London]. 8 May 2001. 53p. (Doc. ASA 20/016/2001).

Providing information on the nature of gender violence suffered by rural women of oppressed castes and indigenous origin, this report comments on the responsibilities of the Government of India to protect women, especially those belonging to marginalized groups. This document, supplemented with case studies contains briefs on campaigns by women activists against gender related violence on tribal women and those belonging to oppressed castes. It also includes a critical evaluation of the response of the law enforcers in accepting complaints, legislation dealing with gender crimes and the stand taken by National Commission for Women (NCW) in protecting and preventing such crimes. Recommendations are addressed to both the state and the central governments within the framework of women's human rights and that of marginalized communities.

140. Amnesty International. *India : Dealth penalty/imminent execution, Dhananjoy Chatterjee (M). 22 June 2004. (AI Index ASA 20/008/2004)*

The Amnesty opposes death penalty as a violation of human rights, as sanctioned in a recent case of rape and murder of a school girl in her home in Calcutta. The case was taken from the Trial Court to the Supreme Court, and ultimately granting capital punishment to the accused, due to the 'savage' nature of the crime.

141. Amnesty International. *India : Government should respond to concerns expressed by Human Rights Committee.* London. 1 August 1997. 2p. (AI Index. ASA 20/40/97).

The Human Rights Committee of the ICCPR (International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights) expresses its concern on incidence of custodial violence, in particular custodial rape and torture, in the Northeast of India and Jammu/ Kashmir suffering a prolonged armed conflict, with the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act in operation. The Committee urges the Government of India to examine the provisions of the Act, to determine if it is compatible with the Covenant to which India is a state party.

142. Amnesty International. *Public statement : India : AI Campaigns against rape and sexual abuse by members of the security forces in Assam and Manipur.* 2p.12 November 1998. (AI Index. ASA 20/28/29).

Members of AI urge the Central Government and state authorities in India to take immediate steps to prevent sexual torture of women and children by armed forces in Assam and Manipur where the Armed Forces Special Powers Act has given them endless powers, in particular to search the homes of civilians. The statement highlights the commitment of the government at the Fourth UN Conference on Women (1995) to review national legislation in order to eliminate violence against women, prosecute the offenders, to adopt/strengthen laws to punish state agents involved in such offences and to take effective action against the perpetrators.

143. Annamalai, S. *Focus on VAW : Campaign against torture : Call to new government.* The Hindu. 23 May 2004.

Violence against women is a major theme in a campaign launched against torture in the State of Tamil Nadu. People's Watch a local NGO is in the forefront of this campaign, conducting a trainers' session to sensitize social/ voluntary workers on the issue of gender violence. While stressing on the enforcement of the UN Optional Protocol against Torture, the organisation has drawn in political parties to take part in this state-wide campaign. Furthermore, the Watch works with other human rights agencies and UN bodies to document cases of violence against women taken to courts and follows up on the proceedings. A public hearing is underway for women victims/ survivors of gender violence to relate their experience.

144. Ankur [and] Action India et al. *Delhi Women's Petititon : Women oppose war. P.278-283.* Terror counter-terror : Women speak out. Ed. Ammu Joseph et al. New Delhi, Kali for Women. 2003.

This document is a public statement issued by women's organisations and human rights activists protesting against militarization and armed conflict. The statement places emphasis on the patriarchal nature of war and religious fundamentalism, as well as the increasing communalisation of politics, that leads to violence and war in India and Pakistan, in which women are the prime targets. While believing that armed violence is in no way a substitute for a democratic dialogue, the movement leads to struggles and processes based on respect for human life in a pluralistic, peaceful world.

145. *Anweshi Women's Counselling Centre. 2p.* [Kozhikode]. 2004. [Source – http://www.vyaparinet.com/1oldweb/Anweshi/casehistory.htm ; accessed on 19 January 2004].

Anweshi, originated from the women's movement against gender-related violence in the state of Kerala, is a part of Kerala Sthree Vedi (KSV) which is a joint action group of the movement. With an aim to eliminate all forms of violence against women, the centre comprises a network of community workers with collective intervention in cases of gender violence, in particular those of domestic and family abuse. While receiving referrals from the law enforcers, Anweshi offers counselling, legal aid and community support to victims of violence. The centre also conducts literacy workshops at the grass root level, with campaigns to create awareness on sexual harassment and other gender issues.

146. *Appeal against first death sentence to woman prisoner in India. P.13.* WLUML Newsheet. Vol.X, No.1. April 1998.

This news item concerns the efforts of National Commission for Women that is a state body working for women's human rights. The Commission, on grounds of humanity has appealed to the President to revoke the death sentence passed on a woman, as the murder was not pre-meditated.

147. *Arab national harasses teen-aged wife, held. 1p.* [Chennai]. Chennaionline News. 26 May 2004. [Source–*http://www.chennaionline.com*; accessed on 19 June 2004].

The city police has arrested an elderly man of UAE nationality for harassing his teenage wife. Police swung into action after receiving a complaint from

Ms.Haseena Begum an Indian citizen, that her husband was planning to re-marry after 2 days of their marriage, offering 'bride money' through a marriage broker. The case has been booked under Section 498(A) dealing with dowry harassment and 420 for cheating.

148. Aravamudan, Gita. *Whose baby is she anyway?.* The Hindu. 16 October 1994.

This news article concerns the widespread incidence of female infanticide and the efforts of the Indian Council for Child Welfare (ICCW) to prevent the crime. The Cradle Baby Scheme introduced by the State Government of Tamil Nadu has managed to rescue a few of the baby girls. In the meantime, the ICCW has announced incentives to mothers of baby girls through the provision of income generating ventures and long-term monetary benefits to the daughters. These have proven successful in some cases, but the sex ratio is still on the decline.

149. *'Arrest declining sex ratio?'*. The Hindu. 11 July 2004.

Women's organisations and action groups have launched a campaign against pre-birth elimination of baby girls to raise consciousness on the 'silent' killings of female foetuses. Referring to the declining sex ratio in the country, the groups call for help from the medical fraternity, the source responsible for female foeticide, and to set up a mechanism to track the 'missing' girls.

150. Arnold, J.P. Saulina. *Network - a strategy for prevention of female f[o]eticide and infanticide. P.81-83.* Female f[o]eticide in Tamil Nadu : Report of the state level Consultation, Chennai, 2-3 December 1998. Ed. Sabu M.George et al. Madurai, Society for Integrated Rural Development (SIRD).

Foeticide and infanticide of the girl child arises out of deep-rooted patriarchal beliefs of son-preference. Despite the legislation to control the crime, scanning centres deploy sex determination techniques that are not covered under any law and the medical practitioners are seldom gender sensitive. This paper draws attention to the action of NGOs through the formation of community network to create consciousness and to promote safe family planning services as a tangible alternative to female foeticide. The paper argues that the state should provide free education and employment opportunities for girls and encourage 'group marriages', so that the financial burden of bringing up daughters is eased upon families.

151. Asian Development Bank [ADB]. *About ADB Objectives : Improving the status of women.* 2p. 2001. [Source – http://www.adb.org ; accessed on 19 June 2003]

Providing economic opportunities for poor women is one of the objectives of ADB, implemented through their Gender and Development (GAD) Action Plan. This section of the website refers to the Urban development and Coastal Environmental Management project of Karnataka that deals with the issue of gender and poverty and issues of domestic and sexual violence faced by the rural, poor women. This project, falling within the framework of poverty alleviation provides economic opportunities for the rural women towards their economic self-reliance in a violence-free environment.

152. Asian Women's Human Rights Council [AWHRC] et al. *Dowry : Some growing reflections : P.3-13.* Speaking tree, Womenspeak : Asia-Pacific Hearing on Crimes against Women related to the Violence of Development. [s.l], AWHRC & Vimochana. 28 January 1995.

Dowry is a traditional form of 'gift' to the bride at the time of her marriage. Publicly condemned and privately practiced, this cultural practice has lead to the death or suicides of young women who are maltreated by in-laws on the pretext of 'not bringing enough'. This part of the publication relates to 3 testimonies pertaining to dowry-related deaths in the state of Karnataka and their legal status during the trial. Vimochana, a women's NGO from Bangalore, has received cases of dowry-related violence/deaths from the parents of the victim or from the victim herself who has struggled to survive.

Female infanticide : Through modern times. P. 14-21.

This chapter refers to the incidence of female infanticide reported in Tamil Nadu and the response of the state to combat such violence. With testimonies on female infanticide in the Kallar community, the document briefs on action taken by the social workers from the Family Planning Programme of Tamil Nadu. Sponsored by the state, the Cradle Baby Scheme accepts abandoned baby girls, sends them to the state-run Baby Welfare Centre, and later for adoption. State "incentives" to keep daughters with the family and to undergo voluntary sterilisation are mentioned here.

Witch hunting : The Dayans of development : Mojho. P. 42-52.

Witch-hunt is a traditional form of communal violence against women in indigenous societies. This article provides testimonies on witch-hunt as told by the survivors of such violence, and refers to the works of Paschim Banga Kheria Sabar Kalyan Samiti, a women's non-governmental organisation committed to the empowerment of tribal women.

Narmada : Her stories of dreams, dams and displacement. P. 54-67.

A hearing on the experiences of women victims displaced as a result of the Sardar Sarovar Project and the 'rehabilitation' policy of the Government of India. Women activists have played an important role in the resistance movement against the project that forcibly displaces thousands of people and uses a vast amount of agricultural land for the purpose of building a multi-crore irrigation dam. The movement has protested against the decision made by the Government and the World Bank which funds the project, to reconsider this issue as a form of violence against agricultural workers and the devastation of nature.

Chronicle of a demolition : P. 73-79.

This refers to the protests of YUVA - a human rights NGO, against the forcible displacement of women from urban slums in Maharashtra. Under the urbanisation policy of the state, domestic workers who are women of oppressed castes, urban poor and indigenous origins have been 'uprooted' by the police and state authorities by perpetrating violence upon them and without providing a tangible alternative. YUVA appeals to the Women's Commission of Maharashtra to take action against state violence perpetrated on under-privileged women who are pavement-dwellers and residents of the urban slum.

Bhopal : Their tears refuse to dry : Razia Bi. P. 91-94.

This is a testimony of women victims of the [9]Bhopal tragedy, whose spouses died as a result of environmental poisoning. The testimonies while relating to the problems in seeking state support and the delay exercised by the state in condoning the role played by a women's NGOs – the Bhopal Gas Peedith Mahila Udyog Sanghattan in providing support for victims to make a fresh start.

153. Ashok, Shyamala. *Indian sex workers advocacy forum discusses police violence.* 6 June 2002. 2p. [Source – http://www.nswp.org/ ; accessed on 10 July 2003].

This web report concerns the activities of [10]Forum for the Advocacy and Rights of the Sex Workers (FARS) a national support group for sex workers

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9 In 1985, Bhopal was polluted by the leakage of poisonous gas from a factory, killing thousands of people and made many more disabled and homeless.

10 Fifth Discussion of the Forum for the Advocacy and Rights of the Sex Workers (FARS), Chennai 13-14 April 2002.

expressing concern regarding police violence leashed upon the sex workers and their families. Held under the sponsorship of UNAIDS the forum highlights the incidence of police violence and the activities of the national network of sex workers collectively working on HIV/AIDS prevention and human rights issues. Their activities encompass public hearings in the major cities of India and demonstrations for the rights of sex workers and sensitivity of law enforcers. A dialogue has been held with NGOs working on anti-trafficking and HIV/AIDS interventions to work out a common plan towards the rescue and rehabilitation of victims.

154. Barge, Sandya et al. *Abortion : Accessibility and uitlization. P.36-40; ref.* Seminar. No.532. December 2003.

The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act was implemented in India 3 decades ago to counter the high prevalence of illegal/unsafe abortions which lead to a high degree of maternal morbidity/mortality. Under the MTP Act (1971) implemented to counter the high percentage of illegal/unsafe abortions that lead to maternal morbidity/mortality, abortion can be performed by a registered medical practitioner who has the necessary qualifications, training and experience, only under prescribed facilities that meet the standards specified by the Rules and Regulations of the Act. This paper relates to a study conducted by research agencies under the National Abortion Assessment Project. The survey done in the various states examines the level of MTP services provided by the State – from primary health care centres upwards. Evidently, the availability and quality of MTP services remain the same over the years, creating a climate conducive to review the abortion policy, law and service delivery in India. Further, the registration procedure for abortion clinics, in particular those in small towns and sub-urban locations are lengthy and cumbersome. Hence many women have little or no access to safe abortion services. Debates among policy makers, service providers and researchers have lead to some amendments in the Act, simplifying the registration procedure for private clinics by decentralizing the process, and evolving a separate procedure to establish the facilities for abortion services. Under this amendment the 'illegal' provider of abortion services are facilitated to become the 'legal' providers, thereby improving women's access to safe abortion services.

Witch hunting : The Dayans of development : Mojho. P. 42-52.

Tribal women, especially those in the State of Maharashtra are harassed and even killed on the suspicion that they are witches. This article cites testimonies of witch- hunting, as narrated by the victims with special reference to Paschim

Banga Kheria Sabar Kalyan Samiti a community-based group for women, for their efforts towards the empowerment of indigenous women.

155. *Bail for women held in lynching case.* The Hindu. 19 August 2004.

This is a news item of an extraordinary case, where a group of slum-women from Nagpur lynched a gangster outside the court house. This outrageous action is a result of the victimisation of many women slum-dwellers through rape and extortion by the deceased and no action being taken after 24 cases had been registered with the police over a period of 10 years. The Sangh Parivar, many women's/human rights groups and legal personnel have supported the women in recognition of their prolonged victimisation. According to the National Commission for Women, "..the women had the right to defend themselves in such a circumstance"

156. Bandyopadhyay, Sandip. *A note on the NFE Programme. P. 9.* Namaskar. Vol.2, No.2. August 1997.

A literacy project for the empowerment of sex workers in Mumbai launched as part of STD/HIV Intervention Programme (SHIP). Through this project, non-formal education is provided to sex workers and their families, and for the community at large.

157. Baneerjee, Sudheshna. *Education programme : A new approach. P. 18.* Namaskar. Vol.3, No.1. November 1998.

A commentary on the non-formal education programme implemented for sex workers through the STD/HIV Intervention Programme. The education wing of the programme serves to reveal the socio-cultural, physical and psychological dimensions to the profession, networking of sex workers, their movement and empowerment of the community. It also provides guidance to the peer educators - nurses, teachers and supervisors.

158. Basu, Amrita. *Hindu women's activism in India and the questions it raises. P. 167-183; notes.* Resisting the sacred and the secular : Women's activism and politicised religion in South Asia. Ed. Patricia Jeffery and Amrita Basu. New Delhi, Kali for Women. 1999.

This paper is a criticism of the women's groups nurtured by political groups that perpetrate religious extremism, where women's activism is the

reinforcement of the conventional gender-linked roles within the broader public sphere. Women members harnessed by the ring-wing groups, become skilled in organising demonstrations, campaigning for elections and trained in the use of arms and ammunition. However, the concept of women's activism against gender-related violence is not expressed in terms of violation of women's human rights. The groups, while issuing statements condemning violence against women do not campaign to oppose this - avoiding issues such as dowry-deaths in the course of accepting the system of dowry.

159. Basu, Monmayee. *Hindu women and Marriage Law : From sacrament to contract.* New Delhi, Oxford University Press. 2001. 153p.; glossary; append.; biblio.; index.

This volume attempts to examine the marital problems of Hindu women, their social perception and what legislative reforms were brought in order to enhance the status of married Hindu women. It also analyses the success of legal reforms pertaining to issues of child marriage, dowry, [11]Sati, widow remarriage and divorce during the past 150 years. In reviewing the Acts of the:

- Age of Consent (1891);
- Widow Remarriage (1956);
- Dowry Prohibition (1961);
- Hindu Marriage (1955);
- Hindu Succession (1956) that concerns women's right to parental property.

The author concludes that the legal reforms in practice, are not beneficial in terms of 'social and family acceptance' of women victims of domestic abuse and traditional forms of violence.

160. Baxi, Pratiksha. *Sexual harassment.* [s.l]. 7p.; notes; ref. 20... [Source-http://www.india-seminar.com/ 2001/; accessed on 19 July 2003].

An exploration of the issue of eve-teasing that is a form of sexual harassment in public places, this paper highlights the efforts made by the Gender Study Group, Delhi University. The group in an attempt to shed light on sexual harassment recognised as a quasi-crime, has produced statistics among students on the nature of eve-teasing and the impact on women. This action, acting as an anchor to the local level policing, has lead to the inclusion of a special chapter entitled *Crimes Against Women* in the Crimes in India Report of 1995,

[11] Widow immolation, glorified by religious extremism.

drawing up a set of classificatory practices to combat the offence. It is evident, that the police force is now in a position to interpret the law under 'social categories' and intervene in cases of this nature. In this context, the strategic establishment of the Crimes Against Women Cell by the police department is acknowledged. This paper also reviews the role of women's movements in shedding light on eve-teasing as a form of sexual harassment, enabling the law enforcement machinery to take action on reported cases

161. Bhagat, Rasheeda. *'Put a stop to domestic violence' – Dr. Sarah Mathew, President Feminist Association for Social Action.* The Hindu Business Line. 25 March 2000. 4p. [Source – http://www.hinduonnet.com/; accessed on 20 July 2003].

Women activists and NGOs working to combat domestic and family violence are concerned with the lacunae in the Protection of Domestic Violence Bill that awaits the parliament hearing. They have made suggestions for the proposed law to make it more comprehensive and effective. This interview with the president of a women's association (Chennai branch) draws attention to the following recommendations made by them:

- Definition of domestic violence should include psychological violence, in addition to the physical form (assault, battery) as stipulated by CEDAW;
- The role played by the Protection Officer should extend beyond the Magistrate's Court and made accountable for cases taken up by the Family Courts where the redress covers counselling, compensation and medical assistance to the victim
- Economic support provided for the victim and her children within the process of rehabilitation, as a deterrent for further violence. Offenders should be made to pay a penalty to the victim;
- Victims of domestic violence should be given the right to reside in a shared household.

162. Bhattacharya, Manjima. *The Railway Campaign : Fighting sexual violence on trains. P.26-30.* Manushi.No.130. 2002.

Women's groups in Delhi have demanded gender secure travel conditions for women, reclaiming women's rights to safe public transport without the threat or fear of sexual abuse. The campaign launched on 8 March 1998 has lead to an interface of sustained public action and advocacy, mobilising support from women's groups all over the country. As a follow-up to a case petitioned by

Jagori (a women's NGO in Delhi), a public campaign was initiated on women's rights to free movement. Upon hearing the case, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued directives to the railway authorities to take action to ensure the safety of women passengers in trains. This is an acknowledgement of the fear of sexual abuse faced by women in public space, and the deployment of state machinery to protect women from sexual violence in public. The NHRC directives provide an opportunity to take the struggle forward and to apply pressure on the railway authorities to facilitate the lodging of official complaints, in order to seek gender justice.

163. Bhattacharya, Saurabh. *Sex workers see freedom in rules and regulations. P. 12-14.* Maiti. Vol.1, No.5. July-August 1999.

This article focuses on issues of exploitation and abuse faced by sex workers in India and the lack of legal provisions to safeguard them. Accordingly, India has no specific laws on prostitution but only a related legislation, the Suppression of Immoral Trafficking Act that merely regulates the flow of women into prostitution. Durbar Mahila Samanway Committee, a forum for sex workers demands for state recognition of the workers so that the women could be saved from extortion and violence.

164. *Bill justifying battery introduced on Women's Day.* 1p. [s.l]. 8 March 2002. [Source – http://www.sawnet.org/news/; accessed on 14 August 2004].

Women's organisations in India, in particular the Lawyers Collective Women's Rights Initiatives are strongly opposed to the Prevention of Domestic Violence Bill No.13 of 2002 introduced in the parliament, as the Bill excludes the following non-negotiables:

- The definition of domestic violence does not include mental, sexual and economic abuses;
- Victims of domestic violence are not granted the right to reside in the 'shared household';
- Empowering the judges to grant residence orders, orders restraining dispossession and mandatory repossession of the matrimonial homes;
- Provision for emergency monitory relief to the victim and her dependent children;
- Mandate for monitoring and effective implementation of the law and nomination of a Coordinator for the prevention of domestic violence;

- Provision of training for law enforcement authorities and protection officers;
- Mandatory counselling for the abuser, in the interest of the victim;
- Powers to the Civil Courts to deal exclusively with cases of domestic abuse, to avoid multiple litigations.

165. Biswas, Soutik. *Storm over Indian women's mosque. 3p.* London, BBC News. 27 January 2004. [Source – http://www.hvk.org/articles/ ; accessed on 12 March 2004].

This is a news article condoning the efforts of the Muslim Women's Movement, in demand for a place of worship. Stemming from a traditional, male-dominated community the women urge that they need a common place of worship and to be involved in the community ruling on marriage/divorce, domestic abuse, child custody and cases on family dispute.

166. Bochasanwasi Shree Akstar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha [BAPS]. *Anti-dowry campaign.* 1999. 2p. [Source – http://rajkot.com/swaminarayana/campaigns.htm; accessed 15 June 2003]

Dowry is a traditional form of evil that is a deciding factor for many marriages in Indian society. Most families, in particular, the impoverished ones are burdened by dowry demands and for the poorest the only way out is to kill the newborn daughters. BAPS has launched a campaign against the practice of dowry in public assemblies, private gathering and youth conventions, encouraging youth to pledge against the acceptance of dowry. Thousands of young men and women attending the International Youth Convention of BAPS (1990) committed themselves neither to accept nor to give dowry. Non-dowry mass marriages are organised by BAPS as part of their campaign, for the poor could not meet the cost of marriage ceremonies. The marriages are conducted under a single canopy, in the traditional Vedic manner that is accepted by the Hindu Marriage Act of India.

167. Butalia, Urvashi. *Women. P. 81-129.* The other side of silence : Voices from the partitioning of India. New Delhi, Viking Publishers. 1998.

This text is an exploration of the socio-legal status of thousands of women abducted, raped and forced into marriage and religious conversion during the Indo-Pak partitioning in 1947, emphasising on the responses to violence perpetrated against women across the boundaries. It probes into the activities

of state governments and voluntary organisations in terms of search- committees to trace abducted women and nation-wide campaigns for social acceptance of the abducted women, while stressing the need to redefine "purity" and "chastity" in times of communal violence perpetrated against women. This chapter evaluates the efforts made by the All Pakistan Women's Association in their campaign for arranged marriages of women victims who were 'recovered' and 'returned'. Further, efforts made by the Government of India to open rehabilitation camps brought in many victims of violence who faced death in the hands of their family members for "betrayal of family honour".

168. *Calcutta Declaration : Asian prostitutes meet to demand legal status.* Prp. Carol Leigh. 30 July 1998. 11p. [Source – ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

This document highlights the events of the First National Conference of Sex Workers held in Calcutta in November 1997, where the sex workers demand a well-defined legislation for sex work and legal status of the workers. Concerned with the epidemic of HIV/AIDS, the sex workers are pressuring for better working conditions conducive to the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases. This three-day conference has resulted in the development of a sex workers' manifesto that is based on the movement for legal recognition of the profession and basic human rights.

169. Centre for Feminist Legal Research [CFLR]. *Memorandum on reforms of laws related to sexual offenses.* Prp. Shomona Khanna & Ratna Kapur. New Delhi. 27 February 1996. 50p.

Sexual violence against women is an important part of the agenda of the contemporary women's movement in India, leading to significant legal reforms in recent times. This memorandum seeks to analyse the assumptions on which the current rape law is based and argues in favour of a legal recognition of woman's bodily integrity and her sexual autonomy. It also evaluates the draft proposed by the Ad-Hoc Sub-Committee of the National Commission for Women (NCW), suggesting new legislation on sexual assault/violence against children and adolescents. In keeping with India's ratification of the CEDAW and a long-standing experience with the failure of the laws in apprehending gender-based violence, specific recommendations are made to amend/reform the laws related to rape and child sexual abuse.

170. Centre for the Health and Gender Equity [CHANGE]. *Studies on the implications of health sector reforms for reproductive health and rights in India and Tanzania : An update on current research efforts.* [s.l]. June 2002. 9p.

In India, the key indicators of reproductive health and gender equity reveal a declining sex ratio, limited access to safe abortion services, persistent high rates of maternal mortality and fertility, as well as the lack of choice within the family planning programmes. CHANGE is carrying out a nation-level policy analysis of health sector reforms that address the issue of women's reproductive health and rights, such as the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) programme that is meant to reduce maternal and infant morbidity, provide services to reduce pregnancy wastage and infection while preventing female infanticide. In Tamil Nadu, the family planning programme has achieved a 'fertility decline' that relies mainly on female surgical sterilisation rather than the issue of age of marriage for women, causing a reduction in fertility disproportionately on marginalized communities and younger women. Also, women continued to face constraints due to the lack of decision-making power on reproductive issues, exertion of male authority over sexuality and the problem of dowry. This research, in Tamil Nadu aims to understand the structures that support the national RCH programme, provides perceptions on the issues of reproductive health care, community's access to its services, women's constraints to the use of contraceptives and other reproductive health needs, and the implication of political and financial decentralisation on the RCH programmes at state level.

The RCH programme in the state of Kerala is implemented district-wise, with no specific initiative to reform the health sector, even though the Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRI) are expected to allocate 15% of their budget on education and health care. This study lead to the examination of women's reproductive health care within the health sector, role of the primary health care system in delivering reproductive health services, local political agenda for women's health needs and the dynamics of women's reproductive health care in terms of gender equity, socio-economic and cultural factors.

171. Centre for Women's Development Studies [CWDS]. *Gendering of communal violence in India : The historical production of backwardness: A study of Uttar Pradesh. P.15-16.* Annual Report: 2001-2002. New Delhi.

This study highlights the impact of communal violence on families, in particular women and children in the cities of Banaras and Aligarh. Conducted in the form of interviews with women in the weaving community, middle class, as well as government officials, political/community leaders, school teachers and educationists, this research was followed up by a questionnaire-based survey and monitoring of local news media. The study seeks to uncover the level of gender relations within the community of weavers and to assess the impact of the communal riots on women weavers as an overall constriction of the spaces available to them.

172. **Chakravarti, Uma et al.** [12]*Reclaiming Spaces : Gender politics on a university campus. 36p.; notes; biblio.* "Gender & Violence", Hambantota, 11-14 July 2005. [Unpublished].

This paper details 2 women's action groups - Gender Study Group (GSG) and Forum Against Sexual Harassment (FASH), on anti-sexual harassment campaign in universities. The paper draws on their long-term efforts on raising consciousness, to pronounce the offence as a violation of women's right to bodily integrity. The drafting of a policy against sexual harassment as a punishable offence, has put pressure on universities to create an environment free from gender discrimination, and to institutionalise structures and mechanisms for prevention and redressal.

173. *Church leaders angered by divorce law amendments.* 17 November 2000. 1p. [Source–http://www.rediff.com/news/2000/nov/17church.htm; accessed on 19 March 2004].

An amendment to the Christian Divorce Law has caused great concern to the Joint Women's programme and the National Council of Churches, as it leads to gender bias. The proposed amendment to the Indian Divorce Act (1869) permits Christian men to divorce their wives purely on grounds of adultery, whereas under the same Act women need additional reasons besides adultery – cruelty, bigamy, desertion etc. to get a divorce. The groups strongly urge the government not to proceed with the proposed amendments without consulting the Christian community, as they doubt if this would really benefit the women.

174. **CIDA [Canadian International Development Agency]**. *Activism at its Best : Aawaz-e-Niswan.* Canada and South Asia : Partners for the new century. 11 June 2002. 1p. [Source – http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca; accessed on 22 July 2003].

Aawaz-e-Niswan, a Mumbai-based women's NGO provides guidance for victims of domestic violence to work out alternatives for themselves. They accompany the victims through the various legal channels to receive gender justice and legal settlements. Involved in public protests and campaigns against gender-based violence, the Niswan conducts literacy classes for the women and provides social support enabling them to change the oppressive traditions and customs that hinder their personal development.

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[12] Forthcoming as "Gender & Violence", published by ICES, Colombo.

175. **CIMEL (Centre for Islamic & Middle Eastern Law) [and] INTERIGHTS (The International Centre for the Legal Protection of Human rights).** *India. p.12-16.* Directory : Initiatives to address 'Crimes of Honour'. London. December 2002.

This directory concerns the activities of individuals and organisations committed towards combating violence against women deep-rooted through traditional norms and practices in India – family violence, dowry-related abuse, child marriage, forced marriage, maltreatment of widows and honour killings in traditional communities. It encompasses lawyers, activists, researchers, state officials, community-based organisations and women's/human rights institutions listing out their specific tasks and contact information.
In particular, activities of AIDWA, Lawyers Collective (Women's Rights) Mahila Saravangen Utkash Mandal (MASUM), Sakshi and the Rural Education for Development Society (REDS) are acknowledged here. The directory enables networking and exchanging information on multiple strategic actions among activists/institutions to combat violence against women.

176. **Cochin University of Science & Technology. Gender Justice Committee.** *Notice.* [Cochin]. 2p. [Source-http://www.csrindia.org; accessed on 18 July 2004].

This is an outcome of the judgement on Vishaka & Others vs. State of Rajasthan and Others in August 1997 where the Supreme Court provided directives to all employers to look into problems of sexual harassment of employees at their workplace. Citing the code of conduct for a workplace as prescribed by the National commission for Women, the notice lists the categories under which a complaint could be made to the Committee.

177. **Coomaraswamy, Radhika.** *India. P. 34.* Integration of the human rights of women and the gender perspective : Violence against women : Report of the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its causes and consequences. Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy, in accordance with Commission on Human rights resolution 1995/85 : Addendum : Communications to and from Governments. 10 March 1999. 47p.; notes. (Doc. E/CN.4/1999/68).

In this report the Rapporteur expresses concern about the high prevalence of gender violence in India, in particular domestic and family violence against women where few steps have been taken to prevent, investigate and prosecute the offenders. She calls upon the Government of India to take effective measures to prevent the increasing levels of violence and to provide adequate support and remedies for the victims.

178. Coomaraswamy, Radhika. *India. P.10.* Integration of the human rights of women and the gender perspective : Violence against women : Report of the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its causes and consequences. Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy, in accordance with the Commission on Human Rights resolution 1997/44 : Addendum : Communications to and from Governments. 27 January 2000. 26p.; append. (Doc. E/CN.4/2000/68/Add.1).

The United Nations Special Rapporteur has sent an urgent appeal to the Government of India on the question of torture and the rights to freedom of expression in connection with the police arrest made on women activists who had peacefully protested against the Maheshwar Dam Project in the State of Madhya Pradesh. Police has threatened the women, saying that they would be stripped naked in public if they continued to protest against the forced eviction of communities and environmental degradation of the upcoming dam.

179. Coomaraswamy, Radhika. *India. P. 29-37.* Integration of the human rights of women and the gender perspective : Violence against women : Report of the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its causes and consequences. Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy, in accordance with Commission on Human rights resolution 2000/45 : Addendum : Mission to Bangladesh, Nepal and India on the issue of trafficking of women and girls (28 October-15 November 2000). 6 February 2001. 40p.; append. (Doc. E/CN.4/2001/73/ Add.3).

This aspect of the report condones the legal framework of India in providing for family violence, trafficking of women and children, prostitution and sexual harassment at workplaces. In keeping with the state constitution against gender discrimination and gender-based violence, the National Commission for Women (NCW) has committed to protecting women's rights by conducting programmes on legal awareness and assuming the powers of civil courts to investigate cases of gender crimes. The Department of Women and Children's Development in operation with NCW implements the National Plan of Action to address trafficking of women and prevention of HIV/AIDS and through raising consciousness as to the availability of health services for sex workers, with state-run rescue centres, shelter homes and welfare programmes for the victims. The report also looks into the criminal justice system with respect to the support of victims rescued from traffickers, and the police action towards gender crimes. International agencies in partnership with local NGOs conducted awareness-raising programmes on sex trafficking as a social issue. In this context, the self-help NGOs that aim to provide support for the sex workers face a challenge in addressing the problem of forced prostitution and rehabilitation of sex workers.

180. *Court notice to "Boys' producer.* p... Desi Talk. 3 October 2003. [Source – http://www.desitalk.newsindia-times.com; accessed on 17 December 2003].

This news item is with regard to the screening of a movie that depicts women as sex objects through 'objectionable' scenes. The All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA) undertook a protest march against the screening of the movie 'Boys' demanding that the film be banned. Following a public interest suit filed against the movie, the Chennai High Court has issued notices to the producer and to the Regional Board on Film Certification for a hearing.

181. Das, Prafulla. *Witch-hunt in Orissa. P.41-43.* Frontline. 3 June 2005.

Witch-hunt is a traditional form of violence against women, prevalent among the tribal communities. A combination of illiteracy, poverty, supersitition and lack of medical care, the problem is linked to the inadequacy of welfare programmes in rural, tribal areas. This article highlights the efforts made by the police of Orissa, in partnership with Orissa Rationalist Association to launch a campaign against this superstition among the tribes. The National Human Rights Commission had undertaken to investigate cases of witch-hunt where women are physically abused, tortured and murdered at times. The commission recommends that the civil society and law authorities should join hands to combat this evil practice and activate women's self-help groups in the area to raise awareness to prevent this detrimental practice.

182. Dave, Anjali [and] Solanki, Gopika. *Journey from violence to crime... : A study of domestic violence in the City of Mumbai.* Tata Institute of Social sciences. 2001. 190p.; tables; annex.; biblio.

Conventionally the police authority has been viewed as faceless, mysterious, unchangeable and powerful behind 'closed doors', particularly when it comes to handling crimes against women. The Special Cell for Women & Children of the Mumbai Police in collaboration with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences is an example of the impact of the women's movement on the police system. This volume elaborates on the issue of gender-based violence against women through an analysis of records of the Special Cell and case studies on family violence registered under Section 498 A of the Indian Penal Code aiming to audit the state response towards gender crimes, action of law enforcers, legal procedures adopted to bring the perpetrators to the courts and support rendered to the victims of violence. Recommendations are provided to the police and legal personnel to enhance their investigative capacities on gender crimes.

Specific comments are given on the legal sphere on comprehensive laws to deal with the civil and criminal requirements to help out the victims.

183. Dave, Anjali [and] Solanki, Gopika. *Special cells for women and children : A research study on domestic violence. P.25-32.* Domestic violence in India : A summary report of four record studies. Washington D.C., International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW). May 2000.

The Special Cell, set up in 1984 is a result of the collaboration between Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) and the Mumbai Police, as an outcome of the women's movement against domestic violence. TISS provides training for social workers and police officers to develop their infrastructure and administrative abilities to cope with the needs of the victim-survivors of family abuse. The community cell for women and children provides services of interface with police, emotional support, counselling and crisis intervention. In working with the police, the Cell attempts to influence the interpretation of legal provisions to widen their assistance to women victims of violence. A study of the records of criminal cases on family violence reveals the attitudes and reporting of the investigating officers, who are governed by the dominant social ideology that influences the course of the trial. The recommendations include:

- Sensitising and training police officers to undertake skilful, sensitive investigations through a specific protocol;
- How the police sensitivity and power of observation on the reality of cases could be used in shaping the law and legal procedures ;
- Sensitising of the criminal system to recognise mental violence and victims to be considered on par with physical violence;
- Capacity building for strategic alliance between the state, civil society and research institutions to respond to violence against women;
- Implement a comprehensive, woman-friendly legislation that deals with remedies for family violence.

184. Delhi Commission for Women [DCW]. *Rape victims : Progress of police action.* Delhi. 20... 2p. [Source – http://socialwelfare.delhigovt.nic.in; accessed on 22 December 2002]

The Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) was established by the Act of the Legislative Assembly in 1994 to investigate and safeguard all matters concerning "safety measures" for women against violence under the State Constitution and other laws. The Commission looks into complaints and takes suo moto

notice of matters relating to the violation of women's rights, non-implementation of laws that provide gender equity and non-compliance of policy decisions, guidelines or instructions aimed at ensuring women's welfare and relief. In the process of monitoring cases of rape, in particular minors, the DCW ensures their counselling and rehabilitation activities with the support of NGOs. This section of the web site reveals the action taken by the police in cases of rape in New Delhi and other districts, with tabulated results of the percentage of arrests made during the years 1997-98.

Follow up and rehabilitation of rape victims. P....

The DCW has undertaken a project to contact and follow-up the rape victims in every district. During the lengthy trials and conviction the victims are bound to lose hopes of getting gender justice and often, move away from their residents for security reasons. This in turn delays the trial. Hence, the Commission establishes contacts with NGOs working in the respective localities to receive progress reports on the support and rehabilitative efforts rendered to them.

Main issues and recommendations. P.....

Based on case studies concerning vulnerable groups such as the girl child and adolescent women belonging to the lower economic strata, the DCW has drawn up recommendations towards a support infrastructure to provide immediate assistance – medical care, counselling, legal advice and rehabilitation for the victims of sexual violence. In this context, the Commission suggests better working methods for police interrogations and social workers in NGOs. Pradhiti, a local NGO works in collaboration with the police department in providing rehabilitation for the victim-survivors. The recommendations include a separate cell for rape victims, investigations be carried out immediately by trained women police personnel and handled by a separate branch for effective and speedy action.

185. Delhi Commission for Women [DCW]. *Sahyogini – A helping hand.* Delhi. 20... 3p. [Source – http://www.empowering-women.com/sahyoginimain/ ; accessed on 22 June 2004].

Sahyogini Counselling Centre is part of DCW, giving a helping hand to settle domestic disputes and crimes of violence against women. On a bi-weekly basis a counsellor and a lawyer sit with the Commission to help victims of gender violence - family disputes, spouse abuse, cruelty by in-laws, dowry-related violence, divorce/ maintenance, child custody, right to residence, sexual harassment, workplace violence and custodial brutalities. Assistance is

provided through referrals to NGOs, the police and state departments, by means of which victims could seek free legal advice and other forms of help.

186. Detashis, Mukherjee. *Third Babu Meet. P.16-17.* Namaskar. Vol.3, No.1. November 1998.

This article discusses a programme aimed to develop safe sexual practices between sex workers and their 'partners' from whom the workers expect socio-economic support and emotional security. Held in Calcutta, the discussion included:

- Awareness of sexually transmitted diseases;
- Recognition of the sex trade and the legislation concerning prostitution;
- Attitudes towards the family of the sex workers and concerns for their well-being;
- Movement to empower the community for better health.

187. *The Devadasis of Kudhitini village : Victims of a degenerate culture.* Groots Newsletter. December 1998. 3p. [Source – http://www.workingwomensforum.org/groots/ ; accessed on 20 January 2003].

The tradition of Devadasis, despite the Devadasi Abolition Act passed in 1936, still remains in remote, rural areas where the girl child of a particular community is forced to enter 'temple services' with a taboo on education and marriage and compelled into prostitution. The Working Women's Forum (WWF) has launched a rehabilitation programme in the village of Kudhithini of Andra Pradesh where the entire village comprises the Devadasi community. Burdened with illiteracy, poverty, malnourishment and compulsive abortion, the women in this community are barred from using contraceptives. The WWF has initiated:

- Reproductive and Child Health Programmes to address their health concern;
- Micro-credit facilities as an option for the women to wean off this age-old practice;

Counselling and advocacy programmes for the community to create better social awareness and attitudes.

188. Devasia, T.K. *Right to pray.* The Observer. 15 February 1997.

An Islamic mosque in the state of Kerala has allowed women to enter for payers, calling for opening the doors of other mosques for the same purpose. The chief priest of the mosque argues that Islam does not advocate gender discrimination, pointing out that, "...traditionally women are permitted inside mosques such as in Mecca, Medina and those in Gulf Countries where religious practices are more stringent". Many women's organisations, in particular the Girls' Islamic Organisation and Ityahadu Subanan Mujahiddin (ISM) have come out openly in support of this progressive move against gender oppression in places of worship.

189. *Development in women's human rights in The Commonwealth : India. P.5.* CHRI Newsletter. Vol.5, No.5. April1998.

The news item evaluates the recommendations of the National Commission for Women to amend the various Acts that aim to protect women's rights in India. Amendments suggested for the Dowry Prohibition Act (1961) and the Sati (Prevention) Act of 1987 are questioned on the basis of the provision of legal remedies for victims when incorporated in the criminal laws. Attitudes of judges and law enforcement authorities reveal that they need to have greater levels of gender sensitivity when handling cases of gender-based violence.

190. Dhar, Aarti. *Women's groups meet Sonia.* The Hindu. 27 May 2004.

National women's organisations have met Ms. Sonia Gandhi, the President of the Indian Congress the current ruling party, to ensure the inclusion of women's issue in the policies of the new government. The delegation, including those from the National Commission for Women, All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA) and several women's NGOs pointed out that the Protection Against Domestic Violence Bill, pending for the past decade should come up for debate with the recommendations made by the Law Commission on relevant legal reforms. With regard to the National Population Policy of India, the groups referred to the coercive anti-woman policies practiced in many states, while stressing for the strict implementation of law against sex determination techniques that could lead to female foeticide.

191. *The Dowry (Prohibition) Act, 1961 : The struggle for an amendment. P.131-136.* [s.n]. [s.l]. 19... [Source – ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

The issue of dowry is one of the important struggles in the Indian women's movement in the recent past. Although the Dowry Prohibition Act was

introduced to make the transaction of dowry as an illegal, punishable offence the practice of dowry has increased, leading at times to harassment, violence and death of the newly married woman. During the years of 1981-82 a state - appointed Joint Select Committee conducted an inquiry into the subject and submitted a report. Despite this no initiative was taken by the Government to amend the existing law while dowry-deaths were escalating. Women's organisations and other progressive human rights/civil rights groups came under the umbrella group called Dahej Virodhi Chetana Manch, campaigning for a Bill to amend the Act. Their efforts have lead to the amendment that however, does not reflect the recommendations of the Joint Select Committee or the Law Commission to inquire into the issue. The Bill that seeks to amend the existing Act has no improvements; neither does it reveal any meaningful provisions to the current law. Hence, the women's groups in 1984 prepared a memorandum where the amendments encompass the definition of dowry, marriage expenses, penalties on contravening or ceiling of dowry or marriage expenses, the acceptance, demand or transfer of dowry to the woman and the mechanisms for the implementation viz., State Dowry Prohibition Officers.

192. *Draft Bill on HIV/AIDS soon.* The Hindu. 12 January 2004

The draft of the country's first comprehensive legislation on HIV/AIDS is to be presented in parliament. Prepared by health activists, lawyers and state officials, the bill provides effective measures on consciousness-raising for the public as well as curatives for the booming problem. Strategies could be developed in order to prevent the transmission of the disease. The Bill would cater to the health issues of sex workers mostly women and girls. It also enables the country to set up a platform for safe, transparent and ethical trials on HIV/AIDS prevention and cure.

193. *Drive to recruit women SPOs.* The Hindustan Times. 20 September 1993.

Concerned about the large number of cases on sexual harassment/eve-teasing in public places and family violence, the Government of the National Territory of Delhi has decided to recruit women as special police officers. This suggestion was materialised from a discussion held with women's groups in Delhi where the issue has been raised regarding sexual harassment in public transport. In keeping with the cultural constraints of women complainants feeling reluctant to report to male police officers, women officers will pay special attention to problems of middle-class and working class families where domestic abuse and dowry-related violence have been recorded.

194. Dugger, Celia W. *A woman's place : Special report.* The New York Times. 3 May 1999. 7p.

Historically, women of oppressed castes are subjected to gender violence and exploitation by men belonging to the 'higher' castes. As repealed by the state legislation in 1993, the recent implementation of a women's quota in political participation has helped them to challenge the age-old feudal hierarchies of gender subordination and to emerge as leaders at the grass root level. This special report highlights the case of Ms.Rani an illiterate women, belonging to a 'service-caste', emerging as a village council leader, through this gender quota that sets aside a specific percentage of seats for women.

195. Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee [DMSC]. *Sex Workers' Manifesto. P. 5.* First National Conference of Sex Workers, Calcutta, 14-16 November 1997.

Theme papers on the conference highlight the community-based violence against sex workers. The issue of human rights violation of sex workers perpetrated by the public and law enforcement authorities is also remarked in this document. The Samanwaya Committee originated in the "red light" areas of Calcutta by the sex workers movement and works for the welfare of the sex workers and their families.

196. Ekatra. *Newswatch on crimes of violence : For women only : Voluntary organisations come to the aid of the police in talking crimes against women. p...* [New Delhi]. [January 1993 to February 1994]. [Source – ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

The Crime Against Women Cell of the Delhi Police is working with the help of women's NGOs in handling cases of violence against women. Shaheli, Shakti Shalini and Jagriti Mahila Samiti sit with the police department and help them to register cases and refer them for medical care, counselling and shelters wherever necessary.

197. *EKTA. 1p.* The NGO Directory. [s.l], CAF India. [Source – http://www.cafonline.org/; accessed January 2003]

This source details a 16-Day activism of Campaign on Violence Against Women in 5 districts of Tamil Nadu by EKTA a non-state women's NGO. The campaign

led to raising consciousness against the issue of gender-based violence and its prevention. Activities of EKTA involved women from rural and slum settings, in raising awareness on gender issues and promoting women's right-based empowerment. In collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Anti-Liquor Movement, and other women's groups such as Forum on Violence Against Women, Women In Black, VANI, NAWO, SPANDANA and the Tamil Nadu Women's Coordination Committee, a campaign was launched against alcoholism that leads to many a cases of family violence.

198. *Elimination violence against women : India. P.9-25.* Solidarity : SAARC Women's Journal. Issue.5, 1998.

This is an overview of policies and legislative measures to combat gender-related violence in India. Accompanied by statistics on gender crimes from 1990-96, the article gives an account of the programmes on violence-prevention and gender sensitisation implemented by the government institutions with community support. State and NGO interventions for rehabilitation of victims and the role of the women's movement are described in detail.

199. **Elizabeth, V.** *Patterns and trends of domestic violence in India : An examination of court records. P.34-38.* Domestic violence in India : A summary report of four record studies. Washington D.C., International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW). May 2000.

This text is an exploration of court documentation on domestic violence in order to observe the inherent patterns and attitudes reflected on recording the cases. The study while examining the records on cases of family violence also attempts to analyse the major obstacles that victims and their families face during the course of legal redress. It also identifies landmark cases which are useful for in-depth studies of the subject in future. Selected from 4 different court systems – High Court, Family Court, Rural Sessions Court and Urban Sessions Court the cases show a number of practical and legal barriers to the prosecution in resolving such cases. The research recommends that:

- Knowledge and skills of the law enforcers and the judiciary should be expanded in terms of accessing information on trends of domestic violence, to strengthen the investigative skills of the police, to enhance the undertaking of domestic violence cases and to improve the legal process and ruling;
- NGOs working on domestic violence and women's welfare could develop the programme to carry out the training;

- Cases brought to courts should be publicised, particularly by those that punish the perpetrators. This could draw public attention to the fact that legal redress is possible so that more victims will be encouraged to take action;
- Women's groups should develop strategies to reform common terminology and to establish legal precedents for punishment and compensation, providing guidelines on the types of evidence required for such cases;
- Improved system of record keeping to be established with regard to facts, protocol and guidelines so as to obtain information on the cases.

200. *Enact Act : AIDWA.* The Hindu. 11 December 2004.

AIDWA expresses concern on the Employment Guarantee Act of India, where the definition of 'preferred' work compels the poorest and the most malnourished women workers to undertake heavy manual work. Hundreds of activists demanded that the enactment of the Act in state capitals, and that the Bill should be tabled in parliament as part of the national common minimum programme. The current draft of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act was flawed as it leads to restrictive operations in selected districts, by-passing the essential clause that a minimum of 40% of workers should be women as per national policy.

201. *End preventive detention of women.* The Hindu. 22 July 2004.

The Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women urges the Police Department to bring an end to the arrest of women under the Preventive Detention Act. As brought up by women's groups, activists and social workers, women's safety in public places, safety for housewives and increase in the staff of women's police stations were also discussed. Evidently, the police released a helpline directory of women's/voluntary organisations to help women victims of violence.

202. *Epidemic of abuse : Abuse against HIV/AIDS Outreach workers. Chapter V. P...* Human Rights Watch. Vol.14, No. 5 (c). July 2002.

Courageous organisations and NGOs have extended services to work for the protection for the rights of women in prostitution, a traditionally sanctioned yet ostracised profession in India. This section of the periodical concerns the

work of NGOs that have made efforts to increase the capacity of sex workers to protect themselves against HIV infection. [13]Sangram is a collective of women sex workers, conducting programmes on HIV/AIDS education and awareness-raising within the high-risk groups and the general public. In the States of Maharashtra and Karnataka, Sangram trains and mobilises teams of women as peer educators who have a better access to women in the same work area. The Peer Educators' Programme trains them on the prevention of AIDS through the collective VAMP that is a registered NGO drawing in peer educators and others in the profession. Similarly, Samraksha in Bangalore works to combat HIV/AIDS through their women outreach workers. Supported by the Karnataka State AIDS Control Society, they distribute condoms to the workers, supporting AID victims through home-based health facilities. In Chennai, CHES (Community Health Education Societies) trains the peer educators. As sex work here is mostly a 'street-based' profession CHES recommends that the outreach educators be provided with valid identity cards to avoid police harassment. In this context, the NGO has also launched a sensitisation programme to the police.

Government responses. Chapter VI. P...

The National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) acknowledges Human Rights Watch of the appeal made on police violence towards peer educators in AIDS control and prevention programmes. NACO in recognition of the severity of the problem of police abuse on high-risk groups supports the NGO activities as part of the national AIDS prevention programme. In this context, UN Agencies have provided support for the development of a monitoring system that collects data on abuses faced by NGO workers who implement the guidelines of NACO. This effort will be part of a nationwide collection of data on non-clinical indicators to assist programme planning and evaluation.

203. *Existing laws which can be used in cases of sexual harassment. 2p.* Sexual harassment. [s.l]. [Source – http://www.nwmindia.org/Law/Bare_acts/sexualharassment.htm ; accessed on 22 August 2004]

This document is a summary of laws dealing with sexual violence enacted in the past two decades that have failed to cover the crime of sexual harassment. The following inadequate provisions in the Indian Penal Code and labour laws are continuing to be applied in place of a fully-fledged law against sexual harassment:

[13] Sampada Grameen Mahila Sanstha ; Veshya AIDS Muquabla Parishad (VAMP).

- Section 209 of the Penal Code against obscene acts/songs in public places;
- Section 509 of the Code dealing with word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman;
- Industrial Disputes Act, Rule 5, schedule 5 on unfair labour practices such as dismissal of an employee when s/he rejects sexual advances;
- The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1987 against the display of sexually suggestive material or a 'hostile working environment'.

204. *Extending relief to dowry victims : Interviews with Yasmin Hazarika DCP, 7th Battalion and Ex-DCP- CAW, and S.S. Garewal DCP, Crime Against Women Cell (CAW). P.18-19.* Kali's Yug. Vol.II, Issue.1. March 1997.

Two concise interviews held with law enforcement authorities on how the CAW gives protection to women who suffer dowry-related and family violence. While providing medical care and counselling, CAW draws in with the Social Welfare Department, Family Courts, National Commission for Women and women's organisations for other forms of support (eg: legal assistance) for victims of violence.

205. *Family violence in South India.* [s.n.], [s.l]. 19... [Source – ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

The paper recalls the protest staged by The Rural Women's Liberation Movement in Tamil Nadu, on issues of custodial violence and dowry-related abuse on women. In relation to the high prevalence gender-based violence, the Movement urges the state for proper implementation of the anti-dowry law, to provide for victims of dowry-related violence and domestic abuse. Concerning the incidence of female infanticide, the paper refers to the Cradle Baby Scheme for Girl-Child introduced by the State Government of Tamil Nadu and the failure of this scheme, due to negative societal attitudes on gender and family norms. In this context, the paper is also critical of the state inaction against deploying amniocentesis for female foeticide.

206. *Fate of Dalit caste high on NGO Agenda.* 2p. [s.l], South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC News). 28 August 2001. [Source – http://www.sabcnews. co.za /world/asia1pacific/ ; accessed on 14 July 2004].

Prior to the [14]World Conference Against Racism the NGO Forum has focused on violence against the 'untouchable' communities in India, in particular the Dalit women. These women are often subjected to sexual violence and other forms of gender-based atrocities by members of the 'upper castes' as well as discriminated in their workplaces. In a declaration handed out in Durban before the Forum, the National Federation of Dalit Women (NFDW) called on the governments and the international community to address this problem through adequate preventive measures such as legal reforms and economic empowerment of the Dalits. The Federation stated that women belonging to the Dalit community and other marginalized groups need to be protected through laws, policies and programmes from being socially discriminated.

207. **Fatima N. Burnad.** *Violation of Dalit women's rights : Mathamma. 7p.;annex.* Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, Colombo, 30-31 August 2002.

This paper relates to the strategies of Tamil Nadu Dalit Women's Movement to eliminate violence against women of oppressed castes. Concerning the practice of [15]Mathamma in villages where the women are socially sanctioned as sex workers with taboos for education and marriage, the movement has lead to their protection and to expose the issue of temple slavery. Their activities include creating awareness on protective laws, providing programmes such as legal aid and health clinics in order that these women join the mainstream of the women's movement. The Movement demands that the government provides land for collective farming of Dalit women for proper employment, with special schemes for their economic independence.

208. *Fatwa on Triple Talaq against Islamic norms : Report of the visit of the members of National Commission for Women to Orissa. P. 8-10.* Human Rights Today. Vol.VI, No.3. July-September 2004.

The NCW has intervened on the judgement of a community leadership that has prevented the re-union of a woman with her spouse, who had pronounced 'Triple Talaq' for divorce under the influence of liquor. Subsequently, the couple secured a fatwa which nullifies the divorce, but the community leaders declared that the divorce was irrevocable and forced the woman to leave her husband. The Commission report was based on the prescribed circumstances

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14 World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and related Intolerance, Durban, 31 August – 7 September 2001.

15 Women socially sanctioned to temples, as 'Temple Slaves'.

under which the Muslim Divorce Law is applicable, taking into account the human rights of the woman who was subjected to forcible separation and humiliation. NCW stressed that the community needs to gain a higher level of awareness on the application of religious laws, and that the stakeholders be directly involved in decision-making. The police was summoned to give proper legal protection to the couple who had reconciled.

209. **Female Health Company (FHCO).** *Female health receives a British Government grant to introduce the female condom in India.* Chicago. 6 May 2002. 2p. [Source – http://www.femalehealth.com/ ; accessed on 19 July 2004].

India has the second highest number of people living with HIV/ AIDS. FHCO has received assistance from Great Britain to manufacture and market female condoms in India, as a contribution to the country's response to eradicate AIDS. Besides preventing unwanted pregnancy, the female condom is the only product controlled by women to prevent the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, significantly reducing the incidence when compared to the male condom. Moreover, incorporation of female condom in AIDS prevention programmes can be cost saving in terms of treatment and care for AIDS. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare with support from NGOs, has launched a market study on the female condom for full-scale marketing and part-manufacture.

210. **Forum Against Oppression of Women [and] Human Rights Law Network [and] Stree Sangam.** *Campaign letter for the repeal of Section 377.* [Delhi]. August 1999. p... .

Protesting against gender violence and discrimination perpetrated upon women belonging to sexual minorities this campaign letter demands the government to repeal Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code that 'criminalizes sexual practices between two consenting adults'. This signature campaign leads to initiate a debate within the society so as to create an atmosphere of support not only for complainants but also for lesbian, gay and bisexual rights and to prevent violence towards the community. It is noteworthy that the letter concerns the impact on community health, when access of condoms was refused in prisons where homosexual practices are prevalent.

211. **Francis, Bijo.** *'Sati' and the role of the state in India. P.23-28.* Article 2. Vol.1, No.5. October 2002.

This is an exploration of the traditional customs of violence against women, in particular widow-immolation, known as the act of 'Sati'. In pre-colonial times, this practice was condemned by the Brahma Sabha and prohibited by the British colonial rulers in an enactment, with directives in 1928. After independence, clear steps were taken to end this social menace through Act No.3 of 1988 on the prevention of Sati. This Act though not comprehensive, provides for adequate powers to block the attempt, abetment, commission and even glorification of Sati. It also addresses the weaknesses in implementing the legislation. This necessarily requires awareness-building in the society where NGOs and CBOs have a major role to play. Further, the article deals with the problem of practical administration of the law and the ineffectiveness of the police in this context.

212. **Ganguly, Rupali.** *Points prevalence survey. P.29-30.* Namaskar. Vol.3, No.1. November 1998.

This is a follow-up of the STD/HIV Intervention Programme (SHIP) of September 1992 in Calcutta. The prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases was studied in the locality of Sonagachi to assess the impact of SHIP among sex workers. It concludes that the project, from 1992 to 1998 has significantly controlled the spread of HIV infection and improved the health status of the community as a whole.

Resolution endorsed by the National Network of Sex Workers, Calcutta,29-31 March 1998 Organised by the Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee. P. 31-32.

This network seeks to emphasise laws and codes based on fundamental human rights in seeking protection for the sex workers from community violence, often perpetrated by the law enforcement authority and the general public.

213. **Ghaswala, Bahula.** *'Astiva' battles domestic violence. P... .* Violence Against Women. Ed. Shirin Kudehedkar et al. Delhi, Pencraft International. 1998.

A paper concerning women, domestic violence and support services, relates to the service of Astiva, a women's NGO working against family violence in southern Gujarat. The author, while working with numerous cases of domestic violence and dowry-related abuse, outlines (Section 498-A) of the Indian Penal Code concerning the provision of help to victims of family abuse, not properly followed by the police and legal authorities. As a result of corruption at the

level of state machinery and societal attitudes of not seeing domestic violence from the victim's point of view, the police has a negative attitude towards the complainants, and the victims seek support from NGOs instead. The District -Level Committee on Violence against Women, free legal aid centres and [16]Lok Adalats are a few of the supportive structures set up to help women against gender-based violence. Working at community level, Astiva attempts to create awareness on gender-based violence through campaigns, posters, seminars, street plays, music programmes and by celebrating specific events such as International Women's Day.

214. *Going beyond realities bytes : Janaki.* The Hindu. 11 August 2002.

This news article relates to the making of the movie [17] "Kutty" by Ms. Janaki Viswanathan with the assistance provided by DANIDA (Danish International Development Agency). The movie highlights the issues of child labour and violence against the girl child, revoking audience to come to terms with the practice of child labour/abuse in a tradition-bound society. This film is an outreach to all classes of the public transcending a message of social awareness, without loosing its entertainment value.

215. *Government extends financial help to Bhanwari Devi.* 10 January 2002. [Source – http://www.rediff.com; accessed on 19 January 2003].

The State Government of Rajasthan has decided to grant financial assistance to Ms. Bhanwari Devi a social worker allegedly gang-raped by men of 'higher caste' for taking action against child marriage. As a grass-root social worker, she worked for a state-sponsored project on the prevention of child marriages in Rajasthan. Upon hearing this case, the Jaipur Sessions Court acquitted all the accused giving them the benefit of the doubt. Subsequently, the state appeal against this judgement is pending at the High Court.

216. Government of India. Department of Family Welfare. *Handbook on PNDT Act, 1994.* New Delhi. 2002. 34p.; annex.

This handbook highlights the fact that survival of a girl child is an important issue that needs systematic efforts in mobilising the community. The Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994

[16] People's Courts.

[17] A Tamil feature film with English sub-titles; directed by Janaki Viswanathan. Adapted from a story by Sivashankari. Madras, 2002. (Time : 1 hr.& 48 minutes).

prohibits determination and disclosure of the sex of the foetus, with punishment for its contravention. This handbook provides a detailed guideline on various provisions of the Act and Rules for the easy understanding of the user. It reveals information on registration, prohibitions, instructions, maintenance and prescription of records for the effective implementation of the Act.

217. Government of India. *National Maternity Benefit Scheme [NMBS]. P. 156-160.* Planning Commission Report. New Delhi. 2003.

A social welfare scheme for women over 19 years of age belonging to poor households, where a provision of Rs.500 is given per pregnancy for pre-natal and post-natal care, for the fist two live child-births. This is a study evaluating the effectiveness of the NMBS in terms of the socio-economic status of beneficiaries and the viability of the assistance. Accordingly, the amount paid is inadequate and corruption sets in at the time of payment Recommendations are provided to avoid the above problems.

218. Government of [India,]Tamil Nadu. *Girl Child Protection Scheme, 2001.* p.2 Tamil Nadu Power, Finance & Infrastructure Development Corporation. [Chennai]. 20 August 2002.

Introduced by the State Government of Tamil Nadu this scheme aims to eradicate the practice of female foeticide and infanticide, promotes family planning and discourages the preference of a male child. Restructured to accommodate increased financial benefits for girl children belonging to poor families, this scheme provides for their education and other essential needs up to the age of 20 years. For every girl child born in this category, the Power & Infrastructure Corporation accepts a cash deposit from the Government of Tamil Nadu in the name of the girl child and the interest would be spent on her educational needs.

219. Government of [India,]Tamil Nadu. *Schemes/Activities of District Social Welfare Office.* Nagarcoil, District Collectorate. 4p.

In a traditional society where widows are ostracised and girl children are eradicated through practices of foeticide and infanticide, the state of Tamil Nadu has put forward information on various social welfare schemes aiming to prevent violence against widows and the girl child. Dr. Dharmambal Ammaiyar Memorial Scheme provides assistance for the remarriage of widows between the ages 20-30, while the E.V.R. Maniyammayar Memorial scheme assists poor widows to get their daughters married. Further, widows below

the poverty line are helped to educate their dependent children, disbursed by the District Collector's office.

Tamil Nadu Girl Child Protection Scheme. P. 2.

This is an outline of the state scheme to prevent the notorious practice of female foeticide and to promote women's health and family planning. Parents below the poverty line having one or two daughters will receive monetary deposits made in the name of the child, available to her after the age of 20 years.

220. Gupta, Jyotsna Agnihotri. *Specific interventions to counter gender discriminatory practices. P.65-83.* Windows of opportunities : The girl child in India at the dawn of the twenty-first century. [s.l]. 20... [Source – ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

The girl child faces specific forms of gender violence in India – foeticide, infanticide, child labour, family discrimination and negligence of health, in preference to the sons. This section explores the state intervention, reflected through the:

- Reproductive and Child Health Programme (RCH);
- National Policy on Child Labour;
- Legislation against sex-determination tests;
- Age of Consent Act and the Sharda Act against Child Marriage (1930);
- Dowry Prohibition Act (1961);
- Sati Prevention Act (1987);
- Legislation Against the Custom of Devadasis (1935).

The paper relates to the efforts of the state machinery, community-based organisations, NGOs and women's organisations in support of the above legal standards. This report, based on the decline of sex ratio of female to male children, briefs on the impact of the policies, laws and schemes for the girl child, from the foetus to adult stage.

221. Ghosh, Suparna. *Social marketing of condoms. P.5-6.* Namaskar. Vol.2, No.2. August 1997.

Promoting safe sexual practices and prevention of HIV/AIDS is the purpose of this project that is implemented by Usha Multipurpose Co-operative Society. The first of its kind in Asia, the organisation has a membership of sex workers

and indulges in the social marketing of condoms for HIV/AIDS prevention. In participation with the workers themselves, the project educates them on sexually transmitted diseases and supply quality products to help in the prevention. In addition, the Society provides loans, self-employment schemes and assistance for the aged in the community.

222. *Half of Indian women say wife beating is justified.* [s.l], Reuters New Agency. 17 November 2001. [Source – http://www.hinduismtoday.com; accessed on 18 January 2003].

The National Family Health Survey on Population and Health reveals that more than half the population of Indian women believe that wife battery can be justified under certain circumstances. While views on wife-beating were uniform across categories of age and marital duration, there was divergence of opinion across levels of education and socio-economic background such as urban and rural women.

223. Haksar, Nandita. *Demystification of laws for women.* New Delhi, Lancer Press. 19... 112p.; illust.

This illustrated guidebook reveals judicial biases against women in India and patriarchal assumptions underlying the constitution. Women's movements have continuously struggled against the gender bias of the judiciary and are constantly in protest against specific cases of violence against women – widow maltreatment, forced sexual exploitation, rape and dowry-related violence. The publication specifically refers to laws concerning the Widow Remarriage Act (1856), Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls (1956), Dowry Prohibition Act (1961) and Amendments to the Law Against Rape (1980) that do not provide adequate remedies for the victims, and the role of women's organisations in pressurising for legal reforms to provide gender justice.

224. *HC Upholds RI for policemen in Padmini rape case.* The Hindu. 29 November 2002.

After dismissing an appeal to the case, the High Court of Chennai has sentenced rigorous imprisonment to six police personnel who were convicted of gang-rape and torture of Ms. Padmini Chithambaram within the premises of their station where she was illegally taken into custody. In protest of this incident, many women's organisations and human rights groups in Tamil Nadu had taken legal action on behalf of the victim who is employed in a private enterprise.

225. *Helping her to fight her battles.* The Hindu. 8 January 1995.

Vimochana a women's organisation in Bangalore has taken a strong stand against gender violence, specifically on sexual harassment in public places, rape and domestic violence. This new article concerns their activities, such as public protests, vigils, poster campaigns, an annual film festival and poetry reading in public places against gender violence, besides publishing newsletters, magazines and brochures on the issue. Focusing on the commercialisation and commoditisation of women, Vimochana plans to hold a public hearing at the national level to include activists and grass root workers. While providing temporary shelter for victims of gender-based violence, the organisation plans to expand their services into a stay-in-home for rehabilitation and reintegration of the victims.

226. Hirve, Siddhi. *Abortion : Policy and practice. P.14-19; notes; ref.* Seminar. Issue No.532. December 2003.

The Abortion Law is governed by the Indian Penal Code (1862) and Code of Criminal Procedure (1898) and was passed in 1971 within the national policy on population control. Evidently, the abortion policy was conceived with the intention of safeguarding women's lives from the consequences of unsafe abortion. In this paper, Hirve overviews the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act and the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulations & Prevention of Misuse) Act (PNDT) and their impact on women's health and reproductive/ sexual freedom. The MTP provides for free abortion under prescribed conditions of pregnancy. A major critique of the Act is its apparent over-medicalisation - a 'physicians only' policy that excludes mid-level health providers and practitioners of alternative systems of medicines from the purview of legal abortion. Hence, the mandate of a second medical opinion is a barrier to access safe abortion. Further, post-abortion care for the unmarried woman is still being denied. As for the PNDT Act, it prohibits the use of any techniques to determine the sex of the foetus and any advertisements relating to such services, with the view of preventing female foeticide. The two Acts are not only contradictory, but lead to a dilemma between the woman's right of choice of her sexual/reproductive health and the state commitment to population control. The author calls for advocacy and action at the centre and state levels, to provide quality health services to ensure women's reproductive/ sexual rights.

227. Hossamane, Sakshi Broota. *Developing the gender dimension in India's disability rights movement. P.21-25.* Women in Action. No.2. 2001.

Infanticide of the disabled girl child is widespread in India, as needs of the disabled daughter is considered the last priority in the family. This article concerns the efforts of the National Centre for the Employment of Disabled People (NCPEDP) through which many voluntary service organisations and NGOs provide services for the disabled. NCPEDP has organised a [18]national advocacy workshop where disabled women activists played an important role in the network of advocacy and self-help groups in different parts of the country. While disabled women actively participate at state-level politics, the Disability Rights Movement is strongly supported by women – women professionals and mothers of disabled children.

228. Human Rights Watch. *AIDS and human rights : A call for action : A joint statement.* 26 June 2001. 1p. [Source – http://www.hrw.org/reports/2001/; accessed on 24 February 2003].

A report by the Human Rights Watch at the [19]International AIDS Conference, documenting the numerous cases of police violence against HIV/AIDS preventive workers, especially the women. Evidently, the organisation has launched a programme on HIV/AIDS and human rights, for prevention of AIDS in India. Several NGOs have succeeded in empowering women sex workers to demand that their clients use condoms as a means of protection against the spread of AIDS. Sangaram a local NGO has supported AIDS educators in distributing protective measures to sex workers in all the districts of Maharashtra. The HIV/AIDS peer educators in the States of Maharashtra and Karnataka have been subjected to police torture that is bound to curb the preventive work done for 'high-risk' communities. Human Rights Watch calls upon the Government of India to repeal the laws and to ensure the protection of the outreach workers, in keeping with the country's national AIDS programme.

229. Human Rights Watch. *Attack on Dalit women : A pattern of impunity. 9 p.* Broken people : Cast violence against India's "Untouchables". New York. March 1999.

Dalit women are a significant percentage of landless labourers and 'bottom-rank' workers in society. Their subordinate position is exploited by the socio-economically powerful communities, and with impunity. This section of the

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[18] National Advocacy Workshop on "Speedy and Effective Implementation of the Disability Act of India", New Delhi, 1997.

[19] XIV International AIDS Conference, Barcelona, 7-12 July 2002.

document concentrates on the status of women under the constitution of India and the failure of legislation to prosecute cases of rape among the community, committed by the 'upper castes'. The Indian Penal and Criminal Codes provide stringent punishment for the offence, but out of reach for poor, rural women belonging to oppressed castes, as they have to battle deep-rooted gender bias at every stage of their struggle – police, medical personnel, judges and even their own family. This chapter provides selected case studies of Dalit women who could not seek legal redress and the failure of the state to reach out to them.

230. Humanscape India. *Parivar Seva Sanstha [PSS].* New Delhi. 2002. 1p. [Source- http://www.humanscape.org/2002/ : accessed on 25 June 2003].

The PSS manages a network of clinics all over India affiliated to Marie Stopes International (UK) in the sphere of family planning and maternal and child health care, providing a gamut of quality family planning, maternal/child health care services, obstetrics and medi-check services at affordable costs. As a voluntary organisation, their vision has led to various outreach projects in this field, such as training programmes on family life education for young groups and schools, teachers and counsellors providing information on issues covering the family and society, adolescence, anatomy and reproduction, interpersonal relations and planned parenthood. PSS runs well-equipped mobile clinics to reach the rural women where the status of women is low, the quality of life poor, and access to health services limited. In collaboration with the community-level Mahila Mandal Project, they use mobile clinics for women at home, to create awareness on reproductive health care and family planning through community organisations, the Mahila Mandals and youth clubs. In the future, PSS plans to include telephone information and a counselling service named SPARSH and a comprehensive and integrated family planning services package for the state of Orissa where health awareness and service systems are inadequate.

231. Illangovan, R. *Infanticide : Campaign against punishing traumatised mothers.* The Hindu. 15 April 2004.

Social activists have adopted a strategy to mobilise public and political leadership against the practice of filing cases on mothers indulging in female infanticide. Action groups have been formed in districts where the practice is at large, as "..mothers alone are not to be held responsible for a crime which is encouraged by a highly son-preferred society..". The groups act on the basis that penalty should not be applicable for this offence, as it is a complex social problem.

Legal panels have been set up for effective coordination and NGOs are being sensitised to be absorbed into the rural health and primary health care committees for effective campaigning.

232. *India : Violence against women : Responses and reform.* [s.n], [s.l]. 19... [Source – ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

This document is a briefing of state-wise NGO activities to counter violence against women. With particular reference to domestic and family violence, this report summarises the activities that PROWID grants in terms of combating violence through crisis intervention, legal aid, advocacy and programmes of prevention and victim support. This includes surveys on prevalence of domestic violence, role played by the state to counter such violence and contributions made by action programmes by NGOs.
PROWID (Promoting Women in Development) is a research programme on family violence, initiated by the International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW). In partnership with women's NGOs in India, this study analyses the range of organised responses to family violence initiated by the state and the NGO sector.

233. **India Together.** *Dowry : Pledge : 'I promise not to give or to take dowry'*.1 p. ; append. 20August 2002. [Source–http://www. indiatogether. org/women/ dowry/; accessed 25 January 2004].

As a pledge not to accept or give dowry, this web page calls on readers to consciously refrain from this evil practice of gender discrimination, leading to dowry-related family violence perpetrated against the woman, female foeticide or infanticide. As part of the anti-dowry campaign this page displays answers to frequent questions on the system of dowry, its implications and calls for a dowry-free society.

234. *Indian company to 'reconsider' insurance for rape* [and] *Rape insurance under fire in India.* [s.l], March 1999. [Source – http:// www.sawnet.com; accessed on 19 December 2002].

Women's groups are critical of a government plan that offers insurance for victims of rape. This plan launched by the state-owned General Insurance Corporation is part of a comprehensive insurance policy for women covering death, accidents, disabilities, murder, surgery and terrorism. According to women's groups insuring against rape indicates the insensitivity of the State, as the government wishes to compensate a gender crime with money and the

women's movement demands for the sensitive handling of rape victims and strong penalty for the crime.

235. *Indian women's embroideries dripped with blood. P. 5.* Coalition : Asia Pacific Report. Vol.4, Nos.4-5. April-September 1999.

This news item discusses a protest against gender-oriented violence launched by women from Bihar state -the travelling exhibition named "The Narrative Thread : Women's embroidery from Rural India" that displays the protest of handicraft workers against domestic violence, exposure to AIDS, denial of education for the girl child and female infanticide. The embroidered frames illustrate the many facets of gender violence and exploitation of women in traditional Indian societies.

236. *International Foundation for Crime Prevention and Victim Care (PCVC). 2 p.* Chennai. 20... [Source – http://www.sawnet.org; accessed on 28 June 2003]

PCVC is a charitable trust catering to the needs of victims of crimes, in particular those of domestic/family violence. The organisation offers help to women victims of family abuse seeking shelter and economic independence, by providing shelter, basic needs, medical care, counselling and vocational training. Their activities include:

- Running a shelter home "Astitva" to accommodate and rehabilitate the victims;
- Gender sensitisation programmes on effective handling of victims, as well as web-based training on dispute resolution for women police personnel within the state;
- Operates Crisis Hotline services on a 24-hour basis offering help to those facing family abuses within their homes.

The foundation has presented a multimedia programme on "Ending Violence against Women" at the [20]6th District Conference of Zonta International, focusing on eradication of gender-based violence in South Asian countries.

237. International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF). *Country Profile : India . 2 p.* 20 November 2002. [Source – http://www.ippf.org; accessed on 29 January 2003].

[20] 6th District Conference of Zonta International, Ghent (Poland), 23-25 September 2005.

The National Family Planning Programme in India has recently expanded to promote maternal and child health, family welfare and nutrition. A pioneer in South Asia, this programme has shifted from a target-based family planning approach, to a women-centred and need-based strategy that highlights the Reproductive Tract Infection (RTI) and sexually transmitted diseases of which women are the major victims. Following the liberalisation of abortion, the state and central governments have widened their family planning services with support given by women's organisations and CBOs. Besides the social marketing of condoms and contraceptives, the Central Government has banned the use of Quinacrine for women's sterilisation in response to a petition filed by women's organisations focussing on the ill-effects of the drug. The Family Planning Association of India (FPAI) has launched a broad-based programme on sexual/reproductive health services to empower women at the community-level, with the involvement of men in reproductive health care. A founder-member of the IPPF, the Association runs infertility clinics and retail-sales centres for contraceptives with the provision of condom dispensing machines in rural and urban slums. Using print, broadcasting and telecasting media for their campaigns, women at the community level are drawn through women's groups, nursery schools, income generating programmes and literacy classes to gain access to health services on maternal/child health, family planning, prevention of sexually transmitted diseases and awareness on the risk of unsafe abortion. An integral part of this programme is counselling services for the newly married couples, helping them to develop consciousness on reproductive health and family planning.

238. *It's a failure of State, society : Kiran Bedi.* The Times of India. 24 August 2003.

This is an interview with Kiran Bedi, the Joint Commissioner of Police, shedding light on the attitudes of the police authorities and criminal justice system on victims of rape. She stresses on amending the legal system and improving the quality of police services, in terms of punishing the perpetrators of rape and sexual harassment.

239. **Iyer, Lalitha.** *There's more to domestic violence than physical abuse; emotional trauma can be more crippling and a new Bill seeks to recognise that.* The Week. 3 February 2002.

This news article comments on the Protection Against Domestic Violence Bill (2001) that seeks to re-define domestic violence in terms of mental and emotional torture, destroying the fallacy that domestic abuse is merely wife

battery. Further, the bill permits prosecution of all family members who are responsible for the abuse, whether they are related to the victim by blood, marriage or adoption. For the first time, the new bill provides women a section in the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC) dealing with domestic violence, both as civil and criminal offence. Focusing on civil remedy is the appointment of Protection Officers who supervise cases where a compromise has been made between the complainant and her family. In a way, the officer acts as a civil court authority helping to bring the spouses together. This bill however, does not provide adequately for issues regarding a woman's right to her marital home, upheld in the bill and left to the discretion of the judge. Also issues of dowry harassment and the grant of interim maintenance are not covered here.

240. Jacob, Alexander. *Violence against women. P.48-56; tables.* Samyukta. Vo.II, No.2. July 2002.

An examination of the issue of violence against women perceived by rape, abduction, dowry death, torture, molestation, sexual harassment, trafficking of girls, widow immolation (Sati) and the indecent representation of women in media. While summerising the laws to prevent the above crimes, this article highlights the degree of expediting the crimes by police and courts. Statistics on gender crimes, in particular, in the state of Kerala where literacy is the highest, shows that domestic violence and eve-teasing occurs the most, but is least reported. In conclusion, recommendations are provided to control and prevent violence against women.

241. Jacob, Satish. *Campaign to Save Girl Babies.* [London], BBC News. 16 November 1999. [Source – http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/; accessed on 22 July 2004].

Medical personnel in New Delhi have launched a conscious raising campaign on the negative practice of aborting girl babies. Although the law bans sex determination tests for pregnancies, there are cases of female foeticide supported by the cultural traditions of 'son-preference.'

242. Jacob, Sreedevi. *Space for the single woman : ASWAS.* The Hindu. 9 May 2004.

ASWAS (Association of Single Women for Action and Self-Help) is a women's NGO committed to supporting single women – widows, divorcees, destitutes and the unmarried who face discrimination and abuse from their families as

well as the community. Established in the State of Kerala the organisation offers them vocational training, counselling, free medical services and legal aid. ASWAS also runs emergency shelters for those who are maltreated by the community to regain their potentials and make a new start. With plans to set up a pre-marital counselling service, ASWAS has ventured into training of women in non-traditional employment, such as repair/maintenance of household appliances, enabling them to become self-reliant.

243. Jaising, Indira. *Reconsidered : Dangerous Bill.* New Delhi. November 2002. 2p. [Source –http://www.indiatogether.org/women/violence/; accessed on 22 July 2004].

This article is a critique on the recent "Protection of Domestic Violence Bill 2001" drafted in accordance with the UN Framework for Model Legislation on Domestic Violence. Though the bill received a broad support from the women's movement, there are significant drawbacks in the draft from the point of view of the victims of violence. According to Jaising, the problems are manifold – from the appointment of the Protection Officer to jurisdiction of magistrates, to the possible breach of a protection order passed by the court. The 'gaps' in the Bill are as follows:

- The definition of domestic violence and its applicability are highly subjective, and would not help a judge to decide whether the conduct of the perpetrator amounts to domestic violence or not;
- A woman 'married' in the absence of the legally prescribed marriage ceremonies, or caught up in a bigamous relationship cannot use this law;
- A plea of 'self defense' is provided for the man faced with a complaint of domestic violence. This can go against the interest of victim to seek;
- redressal and to protect her from violence;
- There is no provision for the victim to reside in her matrimonial home, nor to gain temporary custody of her children;
- The victim is provided with mandatory, instead of voluntary counselling, as mandatory counselling is a method of correcting abusive behaviour that could make the victim to accept the situation.

The author calls for a law that addresses the issue adequately, instead of passing the message to the perpetrator that "violence within the home is acceptable".

244. Jaswal, Surinder. *Health records and domestic violence in Thane District, Maharashtra. P.6-14; ref.* Domestic violence in India : A summary report of four record studies. Washington D.C., International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW). May 2000.

The objective of this research is to examine the trend of domestic violence in rural and urban localities within the frame work of women's health care, to understand the current practices in identifying and recording abuses in the medical system, to probe the role of the health provider in the perception of domestic abuse and the women's viewpoint on the accessibility of services when the victims seek medical help. Involving checklists, exit interviews and in-depth dialogues with individual victims, focus groups and service providers, the study shows that the recording systems in hospital and community centres are not adequately committed to highlighting domestic violence as a public health crisis. The medical records show large, consistent gaps in the type and level of information. A lack of attention thus results in the lack of medical care and referrals to medical cases. Many women feel that the medical personnel are insensitive and unwilling to probe the issue and this discourages the victims from reporting cases and accessing related services such as counselling and therapy. The study provides the following recommendations:

- A basic protocol for screening victims of abuse in all health settings;
- Strengthening health facilities to identify and support victims and to improve the accessibility of health services;
- Strengthening the links between health facilities and other agencies involved in providing services to the victim-survivors;
- Tracking systems in hospitals to be improvised in follow-up cases on domestic abuse after the medical treatment is completed.

245. Joshua, Anita. *When the victim is put on trial.* The Hindu. 1 December 2002.

The courtroom experience of a victim of rape is described as "negative and destructive, bad or worse than the act of rape itself". This news item sheds light on the provision for the victims of rape on trial, where the All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA) has submitted a draft bill on the Rape Law- Sections 375, 376, 354 and 509 of the IPC and relevant sections of the Code of Criminal Procedure (1973). Articulated by various women's organisations and action groups, the amendments are in line with the Law Commission's review of rape laws and recommendations of the NCW. The amendments provide for:

- Definition of rape to cover a wide range of acts of sexual violence and marital rape
- Increasing the age of consent to 18 years;
- A minimum age of 7 years of imprisonment for perpetrators of rape and an increase of up to 10 years in the case of custodial rape;
- Gender-sensitising the trial procedures and reducing procedural delays.

246. Jesani, Amar. *Violence against women : Health and health care issues : A review of selected Indian works. P.57-71; ref.* Samyukta. Vol.II, No.2. July 2002.

The role of health services and professionals in dealing with violence against women as a public issue is related in this article. The review covers studies of survivors of domestic and family violence, in particular wife battery and dowry-related abuse. Several women's organisations such as Saheli of Delhi, AWAG of Gujarat and the Women's Centre in Mumbai have been working to support battered women. Organisational records show a gradual increase in the number of victims approaching women's groups for support. A handbook prepared by Ms. Flavia Agnes pin-points the procedures to be followed by the victims of rape before and during medical procedures. A study on violence against women in Delhi (1996) by Ms. Shelly Prasad a researcher/ activist concerns medico-legal responses to the issues of gender violence – attitudes of police, legal personnel and physicians in such cases. She recommends that the Medical Association should be motivated to upgrade rape protocol, implement comprehensive treatment and care to the victims, while launching training/follow-up programmes to the students and doctors. CEHAT a women's NGO is conducting research on battered women with the establishment of one-stop crisis centres. This centre called Dilaasa is located in the government hospital with the collaboration of the Mumbai Municipality. This is viewed as an attempt to mainstream the support system for battered women through health care services.

247. JPC Sisters Network. *Sister's voices – Testimonies : Ruth Manorama Indian activist working with Dalit women.* 1p. 20... [Source – http://www.wcc-coe.org; accessed 22 February 2003].

This testimony highlights the National Federation of Dalit Women (NFDW) a new initiative started in 1995 and headed mainly by women of oppressed castes. Despite the constitutional guarantee abolishing 'untouchability' (Article 16 of the Constitution) and protection under the Civil Rights Act, women of oppressed communities face all forms of abuse – rape, sexual harassment, murder, torture, custodial violence and destruction of their property. The Federation was the first of its kind in the women's movement of the post-independence era, committing itself to undertake several tasks such as legal action against gender/ caste based atrocities against women and helping them to empower themselves socially, economically and politically. The main programme of the NFDW aims at capacity building for self-confidence and training to develop leadership qualities.

248. *Justice demanded for Gujarat rape victims. 1p.* [London], BBC News. 2 May 2002. [Source – http:// news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia ; accessed on 12 December 2002].

Women activists and human rights action groups demanded justice for Muslim women who were sexually assaulted during the communal carnage in the State of Gujarat. They also pressurise for the resignation of the Chief Minister for his alleged role in perpetrating the violence.

249. **Kannabiran, Kalpana.** *Rape and the construction of communal identity. P. 32-40; notes.* Embodies violence : Communalising women's sexuality in South Asia. Ed. Kumari Jayawardene et al. New Delhi, Kali for Women. 1996.

This paper examines an example of custodial violence unleashed upon a woman belonging to a minority community, and attitudes of the State in providing gender justice to the victim. The trial on the rape of Rameeza Bee by 4 policemen in 1978 highlights important issues pertaining to the functioning of state apparatus and the norms that govern them. Evidently, the victim had to prove that she was a victim of gang-rape, not a prostitute, not married to several men before cohabiting with her present husband and a good Muslim who respected the tenets of Islam. Subsequently, the case could not be proven in a courtroom. The author argues that, despite India being a secular state, judicial norms are set by majority community and that women belonging to minority groups cannot effectively register their grievances against state agencies.

250. **Kannan, Ramya.** *Ethnographic study for awareness.* The Hindu. 23 March 2002.

The State of Tamil Nadu has launched a study to map the areas in which commercial sex workers operate, in order to streamline strategies for the prevention of HIV/AIDS. Commencing in February 2002 this year the survey signifies state recognition of sex workers, despite a 'red light zone' in the city. The study, much welcomed by NGOs and health activists leads to the targeting of workers for awareness-raising programmes on the issue of sexually transmitted diseases, in particular HIV/AIDS.

251. **Kannan, Ramya.** *HIV-Affected women will be on advisory panel.* The Hindu. 5 March 2004.

Complaints of harassment and discrimination of AIDS patients by para-medical and medical staff in the health sector has lead to representation of HIV-positive community in an advisory panel in government hospitals. According to the Tamil Nadu State AIDS Control Society (TANSACS), the advisory committee will include a woman living with AIDS. The committee will also prevent discrimination in treatment and care of HIV/AIDS patients by forwarding complaints to the Health Department, which in turn would take stern action against the staff concerned.

252. Kannan, Ramya. *'HIV Risk [is] related to domestic violence'.* The Hindu. 19 October 2003.

Social norms that sanctify spouse abuse and domestic violence limit a woman's ability to negotiate the use of condoms known to reduce the spread of HIV/ AIDS. A state-level survey on marital violence in urban slums reveals that women vulnerable to domestic violence have an increased risk of contacting HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. Covering 40 slums in Chennai, this project leads to intervention in terms of sensitising the community on domestic abuse and risk of HIV/AIDS, as well as the prevention of AIDS. Further, the project encourages the formation of women's groups and their access to micro-credit facilities. A helpline for women in distress would be an added advantage of this study.

253. Kannan, Ramya. *Pledging girls to Mathamma still continues.* The Hindu. 1 November 2003.

A study conducted by Centre for Child Rights Development (CCRD) and the Centre for Development and Women's Studies in the districts of Tamil Nadu has revealed that the practice of the Arunhathiyar to 'offer' girl children to Goddess Mathamma still exists. While the State declares that this traditional practice has been abolished, this report records that more than 75 villages in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh still continue the custom, whereby the girls are pronounced as 'public property', denied education and married and subjected to sexual abuse. The report suggests that lack of medical assistance in villages leads to the continuity of this practice and girls below the age of 14 are offered skills development training, while rehabilitation is offered to older women who are ordained as 'Mathammas'. This would lead to the abolishment of this age old practice, on par with the Devadasi tradition.

254. Kannan, Ramya. *Self-help groups campaign against infanticide.* The Hindu. 10 April 2004.

Women's Self-Help Groups in the districts of Salem and Nammakkal (Tamil Nadu) are campaigning against female infanticide, highly prevalent in that society. Each group maintains a roster of all pregnant women in the locality, and sensitises them in order to appreciate the girl-child. It is noteworthy that some members of the group have committed this crime and subsequently rehabilitated and become active in the campaign.

255. Kannan, Ramya. *Study to address gender bias against AIDS Victims.* The Hindu. 7 March 2003.

Women victims of AIDS face an added burden of gender bias with fear of violence from the spouse and family members, as well as the denial of family assets. Also, it is proven that gender violence increase the vulnerability of women to HIV/AIDS. Commencing in Tamil Nadu, this pilot study on the violation of human rights of women affected by AIDS survey is conducted in 3 phases – documentation of actual cases of gender discrimination, an awareness study of the public and on specific groups of people such as politicians, bureaucrats and media personnel. Conducted by the Positive Women Network of South India (+PWN) and the Centre for Advocacy Research (CFAR) based in New Delhi, this study aims to translate the survey information into designs of advocacy from a human rights perspective.

256. Kapur, Aanchal. *'I am witness to...' : A profile of Sakshi Violence Intervention Centre, New Delhi, India. P.42-47.* Gender and Development. Vol.6, No.3. November 1998.

This article refers to the works of Sakshi, a non-governmental women's organisation working on the issue of violence against women. Sakshi is committed to creating a civil consciousness on gender-based violence and to promoting gender justice to victims. Their activities include:

- Educating members of the judiciary on gender and gender-based violence through the Gender and Judges Project ;
- Lobbying for legal reforms on sexual harassment at workplaces, based on guidelines set by the Supreme Court of India;
- Raising awareness on child sexual abuse for the public.

While conducting research on gender-based law Sakshi conducts paralegal workshops, gender sensitisation programmes for the police personnel.

257. Kapur, Diya et al. *Female f[o]eticide : The legal framework. P.68-79; ref.* Female f[o]eticide in Tamil Nadu : Report of the State Level

Consultation, Chennai, 2-3 December 1998. Ed. Sabu M.George et al. Madurai, Society for Integrated Rural Development (SIRD).

This paper highlights the laws that deal with the issue of female foeticide a traditional form of violence practiced against the girl child in various parts of India. Influenced by the lack of education and social awareness, problem of dowry, inadequate family planning services and the misuse of medical practices, the prevalence of female foeticide has caused many a decline in the sex ratio of women to men. Under the MTP (Medical Termination of Pregnancy) Act, the pregnant woman has the right to terminate her pregnancy under specific circumstances, within 20 weeks of conception. However, on the grounds of the mother's physical/ mental health condition the medical practitioner has the freedom to perform MTP to save her life. By deploying techniques of scanning, the sex of the baby is checked out and abortion is justified on grounds of '..the mother undergoing a mental trauma' if the foetus happened to be an 'unwanted' daughter. In 1986 the Forum Against Sex determination and Sex Pre-Selection (FASDSP) a social action group in Mumbai initiated a campaign against female foeticide, pressurising the State Government to enact the Regulation of Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act (1988), repealed by a central legislation viz., the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation & Prevention of Misuse) Act of 1994 to control all health clinics and scanning centres in order to ban the use of specific techniques that could reveal the sex of the foetus. In practice, however, it is not possible to regulate the commercial use of ultra-sound techniques, which could be deployed to pre-select the sex of the unborn and abort the female foetus.

258. Kapur, Ratna [and] Cossman, Brenda. *Atrocities against women. P. 248-253.* Subversive sight : Feminist engagements with law in India. New Delhi, Sage Publications. 1996.

This article is critical of the issue of violence against women being taken up by religious extremists in keeping with the authority or legitimacy of the patriarchal family, but not with gender equality and the violation of women's human rights. Accordingly, the right-wing Hindu religious groups condemn gender-based violence, dowry, female infanticide and sex-selective abortion within the framework of religious fundamentalism. Sexual violence is 'communalised' while providing training on self-defence for women, and the issue of family violence is looked upon as 'feminization', holding women primarily responsible for its prevalence.

259. Karat, Brinda. *The laws of Sanvarikalan.* Frontline. Vol.19, Issue.21. October 12-21, 2002.

The All India Democratic Women's Movement (AIDWA) had a protest march in support of Ms.Bhuvaneswari a school teacher. The victim, a primary school teacher in the village of Sanvarikalan, Madhya Pradesh was sexually harassed by a male college, but her complaint to the management did not lead to action against the perpetrator. Instead, she was accused of having 'sexual relationship' with a senior staff member and molested by the community members as a 'penalty'. This case has been taken up by the National Commission for Human Rights and notice issued to the authority concerned.

260. Karat, Brinda [and] Sangwari, Jagmati. *" Community codes and family violence : The Haryana experience".* [s.l]. [2001]. 12p.; ref. [Source- ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

This paper addresses family violence as experienced in the State of Haryana, and examines the approach of the All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA) towards violence against women. AIDWA is a women's movement that draws attention to violence inflicted upon women in the home setting. Many of the campaigns led by them highlight the democratisation of family structures while training women activists to help those in distress, organise campaigns and community interventions on various forms of gender-based violence, such as wife abuse, dowry-related violence, incest and violence perpetrated by in-laws and the extended family. Legal aid/counselling centres function at the district level, assisting the victims to gain access to legal aid and counselling services. The paper also looks at the legal issues, in order to address the community on collective violence against women through case studies, and the strategies used to combat such crimes.

261. Khalsa Human Rights. *Alleged torture and custodial rape of Kalia Devi.* Liecester (UK). 13 August 2001. P... [Source – http:// www.derechos.org; accessed on 22 December 2002]

This is a case on custodial rape and torture in which state health authorities refused a medical examination on the victim. This appeal requests all persons and institutions concerned with violence against women to demand justice for the victim of rape - upon the delayed action of law enforcers.

262. Khot, Anagha [and] Menon, Sumita. *Gender-sensitive and community-based programme for Mumbai slum women. p.3.* ARROWS for Change. Vol.6, No.1. May 2000.

This is a report on a project by CEHAT (Centre for Enquiry into Health & Allied Themes), addressing violence against women, in particular domestic violence as a serious health implication on women. The project aims to increase the access of urban slum women to affordable and reliable reproductive health services imparted by well-trained community health workers. A training programme has been designed for community health workers – on issues of maternal health, sexually transmitted diseases and reproductive tract infection, sexual abuse and family violence against women. The workers are trained in addressing environmental and socio-political factors that affect health, curative, preventive and promoting health care, referrals to local health services, in organising community health groups and in creating gender awareness. This is followed by refresher sessions on health education, counselling for domestic violence and the involvement of men in their activities.

263. *Know your rights : Divorce laws. P.24-25.* Manushi. Issue.140. January-February 2004.

This article addresses the divorce laws in India and the legal alternatives to divorce. Evidently, marital rape, which is not recognised as a crime under normal circumstances is seen as forced sexual intercourse and a criminal offence if a woman is judicially separated from her spouse, during when all conjugal rights are suspended. When deserted by the spouse the woman could resort to various legal options – file for a divorce, claim for maintenance or petition to the court for restitution of conjugal rights. For reasons of confidentiality and privacy, she could request for the court proceedings be held in camera, with no 'audience' or media personnel. Upon request, the court could also suppress her identity during the trial proceedings and in all court records.

264. Komal Gandhar. *Komal Gandhar : The cultural front of the sex workers' movement.* Calcutta. 19... [Source – ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

This brochure relates to the cultural wing of the sex workers' movement through which the workers express their creativity and help to overcome some of the violent experiences encountered by themselves and their families. This forum also acts as a tool for propaganda against the prevention of HIV/STD, where a music and dance team gives public performances on themes of preventing sexually transmitted diseases and health care.

265. Kosambi, Meera. *Gender reform and competing State control over women : The Rakhmabai Case (1884-1888). P.265-289; ref.* Social reform, sexuality and the State. Ed. Patricia Uberoi. New Delhi, Sage Publication India Pvt Ltd. 1996. (Contribution to Indian Sociology – Occasional Studies 7).

This essay is an exploration of the socio-legal reforms encountered in Colonial India, on child marriage and the human rights of widows. The author illustrates the transition of marriage practices from the control of caste and [21] Shashtric authority, to that of the British system of justice, through the Rakhmabai case (1884) that won gender justice in the British court. Ms. Rakhmabai, a woman from an educated, upper-middle class background, fought her case single-handed, opting out of a non-compatible, childhood marriage. This case was appropriated by social reformers in public protests against the treatment of women and their demands for a space outside marriage, serving as a milestone in subsequent agitations for legal reforms on child marriage, widow remarriage and the abolition of Sati.

266. Krishnakumar, Asha. *Life and death in Salem. P.130-133.* Frontline. 1 March 2002.

This concerns the state and NGO actions on the issue of female infanticide in the Salem District of Tamil Nadu. Though female infanticide is a lawful crime, the practice is internalised in the community through poverty, illiteracy, poor family planning infrastructure in the healthcare system and a deep-rooted dowry system stemming from the value of son-preference. The 'unwanted' daughters are saved through a state-sponsored Cradle Baby Scheme (1994) that accepts them. The Baby Scheme, however, does not seem to involve any long-term plans for the future of those toddler girls saved from death. Alternatively, many NGOs, such as Poonthalir (set up in 1998) deal with female infanticide by creating awareness among the public and the rescue of infants for adoption.

267. Krishnakumar, Asha. *Making change possible. p.100-105.* Frontline. Vol.22, No. 9. 6 May 2005.

This article concerns the efforts of UNICEF in the district of Purulia, West Bengal, to control the incidence of maternal/child mortality. UNICEF's Outreach Mobility Programme gears to increase the efficiency of auxiliary

[21] Learned Brahmins who performed Hindu marriages.

nurse midwives who function at the sub-centre clinics, while strengthening the outreach programme for Reproductive and Child Health (RCH). The improved quality of health care includes supply of disposable delivery kits and other essential equipment to the sub-centres, as well as training the traditional midwives to use these equipment. Emphasising on their role as the link between families and formal health system, the training aims to increase institutional deliveries, early identification of danger signs and appropriate referrals, as well as conducting 'clean' deliveries and providing care for the mother and the new born. Special delivery units are constructed in the district, with the provision of necessary equipment, oxygen and drugs, with the support of the local Panchayat and the Department of Health and Family Welfare. Indicators of RCH are monitored in the district to detect issues at different levels, planning for corrective actions, improving supervisory skills and enhancing record keeping. This record keeping has shown encouraging results, where there is a reduction in maternal mortality/ morbidity with a marked increase in the number of admissions to the hospitals.

268. Krishnakumar, Asha. *A programme without plan. P.40-41.* Frontline. 15 February 2002.

This is a critique of the strategy aiming tc eradicate female foeticide and infanticide. The State Government of Tamil Nadu, at present, has reviewed several schemes launched during the period of 1991 to 1996 that sought to empower women and improve the status of the girl child. Implemented in December 2001, the 18-Point Programme for the welfare of women and children is based on preventing the death of the girl child, improving the status of adolescent girls, ensuring childhood care and development, promoting disease prevention by vaccination and ending child labour. Being a forerunner in the protection of the girl child, with its Girl Child Protection Scheme, it promotes family planning, encourages the education of the girl child and discourages son-preference. However, this programme does not adequately address issues such as compulsory primary education, public health and childcare infrastructure and the abolition of dowry system.

269. Krishnakumar, Asha. *Silicosis deaths in Pondicherry. P.49-52.* Frontline. 11 April 2003.

This article concerns the state efforts upon a case of silicon-poisoning experienced by women workers of a glass factory in Pondicherry, where the Government of Pondicherry and the management of the factory await the result of a state-level investigation before extending relief or compensation to the

affected. Acknowledging the inefficiency of the Labour Department to check on safety measures for the workers and the possibility of any occupational hazards, a state-level committee has now been appointed to probe the death of several women workers. The case filed against the management for compensation is long pending and various political parties have threatened action unless the Government takes a firm decision on this issue.

270. Krishnakumar, Asha. *To live with dignity. P. 90-93.* Frontline. 31 December 2004.

Gender, socio-economic and cultural inequalities together have made women the most vulnerable group for HIV infection in India. Violence against women also significantly increases their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS, reinforced by gender discrimination/bias. This article is a critique on the state responses to protecting women and girls from HIV/AIDS infection and 'mother-to-child transmission' of the virus, as well as the support of the victims through community intervention. Evidently, steps have to be taken to:

- Develop legal policy guidelines to create community-based support systems;
- Integrate health programmes with primary health care system, through decentralised planning and decision-making;
- Include active community participation in the programme through awareness-raising and educating the public in order to erase the stigma attached to AIDS patients;
- Respect the rights of HIV/AIDS patients to privacy and confidentiality, in order to help them live with dignity.

271. Kumar, Radha. *From Chipko to Sati : Early feminist campaigns. P.347-356.* Gender and politics in India. Ed. Nivedita Menon. New Delhi, Oxford University Press. 1999.

This essay brings out a selective description of the contemporary women's movements in India and campaigns for violence against women. The chapter notes that protests launched against the practice of dowry and dowry-related violence against women have penetrated into other groups such as trade unions, teachers' association and student movements causing an impact on legal reforms to ban dowry and the provision of penalties for dowry-related crimes. The Anti-Dowry Law passed in 1980 recognises women's suicides within the first 7 years of marriage as dowry-related offences instigated by the spouse and his family members. In reality, the amendments have little effect on the

prevention of dowry-related violence as deep-rooted beliefs on the institution of marriage codify that " ..the woman belongs to her husband's family after marriage". Women's movements such as the Forum Against Rape have campaigns against sexual abuse, violence, and rape that has lead to the reopening of rape cases in courts. A national campaign has resulted in the amendment to law against rape in terms of :

- Heavy penalties for custodial rape;
- Camera trails for cases on rape;
- A shift on the onus of proof onto the accused.

This has reopened the debate on sexual harassment which is rarely punished and considered as 'eve-teasing'. The paper also relates to the pro-sati agitations lead by women belonging to right-wing religious groups as contradicting the ideology upheld by feminist groups.

272. Kumar, Radha. *The History of Doing : An illustrated account of movements for women's rights and feminism in India, 1800-1990.* New Delhi, Kali for Women. 1993. 191p.; plates; notes; index.

This volume relates to various forms of struggles and protests against violence perpetrated towards women during the colonial and post-colonial eras. Illustrated with photographs, the text describes the history of the contemporary women's movement, drawing in gendered activism of women's groups, trade unions and community-based organisations in terms of campaigns against dowry, agitation against rape and other forms of sexual violence, protests against widow immolation (Sati), maltreatment of women workers and gender discrimination acknowledged by personal/customary and religious laws practiced in various ethno-religious communities. Specific reference is made to those legal reforms brought during the colonial and post-independent history of the country.

273. Kumar, Sampath. *Shamed woman wins case. 2p.* London, BBC News. 18 September 2003. [Source – http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/; accessed on 18 January 2004].

The High Court of Madras has reprimanded the members of a village council who imposed a cash fine and physical 'punishment' for a woman who demanded divorce from her husband. When commenting on the case of Ms.Suganthi an educated, employed woman subjected to 'punishment' by the Panchayat, women's groups call this a typical example of the status of educated women in a rural setting, who cannot combat misogyny and gender bias.

274. Lak, Daniel. *South Asia : Call for tougher Indian rape laws.* 12 April 2000. London, BBC News. [Source – http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/; accessed on 22 June 2003].

Women activists and women's NGOs declare that deeply conservative attitudes about sex and privacy within families have contributed in making rape laws ineffective. A report from the Law Commission calls for major changes to the country's rape laws with a noticeable increase in the incidence of sexual violence. Based on a report prepared by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Commission recommends that cases of rape and sexual assault be tried in special courts, considering the specific needs of the victim who are liable to be ostracised.

275. Lawyers' Collective. *The Domestic Violence on Women (Prevention) Bill 1994.* [s.l]. 14 February 1999. 4p.

The Committee of Experts appointed by the National Commission for Women (NCW) has recommended a draft bill to provide legal remedies to victims of domestic violence, applicable in cases of :

- Wife abuse/battery – torture, physical and psychological abuse;
- Marital rape as an act that compels the woman to have sexual intercourse against her will with her husband or anyone else.

The proposed Act encompasses a special clause – Protection Order that provides safe protection for victims of domestic abuse in the form of separate stay and maintenance in prevention of further abuse. Appointed by the State, the Protection Officer carries out the provisions of the Order in the interest of the victim.

276. Lawyers' Collective [and] Women's Rights Initiative. *Update on the Domestic Violence Bill, India.* [s.l], 14 December 2002. 3p.

Efforts made by women's organisations in their campaign for a civil law on domestic violence and the response made by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development are related in this letter. The Committee has placed the Protection Against Domestic Violence Bill in parliament, accepting all the demands made by the women's groups. Their recommendations include:

- Right to residence of the victim within her matrimonial home;
- Relief for those who have been living in a relationship within marriage or in a marriage considered "invalid by the law";

- Deletion of the right to self defence given to the respondent under the proposed law;
- Deletion of the provision of mandatory counselling for either party;
- Orders for interim protection round-the-clock to the victim passed by a magistrate;
- Legal protection for service providers towards any action taken in good faith;
- Monitoring for negative portrayal of women in print and visual media.

Concerning the definition of domestic violence, the women's NGOs are lobbying aggressively in order to pass the Bill on Protection Against Domestic Violence at its earliest.

277. Lawyers' Collective [and] Women's Rights Initiative. *Violence against women.* [s.l]. July 2002.

This is a country paper on the legal developments to combat violence against women in India. With India as a signatory to the CEDAW, has enacted several laws through the years to protect women against gender violence and discrimination, but has not provided a deterrent against spouse abuse, family violence, community-based violence and workplace violence. Working with an anti-patriarchal framework, women's groups have pushed for legal reforms to provide redress to the victims of gender violence.

278. Lind, Krista. *India – Rape laws.* [s.l]. 13 August 2001. 4p. [Source – http://www.louisville.edu; accessed on 24 January 2003].

An analysis of the Indian penal system of laws against rape, this study pinpoints the drawbacks of specific cases. This article observes that "the accused seems to be getting off easier than the victims", a fundamental injustice to the victims." The article draws attention to the women's movement in post-colonial India which has tried to address gender discrimination in the name of tradition and religion.

279. *Lynching : Women groups back accused. 1p.* [s.l]. 19 August 2004. [Source – http://www.tribuneindia.com/2004/; accessed on 17 December 2004].

Several women's groups, together with AIDWA staged a demonstration outside the Nagpur Courts, in support of five women accused of killing a notorious gangster who was responsible for many crimes, including rape and extortion.

There was no proof that the women were guilty of this act, and AIDWA condones the act as one of 'frustration' at the inadequacy of the legal system to punish the criminal. Further, they requested police protection for other women in the area against the gang members of the diseased.

280. Mahila Samakhya Baroda et al. *Women-initiated response to domestic violence in Gujarat : A study of the Nari Adalat and Mahila Panch. P.47-65; notes; map.* Women initiated community response to domestic violence : Summary report of three studies. Washington D.C., International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW). 2002. 75p.; tables; annex.; ref. (Domestic Violence in India : Exploring Strategies Promoting Dialogue No.5).

Violence against women in Gujarat takes various forms, mostly as domestic violence, female foeticide and gender-based atrocities targeted at members of the oppressed castes. Nari Adalat and the Mahila Panch are community-level responses to gender-related violence, evolving from rural women's collectives. Based on the National Mahila Samakhya Programme to educate women and build women's groups for the poor, rural, landless women, the forums are deployed as alternatives for unbiased gender justice through "..policy for women, by women and out of women". The strategies are applied through a process of community arbitration with an inherent knowledge of the local culture and the practical knowledge of 'what would work.' While making justice accessible, inexpensive and timely, they also provide public space and validation for women who are marginalized socially and economically.

281. Mahila Samakhya Saharanpur et al. *Women-initiated response to domestic violence in Uttar Pradesh : A study of the Nari Adalat and Sahara Sangh. P.32-46.* Women initiated community response to domestic violence : Summary report of three studies. Washington D.C., International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW). 2002. 75p.; tables; annex.; ref. (Domestic Violence in India : Exploring Strategies Promoting Dialogue No.5).

This report explores the evolution and impact of two response mechanisms to domestic violence in Uttar Pradesh. Nari Adalat and Sahara Sangh are support groups created in response to violence against women, in particular domestic and family violence. Though different in ideology and articulation, both of them act as forums, adopting processes that are transparent and objective, engaging in open discussions within the larger community in the natal and marital villages of the complainant. The significant features of the forums are:

- Publication of discussions to ensure community acceptability of any decisions made;
- No Geographic and emotional distance from the immediate local community, so the forum is viewed as a local body;
- Responses are from a women-centred approach to justice based on reinforcing women's rights rather than punishing the perpetrator;
- Using the socially and culturally accepted form of community intervention, based on an understanding of the socio-cultural and political realities.

282. Mahila Sangharsh Okoota. *Bhanwari B[h]ai : Trust betrayed, justice denied.* [State of] **Karnataka.** 1p. 19... .

This pamphlet was distributed on the event of the International Women's Day. In this publication, women's NGOs and action groups in Karnataka strongly condemned violence against women. In order to seek justice and redress to victims of violence, they demanded that a public hearing be held to bring those accused to trial and mandatory judgement delivered on the occasion, to be accepted and implemented. While celebrating the courage of Ms.Bhanwari B[h]ai a social worker, who was gang-raped when she challenged the practice of child marriage, the forum calls for a 'Black Day' public protest on the denial of gender justice and also calls for a penalty for her assailants.

283. Malhotra, Anjali. *The saved minors from the 'jaws of marriage'.* The Hindu. 20 January 2004.

This is a news item on a group of school girls, who stood up against the social evils of child marriage. Five school girls from the rural settings of the State of Haryana, upon hearing the event of a child marriage went to the venue and ensured that the marriage was called off. Their determination was acknowledged by the Indian Council for Child Welfare (ICCW) and they received the National Bravery Award in 2004.

284. Manikandan, K. *Six rescued from bonded labour.* The Hindu. 29 February 2004.

Activists of SOCO Madurai have rescued a mother with three young children and an infant from bonded labour in a snack-making unit in Ganjam District, Orissa. The family was offered employment in Orissa, little realising that they were bonded for labour. Upon information received by the husband who

managed to escape from the 'sweat shop', the police and NGO together with the coordination of government officials in Ganjam District rescued them and made arrangements to send them to their place of domicile.

285. Marie Stopes International [MSI]. *India : Parivar Seva Sanatha (PSS).* [Delhi]. 2001. P...

As the first MSI overseas partner, the PSS imparts reproductive health care and family planning services in India through a network of clinics and mobile units at urban as well as rural levels. MSI believes that women should have access to legal, safe abortion services and that abortion should be the woman's choice. In this context, the organisation provides a contraceptive service to promote women's health and well-being. The health services of PSS encompass:

- Family planning education programmes;
- Collaboration with community-based health workers;
- Social outreach programmes on contraceptive usage and referral services;
- Male reproductive health care.

286. *Marital rape : India. P.22-24.* Equality Now : Women's Action. Update No. 16.5. March 2004.

This article highlights Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code, which deals with the issue of marital rape as "...exception to the act of rape", and of "..sexual intercourse by a man with his own wife". However, Article 15 of the Constitution of India prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex. In the wake of the Platform for Action following the UN Women's Conference in Beijing (1995), Equality Now calls upon the Government to repeal/amend Section 375, as it does not abide by the state constitution.

287. *Marriages-Divorces.* [s.l]. [s.l], Sudhir Shah & Associates. 2003. 2p.; ill. [Source – http://www.sudhirlaw.com/; accessed 22 December 2003].

This web site illustrates that cruelty, adultery, desertion by the spouse for a specific period, coerced religious conversion, suffering from sexually transmitted diseases or leprosy can be grounds for the women to seek divorce. The page lists out the various laws dealing with divorce, maintenance, succession and child custody in the Hindu, Muslim and Parsi religions. Further,

it provides useful information on the Child Marriage Restraint Act that prohibits a traditional form of violence perpetrated against the girl child, and on Family Court Act (1984).

288. Mathew, Dennis Marcus. *To give women a choice.* The Hindu. 25 February 2005.

The female condom, a dual-purpose device to prevent women against sexually transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancies, is being marketed in India. This device helps those who cannot negotiate the use of male condom due to socio-cultural and personal constraints to be protected against sexually transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancies. Promoted by Hindustan Latex, the female condom allows for protected sexual acts without the necessity of male condom, thereby promoting sexual/reproductive health. A recent feasibility study conducted among married couples and sex workers shows that training, advocacy and counselling on the issue could make this a successful alternative to provide women with the freedom of choice.

289. Mathias, Linda. *Handcuffs on women.* The Hindu. 28 December 2003.

This is a comment on the ruling of the Supreme Court that during the arrest of a woman, a policewoman need not be present. In response, women and legal activists stress the prevalence of custodial rape perpetrated upon women in detention. Based on the reports of the National Expert Committee on Women Prisoners and the All India Committee for Jail Reforms, AIDWA recommends that women shall not be arrested between sunset and sunrise and in the absence of women police. Other suggestions include all-women police stations and separate jails/detention centres for women. As custodial rape is the most underreported crime in the country, the Indian Centre for Human Rights and Law (ICHRL) has launched a campaign to raise awareness on custodial violence against women.

290. McGivering, Jill. *Indian court rejects eunuch mayor.* London, BBC News. 4 February 2003. 2p. [Source – http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south asia/ ; accessed on 27 July 2004].

Eunachs in India consider themselves as women, living in ostracised communities where the majority is transexual or bisexual, often consider themselves as women. This news item highlights the decision of the court in Madhya Pradesh that believes that Ms. Kamla Jaan a eunuch is not qualified

to enter politics within the women's reservation quota which encourages women's political participation. Ms. Jaan was elected as the first mayor from sexual minorities four years ago, and since then, a number of sexual minorities have entered the mainstream politics.

291. Menon, Meena. *Victims of the dark.* The Hindu. 29 September 1996.

This is a critique on the nature of police raids upon sex workers in Mumbai and state efforts to 'rehabilitate' women, in particular minor girls who have been forced into prostitution by brothel owners and 'middlemen'. Women's NGOs and human rights activists are divided on this issue of remedial action undertaken. Evidently, they comment that the process of 'rehabilitation' has no long-term impact on the victims. The state-run homes are not equipped to handle their problems, in particular those affected by sexually transmitted diseases and other forms of infection. Mahila Dakshata Samiti a women's NGO provides counselling for the girls, while Perena a voluntary organisation runs a crèche/night school for the children of sex workers helping those who are willing to be helped. The Women and Child Welfare Department of Maharashtra State proposes a revision of dietary plan, upgrading the existing shelter homes with vocational training facilities and launching an awareness raising campaign on the popular media. In addition, schemes for income generation have been started to promote them to earn through 'alternate living'.

292. Menon, Nivedita. *Embodying the self : Feminism, sexual violence and the law. P.66-105 ; notes.* Community, gender and violence. Ed. Partha Chatterjee & Pradeep Jeganathan. Delhi, Permanent Black. 2000. (Subaltern Studies XI).

This essay examines the legal and feminist definitions of rape and sexual violence, and how law recognises this reality and grants legitimacy to this gender crime. Evidently, crimes against women are looked upon as 'private' and 'personal' by the criminal justice system, and ".. the woman stands outside the power equation between the state and the accused". The paper delves into the implications of rape laws in terms of ' sexual act', 'sexuality', 'consent' and 'honour' in the Indian legal system and the inadequacy of the rape laws to cope with the crime of sexual violence perpetrated against women.

293. Menon, Nivedita. *The impossibility of 'justice' : Female foeticide and feminist discourse on abortion. P. 368-390; ref.* Social reform, sexuality and the State. Ed. Patricia Uberoi. New Delhi, Sage Publication

India Pvt Ltd. 1996. (Contribution to Indian Sociology – Occasional Studies 7).

Raising the issue on the rights to abortion and women's rights, this paper is critical of the State action towards liberalizing abortion. Though the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act of 1971 claims to be beneficial to the women, in terms of 'freedom' and 'health', the Family Planning Programme launched by the State serves as a tool for population control, rather than to promote women's right to freedom of choice. The MTP Act legally permits abortion up to 12 weeks of pregnancy and under "conditions that could affect the mothers mental health", with no provision to prevent female foeticide where the sex of the foetus could be detected by the use of modern technologies.
In this context, women's groups and the Forum Against Sex Determination and Sex Pre-selection (FASDSP) have launched a campaign against the practice of pre-natal sex determination. The FASDSP conducts research studies, awareness- raising workshops and produces information pamphlets focusing on a sustained campaign to ban the "sex-selective techniques" that lead to female foeticide.

294. Menon, Nivedita. *Rights, bodies and the law : Female foeticide and feminist discourse on abortion. P. 278-282.* Gender and politics in India. Ed. Nivedita Menon. New Delhi, Oxford University Press. 1999.

This paper discusses feminist responses to, and state interventions towards the practice of female foeticide. The State of Maharashtra passed an Act banning the prenatal diagnostic practices (PNDT Act), which, according to the Forum Against Sex determination and Sex Preselection (FASDSP), has 'loopholes' and does not prevent female foeticide. The Forum lobbies for laws to ban the practice putting forward recommendations to make the Act more effective without imposing a blanket-ban on the pre-natal checking of foetus. The paper however, questions the control of reproductive technologies by feminist movements, as opposed to the legal sanctioning of free- abortion in India.

295. Menon, Parvathi [and] Choudhury, Srobona Roy. *Dubious choice. P.118-119.* Frontline. 4 January 2002.

Vimochana, a women's NGO and the Network to Empower Women Journalists (NEWJ) held a demonstration in Bangalore against an advertising campaign launched to market a pre-conception sex selection technique. Cashing on 'son

preference' a social value entrenched in the Indian society, the advertisement has appeared in the print and electronic media on a "..fully integrated programme to select the sex of your unborn child". This has provoked protests from women's groups and child rights activists that are combating against social attitudes and practices that discriminate against the girl child. Gynaecologists in India are critical on the "integrated programme" which is not scientifically valid and falls into the category of 'hit or miss' techniques. Also, the media campaign violates the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation & Prevention of Misuse) Act of 1994 that is under scrutiny by the Supreme Court.

296. Menon, Ritu [and] Bhasin, Kamla. *Abducted women, the State and questions of honour : Three perspectives on the recovery operation in post-partititon India. P.1-30; notes.* Embodies violence : Communalising women's sexuality in South Asia. Ed. Kumari Jayawardene et al. New Delhi, Kali for Women. 1996.

The theme of this paper is set against the background of the partitioning of India and Pakistan as separate States in 1947, and the aftermath of communal violence when many women became victims of abduction and sexual violence. The text presents in-depth interviews of government officials, bureaucrats, members of parliament; women themselves; social workers to whom the work of rehabilitation and resettlement of the recovered women were entrusted, and the relationships between them. This paper sheds light on the attitudes of the State, from its neutrality in assigning values to the 'legitimate family and community honour' to the underlying regulations of women's sexuality through legislative, executive and police action, thereby reinforcing multiple patriarchies in women's lives within the family and community.

297. Menon, Ritu [and] Bhasin, Kamla. *Borders and Boundaries : Recovering women in the interest of the nation. P. 65-126; notes.* Borders & boundaries: Women in India's partitioning. New Delhi, Kali for Women. 1998.

In the post-partition era, India and Pakistan have both been experiencing violence against women in the form of abduction, forced marriage and forced religious conversion of women across borders. This section of the publication relates to the efforts made by governments, military and volunteer organisations involved in the process of 'recovery' of these women. The text explores the Inter-Dominion Act of November 1947 to "...recover as many women, as speedily as possible, from each country and restore them to their families.."

and the problems encountered in the event as related by state officials and volunteers who participated in the recovery programme. Following the state agreement that "neither forced conversions nor forced marriages will be recognized by either country..", the Abducted Persons Act (1947) was provided for victims of gender-based violence and the children born illegally. This Act recognised the issues of violating women's human rights, contravening all provisions regarding marriage, divorce, custody, guardianship and inheritance. However, the question of free choice is what neither the governments nor communities could permit victims of violence to have.

298. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Department of Family Welfare. *Proposed amendments in PNDT Act 1994.* 14p. 20... [Source – http://www.cehat.org/; accessed on 15 February 2003].

Pre-natal diagnostic techniques such as ultrascopy and amniocentesis are deployed to detect genetic or sex-linked disorders or congenital malformation in cases of unborn babies to avoid the birth of abnormal children. However, ultrascopy is being 'misused'on a large scale to detect the sex of the unborn foetus, leading to voluntary/coerced abortion of the female foetus. Rooted in the patriarchal norms of 'son-preference', illegal techniques have been developed to pre-select the sex of the child before conception. The proliferation of such techniques has caused a serious imbalance in the sex ratio, hence it is important to enact and implement a legislation to ban sex selection techniques and the misuse of pre-natal diagnostic practices for the purpose of female foeticide. It also serves to regulate the use of such techniques for appropriate scientific use. The proposed amendment to PNDT Act (1994) includes emerging technologies such as pre-conception sex planning, and ensures effective implementation of the Act at all levels, through the use of advisory committees at national and state levels as monitors. As prescribed by the Act, all laboratories, clinics and genetic counselling centres have to be registered, in order to prevent malpractices that could lead to the extermination of the girl child.

299. Ministry of Human Resource Development. Department of Women and Child Development. *Violence against women. P.32-37.* Platform for Action : Five years after an assessment. New Delhi. June 2000.

In keeping with the Platform for Action that originated in Beijing after the UN Women's Conference in 1995, the government has included gender sensitisation programmes for the national and the state police academies, as part of the

training to prevent violence against women. The police department has taken steps to:

- Set up all-women police stations to facilitate women in the reporting of gender crimes;
- Establish answering cells in police stations regarding incidents of gender violence;
- Providing counselling and rehabilitation services to women and children victimised by family violence. In terms of prevention and support services, the National Commission for Women (NCW) plays an activist role in promoting women's rights, launching the anti-dowry campaigns and in reviewing the laws/legal remedies for victims of violence. NCW has also set up a family court for women, promoting access to justice for the poor.

As a preventive and supportive instrument, the National Commission for Women plays the role of an activist for women's rights. Launching anti-dowry campaigns and reviewing laws, legal remedies for women victims are parts of their task. The Commission also sets up women's family courts in order to facilitate legal access for poor women.

Women and health. P.22-13; tables; plates

This section of the report relates to the development of the Reproductive Healthcare Programme (RHC), which reveals the visible reduction in maternal mortality and morbidity and unwanted pregnancies. Services of the RHC aim to promote:

- Safe motherhood with reduction in the number of maternal deaths;
- Contraceptive needs for the community;
- Prevention of HIV/AIDS;
- Integrated health services for the rural and tribal communities.

300. Minority Rights International. *Women's Rights. P.5.* Inheriting a life without dignity : A call to the United Nations to address caste-based discrimination. London. August 2001.

This brochure is published on the issue of violence against women of oppressed castes, and the practices of UN Bodies with regard to caste discrimination. Women of oppressed communities, in particular the Devadasis, suffer physical and sexual violence, life-long sexual servitude as well as gender exploitation at the workplace, as sanctioned by communities belonging to the privileged

castes. This brochure views the caste system as a factor impeding the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The follow-up of the Bejing Conference and the general recommendations given by the CEDAW Committee and the UNDAW do not however, recognise the problems of caste discrimination on gender. MRG International calls upon the UN human rights bodies to systematically address caste-based, gender specific violation of human rights and to develop agencies to pay particular attention to develop programmes/strategies that counter this traditional form of gender violence.

301. Mishra, Yamini. *Unsafe abortions and women's health. P. 3814-3817; notes.* Economic and Political Weekly. Vol. XXXVI, No. 40. October 6-12, 2001.

This article is an exploration of the restrictiveness of abortion laws in India and their impact on women's health. As indicated by the high rate of death and serious injuries of women who undergo abortions, it is concluded that although legalised, unsafe abortions often claim many lives and cause health complications when performed under poor facilities, particularly in rural, sub-urban settings. The author argues that restrictive abortion laws, setting the 'terms and conditions' under which abortion can be performed, have a significant impact in restricting women's reproductive rights, instituting gendered oppression. As such, the article opens up a debate on legalising abortion, in the context of the woman's oppression and the ethics associated with the issue.

302. Mitra, Nishi. *Best practices among responses to domestic violence in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. P.18-27. tables; ref.* Domestic violence in India : A summary report of three studies. Washington D.C., International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW). September 1999.

The objective of this study is to analyse the range of governmental and non-governmental responses to domestic violence in the State of Maharashtra where the women's movement is very active and in Madhya Pradesh which is the least developed in this arena. Using a quantitative survey and a qualitative analysis of the responses, the study identifies the most suitable responses and related programmes to combat family violence. The research encompasses the following issues:

- Police and legal responses – laws on family violence, accessibility to legal services, and gender sensitivity of the police force to gender-related violence;

- Supportive services – shelters, special programmes, counselling and medical care for victims;
- Preventive measures – legal literacy, NGO activities in terms of raising awareness on potential outcome of violence.

This research shows that the best form of elimination of domestic violence is through community intervention, and remedial measures through empowering women to seek legal recourse and self-confidence. Through enforcement of legislation on increasing of the minimum age of marriage and women's right to property, women could find long-term options of self-reliance through education and legal literacy.

303. Mitra, Nishi. *Domestic violence as a public issue : A review of responses.* Mumbai. Tata Institute of Social Sciences. 2000. 90p.; notes; append.; biblio.; maps; tables; glossary.

The chief aim of this study is to document and analyse the variety of social responses to domestic abuse against women and to define the best strategies to combat such violence. Comparing the traditionally under-developed state of Madhya Pradesh and the state of Maharashtra, which has a history of reform movements and a powerful women's movement, it was revealed that both states have the highest incidence of registered crimes against women. The research views domestic violence within the parameters of state interventions such as executive, judicial and social welfare responses. In doing so, it analyses the responses of state, and voluntary and feminist organisations that deal with women victims of abuse. While exploring the range of organisations, the volume reviews legal reforms and interventions made by the states and NGOs to resolve the issue. In conclusion, NGO strategies are evaluated on how they will counter violence against women.

304. *Monitoring country activities : India. P. 6.* ARROWS for Change. Vol.8, No.2. 2002.

With the aim to sensitise the public health system to the issue of gender-based violence, Centre for Equity into Health and Allied Themes (CEHAT) and the Public Health Department of Mumbai Municipality have jointly formed a support centre Dilaasa at the government hospital to provide physical/ psychological support for women survivors of domestic violence. Dilaasa conducts training programmes for hospital staff on gender sensitisation to identify gender violence and screen the victims and issue referrals. Their counselling system is analysed periodically through the record of cases

registered at Dilaasa and the centre networks with women's organisations, legal agencies, shelter homes that work with survivors of domestic abuse for mutual support, referral and sharing experiences.

305. *Monitoring country activities : India. P. 6.* ARROWS for Change. Vol.9, No.2. 2003.

A group of NGOs have launched a campaign against gender-based violence in the region of Gujarat. The campaign reached over 200 villages where more than half the participants are men. Apart from poster exhibitions, a public rally and theatrical performances, a signature campaign where men and women pledge to stop violence against women was undertaken. Women's NGOs, community-based organisations and human rights activists participated in this programme.

306. Learned Brahmins who performed Hindu marriages. *Monitoring Country Activities : India. P.6-7.* ARROWS for Change. Vol.10, No.1. 2004.

This is a short report of a [22]seminar on the critical role of midwives and birth attendants on promoting safe motherhood and prevention of maternal deaths. The topics covered were the use of [23]partography as a decision making tool to monitor the progress of labour, safe abortion and post-abortion care, neonatal care, role of midwives in hospitals and home, and maternal/child health care. This conference aimed to increase the awareness of midwives on the expanding role of mid-level health providers, gender sensitive practices, and ethical/ medical issues associated with the voluntary testing for HIV/AIDS and mother-to-child transmission of the infection, while resolving to set up a multi-centric project on the use of partograph, in the hospitals and medical schools of Andhra Pradesh.

307. Monitoring Country Activities : India. P.7. ARROWS for Change. Vol.10, No.1. 2004.

According to recent statistics an average of 40,000 women die of child birth annually in the State of Uttar Pradesh. In order to combat maternal deaths, a

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22 "The Role of Midwives in saving Women's Lives", Hyderabad, 10-12 October 2003.

23 A tool that can be used by midwifery personnel, nurse midwife, medical doctor or nurse to assess the progress of labour and to identify when intervention is necessary. Using the partograph can be highly effective in reducing complications from prolonged labour for the mother and for the newborn.

state-level [24]workshop was organized by Kriti Resource Centre. Attended by participants from the community, NGOs, media, state health care sector, technical institutions and donor agencies the forum calls for the setup of monitoring mechanisms such as district/block level committees, on the issue of maternal mortality. These will be set up through the combined efforts of the state, community and the civil society on the issue of maternal mortality, as district/block level committees. As a result of this effort, the Department of Family Welfare has ordered the establishment of committees from the village to state levels to audit individual cases of maternal deaths in order to investigate the cause of death.

308. *Monitoring country activities : India. P. 7.* ARROWS for Change. Vol.9, No.2. 2003.

Rajasthan Safe Motherhood Alliance (SUMA), a state chapter of the White Ribbon Alliance for the Safe Motherhood India (WRAI), launched a campaign to create awareness among women, men and adolescents on their specific roles on creating conditions for safe motherhood. Involving NGO networks, international agencies, the State Resource Centre, the Women's Commission, Health Department, research organisations and print media, this campaign promotes the reduction of maternal morbidity, with the objectives to advocate:

- Policy and programming changes;
- Capacity building of NGOs towards promoting maternal health;
- Dialogue among partners/stake holders.

309. Mukhopadhyay, Maitrayee [and] Meer, Shamim. *Reframing the global debate on trafficking from a sex workers' perspective : Durbar Mahila Samanway Committee, India. P. 176-187; notes.* Creating voices and carving space : Redefining governance from a gender perspective. Amsterdam, Royal Tropical Institute (KIT). 2004.

An action-oriented research undertaken by Durbar which is an autonomous organisation of sex workers. Based in West Bengal, Durbar engages itself in debates and actions on issues of anti-trafficking, in order to review the concept of trafficking as a human rights/ women's rights issue. The quantitative study includes in-depth interviews, discussion forums and case studies on women trafficked into the sex industry. Members of Durbar analyse the findings of

[24] "Right to Safe Moherhood", Lucknow, 28 May 2004

the study from the point of view of sex workers and of anti-trafficking practitioners, reinforcing the position of the organisation on trafficking as a violation of human rights, towards self-determination. In this context, Durbar has established Self-Regulatory Boards aiming to prevent exploitation of women and violation of human rights within the sex trade, through the recovery of trafficked sex workers to safe custody and creating opportunities for alternative employment for the adult victims. The Boards, however, face many challenges as they are not recognised socio-legally. However, they have launched development activities in the 'red light' areas – issue of ration cards, repairing roads, environmental care and facilitating health services, towards gaining confidence of the community.

310. Multiple Action Research Group. *Within the four walls : A profile of domestic violence.* New Delhi. 1998. 65p.; biblio.; append.; annex.

This report explores the current legal provision addressing victim support and the mechanisms for redressal around the issue of domestic violence. Laws which protect the interest of victims are 'scattered' as personal laws, treating domestic violence as grounds for divorce, or addressed in the Penal Code, which deals with cruelty against women as sexual violence and dowry-related abuse. However, the judiciary does not adopt a holistic approach, thereby failing to treat the above cases as those of domestic violence. A similar attitude is observed in the approach of physicians, psychiatrists and psychologists when treating the victims. Hence, the report calls for a change in law with a simultaneous change in societal attitudes, due to the fact that people are unable to make the best use of the law due to their own social inhibitions. Furthermore, the victims are unable to take a stand against domestic violence due to the lack of alternate support structures and monitoring systems. The report recommends that alternate support structures should not only create shelter homes for the victims, but to ensure care, protection and rehabilitation within a legal frame work so as to provide financial, physical and emotional security. This means that an effective legislation on domestic violence is needed not as a mere criminal legislation but also as a social legislation. This opens up questions on whether a separate/new law on domestic violence is needed, or should a specific law on domestic violence be incorporated into the Penal code, or whether merely making amendments in the current legislation would suffice. Recommendations provided in this report include:

- Provision of health services for victims of domestic violence;
- Psychiatric help through counselling programmes;
- Documenting cases of marital rape, in order to lobby for a policy change;
- Legal protection for the victims against further abuse.

311. *Mumbai Campaign Against Sexual Harassment. Draft policy to prevent and deal with sexual harassment in universities.* [s.l]. 20... [Source – http://www.infochangeindia.org; accessed on 19 January 2003].

A commitment by the universities to create an atmosphere free of sexual harassment for the students and staff, this draft policy is based on the guidelines issues in the judgement on the case of Visakha vs. State of Rajasthan on 13th August 1997. The University Grants Commission calls upon all universities to implement the guidelines, which are binding on both the employees and the management, and apply to the students and third-party harassment within the premises. The draft relates to the application and scope of the policy, Constitution of the Complaint Committee, the procedure for imposing punishment for sexual harassment and protection against victimisation.

312. Murthy, Rajani K. *Learning about participation from gender relations of female infanticide. p.78-92; notes; ref.* The myth of community : Gender issues in participatory development. Ed. Irene Guijt et al. New Delhi, Vistaar Publications. 1998.

This paper draws on lessons learnt during a participatory workshop with rural midwives involved in female infanticide. ADITHI a NGO from the State of Bihar, in partnership with a district-level CBO Bal Mahila Kaylan (BMK) organised this [25]workshop, which aimed to explore gender discrimination as differentiated by caste/religion, to understand the local history of female infanticide, to identify possible strategies to draw public attention to the prevalence and to strategies to combat the issue. Several innovative strategies were suggested by the participants, to:

- Make the prevalence of female infanticide public and visible;
- Create a watchdog committee at the village level;
- Promote anti-poverty programmes involving the women from vulnerable groups and the community midwives;
- Promote welfare programmes directed at the girl child;
- Raise awareness and empower women, using the midwives as 'change agents'.

The workshop also explored the limitations of achieving the overall objectives of transforming the oppressive subordination of women in the rural society, with a follow-up meeting conducted by BMK on how the suggestions could be implemented, while encouraging the midwives to attend a state-level meeting on the issue of female infanticide.

[25] Workshop on Female Infanticide, District of Katihar (Bihar), May 1995.

313. Nagasaila, D. et al. *Harassment at work.* The Hindu. 4 March 2001.

This news article on sexual harassment at the workplace, examines the nature of protection, the scope of action against the offence as issued in a land-mark case 'Vishaka and Others vs. State of Rajasthan and Others'. In this case the Supreme Court has expressed great concern over the lack of adequate laws to deal with sexual harassment of employees and provided a set of guidelines to be followed by all institutions and employers until a comprehensive law is enacted. Very few institutions have followed these directives, while most public and private institutions have failed to set up complaint mechanisms and raise awareness among the employees on this issue. In cases of sexual harassment to employees prior to the '*Vishaka* vs. *State of Rajasthan*' the complainants were left traumatised and defeated with no gender justice provided. The article points out that changes are needed to make the justice system 'victim-friendly' and be treated as an equal partner in the proceedings. Further, those who are part of the complaint mechanism should be made gender sensitive so that victims would be encouraged to lodge their complaints.

314. Nair, Janaki. *The Devadasi, dharma and the State. P.243-266; notes.* Feminist terrains in legal domains : Interdisciplinary essays on Women and law in India. Ed. Ratna Kapur. New Delhi, Kali for Women. 1996.

The article refers to the efforts made by Dr.Muthulakshmi Reddy the first Indian woman legislator, who campaigned against this caste- based practice of gender oppression. Ms. Reddy moved a Bill to end the practice of "temples slavery", which was followed by persistent campaigning by women activists and social reformers, culminating in a law in 1947 that abolished the system of Devadasi. The volume explores the patriarchal oppression of women through the 19th century, specifically referring to the system of Devadasi where women of a particular caste/class were sanctioned to "temple services", their services exploited by the temple authorities/landlords and prevented from entering into marriage.

315. Nair, P.M. *Action plan against trafficking in women and children for sexual exploitation.* New Delhi, Central Bureau of Investigation. 5p.

A draft of the action plan initiated by the Police Department to prevent the crime of trafficking women and children for forced prostitution. Drafted under the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act 1956, the plan aims to prevent local and cross-country trafficking, prosecute the offenders and provide protection to the victims. In this context, a systematic research be undertaken by law enforcers in partnership with NGOs to investigate the following:

- Locating the 'demand sites', tracing and profiling the traffickers, identifying the various stakeholders and their role, exposing the organised criminal gangs involved;
- Tracing the background of the victims and reasons for their exploitation;
- Tracing economic reasons for trafficking;
- Mapping the routes, modes and mechanisms;
- Assessing the incidence and impact of the issue;
- Identifying the measures for prevention, prosecution and protection of the victims.

Recommendations of this study will be used to develop comprehensive policies and programmes to combat the issue of trafficking.

316. Narasimhan, Sakuntala. *Why AWARE is successful. P.132-145; notes; ref.* Empowering women : An alternative strategy for rural India. New Delhi, Sage Publications. November 1999.

The chapter concerns alternative strategies adopted by AWARE (Action for Welfare and Awakening in Rural Environment) a local NGO to tackle the problem of domestic violence in rural, oppressed and tribal communities where alcoholism is a major cause of spouse/family abuse against women. AWARE has negotiated with the community that if alcohol consumption is stopped the organisation would help build a storage water tank for the villagers faced with the problem of accessing drinking water. With the cooperation of [26]Mahila Mandals formed by the encouragement of AWARE the issue of domestic abuse has been brought under control. Collective support of the women's groups help to monitor the abolition of alcoholism and to have the offenders punished by the law. Spread over 7 states in 6,000 villages AWARE has drawn in many women volunteers as health workers, trained in basic health interventions to serve as a link between the state medical network and the community women on a personal and informal basis. The health volunteers trained to handle reproductive health care have proven to be a great asset, as village women refrain from consulting male doctors due to cultural constraints.

317. Narrain, Siddharth. *For an effective law on rape. P...* Frontline. Vol.20, Issue.23. 8-21 November 2003.

Women's movement in India is agitating for reforms of the criminal law that deals with rape, in particular sexual assault on minor girls and custodial rape. The Criminal Law Amendment Act (1983) that provides strict penalty for

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26 Rural women's development organizations.

custodial rape is found to be inadequate to deal with the increasing number of cases in the recent past. Sakshi a women's NGO submitted a writ petition to the Supreme Court of India that re-defines the concept of rape in the Indian Penal Code. In this context the Law Commission submitted a report which did not deal with the issue adequately. Women's organisations, in particular Sakshi, AIDWA, NCW and IFSHA (Intervention for Support, Healing and Awareness) were consulted by the Commission and the report recommended the deletion of Section 155 (4) of the Indian Evidence Act, in order to prevent the cross-examination of a rape victim on her 'morals' and sexual history. It also included a graded sentence for custodial rape, while providing for sexual violence at workplace. The Commission also suggested that laws against sexual assault be made gender neutral. Legislation criminalizing marital rape, however, was not included in the recommendations. Based on this, the government enacted an amendment to Section 146 of the Evidence Act which means that a victim can no longer be questioned about her 'moral' character. Beyond this, no significant implementations have been made on the recommendations of the Law Commission.

318. Narrian, Siddharth. *Sexuality and the law. P.95-96.* Frontline. 2 January 2004.

Women's rights groups are active in a campaign to repeal Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code which criminalises private consensual sex between adults. The petitioners argue that Section 377 affects HIV/AIDS prevention efforts and that criminalising homosexual acts leads to discrimination against sexual minorities. All India Women's Democratic Association (AIDWA) in an open letter to the Union Law Minister highlights that those most affected by the threat of Section 377 are the [27]Hijra sex workers who face a threat of violence from the police and local gangsters. Sangama a NGO working with sexual minorities demands for the repeal of this section, which does not permit the victims of violence to seek redress.

319. Nath, Tripti. *Sex-selection Tests : Court moved.* The Tribune. 19 September 2000.

Mahila Sarvangeen Mandal, a women's group together with the Centre for Enquiry Health & Allied Themes (CEHAT) have filed a public interest litigation seeking the implementation of provisions of the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PNDT) (Regulations & Prevention of Misuse) Act of 1994. The petition, filed through the Lawyers' Collective, a women's NGO, has lead to

[27] Eunuchs.

the issue of a Supreme Court Order to all state governments and the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare for the effective implementation of the Act. The petition requested that:

- Pre-natal diagnostic techniques contravene the provisions of the PNDT Act and the performance of such a procedure violates the Act;
- Directives issued to the State and Central governments to implement the provisions by appointing appropriate authorities and advisory committees at the state, district levels.

The petition also highlights that the Act provided for the prevention of pre-natal sex determination does not cover the issue of pre-conceptual sex planning.

320. National AIDS Control Organization [NACO]. *"Women and girls have the rights, the power and the needs to protect themselves from HIV/AIDS : World AIDS Day 1 December 2004.* The Hindu. 1 December 2004.

A gendered initiative on AIDS prevention, as part of NACO nation-wide campaign against HIV/AIDS a much reported incidence among women in India. Inserted by the Ministry of Health this supplement aims to highlight the need to raise awareness on the issue, access to information, courage to support the victims and seek health services.

321. National Alliance of Women [NAWO]. *On NAWO...* [s.l], 19... [Source – ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

NAWO is an outcome of the National Committee of Women, India that aims to consolidate the efforts and gains of the "Pre-Beijing" process. The Alliance is committed to establish and strengthen the network of women's organisations, in particular those of marginalized women - the prime target of gender-based violence. The National Federation of Dalit Women, Forum against Violence on Women, Tribal Women and women belonging to religious minorities are drawn in this networking. Linking the different regions of India, NAWO leads to a united and collective effort to strengthen the women's movements and to take action against gender issues.

322. National Alliance of Women [NAWO]. *Two- year action plan of NAWO : Combat violence against women. P.33.* The First National Conference on Post-Beijing Review and Action, New Delhi, 17-19 February 1997.

NAWO is the outcome of Post-Beijing activities on gender issues, taken up by the NGO Advisory Committee of the Beijing process. While pursuing issues related to the empowerment of marginalized women – women of oppressed castes, indigenous women, urban poor and those belonging to ethnic/religious minorities, the Post-Beijing Action Plan of NAWO includes the prevention of gender-based violence by pressurising the state as the priority in the women's section of the 9th Five Year Plan. The Alliance also works towards:

- Provision of legal literacy on laws against gender violence to NGOs and social workers at community level;
- Training on gender sensitivity for state authorities to familiarise themselves on international women's rights instruments such as the CEDAW;
- Support to marginalized categories of women on economic self-reliance.

UNIFEM : Global Campaign for the Elimination of Gender-Based Violence in South Asia, 25 November to 10 December. P.32-34.

NAWO has linked with the Global Campaign conducting diverse public events in 10 states of India. The participants range from schoolgirls, community women to activists, social workers and women heads of village [28]Mahila Samities. Essay competitions, literary activities, poster campaigns, mass rallies, workshops and seminars focused on violence against women as an increasingly problematic social issue that needs gender justice.

Women and armed conflict. P.31 & 34.

Women suffer the most among groups affected by armed conflict where rape becomes a tactic of war and terrorism. This aspect of the report concerns the [29]Planning Meeting of the Indian Chapter of the NGO-SAARC Women for Peace, supported by UNIFEM. This forum draws in strategies from the Platform of Action (PFA) put forward by the UN Beijing Conference in 1995, bringing in women's NGOs to prevent armed conflict and lobby for peace initiatives, integrating the state and NGO levels of action against gender violence during armed strife.

323. National Alliance of Women (NAWO). *Violence against women. P.22-31; plates.* Report of PFA Implementation in India – NAWO : 1995-2000. New Delhi, NAWO Secretariat. 2000.

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28 Rural women's organizations.

29 First Planning Meeting of the Indian Chapter of the NGO-SAARC Women for Peace, New Delhi 2 June, 1997.

Emerging from the Women's Conference in Beijing (1995), the Platform for Action categorically states that " violence against women is an obstacle to active gender equality, development and peace". The NAWO has linked with grass-root women, action groups and community-based organisations campaigning against gender violence. This section of the report briefs on an awareness-raising campaign on gender-oriented violence, in particular sexual harassment in public places, domestic abuse and sexual violence in the workplace. The campaign was held at state, district levels with the support of local women's groups participating in mass rallies, poster campaigns, press statements and "sit down" protests in public places. NAWO in collaboration with the Lawyers Collective has pressed for a new civil law concerning domestic violence against women and children.

324. National Commission for Women [NCW]. *Code of conduct for work place : In accordance with the recent supreme court judgement on "Sexual harassment of women at work place" in Vishaka & Others vs. State of Rajasthan & Others (AIR 1997 SC 3011).* [New Delhi]. 6p. [Source- http://ncw.nic.in/ ; accessed on 26 January 2003].

Sexual harassment is a serious crime against human dignity and freedom. The NCW, to fulfill its aims of protecting the safety of and promoting the capacity of women employees in their work place, has prescribed a code of conduct to be applied to all workplaces. The document is applicable to the public as well as private sector, with guidelines on disciplinary action to be undertaken in cases of misconduct by either party, ie. employer or employee, preventive measures against third-party harassment and the duties of the complaint committee.

325. National Commission for Women [NCW]. *New bills/laws proposed.* [New Delhi]. 3p. [Source - http://ncw.nic.in/new·bills_laws_proposed.htm; accessed on 10 January 2003].

This part of the website on NCW summarises acts/bills that provide for the prevention of gender-oriented violence against women. Legislation dealing with gender crimes - spouse abuse, family violence, bigamy, child marriage, torture/violence perpetrated by in-laws, dowry-related maltreatment, rape and sexual assault. It also draws in the draft legislation providing for victims of sexual violence.

Important court interventions. 2p.

A list of court cases on violence against women in different parts of India where NCW has intervened in support of the victims. The list encompasses

cases of sexual violence, capital punishment, obscenity in mass media, traditional practices against the will of the women, issues on divorce/ maintenance under religious laws.

Parivarik Mahila Lok Adalat (PMLA). 3p.

PMLA meaning the People's Court for Women is based on the NCW Act of 1990 and the Family Court Act (1984) to seek justice for women, to safeguard their human rights and promote gender empowerment. In consultation with the District Legal Aid & Advise Board (DLAAB), the PMLA handles marriage and family disputes in order to provide speedy justice to women victims through the participation of the community. With the active involvement of NGOs/voluntary organisations, cases on domestic abuse, divorce, maintenance, bigamy, gender crimes and labour disputes are brought in to this forum. The complaints and counselling unit of PMLA seeks to solve disputes through systematic counselling of the affected parties and promotes settlement of problems through reconciliation.

Complaints and Counselling Unit. 2p.

Oral, written or suo moto under Section 20 of the NCW Act are accepted by the counselling unit on issues of wife battery, family violence, bigamy, sexual abuse, torture, desertion, sexual harassment at the work place and on police refusal to register complaints of gender violence. Family disputes that could be resolved or compromised are dealt by counsellors, while severe crimes are handled by the inquiring committee that prepares a comprehensive report on the police response, for further action by the Commission. Persons from the State Commission, NGOs and experts on the subject are involved in the committee, with the complaints being treated as case studies in the gender sensitisation programmes for the police, judiciary, administrative functionaries and medico-legal personnel.

326. [National Commission for Women] *NCW Seeks justice for women deserted by NRI husbands.* The Hindu. 29 August 2004.

Hundreds of women married to non-resident Indians (NRIs) are abandoned or divorced by their spouses and are not entitled to maintenance/alimony, as the Indian Court does not honour the divorce sanctioned by a foreign court. The National Commission for Women (NCW) is in the process of drafting a policy on "minimum understanding" of the issue with other countries. The policy primarily emphasises compulsory registration of marriages, with the setting up of special desks in diplomatic missions abroad, to deal with the issue of NRI marriages.

327. National Commission for Women. *[On the working of the Commission].* Prp. Mohini Giri. New Delhi. 18 July 1998. 2p.; annex.

This letter by the Chairperson to the Commission discusses the state initiatives to "investigate and examine all matters relating to the safeguards provided for women under the Constitution...". Chapters II and II of the Commission Act, 1990 shows the functions of the Commission, with respect to protecting women against gender crimes.

328. National Commission for Women [NCW]. *Sexual Harassment of Women at their Workplace. (Prevention) Bill, 2003.* [New Delhi]. 5p. [Source- http://ncw.nic.in/ ; accessed on 6 December 2003].

A submission to the law makers, the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Bill intends to provide for the prevention of sexual harassment of women employees at work or arising during the course of employment or custodial protection by anyone-employers, superiors, colleagues and subordinates. The set of guidelines define the nature of sexual harassment, the joint responsibility of the employer in the offence, types of penalty to the perpetrator/s, criminal proceedings, types of disciplinary action to be taken by the employer and coping mechanism that draws in a complaint committee that deals with the complaints. Further, special officers are designated in the public sector at district level to deal with cases under the provisions of the Act.

329. *National demands on violence. P.18-19.* 200 Good Reasons to March : Marching in steps for change (World March of Women in 2000). New Delhi, National Alliance of Women et al.

Gender violence, cutting across class, caste and culture impairs women's dignity, human rights and fundamental freedom. On the International Women's Day, women's organisations and action groups focused on gender crimes, for which the conviction rates are below 10%. The protest march demanded for the adoption of the Draft on Domestic Violence (Prevention) Bill, 1999 and that this law be stringently enforced in cases of sexual violence against minor girls. While calling for action against trafficking of women and girls and their commercial sexual exploitation, the marchers stressed on :

- Monitoring of current laws, their implementation and law enforcement agencies for action against gender-based violence;
- Constitution of a separate commission adequately represented by women's NGOs and human rights groups, to handle cases of violence against women;

- Media guidelines against the commodification of women as sex objects;
- Laws against witch-hunting, a prevalent form of traditional violence;
- Recognition of women's rights with respect to their sexuality, reproductivity and inheritance of ancestral property.

330. National Federation of Dalit Women [NFDW]. *NGO Declaration on Gender and Racism. 2p.* World Conference against Racism, Racial Discimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, Durban, 28 August – 7 September 2002.

This is a declaration by women of oppressed communities, tribes and women from other marginalised sections of the society in protest of the community violence and discrimination perpetrated by various segments of the society, calling for gender justice. Submitted at the World Conference against Racism, NFDW expresses concern over the failure of the government to protect them against all forms of violence, aggressive communalism and marginalization of oppressed communities, minority religions, indigenous groups and impoverished sections of the public.

331. National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). *Trafficking in women and children.* New Delhi. 2001. 18p.

This is an information brochure brought out by the NHRC to be set up as the focal point for trafficking women and children, in South Asia. The brochure illustrates the prevalence of trafficking, highlighting the role of the NHRC under the:

- Co-ordination and co-operation at national, regional and international levels;
- Prevention of the crime;
- Protection, repatriation and re-integration of the trafficked persons at national and global levels.

332. *National Maternity Benefit Scheme [NMBS]. P.2.* National Social Assistance Programme [NSAP]. [s.l]. 2003. [Source – http://www.indianngos.com; accessed on 16 December 2003].

This scheme extends financial assistance to pregnant women belonging to households below the poverty line. Monetary assistance is given to the mother provided that she is above 19 years of age, for the first two live child-births. MNBS has been introduced as a national policy on social security for poor

women under the directive of the Central Government to the various states/ districts.

333. *New Indian law for abortion.* [s.l], Associated Press. 9 January 1996. 1p. [Source – http://www.ap.org; accessed on January 2003].

In an attempt to eliminate the practice of female foeticide the Government of India has banned the abortion of healthy female foetuses. Therefore, public is prohibited from undergoing amniocentesis and sonogram that could reveal the sex of the unborn child. In order to prevent the alarming decline in the sex ratio, the newly passed law against female foeticide prescribes imprisonment for a period of 3 years and a fine.

334. Oldenburg, Veena Talwar. *Writing Lives, Underwriting Silences : Understanding dowry death in contemporary India. P.175-225.* Dowry murder : The imperial origins of a cultural crime. New Delhi, Oxford University Press. 2002.

In this section of the publication the author acknowledges the ineffectiveness of the Dowry Prohibition Act (1961) as indictaed by the rise in the number of cases on dowry death in Delhi. Evidently, Section 498 A of the Indian Penal Code recognises physical/mental cruelty to a woman by her spouse or relatives as punishable offence. Amendment to Section 113 A of the Evidence Act of India provides a full-fledged investigation of a bride's suicide by convicting the husband and his family and a compulsory post-mortem examination. Although this is a positive trend, the law enforcers and judiciary do not implement the Acts effectively. The author argues that the colonial court system remains unreformed, within a patriarchal culture.
Women's non-governmental organisations in Delhi are working to support victims of dowry violence and demanding proper investigations of suicides/ deaths of new brides. Saheli a women's resource centre in Delhi supports victim-survivors of dowry related violence, as well as intervention in cases of suspected dowry deaths. They provide temporary shelter to the survivors to begin a new life and community networking for their re-integration.The chapter focuses on case studies from Saheli and the course of action taken to provide gender justice to the victims

335. Owen. Margaret. *Conclusion : Women organizing for change. P.194-207; notes.* A world of widows. London, Zed Books. 1996.

Widows in traditional societies face various forms of violence, ostracism while violating their human rights. This chapter describes the success stories of widows who work together for physical, emotional and economic support. Shramjivi Samaj a trade union of the poor in Northern Gujarat has brought together marginalized widows from villages, who have protested against the denial of their nominal pensions, calling for legal protection to remain in their homes and to enjoy the benefits of the modern Hindu Succession Law (1956), to retain the assets of the deceased spouse for economic independence and equal wages for employment in non-formal sectors. They also have demanded schooling for their children and the right to exercise their decision-making power at the village councils. The campaign was so forceful that with the support of mass media, most of their demands were met by the public administration. Another success story is that of SEWA (The Self-Employed Women's Association), a non-governmental organization which introduced a scheme in 1995 to insure members against the death of their spouses. This helped hundreds of widows to survive the trauma of widowhood and develop the strength to emerge as heads of households with economic independence. SEWA also provides legal assistance to the women over issues of inheritance and property disputes.

336. Panchal, Trupti [and] Shaikh, Nahida. *Documentation of police cases of sexually abused girls in Mumbai City between 1994-95.* [Mumbai], The Special Cell for Women & Children. 1997. 29p.; tables; biblio.; annex.

A study on the prevalence of sexual abuse of the girl child based on reported police cases in Mumbai. Gathering data from a variety of resources such as First Information Reports (FIRs), witness statements, medical/forensic reports, charge sheets and documents from penal institution, this study aims to:

- Find the demographic, socio-economic and age profiles of the victims and offenders as well as the situational context of the abuse;
- Assess the types of legal interventions carried out by the police, medical personnel and court authorities;
- Study the trends in the reporting of cases;
- Appraise of the available victim-support networks within family and community.

This research suggests policy measures to set up a network of preventive and rehabilitative services for abused children and further means to initiate legal reforms, community interventions, training programmes and follow-up to the crime of child sexual abuse.

337. Pande, Mrinal. *A price for life.* The Hindu. 3 February 2002.

Despite laws that prohibit sex determination tests to limit female infanticide, illegal clinics are flourishing across the country. This news article addresses the population policy, the right to free abortion and the large-scale practices of illegal sex determination and subsequent abortion of the female foetus. CEHAT, a Mumbai-based NGO has recently filed a petition on cases of female foeticide in several states. Based on the petition, upon which the Supreme Court has summoned the health secretaries of 11 states where the recent census shows an alarming drop in the birth rate of girl babies. Evidently, community-based NGOs, women's organisations and human rights activists express the view that the success of the population policy depends on women's control over their productive and reproductive roles against the socio-cultural practices of forced abortions.

338. Parmar, Leena. *Money Matters : The experience of Kargil war widows. P. 16-19.* Manushi. Issue.138. 2003.

Widowhood, irrespective of the community and class background leads to ostracism and gender exploitation in a traditional society. This study leads us to assess the impact of a new compensation package which includes funds from the National Defence Fund, the central and State governments and several social organizations, as well as individuals. An assessment of the level of awareness of women in terms of knowledge of the benefits and the use of funds, reveal that the widows/ heads of households need a higher level of education and awareness to have control over funds and access to the benefits. It is recommended that they need adult education programmes which enable them to manage the resources more effectively, to provide moral support to their families and resolve family conflicts as part of the family rehabilitation.

339. Parsal, Gargi. *'Lack of political will in tackling female infanticide'* The Hindu. 16 April 2004.

The Centre for Advocacy & Research and Centre for Women's Development Studies together have organised a seminar on sex selection and female foeticide to review statistics on the issue. According to those provided by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, the number of cases filed for 'non-registration' of pre-natal health clinics that perform tests for detecting the sex of the foetus are relatively few. However, there were some advertisements on facilities for pre-conception/pre-natal sex selection. This workshop has lead to a 'wake up call' to prevent the crime of female foeticide.

340. *The Penalties of Death.* Indian Express. 2 July 2004.

The column relates to cases of death penalty sanctioned in a post-colonial state, in particular those of rape and murder. In the three cases conducted during 1978-2004, the victims were teenagers and school-girls. Evidently, one of the offenders of the cases, viz., [30]V.Shanker blamed the film industry as a 'provocative' mass media which influenced him to commit the crime.

341. Physicians for Human Rights [PHR]. *Rape in Kashmir : A crime of war. P...* Asia Watch. Vol.5, No.9. May 1993.

This report is based on cases of rape committed by security personnel in Kashmir, with interviews from victims and gynaecologists, who examined them to procure medical evidence. In view of the prevailing conditions of armed conflict in Kashmir and the vulnerability of women for sexual violence, PHR calls on the international community to condemn rape as a crime of war and to pressurise all parties including the militants, to stop violence against women. They also recommend to the Government of India to:

- Prosecute security personnel responsible for rape;
- Train personnel to gather evidence from rape victims;
- Protect the medical staff involved in the examination and treatment of the victims.

342. Poonacha, Veena and Pandey, Divya. *Response of domestic violence in the states of Karnataka and Gujarath. 354p.; ref.* Mumbai. Research Centre for Women's Studies. 1999.

Grass-roots organisations in Karnataka and Gujarat are increasingly involved in combating family violence that takes many forms – wife battering, dowry related violence, widow-burning (sati) and abuse by in-laws. This study is an evaluation of activities of the state and voluntary organisations, the organisational structure, staff morale and intervention strategies. The paper includes case studies from government initiatives, voluntary institutions, women's NGOs and community-based organisations for an in-depth analysis of institutions working to combat domestic violence. The results of the study shows that NGOs have promoted intervention in the areas of law enforcers, police action, family counselling, providing shelters for victims and self-help collectives involving women's groups. Recommendations are provided to improve the quality of intervention along these lines.

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[30] V.Shankar alias Auto-Shanker from Chennai, hanged in 1995.

343. Positive Women's Network [PWN]. *"Positive faces and voices of women from India". By Kousalya.* 23 May 2002. 2p. [Source – http://www.hivnet.ch:8000/asia/ ; accessed on 19 June 2003].

A national consultation organised in association with the UNAIDS and UNIFEM was held in Chennai from 8th to 11th March 2002. The participants included women living with AIDS, women activists, state authorities, media personnel,UN Agencies and the international community.Major recommendations arising from this consultation are:

- Voluntary testing and counselling for HIV/AIDS;
- Developing of gender sensitive training modules for voluntary workers and counsellors selected from those affected by HIV;
- Access to quality and affordable treatment and care as basic human rights of the AIDS-affected persons while promoting women-friendly health services in the public and private sectors;
- Code of ethics for health care providers in all health sectors;
- Promoting gender-based budgeting and gender sensitisation for the judiciary, law enforcers and health care providers;
- Awareness raising for media personnel and building skills in communication for agencies working with HIV/AIDS.

344. Premalatha, P.N. *Movement for social reform. P.197-233; ref.* Nationalism and women's movement in South India, 1917-1947. New Delhi, Gyan Publishing House. 2003.

The women's movement in South India during the latter part of the colonial regime has passed through 2 significant phases. Women activist campaigns against gender-based violence and the social restraints imposed on women. Gender discriminatory laws that subjected women to legal 'disabilities' were questioned, calling for women's franchise, compulsory primary education and the eradication of harmful traditional practices. The second phase viewed the women's question within the freedom struggle where many women participated in the civil disobedience movement. This chapter highlights the activities of women's action groups and other NGOs in the South, in particular the Women's India Association, Madras Vigilance Association, Indian Ladies Samaj, Mothers' Union, [31]South India Brahmo Samaj and the Madras Muslim Ladies Association that were instrumental in legal reforms concerning :

[31] Founded by Ms.Anne Besant, a British national.

- Eradication of the practice of child marriage and provision of compulsory primary education for the girl child;
- Abolition of the Devadasi system;
- Suppression of immoral trafficking of women and children.

Their activities including campaigns against child marriage, comments on the proposed bills, petition, lobbying for the Child Marriage Restraint Act and work to implement the law. Initiated by the Madras Vigilance Association the Madras Act XXXV (1947), this campaign leads to the abolishment of brothels, human trafficking and coerced prostitution at large. The [32]All India Women's Conference held in Madras lead to the eradication of the Devadasi services in temples, demanding property rights to the women and their kinship. As part of the reform campaign, women's groups encouraged those who were 'released' from temple services.

345. *Pubescent minor Muslim girl can marry – HC.* [s.l]. 2 July 2003.

This is a judgment by the High Court of Kerala in response to a petition for maintenance filed by a minor girl abandoned by her spouse. The family court rejected this claim on grounds that she was under 18 years of age and therefore could not enter into a valid marriage contract, thus nullify her status as a "wife".that confers her status as a spouse. The wife abandoned by the spouse was not entitled to maintenance under the Family Court decision. The High Court, however, pointed out that the Islamic Law permits a person who has attained puberty (presumed in the absence of evidence after her fifteenth year) to enter a marriage contract.

346. Puri, Luv. *Women in Jammu celebrate fall of Bill.* The Hindu. 29 August 2004.

The Jammu-Kashmir State Assembly had defeated the Permanent Resident Disqualification Bill (2004) according to which a woman of the state marrying an 'outsider' will lose her Permanent Resident Certificate (PRC) and thereafter she loses her right to remain a state subject, pursue education, take up employment and inherit property within the state. The Department of State Revenue still issues PRC to women with a clause "valid till marriage" which is opposed by women's groups and human rights activists as gender discriminatory and that "no religion including Islam denies women's fundamental rights." Evidently, the High Court of Jammu-Kashmir holds that no woman marrying outside the state could be legally denied her right to retain the PRC, as sanctioned by the State Constitution.

[32] All India Women's Conference, Madras, November 1938.

347. Q Web. *Sakhi Women's Resource Centre.* [s.l]. March 2003. 6p. [Source – http://www.qweb.kvinnoforum.se/ ; accessed on 4 December 2003].

This web site displays information on Sakhi, a resource centre for women based in Kerala that aids women's and human rights groups to access information on sexual violence, reproductive health and other gender related issues. Presentations highlighting action against sexual abuse, rape, sexual harassment and sexual exploitation of children are displayed through texts, references and selected links. The section on sexuality and reproductive health reveal valuable resources on the issues of contraception, safe abortion, sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy and child-birth and the role of men in sexuality and reproduction.

348. RAHI (Recovering and Healing from Incest). *Voices from the Silent Zone : Women's experiences of incest and childhood sexual abuse.* New Delhi. August 1998. 35p.; tables; charts; append.

Incest and child sexual abuse have gained increased prominence in India during the past years due to awareness-raising on the part of many groups. This study aims to establish childhood sexual abuse as a phenomenon of gender violence, and examines the available information/statistics from a survivor's point of view – the impact on a woman's physical, mental, reproductive and sexual health, and community intervention in the healing process of the survivor. The study serves to broaden the base of mental health professionals to provide service to the victim/survivor. While using questionnaires as a tool, this study was conducted among the middle and upper class women in the major cities of India. As anonymous questionnaires, this mode of data collection also proved to be of therapeutic value for some of the survivors who sought assistance from RAHI to deal with their individual problems. RAHI has therefore, provided one-time referrals to mental health professionals and relevant reading material.

349. Railar-Mhatre, Sumedha. *Divorce & Christian marriage in India : Till cruelty do us part.* Indian Express. 20 May 1997. 2p.

The Christian Marriage Act has accepted domestic violence, whether cruelty, physical and, or psychological abuse as grounds for women to obtain a divorce, as demonstrated by the Bombay High Court (BHC) that has overruled Section 10 of the Indian Divorce Act which states that a Christian wife has to prove cruelty, adultery or desertion by the spouse when seeking a divorce. Many Christian organisations have supported the court ruling in 3 cases, where Christian women facing family violence were granted divorce. According to

legal personnel, BHC has acted as an agent of social reform, in keeping with the community's demand to simplify the divorce procedure, whereas the state governments are still apathetic to this issue. The BHC has also struck down the sections 17 and 20 of the Indian Divorce Act, which states that an order of divorce or annulment passed by a district court has to be confirmed by a 3-member bench of the High Court.

350. Rajalakshmi, T.K. *A battle for women's rights. P. 38-39.* Frontline. 18 January 2002.

A public hearing on the status of women belonging to the oppressed castes has been held in the State of Uttar Pradesh, with a network of women's NGOs supported by the national women's organisations viz., the All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA), National Federation of Indian Women (NFIW) and the All India Progressive Women's Association (AIPWA). This article explores the prevalence of gender-based violence perpetrated against poor women belonging to the oppressed castes, in the backdrop of activities by women's groups and movements to gather information on cases of gender-related violence where women's human rights have been violated by the family, community and state. Women who suffered from gender-based violence, from rape to coerced sexual sterilisation submitted a memorandum demanding that the State should :

(1) Be accountable to the current status of "Dalit" women;
(2) Scrap the population policy that is detrimental to women's health;
(3) Introduce a gender policy with the participation of women's groups;
(4) Approve of the Bill on Domestic Violence;
(5) Form a women's commission at state level, with representatives from women's movements.

Further, the women's groups and movements have launched a campaign condemning the unresponsive attitudes of the State Government on the issue of violence against women, in particular the poor and "untouchable" women workers.

351. Rajalakshmi, T.K. *A birth control controversy. P.40-41.* Frontline. 7 November 2003.

This article is a critique of the population control programme targeted at women and the poor by the State of Rajasthan. This programme, though geared to

reduce maternal and infant mortality, and to increase the use of contraception by the masses has been condemned by health activists, women's organisations and NGOs as 'target-oriented' and not 'health-oriented'. They have petitioned the Ministry of Health, stating that injectable contraceptives deployed in the programme are known to create havoc in the mother's menstrual cycle, in addition to other undesirable effects, and at any rate would not lower maternal mortality. Instead, the programme should encompass improved primary health care services and employ auxilliary nurses-midwives who could motivate couples to undertake family planning.

352. Rajalakshmi, T.K. *A dangerous trend.* Frontline. Vol.20, Issue.23. 8-21 November 2003.

A brochure based on the data from censuses 1991-2001 has been produced by the Office of the Registrar General, the Census Commissioner of India, UNFPA and the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare revealing a sharp decline of the sex ratio with a drastic drop in the birth rate of the girl child. Upon releasing this brochure, the Union Ministry declared that the government would combine its population stabilisation efforts with measures to protect the girl child. Though not approved by the National Population Policy, the 'two-child norm' is a preferred method of achieving populations goals already enforced in several states. However, activists and groups concerned over gender and health issues pinpoint that the 'two-child norm' leads to a decline in the birth rate of girl babies in preference to sons, as the policy grants incentives to control fertility. A study conducted on the issue shows that the gap in the sex ratio at birth will widen if the government continues to link the population stabilisation programme in this manner.

353. Rajalakshmi, T.K. *An unequitous proposal. P.....* Frontline. Vol.18, Issue.14. 7-20 July 2001.

This article concerns a recently proposed bill on the ceiling on monthly maintenance payable to divorced women and their dependent children as laid in Section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedures (CrPC). Nevertheless, Muslim women seeking maintenance under the Muslim Women's Act (1986) are not entitled to maintenance beyond a period of 3 months. Women's groups, in particular the Centre for Women's Development Studies (CWDS), the Joint Women's Programme (JWP), AIDWA and the Muslim Women's Forum have expressed views that the Act should be extended to Muslim women as well under the secular legislation and personal laws should be reformed to provide gender justice.

354. Rajalakshmi, T.K. *Adding insult to injury P. 99-100.* Frontline. 12 April 2002.

On International Women's Day the Lok Saba sparked a debate on the Protection from Domestic Violence Bill. This article comments on the reaction of various women's groups for whom the ultimate objective is to prevent domestic violence in the country. The All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA) has categorically rejected the bill, stating that the nucleus of the proposal is "defective", while the Lawyers' Collective for Women's Rights (LCWR) has demanded substantial amendments to it. Accordingly, the current bill is flawed in the very definition of domestic violence and does not address several issues within the framework of family-based violence. Women's organisations have expressed criticism on the:

- Definition of domestic violence and the various forms of domestic abuses;
- Access of the domestic violence victim and her children to her matrimonial home;
- Scope and effects of Protection Order;
- Role of service providers with respect to victims;
- Nature of monetary relief provided to the victim.

355. Rajalakshmi, T.K. *Against Gender Bias. P. 86-87.* Frontline. 1 February 2002.

This article draws in the experience of the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act passed in 1994. The Act provides that no genetic counselling centres, laboratories or clinics should employ pre-natal diagnostic techniques to determine the sex of the foetus, which leads to female foeticide. Considering the seriousness of gender imbalance and bias attached to this practice, the Act is operative in all states where the authorities are required to review and monitor the implementation of the Act, while launching campaigns on public awareness on the crime of female foeticide and infanticide. Furthermore, all pre-natal clinics have to register with the state governments and action be taken against unregistered clinics. The Supreme Court of India has taken action on 9 states for having failed to conform to the "follow-up" to the Act, and in not taking lawful action against the sale of pre-natal diagnostic equipment to unregistered clinics. It is noteworthy that observer committees, comprising medical personnel and human rights activists, are reporting cases of female foeticide, as well as the unlawful use of diagnostic equipment. The author also refers to the Cradle-Baby Scheme of Tamil Nadu that has come under the direct surveillance of state authorities.

356. **Rajalakshmi, T.K.** *For an AIDS Vaccine. P. 86-87.* Frontline. 7 June 2002.

The National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) have jointly organised an international forum on AIDS and its control, for policy-makers. Sponsored by the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), this conference, attempts to develop indigenous AIDS vaccines through a memorandum of understanding with the Indian Government. entitled "Delhi Declaration" that concerns the specific needs for AIDS prevention and care in developing nations. While emphasising the commitment of policy makers to provide leadership and take steps to address the challenges faced by the epidemic, the declaration pledges to identify and address factors such as underdevelopment, poverty, illiteracy, lack of women's empowerment and all forms of sexual exploitation that leads to this condition. The Government of India and IAVI have entered into a vaccine development partnership to create an AIDS vaccine designed to suit the specific strains of viruses found in India. The forum also considers the social stigma and the gender discrimination involved, to create a conducive environment through legislation. Technologies such as the female condom, human rights/ethical dilemmas, role of care givers, opportunistic infection, access to marginalized groups, global resources and the adoption of newer technologies for AIDS prevention. Issues discussed at this conference have created a venue to rethink the current forms of treatment available for HIV/AIDS and to draw in policy makers to commit towards the eradication of poverty and underdevelopment that are associated with the epidemic.

357. **Rajalakshmi, T.K.** *Programmes and pitfalls. P. 88-89.* Frontline. 29 March 2002.

This is a programme, launched by National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) to prevent 'mother-to-child' transmission of HIV, aims to control paediatric AIDS, due to the high prevalence of HIV among ante-natal women, thus increasing the risk of 'mother-to-child' transmission of the virus. NACO studies reveal that chemotherapy counters the more serious side-effects. The AIDS Anti-Discrimination Movement and the Joint Action Council of Andhra Pradesh argue that the question of side-effects is being side-stepped, despite the ill-effects of the drug prescribed to pregnant women through a "HIV Group Education-cum- Counselling Programme" in the ante-natal clinics of Maharashtra, Manipur, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. The Movement, while cautioning against the use of AZT.HIV drug calls for a transparency on the part of NACO and the Union Ministry of Health regarding the methodology, trials and results of the feasibility study.

358. Rajalakshmi, T.K. *Skewed Priorities. P...* Frontline. Vol.20, Issue.18. 12 Spetember 2003.

An exploration of the draft document entitled "Reproductive and Child Health II and Family Planning – Programme Implementation Plan" (RCH-II) prepared by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, in consonance with the National Population Policy 2000. Evidently, this draft proposal focuses only on family planning ignoring the larger issue of women's reproductive health care, aiming to stabilise the population of the country rather than applying a holistic approach to the Reproductive and Child Health programme. The RCH-II offers a variety of contraceptives directed at women, raising the question of 'reproductive rights' and freedom of choice. Gender and health activists argue that the new programme does not consider the health and life-cycle of the women, and has a clear gender bias attached. While prioritising urban, tribal and adolescent health care, it emphasises the social marketing and involvement of rural health practioners in distributing contraceptives. According to women's NGOs, reproductive health services for rural women are very poor as the proportion of midwives available in rural areas is very low. Further, the RCH-II does not provide any amicable solution to the issue of declining sex ratio and female foeticide. Hence, a reformed programme is required with a 'client-centred' rather than target-based approach.

359. Rajalakshmi, T.K. *Taking on dowry. P.96-97.* Frontline. 22 November 2002

This survey on the prevalence of dowry system and its impact on society was conducted by AIDWA (All India Democratic Women's Association) in 16 states and Delhi. The results of this appraisal was presented at a [33]national workshop with participation by AIDWA activists, trade unionists, student organisations and women from the grass roots who collated their data on the perception of dowry and its impact amongst the lowest income groups. Their questionnaires revealed that almost all crimes against women, inclusive of female foeticide and infanticide were linked to the practice of taking dowry due to high levels of consumerism, has begun in communities that did not formerly engage in this practice. At the end of the workshop, a resolution was adopted to call upon all citizens across community, caste, religion and political affiliations to act collectively against this evil practice. AIDWA has resolved to launch a national campaign against the practice of dowry, appealing to religious leaders to denounce publicly all the practices that strengthen son-preference. The campaign includes public demonstrations, encouraging inter-

[33] "Expanding Dimensions of Dowry", New Delhi, 1-2 September, 2002.

caste, own-choice and non-dowry marriages, while launching protests against health centres that perform sex determination tests and media programmes/ commercials that encourage the act of dowry.

360. Rajalakshmi, T.K. *Testimonies of terror : Various fact-finding teams record the tales of terror and tragedy in the communal cauldron of Gujarat. P.126-128.* Frontline. 26 April 2002

The communal violence sparked off by religious extremists has caused much damage to people in the State of Gujarat, and women in particular. AIDWA, together with the Communist Party of India, (CPM-M) have conducted a survey of the affected women, recording complaints of sexual violence perpetrated against women belonging to religious minorities. According to the victims, police personnel are also responsible for rape and sexual abuse under the pretext of 'combing operations'. The women's organisation has visited camps for the internally displaced and assessed the basic facilities of medical assistance, monetary help, provision of dry ration etc., and the efforts made by camp officials to the victims of sexual violence and other forms.

361. Rajalakshmi, TK. *Victims of coercion. P.83-84.* Frontline. 6-19 November 2004.

A two-day [34]People's Tribunal on Coercive Population Policies and 'two child norm' held in Delhi recently reviewed the state population policies and women's experiences. Testimonies from grass roots women and the impoverished were heard by members of women's commissions, health associations and human rights groups, on the negative impact of the national family planning drive. Evidently, neither the two-child norm nor the pressure for surgical sterilisation had lead to a rise in juvenile sex ratio, female literacy, age of marriage, maternal mortality or reproductive health. Instead, young women belonging to the under-privileged groups were subject to sterilization soon after marriage, in order to procure monetary benefits under various schemes announced by the government. It is noteworthy, that women who do not conform to the two-child policy are not eligible to participate in the Panchayat elections, unlike in the case of the assembly or parliamentary elections. Based on case studies from the various states, the tribunal demanded that the two-child norm should be done away with, as well as laws that uphold the legal validity of the norm.

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[34] People's Tribunal on Coercive Population Policies, Delhi , 9 October, 2004.

362. Rajani, Nicole. *Fighting for their health, India's sex workers mobilize. 7p.* [s.l], AMFAR Treatment Insider. April 2003. [Source – http://www.amfar.org/cgi-bin/iowa/ ; accessed on 11 November 2003].

The theme of this article is community efforts based on peer educational models to prevent HIV/AIDS. In this context, the Saheli project is a peer education programme for commercial workers. As an initiative of People's Health Organisation the project leads to create awareness on sexual health and social welfare for commercial sex workers, in particular women in Mumbai. Working with the hierarchy of the trade, the project selects leaders, provides economic incentives and raises awareness on sexual/reproductive health among their peers. Reaching out to women in the trade and their families, Saheli provides primary health care, distributes free condoms, referral services, counselling and support services for those in need of further care/treatment. The article relates to similar efforts made by Community Health Education Society (CHES) of Tamil Nadu and SANGRAM of Maharashtra.

363. Rajan, R.S. *The scandal of the state : Women and institutional protection in comtemporary India. 30p.; notes.* ICES/SSRC Conference on Violence Against Women : Victims and Ideologies, Colombo, 28-31 March 1996.

An evaluation of the degree of state welfare to penal and non-penal institutions, this paper highlights the case of institutionalised mentally handicapped women who had to undergo mass surgical sterilisation 'to prevent sexual abuse...', and the protest made by women's groups against the violation of women's fundamental human rights. Subsequently, the state has ordered an inquiry into this incident.

364. Rakyan, Lalitha. *Brief note on short stay home – 'Snehalay'. P. 6.* Bharathiya Janani. No.22, August 2000.

Short stay home is meant for women and girls who are victims of violence and need help and guidance to regain their self-confidence. This write-up is on the shelter services of the Mahila Dakshata Samiti (MDS) a state sponsored social institution that provides counselling, guidance and scope for the victims to develop skills and social relationships to live in dignity.

365. Ramachandra, Vimala [and] Visaria, Leela. *Emerging issues on reproductive health. P. 2244-47; notes.* Economic and Political Weekly. 6 September 1997.

This is a paper based on the regional consultations on the current approaches to the Population Policy of India where the state has decided to introduce a target-free approach in family planning programmes. This poses a question on fertility control and women's reproductive health. Non-governmental agencies, social activists, researchers, state authorities and representatives of the Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANM) in consultation, discuss the code of ethics for the family planning authorities and the relationship between the NGOs and the state in terms of women's health and family welfare. The article suggests the areas in which NGOs could play a partner role to the state in promoting health services to rural communities.

366. Ramachandran, Sudha. *J & K : Wrong approach to rehabilitation.* Deccan Herald. 5 March 2001.

Women affected by armed violence in the valley of Kashmir and Jammu are much in need of financial and other forms of support controlled by the state. This news article refers to the failure of the state in responding to the needs of war-widows in the valley. Though the government provides an ex-gratia payment for the affected, this seldom reaches women heads of households. Better World is one of the few NGOs which provides counselling services for war-widows, training programmes in handicrafts and to helping in marketing and finance management.

367. Rao, Rajyasri. *Dowry demand lands groom in jail.* London, BBC NewsOnline. 14 May 2003. 2p.

In India, giving and accepting dowry is a punishable offence that can lead to imprisonment. This news item highlights the case of a 'bride-to-be' Ms. Nisha Sharma who summoned the police to arrest the prospective bridegroom for demanding a dowry minutes before the marriage ceremony. The custom of dowry, though illegal is widely in practice as a 'tradition' that causing many a problems before, during and after the marriage.

368. Rao, Sandhya [and] Chopra, Ashima [and] Nagamani, S.N. *Domestic violence : A study of organised data. P.15-24.* Domestic violence in India: A summary report of four record studies. Washington D.C., International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW). May 2000.

This research project explores the status and nature of record keeping among service providers in Bangalore, to victims of domestic violence. In

due course, the study investigates the capacity of organisations that support women's human rights. Vimochana and Janodaya are two non-governmental women's institutions selected for this study, besides the Family Counselling Cell of the Police Commissionerate and the Police station at Tilak Nagar that serves the urban community. Also, voluntary/social workers from various welfare organisations are interviewed for this purpose. Services provided by them are a combination of counselling, sheltering, resettlement and mobilising economic support for women seeking assistance. The research also sheds light on the attitudes and practices among service providers, within the framework of women's rights. Recommendations arising from of this study focus on actions to improve the issue of victim care and access of information for future work :

- Convene a network of service providers who can establish a standard method of record keeping and documentation to improvise a standard format that is helpful for the victims as well as for community intervention;
- Improve public awareness on the links between domestic violence, support services, and human rights principles, devising an appropriate system for their functioning;
- Improve networking among police stations, domestic violence service providers and members of [35]Panchayats to communicate and to monitor the effectiveness of community intervention.

369. **Rege, S.** *Caste and Gender : The violence against women in India.* P... [s.l], European Institute, Robert Schuman Centre. 1996. 18p. [Source – http://ideas.repec.org; accessed on 19 January 2003].

The paper underscores societal attitudes involved in addressing the crime of gender violence in India. In exploring the Indian history for the past 200 years, the issue of gender violence has been addressed by various authorities – missionaries, colonial administrators, social reformers and the pre-independent state. Accordingly, the crime was addressed through attitudes of 'civilised missions' and 'women as weaker sex', and not in recognition of women's rights as human rights.

370. *Rehabilitation Centre for Blind Women, Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu.* [s.l], Ashanet. 2004. 2p. [Source – http://www.ashanet.org/projects/ ; accessed on 19 December 2004].

[35] Village-level, community courts.

The institution is a pioneer in South India aiming to provide initiatives to rehabilitation, vocational training and placement services for blind women, in particular those from poor, rural communities. Funded by ASH a U.S. based charity trust, the project leads to educational support for blind women who are the prime targets for gender-based violence, for their self-sustenance. The institution also provides support for their higher education, as their government study grant comes only at the year-end.
ASHA for Education is a voluntary organisation focusing on basic education to bring about social changes in the Indian society and supports development projects with an education-related component.

371. *Rehabilitation of sex workers : Notice issued.* The Hindu. 29 February 2004.

The Supreme Court of India has issued notices to the central and state governments, on guidelines for the rehabilitation of victims of immoral trafficking after they were rescued. Based on a public interest litigation petition submitted by Prajwala, a non-governmental organization, and passed by a three-judge bench, this benefits a large number of women and children who are trafficked into the country for commercial sexual exploitation.

372. *`Resolution endorsed by the National Network of Sex Workers, Calcutta, 29-31 March 1998 organised by the Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee . P.31-32.* Namaskar. Vol.3, No.1. November 1998.

This resolution demands the de-stigmatisation of the community of sex workers, and an end to the exploitation and violence perpetrated by the state machinery, in particular the police violence on this community. The article enumerates the demands made by the Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee (DMSC) towards a lawful recognition of their human rights and prevention of violence against women sex workers.

373. *Rights - India : Population control raises hackles.* [s.l]. 13 July 1999. 2p. [Source – http://www.umiacs.umd.edu; accessed on 15 January 2003].

This is a critique of the effectiveness of the government's population policy in which the family welfare programme has secured additional resources for reproductive health through client-centered goals in place of method-specific contraceptive targets. The Voluntary Health Association of India (VHAI) has

recommended a single package for maternal and child health and family planning, without any mass sterilisation campaigns that could lead to coerced surgical sterilisation of individuals. However, the country faces obstacles to draw in a human-centered population policy because of a widespread, gender-based poverty, heightening the risk of maternal mortality and unsafe abortion.

374. Rose, Jenny. *Zoroastrian divorce*. 2p. Encyclopedia Iranica. New York, Columbia University. 1997.

The approach to divorce in the Zoroastrian community has evolved over a period of time with the laws subjected to alteration and modification that reflect different exigencies at different times. The text highlights provisions in the Parsi Marriage and Divorce (Amendment) Act of 1988, where the community had to fall in line with the British legislative system. The Act concerns legal reforms met within the Indian social structure, in order to provide significant 'space' for women to seek divorce on grounds of bigamy, cruelty, desertion and forced prostitution.

375. Routh, Mitra. *Sex workers mianight march on May Day eve. P. 28.* Namaskar. Vol.3, No.1. November 1998.

This is a column dedicated to the protest-march of DMSC in Calcutta, representing the solidarity of sex workers in recognition of their rights. Coinciding with the International Workers' Day this was the pioneer rally of sex workers in India.

376. Saathi. *Training programmes in India*. New Delhi. 2003. 4p. [Source – http://www.saathi.org/ ; accessed on 17 January 2004].

This web page highlights training programmes conducted by various women's organisations and NGOs on sex and sexuality, HIV/AIDS awareness and the reproductive health of women. Naz Foundation (India) Trust provides information pertaining to HIV/AIDS - sexual health, counselling, care and ethics, much to the use of NGOs, CBOs, media, legal, medical and police personnel. Prakriti a rehabilitation organisation based in Chennai has special programmes for [36]Aravanies on sexuality and reproductive health conducted in local languages and English to be used by voluntary workers, NGOs and CBOs.

[36] Eunuchs, tranvestites, bisexuals who portray themselves as women.

18th National Five-day Workshop on "Updates and Action Plans for HIV/AIDS Control in India". P. 2-3.

The Indian Society for Health Administrators (ISHA) conducts a workshop on HIV/AIDS for voluntary organisations, CBOs, health personnel and human resource managers. This workshop aims to:

- Update the clinical, epidemiological and preventive aspects;
- Sensitise the participants to the magnitude and implications of the issue in India;
- Share action-oriented programmes that are implemented by other sectors;
- Involve the participants in awareness raising and safe practices to prevent AIDS.

377. Sabala [and] Kranti. *To Be or Not to Be : A self-help experience in women's reproductive health. P.45-66; notes; ref.* Building women's capacities :Interventions in gender transformation. Ed. Rajani K.Murthy. New Delhi, Sage Publications. 2001.

This paper explores the efforts of Asmita a women's NGO in promoting reproductive health care services for women, much neglected owing to the various socio-cultural barriers prevalent in the rural and urban settings. Asmita in partnership with community-based organisations and other women's NGOs in Andhra, Maharashtra and Gujarat has conducted self-help training programmes for women with the following objectives:

- Assist women to acknowledge their potentials and improve their health through self-help skills;
- Probe community, class and caste-based gender biases, use trends in the current medical system to demystify those myths around their bodies;
- To challenge beliefs, practices and institutions through which men control and exploit women, in particular their emotions, sexuality, labour and fertility;
- Encourage collective action and networking for women's empowerment;
- Pressurize for state and social accountability on healthcare as a basic right;Evolve a socialist/feminist perspective on women's health and healing systems.While highlighting the impact of the programme and constraints faced, the paper lays emphasise on the lessons learned from training experiences.

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37 18th National Workshop on "Updates and Action Plans for HIV/AIDS Control in India", Bangalore, 19-23 August 2002.

378. Sabhare, Seema. *Laws of rape in operation. P.65-83.* Women and law : Contemporary problems. Ed. Lotika Sarkar et al. New Delhi, Vikas Pubishing House Pvt Ltd. 1994.

Illustrated with case studies, this paper examines the degree of gender justice in reported incidents of rape in the state of Maharashtra. Relating to the Rape Law in India, the judgement provided here shows that perpetrators are not punished as a result of the gender bias of the judiciary and the stigma faced by the victim of rape. The cases are reported by the Forum Against Rape, an NGO committed to support victims of rape and sexual abuse. In conclusion, suggestions are provided for legal and police authorities, as well as legal literacy for women and raising awareness on gender crimes.

379. *Salem : The killing goes on. P.83.* India Today. 30 September 1995.

This report reflects the continuation of female infanticide and a decline of the sex ratio in parts of Tamil Nadu three years after the launching of the Cradle-Baby scheme by the State. The report emphasises that a change of societal attitude is essential, to go hand-in-hand with state action against gender-related crimes.

380. Samya Shakti. *Documents : The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 : The struggle for amendment. P...* [s.l], [1984]. [Source – ICES Archives on Violence Against women].

In escalation of the dowry-related violence against women perpetrated by the spouse and her conjugal family, this article concerns the practical aspects of the Act. Based on discussions held by women's associations on the state response in not amending the law, the document provides a summary on the various 'positions' of the Act when dealing with dowry-based violence.

381. Sandesh IndiaOnline. *Crime Against Women Cell.* [s.l]. 2 August 2002. 1p.[Source – http://www.sandesh.org/article; accessed on 3 December 2002].

Set up by the Delhi Police in every district, The Crime Against Women Cells take up cases related to gender violence, in particular domestic abuse. The Cell helps to resolve matrimonial disputes so that women need not go through lengthy, complicated legal procedures. This also networks with state bodies, non-governmental women's organisations and legal centres to refer victims for counselling, temporary shelters and towards seeking legal assistance. A

telephone help-line is established to disseminate information, to provide short/ long term counselling and referral services on reproductive/ sexual health, particularly on HIV/AIDS, mental health and sexual rights. This is in coordination with the Police Control Room where trained women police personnel handle calls related to matrimonial disputes, molestation/sexual abuse, sexual harassment and child abuse. Reducing the physical and geographical barriers of victim support, the help-line is easily accessible, inexpensive and causes less of an embarrassment to a large population of women in distress.

382. Sanlaap. *Country Report : India. Appendix II, P.13-14.* International Workshop on International Migration and Trafficking in Women, Chiangmai, 17-21 October 1994.

This report addresses the laws that prosecute sex workers and traffickers, as stipulated by the Indian Penal Code. Poverty and lack of social awareness are quoted as the major causes of trafficking of women and children for forced prostitution and labour. The suggestions to stop this practice are as follows:

- Training the security services at Nepal and Bangladesh borders to stop illegal migration across borders;
- Added support services for victims rescued from traffickers.

The workshop aims at promoting local, national and international action in all countries where trafficking is prevalent, and recommends that women be included at the decision-making level in planning to combat the trafficking of women and children.

383. Santhanam, Kousalya. *Fighting for the girl.* The Hindu. 15 August 2004.

Women's Self-help groups (SHG) in Usilampatti of the District of Madurai where the practice of female infanticide is prevalent are raising consciousness among the men to accept the girl babies. The groups take special gifts for the new-born girls for a few days, so that the parents have 'time' to get attached to the daughter. In this manner, many baby girls have escaped death, and more of the 'baby-killers' have turned social reformers protecting the girl child.

384. Santhanam, Kousalya. *New lease for life.* The Hindu. 8 August 2004.

This news article is on the progress made by women's Self-Help Groups (SHGS), in particular, those in tribal communities in Tamil Nadu, where many

reforms have taken place. They are successful mainly as micro-creidt projects. The SHGs have attracted commercial sex workers to an alternate livelihood. The Maithri Society of Theni District has therefore, provided 'new' lives for former-sex workers through micro-enterprise development. They also pledge their moral support to the Eunuchs within the community, to counter the sexual exploitation that they are constantly subjected to.

385. Sastry, Anil. *247 Commercial sex workers leave Goa.* The Hindu. 15 June 2004.

Panaji Bench of the Bombay High Court has directed the state to demolish the shelters in the beach of Goa, occupied by sex workers for the past decades. Alternatively, the court has requested the National Commission for Women to rehabilitate them with the collaboration of women's NGOs, setting aside Rs.1 Crore for the project.

386. *'Sati' case accused acquitted.* The Hindu. 1 February 2004.

University Women's Association of Rajasthan was at the forefront of the agitation against widow-burning, in particular the case of Sati which took place in Rajasthan in 1987. However, over a long period of time, the prosecution has failed to establish the 'link' between the incident that took place in the village of Deorala and the violation of Sati (Prevention) Act by those accused.

387. *Second phase of "sex workers struggle for unification". P. 24-26.* Namaskar. Vol.3, No.1. November 1998.

An account of the proceedings of a [38]sex workers conference held by Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee (DMSC), and their demands for the recognition of the rights of sex workers and the networking organisations.

388. Sen, Gita. *India's national population policy 2000 : A comment.* New York, UNFPA. 4p. [Source – http://www.india-seminar.com/2001/ ; accessed on 10 January 2003].

Women's health has becomes a top priority in the National Population Policy of India in recent times. According to this article, the Government appointed

[38] Sex Workers Conference, Calcutta, 14-16 November 1997.

an expert group to draft a national population policy before ICPD (1994). This group submitted the "Swaminathan Committee Report" calling for radical change from a target-driven population policy to a "pro-women, pro-poor and pro-nature" strategy. Although, due to limitations, this draft was not formalized, in 1996 the State revised their policy to accommodate reproductive and child health services that received support from donors and community-based organisations. This programme also provides incentives and disincentives for health providers at state and district levels. This paper highlights the ways in which the policy could be implemented to promote gender equality and equity in its programmes, to address community needs and to build the capacity of service providers. It recommends that this new initiative should be applied to develop a feed-back, programme quality assurance and organisational learning, while preventing the use of unsafe contraception and surgical sterilisation techniques.

389. Sen, Gita. *Population and development in South Asia : Did ICPD provide the link?*. 9p. Real Lives. Issue.6. February 2001. [Source – http://www.ippf.org/regions/ ; accessed on January 2002].

This article concerns the impact of the [39]International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), in particular India. Stemming from the Programme of Action of ICPD a new framework on healthcare concerning women's reproductive rights and health was developed, to work towards an effective and functional primary /referral healthcare system with sexual and reproductive health as an integral part. As for the national family planning programme, the "language" has shifted from demographic control and "targets" to women's health needs and human rights. The ICPD has catalysed new programme initiatives on issues of Reproductive Tract Infection (RTI), unsafe abortion and maternal health. A large umbrella group named the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) programme is being funded by a range of donors, with a need-based approach rather than "targets" in family planning. This programme also draws in male involvement and support to women's use of family planning and maternal health services, and the prevention of gender-based violence and violation of women's human rights, while supporting gender equality in women's access to resources.

390. *Services for family counselling centres lauded.* The Hindu. 1 September 2001.

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[39] UN International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), Cairo, 1994.

The Central Social Welfare Board has extended support to social welfare centres in the Union territory of Pondicherry where family counselling centres aim to address gender-based violence and related issues. The counselling centres specifically deal with women victims of dowry-related violence, spouse abuse and violence perpetrated by in-laws.
Victims of alcoholism, desertion by spouse and widow maltreatment are provided with legal aid to file court cases.

391. *Sex Determination Test banned.* The Hindu. 16 August 1997.

This is a news item concerning the prohibition of medical practices which reveal the sex of the foetus - amniocentesis and scanning technology. In response to the increase of female foeticide, a sex determination procedure would lead to the abortion of the girl-child, which has a serious impact on the sex ratio in society. Educational scholarships are to be provided by the state government so as to ease the 'burden' on brining up daughters, in particular, girls from poor families.

392. *Sex workers to combat trafficking. 1p.* [London], BBC News. 6 March 2001.

Sex workers from all parts of the country gathered in Calcutta to set up a network to prevent trafficking of women by trafficking gangs for commercial sex and other crimes. The meeting was hosted by Durbar Mahila Sammanoy Samity including exhibitions and seminars on the plight of women forced into commercial sex. With a membership of nearly 5000 sex workers, the Samity is at the forefront of a movement to legalise the trade.

393. Sharma, Kalpana. *Indian women pioneers in formal justice courts.* 29 July 2002. 3p. [Source – http://www.sawnet.org; 17 December 2002].

This is a report on informal courts held by rural women to seek redress for victims of gender violence. This system was developed when the women found that formal courts were inaccessible for them, costly and often unwilling to hear cases of intimidated women in poverty.
Mediated and adjudicated on behalf of women, the court officers are women, barely literate but aware of the law, its implications and limitations. Handling cases on domestic violence, divorce/maintenance, sexual violence, dowry extortion, mistreatment of widows and divorcees, property inheritance and abandoning of married women, this institution stemmed from a Mahila

Samakhya Programme that aims at women's empowerment by letting them set their own agenda. Under this programme Dalit women were trained initially, to handle caste-based offences such as rape and destruction of property by members of privileged castes. Later, more specific issues were drawn in by the formation of a legal committee. Known as 'Nari Adalat', the women's courts first started in Gujarat and are now spreading to other parts of the country, especially in the states of Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka demonstrating that gender justice could be achieved outside the formal judicial system.

394. Sharma, Kalpana. *Woman complains of harassment at workspot.* The Hindu. 29 April 2004.

A woman employee from a private enterprise has gone public with the support of the media and women's organisations to seek redress for sexual harassment, maltreatment and 'threat to torture' at her workplace. The police had turned a 'deaf ear' when she tried to register a complaint and subsequently she made a complaint to the National Commission for Women (NCW) upon which the company terminated her services. Women's groups have pressurised the establishment on this issue and the employer has agreed to conduct an inquiry within their 'existing' complaint system.

395. Shah, Anuradha. *Fortifying against exploitation.* Indian Express. 22 September 1998.

This news item relates the efforts of Swadhar a non-governmental organisation committed to rehabilitate the community of sex workers. The organisation with its numerous volunteers, conducts short-term alternate study classes for children of sex workers in Bombay. This informal educational project involves children, in particular the girl child to be exposed to 'alternatives' other than sex work. Supported by the Indian Health Organisation and UNICEF, the Municipal Corporation of Mumbai provides the space for the classes.

396. *Shah Bano : Muslim women's rights. 3p.* 14 September 2000. [Source – http://www.columbia.edu; accessed January 2002].

The Supreme Court of India has granted gender justice to a divorced woman with 5 children who appealed for maintenance through the Indian court system. Shah Bano, following her divorce in 1978, was granted the alimony for a period of 3 months that she was entitled under the Muslim Personal Law. On her appeal, the court used Article 125 of the Criminal Code and granted her

ongoing maintenance. The court decision has not only overruled the religious personal law but demanded a uniform civil code for all women. The Joint Women's Programme, with members from all communities, has issued a memorandum and organised demonstrations in support of a uniform civil code. But, Muslim women graduates of Bombay and certain sections of the Islamic community have favoured the Muslim Women's Bill, which falls within the personal law. To end, religious and ideological differences between women activists has weakened the political force of their demands.

397. Shakti Shalini. *Ten years of success and strife : 1986-99. 13p.* [Source – ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

An activity profile of Shakti Shalini, a women's NGO that provides services of crisis intervention for women and children victimised as a result of family violence. This pamphlet looks into the activities of the NGO that supports women and child victims of domestic abuse, in particular, victims of wife battering, violence by in-laws, dowry-related violence and desertion by the spouse. The organisation specifically focuses on women victims of dowry-related violence and their ability to gain access to legal assistance and counselling, shelter homes and their awareness on the availability of security measures.

398. Shenoy, Anita. *Interpretation of the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act, 1994. P.66-67.* Female f[o]eticide in Tamil Nadu : Report of the State Level Consultation, Chennai, 2-3 December 1998. Ed. Sabu M.George et al. Madurai, Society for Integrated Rural Development (SIRD).

The purpose of this act is to prevent sex selective abortion of the female foetus, in preference to sons. The Act states that pre-natal diagnostic tests or procedures are permitted to detect genetic disorders, metabolic mal-functioning, congenital abnormalities or sex linked diseases in the foetus. Under the Act, all health clinics that deploy techniques of ultra-sonogramme and amniocenteses are registered for the purpose of their regulative use, and if they are used for any other purpose such as medical termination of the female foetus then the Act is violated.

399. Shukla, Srawan. *Muslim Board to divorce 'Triple Talaq'.* The Times of India. 29 June 2004.

Religious laws under which Muslim women had restricted rights for marriage/ divorce, have now been amended to give them equal rights to approach the Quazi for separation against the spouse. The Muslim Board further

recommends an increase in the 'Mehr' (Alimony), decided at the time of marriage, so that chances for a divorce are minimised.

400. Singh, Jyotsna. *Move to stop Indian child marriage. 1p.* [London], BBC News. 14 May 2002.

The National Commission for Women (NCW) conducted a week-long campaign to advocate the prevention of child marriage, a practice prevalent in the State of Rajasthan. The campaign mobilised district officials, several voluntary organisations and NGOs to raise awareness among the public, particularly the rural poor, on the ill-effects of the issue.

401. Sivaraman, Mythili. *Rising awareness. P.96-97.* Frontline. 16 July 1999.

This article documents a social campaign held by the Tamil Nadu Unit of the All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA) against discrimination of the Dalits, where women are doubly marginalized in terms of their gender and caste while facing gender-related atrocities in the hands of the privileged communities. Conventions were organised at district-level to catalogue the incidence of discrimination faced by the community, in particular the women. This campaign gives voice to a people's psyche that remains scarred for generations through a denial of recognition in the caste hierarchy and systematic gender/caste violence perpetrated upon them.

402. South Asia - Forums. *Domestic Violence : Statistics. 3p.* 8 August 2001 [Source – http://www.hsph.harvard.edu ; accessed on 22 January 2003]

The document refers to two sets of statistics on the disposal of gender-based crimes from 1990 to 1997, by the police and the courts. The tables reveal the percentage of cases pending on crimes of sexual assault, sexual harassment, family violence, dowry-related violence, trafficking and abduction of women.

403. South Asia Human Rights Documentation Centre (SAHRDC). *Wife Battery : Violence against women. P.209-233.* A Step in the Rights Direction. New Delhi, Tata MacGraw-Hill Publishing Co. Ltd. 2000.

This is a guide book on human rights for teachers/educators teaching students at high schools. The manual aims to heighten awareness on the fundamental

concepts of human rights, with lessons designed to foster a sense of inquiry, responsibility and justice. Concerning domestic abuse as a violation of human rights, the lesson plan relates to group activity in the class room - raising questions on the issue, awareness of the legal provisions that criminalise wife battery, understanding the complexity of the crime not being reported and on recognition of the shortcomings of the law where only dowry-related violence is taken seriously by law enforcers and the courts. Annexed with notes to the educator, the lesson involves role-play, leading to the exploration of ways to improve the situation for battered wives.

404. South Asia Partners International [SAP-I]. *Legal measures. P. 43-48* Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children [CSCE] : A review of South Asia – India 2001. Colombo. December 2001.

The legal system of India addresses issues of sexual exploitation of and the procuring of minor girls for prostitution, slave-labour and 'unnatural' offences. The Penal Code enacts a number of laws on the above crimes, enforced through the Juvenile Justice Court, Police and Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). However, the law is poorly enforced, due to lack of seriousness and corruption at the level of the enforcers. Several women's groups and women victims have raised these issues and filed public interest litigations at the Delhi High Court. The court has alerted the police and the Delhi Commission for Women for not acting against the offence of trafficking of women. Subsequently, the Police-NGO alliance has conducted raids and rescue operations against the procurement of minor girls into sex work.

After Stockholm : Responses to CSCE. P.49-55.

The National Commission for Women (NCW) for the rehabilitation of women and child victims of prostitution, NGOs and juvenile homes are involved in the process of protecting and rehabilitating women victims of violence. In this context, a special unit is being established by the Ministry of Home Affairs to deal with the issue of trafficking women and girls. The Integrated Child Development Authority has established Aanganwadi Centres in 'red light' areas to provide services to the children of sex workers, to mark the SAARC Decade of the Girl Child. The report related to various state-level schemes to rehabilitate the Devadasi women - encouraging self-help groups to set up micro-enterprises through a credit scheme, offering skill training in handloom weaving and handicrafts, helping to market their products. The schemes also provide moral education, health care and residential schools for their children. A plan of action to combat trafficking and commercial exploitation of women is formulated by the Government of India, involving NGOs, state authorities, the media and

various judicial instruments. This has identified factors leading to the crime of sexual exploitation and its preventive measures and 'loop-holes' are being strategically evaluated.

405. Special Cell for Women and Children [and] Tata Institute for Social Sciences. *Shades of Courage : Women and Indian Penal Code Section 498 A.* Mumbai, Akshan Publications. 1999. 69p.; append.; tables.

Based on studies undertaken by students and workers of the Special Cell for Women & Children, this booklet concerns the field experience of the workers with police authority, women victims, their families and the legal procedures concerning violence against women. Exploring Section 489 A of the Penal Code and Sections of the Criminal Procedure, the volume provides empirical data from cases of gender violence – nature of violence, profiles of victims and their abusers, types of complaints and court procedures involved. This information proves valuable to activists, legal personnel women's groups, human rights organisations and the police, in handling cases of gender related violence, specifically that of domestic and family abuse.

406. Srinivas, Shefali. *Low-caste women to protest at UN Racism Meeting.* 17 August 2001. [Source – http://www.now.org/eNews/aug2001/.; accessed on 25 September 2004].

This news report addresses the violence faced by women of the oppressed castes in India, particularly perpetrated by men of 'upper castes'. It relates to the case of Bhanwari Devi, a Dalit social worker who was gang-raped by men of the privileged castes for preventing child marriage. However, the courts did not serve a penalty on the perpetrators. This has lead to a demonstration of women's groups at the United Nations Anti-Racism Conference held in Durban, demanding that caste discrimination be considered on par with racism when drafting conventions against gender discrimination and the elimination of gender-related violence.

407. *Statewide campaign against violence.* The Hindu. 29 November 2004.

Representatives from non-governmental/voluntary organizations held a statewide campaign against gender-oriented violence. Observing 25th November as the day to stop all forms of violence against women and girls, the groups took to different types of protests – public demonstrations, human chain, cultural shows, poster campaigns etc. Women's Movement Against

Poverty a local NGO took a cultural troupe across the state on a display on gender myths/stereotypes as perpetrated by the market economy, in order to create awareness on the issue. A human chain was organized by the Campaign Against Violence on Women and the Girl Child, together with banners and slogans calling for an end to violence against women. Women's Collective working with underprivileged women belonging to Dalit and tribal communities, disabled and those living with HIV/AIDS continued with the campaign until 9th December.

408. *Statement by Women's Voice and National Federation of Dalit Women : Presented by Ruth Manorama.*ESCAP High-Level Meeting for Bejing +5, [s.l], on 28 October 1999. 2p. [Source – http://www.aworc.org/ ; accessed Janauray 2005].

This statement calls for the recognition of Dalit women, as alienated on the basis of caste, class and gender, and as prime targets of community violence perpetrated by state and non-state actors. The President of the women's NGO urges the Assembly to acknowledge the concerns and aspirations of the women of oppressed castes and create effective policies and programmes to counter the violation of their human rights in keeping with the commitment to gender equality and human dignity set out by the Beijing Platform for Action.

409. *Strategies for handling sexual harassment. 2p.* Sexual harassment. [s.l]. [Source –http://www.indiatogether.org; accessed on 25 January 2002].

A list of strategies to break the cycle of sexual harassment falling within the code of conduct of any work environment, these strategies could be used under various situations. An important aspect stressed here is that one should face the problem boldly and not ignore gestures of sexual harassment, hoping that it would 'go way with time'.

410. Subramani, A. *Life term confirmed in dowry death case.* The Hindu. 22 August 2003.

The High Court of Madras has passed a sentence of life imprisonment for the spouse of late Ms.Vanitha, a victim of dowry-violence, instigating to suicide. While sentencing the mother-in-law to a penalty of 8 years of RI and the payment of a fine, the Division Bench of the High Court calls upon the State

to enact suitable legislation to provide compulsory education and economic independence to women to prevent them from being vulnerable to dowry-related abuse and family violence.

411. Suganya, Celine. *Where homes are torture chambers: Vimochana's work with victims of domestic violence.* Interview by Madhu Kishwar. P... Manushi. Issue. 110. 1999.

An interview with Celine Suganya an activist working for Vimochana, a women's NGO in Bangalore committed to resolve the issue of domestic and family violence. Vimochana provides free legal aid to the victims enabling them to file direct legal action against the perpetrators, as well as counselling services for their families.

412. *Suicide of Advocate Sangeetha Sharma* . PUCL Bulletin. October 2002. 2p. [Source – http://www.pucl.org/reports/; accessed on 26 June 2005].

The PUCL (People's Union for Civil Liberties) in Andhra Pradesh has filed a writ petition on the suicide of Ms.Sangeetha Sharma, an Advocate of the High Court, who took her life, after she was sexually harassed by a senior lawyer. The Union has organised an 'Open House' protest condemning the widespread prevalence of sexual harassment of women lawyers by their collegeus and superiors. They have demanded that the case of Ms.Sharma be handled by the Central Bureau of Investigations, the perpetrator be punished and the State Government take immediate steps to establish committees to handle reports of sexual harassment in all the courts, public and private workplaces.

413. Sunder Rajan, Rajeswari. *The prostitution question(s): (Female) agency, sexuality and work. P.122-143; notes.* Feminist terrains in legal domains : Interdisciplinary essays on women and law in India. Ed. Ratna Kapur. New Delhi, Kali for Women. 1996.

Drawing in the present set of laws relating to sex work in India, this article suggests recommendations to amend the Prohibition of Immoral Traffic Act (PITA) of 1985. This paper is an attempt to identify the limitations of the existing laws and proposes legal reforms relating to the issue of prostitution. Accordingly, the prostitution legislation should not view them as commodities but in recognition of their work, the amendment concerning their health and well-being.

414. Sunder Rajan, Rajeswari. *The scandal of the state : Women and institutional protection in contemporary India. 30p.; notes.* ICES/SSRC Conference on Violence Against Women : Victims and Ideologies. Colombo, 28-31 March 1996?

This paper is an evaluation of the state welfare provided to women in non-penal and penal institutions. The paper relates to the mass hysterectomy performed on mentally handicapped women - surgical sterilisation performed on the inmates of a state-run institution for the mentally retarded, in order to "..maintain female hygiene during menstruation, prevent unwanted pregnancies and sexual abuse". A state inquiry was called upon, in response to protests made by women's groups against violation of fundamental human rights of women. This paper explores the Indian Lunacy Act (1912) and the Mental Health Act (1987) in the light of the personal laws relating to women's health and reproductive rights. The paper also concerns the violation of human rights of women prisoners/detainees, and the levels of authority prescribed for law enforcers.

415. *Supreme Court judgement on sexual harassment.* [s.l]. August 1999. [Source – http://www.sawnet.org; accessed on 18 January 2002].

A briefing on the judgement made by the Supreme Court of India on a [40]case of sexual harassment at the workplace for women workers has initiated debate on the issues of workplace abuse against women. This judgement has provided guidelines on the definition of gender-based workplace harassment, preventive steps to such harassment, complaint procedure, disciplinary action and other provisions to create awareness of the offence in workplaces.

416. Talukdar, Sushanta. *Manipur's Protest. P.....* Frontline. August 17-24 September 2004.

Manipuri women staged a demonstration against the alleged torture, rape and killing of Ms.Thangam Manorama by paramilitary forces. The protestors shed their clothes as an extreme measure of protest against the extra-judicial killings and molestation of women in Manipur, which have gone unheeded. Led by the All Manipur Women's Social Promotion and Development Samaj, the demonstrators demanded safety for women in Manipur and the withdrawal of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act implemented, in order to suppress insurgency in the State of Assam.

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[40] Visakha vs. State of Rajasthan and Others, August 1997.

417. Talwar, Anuradha. *The Shalishi in West Bengal : A community response to domestic violence. P.14-31.* Women initiated community response to domestic violence : Summary report of three studies. Washington D.C., International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW). 2002. 75p.; tables; annex.; ref. (Domestic Violence in India : Exploring Strategies Promoting Dialogue No.5).

This volume highlights the women-initiated dispute resolution mechanisms, independent of any wider national strategy, to resolve the issue of domestic violence among the rural women. Shramajibee Mahila Samity (SMS) is a rural women's organisation that stemmed from the Union of Agricultural Workers in West Bengal where a large proportion of members are women. The issue of domestic violence among them has emerged as a significant issue and SMS organises Shalishis, a dispute resolution mechanism to handle the problem. Giving priority to women's voices, the intervention involves the disputant's family and neighbours from the village concerned. Another distinct feature of the mechanism is that the community participates in the implementation and monitoring of the resolution agreed upon by the Shalishis.

418. Tamil Nadu Women's Forum. *Public hearing with Dalit woman at Chennai on 08.01.99.* [Chennai]. P...; plates. 1999.

This is a state-level public hearing on the community, state and custodial violence perpetrated against women of oppressed communities. An audience comprising women's organisations, CBOs' and human rights activists, along with a panel of jurists, listened to the horrendous experience of gender abuses of the Dalit women from the various districts of Tamil Nadu. This public hearing has led to the effective exposure of the forms of violence against women of oppressed castes perpetrated by privileged communities and the state at large, while calling for intervention from the law enforcement and legal authorities to initiate appropriate action to prevent such crimes. The forum also urges the Dalit women to organise themselves into a movement against gender atrocities and demand reparation for the victim/survivor.

419. Tamil Nadu Women's Forum. *Women's Fact Finding Team : Report.* Chennai. 27 August 1997. [Unpublished]. [Source – ICES Archives on VAW].

Oppressed communities in 5 villages of Tamil Nadu have been targeted by 'upper castes' and the police, with their women subjected to gender-based abuse. This report submitted to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on

Violence Against Women is based on information gathered by a fact-finding mission of women activists and voluntary workers on violence perpetrated on rural Dalits, in particular the women, and calls for action at international level through the U.N.

420. *TN Assembly passes Bill against eve-teasing*. Indian Express. 28 November 1998.

The State Assembly of Tamil Nadu has unanimously passed a Bill prohibiting eve-teasing, a much prevalent form of sexual harassment within the state. The Bill envisages a penalty of 1year of rigorous imprisonment and a cash fine. Meanwhile, a Public Interest Litigation has been filed against the Union Ministry for Information & Broadcasting to censor those Tamil films and songs that justify eve-teasing, instigating the adolescent males to indulge in this notorious offence.

421. *Tara : Ashraya Women's Centre. P2.* Ashraya : Activities. [Bangalore]. 2003. [Source – http://www.nriol.com/ashraya/; accessed on 19 January 2004].

Ashraya meaning 'shelter' is a women's voluntary organisation committed to serve abused women with children, encouraging them to be together. The Tara Women's Centre of Ashraya is equipped with residential units for battered and abused women and their children, with provision of counselling services, free legal aid, vocational training and job-placement. The centre is maintained by state grants as well as international agencies and private charities, motivating those victimised by gender violence to reintegrate into society.

422. Thapa, Vijay Jung. *Sathin Movement : Losing their livlihood. P.81.* India Today. 30 September 1995.

This article is a critique on the current status of the movement in the state 'agenda' where the volunteers are fighting a case that they be absorbed into the state social service with regular benefits and securities. This article explores the current status of Sathin a grass-root movement in the state of Rajasthan challenging gender bias and working towards women's social awareness and empowerment. Though the movement is a great success in the state, the women voluntary workers are not compensated adequately to continue their work at community level on reproductive health care, family planning and building up schemes for rural savings/credit, housing and agricultural inputs for the rural women.

423. Tata Institute of Social Sciences [and] Bombay Police Commissionarate. *Because the Personal is Political : A documentation of the work of the Special Cell for Women and Children : 1984-1994.* Mumbai. ix, 208p.; annex.

This is a document based on interventions to counter gender-based violence, in particular family abuse faced by adult women, the girl child, aged women and those who belong to oppressed castes, tribes and minority communities. It relates to the efforts of the Bombay Police, which, besides their services has set up an additional desk to a full-time trained social worker to offer effective services to victims. Hence the rationale behind the Special Cell is to make available professional help to women and children inflicted with family violence. While reviewing agency records, the volume highlights the various aspects of family violence, the document relates to the efforts made by the police officers, social workers, women's NGOs and activists. Complimented with interviews conducted with social workers, police officers, victims/clients, personnel belonging to social welfare institutions and women's NGO this study leads to a review of the:

- Categories of cases registered at the Special Cell for Women and Children;
- Nature and types of police interventions;
- Problems faced by the police and social workers in handling the cases;
- Guidelines for social workers/students.

424. Tewari, Sudha. *Abortion : A provider's perspective. P.61-64; notes.* Seminar. No.532. December 2003.

Abortion, though legalised for the past 3 decades is a major cause of maternal morbidity/mortality, as women seek to end unwanted pregnancies but lack access to safe services. This article concerns the advocacy efforts of Parivar Seva Sanstha, a NGO working in 21 states of the country, lobbying among women, health care providers, media personnel and policy makers - to educate them on the legality and safety issues pertaining to abortion. The model MTP clinics of the Sanstha provide confidential, compassionate, simple and quality abortion services on a walk-in-out-patient basis that reduces the incidence of maternal morbidity/mortality. Post-abortion family planning services are provided to help the women to avoid the need for repeated abortions. Other services such as pre/post-natal care, screening for reproductive tract infections, infertility treatment and immunisation are added to the activities of the organisation. Establishment of Marie Stopes clinics that specialise in

techniques for safe abortion, is yet another initiative to provide safe abortion services in cities and towns. Parivar Seva also conducts research, training and awareness raising programmes on reproductive health, while running 'exclusive' clinics for men as partners in reproductive health care.

425. *'Two-child norm discriminates against the poor'*. The Hindu. 15 September 2004.

Women's organisations including the All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA) and the Group for Women and Health have raised protests against the proposed national population policy based on a 'two-child' norm. Evidently, this policy violates the rights of women and leads to serve as a coercive measure against the poor and disadvantaged communities. While causing severe damage to the framework of incentives/disincentives to promote health-based family planning, the policy adds to gender bias and encourages the practice of sex-selective abortion and female infanticide.

426. *'Two-child norm will not be imposed'*. The Hindu. 13 October 2004.

The Union Ministry of Health has assured the public that that the 'two-child norm' would not be imposed, as it would amount to the violation of fundamental/reproductive rights. In response to the protest made by NCW rejecting the proposed policy of 'two-child norm', the population programme would be implemented on a stabilisation basis, and not as population control, which coercively targets the poor women on a caste/culture basis. It is noteworthy, that the family planning programmes in rural settings implement a large proportion of cases on tubectomy, as opposed to a very small percentage on vasectomy. In this context, the Voluntary Health Association of India (VHAI) has called for gender equality in health care, stressing on the high incidence of forced abortion for under privileged women, which often leads to surgical menopause.

427. *Trafficking Act discriminates against women : Petition in court.* The Hindu. 14 June 2004.

A public interest litigation petititon filed in the Chennai High Court challenges two key provisions of the Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act of 1956 as gender discriminatory, that the prescribed penalty for women is more stringent than that for men. Accordingly, most anti-trafficking provisions in the law, including rescue, raid and rehabilitation ultimately criminalise the victim of

trafficking with minimal impact on the traffickers and those involved in the network. In the rescue operation conducted by the police, the Act does not distinguish between minors and adults, voluntary and coerced sex workers. The petitioner is Just Trust Programme a local NGO that highlights Section (8) dealing with the punishment for soliciting and seducing , and Section 15(5) that calls for a mandatory medical examination of 'rescued' sex workers to ascertain whether they suffer from sexually transmitted diseases.

428. Tripathi, Purnima S. *Rehabilitation concerns. P.85-86.* Frontline. 11 April 2003.

This article highlights the failure of support mechanisms and comprehensive legislation to protect victims of rape. It pin-points that the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) that is required to coordinate with NGOs in the rehabilitation of rape victims is ill-equipped in terms of resources and staff training, emphasising the need of a comprehensive state-supported rehabilitation mechanism as felt by women's NGOs and human rights activists. The Women Victims of Atrocities (Rehabilitation) Bill of 19th July 2002 seeks a law to provide state-supported rehabilitation for victims of sexual violence through vocational education, financial assistance and other means for their social re-integration. As part of the penalty, the rapist should be made to pay a heavy penalty towards the rehabilitation and welfare of his victim.

429. USAID. *USAID Activities in Tamil Nadu.* New Delhi. 25 September 2001. 2p. [Source – http://www.usaid.gov; accessed on 19 January 2002].

A comment on the Second National Family Health Survey (NFHS-2) conducted during 1998-99. The survey has shed light on several important factors relating to the health status of married women in rural and urban settings. Key indicators of fertility and maternal/child health have provided valuable information on their reproductive freedom and nutritional status. USAID together with the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) has supported the NFHS-2 with a supplementary fund for maternal/child nutrition. The agency has also provided financial backing for the AIDS Prevention & Control Project (APAC) launched in Tamil Nadu where commercial sex workers, factory workers and truck drivers are target groups. APAC aims to reduce the sexual transmission of HIV, providing the necessary expertise to develop the second phase of the National Prevention of HIV. The support renders:

- Medical care and sexual health education and psychological support to sex workers through the Society for Development of Resource and Training (SDRT) in Pondicherry;

- Counselling and support for HIV-affected mothers, implemented through a community-based NGO named CHES (Community Health Education Society) in Chennai to provide home-based care for the HIV-affected, counselling for their family members and training to strengthen the capacity of caregivers at community level.

430. UNAIDS. *Examples of Projects : Chennai. P...* UNAIDS at Barcelona : XIV International Conference on AIDS, Barcelona, 7-12 July 2002. [Source – http://www.unaids.org/; accessed on 23 August 2003].

This website provides information on NGOs, particularly in Tamil Nadu, mobilising the local community to act against the spread of HIV/AIDS. As many national governments face economic and social constraints on AIDS prevention programmes, the burden of the disease has fallen on the local communities which are in a better position to understand the problems of AIDS victims. Women's Network of the Tamil Nadu and Network of People Living with HIV attempt to sensitise the community to cope with the stigma and other issues attached to AIDS patients. Among the trans-gendered community, the Tamil Nadu Aravanigal Association works as a support group towards sexual minorities living with AIDS, doubly marginalized as a result of trans-sexuality and HIV infection. The web page also related to the Forum for Advocacy on Rights of Sex Workers a national network of NGOs and sex workers collectives in Pondicherry, working on AIDS prevention targeting the automobile drivers, tourists and sex workers. The network sensitises the local authorities and community leaders to gain the necessary skills and resources to identify the causes and consequences of HIV/AIDS and to offer victim support through community intervention.

431. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. *India : Violence against women. P.90-100.* Promoting women's rights as human rights. New York, United Nations. 1999. (Studies on Women in Development – 2).

This report concerns the various forms of violence against women in India and the legal provision for such offences. Problems of domestic violence (including wife abuse), dowry related violence and murder, widow immolation (Sati) female foeticide/infanticide, child sexual abuse, incest, forced sexual sterilisation and abortion, coerced prostitution, temple slavery (Devadasis), rape and sexual harassment are dealt with various Acts of the Indian Penal Code. Yet, the validity of these laws in terms of providing for the victims and prosecuting the offenders is at stake. This paper analyses the failures and

limitations of the respective Acts in relation to the socio-cultural attitudes observed in case reporting, investigation and prosecution that are to the disadvantage of the women victims.

432. United Nations. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. *Reproductive rights. P.36-39.* Human rights and legal status of women in the Asian and Pacific Region. New York. 1997. (Studies on Women in Development – 1).

Many countries in South Asia, despite the fact that women face death and ill-health from illegal and unsafe abortion practices adopt a rigid attitude to abortion. South Asian abortion-related laws are based on early English Criminal Law, which assume that women should shoulder the exclusive parental responsibility for their children as 'natural guardians'. India is the only country in the region that permits 'free' abortion under socio-economic and health grounds. Although more liberal than most of South Asia, the abortion law has lead to gender discrimination due to sex selective abortion of female foetus. Legislative response to the Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation & Prevention of Misuse) Act of 1994 bars the usage of pre-natal techniques in detecting the sex of the foetus. This legislation, while justifying the public policy against female foeticide, restricts a woman's right to control her fertility.

433. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). *Maternal Health: Infrastructure development. P.61.* State of world population 2004 : The Cario Consensus at Ten : Population, reproductive health and the global effort to end poverty. New York. 2004.

In Rajasthan, 83 emergency obstetric care units were upgraded to serve around 13 million women in childbirth. Supported by UNFPA, health professionals are trained to provide emergency obstetric care and infection prevention. Management information systems are introduced to improve the monitoring and evaluation of services, as well as media programmes to raise awareness on the issue of safe motherhood. This effort has increased the number of women treated for obstetric complications, by 50% in the past 4 years, as indicated by the reduction in maternal mortality/morbidity. This programme is now implemented in other states that have a high record of maternal deaths.

434. University of Delhi. *Policy on Sexual Harassment : Ordinance XV (D) : Prohibition of and punishment for sexual harassment. Delhi.* 2004. 14p.; ill.; append.

This document is a commitment by an educational institution to create an environment free of gender violence, harassment, exploitation and intimidation through a policy that recognises sexual harassment as not a mere offence, but as an act of power and public violation often dismissed as interpersonal transgression. Based on the right for a safe education and work environment for all, the policy has evolved mechanisms for complaints on sexual harassment, of accessibility and confidentiality. This report deals with various dimensions of the proposed policy applicable within a social context to ensure fair, accountable and representative procedures for redressal and resolution.

435. Usha Multipurpose Co-operative Society Ltd. *Sex workers' co-operative.* Calcutta. 19... [Source – ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

This brochure relates the structure and functions of the first sex workers' co-operative society in Asia, catering to the social and economic needs of the workers and their families. Registered under the West Bengal Co-operative Societies Act, the organisation is an initiative to the struggle for their social identity. While promoting the social welfare of the workers and their families, the society conducts programmes on social marketing of condoms, STD/HIV Intervention and health services.

436. *V-day India 2004 : Celebrating the Indian women warrior. 2p.* V-Day : Violence resources. [s.l], 7 June 2004. [Source – http://www.vday.org/ ; accessed on 20 December 2004].

A delegation of leadership, vision, art and activism on violence against women travelled to various parts of India during March 2004, to celebrate and campaign on South Asian women's activism against gender violence. The delegation along with women's organizations, such as SNEHA, SANGAT and Jagori visited shelter homes for women victims of violence and held discussions with action groups combating gender-based violence. Activists from India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan and India attended a [41]conference aiming to analyse how women/feminists have faced gender violence, and the impact of the issue on communalism, fundamentalism, globalisation, and privatisation. A nation-wide campaign was conducted through print and electronic media, comprising stories, interviews and messages to end violence against women.

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[41] "Confronting Violence :Recounting Resistance, Envisioning Justice", Delhi, March 2004.

437. Velu, Rajam. *Positive Hotline. P.4.* Namaskar. Vol.2, No.2. August 1997.

This article outlines services in response to the problems faced by HIV-positive patients within the community of sex workers in Calcutta. Introduced by the Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee (DMSC), the patients and their family members are supported by means of free counselling and medico-legal assistance. At community level the project trains people to build a system of social support to the affected women and their families.

438. Venkatesan, V. *Survivors' struggle. P.92-93.* Frontline. 16 August 2002.

Women activists of the Bhopal Gas Peedit Mahila Stationery Karmanchi Sangh have gone on a fast-cum-protest bringing forward the demands of the survivors of the gas leak tragedy in 1984. The survivors have presented a memorandum to the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilisers that compensation should be offered to localities in the city classified as "non-affected" by the state. While questioning the mode of compensation paid to the kith and kin of the deceased, the activists demand that the contaminated and abandoned plant site be cleaned up to minimise the health hazards for those who work at the newly-constructed plant.

439. Verma, Babita. *Legislation and Reform : Women's quest for justice.: Interview with Ms. Alice Jacob, Member Law Commission. P. 6-8.* Kali's Yug. Vol.II, Issue.1. March 1997.

This is an interview with a member of the Law Commission that looks into the Special Provision Act for the Protection of Women. This Act provides safeguards for women detainees under police custody and stipulated rules for the medical examination of rape victims. Concerning trials on rape the interviewee stresses that legal personnel should adopt a gender sensitive approach when dealing with cases. In a discussion on the uniform civil code and the importance of gender justice for women, she mentions that recommendations given by various women's NGO have been successful in amending the laws against rape.

440. *Victims of 'honour killings' recall horror.* The Hindu. 13 January 2004.

The All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA) held a [42]convention, where women victims of a deep-rooted tradition voiced their experiences.

[42] Convention Against Honour Killings/Violence, Delhi, 25 November 2004.

While a significant percentage of murders in the states of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh are committed as 'honour' killings, a large number of Panchayat judgements on 'honour' killings are issued annually by the dominant castes against inter-caste marriages. AIDWA calls upon all democratic organisations to intervene in such cases to prevent victimisation of individuals/ couples, pressurise the government to formulate policies for its prevention and to impose a ban on judgements imposed by caste-based Panchayats, demand that political parties up hold the right of marriage by choice and accountability of all village Panchayats to report such cases.

441. Visaria, Leela et al. *Abortion in India : Emergency issues from qualitative survey. P.5044-5052; notes; ref.* Economic and Political Weekly. Vol.XXXIX, Nos. 46 & 47. 20-26 November 2004.

HealthWatch and CEHAT have conducted a number of studies on the Abortion Assessment Project – India (AAP-I) that has created a database on all the dimensions of induced abortion, which despite its legality causes serious problems of maternal morbidity and mortality. This study besides qualitative research methods supplemented with quantitative data includes interviews of women who have undergone abortions. Considering the fact that induced abortion is yet another form of gender violence, often performed under pressure of the spouse/conjugal family the study shed light on the quality of services provided as 'after-care' health services at the state medical institutions, client-provider interaction, pre and post procedural counselling, level of awareness on abortion laws and the PNDT Act that prohibits sex determination of the foetus lead to challenges and advocacy on the issue. Thus the research provides scope for policy reform, programmatic action, special needs of the single woman, addressing the contraceptive needs and creating awareness on the provision of the MTP Act.

442. Visaria, Leela. *Violence against women in India : Evidence from Rural Gujarath. P. 9-17.; tables; ref.* Domestic violence in India : A summary report of three studies. Washington D.C., International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW). September 1999.

This is a community-based study to understand the factors leading to domestic violence in the rural areas.. This study, while exploring the magnitude and forms of family violence, attempts to analyse the reasons behind such abuse and women's options for support. This research recommends that domestic violence could be countered by:

- Literacy and education for women and girls;
- Gender-sensitive education for men;
- Formation of women's groups at community-level for empowerment and to minimise women's isolation;
- Use of the mass media to promote awareness- raising on the healthy perception of gender relationship.

443. *Vishaka and Others versus State of Rajasthan and Others. P.241-254.* Supreme Court Cases. Vol.6. 1997.

A writ petition filed for the enforcement of the fundamental rights of working women under Articles 14, 19 and 21 of the Constitution of India. Filed by social activists and women's NGOs this petition follows the incident of alleged gang-rape of a social worker in rural Rajasthan. Evidently, the Supreme Court has prescribed guidelines and norms that should be strictly observed in workplaces in order to deal with the issue of sexual harassment at work. The guidelines include duties of the employer, definition of sexual harassment, preventive measures, disciplinary action, complaint procedure and criminal proceedings.

444. WARLAW [Women's Action Research and Legal Action to Women]. *Chairperson's Report.* [s.l]. [1996]. 11p.

WARLAW is a non-governmental women's organisation whose major activity is to provide legal counselling and legal aid to victims of domestic violence. The report outlines cases of wife abuse and dowry-related violence where WARLAW had intervened, filing court cases on behalf of victims. In keeping with the objective, the organisation is involved in research and documentation of gender-based violence and publishing a quarterly critique on cases of gender violence in the form of a newsletter. Seminars and training programmes are provided for legal personnel and law enforcers to understand the issues of gender, the law and crimes against women.

445. *WARLAW's Petition in the Supreme Court at New Delhi (Civil Organisation Jurisdiction) : Writ Petititon (Civil) No.684 of 1994.* P. 22-25. Kali's Yug. Vol.II, Issue. 1. March 1997.

This is a petition filed by Women's Action Research and Legal Action to Women (WARLAW) against the government of India. It concerns gender equality as mentioned in the State Constitution and indiscrepancies in the law

implementation towards gender justice. Recalling the CEDAW to which the Government is a signatory, this petition is filed against those Ministries dealing with gendered law and the National Commission on Human Rights. The petition seeks judicial reform of the various laws that reveal gender injustice and subordination.

446. Warrier, Shoba. *The Positive Women's Network [PWN] is a lifeline for thousands with AIDS in South India.* 1 December 2001. 2p. [Source – http://www.rediff.com/news/2001/ ; accessed on 25 June 2003].

This is a newsarticle concerning the Indian Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (INP-Plus) a non-governmental organisation caring for victims of AIDS in Tamil Nadu, through which the pioneer group for AIDS-affected women in South was started. The INP-Plus has created a forum for the victims to air their fears and anxieties and to look at the positive side of life. PWN includes support services from medical personnel, dieticians and social workers, with a tremendous increase of membership. The support groups, besides providing access to information, prevention and care also render counselling and psychological support to women living with HIV infection.

447. *We were insulted at government hospitals : HIV-infected women.* The Hindu. 20 February 2004.

Positive Women's Network (PWN) a women's NGO working for women with HIV has organised a public hearing for the victims of AIDS who met the National Commission for Women (NCW) and government officials to air their grievances. Speaking of their 'stigma' the victims said that government medical/paramedical personnel treat them in a shabby manner when seeking treatment in hospitals. Officials from the public health sector present at the hearing have urged the PWN to file a public interest petition, along with awareness campaigns and educational programmes on HIV/AIDS.

448. WHRNET NEWS. *India : A Dalit woman was paraded naked in public. P.1-2.* [s.l]. 5 September 2001. [Source- http://www.whrnet.org/ ; accessed 20 December 2002]

The World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) seeks urgent action against gender-based violence perpetrated upon women of oppressed castes in India. Referring to the case of Ms.Yeramma, who was punished by the villagers, OMCT appeals to the state authorities to take action and have a state inquiry

into the incident. They ask also that the perpetrators of the crime be prosecuted, with compensation provided to the victim.

449. *Widespread demand for Kunhailkutty's resignation.* The Hindu. 29 October 2004.

The Kerala Stree Vedi, Kerala Mahila Sanghom and AIDWA have demanded the resignation of the State Minister of Industries in Kerala, on grounds of allegations of sexual abuse and forced prostitution of Ms.Rejina, when she was a minor in her place of employment. Stree Vedi also sought immediate removal of the victim to a government hospital for safety, and was given expert medical care. In a march to the secretariat, the activists demanded that the State Government should provide adequate protection to the victim, considering the fact that death threats have been made against her. Anweshi Women's Counselling Centre, a women's NGO which took up her case back in 1997, urges that a reliable and fully-fledged inquiry be conducted into the case of a 'sex racket in ice cream palour' in Kozhikode, which served as the arena for the sexual exploitation of Ms.Rejina.

450. WISCOMP (Women in Security Conflict Management and Peace). *Breaking the Silence : Women in Kashmir. 2p.* [New Delhi]. 2004.

WISCOMP a women's NGO organized a roundtable forum entitled "Breaking the Silence :Woman and Kashmir" as an interface between those who are concerned and those who were affected by the ongoing civil war. This forum aims to provide a context within which issues and concerns of women of Kashmir could be articulated and communicated to a wider audience outside the valley. The first part included those working on the Kashmir problem – academicians, activists and journalist, and the latter on those women whose lives have been directly affected by the conflict. In a background of the socio-political history of Kashmir, this forum leads to examine the possibility for a gendered approach to 'repair' the civil society towards lasting peace.

451. *Witch killing in India.* 3p. [s.l]. 5 September 2000. [Source – http:// www.cnn.com/ 2000/ASIANOW/south/; accessed on 17 June 2005].

The State Government of Bihar has passed a stringent law against the crime of 'witch hunting' a traditional form of violence against women in tribal communities. This evil practice targets widows and single women owning land in a society where land ownership is shrinking as a result of socio-

economic development. The law against this practice of 'witch' killing was passed in 2001 imposing a minimum of 3 months imprisonment and a maximum of death penalty for the perpetrators. However, convictions are found to be rare and the Free Legal Aid Committee a local NGO seeks punishment for perpetrators. However, prevention of this crime is rather difficult as the practice is based on deep-rooted beliefs on exorcism that is linked to tribal health care.

452. Womankind Worldwide. *Female infanticide. 1p*. London. 2003. {Source – http://www.womankind.org.uk/; accessed on 24 June 2003].

Female infanticide and sex-selective abortions of the girl child reflect women's lack of social status. Impoverished communities, in particular, tribes, rural and oppressed castes, view their daughters as an economic 'burden' hence baby girls are abandoned or killed at birth. In Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu Womankind Worldwide works with rural women where the women learn about women's rights, share experiences, gain access to legal support and develop awareness on health aspects and economic independence so that they are in a better position to resist family pressure to 'do away' with the baby girls. Womankind has initiated the formation of women's groups that are politically active at the level of local government, while advocating education for girls and encouraging community intervention to combat gender-based violence.

453. *Women cold as India wakes up to sexual harassment in the workplace.* [s.n]. [s.l]. 26 May 2002.1p. [Source – http://news.com.com; accessed on 10 July 2002].

New Delhi has set up a 3-member panel to monitor the state sector for incidence of sexual harassment of women employees, and to probe independent complaints of workplace violence. However, women's groups and human rights activists argue that the panel is ineffective without the proper legal backing and is inadequate to deal with complaints from the informal labour sector where incidents are widespread. In this context a code of conduct has been formulated by the National Commission on Women in order to guide the private sector staff. The National Federation of Indian Women (NFIW) has organised campaigns for women's rights in the workplace, to encourage the lodging of official complaints on sexual harassment. While welcoming the panel, the National Alliance of Women recommends that the 3-women panel should appoint more than mere bureaucrats to monitor harassment.

454. *Women hold rally against riots.* The Hindustan Times. 23 January 1993.

This is an account of the protest rally against the recent [43]communal violence that included the participation of representatives from women's NGOs. The activists raised community awareness, expressing views that women and children were the most affected as a result of gang-rape, a common 'tool' used by the rioters to create psycho-fear among the communities.

455. *Women in armed conflict situation in India. P.73-77; ref.* General Recommendations 19 : Violence against Women. [s.n], [s.l]. [Source – ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

Women, due to their secondary status and gender discrimination, are the prime targets of armed conflicts. Patriarchal norms practiced by the armed forces and militant groups add to the gender-based violence during situations of conflict. This report refers to state initiatives to resolve gender violence in armed conflict, highlighting the roles played by the National Human Rights Commission and the National Commission for Women. Evaluating the level of work efficiency of these commissions, the paper recommends that the Armed Forces Special Powers Act be reformed and that special courts be set up in areas of conflict to take up cases of rape and sexual abuse. To this end, Human Rights Commissions should be set up at state-level and funds be allocated for this purpose.

456. *Women In Black protests 'state terror'.* The Times of India. 5 January 2003.

Women In Black is a grass roots action group committed to raise consciousness on the issue of violence against women, in particular sexual and state perpetrated forms of abuse. Women activists dressed in black and forceful in their demands, stage demonstrations/protests against rape, sexual abuse, genocide and state violence against minorities.

457. *Women in India protest against release of rape suspects. 1p.* [London], BBC News. 17 April 2000. [Source – http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/; accessed on 19 January 2002].

More than 500 women in the State of Orissa held a protest rally against the release of a group of men accused of raping two women activists. The

[43] Communal violence following the destruction of Barbri Masjid in Ayodhya by religious extremists.

demonstrators called for the detention of all the accused until the High Court issued a verdict in the case. A Lower Court declared that the evidence was 'insufficient' to hold these men, and according to the activists, involves an alleged pornographic venture in Orissa.

458. *" Women Panel should become statutory body".* The Hindu. 12 April 2002.

Women's NGOs and action groups have requested that the Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women (TNSCW) should draft a legislation to make itself a statutory body whose recommendations will bind the state. Disagreeing with the suggestion that women-related cases, particularly those on gender violence, be referred exclusively to women's courts instead of the "Fast-Track Court", it is suggested that the Commission reviews all government policies and the public distribution systems pertaining to the manner in which cases of violence against women have been handled by the police and judiciary. The TNSCW also recommends:

- A 40% budgetary allocation for women's welfare, with preference to women heads of households and those from the oppressed sections of the society;
- All socio-economic and welfare policies related to women should be evolved in consultation with the Commission and women's organisations so that budgetary priorities are given to women's concerns;
- The programme of gender sensitisation and awareness raising be extended to the families of political representatives, the judiciary and medical personnel who handle cases of violence against women and children.

459. *Women's Commission demands seeks CBI probe into AP Advocate's suicide.* Indian Express. 9 July 2000.

The National Human rights Commission (NHRC) and the National Commission for Women (NCW) have reacted strongly to the incident of suicide by a lady advocate of the High Court in Andhra Pradesh. Concerning the death of Ms.Sangeetha Sharma who underwent sexual harassment by her fellow-lawyers, the Commission demands a [44]CBI inquiry into the incident. Petitioned by Asmita Resource Centre for Women the NCW has taken up the case in two segments – incident of suicide and women's sexual harassment, urging the Bar Council and Bar Association of India to take action against sexual

[44] Central Bureau of Investigations.

harassment within the professionals. In response to this, arrests have been made and the case is in progress.

460. *Women flay Indian Government to call for hanging rapists.* [s.l], Clubplanet. 2 December 2002. 4p. [Source – http://www.clubplanet.com/ accessed on 11 January 2003].

Women activists campaigning against rape and sexual violence have criticised the recent call of the government to sanction capital punishment for rapists. AIDWA and Centre for Social Research (CSR) have the perspective that the "..death penalty is not going to fight rape. On the contrary, the number of cases convicted would be lesser, as judges are more reluctant to sanction capital punishment for the crime of rape." The groups have urged the state to make the legal procedure less cumbersome for the victims of rape who have to "..... bear witness several times before the legal and police authorities, leading to the protection of the victim by her family members during interrogations." It is suggested that a victim's account should be video-recorded and used in different stages of the investigation. As such, a Bill on sexual assault drafted by the women's groups awaits debate at the parliament.

461. Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR). *Campaign to stop anti-fertility vaccines and hazardous contraceptives.* 3p. [s.l]. 9 June 2005. [Source – http://www.wgnrr.org/; accessed on 13 August 2005].

For several years, there has been growing concern and criticism among health activists over a persistent line of contraceptive research, which aims at controlling population growth by means of controlling, mainly women's fertility by the use of injectable hormonal contraceptives and implants. Women's organizations have raised concerns on the safety, efficacy, reliability, and the potential for abuse of these "anti-fertility vaccines" that have long-term, after-effects on the woman's health system, beyond their control. During two [45]international conferences on reproductive immunology, Saheli in New Delhi and the Forum for Womens Health in Bombay, launched a campaign to raise awareness on the research and use of "anti-fertility vaccines" and their implication on women's health. The groups organized a demonstration and a press conference where they presented a brochure entitled "Target Practice : Anti-Fertility Vaccines Research and Womens Health." All activities were a

[45] VII International Congress of Reproductive Immunology & International Conference of Immunology, New Delhi, October-November, 1998.

huge success and they even managed to read out a protest statement to the audience of the scientific congress, which raised considerable interest and annoyance.

462. *Women's group condemns threat* [and] *Taslima undaunted by 'Fatwa* . The Hindu. 20 January 2004.

The AIDWA, in a press release, condemns the 'highly provocative and objectionable' statements issued by fundamentalists against Ms.Taslima Nasreen, demanding that she be deported from India. Ms.Nasreen has received death threats by religious extremists in Bangladesh on account of 'blasphemy', and she has sought refuge in India. Despite the threats, she plans to present her autobiography and translations of her publications that are banned in Bangladesh.

463. The World Bank. *Health services and how they are used. P.69-74; notes*. Improving women's health in India. Washington D.C., 1996.

This chapter is in relation to the state efforts to address maternal morbidity and mortality of women in India. The Child Survival & Safe Motherhood Programme, launched by the government under the national health policy, aims to reduce the rate of maternal mortality by means of the delivery of immunization and ante-natal care for pregnant women and ensuring that trained traditional birth attendants are present at childbirths. However, the Safe Motherhood component has progressed very slowly, as the provision of ante-natal and postpartum care service is very low in most northern states of the country. Providing prompt and effective treatment for obstetric complications has been a difficult task as the government does not have adequately qualified specialists, well-equipped operating theatres or facilities for blood transfusion. The other component viz., the Intensified Training of Dias Programme (ITDP), to educate traditional birth attendants on hygienic delivery practices, aims to provide them with essential maternal care and birth skills, pre-natal care and referral services for those who develop childbirth-related complications. This programme too, has encountered several difficulties in terms of the availability of trained birth attendants in the villages and the supply/use of comprehensive 'safe-delivery' kits. As the birth attendants are intermediaries, they are not in a position to handle gynaecological complications, which are the major cause for maternal disability or death.

See also Citation Nos. 110, 491, 507, 530, 648, 766, 795, 803, 842, 951, 961, 963, 966-69, 971, 976, 980, 981, 983, 984, 986, 990, 993, 1009 & 1012.

1.4 MALDIVES

464. Asian Development Bank (ADB). *Overall features and trends in development. Chapter 2.* Women in the Republic of Maldives :Country briefing paper. [s.l]. April 2001.

Women in the Maldives face problems in the context of marriage and divorce, as the rate of divorce is on the increase. The Constitution of Maldives (1998) reveals the need to examine laws related to marriage, divorce and to ensure legal literacy for women. The People's Majlis ratified by the President of Maldives passed a Family Law in 2001, providing relief for women facing divorce. Further, the Ministry of Women's Affairs & Social Security (MWASS) conducts programmes geared to reduce the problem of early marriage and high divorce rate, while raising consciousness on early pregnancy and childbirth. The Gender Equity Council (GEC) established in the year 2000 functions as an advisory body to MWASS on measures to eliminate gender discrimination and violation of women's rights.

465. *Violence against women in Maldives. P.27-30.* Solidarity : SAARC Women's Journal. Issue.5, 1998.

This article while acknowledging the insufficiency of data on gender-related violence provides the number of such cases reported from 1995 to 1997. In a country where the legal system is based on religious laws, gender inequality is evident in terms of property rights, marriage, divorce and their socio-political participation. The article provides the commitment of the Ministry of Women and Social Welfare to formulate gender-related policies towards women's equality and to address gender crimes.

466. International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF). *Country Profile: Maldives. 2p.* 20 November 2002. [Source – http:// www.wesouthasians.org; accessed on 19 June 2004].

Early marriage, frequent pregnancies, chronic malnutrition and inadequate health services are the factors that jeopardise women's health in the Maldives. Legal restrictions on the provision of contraceptives to the unmarried and a legal ban on abortion add to women's health problems. Traditional norms and limited awareness on reproductive/sexual health lead to limited levels of health services in the country, where family health workers, community health workers and traditional birth attendants ("Foolhuma") are the health providers

The Society for Health Education (SHE) is the only NGO with an agenda on women's health, actively involved in the state population programme. Established in 1988 with an integrated approach towards health education and service delivery, the projects include:

- Increasing accessibility to health services through training of medical, para-medical and administrative staff to expand their services
- Media campaign for health education and communication
- Counselling services on family planning and sexual abuse
- Youth Forums on adolescent health issues – early marriage, pregnancy, family planning, sexually transmitted diseases and addiction to alcohol and drugs
- A base-line survey on national health, with emphasis on maternal/child health

SHE aims to conduct a comprehensive programme on Thalassaemia through awareness raising, health screening, genetic counselling and research with a view to improve maternal health and that of new-born babies.

467. Shaljan, A.M. *Status of women. P.1838-1839.* Population, gender and development in Maldives. Economic and Political Weekly. Vol.XXXIX, No.18. May 1-7, 2004.

Maternal death rate in the Maldives has reduced significantly, due to a state initiated health programme. The programme includes health care for women with comprehensive referral services, as well as the expansion of family planning services. Initiated by UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and the World Health Organisation (WHO), this encompasses raising awareness through health education and family planning services, which helps in the spacing of child births and community participation in maternal/child health care.

See also Citation No. 967, 976 & 989.

1.5 NEPAL

468. ABC Nepal. *Girls Trafficking : Nepal country report.* Prp. Durga Ghimire. Regional Consultation on Violence against Women, [Colombo], 21-22 August 1999. 11p.

This country report explores the state policy and legislation against trafficking of women and girls in Nepal, for sexual exploitation and other crimes. Stemming from policy and regional initiatives, the role of NGOs are dealt with here. In this context, the activities of ABC Nepal are reviewed with regard to rehabilitation of victims, prevention of trafficking and research to support the efforts.

469. ABC Nepal. *Introduction. P.1-4.* Life in Hell : The true stories of girls rescued from Indian brothels. Kathmandu. 1998.

Every year, thousands of women and girls are trafficked out of Nepal and sold in neighbouring countries, in particular India for commercial sex. This section of the publication draws in the efforts made by voluntary/non-governmental organisations in Nepal to rescue, rehabilitate and reintegrate the survivors of trafficking. The NGOs, mostly women's organisations have pressurised the Government to form a national committee to investigate the problem, hold bilateral talks with the Indian government to combat the problem of trafficking across borders, provide rehabilitation measures for the victims rescued and formulate a national policy to counter the problem of human trafficking. The girls rescued were brought into the custody of the Court of Juvenile Welfare Board, supported by the Children AIDS Society and women's NGOs – ABC Nepal, Maiti Nepal, Stri Sakhti, [46]CWIN and many others who provided them shelter, medical care, counselling, non-formal education, literacy, leadership and vocational training for income generation as a means to rehabilitation and social reintegration.

470. ABC Nepal. *Programme against girl trafficking. Kathmandu.* 20... 17p.

Trafficking of young girls to work in the sex industry is a burning issue in Nepal. ABC/Nepal is a community-centred organisation that attempts to combat trafficking through intervention, awareness building, income generation activities, information sharing, non-formal education and health

[46] Child Workers in Nepal.

programmes. This report outlines the scope and limitations of the various programmes aimed at improving the rehabilitation efforts of the victims and overall status of the women.

471. Agro-Forestry Basic Health and Co-operatives, Nepal (ABC Nepal). Kathmandu 19..., [Source – ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

This is an action-oriented NGO with community development activities for grass root levels, with a gender perspective. One of the major objectives of ABC Nepal is to sensitise the community towards trafficking of girls and awareness-raising on sexually transmitted diseases. Women are provided with leadership training on prevention of trafficking and to organise community support for the rescued victims. The brochure provides a variety of community activities initiated by ABC Nepal which include forest conservation, primary health programmes and income-generating ventures for rural women.

472. Amnesty International. *Nepal : Human rights violations in the context of a Maoist "People's War ".* March 1997. 27p. (Doc. AI Index. ASA 31/01/97).

This report describes incidents of sexual harassment and custodial rape of 3 women by the police when launching an attack on a group of rebels. Cases of sexual abuse by the police on a woman-suspect of robbery and extrajudicial killing of two women in public are cited here. While providing information on the individual cases and recommendations Amnesty International calls upon the Government of Nepal for the investigations and prevention of human rights violations, in particular extrajudicial killings and torture.

473. Asian Women's Resources Exchange (AWORC). *Nepal's first women publishing house focuses on media.* [Kathmandu]. 2000. 2p. [Source-http://www.aworc.org/bpfa/pub/sec_j/com00003.html ; accessed on 19 March 2004] .

Women's organisations in Nepal point out that the media trivialises and sensationalises rape with the names of rape victims, while failing to produce analytical, investigative coverage on violence against women. Asmita Women's Publication House and the Asian Network of Women in Communication (ANWIC) have jointly organised a[47]seminar to evaluate the efforts of NGOs in conducting media advocacy to end gender-oriented violence. Their role and

[47] "Media Advocacy in relation to Women and Violence", Kathmandu, 21-22 May 1998.

potentials of the media with regard to combating gender crimes and promoting women's empowerment was discussed with suggestions as to how best the media could be used to create public awareness on violence against women as a social issue. The conference highlighted the gender issues in Bhutan, that the only women's organisation in Bhutan is headed by a state official, and refrains from focusing on violence against women is seen as 'bad news.' The participants were critical of the Bhutanese media for its insensitivity on media advocacy and gender issues.

474. Asmita. *Media Monitoring.* Kathmandu. 2001. 1p. [Source – http:// www.asmita.org.np/AsmitaProfile/media_monitoring.htm ; accessed on 22 February 2003].

Asmita is the pioneer women's publishing house in Nepal, addressing media violence against women. While analysying the portrayal of women in the mainstream media of Nepal, Asmita offers alternatives on how women should be presented through their periodical. The organisation also conducts media workshops to promote media advocacy and sensitise the media personnel against gender stereotypes and negative reporting of women's issues.

475. Balami, Bacchu. *Women's Property Rights Bill. P...* Kathmandu Post. 10 November 2001. [Source- http://www.ktmpost/2001/nov/nov10/ editorial.htm ; accessed on 22 February 2003].

This article is critical of the 'double' standards adopted by the state in terms of women's inheritance, and relates to the protests launched by the opposition political groups to rectify the law in terms of gender justice. Women in Nepal are vulnerable to gender-based violence, in particular, family violence, wife abuse, public rape, trafficking for sexual exploitation and forms of slavery as a result of economic powerlessness and gender oppression. Armed with laws that discriminated married women against their rights to parental property, this recent draft of the bill gives them access to property conditional on marital status and sexuality, in contrary to the earlier draft of the Bill that permits women to retain their inheritance after marriage.

476. *Bill Against Human Trafficking to be presented.* Kathmandu Post. 29 July 2001.

A briefing on the campaign against trafficking of women and children in Nepal launched in the wake of presenting a Bill at parliament. Forum for Women, Law and Development in conjunction with UNIFEM has conducted a

[48]workshop entitled "Trafficking in Human Beings (Control) Bill" to draw attention to the practicality and effectiveness of the Bill, and to make correction on the 'loop-holes' detected in the previous draft of the Bill.

477. *Cabinet approves national plan of action. P.2-4.* Combat. Vol.2, No.1. October 1999.

This section of the newsletter acknowledges the state approved action plan against trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation. Approved by the Cabinet in July 1999, the plan works in the areas of :

- Policy, research and institutional development;
- Legislation and enforcement;
- Awareness-raising, advocacy, networking and social mobilisation;
- Health and education;
- Income generation and opportunities for employment;
- Rescue and reintegration of victims;

The action plan is coordinated by the Ministry of Women and Social Welfare and implemented on sectoral basis, especially in the 'border' districts of Nepal where trafficking is a common problem.

478. Centre for Reproductive Law and Policy (CRLP) [and] Forum for Women, Law and Development (FWLD). *Current criminal abortion laws and reform initiatives. P.38-41.* Abortion in Nepal : Women imprisoned. New York. 2002.

This section of the report relates to current anti-abortion laws and their interpretation by law enforcement authorities and judiciary. Incidentally, the law prohibiting abortion has been interpreted in conjunction with the criminal provision on infanticide, characterising abortion as homicide. This has brought in a number of reform initiatives from both civil societies and within the Government. In 1996 the Family Planning Association of Nepal introduced a bill seeking to legitimise abortion on specific grounds and to regulate access to abortion practices. This debate, parallel to the one on the property rights for daughters became a national issue, leading to the drafting of the Muluki Ain 11th Amendment Bill (1997) that proposed to amend some gender discriminatory laws in the country code including the Anti- Abortion Act. This bill attempts to create the right to legal and safe abortion for:

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[48] Workshop on "Trafficking in Human Beings (Control) Bill", Kathmandu, 29 July 2001.

- Married women with the consent of their spouses, within the first 12 weeks of pregnancy;
- Victims of rape or incest, within the first 18 weeks of pregnancy;
- Saving the woman's life at any time of her pregnancy, or if there is evidence of foetal malformation.

Having undergone subsequent revisions at the parliament, the bill is broadened significantly in consultation with women's NGOs and civil society organisations with the removal of a husband's consent for abortion and the prohibition of sex-selective techniques such as amniocentesis. It has been approved by the Lower House of Representatives in 1999, revealing the political will to make abortion legal and safe for women. It is to be reconsidered in 2002 and if approved will become the law, and if not adopted then a new bill will be reintroduced.
Nepal records one of the highest rates of maternal mortality in the world, where half the maternal deaths are attributed to unsafe abortion. Further, women imprisoned for abortion often go to prison with their children, violating the international and national legal standards concerning the rights of defendants and prisoners.

479. Centre for Reproductive Law and Policy (CRLP). *Recommendation. P.15-19.* Abortion in Nepal : Women imprisoned. New York. 2002.

This is an analysis of the violation of women's rights due to the prohibition of abortion in Nepal, where women face a severe penalty on grounds of illegal abortion. Based on a fact-finding mission conducted by CRLP and the Forum for Women, Law and Development (FWLD) in March 2001 this report exposes the state denial of Nepali women's rights to safe abortion and the violation of rights of the defendants who are prosecuted under the current Anti-Abortion Act. It also draws in the positive roles of the NGOs, health care providers, media, donor agencies and the international community in ensuring women's enjoyment of their human rights. Suggestions are offered to each of these actors as women's human rights can be realised only when legal reforms are accompanied by a positive and concrete effort to improve women's status. Recommendations include legal reforms, programmatic responses and greater enforcement of existing legal protection as :

- Adoption of more comprehensive legislation towards women's rights to abortion care, prescribing abortion services for the needs of under-privileged women;
- Provision of legal remedies to release and protect women prisoners who are charged for illegal abortions, while creating public awareness and

education campaigns providing information on women's reproductive rights and related health services;

- Training programmes for law enforcement officials and the judiciary on appropriate measures to provide and protect women who are in need of safe abortions. These should include broad-based legal protection, a wide range of healthcare, expansion of family planning services to all Nepali women with relevant support programmes;
- NGOs, donor agencies and the media are requested to pressurise on raising public awareness and the ensuring of women's rights for safe abortion.

480. *Centre for Women's Development (CWD)*. P.... MS Nepal Newsletter. August 2001. [Source – http://www.msnepal.org/ ; accessed on 22 February 2003].

This concerns the organisational developments of women's NGOs with other community-based institutions. CWD is a women's NGO committed towards empowering the poor, rural women through self-reliance, awareness and development of their potentials. In partnership with MS Nepal, CWD is geared to promote women's awareness so as to eliminate the gender-based malpractices in a traditional society. Being the beneficiary of the WLIP Programme of MS Nepal and Nari Bikash Kendra, the organisation aims to develop awareness among the rural poor women through programmes on literacy, legal literacy and income generation.

481. *Challenging Nepal's Inheritance Law. P.4-6.* Women in Politics Resource Network (WPRN) Newsletter. Vol.1, No.1. July-October 1997.

Women in Nepal do not have equal rights to natal property and this is seen as one of the basic causes for domestic and other forms of violence against women. This news article addresses property rights of women in a state that is bound by the national constitution, as well as international conventions. Despite these commitments and guarantees, the property laws continue to discriminate women from owning natal property. The article refers to the initiatives taken by NGOs and the Ministry of Women & Social Welfare with regard to:

- Research on foreign laws of inheritance rights and the gaps in the Nepali legal system;
- Creating a Bill to put into place legal reforms on gender equality in terms of property rights.

482. Coomaraswamy, Radhika. *Nepal. P.23-28.* Integration of the human rights of women and the gender perspective : Violence against women : Report of the [UN] Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its causes and consequences. Ms.Radhika Coomaraswamy, in accordance with Commission on Human Rights resolution 2000/45 : Addendum : Mission to Bangladesh, Nepal and India on the issue of trafficking of women and girls (28 October-15 November 2000). 6 February 2001. 40p.; append. (E/CN.4/2001/73/Add.3).

Human trafficking, in particular, trafficking of women and children, remains a serious problem in Nepal and the state considers this a top priority issue. Supported by ILO, the state has launched the National Plan of Action to prevent sex trafficking of women and children. This report underscores the legal framework, programmes / policies and the criminal justice system in relation to addressing trafficking. The police department has set up women's and children's units to receive complaints. International agencies, such as UNICEF, OHCHR and the NGO sector, are active rescuing victims and helping them through programmes on rehabilitation and vocational training to integrate them into the society. The report further acknowledges the work done by women's NGOs viz., Maiti Nepal, Shakti Samuha and the Forum for Women, Law and Development and that of the national network AATWIN.

483. Coomaraswamy, Radhika. *Nepal. P.35-36.* Integration of the human rights of women and the gender perspective : Violence against women : Violence against women in the family : Report of the [UN] Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its causes and consequences. Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy, in accordance with Commission on Human Rights resolution 1995/85. 10 March 1999. 47p.; notes. (E/CN.4/1999/68).

The UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women expresses concern about reports on the high incidence of domestic violence against women in Nepal and the gender discrimination within the criminal justice system against the victim-survivors of family violence. This report provides an extensive definition of family-related violence, such as wife abuse and marital rape, as well as other related forms - forced prostitution and forced marriage.

484. Coomaraswamy, Radhika. *Nepal. P.6-7.* Integration of the human rights of women and the gender perspective : Violence against women : Report by the [UN] Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its causes and consequences Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy : Addendum : Communication to and from Governments. 11 January 1999.(E/CN.4/1999/68/Add.1).

This section of the report relates to the complaint made on the alleged torture of Bina Kharki detained in the women's prison of Kathmandu Jail. The Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women expresses concern on the deterioration of her health as a result of the physical abuse and poor health services provided by state authorities. She urges the Government of Nepal to investigate this incident of custodial violence, perpetrated against women detainees.

485. *Deuki Opera. P.10-11.* [and] *A popular medium to reach folks. P.14.* Combat. Vol.2, No.1. October 1999.

Brief reports on the NGOs/state initiatives to drive messages related to gender violence – trafficking of girls, sexually transmitted diseases, prostitution and denial of property rights to women. Through stage and street dramas, community awareness is created on traditional practices that lead to gender discrimination and violence. This news item concerns the efforts of the Ministry of Women and Social Welfare to stage an opera on the [49]Deuki system. ABC Nepal has used street dramas as the popular medium to create social awareness on trafficking and other gender-related problems, in districts that are notorious for the crime of trafficking.

486. Dhakal, Mukta. *Girl trafficking in Nepal. P.31-33.* Solidarity : SAARC Women's Journal. Issue.5, 1998.

Nepal has strict laws to combat trafficking which are not properly implemented due to various reasons – lack of social awareness, traditional norms on gender subordination and institutionalisation of prostitution all of which have given way to 'cross-country' trafficking of girls and women. The article emphasises the role of the Ministry of Women and Social Welfare that is committed to eliminate trafficking and other gender-related crimes. The state policy and the implementation of gender programmes towards women's empowerment are dealt with here.

487. *Empowering women in Nepal.* 4p. USAID Information Bulletin. March 1998.

This relates to the support given by USAID towards women's social participation through lead advocacy groups. Women legal personnel, through

[49] A caste-based form of "temple slavery" where the women are sanctioned to the service of temples. Marriage is a taboo for such women, and often they end up as sex workers.

the advocacy groups confront issues on domestic violence that is widespread in Nepal. Besides providing community health services, the advocacy groups voice against gender discrimination in property inheritance, trafficking of girls and caste oppression towards women.

488. *Equal property rights for Daughters : The Supreme Court of Nepal on the CEDAW. P.29-32.* Kali's Yug. Vol.II, Issue.1. March 1997.

This petition has been filed against the denial of property rights for married daughters, as the Constitution of Nepal provides property rights for unmarried daughters only. This is in contradiction to [50]CEDAW, to which Nepal is state party. The petitioner requests that the issue of gender equality should be applicable to women's property rights and be brought within the family law to inherit parental assets, the lack of which is a root cause to family violence. The court feels that the issue needs to be discussed with women's organisations and human rights bodies, and amendments be made.

489. **Equlaity Now.** *Nepal : The criminalization of abortion. p.9.* Annual Report. 2002.

The Government of Nepal has amended its abortion laws for women to procure a medical termination of pregnancy up to the first 12 weeks. However, under circumstances of rape and incest the provision is valid up to 18 weeks of pregnancy, and at any time if recommended by a medical practitioner on grounds of the mother's physical or mental health. This amendment annuls the earlier law where any act of abortion was a punishable offence with imprisonment. Women's NGOs call upon the release of all women prisoners who serve a penalty under the previous law and for improved services in reproductive healthcare.

490. *Equalizing and raising the agricultural labour wage of women in Nepal. P.7-8.* WIP Flyer. Vol.1, Issue No. 2. November 1997.

This document comments on an advocacy project aimed at eliminating gender discrimination and violence against women workers in the rural Nepal. This programme is initiated by an NGO called Social Awareness Centre (SAC) that has formed advocacy groups that discuss a wide range of gender issues with grass roots women. Drawing on issues such as mistreatment of women

[50] Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Violence Against Women.

workers, violence against women, polygamy and child marriage, the group reaches the community through village and district development councils. This activity has lead to specific demands against gender violence/discrimination towards rural women. SAC while conducting classes on literacy and promoting women micro-entrepreneurs has mobilised them to participate in mass rallies that demand protection against all forms of gender-related violence.

491. Family Health International (FHI). *HIV/AIDS Control and Prevention Project (AIDSCAP II), Nepal.* [Kathmandu]. 8 October 1999. 2p. [Source – http:// www.fhi.org/.../Archive/ ; accessed on 22 February 2003]

This is a summary of a project to reduce HIV transmission among sex workers and their clients, launched from 1993 to 1998. The interventions concentrate on Nepal's major highways that link India and Bangladesh where human trafficking is at large. The intervention improves the following areas:

- Quality of health services available for sexually transmitted diseases;
- Community-based information, advocacy and care system to respond to victims of AIDS;
- Strengthen state capacity in policy development and surveillance;
- Private sector participation in the prevention efforts.

Funded by USAID, the FHI assists local NGOs and state agencies to plan, implement and evaluate HIV prevention interventions.

492. Forum for Women, Law and Development [FWLD]. *Discriminatory laws in Nepal and their impact on Women : A review of the current situation and proposals for change.* Kathmandu. August 2000. 131p.; biblio.; charts; annex.

The Constitution of Nepal though based on gender equality and human rights, shows several laws that discriminate women. This report analyses the status of women in Nepal within the framework of gender discriminatory laws and their inefficiency in addressing gender crimes. Case studies are used to illustrate the nature and degree of discrimination where women victims of violence are deprived of justice. The report relates to state initiatives to amend discriminatory laws and the challenges encountered in the process. In keeping with the state accountability to the Beijing Platform for Action and CEDAW, this paper argues for reforms in the laws, policies and a change of attitudes of the policy makers.

493. Forum for Women, Law and Development [FWLD]. *Equal Inheritance Rights for Women : Activities carried under NGO Small Grants Programme.* Kathmandu. October 2002.11p.; plates.

The legal status of Nepalese women to inherit ancestral, parental or marital property is fragile, temporary and imperfect with many pre-conditions attached to women's property rights. This situation of gender injustice leads to abusive situations, in particular family violence where the woman has no individual autonomy or economic independence to make alternative choices. FWLD has launched an advocacy programme for grass-roots women viz., a comprehensive awareness raising forum in order to enable them to demand equal access to property. Women's groups have made public protests regarding the current law under which women have no rights to own parental property after marriage. Working under the NGO Small Grants Programme, women's organisations are lobbying at the centre to ensure that the Country Code (11th Amendment) incorporates the necessary provision whereby daughters have equal rights to parental property, even after marriage.

494. Forum for Women, Law and Development [FWLD]. *Violence against women and girls. P.39-41.* Shadow Report : An initial report of the Government of Nepal on CEDAW : Briefing of initial report and concluding comments. Kathmandu. 1999.

This is an analysis of the current legal provisions concerning various forms of violence against women. Laws relating to domestic violence, rape, polygamy and violence due to customary practices are examined in this context. The state initiative to prevent violence against women is expressed as the National Development Policy (9th Plan, 1997-2000) and a subsequent National Plan of Action to address gender violence. This part of the report delves into the strengths and weaknesses of the current legislation and the need for a more pronounced legal reform and stronger law enforcement. FWLD is also critical of the state attitudes towards the efforts of the Ministry of Women and Social Welfare.

495. Fujikura, Yasuko. [51]*Transcultural Judgments : UN Conventions and the question of prostitution in Nepal. 17p.; ref.* "Gender and Violence", Hambantota, 11-14 July 2005. [Draft].

In this working paper, Fujikura explores the question of prostitution as to how transcultural judgments embodied in the UN Conventions to address trafficking

[51] Forthcoming as "Gender & Violence, published by ICES, Colombo.

of women and prostitution are challenged by the State of Nepal, NGOs, lawyers and activists in their response to specific socio-cultural situations in the country. She places the case of Badi community in Western Nepal where women are known to practice the 'traditional' form of prostitution. Motivated by incidence of violence against Badi girls, the women and men of the community have formed an NGO called SAFE (Social Awareness for Education) in support with Danish Volunteer Service (DVS). SAFE runs an educational programme for children, in particular the girls of the community so that they could develop self-esteem and confidence before enrolling in the state-run school system. SAFE also aims to establish residential facilities for the daughters of Badi women, so that they are removed from the 'culture' of prostitution. UNIFEM, Judges Society of Nepal and the Forum for Protection of Public Interest (Pro Public) organized an [52]interaction programme where Badi activists raised the issue of gender violence against the women. Subsequently, Pro Public, SAFE and the Dalit NGO Federation jointly filed a writ petition to the Supreme Court of Nepal to free the women from sex work. The [53]National Struggle Committee for the Development of Badi Community called upon the state to declare the Badi as a community 'free of sex work' and to provide alternate job opportunities for the women.

496. His Majesty's Government of Nepal. *Human Trafficking (Control) Bill, [2001].* [Kathmandu]. 6p. 20... [Source – http://www.fwld.org.np/trafbill.pdf ; accessed on 25 May 2004].

This Bill is an attempt to stop the organised crime of human trafficking, in particular women and children for the purpose of forced prostitution and labour–to rehabilitate the victim/survivor and to unify and up date the existing laws dealing with the issue. It is related to the definition of trafficking, the investigation and prosecution of the crime, penalty awarded and measures taken for protection/rehabilitation of the victims.

497. His Majesty's Government of Nepal. *The Traffic in Persons (Crime and Punishment) Act, 2056 (2000).* [Kathmandu]. 16p. [Source- ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

This is a draft of the Act that attempts to control human trafficking and other sexual offences in Nepal. While providing penalties for crimes of trafficking and sexual exploitation, bonded labour and prostitution, the Act defines legal remedies for the victims of these crimes.

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52 "Gender, Equality and Justice", Nepalgunj, October 2001.

53 National Conference on the Status of Badi Community, Kathmandu, January 2005.

498. His Majesty's Government of Nepal. Department of Health Services [and] National Centre for AIDS and STD Control. *Strategic Plan for HIV and AIDS in Nepal : 1997-2001.* Kathmandu. 26p.; annex.

This report states that the root causes of sexually transmitted diseases in Nepal include prostitution, unsafe sex practices, drug addiction and alcoholism, activated by women's subordinate position in society, poverty and illiteracy. This operational plan deals with the various health policies formulated during the outburst of HIV/AIDS in the country, and how the problem is addressed.

499. His Majesty's Government [of Nepal]. Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare. *Combat trafficking in women and children for commercial sexual exploitation : Policy, action plan and institutional mechanism.* [Kathmandu], [1999]. P...; annex..

This document conveys information on the national action plan to combat all discriminatory and exploitative practices against women, to uplift the women's status and to provide care for the victims of sexual exploitation. Activities related to the areas of intervention as mentioned in the policies, are reviewed here. To combat the problem of trafficking in women and girls, task forces are formed at national, district and municipal levels. As part of victim care, rehabilitation homes for victims are established and a revolving fund set up to carry out suitable programmes to help the victims.

500. His Majesty's Government. Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare. *Trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation.* Kathmandu. 2000. P... [Source- ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

This brochure concentrates on the state action towards trafficking for the sex industry and forced labour. While referring to the socio-economic factors that lead to trafficking, international bodies working on this issue and national policies to prevent and combat the crime are listed here.

501. *In the village where we work. P.16.* Maiti. Vol.1, No.3. March-April 1999.

This is a news article on the prevention camps run by Maiti Nepal that aims to intercept traffickers and rescue the victims. Assisted by the Village Development Committees (VDCs) and ILO, the camp functions not only as a

shelter for those rescued, but to provide income-generating skill training, informal education and awareness on sexually transmitted diseases for the inmates encouraging them to be financially independent. Further, the camp educates the local community on girl trafficking, prostitution and forced labour, mobilising them towards community-based prevention of violence against women.

502. Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC). *Political Victim Women's Forum.* Second Oppressed Women Forum. Dhankuta (Nepal). February 1995. 17p.; append.

This is a forum for women victims of political violence where the victims voice their own experiences. Organised by INSEC the theme encompassed the role of Nepali women in politics – directly and indirectly, followed by a discussion on women's role in social participation and national policy-making. This forum serves as an inspiration for women's political participation and gender integrated national development.

503. Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC). *Women's initiations to fight against victimisation of women : A Report.* Victim Women's Forum, Nepalgunj (Nepal), 12-15 February 1993. Kathmandu. 31p.; append.

The objective of this forum is to bring together women victims of violence from rural, poor and oppressed castes to present their respective cases of victimisation. Donor agencies and NGOs working to eliminate gender violence are brought in touch with them. The report cites case studies on various forms of violence experienced by the victims – community, family, workplace, custodial, bonded labour, trafficking, rape, forced prostitution and through harmful traditional practices. Group discussions lead to victim support and appropriate programmes to combat violence against women.

504. International Gay and Lesbian Commission for Human Rights (IGLCHR). *Police detains lesbian youths in Nepal : Protection against mob violence urgently needed. 3p.* Emergency Response Network. 24 May 2000. [Source - http://www.iglhrc.org/ ; accessed on 12 March 2003].

The Commission pledges support towards a protest against the police detention of two schoolgirls alleged to be 'involved in an emotional relationship', which

could possibly lead to communal violence. Referring to ICCPR and CEDAW, the appeal condemns the action of the police as a 'breach' of Nepal's obligation as a signatory to the above.

505. International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF). *Country Profile : Nepal 3p.* 20 November 2002. [Source – http://www.ippf.org; accessed on 12 March 2003].

In Nepal only 6% of births are attended by trained birth attendants. Hence, women face a high risk of maternal deaths. Despite a high level of awareness on family planning the use of contraceptives is relatively low with an over-emphasis on surgical sterilisation. The Government of Nepal is committed to a Safe Motherhood Programme that aims to provide better health services in terms of pre- and post-natal care and training for traditional birth attendants. In partnership with NGOs and the private sector, the state has made efforts to expand the health services, promote the social norms of a small family, accelerate projects of poverty alleviation and increase women's participation in development with greater opportunities for skills training. At present, the state offers incentives for surgical sterilisation but does not reimburse NGOs who provide this service. Plans are underway to integrate family planning with health care with retail sales of contraceptives and the involvement of women's NGOs in the process of service delivery. The Family Planning Association of Nepal (FPAN) conducts health services through mobile clinics, particularly in underdeveloped, rural areas. Their services include pre- and post-natal care, curative and preventive health services, infertility, and voluntary surgical sterilisation using modern techniques. The Nawalparasi Women's Development Project of FPAN provides such services for women, with consciousness-raising on issues of abortion, prevention of HIV/AIDS and trafficking of women and girls. Mass media is used for this purpose with the involvement of women's groups and youth forums focussing on nutrition, breast feeding, oral hydration and child care. Family life educational clinics are run by FPAN to disseminate information on sexual/reproductive health to youth and to provide treatment for sexually transmitted diseases, in particular for sex workers.

506. Jagriti Foundation. *Bhutanese Women and Youth Empowerment Programme (BWYEP), Thapa, Nepal. P. 1.* Women's organisations – Nepal : 2000-2001. [s.l]. [Source- http://www.jagritifoundation.org/; accessed on 19 January 2003].

BWYEP was founded by a group of Bhutanese refugee women to address the problem of gender-related violence faced by refugee women. While dealing

with issues of trafficking girls, domestic violence and male dominance much prevalent within the refugee community, the NGO targets women in the age group 17-25 as most vulnerable to human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. In the process of launching programmes to create awareness on these issues, BWYEP also provides programmes on health awareness – specifically on HIV/AIDS for refugee women.

Women Acting Together for Change (WATCH), Kathmandu, Nepa . 3p.

Concerning the health of rural, disadvantaged women WATCH has launched a community-based programme on AIDS/STD awareness programme. A women's NGO emphasising on rights-based participatory approach to rural development, the programme consists of:

- Creating awareness on trafficking of women and rape through interactive meetings and information leaflets;
- Health camps on prevention and dissemination of information on sexually transmitted diseases, training of health workers, anonymous testing of blood for AIDS and counselling on women's reproductive health;
- Primary health care clinics and camps to train women as health volunteers and midwives;
- Training packages to other NGOs on non-formal education of women.

Women [and] Development Society (WODES), Kathmandu, Nepal. P.4.

WODES aims to support community-based women's NGOs to enable rural women to build their capacities through training, education and income generating activities for self-reliance and to empower them through consciousness-raising so that they are in a better position to make decisions. By means of forums, women are drawn to discuss the trafficking of girls and women, other gender crimes and the possible community interventions to prevent these. In this context, workshops are held on women's sexual/ reproductive rights.

Women for Human Rights [WHR], Kathmandu, Nepal. P.4.

Founded in 1994, WHR aims to provide support to single and needy widows who are victims of traditional violence. The NGO helps them to become aware of their legal rights and economic empowerment through income generating activities.

Women for Women Forum [WWF], Kathmandu, Nepal. P.5.

This forum serves the poor, illiterate and under privileged women through creating consciousness on gender issues and gender-based violence. Their activities centre around awareness-raising programmes on trafficking, prostitution, domestic violence, abortion and reproductive rights of women. Importance is given to health issues and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases by conducting free health camps, clinics and treatment.

507. Lak, Daniel. *Frontier Sex-trade Vigil.* 24 November 2000. 4p. [Source – http: newswww.bbc.net.uk/hi/english/world/south_asia/ ; accessed on 22 July 2004].

This is a report from the Nepalese-Indian border, on security operations against trafficking and illegal migration of women and children for purposes of sex trade and forced labour. This is a joint effort of Maiti Nepal and the border security forces to combat the 'cross-country' sex trade that targets women and children at large. Activists of Maiti Nepal identify the victims at the border and rescue them. They are introduced to skills training as part of the rehabilitation process and helped to reintegrate with their families.

508. *Laws on domestic violence soon.* Kathmandu Post. 8 March 2001. [Source – http://www.englishdaily/ktmpost/2001/ ; accessed on 19 March 2003].

The Ministry for Women, Children and Social Welfare has disclosed that the government has drafted a proposed law to curb domestic violence and girl trafficking. Accordingly, the government was positively thinking about the concept of family court. The Secretary at the Ministry revealed that the Ministry surveys laws that discriminate women in conflict with women's rights, and the various ministries being consulted to initiate legal reforms.

509. Lhakapa Dolma Salaka-Pinasa Sherpa. *Women in Nepal. 2p.* Hennef (Germany). 2000. [Source – http.//www.nepalresearch.org/ ; accessed on 20 January 2003].

This article briefs on the status of Nepali women in the family and community where gender discrimination and violence arises out of deep-rooted traditions, social norms and the state laws. Referring to the status of married women and the physically handicapped, the article condones the need for women's education, property rights and reproductive health care for women's emancipation.

510. Limbu, Ramyata. *Health-Nepal : Peer support gets dignity for the HIV-Positive*. 8 October 1999. 2p. [Source – http://www.aegis.com/news/ips/1999/ ; accessed on 16 May 2004].

Health surveys in Nepal indicate that the spread of HIV is significantly high due to the prevalence of a large number of sex workers. Through unsafe sexual practices and the use of injectable drugs, the workers and their clients form a large proportion of the HIV infected population. This article acknowledges the efforts of Prerana that reaches out to victims of the AIDS virus. As a peer support group, Prerana works towards physical and psychological support to AIDS victims and their families. The NGO also provides counselling for the needy and promotes the use of contraceptives for safe sex.

511. Maiti Nepal. *About Maiti Nepal.* [Kathmandu]. 14 August 2001. 2p. [Source – http://www.maitinepal.org/ ; accessed on 14 June 2003].

The word "Maiti" denotes a woman's natal family, where a married Nepali woman has no rights to acquire her family assets. This woman's NGO works against gender violence in particular, trafficking and forced prostitution of women and girls that is a burning issue in Nepal. While seeking justice for victims of violence Maiti conducts rehabilitation and counselling programmes for victims of forced prostitution, sexually transmitted diseases and domestic violence. Girls are the major beneficiaries of such programmes.

512. Maiti Nepal. *Annual Programme Report 1999: Prevention and Rehabilitation Project on Girl Trafficking (PRPGT)*. Kathmandu. 2000. 14 p.

Information on action programmes against trafficking by Maiti Nepal is provided through this report. Besides raising public awareness on trafficking for prostitution and labour the NGO runs crisis centres for the rescued victims and conducts training sessions for social workers. Also, the report relates to the achievements and difficulties encountered when implementing the programmes.

513. Maiti Nepal. *Politics and Trafficking : Role of parliamentarians to combat trafficking*. Trafficking in Girls and Women : Solution to the Problem, Political Commitment and the Role of Parliamentarians, Kathmandu, September 1999. Kathmandu. October 1999. 38p.; annex.

This report is based on the workshop conducted by Maiti Nepal, where parliamentarians were brought into discussion, to improve the legal system

and law enforcement machinery towards legal reforms on trafficking as an organised crime. Sensitising them on the issue as a public offence and a crime against women, the workshop commits them to raise this issue at the parliament so as to formulate policies against trafficking.

514. *Maiti Nepal's prevention camps in the most vulnerable districts. P.11.* Combat. Vol.2, No.1. October 1999.

This is a report of an anti-trafficking awareness campaign carried out by a women's NGO that set up 'prevention camps ' in various districts to draw in vulnerable groups. These camps provide information on the negative effects of sex work and its impact on women's health to people at grass roots. They also provide non-formal education and vocational training to victims who have been rescued from traffickers and need to be reintegrated into their families.

515. Malla, Sapana Pradhan. *The response of Nepal to the international effort to combat abuses of women and children. P.48-55.; notes.* Seventh SAARC LAW Conference, Colombo, 24-25 October 1998.

Abuse of women and gender discrimination are emerging social problems in Nepal, due to the existing patriarchal system and related traditional practices. This article probes the validity of Nepalese laws, the international commitment of the state to eliminate gender-based violence and the challenges faced in addressing the women's issue under the current legal system.

516. Malla, Sapana Pradhan. *Women in criminal justice system in Nepal. P.107-116; charts.* Expert Meeting on Women and Legal Justice, Hakone (Japan), 19-20 November 2000. Tokyo, Asian Women's Fund. March 2001.

This document is a critique of the criminal justice system in Nepal to address traditional, gender discriminatory violence and the exploitation of women and girls. Using human trafficking as an example and illustrated with charts, the paper deals with gender-related crimes and concerns the situation of 'women in court room' evaluating the efficiency of the legal system and attitudes of the legal personnel towards victims of gender violence. Recommendations are provided for future action in terms of improving the criminal justice system and the law enforcement mechanism to address gender-based crimes and provide justice to the victims.

517. Marie Stopes International [MSI]. *Sunaulo Parivar Nepal (SPN). P.1.* Kathmandu. 2001.

In Nepal, SPN provides integrated reproductive health and maternal/child health care in the major towns through their health clinics. As an outreach service, family planning and health camps are conducted with the state health personnel in distant villages and hill-towns where women have limited or no access to health services. The services rendered by SPN include primary health, reproductive health, family planning and ante/post-natal health.

518. Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights. *Domestic violence in legal system. P.16-23.* Domestic violence in Nepal. Minneapolis. September 1998.

This document highlights the legal system of Nepal in protecting domestic violence against women. Though widely spread, the problem of domestic violence has no legal provision under the civil law for victims, unless raised to the level of murder or attempted murder under the Criminal Code of Nepal. Biased marriage laws, minimal property rights, polygamy, dowry system and child marriage create an economic dependency for the married woman that makes her vulnerable to family violence.

519. Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights. *Domestic violence in Nepal. P....* September 1998. [Source–http://www.mnadvocates.org/Issues_Affecting_Women.html ; accessed on 17 July 2003]

The report indicates that the Government of Nepal has failed to protect the rights of women victims of family violence, in contrary to its international legal obligation as a member of the United Nations. While reporting on the prevalence of domestic violence in Nepal and the inaction of the state, the organisation gives recommendations to address and prevent the issue of family violence. The recommendations are provided with regard to:

- Declaration of Elimination of Violence Against Women (DEVAW);
- Reform of the criminal law system;
- Reform of civil law;
- Consciousness-raising of the public;
- Training of medical personnel to report and treat victims of violence;
- Support to women's NGOs to research and document the extent of domestic violence;
- Directives to the Ministry of Women and Social Welfare to address gender-oriented crimes.

520. Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights. *Women's Human Rights Program in South Asia : Nepal.* 2001. 1p. [Source – http:// www.mnadvocates.org/ Issues Affecting Women.html ; accessed on 17 July 2003]].

This is a write-up on the women's programme, a survey on domestic violence in Nepal, as a human rights abuse and an analysis of the Nepalese legal system in this context. The study has published a report in 1998 and training has been provided for women's NGOs in Nepal to offer support services for battered women and international legal provisions related to domestic violence. This training enables them to lobby for reforms in the constitution towards addressing gender crimes.

521. Ministry of Women and Social Welfare [MOWSW]. *Directory of Organizations working against Trafficking.* Kathmandu. 20.... 42p.; annex.

This is a listing of non-governmental organisations, international donor agencies and the state institutions aiming to build co-ordinated and integrated efforts against trafficking. The objective, programme sites and partner organisations to action are provided under each agency. This directory is a useful source to facilitate better action against eradicating trafficking as a social menace and as a crime against women.

522. Ministry of Women and Social Welfare (MOWSW), HMG Nepal and International Labour Organization (ILO). International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC). *National plan of action against trafficking in children and their commercial exploitation : An outcome of the National Consultative Workshop[on Elimination of Child Labour], (Kathmandu), 22-24 April, 1998).* Kathmandu. 1998. 19p.

Trafficking of girls across the border for sexual work is a crime against women, prevalent in Nepal. Based on the workshop objective to the national plan, priority, programme activities and involvement of partner organisations, this report summarises the state commitment to eliminate the crime by means of:

- Policy, research and institutional development;
- Legislation and law enforcement;
- Awareness raising, advocacy and social mobilisation;
- Health and education;

- Income and employment generation;
- Rescue and reintegration.

523. Mishra, Yamini. *Unsafe Abortion and Women's Health. P. 3814-3817.* Economic and Political Weekly. Vol. XXXVI, No. 40. 6-12 October 2001.

This article looks into the legal standards relating to the issue of abortion and the question of the impact of unsafe abortions on women's health. The abortion laws in India and Nepal are taken as case studies from SAARC countries where the states ratify the CEDWA against discrimination of women and promotion of women's rights. Abortion, according to the law of Nepal is a punishable crime. This law however, does not differentiate clearly between abortion and foeticide and a large number of women are serving penalty on grounds of illegal abortions. As a result, abortions are performed through crude and unsafe methods resulting in high rates of maternal mortality and poor maternal health. In the wake of the gender-blindness of abortion laws, this article infers that Nepal cannot end gender discrimination without providing for safe motherhood and women's rights for abortion.

524. *Modus Operandi [: Towards combating trafficking of women and children]*. [s.n], [s.l]. 20... P... [Source – ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

This document is an illustration on the problem of trafficking in Nepal and the national efforts to counter the crime. Statistics are provided from 1998-99 on human trafficking, polygamy, child marriage, domestic violence, rape and abortion which are gender-related crimes. Annexed to the document is a report on the Participatory District Development Programme (PDDP) initiated by the state in Rupandehi district, aiming at poverty alleviation and self-sustainability for the rural poor.

525. National Planning Commission of Nepal - 1998. *Legal Provision : Law and women. 4p.* Violence, government policy and legal provision : The Ninth Plan (1997-2000). 15 August 2001.. [Source – http://www.mahilaweb.org.np/violence/government_policies.htm ; accessed on 24 July 2004].

According to Public Law, a woman has property rights on parental assets, only if she remains unmarried. This paper examines property rights, marriage, citizenship and adoption from a gender perspective. The Ninth Plan however,

helps to control crimes against women through preventive and rehabilitative measures. Gender Equity and Women's Empowerment National Network formulated by the state to those sectors which need reform in terms of women's equality. In this context, NGOs are being mobilised to conduct programmes on prevention, rehabilitation and consciousness-raising of gender-related crimes. Under the public law of Nepal sexual offences are punishable. However, prostitution and trafficking are so, only if committed against the woman's will. The Public Offence & Punishment Act and the Defamation Act does not provide legal safeguards against sexual harassment or domestic violence.

This paper refers to abortion rights of women, in relation to the Ninth Plan that helps to control crimes against women through preventive and rehabilitative measures. However, abortion is considered as a punishable crime, unless performed 'for the welfare of the pregnant mother.'

526. *Nepal. P.7.* ARROWS for Change. Vol. 10, No.1. 2004.

A [54]national consultation to review the programmes and services provided by the state and NGO sectors to women's health, so as to assess the implementation of ICPD in promoting women's reproductive/sexual health. The issue discusses safe motherhood, promotion of safe abortion, protection of sexual health, prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS and Reproductive Tract Infections (RTI). The recommendations are to be presented at the South Asian Regional Roundtable to be held in Kathmandu, in August 2004.

527. NepalNet KDS. [55]*Policy and Law : Laws relating to women's rights in Nepal.* 2001. 5p. [Source – http://www.ovc.uoguelph.ca/ ; accessed on 25 July 2003].

The laws of Nepal are based on traditional Hindu Kinship Act ie., joint, multi-generational patriarchal family groups. In recent times, legal reforms are made to improve the legal provisions, relating to women's rights, in particular to rural women who are the prime targets of gender-based violence in family and community. This web article explores reforms and remedies with regard to:

- Abolishment of Sati (widow-burning);
- Child marriage and age of marriage;

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54 National Consultation on the Implementation of ICPD, Kathmandu, 11-12 March 2004.

55 From "A study of the legal system and legal situation in rural areas of the Kingdom of Nepal by New era, Friedrich Naumann Foundation. February 1988.

- Property rights;
- Marriage, divorce and polygamy;
- Dowry system, and
- Abortion.

528. *Nepal police set up separate women's cells. P. 8-9.* Combat. Vol.2, No.1. October 1999.

This is a news item on the police responses to the issue of trafficking in Nepal. Supported by UNICEF, USAID and the Nepal Police have set up women's cells and these would function under the guidance of a central advisory committee. The programme also provides special training for police personnel to handle cases on sexual violence, trafficking and other gender-based crimes.

529. *Nepal : Women's Property Rights Bill finally passed.* p.53. WIN News. Vol.28, No.3. Summer 2002.

The House of Representatives has passed the bill on property rights for women in March 2002. Besides guaranteeing an equal share of parental property to daughters, the bill legalises conditional abortion passed by an overwhelming vote at the parliament. The abortion of foetus, up to 12 weeks of pregnancy is permitted under any circumstance, with the husband's consent and performed by the state authorised medical practitioners. Further, victims of rape or incest could abort the foetus up to 18 weeks of pregnancy. For the first time in the history of Nepal this bill provides unmarried daughters an equal share of the parental property. In the case of widows or divorced women, they are entitled to share a part of the husband's assets. However, the bill shows 'loop-holes', where it requires a woman to return her parental property after she gets married, which in keeping with gender equality is not a fair deal to women. Aimed to eradicate the offences of child marriage, polygamy and rape, the bill imposed a strict penalty on these as forms of crimes against the girl child.

530. *NGO Contribution to Networking. P.5-6.* [and] *Awareness Materials have Multiplied. P.14-15.* Combat. Vol.2, No.1. October 1999.

These two news write-ups review the role played by NGOs in combating trafficking and abuse of women in the sex trade. Accordingly, the NGO network in Nepal is active in disseminating public information and launching action campaigns on gender-based violence. In this context, Maiti Nepal and ABC

Nepal are networking with Indian NGOs with similar objectives, to rescue and repatriate victims of trafficking. The NGOs actions involve poster campaigns, besides brochures and newsletters to raise public awareness. The news articles provide a table of NGOs against the type of awareness-raising material produced.

531. Oxfam GB Nepal. *Trafficking in Women as Organised Crime : Summary statement of Oxfam GB in South Asia.* Kathmandu. 26 October 2000. 4p.

Information on trafficking and forced prostitution in the context of the traditional role of women in South Asia is provided in this summary. As such, a gendered labour market and its worldwide feminisation results in the enhanced economic burden on women. Denial of women's rights in property inheritance, legal autonomy and mobility are the root causes of crimes of violence against women and girl children, making them commodities for trafficking, forced prostitution and labour. The report provides recommendations to the UN and state parties to the SAARC Convention on Trafficking and to those countries of origin, transit and destination. .

532. Park, Eric. *Domestic violence against Women.* Transl. Wolfgang Lunscher. S.l]. [Source – http://www.sawnet.org ; accessed on 19 January 2003]

This article is based on an interview with Bhutanese women residing in the refugee camps in Nepal, with a high level of domestic violence. Case studies focus on the patriarchal traditions of Bhutan, reflecting the patterns of wife abuse and marital rape within the camp. The interviewees expressed the fact that Nepalese and Bhutanese social structures do not acknowledge unwed-motherhood and that there is no social network support for unwed mothers.

533. *Parliamentarians versus Maiti Nepal. P.1.* [and] *Girls intercepted at the Border : Kakarvitta in 1998. P.18.* Maiti Nepal Newsletter. Vol.1, No.4, May-June 1999.

A campaign against trafficking of women and children was conducted by Maiti Nepal to encourage the newly elected parliamentarians to incorporate the trafficking issue in the parliamentary agenda. The campaign was supported by other NGOs and follow-up programmes.
The organisation has intercepted 30 girls at the Nepal-India border, from being trafficked out of the country. The victims, mostly teenagers, were taken for

counselling, rehabilitation and re-union with their families. The newsletter cites a few cases of girl-victims so rescued, who are participating in skills training and non-formal educational programmes sponsored by Maiti Nepal.

534. Poudel, Meena. *Trafficking in Women in Nepal. P.1-5.* IMADR Review. No.2. May 1994.

This article concerns the issue of trafficking women and children within Nepal and across the borders to other neighbouring countries for sex trade and other crimes against humanity. While tracing the roots of the crimes through social history, Poudel relates to the current situation where trafficking is addressed by the NGOs by raising awareness through popular media and women's pressure groups to lobby policy makers, who formulate bills and regulations to eliminate violence against women.

535. Pradhan, Gowri. *Innocent Victims : Trafficking in women and girls across the Nepal-India border. P.102-107.* Regional Conference on Trafficking in Women, Bangkok, 3-4 November 1998. Tokyo, Asian Women's Fund. February 1999.

This paper analyses the root cause of the problem of trafficking while acknowledging the existence of laws and policies against trafficking in Nepal. On the issue of gender-related violence, the Ninth Plan of Action has progressed towards the formulation of a new bill against trafficking. The paper briefs on challenges faced when combating trafficking, lobbying for social change, learning lessons of experience, planning strategies for intervention and launching victim support programmes.

536. Programme Advisory Committee [to the Government of Nepal]. *Previous Experiences and Lessons : Donor support. P.3-5.* Strengthening the rule of law and reform of the judiciary : Draft program document. (No. NEP/00/011 & 012). 1 November 2000. [Source – ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

This document probes the judiciary and legal reforms of Nepal that aim to improve the legal and law enforcement machinery for greater efficiency and justice. In this context, donor agencies and the community-based organisations have been active in the field of rule of law and judicial reforms, drawing in gender as a tool for national development. This section of the report cites the

action of The Asia Foundation (TAF) and NORAD in implementing programmes for women's rights and their social participation. TAF provides a programme on women's rights and legal norms that address women's issues. At district level, NORAD implements programmes of legal literacy and communication for social integration for women. These programmes aim to create legal awareness on their rights, and to provide legal aid to the rural poor and indigenous women in connection with court cases.

537. Q Home. *Women Works in Nepal.* [s.l]. 17 August 1999. [Source – http://www.sawnet.org ; accessed on 12 January 2003]

This is a community-based women's NGO working towards women's health and the upliftment of rural women. Based in Kathmandu the organisation provides training and awareness–raising on the socio-cultural aspects of women's health in Nepal. Programmes are held on sexuality, gender and reproduction with knowledge on sexually transmitted diseases.

538. Rana, Bandana. *Nepal : The movement for equal property rights for women.* Women in Action. Issue.1, 19990. P... [Source – http://www.isiswomen.org/; accessed on 13 January 2004].

Absence of property rights for Nepali women is found to be one of the major causes for violence against women. In keeping with the ratification of CEDAW the Constitution of Nepal carries provisions on gender equity. This article highlights the actions of the Movement for Equal Property Rights for Women, in terms of lobbying for legal reforms with legal personnel, policy planners and public as their target groups.

539. Rana-Deuba, Arzu. *Violence against Women : Focus on domestic violence.* [s.l], 19... 11p. [Source – ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

This report probes the issue of gender violence in a social context, in particular domestic violence in Nepal. Women's NGOs are working to give this problem national attention. Saathi is a women's NGO working towards countering domestic violence and has conducted a nation-wide survey on gender violence. In collaboration with the Ministry of Women & Social Welfare (MWSW) they have established a shelter home for battered women and launched an awareness programme on violence against women. They broadcast programmes on various forms of gender violence, and have a poster campaign to educate and mobilise the public in order to prevent violence against women.

540. *Radio jingles prepared* [and] *Redd Barna launches accentuated media campaign. P. 12.* Combat. Vol.2, No.1. October 1999.

MWSW and Redd Barna, Nepal have launched a media campaign on the prevention of trafficking of women and girls in Nepal. In this context, a media task force has been set up to carry out this campaign through mass media - radio and television programmes to attract the attention of the public, with stories and briefs published in the mainstream newspapers. This write-up condones the impact of media campaigns on public and the parliament.

541. Rajbhandari, Renu. *Trafficking in women in Nepal : Country Report. 12p.* South Asian Dialogue on Trafficking in Women and Children : Towards the Adoption of the SAARC Convention, Colombo, 11-12 February 1999.

This is a report of the act of trafficking women and children for forced prostitution and bonded labour, traced through the traditional practices of the [56]Dueki system and child labour in Nepal. The paper delves into international obligations of the country through various conventions to eliminate human trafficking, and the need for state/NGO initiatives to address the crime. In this framework, acts that ensure elimination through policies and laws, and the relevant programmes of intervention are explored.

542. *Revolving fund instituted* [and] *MWSW initiated action research activities* [and] *Women, Self-Reliance and Rehabilitation Home. P. 16.* Combat. Vol.2, No.1. October 1999.

This article documents contemporary news on state activities on countering violence against women in Nepal. The Ministry for Women and Social Welfare (MWSW) in partnership with the DTF (District Task Force), have instituted a revolving emergency fund for the benefit of the victims of trafficking who are rescued from borders. Besides, the setting up of the Women's Self-Reliance and Rehabilitation Homes (WSRRH) serve to rehabilitate victims of trafficking, reintegrating them in society and providing them with income-generating opportunities to be independent. In collaboration with ILO/IPEC the ministry has implemented action research to evaluate:

- Situation analysis of Deukis, and their rehabilitation;
- Consciousness-raising and advocacy programmes.

A form of temple slavery where women are socially sanctioned to the temples. Marriage is a taboo for such women and often, they end up as sex workers.

543. SAATHI. *Social and Community Mobilization to Eliminate Violence Against Women and Girls : Training Report, November - December 1999.* 1p. [Kathmandu]. [Source – http://www.saathi.org/ ; accessed on 4 March 2003].

SAATHI a women's NGO committed to eradicating gender oriented violence in the country has conducted training workshops on raising consciousness on social and community intervention to combat violence against women and girls in Nepal for participants from ten districts of rural Nepal.
The objective of the workshop was to:

- Raise voices and organize against incidents of gender crimes and violence in the neighbourhood;
- Demand action from concerned authorities against perpetrators of such violence, and to offer protection as well as compensation for victims;
- Lobby the men in the community to support their actions.

Conducted in rural localities, the participants included elected leaders, chairpersons of the village development councils, school teachers, community health workers, legal personnel, community leaders, media persons, housewives, and representatives from various NGOs and the related government sector who could influence the community to identify and prevent gender violence.

544. Saathi. *The legal status of women.* 15 August 2001. [Kathmandu]. 2p. [Source – http://www.saathi.org; accessed on 18 July 2003].

In view of the women's status in the 21st century, the Constitution of Nepal has made special provision for women's development in order to encourage gender participation in national development. This article provides a criticism on the law of Nepal reflecting the orthodox traditions of Nepali women. Further, it examines the legal reforms in marriage, child marriage and trafficking of women as expressed in the new constitution of the country.

545. Saathi. *A situational analysis of violence against women and girls in Nepal.* Kathmandu. 1997. 50p.; annex.; charts; map.

Violence against women and girls in the Nepali society exists in different forms but lacks data due to the sensitive nature of the subject. This is a study of gender-related violence in order to bring about positive changes on the status of women. While revealing the prevalence of such violence, the report explores the legal provision available to the victims of violence and the action of medical

personnel, NGOs and the police in handling the cases on gender crimes. Recommendations are provided for action programmes on :

- Awareness-raising to the public and authorities dealing with gender crimes;
- Victim support;
- Legal reforms;
- Legal protection to be provided by law enforcers.

546. Saathi. *Sexual harassment in public places in the Kathmandu Valley : Results of a survey.* Kathmandu. 1994. ii, 23p.; tables.

A survey on the prevalence of sexual harassment in public places, undertaken by a women's NGO. The results of the survey indicate the:

- Lack of definition, or laws against sexual harassment;
- Attitudes of law makers and enforcers towards such violence.

This report sheds light on possible social and legal reforms on the crime of sexual harassment, and the scope for building a safe environment for women – freedom of movement and freedom from fear.

547. Saathi. *Violence against women in Nepal in its social context.* Prp. Madhuri Singh. Kathmandu. 19... 16p.; ref.

Saathi is a non-governmental women's organisation committed to work against gender violence, particularly in the spheres of domestic violence and sexual harassment in workplaces. The report summarises activities such as campaigns, seminars, workshops, orientation sessions, broadcasting programmes and referral services for victims of violence all of which aim to create a social consciousness towards gender-oriented violence. Annexed with case studies, this report gives statistics of a survey on the various forms of violence perpetrated against women – family, communal, custodial and traditional.

548. Saathi. *We can make a Difference, We must make a Difference.* Kathmandu. 19... [Source- ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

This is a brochure providing the activities of Saathi a non-governmental women's organisation that assists grass roots women through programmes of action and counselling. Prevention of violence against women is one of the

objectives and the programmes are implemented through radio broadcasting, video-shows, workshops, art competitions, training on promoting women's rights and a national campaign to alert the public on the prevention of gender-related violence. Saathi operates a shelter for battered women and a counselling centre for victims of abuse. Literacy classes are conducted for women at community level with educational scholarships for underprivileged girls.

549. Sancharika Samuha [SAS]. *Media Monitoring.* 2001. [Kathmandu]. 2p. [Source – http://www.sancharika.org/ ; accessed on 19 July 2004].

Rape, domestic violence and dowry-related violence against women are prevalent in the Nepali society that is strongly patriarchal. Hence, reporting gender atrocities through the mainstream media becomes important to build public consciousness towards crimes against women. This web article relates to the work of a woman's NGO in the area of countering gender violence in society. Sancharika Samuha conducts a monitoring programme on reporting of gender violence in the mainstream media. This programme while producing report summaries periodically, attempts to analyse the strengths and weaknesses of reporting trends in women's issues in the media.

550. Sancharika Samuha [SAS]. *Media strategies for addressing family violence in Nepal.* Prp. Bandana Rana. Asia- Pacific Regional Consultation with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, Colombo, 12-13 August 2001. P...

Stemming from the strong patriarchal tradition of Nepal, domestic violence cuts across class, caste and ethnic groups as a major form of violence against women. Sancharika Samuha, a women's NGO concerned with the promotion of 'communication for gender equality', conducts activities on the popular media, deployed as a 'tool' to create a consciousness on gender equality, legal rights of women and their potentials towards economic self-reliance. To address domestic violence, media programmes are conducted on:

- Gender sensitisation, patriarchy, feminism, CEDAW and gender-oriented violence for media personnel and journalists;
- The monitoring of the mainstream media for portrayal of gender and women-related issues;
- Talk programmes and publications for media personnel as part of women's feature service;
- Awards for outstanding reports on gender issues;
- Advocacy on gender equality in property rights and other related issues through programmes for lobbying;

- A public forum to launch a movement against political violence perpetrated against women and children.

The paper provides a summary of the social impact created by the media monitoring programme and the obstacles faced.

551. SAWNET. *Rights-Nepal : Legal aid, just a phone call away....* [s.l]. 26 February 1999. 1p. [Source – http://www.sawnet.org ; accessed on 26 September 2003].

The Women's Rights Helpline Centre in Kathmandu provides legal advice and counselling to victims of family violence. A pilot project initiated by the Independent Legal Aid Consultancy Centre, the centre offers free legal services while referring the clients to appropriate support services provided by women's organisations – emergency shelters, peer counselling groups, suicide prevention, family planning and prevention of human trafficking.

552. SEDA, Nepal. *STD/HIV Prevention/Intervention for sex workers*. Rambazar (Nepal). 30 July 1998. 2p. [Source – http://www.sapha.net/Organization.htm ; accessed on 27 August 2003].

This is a project on the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases and interventions among sex workers in the various districts of Nepal. Working with women sex workers, the project has shown a scope for alternative employment, through skills training programmes and loan support. The workers themselves have started a savings/ co-operative establishment with loan facilities for small-scale enterprises indulged in by many former-sex workers. While providing information on the project, SEDA invites the experiences and skills practices by other organisations that work on similar lines.

553. *Sensitization program yields feed back. P.9-10*. Combat. Vol.2, No.1. October 1999.

MWSW has implemented a sensitisation programme on girl trafficking in the various districts of Nepal. According to this news report, the programme has provided significant feed back on the various aspects of trafficking and the measures of control as suggested by the participants. This programme proves to be a tool to mobilise the community against trafficking, dowry system, bonded labour and the denial of parental property to daughters.

554. Sharma, Sushila [and] Lama, Sangye et al. *Rape Survivors : Nepal district management of refugees. P. 8-10; notes.* Torture. Vol.5, No.2. 1995.

The Centre for Victims of Torture (CVICT) is an NGO working with survivors of torture, in particular, women victims of rape and sexual abuse. This article concerns the working programme of CVICT with women refugees from Bhutan residing in the camps of Eastern Nepal. While providing medical treatment, counselling and psychiatric care for rape and torture victims, the programme provides training for women to help the survivors.

555. Shreshtha, Urmila Bhojpure. *Nepal Country Report. P.98-101.* Regional Conference on Trafficking in Women, Bangkok, 3-4 November 1998. Tokyo, Asian Women's Fund. February 1999.

This paper looks into the issues and measures to combat trafficking of women and children in Nepal. Trafficking is a serious problem in the country where women and children from rural, impoverished areas are trafficked across to India, the Far East and the Middle East. As a member of the SAARC and a state party to many UN Conventions, Nepal is committed to preventing the crime by means of:

- Policy, research and institutional development;
- Legislation and law enforcement;
- Conscious-raising of the public;
- Health and educational intervention;
- Income generation initiatives for the rural poor;
- Rescue and rehabilitation of the victims.

556. Shtrii Shakthi. *State-Women Interface : Mediation by civil organisations. P. 26-31.* Women and Governance : Democratic Process in South Asia, (Final Meeting), Hendala (Sri Lanka), 23-25 March 1999. [Source – ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

This is a review of the role of non-governmental organisations in the formation of women's pressure groups and movements in Nepal. Women's Security Pressure Group (WSPG) is the largest of them with 100 women's NGOs, agitating and lobbying against trafficking of women and forced prostitution. This network also conducts programmes to rehabilitate sex workers and victims of trafficking. The Nepali women's movement organises lobbies towards legal reforms on domestic violence, and lobby for women's property rights that are virtually non-existent in the Nepali law.

557. SIGI Alert Archives. *Amendments to the Civil Code of Nepal, 2020, held hostage in Nepal's parliament.* 15 August 1997. 2p. [Source – http://www.sigi.org/Alert/; accessed on 22 February 2003].

The Women's Rights Bill concerns property rights of women, increasing of the minimum marriage-age, liberalizing abortion and heavy penalties for rape. The Nepali women's movement and the Consortium of NGOs request the support of all human rights bodies to pressurise the passage of this Bill.

558. South Asia Partners International [SAP-I]. *After Stockholm Responses to CSCE. P. 49-58.* Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children [CSEC] : A review of South Asia : Nepal perspective 2001. Colombo. December 2001.

The Government of Nepal has committed to implement the [57]Stockholm Declaration and Agenda for Action, based on activities and interventions which have been planned over the past years. This chapter highlights the activities based on the National Plan of Action undertaken by NGOs, the State and the private sector. As steps towards solving the problem, the State is implementing programmes under the national policy against the trafficking of women and children. An institutional network has been built at national, district and village levels represented by members from Ministries, NGOs, international donors, UN Agencies and political leadership with twenty-six districts forming their Task Forces under this initiative. The Nepal Police has a special unit to combat trafficking, and a national task force has been set up to prevent local and cross-border trafficking. While working to prevent and protect women and children from being trafficked and against other forms of sexual exploitation, the police department rescues the victims of trafficking and refer to women's NGOs. Women's NGOs are concerned with advocacy and raising public consciousness on the evils of trafficking by means of public rallies and campaigns. NGOs aiming to abolish trafficking and child prostitution in Nepal are working under the umbrella of the National Network Against Girl Trafficking (NNAGT) and the Alliance Against Trafficking in Women and Children (AATWIN). Their major activities include advocacy, lobbying and campaigning. Members of the network work to rescue, rehabilitate the victims, while working to abolish the practice of human trafficking. CWIN, Maiti Nepal, [58]WOREC, ABC/Nepal, Shtrii Shakti, Shakti Samuha Santi Punarsthapana Kendra, [59]LACC and Nawajoti are actively involved in victim support and care through activities concerning:

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57 First World Congress Against Commercial Exploitation of Children, Stockholm, 29 August 1996

58 Women's Rehabilitation Centre.

59 Legal Aid and Consultancy Centre.

- Non formal education;
- Medical care;
- Income generating activities;
- Counselling and legal advice;
- Help-line services to provide awareness to vulnerable groups of women thorough information; booths at public transport terminals.

Several international donor agencies assisting in the following areas:

- Micro-level projects launched by local NGOs drawing in law enforcers, legal personnel and the primary school teachers;
- ILO/IPEC works with the Ministry for Women & Children and Social Welfare to strengthen staff capacities;
- CWIN has established a Child Rights Forum in district schools that help children engage in social activities with opportunity to express their opinions and concerns to build their self-esteem;
- Promoting social awareness through media programmes – on the negative impact of trafficking and child sexual abuse.

559. The People Tree. *Women's Foundation of Nepal [WF].* Kathmandu. February 2002. [s.l]. 4p.[Source – http://www.ptree.co.uk/ ; accessed on 20 January 2003].

The Women's Foundation of Nepal is a non-profit motivated women's organisation with the purpose of supporting women victims of gender-related violence – family violence, harassment by employers, sexual violence, forced prostitution and servitude and witch-hunting, victimising women and children from the grassroots. Their programmes are geared towards fostering social responsibility and creating self-reliance through training in skills for income, practical education and awareness-raising on human rights and legal norms. WF also runs a shelter home for survivors of violence and helps them to reconstruct their lives.

560. ***Trafficking in women and children for commercial sexual exploitation.*** Combat. Vol.1, No.1. May 1998. 8p.

This news article provides information on the measures adopted by the Ministry of Women and Social Welfare, used in order to combat the issue of trafficking women. Relating to the national policy to counter trafficking and the levels of international involvement in this task, the action programme encompasses the:

- Setting up a national plan of action;
- Consciousness-raising at district levels and sensitisation of working partner-organisations;
- Review of laws and their enforcement;
- Co-ordinating and networking with NGOs and state authorities;
- Creating a task force at district level;
- Rescue, rehabilitation and reintegration of victims;
- Research and documentation of the problem.

SAARC members have taken up this issue at a regional level and this has lead to the drafting of a convention on combating trafficking and child prostitution. This newsletter provides an outline of the convention put forward at the Colombo Summit in 1998.

561. *The unacceptable face of trade.* Oxfam GB Gender Newsletter. [s.l]. July 2000. [Source – http://www.oxfam.org.uk/; accessed on 2 March 2003].

Trafficking of women is considered an organised crime, illegal immigration, forced prostitution, forced labour and as violence against women. This news article focuses on the action of Oxfam on preventing cross-border trafficking in Nepal. Oxfam Nepal in collaboration with AATWIN and the Ministry of Women and Social Welfare are working at grass-roots, district and state levels to counter trafficking of women and girls, to punish traffickers and to raise community awareness on trafficking as a 'multiple' crime.

562. **UNDP**. *YOU AND AIDS : The HIV/AIDS Portal for Asia Pacific : Nepal at a glance. 2p.* [Kathmandu]. December 2004. [Source – http://www.youandaids.org/ ; accessed on 11 January 2005].

In Nepal, public access to the STD services is still very poor and the use of condom for effective infection prevention is not commonly known. Hence women, in particular sex workers and victims of human trafficking, are most vulnerable to HIV infection. The National AIDS Prevention & Control Programme (NAPCP) was established in 1987. Also, a state policy drafted in 1995 and the National AIDS Council was established recently, with representatives from the state, NGOs, business community and civil society. Underlying the national strategy, the state has adopted a set of guiding principles on multi-sectoral engagement, political commitment, civil society involvement, stigma reduction, prevention to care and a human rights-based approach. State ministries have jointly launched training on focal points of action, and creating consciousness through preventive messages, information

and education on the issue. In support of the state initiative, UNAIDS, UNFPA and UNDP have developed a project aimed at decentralisation of health care.

563. **United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women**. *Concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. [CEDAW] : Nepal. (Concluding observations/ comments).* 1 July 1999. (No.A/54/38, paras. 117-160). P.....

The document concerns the commitment by the Government of Nepal to an international convention against gender-based discrimination. Despite women constituting half the population in the country, they face economic and socio-cultural discrimination through roots of patriarchal tradition, combined with poverty and lack of education. CEDAW expresses concern on the current law against abortion, which leads to unsafe abortion practices and a high rate of maternal mortality. The state is urged to amend abortion laws to provide services for safe abortion. CEDAW recommends that unwanted pregnancy be prevented through family planning services and sex education to the community. In keeping with the high incidence of prostitution, human trafficking and child marriage, the committee calls for a constitutional reform to abolish the above crimes.

564. **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**. *Beijing +5 Review : Nepal.* Kathmandu. 2000. 83p.; ref.; append.

Nepal's perspectives of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in terms of state policies and implementing strategies are highlighted in this volume. The report reviews the gender mainstreaming in the Ninth Five Year Plan and the National Action Plan for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment . Role of donor agencies and NGO participation in gender equity programmes and legal reforms are discussed, with special reference to those of the UNDP, Asian Development Bank and the World Bank.

565. **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific [UNECOSOC].** *Nepal. P.99-116.* National policies and programmes of the family in Asia and the Pacific. New York, UN. 1993.

The status of women in the family system and patriarchal society are discussed in this report. With half the population of women, the country is committed to gender equality in socio-economic and political participation. The state has

formulated policies against gender discrimination and violence in traditional and non-traditional sectors and education and training, with greater access to reproductive health care, credit facilities, technical skills, entrepreneurship and employment opportunities.

566. United Nations Economic and Social Commission [UNECOSOC] for Asia and the Pacific. *Nepal. P.110-113.* Promoting women's rights as human rights. New York, United Nations. 1999. (Studies on Women in Development – 2).

Nepal has its own idiosyncratic legal system based on traditional Hindu patriarchal values of male supremacy and women's subordination. Irrespective of the constitutional guarantee of gender equality many laws are discriminatory against women. Different penal provisions are available for the offence of rape depending on the age of the victim. Yet, many cases go unreported owing to the social stigma attached to the act and the ordeal faced by the victim during investigation and prosecution in an open-type court. Abortion in Nepal is only permitted on grounds of the 'welfare' of the mother the clause being ill-defined. An absolute ban on abortion and its criminalisation has lead to unsafe abortions resulting in a high level of maternal morbidity and mortality. The Family Planning Association submitted a Bill to legalise abortion within a certain restrictive clause – consent of guardian/husband except in cases of rape and incest. Although the Human Trafficking (Control) Act 2043 BS deals with forced prostitution and sale of women, it is enforced weakly as prostitution with the consent of the woman is ill-defined in the Act. The legislature has no sexual harassment act or that against domestic violence, and there is no family court or camera-court to facilitate cases on family violence concerning women.

567. United Nations Population Fund [UNFPA]. *Nepal. P.2.* Development in the field of violence against women. [s.l]. [Unpublished]. [Source – ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

The UNFPA Nepal country office supports NGOs in their initiatives to launch a national campaign to eliminate gender-based violence through a signatory campaign and a protest rally, as part of their global campaign on the elimination of violence against women. Supported by the UNFPA, the Ministry of Women & Social Welfare has drafted a Bill towards the establishment of a family court to deal with gender violence, passed by the parliament in March 2002.

This bill is to be enacted with provisions to abortion, rape, bestiality, marriage, property rights, succession and adoption. The provisions also address other public interest litigations filed which challenged the gender discriminatory laws. A project entitled "Beyond Trafficking : A Joint Initiative in the Millenium Against Trafficking in Women and Girls" is launched to develop programmes that address the root causes to trafficking at regional, national and cross-border levels. Proposed activities focus on prevention of trafficking by changing the socio-economic conditions that make women vulnerable, by drawing in both public and the State commitments and action. In this context, a National Rapporteur against Trafficking in Women & Children would be appointed. The Rapporteur will be responsible for bringing in conceptual clarity on the crime, monitor incidences and co-ordinate national, regional and international efforts to combat trafficking. She will also work closely with the National Human Rights Commission of Nepal to integrate gender perspectives into their procedures and functions. Another initiative towards the elimination of gender-based violence is on [60]reproductive health care in Asia.

568. Upadhyaya, Predeepta. *Women and Abortion Rights in Nepal. P.124-126.* Conference on Preventing Violence, Caring for Survivors : Role of Health Professionals and Services in Violence. Nepal, November 28-30, 1998. [Source – http://www.gendwaar.gen.in/ReproductiveRights/RR23.htm ; accessed on 15 January 2004].

This paper explains the 'inflexibility' of the abortion law of Nepal that leads to crimes of infanticide and maternal deaths, as a result of illegal abortions performed in the country. In this context, the paper reviews the bill on women's rights that attempts to liberalise the laws on abortion, permitting abortion under specific circumstances.
The paper also comments on the Anti-Rape Law in relation to liberalising abortion, as expressed in the Bill on Abortion Law. Apart from rigorous punishment for rape, the bill provides for abortion on grounds of rape or if the foetus is conceived through incestuous relationship.

569. Uprety, Aruna. *Abortion laws in Nepal.* [s.l]. 15 August 2001. 6p. [Source - http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/grhf-asia/repro/aruna.html; accessed on 17 July 2004].

Though abortion is illegal in Nepal, illegal abortion is the major cause of the high proportion of maternal deaths. Yet, the policy makers have never perceived

[60] Translation/adaption of *A Practical Approach to Gender based Violence : A programme guide for Health Care Providers & Managers* published by EC/UNFPA.

abortion as a violence-related women's health issue. This paper illustrates the effects of abortion on women's health and its impact on the public health system. The author describes the Nepali Movement to Legalize Abortion and the need for a parallel improvement in women's access to health/family planning services.

570. USAID. Office of Women In Development (WID). *Empowering women in Nepal.* Washington D.C. March 1998. 4p.

This information bulletin is based on a study of six rural communities (in1996) and a survey of rural women (in 1997) to assess the status of women in terms of gender integrated development in Nepal. Sample surveys show that the groups have confronted a number of social problems, in particular violence against women in various forms. The rural communities have launched campaigns against domestic violence, caste oppression and trafficking of girls and women. Likewise, they have instigated campaigns for improved reproductive health services, and legal reforms on women's property rights.

571. Utviklingsfondet. *Nepal : Support for women's groups in remote areas.* 14 August 2001. [s.l]. 2p. [Source – http://www.utviklingsfondet.no/ ; accessed 26 January 2003].

Women living in Lamjung district are predominantly landless settlers of oppressed castes, vulnerable to communal and political violence. This write-up is on COPPADES an international community-based organisation committed to assist these marginalized women's groups through saving/loan schemes, literacy programmes and skills training. While providing support to them the organisation helps women from different social strata and castes to interact and gain support for their solidarity and empowerment.

572. Women Acting Together for Change (WATCH). *Country Report : Nepal. Appendix II, p.17-18.* International Workshop on International Migration and Trafficking in Women, Chiangmai, 17-21 October 1994.

Relating to the sex trade in Nepal where women and girls are trafficked across the borders for the purpose of forced prostitution, this report acknowledges the causes for the crime as economic and cultural, deep-rooted in traditional Nepali society. In this context, the problem of "temple slaves' " (Deukis) is discussed here. Women's NGOs and actior groups are working against this crime through raising social consciousness and by pressurising policy makers to formulate laws to improve the socio-economic status of women in Nepal.

573. Women's Foundation of Nepal [WF]. *Witch-Hunting: Education Program.* [Kathmandu]. 1p. 20 February 2002. [Source – http://www.womenfoundation.org/projects/ ; accessed on 16 June 2004].

Witch-hunting is a traditional form of violence perpetrated against women in tribal groups and indigenous communities, where individuals are targeted on the pretext of practicing witchcraft. The Women's Foundation of Nepal conducts educational programmes to raise awareness among the people that witch-hunting arises out of superstition and a form of gender-based violence. The participants are informed about the condition of the victims, accusations and torture that they face. Members of WF have organised themselves into a 'community watch' to report on such incidences and provide support for victims, including medical treatment.

574. Women's International League of Peace and Freedom. *The Nepal Petition : To the Right Honourable Minister of Nepal.* 13 June 1996. P... [Source – http://www.peacewomen.org/campaigns/ ; accessed on 19 January 2003].

This is a memorandum sent by the women's groups on state attitude towards victims of rape. The groups demand that the Police Department and government should take rigid action against perpetrators of rape and forced prostitution, in keeping with the United Nations Charter.

575. Women's Legal Services. [*Free legal aid services and legal literacy for women*]. Kathmandu. 19... [Source – ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

This is a document by a community-based women's non-governmental organisation that provides free legal aid, services and legal literacy for women affected by violence. Established in 1964 by a group of lawyers, jurists, law teachers and social activists, the NGO gives free legal counselling, mediation and representation services for indigenous Nepali women who need gender justice. This brochure highlights their major activities in:

- Awareness-raising on laws;
- Conducting legal literacy programmes through classes and media broadcasting;
- Media broadcasting women's rights and legal issues;
- Training and workshops on legal education;
- Publication of guides and resources on gender and the law.

576. *WOREC launches a Bottom-Up Advocacy Action Project with CEDPA support. P.12-14.* Combat. Vol.2, No.1. October 1999.

This community-based participatory project provides a forum for vulnerable groups of women who wish to express their opinion on trafficking and forced prostitution. WOREC (Women's Rehabilitation Centre) is a women's organisation that has initiated a programme at district level to draw the community in prevention of trafficking. With the support of CEDPA (Centre for Development and Population Activities), discussion groups and workshops were held for adolescent girls, women's NGOs and community leaders to create a forum for discussion and to provide conceptual clarity on the subject. Accordingly, this programme has helped to:

- Mobilise the community to work towards eliminating trafficking;
- Develop strategies towards a national plan of action.

577. *Youth mobilisation camp to eliminate violence against women and girls. P.8-9.* Awaaz. No.3. July 2001.

Saathi a woman's NGO has organised a youth mobilisation programme to eliminate violence against women and girls. In collaboration with Human Resource Development Society a local CBO, this programme was attended by 100 youth from 16 districts with a peace march condemning gender-related violence. The theme of this programme is to motivate youth to join the mainstream of the movement to eliminate violence against women and gender discrimination by imparting gender sensitisation, training and skills as tools of advocacy.

See also Citation Nos. 100, 110, 111-14, 117, 119, 120, 382, 963, 966, 968, 971, 976, 979, 981, 983, 984, 985, 990, 993, 994, 1002, 1012 & 1022.

1.6 PAKISTAN

578. AASHA (Alliance Against Sexual Harassment). *The Code of Conduct for gender justice at the workplace. 4p.* [s.l]. 26 April 2004. [Source – http://www.aasha.org.pk; accessed on July 2004].

A major impediment to women who join the national workforce is gender-based harassment at the workplace where the victim faces the blame. AASHA is an initiative directed towards active measures to mobilise and influence policy makers at high levels to provide and protect women workers against physical/sexual harassment ensuring a safe and healthy work environment. Evidently, a comprehensive code on workplace ethics has been drafted by AASHA at the request of the Ministry of Women Development Social welfare & Special Education. With reference to the work policies/ legislation of other countries this draft code encompasses the definition of workplace harassment, implementation of the code, mechanisms involved, complaint procedure, investigation process and the method of inquiry. The Ministry has addressed the debate on the draft requesting the support of the civil society, women's organisations and human rights groups, so that the code could be implemented under the National Policy for Women and the National Plan of Action.

579. Adil, Adnan. *Pakistan women's rights take centre stage. 2p.* [London], BBC News. 11 November 2002.

A group of artists staged a play in Lahore depicting violence against women in the country. The play includes themes on the coerced dress code of face veiling for women in state services, ban on male doctors to treat women patients, and women prisoners on charges of adultery under the Sharia Law. Staged at the National Human Rights Commission, the performance is a part of a campaign and includes video-docu-dramas on family violence and 'honour' killing of how traditional values make women suffer without any family protection/support.

580. *Afghan Institute of Learning (Peshawar, Pakistan). P...* Raising Our Voices. March 2002.

Health and educational programmes are the main goals for this institution which serves women and children displaced from Afghanistan as a result of oppressive policies and continuing armed conflict. While providing medical care for nearly 100,000 refugees through mobile clinics, the institution teaches

basic education for young girls and interpretations of the Koran so that it honours their lives as women.

581. Afghan Women's Mission. *Emergency relief for Afghan Refugees : Bitter cold wave kills refugee children : Urgent help is needed.* California. January 2001. 1p. [Source – http://www.afghanwomensmission.org/fundraising/v2/emergency.pdf ; accessed on 22 August 2004].

This is an appeal made by the Afghan Women's Mission in relation to the problems encountered by refugees in Jalozai Refugee Camp in Pakistan, where facilities are inadequate to cope with the poor living conditions of the camp and malnutrition among the refugees. The Mission works with the Revolutionary Association of Women in Afghanistan (RAWA) in areas of refugee support and protection.

582. AGHS Legal Aid Cell. *Violence against Women : June 2000-June 2001.* Lahore. 200p.; glossary; plates.

Thousands of women of all ages and in all parts of the country suffer maltreatment ranging from domestic violence to torture, acid-attacks and murder with many cases being unreported. The report summarises some of the cases of violence against women, revealing how women are being disadvantaged and discriminated against. Drawing information from the news media this publication aims to focus national and international attention towards gender-based violence, in particular honour killings, rape, murder and acid-attacks and to pressurize the Government of Pakistan to take significant action against the acts of violence committed by the law enforcers as well as individuals.

583. Ahmed, Eman M. [and] Jilani, Hina. *Violence against Women : The legal system and institutional responses : Country study : Pakistan.* Lahore, AGHS Legal Aid Cell. 20.... 36p.; notes.

Though the Constitution of Pakistan guarantees gender equality and protection to all citizens, women continue to suffer from all forms of gender-based violence. This report examines the forms of violence that women are subjected to, and the legal implications therein. Based on the fundamental human rights of women, the report analyses the following aspects in terms of gender related crimes - security rights, life, liberty and the security of persons. Violence through customary practices such as forced marriage, child marriage, 'honour' killings

and torture are viewed through case studies, and as in the manner in which judiciary handles such cases in the wake of the impact of religious extremism on society. The report specifically refers to the movement in support of gender equality that has launched a forceful campaign towards legal provision on gender-related crimes.

584. Ahmed, Firdaus. *Act Now! : Stop violence against women in Pakistan. 2p.* [s.l]. 2004. [Source – http://www.weblobbying.com/lobbies/forward/ ; accessed on 17 September 2004].

This is a web lobby appealing to Pakistani President to adopt stronger laws and practices to prevent gender-related violence against women in Pakistan where gender discriminatory laws and negative customary practices, and/along with pervasive institutional and judicial discrimination deny women their human rights. This lobby calls upon the state to repeal all laws that are gender discriminatory, in particular, the gender-specific provisions of the Hudood Ordinance (1979) and adopt specific legislation that criminalizes domestic/ family violence and penalises it accordingly. As for victim support, the state has to allocate funds to improve and expand medico-legal services for victims of violence, prioritizing the provision of shelters for the abused and their dependents in networking with NGOs. The state should also ensure comprehensive police investigations in cases of gender violence and timely prosecution by the criminal justice system. Moreover, it should strengthen women's activism by offering protection to those under 'death threat' for their advocacy work.

585. Akbar, Sohail [and] Balchin, Cassandra. *Confusion worse Confounded : A critique of divorce law and legal practices in Pakistan. P.181-222; notes; ref.* Shaping women's lives : Laws, practices and strategies in Pakistan. Ed. Farida Shaheed et al. Lahore, Shirkat Gah Women's Resource Centre. 1998.

This volume is a gendered evaluation of the impact of the legal system on the dissolution of marriage, 'lacunae' in the Family Law of Pakistan and procedural problems, with the limitations on redressal available for women in times of divorce. There are various forms of dissolutions of marriage available for spouses under the current laws. However, the dominant culture is antagonistic towards women who initiate divorce and the only form of divorce that claims a wide social recognition is unilateral oral repudiation (Talaq) exercised by the husband. The authors, while exploring the statutory provisions and case law

regarding various forms of divorce in a parallel legal system, draw upon the limitations of [61]Khula and the issue of [62]Mehr in providing redressal for those victimized by a unilateral divorce. The paper concludes that despite the weaknesses within the statute law, legal practice and customary practices, women though oppressed make strategies for their survival within the framework of the available resources, outside the formal law.

586. All Pakistan Women's Association. *All Pakistan Women's Association (APWA).* [s.l]. 9 November 2001. 2p. [Source – http://www.un.org.pk/unic/apwa.htm ; accessed on 21 July 2004]. .

This website relates to the activities of APWA that is a women's organization with branches in the urban and rural areas of Pakistan. While working toward women's emancipation, the association has launched a project in the Karachchi prison where free legal advice is provided for the women prisoners and training on income generating skills, while teaching their children at the primary level. Following their successful initiation of adding a clause on gender non-discrimination to the constitution, APWA is pushing for legal reform on laws that are gender discriminatory and un-Islamic.

587. Amnesty International-USA. *Amnesty International's recommendations to the Government of Pakistan. 3p.* Pakistan : Violence against women in the name of honour. [s.l]. 6 September 2001. [Source – http://www.amnestyusa.org/ ; accessed on 20 January 2003].

Government of Pakistan, under relevant UN Conventions has an international obligation to prevent, investigate and punish violence against women and children. Given the large numbers of honour-related crimes committed against women by their family members, Amnesty urges Pakistan to condemn such crimes publicly and adopt strategies to counter them. Recommendations are given on legal, preventive and protective measures to deal with honour killings.

588. Amnesty International. *Pakistan : Violence against women in the name of honour.* London. September 1999. 57p.; notes. (AI Index. ASA 33/17/99).

This report elaborates on violence against women in the name of honour and the failure of the state to act on 'honour" killings, systems affecting the rights

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61 Divorce initiated by the woman.

62 Dower or 'bride price' returned at the time of divorce

of women and gender 'bias deep-rooted in the law enforcement authority and judiciary. Amnesty provides recommendations to the Government of Pakistan to end impunity enjoyed by the perpetrators of 'honour' crimes through:

- Legal measures to protect women against 'honour-related' violence;
- Preventive measures of educational and media strategies to overcome gender discrimination;
- Protective measures in terms of support services for the women at risk of 'honour-related' violence, counseling and rehabilitation for perpetrators.

589. Amnesty International. *Pakistan : Women killed in the name of honour.* 21 September 1999. (AI Index. ASA 33/20/99). 2p. [Source – http://www.amnestyusa.org/ ; accessed on 20 January 2003].

This is a report condemning the act of 'honour' killing of women in the family entrenched in tradition, where the murderers are rarely brought to justice. Amnesty strongly urges the Government of Pakistan to investigate and punish the perpetrators of 'honour' crimes, amend gender oppressive laws that obstruct redress, remove contradictory legal regimes affecting women's rights and ensure gender sensitivity to the police and the judiciary.

590. Asian Development Bank (ADB). *ADB to fund women's health project in Pakistan. 2p.*[Dhaka]. 16 March 1999. (News Release No.012/99)

In Pakistan, more than 30,000 women die annually as a result of pregnancy-related complications, while 10 times more than that develop life-long, pregnancy- related complications. The Social Action Programme (SAP) of the government aims to reduce gender and rural-urban imbalance in the delivery of health care for which 20 districts in 4 provinces are targeted. Financed by ADB the project has the following objectives:

- Expansion of health intervention, in particular, family planning, skilled care of childbirth, and control of communicable diseases, through campaigns by women health workers and the mass media;
- Developing women-friendly health care for the community up to the level of first-referral by strengthening the district health care/ management and mobilising social support to improve women's health;
- Capacity building of state institutions/human resources up to the provincial level; in order to sustain women's health care – project coordination, policy development and advocacy.

591. Asian Development Bank [ADB]. *Pakistan : Burn Care Project : Watan Welfare Society. 5p.* [s.l]. 2001. [Source – http://www.adb.org/Gender/working/ pak001.asp ; accessed on 3 March 2004].

Of the victims of burns in Pakistan, most are young women who have been tortured by the spouse/in-laws or subjected to acid-throw in the community. Victims of such crimes face special problems in terms of treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration to the society as they are often rejected by their spouses or seen as 'unmarriageable' due to the scars and in some cases of limited mobility. In response to this, the Watan Welfare Society has established a Burn Care Centre in Peshawar since 1999 to provide treatment for burn victims. The centre comprises volunteer specialists- medical/ para-medical personnel with heavily subsidized treatment and care for the patients. Funded by ADB for special medical equipment, the project conducts awareness raising programmes for police, health workers, NGOs, CBOs, and medical staff. The project also produces pamphlets on prevention and care of burns, raising awareness on the causes and treatment of burn-victims, in particular suicide attempts and incidental burns. Advocacy and legal assistance to the victims is part of the agenda, as burn/acid-throw is considered a public health issue.

592. Asian Development Bank [ADB]. *Pakistan : Girls' Education Project : Khwendo Kor.* 5p. 2002. [Source – http://www.adb.org/Gender/working/ pak001.asp ; accessed on 3 March 2004].

Early marriage is a form of traditional violence against the girl child stemming from poverty and the lack of awareness, prohibiting their rights to education and good health. Khwendo Kor is a women's NGO striving for the development of women and children that organises projects on girls' education at the community level. The programme, besides its component on literacy encompasses issues on primary health, women's micro-enterprise development, social organization and advocacy on gender issues. While enabling to create an environment for girls' education, this programme raises their consciousness on the negatives of early marriage, encouraging women's education towards gender empowerment. Khwendo Kor (Sisters'Home) is a non-profit organization for women striving for the empowerment of women and children.

593. Asian Legal Resource Centre (ALRC). *Statement on "Honour killing" in Pakistan received by the Commission on Human Rights. 3p.* Hong Kong. 6 April 2004. [Source – http://www.alrc.net/ ; accessed on 19 June 2004].

ALRC is gravely concerned over the continuity of 'honour' killings of women in Pakistan where the traditional [63]Jirga system is the prime protector of 'honour' crimes. This statement urges the Commission on Human Rights to call upon the Government of Pakistan to take the necessary action to stop the Jirga and [64]Panchayat based parallel systems run by feudal landlords, to enact legislation prohibiting 'honour' killings and to ensure that the recommendations of the NCSW are implemented and the laws amended accordingly.

594. Asian Partnership for Human Development (APHD). *CARITAS Pakistan holds workshop on trafficking. 3p.* South Asia Regional Programme Against the Trafficking of Women & Children : Activities under the programme. [s.l]. 2003. [Source – http://www.aphd.or.th/regional_traf_act2.php ; accessed on 20 January 2003].

A two-day national consultation/workshop was organized by CARITAS Pakistan in Karachi on 5-6 May 2000, drawing in local and international NGOs aiming to open up women's shelters for rehabilitation of sex workers and the survivors of trafficking. Evidently, sex workers, women prisoners and women rescued from traffickers face the risk of further violence – sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS. CARITAS has appealed to the government that women in prisons also be sent to the shelters for vocational training to help them regain their health and self-dignity.

595. Associated Press of Pakistan (APP). *Pakistan selected for "Save Mothers" Project.* Lahore. 13 August 2001. P...

Pakistan is among the 6 countries selected to launch a health project for grass-roots women. This project is implemented with the assistance of the Federation of International Gynaecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) to impart awareness on women's reproductive rights and women's health to medical professionals, covering the following topics:

- Women's rights to life and violence against women;
- AIDS and discrimination;
- Rights to contraception;
- Unsafe abortions;
- Female Genital Mutilation.

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63 Tribal justice system.

64 Village council/court.

Through this project, women in the marginalized sectors of Pakistan will receive health services to promote better health and safe motherhood.

596. Aurat Foundation. *About Aurat Foundation.* Lahore. July 1998. P... [Source – http://www.brain.net.pk/ ; accessed on 13 February 2003].

This is a women's NGO based in Lahore, documenting gender discriminatory laws in Pakistan, on state inaction pertaining to the issue of violence against women. The Foundation, along with members of other women's organizations, has set up the Legislative Watch Group to monitor the law making bodies which are likely to affect legislation concerning women, and to develop networking with legislators to pressurise for gender-related action on behalf of women.

597. Aurat Foundation. *Calling men to end violence against women and girls. 1p.* [s.l]. 6 June 2001. [Source – http://www.comminit.com/genderviolence/sld-2050.html ; accessed on 20 December 2002].

Aurat Foundation, a women's NGO which works at district levels has found that when men who resort to gender-based violence are confronted by men from their own community in defense of the victimized women, the impact of the message to end violence against women is much greater. The foundation calls upon all men to end violence against women and to cooperate with women's organizations and NGOs in the task of creating a violence-free society.

598. AUS Health International. *Pakistan : Women's Health Project. 2p.*[s.l]. 2004. [Source – http://www.ahi.com.au/projects/ ; accessed on 18 February 2004.

Gender-oriented violence against women has a strong impact on women's health but this cause is often overseen when providing health services. This project, funded by ADB and implemented by the Ministry of Health has the following components:

- Expansion of basic interventions on women's health;
- Development of gender-friendly district health systems, providing quality health care for the community up to the level of first referral;
- Capacity building of institutions and human resources to improve women's health in the long term.

Targeting 20 districts in 4 provinces, the project utilizes its resources to provide health services for women, girls and children and to train personnel for counselling.

599. Baldauf, Scott. *A Bold move on Women's Rights : A female Pakistani judge heads efforts to recommend changes on how law affects women. P...* Christian Science Monitor. February 2003.

This document is an exploration of the efforts of the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) working to counter gender discrimination and violence, where Ms.Rizvi the chairperson of the commission is concerned about traditional practices and customs detrimental to women – 'honour' crimes of family violence, stoning to death and gang rape as punishments. Further, issues of coerced dress code, early marriage, denial of education and trading in marriage of women to settle community disputes are additional challenges faced by the NCSW. The commission takes efforts to pressurize the removal of laws that were added to the constitution to convict women disproportionately, often with no legal counsel. In a recent report on the status of women in Pakistan, the commission provides recommendations to amend the current laws affecting women's rights.

600. Bano, Shamin. *Violence against women assuming alarming proportions.* Karachi News. 3 April 2004.

Statistics collected by various human rights groups show that cases of violence against women is on the increase, in particular, incidents involving torture by acid-throw and family violence. As such, women's NGOs have demanded the government to restrict the clandestine sale of acid and award stringent penalties to perpetrators of 'acid-throwing'. The state is urged to sanction legal protection to victims of violence and evaluate the current laws dealing with gender-based violence – The Hudood, Qisas and Diyat Ordinances.

601. *Bill to curb menace of 'honour' killing, 'Karo Kari' soon : Niloufer.* Paktribune. 21 April 2004.

The crime of 'honour' killings, sanctioned by the traditional legal system in Pakistan has led to the murder of women in large numbers, in particular those from rural, tribal backgrounds. Women have also become victims of violence in their attempts at political participation and as detainees/prisoners. With these forms of violence in focus, the Ministry of Women['s] Development is presenting a bill currently under review by the Ministry of Law Affairs to arrest 'honour'

crimes against women and to ensure that women councillors be involved in the system. In order to counter gender-based violence against women, women's organisations are launching awareness raising programmes on women's rights. Assisted by the European Union, the programmes aim to increase the effectiveness of the judiciary and legal sector to enforce laws to protect human values and to combat violence against women, in specific torture and 'honour' killings.

602. Bina Roy Partners in Development Programme – Pakistan. *Skills development centre for young women.* [Karachi]. 2001. 1p. [Source – http://www.ifuw.org/ ; accessed on 19 March 2003].

This document is a briefing of the skills development centre established by the Pakistan Federation of University Women (PFUW) that conducts vocational and feminine hygiene programme for adolescent women from urban, rural families. PFUW - a women's NGO also conducts courses in English language and computer skills, helping more than 300 women to become self-reliant.

603. British Council, Pakistan. *Gender Equality Project [GEP]. 4p.* [s.l]. 2004. [Source – http://www.britishcouncil.org/pakistan.htm ; accessed on 22 January 2004].

GEP is a flexible fund provided by United Kingdom's Department for International Development, managed by the British Council for the government and civil society activities promoting gender equality in Pakistan. The project leads to an umbrella framework to strengthen institutional capacities of government and civil society in areas of protection from gender based violence against women, and supports the revision of laws hindering gender equality and women's access to the justice system. State/non-governmental organizations working towards women's legal empowerment are provided support for drafting legal frameworks concerning gender issues, as well as legal literacy, legal aid and counseling for women. Contributing to the country's Post-Beijing National Plan of Action and CEDAW, the project supports activities to combat violence against women – strategies to address rehabilitation of victims of violence, women refugees and prison reform. Under the family planning initiatives of the State GEP provides assistance to activities promoting women's reproductive health and well-being.

604. Capital Police. Islamabad, Pakistan. *Police Stations for Women.* Islamabad. 2001. 1p. [Source- http://www.islamabad.net/ ; accessed on 21 October 2003].

The initiative is an out-come of the state policy for women's empowerment and gender equality, where the police department has established police stations for women in the Islamabad capital territory. The women's stations encourage victims of gender-based abuse to lodge complaints through women police officers to handle their cases, in particular, pertaining to domestic violence, and provide shelter and safety to the victims.

605. Catholic Relief Services [CRS]. *Pakistan.* November 2001. P... [Source- http://www.crs.org; accessed on 29 January 2003].

This is a web site of a church-based NGO working in partnership with local community organizations in promoting the socio-economic bearings of women refugees from Afghanistan, living in Pakistan. Affected by malnutrition and high rates of maternal mortality, women are also vulnerable to sexually transmitted diseases. The CRS and its partner organizations have implemented a health programme to the refugee community – New Light AIDS Control Awareness Group providing support and counseling services to those affected by HIV/AIDS and to their families. CRS has collaborated with Marvi Rural Development Foundation (MRDO) a community-based NGO, to empower the rural, poor women, through awareness raising and vocational training.

606. Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). *Minister Whelan announces $10.2 million for women's rights and Afghan refugee children in Pakistan* [and] *Canada promotes women's rights and provides basic education to Afghan refugees.* 3 July 2002. [Source – http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/ ; accessed on 22 September 2002].

This documents the Gender Equality Programme in Pakistan, supported by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) initiatives to combat violence against women, trafficking of women and children, reproductive health, women workers' rights and their basic education. In this context, Aurat Foundation, a local NGO promotes women's participation in local governance, assisting the newly elected women councilors to exercise their responsibilities effectively through services provided by Provincial Resource Centers set up in various districts. The Foundation, through networking, provides them access to information on women's issues related to the legislation, human rights and local development.

607. Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). *Stories from the field : Women's health in Pakistan.* [s.l]. 2p. 13 May 2003. [Source-http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/ ; accessed on 20 July 2003].

Pakistan faces an enormous challenge of delivering quality health care/services in a country with a high rate of maternal mortality in the world, as traditionally women health professionals have been few and far between. Efforts are now made to increase the number of women health care givers, specifically in the areas of primary health and nursing care. The development of women health professionals is a joint initiative by the Aga Khan University and Mc Master University of Hamilton and funded by CIDA to train trainers in nursing through a Bachelor of Nursing Programme on basic educational/ training in nursing and to create a strong network of nursing institutions. The trainers in turn, train women health visitors in primary health care and provision of outreach services, with a special focus on maternal and child health. Basic health advice, in particular, sanitation and vaccination are part of the health care services. Evidently, these training sessions though deployed with limited resources, have proven to be beneficial at the grassroots level.

608. CIMEL (Centre for Islamic & Middle Eastern Law) [and] INTERIGHTS (The International Centre for the Legal Protection of Human rights). *Pakistan. p.25-31.* Directory : Initiatives to address 'Crimes of Honour'. London. December 2002.

Women's organisations, human rights bodies, lawyers, activists, researchers, state officials and community-based organisations are involved in combating gender-related crimes in Pakistan, in particular honour killings, abductions, violence against women detained under the pretext of 'safe custody', forced marriage and child marriage.
This directory outlines the activities of AGHS Law Associates, Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP), Lawyers for Human Rights & Legal Aid (LHRLA) and the Pakistan Women Lawyers Association (PAWLA) who provide legal assistance and counselling for women victims of violence, while campaigning against honour crimes.
The directory serves as a tool to network and exchange information on strategy planning and to facilitate co-operation among activists/institutions to combat violence against women.

609. CIMEL (Centre for Islamic & Middle Law) [and] INTERIGHTS (The International Centre for the Legal Protection of Human rights). *Case summaries : Pakistan – Ms. Humaria v. Malik Moazzam Ghayas Khokhar & Ors. [1999] 2 CHRLD 273. P.56-57.* Preliminary bibliography : Crimes of honour. London. August 2000.

This is a case of forced marriage and subsequent police violence, as reported by a woman against her family members and the law enforcement. The

summary highlights the court ruling that the marriage was invalid under the existing religious laws. This bibliography is a part of the project entitled "Strategies of Response to Crimes of Honour" and includes annotations from a variety of resources with case studies from several countries.

610. Coomaraswamy, Radhika. *Addendum : Mission to Pakistan and Afghanistan (1-13 September 1999).* Integration of the human rights of women and the gender perspective : Violence against women : Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its causes and consequences Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy, in accordance with the Commission on Human Rights resolution 2000/45. 13 March 2000. 21p.; notes. (E.CN.4/2000/68/Add.4).

This report refers to the issue of women refugees from Afghanistan in the camps of Pakistan and evaluates the degree of refugee care by the Government of Pakistan and NGOs that are committed to protect women's rights. With regard to the influence of religious extremism upon gender related issues in Pakistan, the document emphasizes the role played by women's NGOs - Afghan Women's Network (AWN) and the Afghan Women's Council (AWC) in the camps of Pakistan. These two organizations provide assistance to survivors of gender violence and focus on issues relating to the lack of education, health care, security, employment and access to legal aid. A programme on "Women's rights :Gender awareness in Islam" was held for refugee women by the Cooperation Centre for Afghanistan (CCA), with the support of the international communities for women's human rights. Assistance for women refugees was provided through "Women at Risk Resettlement Programme " by UNHCR. The Rapporteur recommends that the Government of Pakistan should provide efficient and adequate protection to ensure the safety of women refugees, in particular against police harassment of the displaced.

611. *Draft on Karo-Kari to be presented at next PA Session report. P...* Asian Human Rights Commission : Religious Groups for Human Rights. Vol.5, No.47. 2 December 2003. [Source – http://www.rghr.net/ ; accessed on February 2004].

Pakistan Press Foundation has organized a session on 'honour' killings, a feudal system responsible for violence against women. Evidently, the Provincial Assembly has formed a joint committee to formulate recommendations on the proposed law against 'honour' crimes. The forum also elaborated on sexual violence against women, in particular child victims who develop psychological

disorders as a result of abuse. It was recommended that medico-legal officers need to be sensitized on the issue, as part of their training.

612. End Abuse. Family Violence Crime Prevention Fund. *International Spotlight : Pakistan. P...* [s.l]. July 2002. [Source – http://endabuse.org/resources/facts/; accessed on August 2003].

The Supreme Court of Pakistan has ordered further inquiry into the case of 'honour' crime – a [65]teenage tribal girl who was gang-raped on the orders of a tribal council as a punishment for the alleged 'misbehaviour' of her 11 year old brother. Police investigations show that the charges were fabricated against her family and while the trial proceeds the Government of Pakistan has paid adequate compensation to the victim. Subsequently, she was given a bravery award for her courage in reporting the crime "..in a society where violence against women often goes unpunished".

613. *Evidence : Pakistan. P.12-13.* Equality Now :Women's Action. Update No.16.5. March 2004.

This section of the newsletter compares the Law of Evidence (Quanun-e-Shahadat Order, 1984) and the Offence of Zina (enforcement of Hudood) Ordinance of 1979 where a victim of rape needs at least four Muslim adult males as witnesses to prove the crime. Whereas, Article 25 of the Constitution of Pakistan says that "...all citizens are equal before the law and are entitled to an equal proportion of the law; there shall be no discrimination on the basis of sex alone". In the backdrop of the Platform for Action following the UN Women's Conference, Beijing 1995, Equality Now a women's NGO struggling for women's justice appeals to the Government of Pakistan to repeal/ amend the above laws and abide by gender equality as sanctioned by the constitution, to provide justice for women victims of sexual violence.

614. *FSC Acquits two women convicted in Hudood case.* Paktribune. 29 April 2004. [Source – http://www.paktribune.com/news; accessed on 15 September 2004].

Two women allegedly convicted for running a brothel are set free by the Federal Sharia Court. The accused were taken under the Hudood Ordinance and though the crime was not proven the Sessional Court awarded them imprisonment.

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[65] Ms.Mukhtaran Mai from the village of Meerwala, South Punjab, Pakistan.

Subsequently, the convicts filed an appeal to FSC which acquitted them both. The court has also issued notice to the Advocate general to determine imprisonment to be sanctioned to the complainants for breach of privacy at the premises of the women concerned.

615. Fox, Ted. *Pakistan senators ratify 'honour' killing.* Human Beams. September 1999.

Human rights activists and women's NGOs staged a demonstration outside the House of Parliament to protest the stand taken by the Senate on the crimes of 'honour' killings, of which women are the major victims. Members of the Senate are vehemently opposed to a move to deal with 'honour' killing as murder and provide sentences accordingly, though the Government of Pakistan ratifies the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan has condemned the way the Senate views this gender issues on which all the political parties have shown consensus.

616. Good Practices Projects Database. *Project : Strengthening Mothers' Groups for community action in the areas of population and health themes : Health, FGM.* [s.l]. 2001. 2p. [Source- http:// www.sdnp.undp.org; accessed on 14 September 2002].

This project design shows that in Pakistan the social mobilization of women at community level can lead to awareness-building on health issues - sexually transmitted diseases and birth control, through the formation of Mothers' Groups. On grounds of preventive health and family planning, they encourage the community to adopt contraception and other birth control devices for safe motherhood and family health. This database concerns women's projects where rural women are mobilized to eliminate violence related to the reproductive health of women.

617. *Court takes up women's delayed trials. P.13.* WLUML Newsheet. Vol.X, No.1. April 1998.

A state response for the release of women detainees and prisoners is the theme of this news report. The Sindh High Court has accommodated delayed trials that have affected many women prisoners. On grounds of women's human rights, the court has been ordered to monitor monthly proceedings and dispose all pending cases of women detainees and prisoners.

618. **Government of Pakistan. Ministry of Women, Development, Social Welfare and Special Education**. *Women's Rights : Major activities initiated/ undertaken. 4p.* [s.l]. 2002. [Source – http://www.pakistan.gov.pk/ministries/ ; accessed 20 January 2003].

Crisis centers for women in distress have been set up by the Ministry for Women in 2 locations –Islamabad and Vehari, to provide medical and legal aid to the victim/survivors of violence. The management committee of the centre comprises members of NGOs, legal personnel and state officials. This pilot project would lead to the setting up of more centers in rural areas to help women at grass roots levels. The ministry has also established a Family Protection Project to combat crime against women in collaboration with law administration institutions, police stations, prisons, police-citizens committees and counseling centers. The project has commenced with a survey on identifying the nature/incidence of gender crimes and the services available to the victims.

619. **Grantmakers Without Borders**. *Afghanistan, funders and resources.* [s.l]. August 2001. 1p. [Source – http://www.gwob.net/ ; accessed on 4 January 2003].

This web page provides information on the availability of small grants by various donor agencies for the Afghan women refugees in Pakistan. Focusing on women's issues in displacement, funding is granted for emergency relief and health clinics for women and children living in the camps of Pakistan. The agencies also provide support towards women's education viz., home-schooling, secondary schooling and teacher training programmes for women refugees.

620. *Gulf flesh-traders recruit women for NWFP*. The Friday Times. 9 May 2001.

This is a news article on the seriousness of human trafficking, relating to the works of ActionAid in Pakistan. A situational analysis by the NGO reveals that Pakistan, in particular the North Western Frontier Province (NWFP) is the 'center' for cross-country trafficking of women and girls as confirmed by police authorities. The law enforcement authorities are aware of this, but with the elements of poverty and corruption in society trafficking is possible when their parents sell-off the daughters in the name of 'marriage' to strangers, and the 'husbands' traffic them across for forced prostitution and labour.

621. **Haider, Zeeshan.** *Pakistan ruler wants review of strict Islamic laws. 2p.* Islamabad, Reuters Foundation. 15 May 2004. [Source– http://www.shiachat.com/forum/ ; accessed on 12 August 2004].

In this article, the President of Pakistan has called for a review of those laws that are discriminatory towards women. Hon. Musharaaf has called for the review of the Hudood Ordinance where the victims of rape/sexual abuse could be charged for adultery. In this context, the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) indicates an alarming increase in the number of cases of rape and 'honour' crimes against women belonging to tribal/feudal communities. Secular political groups, civil society, women's organisations as well as scholars and legislators conforming to the teachings of the Holy Koran have indicated that violence against women has increased since the passage of the ordinance.

622. **Human Rights Commission of Pakistan [HRCP].** *National Commission on the Status of Women's Report on Hudood Ordinance, 1979.* [Islamabad]. 5 p.

The National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) was set up in 1999 to advice on eradicating laws that are gender discriminatory. Hudood Ordinance introduced in 1979, relates to the offence of [66]Zina and Quzf, coupled with the subsequent enforcement of [67]Quisas and Diyat Ordinances. It was found that these Ordinances, instead of providing legal remedies for women, subjected them to sexual violence, as instruments of gender oppression. Hundreds of women victims of rape/gang-rape were eventually accused of Zina and faced endless suffering as the essence of the laws were exploited by unscrupulous elements to perpetrate cruelty on women. Through the sustained pressure of women's rights activists, no woman was subjected to extreme punishment. Hence, a special committee of NCSW was appointed to review the Ordinances. Subsequently, the majority of members have recommended that the laws should be repealed and the original laws with regard to the offences be restored to bring in gender justice as enforced in religious laws.

623. **Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP).** *Profiles of vulnerability : Female under-trial prisoners in Punjab.* Lahore. 27p.; tables; annex.

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[66] Zina – Adultery ; Qazf – False accusation.

[67] The Quisas and Diyat Ordinances are a body of Islamic criminal laws dealing with murder, attempted murder, and the crime of causing bodily "hurt".

A study conducted by the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, on women detainees in prisons, in order to reveal the violation of women's human rights. The survey is based on women prisoners under trial, in particular, those taken into custody under the Zina Ordinance (1979) and other religious laws – statistics on detainees, nature of the charge, arrest patterns and the level of protection provided. Recommendations are provided for legal reforms, as well as special training of the law enforcement agencies and judiciary. The report specifically condones the need to reform criminal laws and prison conditions, as recommended by the Commission of Inquiry for Women (1997) with respect to women's rights.

624. Human Rights Watch. *Crime or Custom? : Violence against women in Pakistan*. New York. August 1998.

This report explores the limitations of state responses to the issue of gender crimes – domestic and sexual violence towards women in Pakistan. It seeks to analyse the gendered obstacles in terms of police attitudes towards complainants of gender crimes, medico legal examination of the victims and the discriminatory assumptions of the prevailing court system towards victims seeking redress. In the conclusion, the document states recommendations to the Government of Pakistan as reforms in:

- Legislative and regulatory practices;
- Police procedures and rules for complaints and investigation;
- Medico-legal practices;
- Prosecution services;
- Victim support and rehabilitation.

The report also provides suggestions to the United Nation to which Pakistan is a member state, and to international aid agencies that they should pressurize the Government of Pakistan to bring about improvements in the legal infrastructure and reforms to address some of the basic obstacles faced by women who seek redress as a result of gender-based violence. Further, the agencies should prioritise their funds to provide basic services for the victims – legal aid, medical and counseling, and to train the relevant personnel through a process of gender sensitization.

625. Humanitarian Action for Women and Children in Afghanistan [HAWCA]. *HAWCA helps people by its mobile health teams.* [s.l]. 2001. 1p. [Source- http://2Fwww.hawca.org; accessed on 23 January 2003].

This is a news item concerning the activities of HAWCA health team working in the refugee camps in Peshawar, where the Government of Pakistan provides free medical aid to the displaced community. The team comprises women doctors, nurses and health workers conducting health check-ups for women refugees. Besides distributing free medicines the health team has organised sessions on health education for women and young girls in the camps.

626. **Husain, Shahid.** *Call for SAARC pact against trafficking.* Daily Times. 7 September 2004.

The National Court of Women on Violence, Trafficking and HIV/AIDS urges all leaders belonging to the SAARC to sign the draft convention on the prevention and combating of trafficking of women and children. The draft resolution of the Court stresses on strict law enforcement to ensure the apprehension of traffickers and abusers, demanding that, the judiciary pays due importance to all cases of physical/sexual abuse, gang rape and 'honour' killings, with the establishment of crisis centers/shelter homes for the victim/ survivor as stipulated by the Khushhal Programme for the Welfare of Victims of Trafficking. Further, the National Commission on the Status of Women needs to oversee the implementation of judicial decisions, with the appointment of a woman Ombudsperson to check on the prevalence of gender violence and to redress the victims. A monitoring system should be deployed in countries where illegal trafficking of women is significant, and border-security officials be sensitized on the issue. While stressing on the responsibility of the state towards victim-care, the forum calls for protection of trafficked women as migrant workers, under the relevant ILO Convention. The court also demands a repeal of the Hudood Ordinance which is controversial and gender discriminatory.

627. **ICMC Pakistan.** *WAR Programme – (October 1999 to 2000) Additional information : Pakistan background information.* [Islamabad]. 2001. 2p. [Source – http://www.icmc.net/docs/en/programs/pakistanprg1 accessed on 11 February 2003].

A special feature of the Women At Risk (WAR) Programme launched by ICMC in the camps of Pakistan, counselling and supporting women and children displaced from Afghanistan. Involved with a temporary shelter viz., SACH (Shelter for Change), the programme caters to refugee women who are exposed to gender violence during displacement. The cases include women victims of domestic violence, rape and bonded labour, and many recommended for resettlement in the USA through SACH. ICMC Pakistan works with the

UNHCR and U.S. Immigration and Naturalisation Services (INS) ensuring that women, in particular those at a security risk, have adequate protection during resettlement. The programme also helps young refugee women to pursue higher education through scholarships in the host country.

628. **International Federation of Planned Parenthood (IPPF).** *Family Health Hospitals : The way forward for women.* Prp. Mahammad Ashraf Chatha. [s.l]. 2001. 4p. [Source – http://www.ippf.org; accessed on 20 January 2002].

The paper explores the initiative to address the problem of low usage of contraceptives in Pakistan and related sexual, reproductive health care. It describes the services provided by the state-run family health hospitals for women on primary health care and referral to specialized services of family planning, infertility treatment, cancer detection and management of sexually transmitted diseases. Illustrated with case studies, the article reveals how the services have benefited marginalized women such as women refugees and indigenous women, and their efforts to form voluntary groups to work for the community at large.

629. **International Medical Corps [IMC].** *Emergency obstetrics care in Koga, Pakistan. 2p.* Santa Monica. 8 September 2003.

Women refugees from Afghanistan residing in and around Peshawar have been provided with a well-equipped emergency hospital with reproductive health facilities. This obstetric hospital provides 24-hour emergency services in order to prevent maternal mortality caused by the lack of care in this remote district.

630. **International Medical Corps [IMC].** *Despite the odds Afghan women complete IMC Internships.* Los Angeles. 14 February 2001. 2p. [Source –http://www.imcworldwide.org/loc_pakistan_021401-AfghanInterns.shtml ; accessed on 10 June 2004].

This press statement acknowledges the success of IMC in providing support for Afghan women refugees living in the camps of Pakistan. Women students from the refugee camps are awarded with scholarships by the IMC, and have graduated as medical interns from the Afghan University, Peshawar, Pakistan. They are now providing medical care for fellow refugees, through a training programme run by women for women in Pakistan. Further, women doctors from the displaced population are being trained on medical techniques and organisational skills to run health centres in the camps. With ongoing

programmes in primary health care, reproductive health and trainers-training sessions for health trainers, skills are passed to the new generation of women health care workers.
IMC is one of the largest health care training organisations in Afghanistan providing education for medical, paramedical staff and social workers. Since the influx of refugees into Pakistan the IMC is active around Peshawar setting up skills training programmes for the women refugees, so that they could provide maternal and child health services for the community.

631. *The International Network for the Rights of Female Victims of Violence in Pakistan (INRVVP).* 2p. Kentucky (USA). 7 June 2001. [Source – http://ecumene.org/INRFVVP/ ; accessed on 12 August 2004].

INRFVV is a non-profit, non governmental organization working to highlight worldwide awareness on the degree of violence against women in Pakistan, with a long term goal of examining the root cause of gender-based violence, specifically, 'honour' crimes against women in traditional societies. The organization provides direct support – humanitarian, medical, legal and educational assistance to women victims of violence in Pakistan through fund-raising, collaboration and networking with women's organizations, human rights agencies and activists in Pakistan.

632. International Rescue Committee [IRC]. *The IRC-Afghanistan Alert : Afghanistan/Pakistan.* [s.l]. 2001. 2p. [Source – http:// www.theirc.org/Pakistan ; accessed on 21 January 2003].

This website relates the activities of IRC in Pakistan to the community of the displaced from Afghanistan. Initiating cross-border refugee projects the IRC conducts programmes for refugee support, especially for women refugees and children through the Female Health Educator Project in Peshawar and other refugee villages. This provides basic teacher training for young women to create health awareness using education as a tool. While seeking to improve the health conditions of women refugees in camps, the project raises awareness on women's health issues such as disease prevention and female hygiene and also on land-mine awareness.

633. Isis International. *Campaign to help latest 'honour' killing victims in Pakistan.* Manila. 29 April 2004. [Source – http:// www.isiswomen.org/campaigns/alert/; accessed on 14 August 2004].

International Secretariat of the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) requests urgent support to help victims of 'honour' crimes in Pakistan. 'Honour' crimes, in particular the killing of women by family members go unpunished, usually in a situation when the woman 'steps out' of her social/prescribed role with regard to her sexuality and her interaction with men outside her family. Referring to the case of a 45 year old woman who was killed by her family members where no police action has been taken, OMCT firmly condemns such killings and calls upon the Government of Pakistan to investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators with due diligence.

634. *Islamabad : Community centres to be set up in FATA.* The Dawn. 7 April 2004. [Source – http://www.dawn.com/2004/04/07/local.htm; accessed on 22 January 2005].

Tribal women in Pakistan face many a traditional form of violence such as 'honour' killing committed by their family members often go unpunished. In order to empower the indigenous women, the Ministry of Women['s] Development has set up community centres in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) providing guidelines to welfare services on mother/child health care and vocational training for women's empowerment. As such, the community has access to services of women's welfare and well-being, allowing it to move away from gender discrimination and violence.

635. *Islamabad : Laws to eliminate violence against women in the offing.* The Dawn. 4 October 2001. 1p. [Source- http://www.dawn.com/2004/10/04/local.htm; accessed on 22 January 2005].

The Federal Government of Pakistan is in the process of introducing a legislative measure to eliminate all forms of violence against women. According to the Ministry of Women's Development the government has formulated a National Policy on Women (NPW) that is comprehensive on gender-related development. This aims to:

- Provide women equal opportunities in a viable environment;
- Sensitise the public on women's rights, roles and responsibilities;
- Integrate gender into national development through policies and formulate programmes for women.

This news item outlines the NPW and the efforts made to change the prevailing negative attitude on women and the traditional practices that are harmful to women's health.

636. Jahangir, Asma. *The origins of MFLO : Reflections for activism. P. 93-103; notes.* Shaping women's lives : Laws, practices and strategies in Pakistan. Ed. Farida Shaheed et al. Lahore, Shirkat Gah Women's Resource Centre. 1998.

Jahangir traces the history of Muslim Family Law Ordinance (MFLO) of 1961, as well as the Islamic legislation of the Hudood Ordinance (1979), in the light of gender abuse and injustice in marriage, divorce, maintenance, dower, guardianship and inheritance. She evaluates the failure of women's rights activists to challenges posed by such laws, while providing recommendations for women's advocacy groups to lobby for legal reforms to provide for gender-related abuse.

637. Jillani, Tassaduq Hussain. *Implementing the Right to Marry : A view from the Pakistani Court. P.25-29; notes.* International Family Law. No. [2000]1FL 1-64, April 2001.

This speech is based on women's rights to marriage within the framework of religious laws. Citing cases of 'arranged' marriages brought to the courts of Pakistan, this article illustrates "..the misconception of religious values and laws which result in gender bias, injustice and discrimination against women", and the recognition by the courts that an adult woman can enter into a marriage of her own choice. The article draws attention to the legal provision available for adult women, and the under-aged who have not attained puberty at the time of marriage.

638. *Karachi : Detailed form for rape evidence proposed.* The Dawn. 30 March 2004. [Source – http://www.dawn.com/2004/03/30/local.htm; accessed on 21 July 2004].

War Against Rape (WAR) has drafted a new form for recording evidence and reporting information as provided by rape victims. Additional columns have been proposed in the current format for the medical examination of rape victim, to be completed by a medico-legal officer. Evidently, there was no uniformity in the examination forms used in different hospitals and WAR has worked out a standard and updated format with all the necessary details that could help lawyers to convict the perpetrator, as the current information sheet shows flaws and incomplete data that caused many a problem to them. The proposed columns are to record information on the examination of private organs pertinent to prove rape in a court of law and also to provide medical assistance to the victim to avoid unwanted pregnancy or other complications resulting from the rape.

639. *Karachi : Special laws urged to check domestic violence.* Dawn. 16 March 2001.

In order to mark International Women's Day a seminar on "March 8 and the Condition of Pakistan Women" was held by women activists, academics and researchers to emphasise 'honour' crimes against women as family violence. The participants demanded that 'honour' killings be termed murder and the accused should not be given the benefit of the provision of law, but awarded a full sentence. They also urged the Government of Pakistan to abolish gender discriminatory laws, in particular the Hudoo[d] Ordinance and the masses to join hands with the activists to bring about the empowerment of women.

640. Khalid, Quratulann (Annie) Hafeez. *Karo-Kari ("Honour killings").* July 1999. 14p.; biblio. [Unpublished]. [Source – ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

Practices of 'honour' crimes in Pakistan and the inaction of the state towards perpetrators of such crimes are explored in this document. 'Honour' crimes are of tribal origin, not specific to Islamic communities and arise out of misinterpretations of the religious codes in a rigidly patriarchal society. Supplemented with case studies, this paper points out the lack of legislative support and judicial remedies, though the government is committed to eliminate all forms of violence against women. The paper, based on the state constitution that emphasizes equality of all citizens before the law and equal protection by the law, calls for legal reforms on customary laws in dealing with 'honour' crimes and provisions for victims of gender violence.

641. Khan, Mushtaq Ahmad. *Pakistan country Report. P.108-112.* Regional Conference on Trafficking in Women, Bangkok, 3-4 November 1998. Tokyo, Asian Women's Fund. February 1999.

Internal trafficking in Pakistan is on the rise, but the information available is inadequate. However, cross - border trafficking involves other countries such as India, Bangladesh and Nepal, from where significant data is available. The report concentrates on the legal and administrative measures of the State against trafficking and prostitution. Accordingly, legal provisions under the Hudood Ordinance (1979) makes this a punishable crime through citizenship, family, labour and criminal laws, and under "..violence against women as a crime". As part of support services, crisis centers for victims of violence and police stations for women function under state patronage in collaboration with the NGO network.

642. **Khan, Nasreen [and] Hall, Sonja E.** *The determinants of reproductive health service provisions by General Practitioners in Pakistan. P.207-219; notes.* Health Policy and Planning. Vol.19, Issue.4. 2004.

An examination of Pakistan reveals a high rate of maternal mortality in South Asia, largely due to poor reproductive/maternal health services. Conducted in the province of Sindh, this cross-sectional study identifies factors influencing the provision of reproductive health services by General Practitioners (GPs). Accordingly, only 25% of GPs provide services in their health clinics, their services being delimited by gender constraints, geographic location and knowledge of the subject. The findings suggest that provision of reproductive health services could be improved by increasing the involvement of women GPs – encouraging more women to enter into the field of gynaecology/ obstetrics with incentives if necessary, and provision of post-graduate training to improve their knowledge and skills. This study opens a forum on how women in the medical profession could be encouraged to specialize in reproductive health care services and what kind of support should be provided by the state and community, towards achieving the objective of safe motherhood.

643. *Lack of Islamic teaching blamed for crimes against women.* Daily Times. 24 January 2004.

This is a write-up on an awareness raising workshop on designing a campaign to end violence against women. The campaign involves selection of participants from the districts for active participation in an electronic media programme. Initiated by the Women's Advisory Central Project of Aurat Foundation and launched by Radio Pakistan, the programme highlights women's rights and the elimination of gender violence. Aurat Foundation runs shelter homes for women survivors of violence which has grown into an educational trust for women. The Free Legal Project of the foundation, networks with the police, prisons and bar council offering legal aid to women survivors of violence, in particular 'honour' crimes.

644. **Lari, Zahida.** *Self-empowerment for women with disabilities in Pakistan. 8p.* International Special Education Congress 2000, Manchester, 24-28 July 2000.

Women with physical disabilities are vulnerable to gender-based violence and discrimination while constantly struggling against prejudice, traditions, lack of family support and overt sexism. This paper concerns the newly formulated

special education policy that seeks to provide appropriate educational opportunities for disabled women through community-based non formal programmes to encourage their empowerment. The National Policy for Rehabilitation of the Disabled conceived by the Ministry of Health, Special Education and Social Welfare intervenes for special educational needs and a teacher's training programme in special education.

645. *Law soon to curb violence against women : Niloufer.* The News International Pakistan. 22 April 2004.

Legislation to curb violence against women is under review by the Ministry of Law, to be presented before the Cabinet for approval. Accordingly, 'honour' killing of women, the most disturbing of gender crime will be curtailed by the proposed legislation that promotes legal support and economic empowerment for women. Presently, complaint cells are established in the women's police stations to take action on gender-related complaints and state-run crisis centres provide free legal and medical aid to victims of violence.

646. *Law to eliminate violence against women in the offing.* Dawn. 4 October 2001.

The Federal Government of Pakistan is due to introduce legislative measures to eliminate violence against women in all forms. The Ministry of Women's Development is in discussion with the National Commission of the Status of Women (NCSW) to repeal all gender discriminatory laws under the current National Policy for Women (NPW) that has special benefits for disadvantaged women, in particular those in detention centers and prisons. The policy, guided by the recommendations of CEDAW aims to prohibit the laws that encourage customary practices such as 'honour' killings of women.

647. Lawyers for Human Rights and Legal Aid [LHRLA]. *Project on trafficking of women in Pakistan* , Karachi. 2001. 2p. [Source – http://www.lhrla.sdnpk.org/ traff_women.html; accessed on 12 June 2004].

A project supported by CIDA to minimize and eliminate trafficking of women in Pakistan. The project aims to:

- Raise consciousness on trafficking as a social problem and a threat to human development;
- Survey the prevalence of trafficking and chart out action plans to combat the issue;

- Provide legal aid and develop a support system for the victims and their families.

LHRLA is one of the pioneer organizations to take up the issue of trafficking of women in Pakistan and to initiate action in Bangladesh as well. The organisation helps in the release of women detained illegally and subjected to trafficking, while providing free legal aid and shelter to rescued victims who cannot integrate with their families.
Further, this article briefs on the SAARC response to trafficking, through the workshop on "Trafficking in women and Children : Formulating Strategies to Resistance" in 1996 leading to the SAARC Convention Against Trafficking, based on the principles of CEDAW and CRC (Convention on the Rights of the Child). The Convention drafts the ground rules for comprehensiveness and effectiveness in combating trafficking in the region. With an aim to reach out to the root-cause of the problem and provide an initiative to solve this multi-faceted crime, the Resistance Network Against Trafficking of Women and Children is formed among members of SAARC - India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan.

Current Projects : Working Women's Support Centre [WWSC]. 2p.

This is a window project of LHRLA providing support to victims of sexual harassment at the workplace or in public, providing counselling for the victims, investigating cases of maltreatment by employers and developing coordination between trade unions and civil society to help women workers. The project has launched public awareness campaigns on the issue of sexual harassment establishing media networks focusing on cases of such harassment to the public. While encouraging state and private organizations to develop policies against the issue of workplace harassment, the NGO facilitates women to form their own trade unions to improve their work environment, in particular safe working conditions for women factory workers. Brochures have been distributed on the issue of workplace harassment and the legal implications on the offence. This had made a positive impact on the community, calling for more reprints. LHRLA also provides legal aid to victims of harassment, with awareness on their legal rights as sanctioned in the labour law.

648. Malik, Adam. *Violence against women in the name of honour. 1p.* Karachi, Aurat Foundation. 8 January 2003. [Source – http:// www.hrea.org ; accessed on 10 December 2003].

Women form a high percentage of victims of 'honour' killing committed by their spouses, fathers or brothers. These statistics were collected from the

various districts by Aurat Foundation in collaboration with the Citizen's Action Committee of Hyderabad (India). Presented at a [68]seminar on "Violence against Women", the forum recommends effective legislation and monitoring systems during the investigation of 'honour' crimes by law enforcers.

649. Marie Stopes Society (MSS) *Pakistan : Marie Stopes Society (MSS) : Established 1990.* Karachi. 2001. 1p. [Source–http://www.mariestopes.org.uk/ww/pakistan.htm; accessed on 14 June 2005].

The MSS is a non-governmental organization run by the local people of Pakistan, committed to improving access to family planning and reproductive health services throughout the country. Pakistan has the lowest usage of contraceptives in South Asia. The MSS team by means of their mobile health unit and community health projects accesses the women providing them with family planning supplies and knowledge on health issues, Their services include family planning, sexual sterilization, ante- and post-natal health, reproductive health and primary health. Women from rural areas, those who cannot travel to health clinics and Afghan women refugees living in Peshawar are the major beneficiaries of this service.

650. Maternity and Child Welfare Association of Pakistan. *The acceptability of contraceptives by women in Pakistan : A proposal for a research project.* Prp. Samina Shaheen Ali. [s.l]. 29 March 1999. [Source-http://www.gfmer.ch/Endo/PGC_network/Acceptability_of_contraceptives_Samina.htm ; accessed on 11 July 2004].

This research project aims to expand the access to a healthier and wider choice of contraceptive methods suitable for women's health. With a very low prevalence of contraceptive usage in Pakistan among the sub-continents, this project design encompasses a survey of the usage by women and discussions with focal groups of contraceptive users from urban and rural areas. The group discussions would concentrate on perceptions on and preference for specific contraceptive methods and their evaluation. The choice of contraceptive methods by women and their needs to health related family planning services would be the outcome of this project. Based on the above, this study recommends on improving the organisational functioning of the state health services to facilitate the work of women staff.

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[68] Seminar on "Violence against Women", Hyderabad, 31 December 2002.

651. *Men working with Women against Violence : Pakistan.* Gender Beat. No.21. 28 April 2000. [Source – http://www.sdnp.undp.org/gender/news/ ; accessed on 14 March 2003].

Organisations working to combat violence against women have adopted many strategies in their efforts. This electronic newsletter concerns the efforts of Bedari, a non-governmental institution where men have been systematically included at all levels. Based on their experience that both women and men should be involved in searching for a solution to prevent gender violence, Bedari observes that men are willing to re-examine the problems of violence against women in terms of gender bias, discriminatory attitudes, as well as make women aware of the issue.

652. Ministry of Women['s] Development Social Welfare and Special Education. *Crisis Centre : Islamabad. 2p.* 2003. [Source – http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government_of_Pakistan ; accessed on 17 January 2003].

The Centre for Women in Distress is a pilot project launched by the Ministry of Women's Development with an objective to protect women victims of violence, more specifically, battered women. Victims of gender abuse – impoverished and belonging to disadvantaged groups are brought to the centre, where traumatised victims are provided with counselling services through legal aid. With a steering committee constituting members of NGOs, legal and medical professions, the services encompass psycho-social counselling, family group therapy and women's group therapy with provisions of shelter homes. Besides free legal and medical aid, a micro-credit workshop enables the women to access loans in micro-enterprising for their emotional strength and self-sufficiency.

653. Mumtaz, Zubia [and] **Salway, Sarah et al.** *Gender-based barriers to heath care provision in Pakistan : The experience of female providers. P.261-269; notes.* Health Policy and Planning. Vol.18, Issue.3. 2003.

The health care system of Pakistan has introduced women health/family planning workers at community level, as a result of gender constraints to women's access to health services, that lead to high rates of maternal morbidity and mortality. Women health workers similar to other traditional societies in South Asia, have to operate within the same gender system and therefore face problems of:

- Abusive hierarchical management structure and disrespect from male colleagues;
- Lack of gender sensitivity;
- Coping with the conflict between domestic and work responsibilities;
- Poor infrastructural support to perform their duties;
- District-level committees with women members to monitor the incidence of domestic violence and to provide support for victims;
- Rules and instructions for medical staff in hospital to facilitate prompt reporting of cases on domestic violence, rape and torture;
- Autonomy for NGOs to participate in state efforts to combat gender-based violence and to provide victim support;
- Housing for poor, destitute women affected by violence.

Based on the above, this study inquires as to how best the state health services could be modified to facilitate the work of women staff.

654. *Muslim Family Law under attack in Pakistan. P.6-7.* WLUML Newsheet. Vol.XI, No.1. [1999].

Women lawyers and activists in Pakistan are battling to protect family law, the Muslim Family Law Ordinance (MFLO) that provides for polygamy, divorce, child marriage and inheritance through:

- Non-registration of marriage and divorce as a punishable crime;
- Regulations on polygamy;
- Strengthening of provisions controlling child marriage;
- Rights of inheritance to grandchildren.

In view of the challenges made by orthodox religious sections of society, women's groups are deeply concerned about the damage this would cause to women's rights in the family, invalidating their status as spouses, making them vulnerable to family-based violence.

655. Mydans, Seth. *Sentenced to death, rape victim is freed by Pakistani Court.* The New York Times. 8 June 2002.

This is in response to public protests a Pakistani court has acquitted a victim of rape who was sentenced to death stoning. Ms. Zafer accused her brother-in-law of raping her but no charges were brought against him as the Zina (Islamic Statute) needs male witnesses to prove a case of rape. Instead, the victim was charged of adultery and sentenced for death by stoning.

Subsequently, an Islamic court intervention has considered her accusation as a 'confession' and the victim was set free. However, human rights activists see this as injustice to the victim where the perpetrator is not punished. Further, upon release she faces death threats from her family as she has 'dishonoured' them.

656. National Commission on the Status of Women [NCSW]. *Violence against Women : Violence against Women Committee. P.8-12; tables.* Terms of reference and scope of work. Islamabad. January 2002.

This report seeks to provide the Commission with guidelines and direction to reduce/eliminate gender-based violence through positive actions at the legal, economic, societal and political levels. Guidelines are provided on:

- Laws and policies, as well as monitoring of institutional mechanisms for the implementation of current laws/policies;
- Advocacy, networking and building linkages with the state and civil society.

While suggesting activities based on the above, the committee gives the procedures to prepare reports of field visits, committee meetings, discussions with resource persons, and routine reporting viz., periodic-issue based, activities and the annual reports, as well as listing of priority issues to be incorporated in the agenda of the NCSW meetings.

657. Nasir, Aysha. *The facets of the women of Pakistan.* [s.l], Page Wise Inc. 2001. [Source – http://nmnm.essortment.com/pakistanwoman_rdqp.htm ; accessed on 18 January 2004].

This is an abstract of the publication that concerns the status of women in the pseudo-Islamic society of Pakistan where religious extremism has lead to gender injustice. Concerning the socio-economic status of women in the urban and rural settings, this volume views traditional family norms such as 'housewifization' and polygamy, and how they keep the women unaware of their individuality and strength.

658. NGO Coordinating Committee for Bejing+5. *Violence against Women (D). P.47-53.* Pakistan NGO Review : Beijing +5 : Women 2000 : Gender equality, development and peace for the 21st Century. Lahore, Shirkat Gah. February 2000.

This is an analysis of the Government's pledge on elimination of violence against women in Pakistan made during the UN Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing,1995). After a lapse of 5 years this report examines the degree of effectiveness of the state in addressing gender-violence in issues of reproductive health, marital rape, sexual violence, trafficking of women, 'honour' killings and forced marriage in the areas of :

- Statutory Laws and Provisions;
- Shelters and support mechanisms;
- The Distress and Detention Fund Act;
- Police and penal institutions.

The report acknowledges the work carried out by women's NGOs and human rights groups through awareness campaigns, advocacy programmes for law enforcers and legal authorities, media workshops etc., to highlight the issue of gender-based violence and to bring about attitudinal changes. This article enumerates strategies for action necessary for the National Plan of Action that deals with the elimination of all forms of violence against women. Annexed to the main report is a table on state initiatives to combat violence against women, the obstacles faced, emerging trends, scope for future and inadequacies in policy implementation.

Women and armed conflict. P.55-59.

This section relating to the state commitment of a multi-dimensional strategy towards refugee support, prevention of conflict and peace building efforts, evaluates the level of activity of the state and non-state agencies as very low within the period of 1995-2000. While referring to rape and trafficking of women during armed conflict, it is noted that no national laws exist to protect women from such crimes. The committee provides recommendations to improve state action against gender crimes by :

- Establishing task forces;
- Reforming the law-enforcement and judicial institutions;
- Creating specific state machinery to provide emergency relief for victims.

Women. Chapter. 8. 6p.

This chapter highlights the gender integrated national development in Pakistan in terms of the state infrastructure and women's health care. Covering the period from 1993 to 2001 and future plans for 2002, the state responses against gender violence are reflected through:

- A network of women's police stations to handle crimes against women;
- Commission of Inquiry for Women to review the current gender discriminatory laws and appointment of women judges for High Courts;
- Training programmes on women's health services;
- District-level committees with women members to monitor the incidence of domestic violence and to provide support for victims;
- Rules and instructions for medical staff in hospitals for prompt reporting of cases on family violence, torture;
- Autonomy for NGOs to participate in the state efforts to combat gender-based violence and victims support;
- Housing for poor, destitute women.

659. Niazi, Ziaullah. *Kot Lakhpat Jail Women prisoners living in Miserable Conditions : Investigation officers "misbehave" with women accused at police stations.* Lahore, Lahore News – The News International Pakistan. 4 October 2001. 2p. [Source – http://lists.isb.sdnpk.org/pipermail/gsd-list/2001-October/; accessed on 24 August 2004].

The theme of this news item is the work of women NGOs to prevent violence against women in prisons. The Legislative Watch Group – formed of women activists and political leaders, has visited penal institutions under the sponsorship of Aurat Foundation, and reported that women are subjected to various forms of torture and sexual abuse during police investigations. Appraising the problem of women detainees and prisoners, the delegation recommends the following changes:

- Separate women's barracks away from the men's cells, and separate barracks for juveniles, under-trial prisoners, civil and convicted prisoners;
- A state-authorised medical person made available for the women prisoners, as a basic necessity in the jail;
- Mental patients to be detained in the prison hospital;
- Trial prisoners to undergo a health check-up;
- Senior judges to visit the prisons and release those under minor offences, as a legal obligation.

660. *No compromise in so called 'honour crimes'. P.8-9.* WLUML Newsheet. Vol. XVI, No.3. July 2004.

The government has finalized the draft of a Bill against 'honour' killings, equating the crime with murder under Section 302 of the Pakistan Penal Code. Evidently,

the proposed law aims to abolish the practice of 'honour' crimes and forced marriage both of which are traditional practices detrimental to women. The Bill draft bars courts from accepting a waiver or compounding the offence, and recommends that the offender be punished according to the law. It also prevents forced marriage of girls in settlement of community disputes where the woman is given as a form of 'compensation' to the affected.

661. OMCT [World Organisation Against Torture]. *Pakistan : Killing in the name of honour of two girls. 3p.* Geneva. 11 May 2004. (CASE PAK 110504.VAW.CC). [Source–http://www.peacewomen.org/news/Pakistan/May04/twogirls.html ; accessed on 18 November 2004].

OMCT requests an urgent intervention from all those concerned on women's rights, in the case of two teenage girls from the Province of Sindh killed in the name of 'honour' after visiting their grandparents without the consent of the family. Crimes against women are committed in the name of 'honour', sanctioned by tribal councils of elders and the perpetrators are rarely prosecuted. According to information received by the Asian Human Rights Council (AHRC), the police did not investigate the case and no action was taken to protect the family members who lodged the complaint.

662. OMCT [World Organisation Against Torture]. *Violence against Women : Case PAK 120499.VAW.SL.* [s.l]. 20 April 1999. 3p. [Source – ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

The International Secretariat is gravely concerned over the killing of Ms.Saima Sarwar whose murder was instigated by her family members. Ms. Sarwar a married woman and a mother of two, had filed a case for divorce on grounds of spouse abuse and torture. Her assassination took place in the office of her legal counsel, yet another 'honour' killing perpetrated against women by members of their family to protect family 'honour'. OMCT calls for urgent action by the Government of Pakistan to conduct an impartial investigation of this crime, while guaranteeing punishment to its perpetrators and safeguarding the security of the legal adviser, Ms. Hina Jilani who is facing death threats from extremists. The organisation also requests that the UN Special Rapporteur on Harmful Traditional Practices Ms. Asma Jahangir who is based in Pakistan, be protected and granted her rights to continue her task of reporting cases on traditional violence against women.

663. *Outrage over Pakistan gang-rape grows.* The Sunday Times. 7 July 2002.

The police force in Pakistan has stepped up their search for a gang of community members who have raped a teenage girl upon the orders of a tribal council, as the victim's brother has allegedly had an affair with a woman from another tribe of 'higher' status. A special bench of the Supreme Court of Pakistan has intervened in this case where the sister faced a penalty for the 'crime' committed by the brother and on the police force for their laxity in taking action on the complaint made by the girl.

664. Oxfam. *Pakistan Programme Information : Tackling violence against women. 2p.* [s.l]. [Source – http://www.oxfam.org.uk/ ; accessed on 22 May 2003].

Domestic violence is a serious problem affecting a high percentage of women in Pakistan. Oxfam raises consciousness of the public on the issue of family violence through street theatre and poster competitions, while supporting para-legal training for unmarried women to help them negotiate fair marriage contracts and to ensure that they could seek help if needed. Legal aid programmes are conducted by the organization as women's rights are being violated.

665. *Pakistan : Anti-rape NGO struggles to be heard.* [s.l]. 4p. 11 February 2004. [Source – http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp ; accessed or 24 May 2005].

This news article highlights the efforts of WAR (War Against Rape), a women's organization that concentrates its resources on battling against the crime of rape. Located in Lahore, WAR handles cases of rape reported to the police, while providing medical, legal and survival support to the victims. Drawing in a large number of volunteers, WAR works closely with the National Commission on the Status of Women and runs shelter homes to protect the victims as well as launches campaigns on violence against women to create consciousness among the public.

666. *Pakistan : Girl child in especially difficult circumstances. 37p.; ref.* SAARC Meeting on GCEDE, Colombo, 1-3 November 1999. [Unpublished]. [Source – ICES Archives on Violence against Women].

This report explores the state action to address gender-based violence in Pakistan, in cooperation with non-governmental organizations working for the empowerment of women. The action is implemented through strategies on

legal reforms, support for survival of victims and protective measures against gender violence. The women's NGOs combat gender violence through various activities – programmes to raise consciousness on paralegal services for victims of violence and education for the girl-child focusing on women's reproductive health. The AGHS Legal Aid Cell conducts counseling services for women victims at the community-level operating a hotline service for the victims. Shirkat Gah Women's Resource Centre reports on gender discriminatory laws and cultural practices detrimental to women's health. Concentrating on the prevention of sexual abuse and rehabilitation of survivors, War Against Rape and Bedari have launched awareness-raising programmes, training, lobbying and support services on legal/ medical aid and shelter for victims. The Aurat Foundation, Dast-e-Shafqat and the Progressive Women's Association lobby for the cause of women victims on violence and support for child victims of abuse. The paper recommends to:

- Amend all gender discriminatory laws, in particular those dealing with sexual harassment in the public and workplaces;
- Advocate gender equity in the choice of marriage partners, divorce, custody and inheritance;
- Recognition of domestic/ family violence as a gender issue by the state;
- Preventive support services such as legal aid cells, counseling, medical assistance to victims of gender-related violence.

667. *Pakistan hunting rapists. 1p.* [s.l], CBS News. 5 July 2002. [Source – http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/ ; accessed on 4 July 2005].

The Government of Pakistan has awarded cash compensation (equivalent to US $ 8,200) to a woman subjected to the punishment of gang-rape sanctioned by a tribal council. Evidently, the police had made arrests on this case as gang-rape is an illegal penalty according to the state laws, and the Supreme Court is calling for a special hearing on the case, recommending the:

- Effective use of the electronic media to extend support to the survivors of gender crimes;
- Discouraging of pornography and the negative portrayal of women by popular media.

668. Pakistan, Islamic Republic of. *Legal history : Notable features [: Judicial Khul]. P.7-8.* Atlanta. Emory School of Law. 20... [Source– http://www.law. emory.edu/IFL/legal/pakistan.htm ; accessed on 9 September 2004].

In Pakistan the Muslim Marriage Act (1939) was amended by the Muslim Family Law Ordinance in 1961. Of the divorce laws, the 'judicial khul' is a significant feature where a woman could independently claim divorce, provided that she is prepared to forego her financial rights in terms of maintenance. This is welcomed by some as giving women the 'right' to divorce regardless of the ground by re-paying her [69]dower. There is also a severe criticism that judges may rule for a 'judicial khul' in cases where women are clearly entitled for a judicial divorce under the Dissolution of Muslim Marriage Act (1939) without losing their financial rights. However, the Supreme Court has stated that the Muslim wife is indeed entitled to Khul as a right, if the husband is unwilling to divorce, as long as she satisfies the court that she would be forced into a 'hateful union' if the option of Khul were ruled out.

669. Pakistan Information Networks. *National Commission on the Status of Women [NCSW] : About N.C.S.W - Role and functions.* [s.l]. 2001. 1p. [Source- http://www.pasha.org.pk; accessed on 4 January 2003].

This web page provides an outline of the objectives of NCSW, a state intervention to eliminate violence against women in Pakistan. In an attempt to safeguard women's rights and protection against gender-based violence, NCSW has been given the mandate to review all laws, rules and regulations affecting the status of women and to suggest repeal, amendments or new legislation to eliminate gender discrimination and to promote gender equality. The commission is to monitor the state mechanisms and institutional procedures for redress of women victims, in order to achieve effective gender justice. NCSW networks with women's NGOs and individuals who are working towards gender equality and the elimination of gender violence in the country.

670. *Pakistan : Group of women seek abolishment of Islamic "Hudood" laws. 2p.* Islamabad, AsiaNews. 7 May 2004. [Source – http:// www.asianews.it/view.php/ ; accessed on 9 July 2004].

Women activists have called for an abolishment of laws that discriminate women. Referring to the rigidity of the Hudood Ordinance that allows for the 'stoning of death' of women who are victims of sexual violence, the lobbyists urge for the laws to be repealed from the national legislation. In support of this, the National Commission for Women (NCW) states that "since the laws were first adopted, constant injustice has been done to women". However, members of the parliament are more in favour of amending the legislation to remove any gender discrimination, rather than abolishing it altogether.

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[69] Payment by the husband to the wife at the time of marriage.

671. *Pakistan : Row over fate of Women's Rights Bill. 3p.* 31 March 2004. [Source – http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp; accessed on 5 October 2004].

This documents a women-specific bill on the elimination of gender discrimination leading to the repeal of the controversial Hudood Ordinance that has been taken up for debate in the National Assembly, much to the opposition of some members. The newly proposed Protection and Empowerment of Women Bill calls for the prohibition of violence against women, in specific 'honour' crimes, as well as for freedom of choice in marriage and separate women's wards in prisons. A second bill highlighting 'honour' killings is seeking to amend the Criminal Procedure Code and the Penal Code of Pakistan to ensure that 'honour' killings are not to be treated as compoundable. Currently, the victim of any rape case registered for trial faces the threat of being charged for offences of adultery and fornification if the perpetrator is proven not guilty.

672. *Pakistan tribe orders teen raped. 2p.* [s.l]. 2 July 2002. [Source – http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2002/07/05/world/ ; accessed on 4 September 2004].

Human Rights Commission of Pakistan has demanded that all those who were involved in the gang-rape of a [70]teenage tribal girl in the village of Meerwala as an 'honour' punishment, to be brought to justice. According to the verdict of the victim, the tribal council ordered rape as a penalty, after her 11 year-old brother was seen walking with a girl from a 'higher' tribal class. Police has made several arrests based on a complaint made by the girl's father and the Commission has ordered a fact-finding mission to investigate this case. This case has evoked protests and demonstrations against traditional practices of gender violence by many women's NGOs as well as the civil society in general.

673. *Pakistan women's lobby group demands inquiry into girls' murder.* 2p. [s.l]. 26 April 2004. [Source – http://iys.cidi.org/humanitarian/irin/casia/04a/ ; accessed on 16 August 2004].

The National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) has called upon the Government of Pakistan to initiate inquiry on the killing of 2 minor girls in the port city of Karachi, where they have been abducted, killed and their

[70] Ms. Mukhtar Mai.

bodies found in a decomposed state. Intervened by the City Governor, three policemen have been arrested with charges of murder. While urging for an impartial investigation, NCSW calls for a stringent punishment for the accused.

674. Pakistan Women's Lawyers' Association. *Pakistan Women's Lawyers' Association (PAWLA)*. [Lahore]. November 2000. P... [Source – http://www.un.org.pk/unic/pawla.htm ; accessed on 23 June 2003].

Overwhelmed by customs and traditions that are gender oppressive, women have little or no knowledge on laws and lack the financial support to seek legal redress. PWLA is a nation-wide women's NGO aimed at combating discriminatory and derogatory laws against women that are unable to provide for victims of gender-related violence. While providing legal aid and creating legal awareness among women, the organization networking with other NGOs and the state machinery, addresses women's legal needs through professional services and through economic counseling to help them become self-reliant.

675. *Pakistan's Green Star trains "Lady doctors" and others*. Network. Vol.20, No.1. 2000. [Source – http:// www.reproline.jhu.edu/ ; accessed on 14 August 2003].

In Pakistan a large proportion of women have no access to health care facilities, resulting in high rates of maternal morbidity and mortality. Only 18% of women have access to modern contraceptives, but more that 50% would like to 'space out' childbirth. This web page concerns a comprehensive training programme for women physicians to use IUD (Intra-Uterine Devices), as part of the family planning services. The programme, administered by Population Services International (PSI) is an effort to increase access to quality family planning services for rural women and those from low-income groups. While training health care providers as counselors, PSI also conducts a family planning programme in the electronic media encouraging women and men to access the services at low-cost.

676. *Pakistani girls forced to settle men's dispute*. Khaleej Times. 16 April 2004. [Source – http://www.alternatives.ca/article1231.html ; accessed on 25 October 2004].

The Top Court of the North West Frontier Province has declared the practice of the age-old custom "Swara" where a woman could be married off into an aggrieved family, as part 'settlement' for murder perpetrated by the men in her family. Prevalent in the semi-autonomous tribal region, this practice is a

traditional form of violence against women – in terms of forced marriage where the woman is mistreated after marriage. Many young women below the marriage-age have escaped such 'marriages' by the intervention of the Supreme Court of Pakistan which rules out the practice of 'Swara' as a violation of the laws and norms of Pakistan, and the girls rescued are sent to shelters for protection, rehabilitation and integration in to society. This news article calls for the urgent need for the law enforcement authority to prevent such gendered abuses and to settle disputes/ crimes committed as a result of family/clan feud.

677. Pal, R.M. *Women's movement in Islamic countries.* PUCL Bulletin. December 2000. 2p. [Source- http://www.pucl.org/reports/; accessed on 26 July 2003].

This article highlights two recent trends of development in Islamic countries in comparison to one another. One is on the state making "anti-women " laws in the name of religion, and the other is on the power of the women's movements fighting against such laws. Case studies from Bangladesh and Pakistan reveal how religious extremism influences the legal system with regard to gender discriminatory laws and penalties. Fatwa issued on rape, adultery and divorce in Bangladesh reveal that the verdict is decided against the women, though the state legislation is not governed by Sharia Law and Fatwa strictly prohibited. Aggressive women's movement in Pakistan has resulted in the introduction of a progressive law viz., Muslim Family Law Ordinance (MFLO) in 1961 to protect women's rights with regard to gender crimes and prohibit cultural practices that are harmful to women's health.

678. Peace Women. *Pakistan NGO combats.* [s.l]. 2001. 2p. [Source – http://www.peacewomen.org/; accessed on 27 October 2003].

This web site provides information on all women's NGOs combating against gender-related violence through action-oriented work and by providing support to the victims. The organizations while providing support in cases of sexual violence, family abuse and community-based crimes, collaborate with the Ministry of Women's Development, Social Welfare and Special Education to eliminate violence against women in the country.

679. Population Council. *Violence against Women : Links between pregnancy and domestic violence : Perspectives of Obstetricians and ' recent mothers'. 1p.* New York. 9 January 2004.

This is a study conducted in Pakistan to assess the level of awareness among the obstetricians/ gynaecologists regarding the magnitude of gender violence – violence during pregnancy and the impact of it on maternal and ante-natal health. Mothers in maternity hospitals were interviewed to evaluate the level of violence during pregnancy, their care seeking behaviour for injuries associated with domestic violence and attitudes regarding health sector responses. The preliminary data from this study was presented at the [71]Annual Conference of the Population Council of Pakistan and at the regional meetings of obstetricians/gynaecologists, to plan strategies to treat victims of family violence.

680. Reuters News Service. *Pakistan to help build schools for Afghan women*. Dubai. 8 February 2001.

A state intervention on gender oppression sanctioned by religious extremists in Afghanistan, where the Ministry of Women's Development in Pakistan is in negotiation with Taliban to open schools for the formal education of girls in Afghanistan.

681. RHI [Reproductive Health Initiatives]. *Pakistan : 1998-2001*.. [s.l]. 10p. [Source - http://www.unfpa.org; accessed on 22 December 2003].

RHI Programme in Pakistan fits into the 5 year plan of the state on improving the reproductive health care, with access to health services and health information to the most vulnerable communities. RHI projects aim at increasing the resources for reproductive health, involves local grass root organisations, community-based volunteers and women health workers from rural and urban settings. This web site elaborates on the main activities, strategies, innovations and achievements of the programme, where increasingly more men are involved to protect and promote women's reproductive health to prevent maternal mortality.

682. Riaz, Mohammed. *NGOs Protest at violence against women*. Dawn. 23 May 2004.

Aurat Foundation, together with their sister NGOs and various political parties staged a demonstration focusing on the growing incidence of violence against women in the tribal communities of the North Western Frontier Province,

[71] Third Annual Population Research Conference on "Population and Sustainable Development in Pakistan", Lahore, 19-21 December 2002.

where tribal councils sanction 'penalties' of death, molestation and public humiliation to women. Critical of the lack of police action in the province, the Foundation calls for stringent laws and their proper implementation to punish the culprits of gender violence.

683. Sardar, Shakeen [and] **Arif, Kamran**. *Parallel Justice Systems in Pakistan and consequences for Human Rights. P.29-58; notes; ref.* Shaping women's lives : Laws, practices and strategies in Pakistan. Ed. Farida Shaheed et al. Lahore, Shirkat Gah Women's Resource Centre. 1998.

This paper calls for protection of women against traditional forms of violence, in particular those from tribal provinces of North Western Frontier Province (NWFP) and Baluchistan, where women are not supported by their human rights, but guided by the customary practices and gender biases perpetrated by the 'all-male' forums of the tribal courts. While exploring the concept of gender equality within the framework of a parallel justice system prevalent in Pakistan, the authors lead to evaluate the extent to which the systems guarantee equality and protection for women, in particular those belonging to marginalized/tribal communities. It implies that women from the Provincially Administered Tribal Areas (PATA) where the Muslim Family Law Ordinance (MFLO) has not been extended are often subjected to repressive customary practices and denied any relief available under the MFLO. Evidently, the [72]Jirga imposes restraints on issues of polygamy, recovery of dower, inheritance, child custody and the right to option of marriage, denying their right to get relief/ remedies. The paper pressurizes for a legal reform that could provide for women of tribal communities, against cultural violence and gender injustice.

684. Shaheed, Farida. *Engagements of Culture, Customs and Law : Women's lives and activism. P.61-78; notes; ref.* Shaping women's lives : Laws, practices and strategies in Pakistan. Ed. Farida Shaheed et al. Lahore, Shirkat Gah Women's Resource Centre. 1998.

Culture, customs and law though distinguishable from one another, operate in a linked manner defining the space and rights available to women. Shaheed argues on the need for activism to expand women's space and protection against traditional forms of gender violence in a society where formal State laws and customary practices co-exist. Relating to a parallel system of state judiciary and traditional fora of adjudication viz., *Jirgas, Panchayats, Biraderies in providing gender justice, the paper highlights how social movements, in

[72] Tribal Court.

particular gendered activism could bridge the 'gap' between policy makers and the society to provide for victims of gender-related violence.

685. Shirkat Gah Women's Resource Centre. *Don't let them get away with murder (Booklet on Criminal Procedures) : Basic questions answered.* Prp. Hassam Quadir Shah. Lahore. 2002. 52p.; ill.

An awareness raising initiative by a women's organization on the issue of 'honour' killings as many women have been murdered by their family/clan members. This booklet answers some of the basic queries on legal implications and religious prohibition of this traditional form of gender violence. The volume discusses the major changes introduced through Quisas and Diyat Laws in terms of penalty, as well as analyses cases on 'honour' crimes, shedding light on the true motives for such killings.

686. Shirkat Gah Women's Resource Centre. *Karo Kari Tor Tora, Siyahkari, Kala Kali :"There is no 'honour' in Killing" : National Seminar Report.* Lahore. 25 November 2001. 65p.

In Pakistan, certain customs and traditions justify acts of torture, violence and murder infused with a sense of righteous pride. In the provinces of Bulchistan, Sindh, NWFP and Punjab women accused of adultery are murdered by the family/clan members, to 'preserve' the family 'honour'. Shirkat Gah in partnership with the local community organizations, has launched a programme entitled "Women, Law and Status" in three of these provinces to research the subject. The research aims to determine the inherent dynamics and underlying realities in the incidents of 'honour' killings. The findings presented at a [73]national seminar to show that the true motives behind such killings are mainly land acquisition or avoiding punishment for another murder by declaring the woman as the 'scapegoat' and killing her to obtain customary endorsement for their actions. While clarifying misconceptions and gathering information about this custom by soliciting community opinions on the issue, this study provides recommendations for legal reforms to punish the offenders, as well as preventive measures of a nation-wide awareness raising campaign targeting the police force, politicians, judiciary, state officials and the public, in particular the women who seek redress.

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[73] "Sixteen Days Activism Against Gender Violence", 25 November - 10th December, 2001, coinciding with the International Human Rights Day.

687. Seguin, Andrea. *The meaning of custody and the treatment of women in custody.* [s.l]. 4 November 1997. 4p.; ref. [Source-ICES Archives on Violence against Women].

Women in South Asian countries are vulnerable to sexual abuse in custody, as the arrests made are often illegal. This paper draws examples from laws of Pakistan and Sri Lanka, the paper discusses the special rules and laws governing the arrest and interrogation of women in police and penal custody, and in protective custody during court trials.

688. Shirkat Gah. *Press Release [: Pir Bin Yamin's statement maligning some well-known human rights and women's NGOs in Lahore including Shirkat Gah*]. Lahore. 15 May 1999. 1p.

Women's NGOs, in particular, the Shirkat Gah Women's Resource Centre has been working with the Government of Pakistan towards implementing the National Plan of Action for Women on gender-based policies for the welfare of women in Pakistan. This press release concerns the state opposition to women's NGOs in Pakistan and condemns the comments made by a Minister, on the campaign launched by women's NGOs against state sponsored violence. The organization demands that the state stops harassing women's NGOs and inciting violence against women's rights activists.

689. *Shirkat Gah's press statement. P.4.* WLUML Newsheet. Vol.XI, No.1. [1999].

This is a news item on the women's organizations in Pakistan condemning the act of 'honour' crime. With reference to the murder of Ms. Samia Sarwar committed by her family members for seeking divorce from a violent spouse, the women's NGO calls upon the government to take punitive action against the perpetrators and pledges public support in their efforts to prevent 'honour-related' crimes against women.

690. Shirkat Gah. Regional Office for South Asia in Pakistan. *Shirkat Gah, Women, Law and Status Programmes : Nurturing the seeds of change.* Prep. Aisha Gazdar. [s.l]. 2001. 3p. [Source – http://www.wluml.org/ ; accessed on 3 December 2003].

Women in Pakistan lack legal consciousness about various forms of violence against women - domestic abuse, forced marriage, divorce, honour killings etc. This web site refers to the outreach programmes of Shirkat Gah Women's

Resource Centre that conducts sessions on legal awareness and paralegal training for women and men drawn in through community-based organisations. These sessions are intensive, focusing on an in-depth knowledge of the laws and procedures in the areas of violence against women, family, criminal justice and human rights. Knowledge on laws, human rights and court procedures lead to the empowering of women and the community at large. Besides this outreach programme, Shirkat Gah has conducted support programmes for grass roots women on preventive health, management skills and vocational training. With a longstanding commitment to support women victims of violence, the organisation provides legal aid to the victims and runs a shelter home for them.

691. Shirkat Gah Women's Resource Centre. *Press Release*. Lahore. 15 May 1999. 1p. [Source- http://www.wluml.org; accessed on 12 April 2003].

This press statement condemns the attitudes of the Government of Pakistan towards human rights and women's NGOs in the country. Women's organizations, while referring to the public speech made by a Minister of the State Government reserve their rights to take legal action on the state against the malicious campaign on NGOs that serve the interest of oppressed women. The statement demands that the government stops harassing women activists as yet another form of gender oppression.

692. Sisters in Islam [and] Kelantan Family Planning Association. *Islam and Family Planning*. Malaysia. 2001. 17p.; ref.

Codified by the basic principles of Shari'ah, Muslim women have rights to achieve a high standard of sexual and reproductive health and the power to make decisions regarding marriage, motherhood, contraception and sexual rights. Yet, they lack powers to express their views on sexual relations, childbearing and birth control. This question and answer booklet is an outcome of the Southeast Asian Workshop on Islam : Reproductive Health and Women's Rights conducted in 1998, in which religious scholars and activists from Pakistan and East Asian countries have exchanged their views on Muslim women's reproductive/sexual rights, bringing forward the progressive understanding of Islamic teaching on reproductive health and women's rights. This publication provides readable information on Islam and family planning to meet the pressing need of service providers, in order to assist women and men to make an 'information-based' decision on the use of contraception for family health and well-being. For the use of community health workers and service providers, answers are given for queries on sexuality, reproductive/sexual rights, birth control and family planning.

693. *Six to hang in Meerwala rape case.* Jamiat News. September 2002. 2p. [Source – http://www.jamiat.org.za/news/; accessed on 31 January 2004].

This new item relates to the legal response to a case of gang-rape in Meerwala, Punjab where a 30-year old divorced woman was sentenced to gang-rape by a council of tribal elders as a penalty for her brother's alleged affair with a woman belonging to a 'higher' tribe. Subsequently, the perpetrators, which included some members of the council were arrested by the police and the Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) ordered death penalty to the accused. The court also sentenced two others involved to a life sentence in prison and a heavy fine to be paid to the victim.

694. Socialist Alliance. *Women for Peace in Pakistan.* Prp. Rizwan Atta. [s.l]. 2001. 25 September 2001. [Source - http://socialistalliance.org/; accessed on 22 July 2003].

This is a news article on the action of women activists against the issue of gender oppression codified by religious extremists, and the impact of armed conflict on women in Afghanistan. Women for Peace is an all-women's action group in Pakistan that mobilizes women into a movement to fight religious extremism and traditional practices that are gender oppressive. The peace rally against gender violence and protest march organized by women's NGOs such as SIMROG, Shirkat Gah, Women's Foundation and the AGHS Legal Aid Cell included a large number of women workers protesting against the cultural practices prohibiting women's employment.

695. South Asia Partners International [SAP-I]. *Legal Measures. P.47-50.* Commercial Sexual Exploitation of children [CSCE] : A review of South Asia-Pakistan perspective 2001. Colombo. December 2001.

Pakistan has certain laws that cover sexual exploitation and abuse of children but not comprehensive enough to protect the child completely and does not cover all the situations under which the child may be sexually abused. Most of the laws accept that girls are minors from the age of 16-18 years. Yet, under the Enforcement of the Hudood Ordinance a girl is an adult after she attains puberty. The mere existence of this Ordinance however, does not provide protection against sexual abuse of the girl child as rape can be considered adultery in the absence of proper witnesses and the victim ends up as the accused. Transporting or importing a girl below the age of 18 years for prostitution is a criminal offence under the Pakistan Penal Code of 1860 (Act

No. XLV). While the Provincial Suppression of Prostitution Ordinance (1961) is the comprehensive legislation concerning prostitution, the Punjab Children Ordinance (1983) and the Sindh Children's Act (1955) provide for the girl child under the age of 16 years. The Penal Code also provides for pornography and sodomy, while the Marriage Restraint Act (1929) considers a marriage invalid if the girl is below 16 years of age. As for rape, anti-rape law is implemented through the Offence of Zina (Enforcement of Hudood) Ordinance of 1979 to punish offenders for kidnapping or abducting a woman for forced prostitution or rape.

After Stockholm – Response to CSEC P.51-56.

Pakistan as a signatory to the Stockholm Declaration and Agenda for Action Against Sexual exploitation of Children, has launched an action plan involving the National Commission on Child Welfare and Development (NCCWD), Ministry of Women's Development and Ministry of Social Welfare & Special Education for strategic support. The National Plan of Action (NPA) has a child-centered approach, the components on prevention, protection, recovery and rehabilitation of victims. Besides it encompasses awareness-raising, advocacy, social mobilization, capacity building, setting up of structures/ systems, political commitment and networking against child sexual abuse. Recognising that the problem of child sexual abuse cannot be solved by one sector alone, partnership is envisaged among the state and civil organistions at all levels to formulate specialized policy measures in order to implement the NPA.

696. *The status of women and the Women's Movement. P...* Pakistan : A country study. [USA], Library of Congress. 1994. [Source – http://rs6.loc.gov/frd/cs/ ; accessed on 25 January 2003].

This web article concerns socio-legal reforms on gender issues and attempts made by the women's movement to improve Muslim women's lives in the sub-continent during the twentieth century. The women's movement has protested on laws viz., the Hudood Ordinance (1979) that fail to recognize the difference between adultery (Zina) and rape, where a man could be convicted for rape only in the presence of male witnesses but a woman by her pregnancy. Women's Action Forum, publicising and condemning the growing incidence of gender-based violence plays an active role in preventing violence against women – collective leadership, formulating policy statements and engaging in political action to safeguard women's legal status. Women's NGOs, while providing legal aid to the victims combat gender violence through projects to boost women's economic self-reliance. Pakistan Women Lawyers Association

(PWLA) and Professional Women's Association have launched ventures for home-based women workers to acquire raw materials directly without depending on the middlemen. Issues on coerced dress code for women and restriction of social activities have been argued by the movement.

697. *Swabi Council declares Swara unjust custom. P.17.* WLUML Newsheet. Vol.XV, No.2. July 2003.

The District Council calls for the repeal of the traditional custom of 'Swara' an informal judicial system where girls are married into rival families in order to settle disputes. Marriages made through this custom show that such agreements never prove successful but often lead to resumption of rivalry. Members of the council argued that neither Islam nor the Pakistani Law permit such practices, while urging the media to report all those disputes which were likely to be settled through this custom so that action could be taken to prevent it.

698. **Szymanski, Tekla**. *Humaria Awais Shahid : Fighting forced marriage. 1p.* [s.l], World Press Review. 20 May 2004. [Source – http:// www.worldpress.org/ accessed on 8 July 2004].

A news item highlighting the efforts of a 'one-women crusade' against the ruthless custom of forced marriage and torture of women who are 'disobedient'. Among the tribal communities forced marriage is part of family violence against women where women are traded into [74]'blood marriage' to settle disputes with rival families. Often minor girls are contracted into this and they end up as slaves/mistresses for the men. Ms.Shahid a Pakistani legislator has challenged the local tribal council to work out a monetary settlement, instead of forced marriage of minor girls. Shahid's resolution to outlaw Vinni was passed unanimously in the State Assembly in 2003. According to the activist, persistent pressure by women's groups and human rights activists is needed to enact the law to prevent forced marriage.

699. **The Asia Foundation [TAF].** *Programs by location : Pakistan.* November 2001. 3p. [Source - http://www.asiafoundation.org/Locations/ pakistan.html; accessed on 15 January 2003].

In Pakistan women and girls have limited access to social services and fewer opportunities to express their needs. TAF has launched an awareness-raising

[74] Vanni Or Wanni - a tribal custom of settling disputes within families through marriage.

campaign on women's issues and subsequently a health programme that addresses the socio-cultural barriers that are destructive to reproductive health. In collaboration with partner NGOs the Foundation conducts programmes to:

- Promote community intervention in maternal and child health;
- Develop strategies to involve men in the issue of women's health;
- Establish health networks at national, provincial levels;
- Promote social marketing interventions that aim to reduce anemia among women.

A project to reduce maternal mortality through community interventions is on its way to promote safe motherhood

700. *Trials under Jirga System.* Paktribune. 26 April 2004. [Source – http://paktribune.com/news/; accessed on 5 August 2004].

The Sindh High Court has banned all trials conducted under the * Jirga system an institution in Pakistan's informal justice system controlled by the powerful sections of tribes and biased against women. The orders were issued upon hearing a case filed by a woman and her husband seeking protection against 'honour' murder by their tribes. While condemning crimes of 'honour', this news article calls for state action against Jirga, that the government should constitute a panel of judges of the Supreme Court to find ways and means of abolishing the system. Furthermore, laws should be introduced and enforced against the Jirga sanction of death penalty.

701. *Two sisters rescued from Wanni.* Dawn. 17 May 2004. [Source- http://www.dawn.com; accessed on 7 July 2004].

The police rescued two girls who were to be handed over to their rival family as 'Wanni' sanctioned by the local tribal council on account of settlement of disputes between families. This was brought to the notice of the police by members of the community, and a delegation of state officials appraised the situation seeking police help to rescue the girls. They have been handed over to the Karwam Community Development Kalabagh, a welfare organization for safe custody and produced before the local courts for a hearing.

702. **UNDP.** *YOU AND AIDS : The HIV/AIDS Portal for Asia Pacific : Pakistan at a glance. P...* [New York]. 3 December 2004. [Source – http://www.undp.org; accessed on 5 March 2005].

Gender inequalities in the society of Pakistan lead to the spreading of HIV infection among women who form a high-risk group due to lack of literacy, decision-making power and lack of access to health care services. Based on the National AIDS Policy, in collaboration with UNAIDS the state has developed a 5-year working programme on strategic planning to prevent and control the infection. This web page describes the National AIDS Programme geared towards the prevention of HIV/AIDS through strategies of :

- Implementation of the programme at provincial level, through a process of decentralization;
- Awareness raising by means of campaigns in the mass media;
- A national HIV/AIDS surveillance system by the health care sector;
- Implementation of provisions for safety in blood transfusion in blood banks;
- Guidelines/protocols on counseling, care/support and clinical management;
- Bio-social research by means of a "Knowledge, Attitude and Behaviour Survey", to determine the impact of the media campaign.

703. United Nations High Commission for Human Rights [UNHCHR]. *Notes from meeting with Afghan Women's Network.* Prp.Christina Saunders. 22 December 1998. [s.l]. [Unpublished]. [Source – ICES Archives on Violence against Women].

This document briefs on a meeting held with the Afghan Women's Network, a women's NGO in Pakistan, urging the United Nations to provide support for women in exile. The Network concerns the discrimination of refugee women in camps - their lack of access to educational and other basic human rights as reflected by the exploitation encountered in workplaces. They request support from UN for refugee care in order to prevent exploitation of the women.

704. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR]. *About UNHCR Pakistan.* Islamabad. 2001. 3p. [Source- http:// www.un.org.pk/unhcr/ ; accessed on 20 July 2003].

The UNHCR in Pakistan provides legal aid, shelter, sanitation, health care and education to the refugee population from Afghanistan. The community-based assistance rendered by UNHCR encompasses health care provided by a network of community health workers with a majority of women workers. Implemented through the Government of Pakistan, local and international NGOs, the project concentrates on services for women and children in

preventing diseases and maternal and child health. All relief operations of the UNHCR are based on gender equity, the rights of refugees and the needs of women and children.

705. United Nations Population Fund [UNFPA]. *About UNFPA Pakistan : Summary Project : Advocacy for Reproductive Health and Population Issues.* [s.l]. 2001. 1p. (Doc. Pak/ 06/ 03/01-10/ P 10). [Source – http://www.unfpa.org; accessed on 6 January 2003].

This project aims to bring wider national and local support for women's health, gender equality and adolescent reproductive health. In addition, it aims to increase the capacity of state-run institutions and the media on advocacy for population issues. Efforts are to be made in integrating reproductive health at policy and planning levels by raising consciousness on population and development, reproductive health and rights, gender equity and equality for civil servants, health service personnel, educators and family elders.

706. United Nations Population Fund [UNFPA]. *UNFPA Pakistan : Summary Project : Promoting Interventions for Safe Motherhood (PRISM).* [s.l]. 2001. 2p. (Doc. Pak/ 01/P 01-01/P01). [Source – http://www.unfpa.org; accessed on 6 January 2003].

The rate of maternal mortality in Pakistan is very high in comparison to the rest of South Asia, as a result of pregnancy-related complications and childbirth, causing death and disability. This project aims to assist the health sector - to train community-based midwives on skills for safe childbirth. Implemented in 5 districts, this programme attempts to:

- Sensitise the community on the issue of maternal health;
- Develop a referral system for health care;
- Provide a curriculum for training of midwives;
- Strengthening the district midwifery schools to provide improved services on maternal and child health.

707. United Nations Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN) News. *Pakistan : New ruling little help to female prisoners. 2p.* [s.l], UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). 1 June 2004. [Source – http://www.irinnews.org/ ; accessed on 9 November 2004].

Human rights activists have called for an improvement in the conditions faced by women in prisons and a revision of the criminal justice system, following an announcement made by the President Hon. Mushraaf that conditions remissions and pardons for women in penal institutions would be enhanced. Lawyers for Human Rights & Legal Aid (LHRLA) have emphasized that early release/ pardon of women convicts applies to only those with children, girls under 18 years of age and elderly women over 60 years, which is a small percentage of women prisoners in overcrowded prisons under sub-human conditions. The special committee constituted by the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) has recommended a review of the Hudood Ordinance positing that the controversial law be repealed or amended to help victims of rape who are charged for adultery and serving imprisonment. In acceptance that the new presidential ruling is an important step towards gender justice, human rights groups urge that a repeal of the Ordinance is much needed as it is a gender-discriminatory legislation that penalizes innocent victims.

708. United Nations Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN) News. *Pakistan : Special report on maternal mortality. 4p.* [s.l], UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). 26 May 2004. [Source – http://www.irinnews.org/ ; accessed on 9 November 2004].

A field survey carried out by the National Commission for Human Development (NCHD) in the district of Mardan, North West Frontier Province revealed that 80% of the people have no access to health care services, a lack of medical facilities, birth attendants and transport of patients to the nearest well-equipped hospitals. As such, the rate of maternal mortality is very high. With the aim of reducing this, NCHD has launched a health programme to provide medical assistance to women in the province. The programme draws in trained women health workers and traditional birth attendants for the purpose of health education and pre/post natal care. Local village girls are trained to maintain health records of pregnant women and monitor their progress through selected health indicators. Regular check-ups are done for the women to help identify risks at pregnancy. It is noteworthy that male health workers are part of this comprehensive programme, where the men are trained to involve the community men in reproductive health care. This document also explores other health programmes, such as Safe Motherhood Project implemented by the state, involving the training of traditional birth attendants to become community midwives. Implemented in the region of Sindh, this provides 24-hour medical services, along with education on preventive health and right to privacy and confidentiality. NCHD has plans to expand the programme to 16 other districts, with the goal of saving innocent lives at the risk of pregnancy-related problems and maternal mortality.

709. Ur-Rahman, Javid. *Women avoid reporting rape and violence to police.* The Nation. 2 October 2003.

This is an interview with the Station House Officer of the Women's Police Station in the capital of the country, evaluating the women's desk of the police department. Relating to the importance of having more of them in Pakistan to facilitate the victims of gender violence to lodge complaints, the interview refers to the drawbacks such as lack of remand facilities in the station. As many women are reluctant to register complaints at the police station the cases are often referred to women's NGOs who provide shelter and support to the victim. The interviewee suggests that the councillatory committee in the women's police station should play an active role to solve gender crimes and bridge the gap between the public and law enforcers.

710. *Violence against women increases in Pakistan.* The Dallas Morning News. 22 September 1999. [Source – http://www.dallasnews.com/ ; accessed on 10 October 2003.

The Amnesty International has released a report concerning the high level of violence against women in Pakistan with a marked increase in the number of cases on 'honour' killings. In a list of recommendations to the Government of Pakistan, the Amnesty calls for:

- Reviewing of all laws for the protection of women;
- Eliminating of the system of dowry to women at the time of marriage;
- Encouraging victims to lodge complaints to the police;
- Consciousness-raising programmes on gender-related violence to the public;
- Expand support facilities for victims of domestic and family violence.

711. *WAF Demands protection for woman on 'Karo kari' row. P.20.* WLUML Newsheet. Vol.XV, No.2. July 2003.

The Women's Action Forum (WAF) has condemned torture, death threats and 'honour' killings of women in Pakistan. WAF has filed a suit concerning the case of Noor Khatoon a victim of forced marriage and spouse abuse, has been sentenced to 'honour' killing by the informal judicial system (Jirga) in the country. WAF urges the government to provide protection to the victim and restore justice to her, while demanding an end to the illegal practices of 'honour' killings, customary killings and parallel 'judiciary'.

712. *War Against Rape [WAR]. P...* Raising Our Voices. March 2002.

Fear of social stigma and tarnishing the family image are the major reasons why victims of rape refrain from seeking counseling or legal assistance. Combating this system which is advantageous to perpetrators of sexual violence, the efforts of WAR have lead to extension of its sentence up to 25 years from a mere 2 years. Based in Karachi, the NGO also heads the movement to establish the first women's police station that serves as an important tool for women victims/survivors of rape and sexual abuse.

713. Warzazi, Halima Embarek. *Summary of information received on Measures to Eliminate Harmful Traditional Practices : Pakistan. P.29-30.* Review of further developments in fields with which the Sub-Commission has been concerned : Study on traditional practices affecting the health of women and children. [s.l]. 5 July 1991. (E/ CN.4/ Sub.2/ 1991/6).

Encompassing forms of violence against women, the Government of Pakistan has made efforts to improve the status of women and children through:

- National Plan of Action to counter health-related violence and violence due to harmful traditional practices;
- Joint UNICEF/Government of Pakistan action to develop programmes to address child abuse;
- Task Force which co-ordinates with the state and non-governmental organisations to report on gender crimes.

714. *Women-Alert. P.3.* Women's Organisations : Pakistan. 20... [Source – http://www.distel.ca/womlist/countries/pakistan.html ; accessed on 16 January 2003.

Women-Alert is an on-line pressure group of women activists dealing with issues of sexual harassment and gender discrimination of women in the public/ workplace. Committed to advocate for the victims of sexual harassment and to take effective action against the perpetrators the group lobbies at the level of policy makers to provide measures to protect women workers from sexual harassment and remedies for the survivors/victims.

715. *Women building peace : Millennium Peace Prize for Women : 2001 Peace prize Recepients : Asma Jahangir and Hina Jilani - Pakistan.* [s.n], [s.l]. November 2001. 1p. [Source –http://www.awakenedwoman.com/peace_prize.htm. ; accessed on 12 October 2003].

This is a concise account on the activities of women activists in countering violence against women in Pakistan. Violence against women in the country is evident through reports on domestic violence, oppression through religious extremism, bonded labour and killing of women by the family members for causing 'dishonour' to them. This write-up relates to the works of Ms. Jilani and Ms. Jahangir viz., Women's Action Forum and the AGHS Legal Aid Centre, the first free legal aid institution in Pakistan, both founded by them. The Women's Action Forum launches campaigns and lobbies on women's human rights, whereas the AGHS provides free legal services for the victims of violence. In keeping with the United Nation's goal of eliminating gender discrimination and violence, Ms. Jahangir has been appointed as the UN Special Rapporteur for Extrajudicial,Summary and Arbitrary Executions.

716. *Women face threat of honour killing in Pakistan. 1p.* Feminist Daily News. Wire. 8. April 2004. [Source – http://www.peacewomen.org/news/; accessed on 15 September 2004].

This news item relates to the responses of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, to penalties provided for 'honour' crimes. Referring to the case of a divorced woman who was subjected to Kari ('honour' killing) by a local assembly of tribal leaders the commission pin-points that law enforcers do not prevent the local tribal councils from passing such a verdict. With regard to the state attitudes towards 'honour' crimes, women members of the parliament recently protested against the refusal for debate of a Bill on the prevention of honour killings.

717. Women Living Under Muslim Laws [WLUML]. *Call for Action: Pakistan : Women's Action Forum statement on Zafran Bibi case. 1p.* [Grabels, (France)]. 29 April 2004.

Women's Action Forum (WAF) expresses grave concern at the sentence of stoning to death of Ms.Zafran Bibi by the Sessional Courts. This is yet another shocking instance of miscarriage of justice where the victim of rape, instead of redress, is convicted for adultery. WAF calls upon the Government to intervene on the judgement of the Shariat Federal Court and revoke the sentence immediately. Also, the forum demands that the Hudood Ordinance (1979) be repealed as it leads to the victimisation of innocent women.

718. Women Living Under Muslim Laws [WLUML]. *Pakistan : Support Afghan refugees.* Lahore. 3 October 2001. 2p. [Source – http:// www.wluml.org; accessed on 22 January 2003].

Refugees from Afghanistan to Pakistan include a high proportion of women and children. This write-up acknowledges the support pledged by women's NGOs in Pakistan towards the up-rooted women. Shirkat Gah Women's Resource Centre is the focal point through which the women of Afghanistan - Afghan Women's Network (AWN) and the Afghan Women's Educational Centre (AWEC) - mobilize themselves for refugee welfare work. While providing material support, Shirkat Gah also promotes women's education through literacy programmes and supports women's mobilization to achieve self-reliance and solidarity.

719. Women Living Under Muslim Laws [WLUML]. *Pakistan Women's Commission recommends Quisas Law be amended.* [Grebels (France)]. 1 April 2004.

A consultative workshop held by the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) urges the Government to adopt strict measures to end violence against women by stopping the application and misuse of the Quisas and Diyat Laws and to declare gender violence as 'non-compoundable with punishment to its perpetrators.' The workshop recommends that women victims of family violence be compensated adequately and the accused be tried under [75]"Tazeer". Moreover, [76]"Vani/Swara and [77] Watta/Sutta are pre-Islamic traditions and have no scope in Islam and strict punishment should be provided for the accused.

720. Women Living Under Muslim Laws. *Women's rights in Muslim Family Law in Pakistan : 45 Years of recommendations vs. the FSC Judgement.* Lahore, Shirkat Gah Women's Resource Centre. January 2000. 64 p.

This bulletin is an outcome of the tension between women's human rights in Pakistan and upheaval of society by religious extremism, much supported by the State. The government therefore, has made a move to amend the Muslim Family Law Ordinance (MFLO) of 1961 'so as to bring the provisions into conformity with the injunction of Islam.' This bulletin serves to provide a tool for lobbying and advocacy on women's rights within the family, strongly supported by various state commissions on women's status during the period

75 Discreetionary punishment.

76 Traditional practice of surrendering a woman for compounding a murder case. The same is known as Swara.

77 Parentally arranged marriage in which a brother and sister of one family are married to the siblings of another family-a kind of insurance of good treatment for the daughters thus exchanged between the families.

1956 to 1999. This document provides extracts from the commission reports relating to women's rights in marriage, child marriage, polygamy, divorce and inheritance, providing for women against family/traditional violence. It views Pakistan's national and international commitments to protect and strengthen the provisions in the personal laws, to safeguard women's rights through the National Plan of Action and CEDAW.

JAC Press statement. P.63.

The Joint Action Committee (JAC) provides a critique on the judgement of the Federal Shariat Court (FSC) that it interferes with the human rights of women and bears a gender bias. JAC calls upon all women's organisations and human rights groups to take concrete action against ".. the judgement and the existence of the FSC itself.".

HRCP Dismayed at challenging of Family Laws. P.64.

A news item published in a mainstream newspaper, where the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) considers the amending of Muslim Family Law Ordinance (MFLO) as "..a severe blow to the rights of every woman in Pakistan" with regard to divorce and inheritance, as the relationship between these two has led to many pending court cases filed by widows and divorced women.

721. Women Living Under Muslim Laws [WLUML]. *Urgent alert for action from Pakistan.* [Grabels (France)].15 May 1999. 5p.

This report focuses on the protest launched by women members of non-governmental organizations on state criticism on NGOs, specifically on women's rights organizations. Women's NGOs had staged a campaign against passing of the 15th Amendment to the Constitution Bill with regard to the nuclear programme and minority rights in Pakistan. WLUML condemns the negative attitude of the government towards women activists and urges all women's NGOs to protest against harassment, threats and vilification campaigns of the state against Shirkat Gah and other women's organizations.

722. *Women['s] Ministry to fund Burn Unit at hospital.* Dawn. 14 November 2002.

Acid-throwing is a common form of crime against women, much more prevalent in Pakistan. A burn-unit, funded by the Ministry of Women's Development and Social Welfare is being set up at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences

with a special surgical unit to treat the victims. Serving as a model, this initiative urges the Ministry of Health to open similar units in provincial capitals so as to counter the gender-based violence of torture.

723. *Women's Bill introduced in Pakistan.* Feminist Daily News. Wire. 31. March 2004. [Source – http://www.feminist.org/news/; accessed on 15 November 2004].

This is a bill to abolish gender discriminatory laws that lead to violence against women presented before the parliament for debate. The Protection and Empowerment of Women Bill proposes gender equality in all spheres of development and a stop to violence against women – honour killing, and forced marriage so that women have their own choice in marriage. However, the conservatives want to keep the current laws that are made 'in the name of religion' as Zia-ul-Haw (1979), a second bill is to be introduced in order to amend the current Criminal Procedure Code and the Penal Code of Pakistan. In addition to honour crimes, this bill also provides for victims of rape who under the present law can be accused of adultery.

724. *Women's Convention in Peshawar :'Women laws will be protected'. 2p.* [s.l], Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan. 1 June 2004. [Source – http://www.jamaat.org/ ; accessed on 8 January 2005].

Jamaat-e-Pakistan a religio-political organisation has held a women's convention in Peshawar focussing on the need for revised laws dealing with violence against women, including the issue of 'honour' crimes. Attended by hundreds of women, several provincial and central political leaders the Convention has stressed on gender equality in terms of laws against sexual harassment of women and support for widows and destitutes who are prime targets of gender violence. The alliance plans to set up educational institutions and vocational training centres for them to gain access to equal job opportunities and economic self-reliance.

725. The World Bank. *Improving women's health in Pakistan : World Bank report focuses on reproductive health needs.* [Islamabad]. 4 August 1998. 1p. (Doc. 99/1918/ASA). [Source – http:// www.worldbank.org; accessed on 2 July 2003.

Pakistan, compared to other countries in South Asia shows relatively high levels of maternal mortality and reproductive health –related problems. As a

result of this, the sex ratio of women to men is low. This web page concerns the health status of women in Pakistan and the efforts made by the World Bank to improve the health system in the country. A co-ordinated reproductive health programme has been recommended by the World Bank to be administered by the Government of Pakistan. In this context, the Bank also expresses the urgent need to:

- Expand community-based health services;
- Train and support women health providers in rural areas;
- Support the expansion of private sector services – social marketing programmes and outreach.

726. Zahra, Sadaf. *PTUDC Condemns police gang-rape. 1p.* Lahore. 12 April 2002. [Source – http://www.ptudc.org/News/police_rape.html; accessed on 6 September 2004].

The Pakistan Trade Union Defence Campaign (PTUDC) condemns the incident of gang-rape of two girls by police personnel in Karachi, where the police refused to register the case when the girls' father attempted to lodge a complaint. This lead to a public protest in the locality where all commercial activities came to a stand-still, and thereafter the police were compelled to register the case for investigation along with the previous cases lodged against policemen.

727. Zia, Asma. *Fighting violence against women : DSP Farkhanda Iqbal. P...* She. Vol... 19... [Source- ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

Ms. Iqbal, one of the pioneers of the Lady Police Force relates to the efforts made by the law enforcers to counter violence against women. The police is in constant coordination with women's NGOs viz., Women's Action Forum (WAF), AGHS, ASK and Aurat Foundation who refer cases that are mostly on teenage rape, acid attacks, family violence and dowry-related violence/deaths. Set up in Lahore, the Women's Complaint Cell deals with cases on gender-oriented violence by means of formal procedures and medical examination wherever necessary.

728. Zia, Shahla. *Some experiences of the Women's Movement strategies to Success. P. 372-414; notes; ref.* Shaping Women's Lives : Laws, practices and strategies in Pakistan. Ed. Farida Shaheed et al. Lahore, Shirkat Gah Women's Resource Centre. 1998.

The women's movement in Pakistan, which originated in a post-independence era, has gone through various phases in activism during times of political oppression, with democratic campaigns launched against gender-based abuse and denial of women's rights. This paper specifically refers to the case of Saima Waheed on the issue of forced marriage, where Women's Action Forum (WAF), a local NGO assisted the victim to make a case on women's right to marry by her own choice without the permission of her guardian. This is an illustration of positive action against the intimidation and violence perpetrated by retrogressive religious forces that reinforce gender bias. The WAF passed strong resolutions on the issue of forced marriage, supported by women's/ human rights activists, the mainstream media and religious scholars who joined the Dastak Committee which took the case to courts where the case was decided in favour of the victim.

See also Citation Nos. 50, 51, 54, 85, 167, 296, 297, 766, 842, 961, 962, 967-70, 976, 978, 981, 983, 984, 997, & 1012.

1.7 SRI LANKA

729. Abeysekera, Sunila. *Abortion in Sri Lanka in the context of Women's human rights. P.87-93.* Reproductive Health Matters. No.9. May 1997.

This article analyses, from the point-of-view of women's human rights an unsuccessful attempt to amend the abortion laws in the Penal Code of Sri Lanka. Concerning women's rights to control her sexuality and reproductive capacity, the parliamentary debate on abortion, marriage and divorce laws lead to a controversy of gender issues and the gender-insensitive views of the parliamentarians on liberalising abortion. It is evident that rural and under-privileged women take to unsafe abortion methods that often lead to maternal deaths or complications in maternal health. Yet, the sexual politics in Sri Lanka continues to see this issue as "..an act against religious and cultural norms, leading to immoral social values", hence the laws provide no scope for women to undergo safe abortion, to safeguard their health and human rights.

730. Abeysekera, Sunila. *Women and Peace in Sri Lanka : Some observations. P...* Women in Action. Issue No.3. 1999.

This article highlights the protest action of women's groups in retaliation to state hostilities against civilians, especially in the war-torn regions of Sri Lanka. While briefing on the protests, lobbying and campaigning of women's action groups against armed conflict, this document comments on the Mother's Front (Jaffna) as the pioneers who staged a mass protest against the 'disappearance' of young men taken into custody by security forces. Subsequently, the Mothers' Front in the South organised themselves demanding justice and acknowledgement for the 'disappearance' of their family members.

731. *Accused in rape case gets 10 years' RI.* Daily News. 10 June 2004.

The purpose of this news item is to uncover the degree of penalty for sexual violence. Evidently, the High Court of Chilaw in the North Western Province, has sentenced a youth to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment with a cash penalty, and in default a term of 6 months imprisonment for the crime of rape committed upon a 16 year-old school girl. The sentence was based on the fact that the victim is a minor and was threatened by the offender not to reveal the incident to her family or anyone else.

732. Adikaram, Arosha. *An exploratory study on Sexual Harassment at Work place.* Colombo, Friedrich Ebert-Stiftung. 2003. 6p.; notes; tables.

In any work institution, the mere lack of evidence on sexual harassment to women is not an indication of the absence of such incidents. This study attempts to uncover the types of sexual harassment in workplaces and explores the main course/factors that affect women's decision-making against lodging a formal complaint with the management. Further, it aims to explore attitudes of Sri Lankan women towards sexual harassment at the workplace. A structured sample questionnaire is being circulated to two major industry groups where women's participation is highest. The results are compared with a sample from an industry which has the lowest number of women workers, and the data gathered will be used to explore the main factors preventing women from lodging formal complaints against such harassment and attitudes in perceiving such acts.

733. *AIDS in Sri Lanka and South Asia [: Interview with Dr. Hemamal Jayawardene].* The Island. 1 December 2004.

In Sri Lanka the sex workers, composed mostly of women form a high-risk group. Yet, the efforts on HIV/AIDS prevention are still at a micro-level. The advisor to National Country Programme Against HIV/AIDS portrays the situation of HIV/AIDS epidemics in Sri Lanka and South Asia, emphasising the urgent need to expand on efforts to prevent AIDS and to offer support services to the victims. He recommends that the state/NGO sectors take initiatives in:

- Formulating policies to regulate sex work, rather than criminalize the issue;
- Launching large scale programmes on reproductive health education at primary, secondary and tertiary levels of education;
- Promoting mass media campaigns on the issue of 'safe sex' as a preventive measure.

734. *Amendments to the Penal Code : Abortion laws. P.45-47.* Law & Society Trust Review. October 1995.

The right to free abortion is a controversial issue in Sri Lanka, though this is considered women's rights, and a socio-economic issue. This report is a legal inquiry on abortion laws in relation to the amendments to the penal code. The amendments see the right to abortion in cases of pregnancy as a result of rape, and health of the child that necessitates the termination of pregnancy. Drawing in the case of India where abortion is permitted in a traditional society, the participants highlighted the need for legal reforms on

abortion in Sri Lanka and the need for gender sensitivity of the judiciary and medical personnel who are involved in the process.

735. Amnesty International. *News Release : Rape in custody in Sri Lanka.* P... 28 January 2002. (AI Index. ASA 37/001/2002). [Source – http://web.amnesty.org; accessed on 15 July 2003].

Allegations of custodial rape and torture by security forces have markedly increased in Sri Lanka. This news release sheds light on the alleged rape and torture of two women – Ms.Sivamany Sinnathamby and Ms.Wijikala Ehamparam from the district of Mannar, by officials of a special police unit. Reporting on the above cases Amnesty considers the abuse of the rights of women in Sri Lanka, in contrast to the ratification made by Sri Lanka at CEDAW (Committee on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women) to which Sri Lanka is a signatory.

736. Amnesty International. *Urgent Actions : Sri Lanka : Rape/fear for safety - Velan Rasamma (34) & Velan Vasantha (28).* 21 [s.l]. March 1997. P... (AI Index ASA 37/009/1997). [Source – http://web.amnesty.org; accessed on 22 December 2002].

An appeal was made regarding the alleged complaint of custodial gang rape, by two women, Ms. Velan Rasamma, a widow, and her sister, Velan Vasantha, in Mayilampaveli Colony, Batticaloa district, on 17 March 1997. Following the complaint to the local police, a medical examination was carried out on the women at the local hospital on 19 March. Yet, no action had been taken against the alleged perpetrators. In view of the constant reporting of gender-based violence in the areas of armed conflict, Amnesty International urges the Government of Sri Lanka to take legal action against the perpetrators of such violence and to provide a remedy for the victims.

737. Amnesty International. *Urgent Action: Sri Lanka: Extrajudicial execution/rape-Murugesupillai Koneswary (35).* [s.l]. 21 May 1997. (AI Index ASA 37/013/1997).

In the context of armed conflict between the security forces and the armed opposition groups in the north and east of Sri Lanka, there have been continuing reports of arbitrary arrests, detentions, torture, custodial rape, "disappearances" and extrajudicial executions. In this report, Amnesty International calls upon the State to provide gender justice in the case of custodial rape and murder of

a young mother Ms. Murugesupillai Koneswary in the Eastern province. It also holds the government responsible for the rape of Ms. Velan Rasamma and her sister Ms.Velan Vasantha early in the same year and in the same district, where the observers doubt if the perpetrators will be brought to justice, since the soldiers were released on bail.

738. Amnesty International. *Sri Lanka : Children "disappeared". P.11-12.* South Asia : Action for Children : Appeal cases. [s.l]. April 1998. (AI Index. ASA 04/03/98).

This is an appeal by Amnesty International to the Government of Sri Lanka against extrajudicial killing of children in armed conflict. The case of N.Sivathisini a 3-year old girl who was detained in the Boys Town Army Camp and later 'disappeared' has been brought to the notice of all human rights organisations and activists to raise consciousness about the violation of human rights of children in South Asia. Amnesty International stresses the responsibility of the State to promote and protect children's rights, as against the unlawful action of armed forces.

739. *An Act to provide for the making of Protection Orders in instances of domestic violence and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.* 12p. (Doc. D.O 8/2002). [Source – http://www.womenwarpeace.org/sri_lanka ; accessed on 18 January 2003].

In Sri Lanka, there are no specific laws against domestic and family violence that is currently treated under the criminal code. Taking into account the sensitivity of the issue that involves marriage and children, a special law is needed to provide for the abused who are mostly women and children. This draft proposal deals with the issue of domestic violence in Sri Lanka to provide protection to the victims. The document encompasses the procedure to be followed in granting an applicant interim protection, enhancing the power of the courts to grant legal protection to the victim.

740. Argenti-Pillen, Alex. *"It wasn't like that when we were young" : Civil war, national mental health NGOs and the international community of trauma specialists. P.159-194; notes.* Masking Terror : How women contain violence in Southern Sri Lanka. Pennslyvania. University of Pennslyvania Press. 2003.

The author presents a list of NGOs working with those mentally ill or traumatised as a result of the civil war and mental health programmes presented

at the National Mental Health Week. The NGO outreach programmes involve women, in particular, war widows to engage in community-based mental health care activities - their outreach capacities limited by "widowhood". While providing an outline of the ways in which women of [78]Udahengama, a rural slum, face the atrocities of a prolonged conflict, she explores how they use and conceive mental health/trauma counselling services. In this context, the author questions the effects of introducing trauma counselling services by the international community into a war-torn, non-western, tradition-bound society, where traumatised survivors resort to culture-specific practices to contain violence.

741. Asian Development Bank [ADB]. *Gender issues relevant to bank operations. P.27-35; tables; notes.* Country Briefing Paper : Women in Sri Lanka. [s.l]. May 1999.

Women are emerging as heads of households in the war-ravaged North and East of Sri Lanka, many of them traumatised and seeking avenues of income generation for family survival. This paper recommends that the gender strategy of the Bank should focus on poor women, in particular, those affected by the civil conflict, displaced and women heads of households. It suggests that a background study, documenting the impact of civil war on Sri Lankan women be completed. While highlighting the economic impact that has created thousands of women heads of households and the extent of poverty, the study identifies avenues through which ADB could provide assistance for them in a post-conflict era. Evidently, women's organisations whose growth is visible over the past two decade should be incorporated as potential partners to work in community activities and programmes for the empowerment of war-afflicted women.

742. Asian Human Rights Commission [AHRC]. *Sri Lanka : Torture, gang rape, sexual assault in custody.* [Hong Kong]. 11 April 2001. 4p. [Source – http://www.ahrchk.net; accessed on 15 March 2003].

A case of custodial rape where the judge has ordered the arrest of 4 members of the security forces for the alleged gang rape of two women in the Mannar Islands. Evidently, the women were taken for 'investigations' by Navy personnel and subjected to rape and torture. The victims faced with death threats thereafter, were kept under the protection of the Bishop of Mannar. AHRC makes an urgent call to all human rights/women's rights institutions

[78] A pseudonymn for the village.

and activists to appeal to the Naval-Commander General and the Attorney-General to ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice and victims provided with legal protection and compensated adequately.

743. Asian Migration Centre. *1997 Country Profile : Sri Lanka.* Hong Kong. *4p.* [Source – http://www.migrationinformation.org/ ; accessed on 13 April 2003].

Women form the majority of the migrant labour force, employed as domestic workers in the informal sector, where they face many a form of violence ranging from maltreatment to sexual abuse by their employers. The Sri Lankan Government within the past few years has introduced policies aimed at protecting the rights and welfare of migrant workers, whereby all workers are required to register at the Sri Lankan Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE) in order to prevent any illegal recruitment abroad and to provide appropriate protection mechanisms for them. This includes free insurance for the worker with health coverage for the family, repatriation benefits, travel and compensation in the event of accidents. SLBFE conducts training programmes for the women on handling modern household appliances. The SLBFE Act No.21 is found to be inadequate to deal with the numerous forms of malpractices against women workers, specifically the issue of sexual harassment by employers. Attempts are being made to replace the current legislation with a new set of laws in keeping with the UN Convention on the Protection of Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. Evidently, migrant support groups are lobbying among policy makers to adopt and implement laws that safeguard the rights of migrant workers with efforts to network with regional support groups for effective coordination on the issue. The groups call for the revision of procedures in order to issue legally-binding job contracts both in the host country and state of employment and recruiting agencies should undertake the responsibility of promoting the welfare of the workers.

744. Bina Roy Partners in Development Programme. *Raising awareness among graduates and non-graduate women about Reproductive Health : Sri Lanka Federation of University Women [SLFUW].* Geneva, IFUW [International Federation of University Women]. 2004. [Source – http://www.ifuw.org ; accessed on 12 August 2005].

Sri Lanka has no national policy regarding reproductive health and sex education.

Hence, SLFUW leads to raise the awareness of young women graduates and non- graduates on the issue of sexual/reproductive health. In partnership with the Bina Roy Programme of [79]IFUW, this project seeks to address gender-based issues of contraception, unwanted pregnancies, abortion, sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS among the young women through a series of workshops at the university level.

745. CARE East. *Towards a Right-based approach to ending Gender-based Violence : A Batticaloa perspective.* Batticaloa. 2004. 39p.; tables; append.

An approach to preventive and curative measures to eliminate gender-based violence, within the framework of women's human rights, this report discusses women in the conflict-ridden East of Sri Lanka where personal security, health and gender justice are at stake. While exploring the available categories of service providers, the report examines UN Agencies, international/local NGOs and the State sector, identifying the 'loop-holes' in their services. Two major programmes are evaluated in this context, viz., the Gender-Based Violence Project of CARE and the District Level Community Task Force where community intervention is used to prevent violence against women and to provide support services for victims of violence. With recommendations, suggestions and long-term strategies, this publication is a useful guide for those who wish to address the issue of gender violence.

746. CARE International. *CARE Programmes : Water and Sanitation for Health Project (WASH).* P... [s.l]. 2001. 2p.[Source – http://www.careinternational.org; accessed on 9 January 2003]

In recognition of women headed households during armed conflict in the North and East of Sri Lanka, the Water and Sanitation for Health Project (WASH) encourages the women's participation in displacement and resettlement. Aimed at reducing the incidence of disease and epidemics caused by unsanitary living conditions in war–afflicted areas, the project is implemented in Battticaloa, in 'cleared' and 'uncleared' areas through the construction or rehabilitation of wells and latrines. The rebuilding of basic infrastructure is linked to a health and hygiene education program for community health workers to run information campaigns on better hygiene practices, in particular among children. The project also advocates for women to be given an equal opportunity to hold positions of responsibility in the Water User Groups.

[79] International Federation of University Women.

747. CARE International. *Brief description of WHH Project.* Batticaloa. 6 June 2003. 3p. [Source –ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

This is a summary of the Women Headed Households (WHH) Project that aims to improve the knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviour of partner organisations in order to increase the involvement of women heads of households as decision-makers in a war-affected region of the country. Planned by VOICE, a project of CARE, this effort facilitates networking of international and local NGOs, and donors, working with women who have lost their male family members in the wake of civil war and/or during repeated internal displacement. VOICE plans to conduct a WHH Summit in June 2003 that leads to the creation of strategic linkages with NGOs, donors and media so as to promote the needs and rights of women heads of households.

748. *Cat's Eye : Signing for peace.* The Island. 23 January 2002.

This column acknowledges the efforts of rural women urging for a 'cease-fire' in Sri Lanka through an island-wide signature campaign. The Association of Women Against War (AWAW) from the South has collected thousands of signatures from women whose family members are servicemen missing in action, requesting the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to enter into a negotiated solution to end the devastating civil war. Members of the AWAW have visited the North to meet their counterparts, as part of a campaign to include all women victims of war irrespective of community, class or caste.

749. *Centre for Family Services (CFS).* [s.l], HIVOS Counterparts. 2p. [Source – http://www.hivos.nl ; accessed on 16 January 2003].

CFS plays an important role in the Sri Lankan women's movement to empower marginalised/traumatised women, in particular psycho-social support for the rural poor. War widows were the target group to begin with, and the programme encompassed women heads of households to form women's groups to establish a savings fund, credit scheme and to organise community activities for their betterment.

750. Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA). *Women's Right over Marital Property [and] Dowry. P.52-55.* Women's access to and ownership of land and property in Batticaloa, Jaffna and the Vanni. Colombo. April 2005. [Draft].

This section of the draft concerns the Tamil Eelam Tesawalamai Law, Act No.3 (1993) in the LTTE-controlled areas of the North, which governs women's access to and ownership of matrital property. The Act provides independent rights to a married woman to dispose or deal with her own private property and half of that owned after marriage. This is specifically advantageous to women whose spouses are displaced or 'missing' as a result of the civil war. Unlike the provisions of the Jaffna Matrimonial Ordinance which requires the spouse's written consent for the woman to deal with her assets, This Act sees the woman as an individual, in recognition of her property rights. In relation to the transaction of dowry at the time of a woman's marriage, LTTE has implemented The Law Banning Dowry, No.4 (1995) as a punishable offence, and the granting of a gift/donation to the spouse at the time of the marriage, requires the permission of the LTTE District Court. However, this law does not effectively prohibit gifts/donations, upon which the woman given in marriage has no control whatsoever.

751. Centre for Women's Research (CENWOR). *Rights to Safety of Persons and Property.* Ed. Kamalini Wijayatilake et al. Colombo. 1995. 28p.; ill.

Published in simple English language with illustrations, this booklet explains how the law can protect and provide for victims of violence. The booklet aims to explain the various laws that are applicable to women's human rights in Sri Lanka, revealing the levels of gender discrimination contained therein. It relates to abortion and other forms of gender-based violence – rape (marital, gang, custodial, child), sexual abuse, sexual harassment, incest, trafficking of women and the sexual abuse of children, serving as a guide for open discussions on the available legal provision for gender crimes.

752. Centre for Women's Research (CENWOR). *Morning spice and Sexist venom.* [Colombo]. [Source – http://www.cenwor.lk ; accessed on 21 June 2004].

This is a protest in response to a news item entitled [80]"Morning Spice by Ginger : Female Three- wheeler drivers for a better service". This column looks upon women as sexual objects and implies that women trishaw drivers are open to sexual advances by customers. The signature campaign launched by CENWOR protests against sexual objectification of women in the mainstream media which in turn denies recognition of a human being for her self-worth, intelligence and innate qualities.

[80] The Island, 7th September, 2000.

753. Centre for Women's Research (CENWOR). *Women migrant workers of Sri Lanka : Government policy and support mechanism.* [Colombo]. 3p. [Source – Source – http://www.cenwor.lk ; accessed on 21 June 2004].

This web document explores the protective and welfare measures introduced by the Foreign Employment Bureau to address the abuse and exploitation faced by migrant women workers. The measures include:

- A contract registration scheme that requires the verification of the credibility of perspective employers by Sri Lankan overseas missions;
- Appointment of welfare officers to the Sri Lankan missions in the Middle East and Far-Eastern countries where large numbers of Sri Lankans, in particular women are employed as domestic aids;
- Establishment of an Overseas Workers Welfare Fund to provide 'safe houses', legal assistance for victims of abuse and repatriation of stranded workers;
- A welfare centre with medical facilities located near the international airport to attend to the needs of returnees.

754. Centre for Women and Development [CWD]. *Constitutional reforms essential to improve the status of women in society.* Jaffna. June 2001. 2p. [Unpublished].[Source – ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

This is a brief outline on possible legal reforms to protect women from gender-oriented violence such as rape, sexual harassment in the workplace, forced prostitution and torture. Referring to the inadequacy of current laws that address gender based violence, CWD gives suggestions as to how the police authority, media and community-based organisations together could bring about a socio-legal reform in order to counter gender violence.

755. Centre for Women and Development. [CWD]. [*A brief outline of the programmes and projects*]. Jaffna, 5 May 2000. P.. [Source – ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

CWD is a women's NGO committed to the social upliftment of women, in particular, internally displaced in the North. Together with social workers, medical personnel and state officials, the organisation has launched a programme on health education to meet the needs of pregnant women in war-affected areas suffering from malnutrition. The women's group distributes food supplements to pregnant women and lactating mothers at the community/ welfare centres.

756. CIDA [Canadian International Development Agency]. *Sri Lanka[n] Peace Process : Grant to UNICEF.* [s.l]. 3 June 2004. 3p. [Source – http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca; accessed 25 August 2004]

CIDA has provided a special grant to UNICEF to improve services on maternal and child health, nutritive supplements and pre and post-natal care for the pregnant women and lactating mothers in war-ridden parts of Sri Lanka. Aiming to reduce the high rate of maternal morbidity/mortality in a post-conflict society, this is a component of the programme launched by UNICEF, for children in war zones.

757. CIDA [Canadian International Development Agency]. *Shakti Gender Equity Project.* [Colombo]. 2003.1p. [Source – http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca; accessed on 14 December 2003].

This project contributes to the development of broad-based networks addressing gender issues, in particular legal aid and counselling for victims of gender violence in many parts of Sri Lanka. Initiated in 1996, the grant leads to the development of support services for victims through media outreach, training sessions, awareness-raising programmes, income generating projects for women vulnerable to gender-based violence, issue-related research and policy dialogue.

758. CIMEL (Centre for Islamic & Middle Eastern Law) [and] INTERIGHTS (The International Centre for the Legal Protection of Human Rights). *Sri Lanka. p.33.* Directory : Initiatives to address 'Crimes of Honour'. London. December 2002.

This directory concerns the activities of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women whose office is based in the capital of Sri Lanka. She reports on gender-oriented violence, its causes and consequences while conducting on-site visits and urging communication with the governments regarding individual cases. Her report on honour crimes include torture, 'honour' killings, abduction, forced marriage and detention in 'safe custody' for refusal to forced marriage. The directory outlines activities of individuals and organisations engaged in combating the practices of 'honour' crimes perpetrated upon women. It encompasses lawyers, activists, researchers, state officials, community-based organisations and women's/ human rights institutions, on their specific task and contact information.

759. Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ). *Sri Lanka : Reporter threatened after covering alleged rape of jailed Tamil women.* P... [Colombo]. April 2001. [Source- http://www.cpj.org/protests/ ; accessed on 11 May 2004].

This document expresses concern on the rape of women detained by security forces. Emphasising the freedom of press and protection for journalists, CPJ appeals to the State regarding the incidence of custodial rape of women in the Mannar district, and the death threat by security forces to the journalist who reported on the incident.

760. Coomaraswamy, Radhika. *Sri Lanka. P. 37-38.* Integration of the human rights of women and the gender perspective : Violence against women: Violence in the family. Report by the [UN] Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its causes and consequences Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy submitted in accordance with Commission on Human Rights Resolution 1995/85. 10 March 1999. (E/CN.4/1999/68).

The Special Rapporteur while welcoming the revisions to the Penal Code with respect to violence against women, highlights the lack of adequate mechanisms to prosecute and redress cases of domestic violence. Referring to the issue of marital rape, she urges the Government to take steps to develop a strategy encompassing legislation, training, access to statistics and the provision of services for victim-survivors of domestic violence.

761. Coomaraswamy, Radhika. *Sri Lanka. P. 7-9.* Integration of the human rights of women and the gender perspective : Violence against women : Report by the [UN] Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its causes and consequences Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy : Addendum : Communication to and from Governments. 11 January 1999. (E/CN.4/ 1999/68/Add.1).

The Special Rapporteur presents cases on alleged sexual violence suffered by women and girls in the North and East of Sri Lanka during the period of 1996 -1998. While referring to rape and murder committed by armed forces on women of ethnic minorities, the report questions the degree of state action against the perpetrators and the remedies provided to victims and their families.

762. Coomaraswamy, Radhika. *Violence against Women. P.177-210.* Sri Lanka: State of Human Rights 1997. Colombo, Law & Society Trust. 1998.

Sri Lanka is a signatory to the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), in which General Recommendation 19 (1992) deals entirely with the issue of gender-based violence as a form of discrimination that inhibits a woman from enjoying her freedom and rights on the basis of gender equality. As a voter to the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993) which clearly defines the various forms of gender-related violence, Article 12 (2) of the Constitution of Sri Lanka aims to address gender discrimination through "..special provisions such as laws, subordinate legislation or executive action for the advancement of women." In this context, Sri Lanka has adopted the Women's Charter to guide the policy implementation. This chapter attempts to unfold the various issues on violence against women in Sri Lanka in relation to the legal framework and state policy that relates to gender-based violence. Following the recent amendments to the Penal Code, the National Plan of Action adopted by the Ministry of Women's Affairs has put forward a major theme on violence against women, with strategies to combat gender violence. The Plan of Action concerns traditional forms of gender violence as well as gender abuses due to armed conflict – disappearances, torture and forced displacement. In all these cases it is pointed out that adequate social services are lacking, particularly at provincial levels for the victims-survivors of violence.
Followed by an analysis of the criminal justice system the paper concludes with a summary on the social services necessary to implement effective projects/ programmes to eradicate violence against women in Sri Lanka, and the need to include the network of women's NGOs in the process.

763. Coomaraswamy, Radhika. *Rape and Sexual violence against Women including Sexual harassment. Section III.* Report of the [UN] Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its causes and consequences, Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy. 12 February 1997. (E/CN.4/1997/47)

In the section dealing with rape and sexual violence, the report refers to the November 1995 amendments to the Penal Code in Sri Lanka which sets the minimum sentence for a rape conviction at seven years and, for certain aggravated cases, such as custodial rape, gang rape or rape of a pregnant women, at ten years.
In the section referring to violence against women migrant workers, the report notes that 94 per cent of the women migrating were to be employed as domestic workers. She acknowledges that domestic workers have sought shelter in Sri Lanka's embassies abroad, and that the state has imposed regulations on the sending of migrant workers - a prospective migrant worker must possess a "Certificate of Registration" issued only upon presentation of an employment contract, prior to departure. The Oversees Employment Act also prescribes

that overseas employers are required to cover the cost of travel and medical benefits for the migrant workers.

764. Coomaraswamy, Radhika. *Sri Lanka . P. 3.* Report of the [UN] Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its causes and consequences, Ms. Radhika Comomaraswamy: Addendum. [s.l]. 30 January 1997. (E/CN.4/1997/47. Add.4)

The Rapporteur has transmitted the case of a school girl, Ms. Krishanthy Kumaraswamy who was gang- raped and killed in Jaffna by the Sri Lankan security forces, to the government. The information subsequently indicated that along with her body, those of her mother, brother and a neighbour, were recovered and buried at state expense. Nine suspects were arrested in connection with this case. In response to her reporting, the government has ordered a police investigation and magisterial inquiry, and that further judicial inquiries would be held in Jaffna to facilitate access to witnesses.

765. Coomaraswamy, Radhika. *[The case of Krishanthy Coomaraswamy].* Geneva, United Nations Centre for Human Rights. 4 November 1996. 2p. [Source – ICES Archives on Violence against Women].

This letter was sent to the Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka in the United Nations, referring to the case of custodial rape and murder of a schoolgirl viz., Ms.Krishanthy Kumaraswamy in the war-torn Northern region. Drawing in the principles of international law concerning rape in armed conflict, the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women urges the Sri Lankan Government to "..ensure that the perpetrators of the alleged crime are prosecuted and convicted in a manner consistent with the international humanitarian standards".

766. Coomaraswamy, Radhika. *Of Kali Born : Women , violence and the law in Sri Lanka.P.49-61.* Freedom from Violence : Women's strategies from around the world. New York, UNIFEM. 1992.

This paper draws attention to the 'gaps' in laws that provide for crimes against women, in terms of their inadequacies and legal 'assumptions' made by the judiciary in Sri Lanka. While dealing with laws on rape and domestic violence, the author relates to South Asia, in particular India, Pakistan and Bangladesh where the judiciary gives a 'raw deal' for cases on traditional violence against women.

767. **Coomaraswamy, Radhika.** *Women and the Criminal Law. P.149-152.* Women at Crossroads : A Sri Lankan perspective. Ed. Sirima Kiribamune et al.1990.

This article probes the legal status of women in Sri Lanka, referring to the laws concerning rape, prostitution, wife abuse, abortion, custodial rape and the harassment of women detainees. The provisions of these laws are inadequate to cope with the rapid change of social structures, accompanied by changes in tradition and social values. Moreover, the provisions are of little meaning in a society where the concept of shame prevents legal action. Therefore, it is essential to have social reforms in terms of awareness, education, counselling and public opinion in addition to legal reform.

768. **Coomaraswamy, Radhika.** *Violence against Women in Sri Lanka. P.35-41.* Solidarity : SAARC Women's Journal. Issue.5, 1998.

This article contributed by the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, relates to the women's movement in Sri Lanka and the Women's Charter of Sri Lanka that has comprehensive provisions with regard to gender-oriented violence in the criminal justice system. Areas of legislation that are inadequate in providing for gender-related crimes and violation of women's human rights are highlighted in this paper.

769. **de Alwis, Malathi.** *The changing role of Women in Sri Lankan society. P.675-687; notes; ref.* Social Research. Vol.69, No.3. Fall 2002.

This paper highlights the politicization of women in an era of war and state sponsored violence, in particular, the role of the women's movement in agitating against war-violence. De Alwis addresses the role played by Mothers Front formed in Southern Sri Lanka during the second JVP insurrection in 1984, protesting against military occupation and the 'disappearance' of their male kin in the family. The movement included women of all categories which inspired women in the East to form their own movement against the ravaging civil war. Women activists, politicized by militant groups are in protest against the atrocities of security forces and killing of their male family members, which in turn has lead to many widows/destitute individuals in the community.

770. **De Jong, Kaz et al.** *MSF : Psychological trauma of the civil war in Sri Lanka.* 26 April 2002. 3p.; notes. [Source- http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org ; accessed on 15 August 2003].

This is a survey conducted by Medicins Sans Frontieres (MSF) among the internally displaced from North and East residing in welfare centers. The study reveals that more than 50% of women in the age group 24-25 have psychological problems as a result of armed conflict and related issues. Working in the state and rebel-controlled areas since 1986, MSF conducts mental health programmes in the camps of Vavuniya. Their activities include consciousness raising, strengthening the community support, reinforcing coping strategies for long-term, war-affected communities and providing counselling services by local, trained staff. Part of the programme is on suicide prevention through trained community health workers who monitor the camp residents for community problems and family violence, while providing counselling to help them. Since almost all cases of suicide attempts involve agricultural poisons, MSF and the local government are working to impose rigid measures on the control and the sale of poison. At the onset of the 'cease fire' a free movement of medical supplies has lead to the establishment of long-term medical and psychological assistance programmes for the war-affected.

771. de Mel, Neloufer. *Mother politics and Women's Politics : Notes on the contemporary Sri Lankan women's movement. P. 233-278; notes.* Women & the Nation's Narrative : Gender and nationalism in twentieth century Sri Lanka. Colombo, Social Scientists' Association. 2001.

In this chapter, the author relates to the incident of protest action by women's groups, within a framework of women's movement in contemporary Sri Lanka. Women's groups in the country commemorated the life and death of woman activist, Rajani Thiranagama killed by LTTE in Jaffna in the year 1989. This protest, with a renewed sense of urgency, called for an end to the war and to life free from both state and militant violence. The chapter also draws in the efforts made by Women's Action Committee (WAC) that raised issues on the violation of women's rights with regard to atrocities faced by women of minority communities in the hands of state and militant personnel. Referring to Mothers' Front, a protest group against state killings and calling for peace, the author argues that women's movements are largely influenced by local cultures, in particular 'mother culture', as well as political institutions and other social movements.

772. Derechos Human Rights. *Sri Lanka : Violence against women – Your action requested.* [s.l]. 11 August 1999. P... [Source – http:// www.derechos.org/ saran/lanka ; accessed on 11 September 2003].

This is a response by a human rights group against custodial rape and the murder of women in the war-afflicted areas of Sri Lanka, by a human rights group. Referring to the information received by the OMCT on the rape and murder of Ms. Farida Ida Carmalitta by armed forces in the district of Mannar, the Derechos Human Rights Organisation urges all human rights groups and NGOs to appeal to the Government of Sri Lanka to conduct "..an impartial and exhaustive inquiry" on this case and punish the offenders.

773. de Silva, Indralal. *A review of National Policy in Sri Lanka. P. 69-79; biblio.* Expenditure for reproductive health services in Egypt and Sri Lanka /Prp. Ravi P. Rannan-Eliya et al. Colombo, Institute of Policy Studies. July 2000.

This paper evaluates current policy framework in Sri Lanka (1998) with major goals of:

- Ensuring safe motherhood and reducing reproductive health-related morbidity and mortality;
- Increasing public awareness on population and reproductive health issues;
- Maintaining current declining trends in fertility to achieve a stable population size at least, by the middle of the 21st century.

The state sponsored family planning programme however, has a number of challenging issues - strategic transition from maternal/child health and family planning, to a gender sensitive and client-centered reproductive health which needs to be addressed. In this context, the Family Health Bureau implements and monitors maternal/ child health and the national family planning programme. The paper emphasizes on the need for the state machinery to incorporate a gender-friendly, family planning/reproductive health care, in order to promote women's health and well-being.

774. Dias, Eshan. *The path to legalise Abortion.* The Sunday Leader. 6 June 2004.

This article relates to Clause (3) and (12) of the Draft Bill on Women's Rights of 2004, which states that "... women's right to control their bodies and rights relating to childbirth' as an attempt to legalise abortion as a women's right." While criticizing the language used in the Bill and warning of the possibility of the high incidence of female foeticide through free abortion, the author views emergency contraception as a safe and viable alternative to aborting unwanted pregnancy, and to `ensure the dignity of women and of their unborn

children'. This starts a debate on the issue of abortion `as a form of violence against women' and strategies that the Family Planning Association of Sri Lanka could adopt for the social marketing of [81]'morning-after pill' to reach all levels of the public.

775. Dias, Malsiri [and] Jayasundere, Ramani. *Sri Lanka : Good practices to prevent women migrant workers from going into exploitative forms of labour.* Geneva, ILO. June 2001. 59p.; tables; biblio.; annex. (Series on Women and Migration).

Women migrant workers from Sri Lanka face many forms of sexual, physical abuses in their employment. However, in prosecuting cases of sexual/physical abuse and exploitation by recruitment agencies and employers in host countries, Sri Lankan labour laws prove to be ineffective. Alternatively, the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE) Act No.21 is obliged to provide for migrant workers. This report briefs on the role played by SLBFE in promoting, enforcing and supervising the policy/legislation through various security measures and welfare funds. Based on the limitations of these programmes, the study recommends the following:

- Strengthen the SLBFE Act in order to more effectively regulate, monitor and supervise the labour recruitment trade:
- Conduct a review to improve support services to prevent abuse and exploitation of workers;
- Institute holistic training programmes for prospective women migrants to develop self-confidence, discipline and language/negotiating skills;
- Promotion of NGO initiatives to form migrant worker groups in order to build an active movement for effective awareness raising, networking, advocacy and lobbying roles ;
- Establish a comprehensive, gender-sensitive database on international labour migration from Sri Lanka with case studies on abused workers who were safeguarded by the welfare programmes.

776. Dissanaike, Tharuka. *Women face the chop from Sri Lankan Poverty Strategy.* London, Panos Features. 4 March 2004. 3p. [Source – http://www.panos.org.uk; accessed on 22 January 2005].

A critical evaluation of the current labour laws related to the garment industry of Sri Lanka, where women form the majority of the work force. The

[81] Emergency contraceptive pill taken on the day after sexual intercourse will prevent pregnancy.

government, along with the private domestic sector and foreign investors are trying to 'push through' legislative changes that would create a 'flexible' labour market, where women workers could be 'hired and fired'. While acknowledging the trade unions and Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) which are vehemently opposed to the laws, the paper calls for a reform in the TEWA (Termination of Employment of Workman Act) and IDA (Industrial Dispute Act) which are currently imposing long working hours on women staff.

777. **Divakara, Premila.** *Police view on Violence against Women. P.29-31.* Sexual Harassment : Sharing of experiences and strategies. Colombo, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung. 1996.

This paper relates to the Women's and Children's Desk (WCD) established by the Police Department of Sri Lanka. Established by the police as law enforcers, this desk handles complaints on sexual violence, wife battering and other gender-oriented violence. Women police officers are trained to handle complaints, conduct inquiries and investigate the cases. In addition to the setting up of this desk, the police force is instructed to launch awareness-raising campaigns on gender violence in schools, focusing on preventive actions. This paper is a call for NGOs to co-operate with the police authority to eliminate sexual harassment in public places.

778. **The Asia Foundation [TAF].** *Programmes by Country : Sri Lanka : Violence against women.* San Francisco. 2001. 1p. [Source – http://www.aisafoundation.org ; accessed on 19 January 2002].

The Foundation, over the past two years has provided support to the Centre for Women's Research (CENWOR) to monitor and advocate for the enforcement of the United Nations Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). CENWOR will be developing and testing mechanisms to improve coordination among the police, medical professionals, NGOs and the judiciary in providing assistance to women victims of violence. The Foundation supports efforts to promote and protect the rights of women as an important component of its human rights program.

779. *Canada commits more aid to prevent Violence against Women.* Daily Mirror. 6 February 2003.

The Sri Lanka Foundation Institute has launched a project entitled "Strengthening Combined Community and Police Action to address Violence

against Women" aiming to improve the dialogue between the community and law enforcers, under the sponsorship of CIDA. With Rajarata Apada Sahana Sevawa (RASS) as the partner organization, the programme seeks technical assistance and benefits from the lessons learned and "best practices" of the Victim Crisis Unit (VCU) of the Ottawa Police,Canada and the senior police officers in Sri Lanka.

780. CARE International. *Capacity Building of Community based Organisations in Jaffna (CAB-JAFFNA).* [s.l]. 23 June 2004. [Source – http://www.careinternational.org.uk; accessed on 15 August 2004].

Funded by the British Government, CAB-JAFFNA is a two year project (from July 2000 to July 2004), targeting the internally displaced population in the North, in particular, the poor, displaced women in the process of re-settling. Aiming to strengthen them by improving their capacity to access micro-finances, CAB-JAFFNA deploys the co-operative societies and credit-savings groups as the 'tools' to empower the vulnerable, returnee-women, encouraging their participation in the male-dominated co-operative societies as savers, borrowers and community leaders in a post-conflict society.

781. de Alwis, Malathi [and] Hyndmen, Jennifer. *Women's Health. P.47-49; notes.* Capacity building in Conflict Zones : A feminist analysis of humanitarian assistance in Sri Lanka. Colombo, International Centre for Ethnic Studies. January 2002.

Women's health and nutrition are treated as 'non-emergency' issues during conflict and forced displacement that have a serious impact on their health. Further, women's reproductive health needs are seen as the last priority in a traditional society to which most of the displaced belong. The UN Population Fund (UNFPA) works with the government, in providing services only for pre-/post-natal health care. However, the issue of mental health services is addressed by non-governmental agencies such as Family Rehabilitation Centre, Befrienders and MSF Holland. The report evaluates the humanitarian assistance for women in war zones, with suggestions to rectify their problems.

782. De Montgallad, Guy. *Poverty in the Plantation. P.57-88.; tables.* Social development and Poverty in the Plantation in Sri Lanka. Bandarawela, Leo Marga Ashram. 2003.

In this chapter, the author attempts to uncover the issue of gender violence related to women's reproductive health/rights, in terms of coerced family planning. It critically evaluates the state initiative to deploy family planning as a viable measure to reduce poverty in the plantation sector, in order to reduce fertility and childbirth rates and the number of children born. Of the special family planning programmes launched in the plantations the most common method is surgical sterilization, encouraged by the management as 'cheaper and easier to be implemented' in order to save on maternity benefits and maternal/child care. Disproportionately, 60% of the 'eligible' women have undergone tubectomy in stark contrast to 7% men for vasectomy in the year 2000. While violating women's reproductive rights and facing a risk in post-surgical complications, the programme has not lead to a decrease in the level of poverty.

783. *The Domestic Violence Act, 1990 : Draft.* [s.n], [s.l]. 1990. 2p. [Source – ICES Archives on Violence against Women].

Though domestic violence is much prevalent in Sri Lanka, there are no special laws to address this issue. This draft proposes a domestic violence Act in recognition of the following:

- Domestic violence as an increasing social problem which requires legal intervention to protect victims;
- Domestic violence is a special offence where the parties involved have a personal relationship;
- Current legal provision providing for domestic violence is inadequate in terms of injunctive relief, police assistance and protection for the victims;
- Need for a simplified procedure that enables victims to seek relief at minimum cost.

784. Domestic Violence Task Force [DVTF]. *Domestic Violence : Some issues for developing a legal definition.* Colombo. 1997. 2p. [Unpublished]. [Source – ICES Archives on Violence against Women].

DVTF was developed as an action group to draft a domestic violence act for Sri Lanka, under the guidance of the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women. The paper expresses concern regarding the social acceptance of gender-related violence and the incapability of the current legislation to provide for those who have experienced family abuse within the traditional family structure of Sri Lanka. In the absence of a legislation to protect victims of family violence, this group aims to provide legal remedies for the victims of

wife abuse, marital rape, dowry-related violence, violence caused by in-laws, violence against domestic workers and violence related to forced pregnancy, abortion and sexual sterilisation.

785. Domestic Violence Task Force [DVTF]. *Project to draft Domestic Violence model legislation for Sri Lanka.* Prp. Grace Poore. Colombo. 1997. 2p. [Draft]. [Source – ICES Archives on Violence against Women].

This is a prototype code created by DVTF to serve as a mechanism in providing for victims of domestic violence and to punish the perpetrators. This draft code seeks to consolidate legal remedies for battered women within the existing legal framework, working together with laws that protect victims of other crimes, at the same time creating a judicial mandate in situations of domestic abuse. While referring to the priorities in preparing the draft, the document seeks access to information on current laws and other issues that affect the options for victims. The group also identifies individuals who can constitute the task force that will conceptualise domestic violence legislation and be active in the drafting committee.

786. Domestic Violence Task Force [DVTF]. *Civil Protection Orders : Some issues that require policy decisions : Categories of persons who would be eligible to apply for protection.* Colombo. 1997. 3p. [Draft]. [Source – ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

This provides information on the provisions made to protect victims of domestic violence in a situation where the crime covers violence perpetrated by in-laws and members of the extended family, much applicable to the scenario in Sri Lankan society. Relating to the Domestic Violence Acts in Australia, U.S.A. and Malaysia, this document draws attention to legal protection provided for the victim as an important component, which the Penal Code of Sri Lanka cannot provide for the complainants of domestic violence.

787. Domestic Violence Task Force [DVTF]. *Domestic Violence Legislation (Criminal Provisions) : A brainstorming guide.* Colombo. 1997. 3p. [Unpublished]. [Source – ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

This document enumerates the key aspects for consideration in drafting the Domestic Violence Act. It includes definitions on the relationships stipulated by the legislation of Sri Lanka, types of violence experienced in domestic

abuse, complaint procedures, and mechanism for legal protection and remedies for the victims, as well as penalties for the perpetrators.

788. Domestic Violence Task Force [DVTF]. *Notes from Domestic Violence Task Force Meeting.* Colombo. December 1996 [and] January – March 1997. P... [Unpublished]. [Source – ICES Archives on Violence against Women].

This is a collection of memoranda from DVTF on works related to the amendment to the Penal Code - the Domestic Violence Act. These documents refer to the commitment made by the DVTF in terms of:

- Criminal provision for marital rape;
- Powers delegated to the police authority;
- Civil remedies;
- Social service provision;
- Legislative evaluation.

Recommendations given by the Task Force are aimed at strengthening the penal code, more specifically, police powers pertaining to cases on domestic violence, providing legal protection to the victims and helping them to access social services.

789. Elek, Sophia. *Displaced Women : Rights and resettlement in North and East Sri Lanka :2003. p... .* Lines. May 2003.

This study conducted by the Centre for the Study on Human Rights (CSHR) relates to the specific needs of women IDPs in a post-conflict era, as sanctioned by the Ceasefire Agreement, 2002 and the subsequent peace process. The research sheds light on issues facing displaced women living in camps/welfare centres and in resettlement/relocation villages, observing that gender-based violence is on the increase in these circumstances of changing social boundaries and confusion as a result of compulsive displacement. In the process of resettling, these women are faced with the risk of sexual abuse by state/non-state actors. However, it is rare that justice is served or even sought after as a result of the inadequate reporting mechanisms and lack of awareness of the women on their rights. Their emotional needs, in particular, the needs of the heads of households must be addressed through specific psycho-social programmes, most of which cater to the inability of the women to contend with aid and state agencies to receive relief assistance and on compensation for losses incurred

during the war. The study attempts to develop right-based guidelines to institute a gender sensitive policy for women affected by armed conflict and compulsive displacement. It aims to achieve protection/ reintegration into normal life and to reinforce the ability of state and non-state actors to respond effectively and appropriately with emergency assistance and development.

790. *The "Fashion Files" visits Sri Lanka. P...* Clean Clothes Campaign Newsletter. Issue No.17. December 2003. [Source – http:// www.cleanclothes.org/news/newsletter; accessed on 18 March 2004].

This is an effort to rectify the poor working conditions and gender related problems of women workers in the garment industry of the free trade zone in Sri Lanka, the project "Fashion Files", attempts to make young students aware of the labour conditions and workers rights in the global garment/sportswear industry. Under this project, students from The Netherlands visited the garment sector in Sri Lankan free trade zone, observing that women workers face many forms of exploitation of physical and sexual harassment from their employers. The observations were transformed into an 'urgent appeal' by protest- letter writers, raising awareness among the buyers in Europe on gender violence faced by women workers in the garment industry.

791. Fernando, Nimalka. *Pre-departure, Reintegration and Policy Advocacy in the migration process.* Colombo, IMADR. 2001. 13p.; annex.

This paper considers the issue of health-related violence perpetrated against migrant women workers, in particular, HIV infection and sexually transmitted diseases. A [82]national consultation was conducted with the participation of many migrant women workers themselves, concerning advocacy on health-based issues. Accordingly:

- The issue on HIV/AIDS should be centred on the needs of the migrant worker, rather than on the requirements of the host country;
- Health insurance policy of the migrant should be comprehensive enough to include HIV/AIDS;
- A pre-departure programme for the worker that should incorporate; health/hygiene, reproductive health issues, safe sex and HIV/AIDS vulnerability and gender sensitivity.

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[82] Consultative Workshop on Migration and HIV/AIDS, Colombo, 17 January 2001.

792. Federation of Muslim Women [FMW]. *International Efforts – Sri Lanka : Muslim girls' orphanage in Sri Lanka.* Prp. Yasneen Ashraff. [s.l]. 20 July 2001. P... [Source – http://www.fmw.org ; accessed on 11 October 2003].

This is a briefing on the activities of the Ceylon Moor Ladies Union (CMLU), in working with Muslim widows displaced from the North as a result of the armed conflict. CMLU while providing non- food relief in terms of medicines and clothing to the displaced women in the refugee camps, appeals for cash or in-kind donations to support the war-widows who have faced forced eviction from the North. Also, the CMLU runs a girls home for those orphaned by the war and displacement.

793. Fernando, Vijitha. *Domestic Violence : Sri Lanka : Violence in the family.* Women's Feature Service. September 2003. 3p. [Source – http://www.wfsnews.org; accessed on 19 December 2003].

In Sri Lankan law domestic violence is treated under the Criminal Code and not as a form of crime under personal relationships within the framework of marriage and children. A separate legislation on domestic and family violence is being drafted to be presented in parliament, the Act providing Protection Orders for victims through restraining orders issued by the court to the perpetrator. It also protects the victim from physical, emotional abuse within the home environment. Initiated by Women and Media Collective, a women's NGO, the draft concerns a clear definition of domestic violence thus enabling the victim to present a case. Currently, the Ministry of Women's Affairs has set up counselling centres that deal with cases of family violence and Police Desks for Women handling complaints on domestic abuse on women and children. However, these two structures cannot cope with the issue unless a special law against domestic violence is there to provide remedies for the victim and have a check on the perpetrator.

794. Fernando, Vijitha. *Searching for their Missing Men.* Daily Mirror. 31 January 2004.

A briefing on the Association for Families of Servicemen Missing in Action (AFSMIA) which is a support group that helps to trace members of the armed forces who are missing as a result of the civil war. Women living with apprehension and insecurity in distant locations seek the help of the association to trace the whereabouts of their spouses and receive moral support to carry on with their lives. The group plans to launch vocational training for the women, in order to help them towards self-reliance.

795. Ferdinando, Shamindra. *Abortions to be legalised on Selective Basis?*. The Island. 7 February. 2002.

A recent move towards the amendment to the Penal Code (1995) the Ministry of Women's Affairs explores the possibility of legalising abortion on a selective basis. It is well known that a significant percentage of maternal deaths in Sri Lanka are caused by unsafe abortions performed illegally through crude techniques. Following India and Bangladesh where abortion is legalised, this proposal would permit abortions to victims of rape and incest, and for those facing serious health problems.

796. Fernando, Sharmini. *Bitter Victory : Krishanthy Kumaraswamy, the women's vigil and the verdict. P.17-18.* Options. No.14, 2nd Quarter 1998.

This is a summary on the activities of women's groups protesting against reported incidents of custodial rape and murder during the armed conflict in Sri Lanka. The Vigil Coalition consisted of women activists on a mass protest of the alleged abduction, rape and murder of a school girl in the war-torn North where the law and order comes under military control. The article describes the trial where a stiff death penalty was imposed on the five accused, as ".. a bitter victory of women's activism."

797. FORUT-Sri Lanka. *Project Activities : Puttalam.* [Colombo]. 2000. P.1. [Source – http://www.forut.lk; accessed on 12 April 2003].

This section of the website relates to activities of FORUT - to support internally displaced women from the North. In partnership with a local women's NGO formed by displaced women viz., Women's Organisation for Development, Equality, Peace and Temperance (WODEPT). FORUT supports women in resettling, mobilising them for social reconstruction and development.

798. Friedrich Ebert Stiftung. *Strategies and Recommendation : Workshop 1 [and] Workshop 2*. Sexual Harassment : Sharing of experiences and strategies. Colombo, 1996.

This report provides a summary of the [83]workshop on sexual harassment held in Colombo. Drawing in the formal, non-formal and the plantation sectors

[83] "Sexual Harassment – Sharing of Experiences between East and West", Colombo, 9-14 November 1995.

where women workers suffer as a result of gender-related harassment, these strategies could be used by individuals, trade union, policy makers, law enforcers and the community.

799. Global IDP Database. *The situation of IDPs in Sri Lanka : Report of a mission by the Internal Displacement Unit.* [Oslo], Norwegian Refugee Council. April 2002. 15p. [Source – http://www.reliefweb.int/ ; accessed on 14 June 2003]

UNHCR has invited the Internal Displacement Unit to undertake an assessment on the internally displaced population. The unit recommends that women members of the IDP community be given adequate opportunity for inputs into the policy of the Ministry of Rehabilitation, Resettlement & Refugees (MRRR) policy. Gender issues related to domestic and sexual violence, particularly in the government welfare centres need to be addressed, both through prevention activities and psychosocial support for victims who are traumatised. Having estimated the presence of 30,000 young widows among the IDPs, mostly in the Jaffna District, efforts need to be made to deal with the needs of vulnerable women - war widows and women heads of households to enhance their capacities for self-sufficiency.

800. Goldstein, Anna [and] Lynch, Caitrin. *Legislation is Naming : Marital rape is rape. P.8-10.* Options. September 1995.

Marital rape though culturally sanctioned, is forced sex and a crime of violence perpetrated against the spouse. The family law in Sri Lanka overlooks marital rape, making it important to include it in the proposed domestic violence act. This article is critical of a recent news article which condones marital rape as 'culture', and it stresses the need to provide for marital rape in the penal code of Sri Lanka as a crime of violence against women.

801. Gomez, Mario [and] Shyamala. *Domestic violence and NGO Activism. P.41-42.* Striking a Balance : Using international human rights to achieve gender equality. Colombo, CIDA. 2004.

Women and Media Collective, a local women's NGO has initiated an exercise to draft a new law on domestic violence, along with interest groups such as the medical profession, women's groups, lawyers, academics, prosecutors and the State. The objectives, definition and boundaries of the law were discussed, inviting feedback on priority isues to gain diverse perspectives rather than a

mere legal view. In October 2003 the Ministry of Justice took over the task of preparing a final draft entitled "Prevention of Domestic Violence Act" from the women's groups. This draft, however, lacked a comprehensive definition of domestic violence and relegated the offence to the Penal Code, while restricting those categories of persons who could initiate litigation under the law. Nevertheless, the forum brought together diversified opinions on the issue – some favoured the criminalisation of domestic violence while others preferred a broader approach that combines both criminal and civil remedies in a single piece of legislation.

Sexual harassment. P.43-46.

This section of the volume examines the efforts made by women's groups on programmes of awareness raising on the issue of sexual harassment. While women's activists work on raising consciousness on sexual harassment in public transport, the American Centre for International Labour Solidarity (ACILS) has set up complaint desks in the export processing zone of Biyagama and in Hatton to cater to plantation women. With the support of the Employer's Federation of Ceylon (EFC) a campaign has been launched and a sub-committee of trade union members has been set up with the support of the ILO, to probe the issue of workplace harassment.

802. Gomez, Mario. *The draft Domestic Violence Law : What will it do?. P.14-18; notes.* Pravada. Vol.7, No.4. 2001.

This is a comment on the draft laws published by the Women and Media Collective where the draft favours the enactment of a separate law that combines civil and criminal remedies for the victims of domestic violence. This draft is modelled on the South African Domestic Violence Act and drafts produced by women's groups in India. This article probes the prevalence of domestic violence in Sri Lanka and the legal remedies mentioned in the draft – interim/ protection orders, other forms of relief and police duties when handling cases of domestic abuse. Using Sri Lanka's international obligations to eliminate gender discrimination and to protect and promote women's rights as the background, the article relates to the ways in which the law could work, even though the law has a limited impact in addressing the issue.

803. Gomez, Mario. *Domestic violence and the Sexual history of Rape victims. P...*Law & Society Trust Review. Issue. 163. May 2001.

This is an examination of the draft domestic violence law produced by women's groups, lead by the Women & Media Collective. This draft favours the

enactment of a separate law that combines both civil and criminal remedies. Inspired by the model legislation proposed by the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against women, the South African Domestic Violence Act and the draft law on domestic violence prepared by women's groups in India, this draft recognizes interim protection orders in favour of the victim, power of the court to issue such orders and rights of children where the court could prevent their contact with the perpetrator. The paper concerns ways in which the domestic violence law can be effective by providing relief to the victim, used as a tool to create public awareness on the issue of family violence and be influential to create well-reasoned judicial decisions.
The paper highlights a recent decision of the House of Lords in Great Britain on evidence pertaining to sexual relationship between a rape victim and the accused, in order to help evolving the Sri Lankan law dealing with rape and sexual abuse.

804. Gomez, Shyamala. *Her Opportunities and her Rights : The dilemma of the migrant worker. 20p.; notes*. Conference on Fifty Years of Law, Justice and Governance in Sri Lanka, [Colombo], 24-26 November 2000. Colombo, Law & Society Trust.

Violence against women migrant workers is a frequent experience for Sri Lankan women, ranging from physical, sexual abuse to sexual harassment and torture by the employer, which often results in murder or suicide. This paper attempts to examine the state policies and laws in relation to the ILO Conventions relevant to migrant workers and the UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. In this context, the laws, institutions, state policies and the role played by the Sri Lankan embassies abroad are examined with reference to protection of women workers abroad. The obligations of the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment Act and the level of achievement of the objectives of the Bureau are evaluated here.

805. Goonesekera, Savitri. *The UN Convention on Women (1981) and the Sri Lankan legal system.* Colombo, CENWOR. 1991. (Working Paper No.4). 23p.; notes.

This work-in-progress relates to the international human rights standards as defined by the UN system of human rights and gender discrimination in Sri Lanka in terms of its legal system. It surveys the applicability of CEDAW to women's human rights in Sri Lanka, analysing the initiatives made by the legislature, judiciary and laws enforcement agencies in the country. With

specific reference to the criminal law that aims to protect victims from rape and violence based on abortion, the survey condones the 'gaps' in the commitment made by Sri Lanka to CEDAW, pin-pointing the weakness of the law enforcement forces in preventing violence against women.

806. Goonesekere, Savitri W.E. [and] Guneratne, Camena. *Women, Sexual violence and the Legal process in Sri Lanka : A study on rape.* Colombo, CENWOR. 1998. 136p.; append.

This study aims to provide information on the incidence of gender-related violence in Sri Lanka, in particular rape. While reviewing the laws concerning rape, this volume examines the law in action – the current realities faced in implementing the law and the response of the victim, her family and the community. In recommending legal and policy reforms to counter these problems, the document raises consciousness on the issue of rape and encourages its recognition as a grave problem that requires intervention and action.

807. Goonesekera, S.W.E. *Proposed amendments to the Penal Code (1883) Comments on the draft legislation.* Colombo. 4 May 1995. 7p. [Unpublished]. [Source –ICES Archives on Violence against Women].

These are observations made on the amendment to the Penal Code (1883), for changes in the laws relating to violence against women. The comments are given on issues pertaining to rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment, marital rape, incest, child abuse and obscene publications. Including new proposals that enhanced penalties for gang rape and rape of pregnant women, the comments increase the potentials to use the laws more effectively. However, it is observed that the provisions are not in keeping with women's human rights, as guaranteed by Sri Lanka as a state party to CEDAW.

808. Goonesekera, S.W.E. *Amendments to the Penal Code . Observations.* [Colombo]. 19.... P... [Unpublished]. [Source- ICES Archives on Violence against Women].

This unpublished work concentrates on provisions to rape, incest and sexual exploitation of children, as proposed for the amendment of the Penal code of Sri Lanka. As the code does not provide for abortion in cases of rape, unmarried mothers and rape of minors, the paper examines the issues of rape, child marriage and medical termination of pregnancy (MTP), besides child abuse

and homosexual abuses. Is also argues for penalties in cases of marital rape that is not recognised as a crime under the laws.

809. Government of Sri Lanka. Ministry of Women's Affairs. *Bill on Women's Rights (Sri Lanka) : Draft made open for public scrutiny and views*. Colombo. February 2004. 49p.

This is a bill drafted by the Ministry of Women's Affairs, in consultation with women's organisations to be enacted as the Women's Rights Act, 2004. The objectives of the Bill encompass:

- Women's right to control their bodies and rights related to childbirth;
- Freedom to enjoy life without being subjected to gender specific forms of violence – sexual harassment in public places and in the workplace.

A women's commission is to be established to protect women's rights and receive complaints on any violation of rights, investigated, conveyed to legal authorities and to provide remedies for the victim and penalties to the offenders. Further, the commission has the power to intervene in any proceedings related to the violation of women's rights and to discourage any socio-cultural practices harmful to women. The draft provides the procedure to conduct inquiries and relevant matters related to the working of the body.

810. Gunasekera, Nelun. *Voice of Women : Origin, aims, strategies and issues. P. 38-46.* Characterisation of the contemporary Women's liberation movement in Sri Lanka. The Hague, Institute of Social studies. May 1987. [Master's Degree Thesis].

The first socialist group of women activists the Voice of Women comprises middle-class academics and intellectuals whose efforts give priority to women's emancipation and action against gender-based violence in their agenda and analysis. Their journal entitled "Voice of Women" is being published in national languages and English, focusing on women's exploitation in the free trade zone, tourist industry and of migrant workers in the Middle-East. Voice of Women has networked with community-based women's organizations and established a Women's House for those affected in the 1983 ethnic violence.

The Progressive Women's Front [PWF] : Origin, aims, strategies and issues. P.46-55.

Conceived as a result of a series of seminars and discussions among peasant activists at the Devasrana Development Centre in Ibbamaguwa, the PWF brought together women agrarian workers through an agenda not specifically feminist, but which prioritized violence against women. The women's bulletin "Kantha Maga" creates consciousness on wife battery, violence due to alcoholism and family violence. In the course of mobilizing women from rural backgrounds and networking with other women's organizations and the Women's Action Committee (WAC), the PWF put forward slogans and pamphlets opposing sexual violence, racism, dowry related abuse, sex tourism and the exploitation of women workers, calling for a better public health system. A team of grass roots women and men trained in [84]"Viridu" and street drama is motivated to spread awareness on gender issues.

The Women's Federation of the Lanka Sama Samaja Party (LSSP): Origin, aims, strategies and issues. P. 55-60.

This part records a women's group that follows the traditional Leninist position calling for gender equality, expressing concern through protest rallies against the exploitation of women workers in the plantations and free trade zone as well as gender-based violence manifested as rape, sexual abuse, racism and police violence upon women protestors.

The women's section of the Nava Sama Samaja Party [NSSP]. P. 60-66.

A splinter group from the LSSP, the NSSP established the women's section prioritizing on gender-based oppression of women as class-based, patriarchal criteria. Their journal aims to create awareness on the exploitation of women workers encouraging workers solidarity. However, it overlooks the issue of sexual abuse, sexual harassment and gender relations as the outcome of 'individual ownership', with a negative attitude towards the women's movement.

The situation of Tamil women. P. 6-75.

This part of the document deals with mobilizing Tamil women through the national liberation struggle movement. The author acknowledges the efforts of militant groups, specifically those of EPRLF, LTTE and PLOTE. The EPRLF formed a Women's Revival Front comprising grass roots women who are agrarian workers belonging to the oppressed castes, creating awareness about women's oppression, spouse abuse and alcoholism. A protest march of women

[84] A traditional form of folk-song.

against brewing of illicit alcohol has raised awareness on the issue. PLOTE and LTTE have addressed the oppression of women encouraging them to organize themselves, to analyse the problems, enlighten themselves on the nature of gender issues and form their own movements to overcome these.

811. Gunaratne, Carmena. *Domestic Violence : A case study on Sri Lanka. P.73-103; ref.* Expert Meeting : Zero Tolerance for Domestic Violence, Tokyo, 7-9 August 2000. Tokyo, Asian Women's Fund. January 2001.

This is a study on the prevalence of family violence in Sri Lanka, which examines the legal/institutional framework and the obligation of Sri Lanka to CEDAW, to address all aspects of violence against women. While analysing the cause and effect of domestic violence upon women, the paper elaborates on the legal, social and institutional 'barriers' in addressing the issue by means of:

- Socio-cultural norms pertaining to the family, community and society;
- Police response;
- Hospitals and medical services available for the victims of violence;
- Crisis centres and shelters for the temporary protection of victims;
- Legal system and the courts.

It is evident that the 'loop holes' in the above make the victims 'compromise' with the abusers, legal system, law enforces and the society all of which either acknowledge or ignore their plight. The paper provides recommendations to improve the attitudes and services to help the victims. Further, the role of NGOs in addressing domestic violence is discussed in terms of awareness raising, victim support and in collaborating with the law enforcers and the judiciary to combat crime.

812. Gunatilleke, Nadira. *Lankan Housemaids face Murder, Rape, Harassment.* Daily News. 12 December 2003.

This news item addresses the protective measures deployed against gender violence faced by migrant women workers. Operated by the Foreign Employment Bureau of Sri Lanka the women's desk "Sahana Piyasa" is located at the international airport, receiving complaints ranging from non-payment of salaries to rape and unwanted pregnancies from those returning from abroad. Based on these, the Bureau decides on the issue/renewal of licenses for recruitment agencies. The column draws on the many shortcomings of the current system, while opening the debate on improving the protection of women workers victimised by gender violence.

813. Gunatilleke, Nadira. *Safe abode for Female victims of Domestic violence.* Daily News. 30 January 2002.

This news item relates to the efforts of the Ministry of Women's Affairs in setting up a special retreat entitled "Rekawarana Piyasa" for women and children affected by family violence. This project, set up in a location within the Colombo City provides free accommodation for a limited time to those complainants identified by the police for Women and Children's Bureau.

814. Gunatilleke, Nadira. *Latest weapon to combat Violence against Women.* Daily News. 1 December 2001.

This news item refers to counselling centres set up by the state, to help women victims of violence. Located in the Ministry of Women's Affairs in Colombo, free trade zone and other parts of the country, the centres accept complaints related to gender violence and violations of women's human rights. Secured by the Women's Charter, the centres assist the needy and the helpless women victimised as a result of gender abuse.

815. Gunatilleke, Nadira [and] Marasinghe, Sandasena. *Sexual harassment in Workplace : Some counter-measures.* Daily News. 29 September 2003.

This work is an exploration of the issue of sexual harassment at workplace and the responsibilities of the employer to protect the employees, in particular the women workers, and the rights of workers to speak out against such harassment. This article reports that harassment in all its forms is treated as an offence under the disciplinary procedures of the employers concerned. It also draws in codes of ethics as sanctioned by the guidelines of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and Employers Federation of Ceylon.

816. Haniffa, Farzana [and] Ruwanpura, Kanchana. *Who needs Feminism?. P.10-13.* Options. September 1995.

This is an evaluation of the mainstream media in Sri Lanka on the proposed amendments to the Penal Code of Sri Lanka. The media articles refer to 'women's lib' and the issue of marital rape as 'inappropriate' to Sri Lankan culture. Some political groups claim sexual violence and marital rape to be 'western concepts', using 'culture' as a tool to oppose legal reforms in promoting women's rights against gender-oriented violence.

817. Harris, Simon. *" Listening to the Displaced ": Analysis, accountability and advocacy in action. P. 20-21.; ref.* Forced Migration Review. August 2000.

This is a brief paper that provides the objectives, methodology and outcome of the programme of "Listening to the Displaced ", conducted by Oxfam GB and Save the Children Fund (SCF) of U.K. through interviews with the internally displaced people in Northern Sri Lanka during the period 1996-1998. While focusing on lessons learned through the interviews, and the application of this experience for future assistance, the paper refers to the gender-sensitive revision of humanitarian assistance, particularly on the issue of non-food relief items to address the personal hygienic needs of displaced women.

818. Hettiarachchi, Kumudini. *Hurt No More.* The Sunday Times. 26 October 2003.

This is a news article on the efforts made by Women In Need (WIN) in support of women victims of gender-based violence, specifically, domestic abuse. WIN has launched a 'Victims of Violence Fund' as the victims do not have a safety net through social security/support from the State. The organisation has also established 'one-stop' crisis centres within the emergency health care of the National Hospital, Colombo and the Castle Street Hospital for Women to reach out to victims immediately. A 24-hour hotline service and shelter for temporary refuge is being implemented as part of their services.

819. The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka. *Human Rights Report : Methsevana State House of Detention, Gangodawila.* Colombo. June 2004.

This report is a response to complaints of human rights violations, such as detention without proper court orders, poor living conditions of detainees and detention of persons with psychiatric disorders. A spot-check conducted by the Commission reveals that women detainees with mental health problems face many hardships, for example the psychiatric ward, available health services and the lack of adequate supervision in the ward. Specific needs of women include referral to mental hospitals, conversion of the psychiatric ward for greater accommodation, compensation for the women supervisors who work as caretakers for the mentally ill, improved sanitary measures and reinstating of the rehabilitation mission in the detention centre. Recommendations are provided in order to guarantee healthy, safe and sanitary living conditions, in

particular for the women inmates within the institution. The report also leads to addressing those problems associated with detention without the proper court mandate, detention of those who have not committed punishable offences and the refusal to release the inmates without guardians.

820. Hyndman, Jennifer [and] de Alwis, Malathi. *Case study on Sri Lanka : Gender, conflictand displacement : Lessons learned from Sri Lanka. P.21-25.* Expert Meeting on Gender Dimensions of Internal Displacement, New York, 14-15 June 1999.

Regions bordering the war-zones of Sri Lanka have become centres for prostitution, with cases of sexual violence on the increase. However, support services for the victims by the state/non-governmental organisations are not evident. This article stresses the urgent need of humanitarian agencies to include rehabilitation and support services for women and girls who are victims of trafficking and forced prostitution.

821. *Human Rights and Equality : Workshop for Police Personnel and Magistrates, Anuradhapura (Sri Lanka), April 2001.* [Source – Law & Society Trust].

A workshop held by the Law & Society Trust, Colombo, to raise awareness on violence against women and the criminal justice system of Sri Lanka. The workshop leads to a discussion on the 'gaps' in the laws that provide for gender-related offences and the possible legal reforms to safeguard women from violence. This workshop is part of a research project on human rights and equality in Sri Lanka, funded by the CIDA.

822. Hussain, Ameena [and] Loganathan, Bhawani. *State response towards Women refugees and their Dependents. P.88-89.* An annotated bibliography on violence against women in Sri Lanka. Colombo, International Centre for Ethnic Studies. 1999.

This part of the bibliography provides guidance to resources on state support provided for women victims of conflict, showing the disparity between their actual needs and the amount of provision received in conflict areas. The compilation is an attempt to encompass the incidence of violence against women in family, community and state, on resources ranging from monographs to news articles; published to unpublished literature.

823. ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross]. *Sri Lanka : Mounting violence highlights protection needs.* [s.l]. 4 December 2001. 9p. [Source – http://www.icrc.org; accessed on 11 November 2003].

Women and women heads of households form a large proportion among the beneficiaries of ICRC assisting the internally displaced in the North and East of Sri Lanka. Women heads receive non-food assistance besides primary health services provided by ICRC. They are also helped to trace their family members who have been taken into custody by armed forces or else 'disappeared' from the conflict regions.
This web document relates to the humanitarian response of ICRC in the war-stricken regions of Sri Lanka, such as medical services and non-food items through co-ordination with state welfare services and security forces.

824. Indrajith, Saman. *Violence against Children on the increase.* The Island. 23 November 1999.

This news item relates to the efforts made by Children & Women Protection Bureau (CWPB) which aims to combat gender crimes that are increasingly reported. Established in 1994 by the police department, the Bureau is assisted by NGOs and community organisations to conduct public awareness programmes in schools and social/vocational institutions, on the widespread prevalence of gender crimes and child abuse. CWPB desk entertains complaints on the above crimes, conducts investigations and takes due action against the perpetrators and paedophiles.

825. International Centre for Ethnic Studies. *Proposed amendments to the Prevention of Domestic Violence Bill.* Colombo. April 2005. 7p. [Source – ICES Archives on Violence against Women].

This document sets out 12 recommendations and corresponding amendments to be incorporated into the proposed Bill on Prevention of Domestic Violence, presented recently at the parliament by the Ministry of Justice & Judiciary Reforms. The Bill defines domestic violence as including all offences in Chapter XVI of the Penal Code (including assault, hurt and cruelty to children) committed or caused by a 'relevant' person within the home, defined to include the father and mother of an aggrieved person. Extortion, criminal intimidation and emotional harm resulting from domestic abuse is seen as a punishable offence in the Bill, which also provides protection to the victim of physical abuse.

826. Institute for Social Development. *"Let us Stop ! Sexual Harassment"*. Kandy. 20... Size. 9"x5"; col. [Sticker].

This sticker is a response by the Institute for Social Development to prevent the problem of sexual harassment to women, much prevalent in public and work places, this sticker is part of an awareness raising campaign against sexual harassment, and is printed in bright colours, with lettering in Sinhala, Tamil and English, readable to all linguistic groups of Sri Lanka.

827. Interact Club of St. Peter's College [and] **Interact Club of Visakha Vidyalaya.** *Youth Forum on Prevention of Violence Against Women.* Colombo. 31 October 1998. 20p.

The primary objective of this programme is to create awareness among school children on the issue of violence against women –to sensitize the participants on the problem and how to prevent it. Drawing in myths and realities on gender equality and gender-based violence, the forum has uninhibited discussions regarding problems of sexual harassment, rape and domestic violence, calling for suggestions on how victims of gender violence can be helped out through community intervention. This programme was sponsored by CIDA in association with the Rotary Club of Colombo-East.

828. International Centre for Ethnic Studies [ICES]. *Home for Human Rights. P.24-25. [and] Sinhala Women's Development Organisation : Women's Entrepreneurship Development Organisation:Women's Entrepreunership Development Project. P.52.* A Directory : Violence against women: Organisations, activities and projects concerning violence. Colombo, September 1999.

This directory provides information on two Sri Lankan NGOs working in the war-ridden parts of the country, on prevention of sexual assault and offering assistance to survivors of sexual violence. The Home for Human Rights conducts programmes in the East in order to address gender issues by:

- Raising awareness at all levels of the community;
- Establishing preventive measures through training;
- Providing support to victims to overcome the stigmatisation.

The Sinhala Women's Development Organisation conducted programmes for women entrepreneurs in the Anuradhapura district that borders the areas of civil war. The women were trained to combat gender violence that is regarded as 'a weapon of war.' This project was funded by CIDA.

829. International Centre for Ethnic Studies (ICES). *Health care of Women experiencing Gender-based violence in Sri Lanka.* Colombo. 2001. 10p. [Unpublished]. [Source – ICES Archives on Violence against Women].

This study relates to the impact of gender-oriented violence on the mental health of women in Sri Lanka. Reporting on the prevalence of gender-based violence in the country, this research project aims to:

- Assess the mental health needs of the women victims of violence;
- Perception of the health care workers on gender violence;
- Effectiveness of the current laws, regulations and the clinical guidelines;
- To identify report, document and provide health services for victims of violence and to prosecute the perpetrators.

This draft relates to the various phases of research and the methodology to develop a model intervention programme to address the needs of the victims. It aims to provide recommendations on legal reforms to address the issue - legal remedies to the victim, punishment to perpetrators of violence, and to develop suitable health care services to the victims whose psychiatric health is impaired as a result of gender abuse.

830. International Consortium of Emergency Contraception. *Sri Lanka : Ensuring program sustainability.* [s.l]. 2001. 2p. [Source - http://www.cecinfo.org ; accessed on 22 January 2003].

This project was coordinated by the Family Planning Association of Sri Lanka (FPASL) to market emergency contraception for women through general practitioners, pharmacists, youth groups, and community health workers. The association has launched national campaigns to increase women's awareness for emergency contraception. The Consortium aims to collaborate with community-based organisations in the free trade zone and plantation sector, in order to conduct training programmes for community health workers to advocate emergency contraception as a viable option to abortion.

831. International Labour Organization (ILO). *Report of the Tripartite Seminar on Sexual Harassment in the Workplace.* Colombo. 1 June 2001. 19p.; tables.

The seminar aims to draw in three actors – the government, private sector and trade unions to reassess the incidence of sexual harassment in the

workplace in Sri Lanka, to review the effectiveness of current laws and remedies available and to formulate an action plan to address the issue. It also seeks to disseminate the findings of the *Sri Lanka Study on Sexual Harassment at Workplace* based on the views expressed by government, employers, workers organisations, civil society and workers themselves, leading to specific action at the level of the entrepreneur.. Employers that participated in the seminar focused on major issues concerning sexual harassment, primarily, the insecurities and lack of awareness on the part of employers and employees. State intervention included formulating a national policy against the issue and devising codes of conduct to recognise the offence as 'misconduct'. Sensitising the judiciary – tribunals, commissions and heads of departments is yet another area for state intervention. State media was called upon to play an effective role in highlighting the problem, with emphasise on migrant women workers and women in the free trade zones. The trade unions take up the task of re-defining the legal definition of sexual harassment, raising consciousness on the issue and formulating a policy on gender equality to prevent sexual harassment.

832. International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMDAR). *Civil war and Refugees in Sri Lanka.* Prp. Nimalka Fernando. [s.l]. 2p. [Source – http://www.imadr.org/project/srilanka; accessed on 19 June 2004].

IMADR attempts to give a voice to women who have experienced many forms of violence amidst the prolonged conflict – rape, sexual abuse and repeated internal displacement. Working together with other NGOs, in particular rural women's groups from Sinhala villages bordering the conflict zone, this project documents the experiences of those war affected - war widows, women heads of households, destitutes and others in order to focus on a strong peace constituency and to develop a peace education programme for the communities.

833. International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR). *Project for Women migrant workers in Sri Lanka : Advocacy and lobbying campaign for women migrant workers and human rights in Sri Lanka : Implementation of the project 1998-2000.* Prep. Nimalka Fernando. Colombo. 2p.20.. [Source- http://www.imadr.org/project/srilanka ; accessed on 11 March 2004].

This project arises out of the mistreatment of Sri Lankan women migrant workers in other countries where women are faced with physical, verbal and sexual abuse from their employers. Based on information received through official and unofficial channels, this project aims to launch a national and international campaign and provide advocacy in order to·

- Develop a national campaign within the framework of trade unions in Sri Lanka;
- Promote and protect the rights of women workers abroad, as ratified by the UN Migrant Workers's Convention and to develop a manual based on the UN Convention and ILO directives;
- Assist the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women with her report on trafficking of women.

834. International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF). *Country Profile: Sri Lanka. 2p.* 20 November 2002. [Source – http://www.ippf. org; accessed on 13 April 2003].

When compared to the rest of South Asia, the maternal mortality in Sri Lanka is less than other South Asian countries, with 94% of child births attended by [85]mid-wives. While state-subsidised oral contraceptives are made available freely, abortion is legally restricted. Free health care is provided in hospitals and at primary health care clinics at the community-level. The infrastructure is complimented by a network of public health nurses and mid-wives providing maternal and child health services pre-dominantly in the rural areas. In an attempt to encourage 'spacing' of children, prevention of unwanted pregnancies is motivated through education and communication initiated by the Family Planning Association of Sri Lanka (FPASL). The Association is a non-governmental concern that offers a wide range of sexual/reproductive health services including those for contraception, sub-fertility, counselling and diagnostic health. FPASL promotes family planning as a basic need and women's rights with advocacy to increase political commitment to reproductive health education, foster community involvement and liberalise the anti-abortion law to provide for cases of rape, incest and congenital abnormalities. "Praja Shanthi" is a rural project to motivate the community to use contraceptives in localities where the availability is low. A retail sales programme for contraceptives has been launched recently and widely advertised through mass media. The organization is also conducting a study on clinical contraceptives and menstrual abortion is conducted by the organisation, while the FPASL Training centre provides regular training sessions for health personnel and volunteers.

835. *IOM Calls for an end to Violence against Migrant women and the Trafficking of women and children into Sexual bondage. P...* IOM News Release. No.858. 7 March 2003. [Source – http://www.iom.int/en/archive; accessed on 18 July 2004].

[85] Birth-attendants trained by the Department of Health.

Women migrant workers from Sri Lanka are vulnerable to many forms of exploitations abroad – sexual violence, forced labour and are more likely to accept precarious working conditions and lower wages. Making a specific reference to Sri Lanka, IOM calls upon the NGOs, international organisations, civil society, women's organisations, legislators and community leaders to make every effort to stop violence against migrant women.

836. Jayasinghe, Saroj [and] de Silva, Amala. *Reviewing/compiling existing data on the Social/economic and Health aspects of HIV/AIDS for Advocacy work.* [Colombo], National STD/AIDS Control Programme. October 1998. 31p.; tables.

This is a study on the compilation and review of existing literature on HIV/AIDS in Sri Lanka in order to appropriate the work for advocacy purposes. The review encompasses the prevention of HIV/AIDS and care of patients within the socio-economic, medical and legal framework. This study by the National STD/AIDS Control Programme is required for the purpose of formulating the strategies for the prevention of AIDS, conducting research on the issue, involvement of the private/public sector on awareness and prevention, while providing a base for advocacy activities in the field.

837. Jayawardene, Kumari. *War and Peace. P.5.* [and] *Violence against women. P.6-7.* The Women's Movement in Sri Lanka 1985-95 : A glance back over 10 years. Options. No.14, 2nd Quarter 1998.

This section of the article concerns the action of women's NGOs with regard to refugee care in the wake of armed conflict. Many women's organisations have implemented relief programmes for the internally displaced where women and children are the majority of the victims. In particular, the efforts of Women for Peace that conducts a signature campaign against the war, calling for peace negotiations. This action group provides peace educational programmes for school children, trauma counselling for victims of war and peace campaigns/protests against the arbitrary arrests and detention of women in the North and East by security personnel. The article acknowledges the works on Women's Education & Research Centre (WERC), Suriya Women's Development Centre, Tamil Women's Union and the Sri Lanka Federation of University Women (SLFUW) for implementing relief programmes for the internally displaced women and children. The work of Sri Lankan women towards eliminating violence against women is acclaimed by the UN. Dr. Radhika Coomaraswamy from Sri Lanka who has focused on this issue locally and abroad, has been appointed by the UN Commission on Human Rights as the UN Special

Rapporteur on Violence against Women (1994 to 2003). The article also acknowledges the services of Women In Need (WIN) for providing shelter facilities for battered women, as the state does not provide support for victims of family violence. WIN provides shelter homes for victims of family violence with counselling and medical advice for those affected by this.

838. Kalyanaratne, K.A.I. *Sexual harassment in the Workplace : The need for an integrated human resource strategy.* Daily News. 16 January 2001.

This news article develops a clear understanding of the issue of sexual harassment at the workplace where a good proportion of women are victimised. Evidently, the Penal Code (Amendment) Act No.22,1995 provides punishment for the perpetrator and compensation for the victim of sexual harassment. In view of developing a healthy and valuable human resource base in institutions and workplaces, the author puts forward a comprehensive procedure to be followed – policy formulation, organisational code of conduct, complaint procedure, awareness raising on the issue, establishment of support services, provision of protection for complainants and support/commitment by the top level management to eradicate sexual harassment in the workplace.

839. Kanagarachchi, Ramani. *Life as a War widow.* Sunday Observer. 12 October 2003.

This is an investigative report on war widows faced with impoverishment, sexual harassment and forced marriage. While acknowledging the work of Ranaviru Family Counselling Service, the article relates the response of the Ministry of Defence, on amending the Widows & Orphans Act, to enable the widow to re-marry without losing the financial benefits given to war widows.

840. Karunakaran, P. *The rape of Juda Kamalita.* Weekend Express. July 31-August 1, 1999

This news story highlights the response by women's organisations to the case of rape and murder of Juda Kamalita allegedly by para-military personnel in the District of Mannar. The Women and Media Collective, on behalf of 29 women's NGOs, issued a statement condemning this brutal crime, while pressuring for speedy investigations, quick trial and due punishment for the perpetrators.

841. Kiwanuka, Justine. *Sri Lanka. P.2.* India and Sri Lanka : Cultural attitudes, law education still key issues. Disability International. Spring 1996. [Source – http://www.dpa.org.sg/publication; accessed on 10 June 2005].

In Sri Lanka, disabled women are most vulnerable to gender violence as a result of cultural constraints and restricted physical movement. This web document discusses the gender issues within the Sri Lankan disability movement as several laws have been passed to deal with the issue of disability but none are gender specific. The state has launched an income generating project for the economic empowerment of disabled women, in collaboration with the Sri Lankan Confederation of Organisations of Handicapped People. The project, while achieving some significant changes in the lives of women has lead to the lobbying of the state sector to reserve seats for the disabled in public transport where women passengers face many a sexual harassment.

842. Kodikara, Chulani. *A minimum age of marriage for Muslim girls. P.17-19; tables.* Voice of Women. Vol.6, Issue No.2. November 2001.

This article briefs on the initiatives to define the minimum age of marriage in Muslim Law. Under the General Law of Sri Lanka and the penal code provision on rape, the minimum age of marriage of a girl is 18 years and "... sexual intercourse with a girl under 16 years of age with or without her consent amounts to rape". However, the Board of Quazi (1937) has special powers to solemnise and register the marriage of Muslim girls between 12 and 14 years of age. Countries such as Bangladesh, India and Pakistan have implemented the Child Marriage Restraint Act that makes child marriage a criminal offence. Tabulated in this article is the progressive legislation relating to child marriage in Pakistan, India Bangladesh and other Islamic nations.

843. Kodikara, Chulani. *Violence against Women in Sri Lanka : Are recent government efforts adequate?. P.130-137.* Expert Meeting on Women and Legal Justice, Hakone (Japan), 19-20 November 2000. Tokyo, Asian Women's Fund. March 2001.

Violence against women in Sri Lanka is much explored in terms of its causes and consequences. Yet, the phenomenon continues as the law and the criminal justice system are inadequate to address the crimes and the perpetrators of violence continue to enjoy impunity. This paper briefs on the recent efforts of the state to address issues of domestic violence and rape and the shortcomings in the legal system. Reforming of the Penal Code with regard to the laws

against rape and family violence has however, resulted in the establishment of the Women and Children's Desk at police stations. Despite this, gender crimes are not reported properly due to social constraitns and insensitivity on the part of the officers recording the complaints. Furthermore, it is observed that the procedures of reported cases are delayed and the perpetrators escape penalty. Recent cases of the rape and murder of Krishanthy Kumaraswamy and Rita John are exceptional in this context.

844. Kurukulasuriya, Lasanda. *War Widows denied Land.* Daily Mirror. 3 May 2002.

War widows in rural Sri Lanka are denied the rights to own agricultural land, unless through inheritance. Several women's groups and NGOs have been lobbying for the reform of Land Development Ordinance (1935) based on an antiquated model of inheritance of state agricultural land that gives preference to male heirs. Working for the empowerment of war widows and women heads of households in the war-stricken district of Moneragala, the Vehilihini Development Centre (VDC) has taken up this issue at the International Women's Day, where large numbers of women farmers participated in a public demonstration against the denial of land rights for women in agriculture.

845. *Legal aid for Women. P.26-32.* Voice of Women. Vol.6, Issue.2. March 2004.

Legal problems that affect women arise mostly in relation to issues of violence against women –rape, sexual harassment, domestic violence, divorce, maintenance/alimony, and the inheritance of property. This article provides briefs on various legal aid programmes available for the victims of violence and how they could be accessed. In this context, it condones the policy and functional aspects of the National Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka.

846. Law & Society Trust. *Towards substantive Equalities : An introductory guide.* Colombo. July 2001. 46p.; notes.

This handbook is based on a regional conference entitled [86] "Human Rights & Equality", focusing on violence against women, women's human rights and concepts related to gender equality. The book draws in the composition of gender-oriented violence in Sri Lanka and legal action sanctioned by the

[86] "Human Rights & Equality",Colombo,12-14 January 2000.

Criminal Code of the country. Domestic violence, rape, sexual harassment, incest and abortion are related in terms of their prevalence and on legislation providing for victims of abuse. The publication appropriates on the kinds of legal reform needed, and how the state institutions - police, medical sector and judiciary could improve their services while handling cases on gender crimes.

847. Lawyers for Human Rights and Development (LHRD). *Legal rights of women.* Colombo. January 2002.

The Women's Desk of LHRD has prepared this brochure under the legal awareness programme relating to women's legal rights. Useful as a quick reference source, the handout concerns issues on violence against women - body-search and detention in police custody, bigamy, marriage/divorce, sexual harassment, workplace violence, rape, abuse of minor children, incest, publication of matters on sexual abuse, domestic violence and trafficking/ abduction for prostitution.

848. *Legislation of Interpol Member States on Sexual offences against Children in Sri Lanka : Rape.* [s.l], Interpol. 9 June 2004. 1p. [Source – http://www.interpol.int/ ; accessed on 12 July 2004].

This is a write-up on the Penal Code of Sri Lanka enacted as Ordinance No.2 of 1883 which embodies the substantative criminal law dealing with rape. Amended in 1998, the law states that the minimum age of 'consent' pertaining to offence of rape has been increased from 12 years to the age of 16. Consequently, the matter of 'consent' by the victim arises only if she is above 16 years of age. If a girl under the age of 18 is raped, the case views the victim as a 'child'. The mandatory, minimum sentence for rape is up to 10 years, with a monetary compensation to be paid to the victim of sexual violence. The level of compensation depends on the level of damage caused to the victim and is determined by the court.

849. Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), Women's Wing/Political Division. *"Let us preserve the cultural identity of Tamil women" [: A translated abstract].* Batticaloa-Ampara District. [2002]. 1p. [Source – ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

Violence against women perpetrated by security forces is the focus of this handbill distributed by women militants. Referring to sexual violence experienced

by civilian women at security check-points, this pamphlet prescribes a 'culture-based', dress code for married women. Relating to media violence explicit in the cinema, it calls for a proscription of obscene films that portray women's image in a degrading manner.

850. Liyanage, Jayanthi. *Employment issues top the list at Gender Complaints Centre.* Sunday Observer. 31 August 2003.

This story relates to the positive outcome regarding the acceptance of women's rights as revealed by the Gender Complaints Centre (GCC) of the National Commission of Women (NCW). GCC records a high reportage of domestic violence, sexual harassment at workplace and divorce/maintenance issues since 1999. The centre assists women to launch complaints on gender-based violence referring them to the Legal Aid Commission that offers free legal aid to victims. Detecting areas in violation of women's human rights that are not adequately addressed by the law, the GCC awaits the Women's Bill that legally empowers the Women's Charter of Sri Lanka as the Women's Act. In districts that record a high percentage of gender violence the NCW has deployed "Violence – sensor" groups to bring such incidence to the limelight. Once the Women's Act becomes a law, NCW will proceed to create a Women's Executive Commission and a Women's Advisory Council that will exert pressure on cases of gender abuse and discrimination without seeking redress through a court of law.

851. Loganathan, Bhawani [and] de Silva, Mangalika. *State governments and refugees. P. 39-42.*[and] *Protection and rehabilitation. P.68-80.* An annotated bibliography on women in conflict. Colombo, Social Scientists' Association. 1999.

This part of the bibliography cites resources relating to the role of the Sri Lankan state and social welfare organizations in rehabilitating and resettling the women affected by armed conflict. Documents on the activities of state organizations, UN Agencies and community-based NGOs are annotated in this guide.

852. Loganathan, Bhawani. *A bibliography on Women and Violence: Gender-oriented violence in Sri Lanka.* Colombo, Sri Lanka Library Association. March 1996.

A compilation of citations from mostly mainstream newspapers, journal articles and media programmes, providing resources to information on gender-related

violence, in particular, of sexual violence afflicted upon women of all backgrounds. Some important cases of rape and their respective judgments (1994-95) are provided here. The bibliography specifically shows information resources on:

- Public opinion on the urgent need to reform laws against sexual offences;
- The importance of socio-legal infrastructure to combat gender-based crimes.

853. Loganathan, Bhawani. *Assisting women in Conflict : Violence against women : Sri Lanka. P.97-122.* Gendering Humanitarianism : An annotatated bibliography on gender and capacity building in armed conflict. Frwd. Malathi de Alwis [and] Jennifer Hyndman. Colombo, International Centre for Ethnic Studies. 2000.

This section of the bibliography provides resources on the efforts of the state, NGOs and international NGOs in supporting women victims of war trauma and sexual violence through health programmes. The bibliography provides resources on various forms of support provided by NGOs, UN Agencies and the state, to develop their potentials towards their social and economic needs. The bibliography provides resources for information on humanitarian assistance rendered to women victims in armed conflict and in post-conflict societies. Victims of violence range from women heads of households to war widows and single women, living in war zones as well as in 'border villages'.

854. Malalasekera, Sarath. *Prosecutors must ensure justice for rape victims – Attorney General.* Daily News. 26 August 2004.

This new article relates to an evaluation of laws dealing with violence against women in Chapter XVI of the Penal Code (1883), Section 345. Evidently, a victim of rape is subjected to extensive questioning by both sides of the judiciary, often humiliated and intimidated by the formalities of the court. During this process her chances for justice gradually diminishes, though she has constitutional protection. In addition, the system does not permit for the recording of the evidence of victims of rape/sexual abuse, though much needed to preserve the right of privacy of both the prosecutrix and the accused, while superseding the right of the public to receive information. Yet another drawback is the long gap between the date of the commission of the offence and the date of trial, which leads to a prolonged trauma and failure of memories to the victim that would make her reluctant to express her grievances. In this context, a trial-at-bar proves advantageous where the prosecutions could be heard within

a prescribed period resulting in the conviction of the accused. The Supreme Court of Sri Lanka has now recognised that corroboration of a victim's evidence is not necessary, and that the accused could be convicted solely on her evidence.

855. Marasinghe, Charika. *Sri Lanka Situational Analysis : Sexual exploitation of children. P...* 2001. [Source - http://www.focalpointngo.org; accessed on 25 April 2005].

Official Statistics from the National Women and Children's Desk, Sri Lanka Police for the year 2000 shows that out of 894 cases, 862 victims were women. The girls are from poor families, kidnapped or duped by agents of prostitution and procured for forced sex work /labour. This article relates to the work of the National Child Protection Authority working in liaison with the Women and Children's Desk, Child Abuse Division of the Attorney General's Department and non-governmental organisations in protecting children from abuse. It relates to the activities of PEACE in launching international campaigns against the sexual exploitation of children and child prostitution in Sri Lanka. PEACE is affiliated to ECPAT with the objectives of :

- Creating awareness of the ill-effects of sexual exploitation;
- Influencing the national policy for the protection of vulnerable children;
- Prevention of children being attracted to or forced into prostitution;
- Educating parents, teachers, social workers, community development workers, youth etc. on the problem of child abuse/child prostitution.

The activities of PEACE aim at socio-legal reforms to amend existing legislation and enact new laws to combat child abuse/ prostitution. PEACE also initiates supporting programmes to identify areas for underprivileged children to be kept away from prostitution.
This web article further refers to the Sarvodaya Legal Services Movement (SLSM), conducting awareness programmes to highlight the rights of children. Their services are primarily focused on the low-income community and provided through Legal Aid Clinics at village, district and national level.

856. Marie Stopes International [MSI]. *Sri Lanka : Population Services Lanka (PSL). P.I.* [London]. 2001. [Source – http://www.mariestopes.org.uk/ww/sri-lanka/ ; accessed on 14 May 2003].

MSI has established the Population Services Lanka since 1993, providing contraceptive services for women. Their network of clinics and outreach

services serve the health needs of the rural poor and slum-dewellers through subsidised health care provision and ensuring safe contraceptives through a programme of social marketing. Further, the PSL provides primary health care, ante- and post-natal care for women, besides surgical sexual sterilisation for women and men.

857. Maunaguru, Sitralega. *Gendering Tamil Nationalism : The construction of women in projects of protest and control. P.158-174; notes.* Unmaking the Nation : The politics of identity and history in modern Sri Lanka. Ed. Pradeep Jaganathan et al. Colombo, Social Scientists' Association. 1995.

An important feature of this paper is the construction of gender practices in times of armed conflict where the response of women's groups to war-related atrocities fall within patriarchal ideologies which ignores the violation of women's human rights. This article relates to the response of women's groups, in particular the women cadres of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). It is observed that the course of action taken against war-rape is based on concepts of 'virginity', 'chastity', 'purification' and 'revenge' through counter-violence. Evidently, the protest positions of women against armed conflict in the North are those of 'mothers', 'wives' and 'women warriors', falling under the control of the existing patriarchy.

858. Mehta, Manik. *Asylum : Lanka rape case goes to top German Court.* [s.l.], India Abroad. 23 June 2000. P.1. [Source – http://vih.diwane.net ; accessed on 22 January 2003].

A news item on the case of a Sri Lankan woman applying for asylum in Germany, on grounds of custodial rape by the security forces in Sri Lanka. Contrary to the international standards of considering rape as a 'psychological' weapon of war, her application was rejected by the Government of Germany, as the case "did not justify asylum or protection against deportation", and the court recognised rape as "..simply a brutal behaviour".

859. *Memorandum to the Government, the LTTE and the Norwegian Facilitators from women's organisations in Sri Lanka.* Colombo, 7 June 2002. [Draft].

This memorandum prepared by various women's organisations makes recommendations regarding the status of women in conflict in the light of the

ongoing peace negotiations. While welcoming the Ceasefire Agreement between the State and the LTTE, the submission relates to the role of women in the peace process, women's issues and concerns during the armed conflict as an integral part of the peace agenda and the protection of women's human rights at every stage of the process. Being the major victims of the 20-year old civil war in the North and East, women need to be provided with specialised programmes of rehabilitation, resettlement and reintegration. The submission emphasises that there should be gendered participation in decision-making, and that women be represented in the monitoring committees for violation of human rights that should be made to function in a gender-sensitive measure.

860. Ministry of Health and Women's Affairs. *Article 16 - Right to protect from Gender-Based Violence.* P...Women's Charter (Sri Lanka). Colombo. 1993.

Recognising gender-based violence as a violation of women's rights, the Women's Charter has been approved by the Government of Sri Lanka on 3rd March 1993, as a legal standard towards the elimination of violence against women and protecting women's human rights in the country. Preventive measures to rape, incest, sexual harassment, physical/mental abuse, torture, cruelty and inhuman or degrading treatment of women include:

- Promotion of legislative reforms in terms of substantive laws with preventive and punitive measures;
- Promotion of attitudinal and structural reforms within the law enforcement machinery;
- Provision of support to community-based organisations and programmes that provide support and counselling services for victims of gender-based violence.

861. Ministry of Transport, Environment & Women's Affairs, Sri Lanka. *Towards Gender Equality : Violence against Women. P.36-37.* Pre-seminar Information package : Seminar on "Implications of the Fourth World Conference on Women for Bilateral Development Cooperation", Madras, 23-25 April 1996. Colombo. 1995.

This section of the report provides statistics on the proportion of women in legal positions and in the police force. A Women and Children's Desk has been set up by the police to handle gender-related crimes which is a priority in police duties. The report emphasises the need to abolish gender discrimination in the police training and the assumption of duties, and to introduce gender sensitisation as part of the training curriculum.

862. Ministry of Transport, Environment & Women's Affairs. *Violence against Women, Women and Human rights, Women and Armed conflict. P.11-22.* National Plan of Action for Sri Lanka : Towards gender equality. Colombo. 1995.

Recommendations to gender-related violence in family and community are given in this part of the report. Goals, strategies and collaboration of community organisations with state are summarised in a tabulated format. Sri Lanka is a signatory to CEDAW and the UN Declaration on Violence Against Women through the Women's Charter that endorses the state policy on gender equality.

863. Ministry of Women's Affairs, Sri Lanka. *Programmes on Violence against Women.* Colombo. 2000. P... [Source – http://www.womenwarpeace. org/sri_lanka; accessed on 12 May 2003].

The Women's Bureau has conducted programmes on violence and harassment against women in accordance with the UN Women's Charter on discrimination against women (1993). Funded by UNICEF this programme covered community leaders, police officers; school children, teachers, parents and officers of government and non -governmental organisations. Handouts and handbooks were printed and distributed under this programme. Programmes on child abuse and sexual harassment have been conducted in 1999 for the same target groups. In this context, a poster competition and an exhibition were held for the purpose of creating awareness among the community.

864. Ministry of Women's Affairs. Women's Bureau. *Programmes and Projects : Guidance and counselling programme.* Colombo. 2000. 1p. [Source - http://www.womenwarpeace.org/sri_lanka; accessed on 18 May 2003].

The Women's Bureau is a state-run institution for women, to promote women's rights and to empower them. This web site provides information on the programme of counselling services for victims of armed conflict, launched for internally displaced women through state counselling centres.

865. Ministry of Women's Affairs. Women's Bureau. *Programmes and Projects : Violence against women programme.* Colombo. 2001. 1p. [Source - http://www.womenwarpeace.org/sri_lanka; accessed on 18 May 2003].

This website refers to the issue of awareness raising on gender-oriented violence through specific programmes that target school children, police personnel and community leaders. The programme launched by the Women's Bureau, serves to educate and motivate the community to report incidents of gender violence to the police so that action can be taken against them.

866. *The National Committee on Women's Centre for Gender Complaints.* Daily News. 28 August 1999.

This is a briefing on the role played by the National Committee on Women (NCW) to combat violence against women, as ratified by Sri Lanka in the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Governed by the Women's Charter of Sri Lanka the centre is located in Colombo, entertaining complaints ranging from employment discrimination to sexual violence, and aids with investigations, redressal, legal aid and mediation services for the victim.

867. National Consultation Workshop on a Multi Sectoral Response towards Eliminating Gender Based Violence in Sri Lanka. Colombo, 9-10 December 2004 *: Report.* 31p.; annex.

This workshop seeks to provide space for different stakeholders from government, non- government and UN Agencies to use findings of studies on the many facets of the issue of violence against women in Sri Lanka and to create a forum to discuss the perceptions and experiences of the participants. It aims to formulate a plan of action comprising a multi-sectoral approach to remedial, preventive and support strategies to eliminate gender violence in the country. Based on the current situation of gender-based violence, the forum drafted action plans in terms of reforming the law, media, educational, health and support services. In this context, a national level task force/consultative committee comprising members from the government and non-governmental organizations is to be set up to monitor the implementation of the various actions proposed.

868. National Development Bank of Sri Lanka (NDB). *NDB Brings [a] ray of hope for Women in the North with [the] Japanese Government. 2p.* [Colombo]. 2003. [Source – http://www.ndb.org/news; accessed on 22 December 2003].

This is a briefing on the project entitled "Empowering the Poor Women and Girls in Sri Lanka" where assistance is rendered to those in the war-torn

districts of Vavuniya, Jaffna and Trincomalee. Aiming to strengthen the income generating capacities of women victims of war to enhance their participation in economic activities, the project focuses on:

- Implementing and managing self-employment through agricultural farming and dairy practices;
- Women's leadership training;
- Initiation to savings and revolving credit facilities;
- Formation of women's groups and participatory assessment.

Renovation of water resources and access to micro-loans are part of the project, as back-up to the capacity building initiative.

869. Neeran. *An American academic on the civil administration in Thamil Eelam : [From March 1990 to November 1995].* [s.l], 10 May 1996. 12p. [Source – http://www.sangam.org ; accessed on 23 September 2003].

The practice of dowry is a root cause for gender discrimination, as well as family violence, as observed in many cases. According to this report, LTTE has launched an educational campaign against the practice of dowry in the North of Sri Lanka. Dowry, based on 'demands' made by the bridegroom and his family members has lead to the hampering of socio-economic progress, leading to corruption in the society. Sanctioned by the Tesawalamai Law of Sri Lanka, dowry given to the woman at the time of her marriage, gives her no independent powers to mortgage, lease or sell the property without the spouse's consent.

870. National Committee on Women [NCW] – Sri Lanka. *Meeting to discuss Curriculum on Gender Issues for Police officers.* 14 February 1997. 2p. [Draft]. [Source – ICES Archives on Violence against Women].

This abstract concerns police services for women victims of violence and the need to improve on:

- Services of the Women's and Children's Desk;
- Attitudes towards the complainants of rape and incest;
- Level of gender sensitivity of police personnel;
- Curriculum of the training course to accommodate the perspective on gender-based violence.

Accordingly, more women police personnel have been recruited and trained to handle the cases reported by women. It was also decided that the training

curriculum should include in-service-training on procedures pertaining to domestic violence and other forms of gender-related abuses.

871. **Nest**. *The work of Nest.* Hendala (Sri Lanka). 20... P... [Source- http:// www.nestsrilanka.com ; accessed on 20 January 2003].

This brochure focuses on the activities of Nest a community-based NGO that serves women with psychiatric problems. The community health programme of Nest includes:

- Providing support to young mothers in distress and in isolation;
- Promoting mental health awareness in farming and plantation communities;
- Providing training for health workers in community health and creating employment opportunities for healthcare providers;
- Launching campaigns for better health conditions and treatment of psychiatric patients.

872. *One stop crisis centre at Colombo National Hospital.* Daily News. 6 March 2002.

Women In Need (WIN) a women's organisation committed to the cause of eliminating violence against women, has set up a one-stop crisis intervention centre at the Emergency Unit if the National Hospital in Colombo. This centre provides free counselling and related services to battered women who seek medical help. The services include provision of trained staff and basic legal advice if the victim needs legal help, besides maintaining documents, follow-up action and coordinating with other support agencies.

873. **Oxfam. Community Aid Abroad [CAA].** *Living in a War Zone : Women empowered against backdrop of war.* Prp. Nalini Kasynathan. [s.l]. August 1996. 2p. [Source – http://www.oxfam.org.au; accessed on 25 January 2003].

In an interview with journalists, the CAA Program Officer for South Asia speaks about their model programme in support of the women affected by armed conflict in the North and East of Sri Lanka. This programme aims to provide support to cope with a turbulent situation of widowhood, the burden of domestic responsibilities due to the death or 'disappearance' of the men in their families and the vulnerability to sexual exploitation. The interview concerns the challenges faced in implementing the programme and its future in the wake of social reconstruction in a war-torn community.

874. Oxfam. Community Aid Abroad [CAA]. *Women : Moving towards democracy.* Prp. Nalini Kasynathan. Colombo]. July 1996. 2p. [Source – http://www.oxfam.org.au; accessed on 20 January 2003].

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875. Parliament of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. *Code of Criminal Procedures (Amendment) Act, No.20 of 1995. 5p.* Colombo. 1995.

This section of the Act related to the prohibition of abortion as "..causing miscarriage, injuries to unborn children", imposes penalty to perpetrators of abortion. Despite the fact that abortion is illegal, it is a major cause of maternal death in Sri Lanka. The amended act has no provision for safe abortions, but only under circumstances where the pregnancy is "life-threatening" to the mother. Even in the case of rape-related or forced pregnancies the amendment however, does not provide for abortion rights. Though "grave sexual abuse" to women and children has been amended as a punishable crime, the issue of abortion-related deaths is not seen as a form of violence against the woman's reproductive rights, nor a violation of the right to control over her body.

876. Perera-Rajasingham, Nimanthi. *Resisting Violence : The politics of motherhood in the East. 20p.; notes.* "Gender and Violence", Hambantota, 11-14 July 2005. [Draft].

This paper relates to a gendered activism within the space of 'motherhood' and resisting the atrocities of a civil war, where children are conscripted by militant groups. The paper draws in the responses of mothers, individually and collectively, as dialogues and mass protests, against forced conscription of young children. Cases are cited from the Eastern Province, where villages haunted by militants and mothers deployed many a strategy to safeguard/ 'rescue' their children from being forcefully taken for armed training.

877. *Poster Campaign. P.2.* Pravahini. Vol.6, No.2. 1998.

This is a campaign launched by the Women's Education & Research Centre (WERC) to counter sexual harassment of women in public places. In response to the complaints received from women of all classes, this campaign aims to attract the attention of the public and make them aware of the seriousness of the problem.

878. *Projects : A Psychological Study of Blue-collar Women Workers and their Trauma. P.2.* Pravahini. Vol.2, No.2. 1998.

This is a news item concerning the health services available for women factory workers in the free trade zone of Sri Lanka. This project by WERC aims to study their physical and mental health as a result of the existing "factory environment" – public transport, communal living, rigorous work-load and prolonged working hours. This research draws attention to the issue of women's health in development and the search for alternatives.

879. *Protection of Housemaids. P.4.* Pravahini. Vol.12, No.2. 1998.

This news item concerns the state effort to protect the Sri Lankan women workers against violence and mistreatment by their employers in the Middle East and other countries. The migrant employer's contract introduced by the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment provides a formal agreement between the worker and employer giving particulars of the sponsorship and working conditions to the women before they leave the country.

880. *Radhika has protested against attack on Women by Soldiers –UN.* The Island. 15 March 2000.

A press release of the United Nations draws attention of the report of the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women expressing grave concern over the growing incidence of gang rape and murder of women and girls in Sri Lanka. Focusing attention on individual cases brought to her attention Dr. Radhika Coomaraswamy stresses on the lack of serious investigations and prosecution of offenders by the law enforcement authority. This calls for government intervention for efficient and timely action of the law enforcers.

881. Rajasingham-Senanayake, Darini. *After Victimhood : Women's empowerment in war and displacement. P.25-29; notes.* Pravada. Vol.6, Nos. 2 & 3. 1999.

In this article, the author examines the role of women in a post-conflict society where women emerge as heads of households. She argues that non-combatant women who have lost their spouses in a protracted war have found 'space' for empowerment, instrumental for social change in a patriarchal society. This observation opens up a debate on women's new-found status within a male-dominated culture, where post-war reconstruction is in progress.

882. Rajendran, S. *Protestors accuse Sri Lankan Security Forces of murdering a young Tamil Woman. 2p.* [s.l]. 13 January 2000. [Source – http://www.wsws.org/articles/; accessed on 22 August 2004].

A public demonstration was held in the village of Pungudutivu in the North of Sri Lanka, in protest of the alleged custodial rape and murder of Sarathambal, a 20-year old mother by security personnel. Evidently, she was abducted from her home by men in black uniform, and her body disposed of. Post-mortem reports confirmed that the victim was raped and death occurred due to suffocation. The President has ordered a full-inquiry on this case, so that deterrent action would be possible against the culprits irrespective of their ranks or status.

883. Rajepakse, Ruwana. *Rape Cases : Myths and realities. P.10-12.* Options. No.2. November 1994.

Rape is viewed as a serious offence under the Penal Code of Sri Lanka and carries a maximum sentence of 20 years of imprisonment. However, few cases have been reported as a result of socio-legal constraints of the victim throughout the process. This article provides the essential steps to be taken by the victim of rape when reporting the case:

- Prompt complaint to the police and checking for accuracy of the case recording;
- Timely medical examination by a qualified physician. Publicising the incident ie., telling a relative, showing the torn clothes, injuries caused during the act;
- Resisting the offence if possible, as law permits a person to use a reasonable force to protect oneself.

884. Range, Irangika. *Women In Need launch[es] Victims of Violence Fund.* Daily News. 8 November 2003.

The Victims of Violence Fund was launched as a result of increasing number of cases on violence against women and children. This fund leads WIN to assist a large number of victims of domestic violence, rape, incest and sexual abuse by providing them legal advice, counselling, refuge, comfort and solace in their hour of need. WIN operates 5 centres in the various parts of the country, as well as two "One-Stop Crisis Centres" in the National Hospital and maternity hospitals in Colombo where women are admitted at large.

885. *Rita John Case : A collection of news clippings.* October 1998 [and] August-November 2002. [Source – ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

This collection includes documented press clippings from mainstream news media on the follow-up of the Rita John rape and murder. Ms.John, an Indian national was abducted, robbed, gang-raped and murdered on 11th October 1998. Rejecting an appeal challenging the death sentence passed by the High Court, a trial-at-bar comprising 5 Supreme Court judges passed the same sentence along with the imposition of 82 years imprisonment for the three accused.

886. Ruwanpura, Kanchana. [87]*The Gender and Spatial Politics of NGOs : Spaces of subversion and sites of reinforcement. 19p.; ref.* "Gender and Violence", Hambantota, 11-14 July 2005. [Draft].

This working paper reviews the scope of which NGOs are sites/spaces for subverting and or reinforcing gendered identities, by using the social group, female headed households in the war-afflicted East of Sri Lanka. The author observes that Suriya Women's Development Centre from Batticaloa and Affected Women's Forum (AWF) of Akkaraipattu have a broad objective of transmitting gender issues, in particular violence against women to promote an agenda where the victims of violence are the active agents in control of their own lives. Suriya and AWF, thus prioritize women's socio-economic rights, in order to build a deeper understanding of the issue of gender violence. Their activities include:

- Raising awareness on women's socio-economic rights and the gendered impact on community welfare;
- Create a social space to challenge gender inequality by mobilizing victims of violence.

[87] Forthcoming as "Gender & Violence", published by ICES, Colombo.

The Culture Theatre Group of Suriya stages programmes on gender abuse and related issues, produced by members of the community, as strategies to combat violence against women, in particular domestic violence and that perpetrated as a result of a civil war.

887. Samath, Faizal. *Curbing the Demon at Home.* The Sunday Times. 24 June 2001.

This is a review of the proposed Domestic Violence Act that seeks to protect women from family violence and provide for their economic self-reliance. The article refers to the comments made by Women In Need (WIN), Women and Media Collective and academics in the field of law, acknowledging the benefits of the act, which considers the elements from criminal and civil law to provide medical and legal assistance to the victims.

888. Samuel, Kumudini. *Gender differences in conflict resolution : The case of Sri Lanka. P.8-16.* Options. No.14, 2nd Quarter. 1998.

Women in Sri Lanka are major victims of the protracted civil war, and suffer displacement. This article highlights contributions made by women's action groups against armed conflict, calling for peace in support of women victims who have lost their family members. Women's Action Committee (WAC) Women for Peace, Mothers and Daughters of Sri Lanka (MDSL), Southern Mothers' Front and the Northern Mothers' Front have conducted mass rallies and a national campaign against armed conflict, 'disappearances' and extrajudicial killings by security forces. This article looks into their growth, activities and the challenges faced by them.

889. Samuel, Kumudini. *Give Peace a Chance: Women's activism and marginalization in the peace process. P.3-8.* Options. No.21. 1st Quarter, 2000.

This is an exploration of women's action groups in Sri Lanka in protest against the civil war. Women's peace groups and protest movements such as Women for Peace, The Northern Mothers Front, Mothers & Daughters of Lanka and The Southern Mothers Front are addressed within this context. While exploring their contribution towards the task, the author is optimistic that the intervention of the women's movements in the path of peace making could also help increase women's participation in political negotiations.

890. Sarwar, Beena. *South Asia unites against Domestic Violence. P.20-21.* WLUML Newsheet. Vol.X, No.1. April 1998.

This news article on the South Asian Coalition Against Domestic Violence held in Kathmandu acknowledges the success of the "24-hour Helpline" – a hotline service established by the Sri Lankan police to receive complaints on family violence and other forms of gender-based complaints.
The conference organised by UNICEF draws in participants from South Asia to discuss the commonalities on the issue of family violence and strategies to address the problem. Based on this the Kathmandu Commitment recognises the role of the family in perpetrating women against women through preferential treatment of the boy-child. On initiatives to combat gender-based violence in the family and community the Commitment aims to follow up:

- State policies in relation to the issue;
- Judicial, police reforms;
- Community interventions.

891. Satkunarajah, Bavani. ***Centre for Women and Development offers a helping hand to Women who faced abuse and violence in the Jaffna Peninsula. [: Translation summary].*** Virakesari. 22 July 1999. [Source – ICES Archives on Violence against Women].

The adversities encountered by women in Jaffna are directly and indirectly due to the ethnic conflict, civil war and the instability of the civil administration Centre for Women and Development (CWD) offers free legal advice to women to help them lodge complaints on sexual violence. It also assists in the rehabilitation of the affected and in safeguarding their human rights.

892. ***SC [Supreme Court] orders compensation to woman raped at check point.*** [s.l], 24 January 2002. 2p. [Source – http://www.tamilnet.com accessed on 3 May 2004].

The Supreme Court has ordered the State to pay Rs.150,000 as compensation to a woman who was raped by 3 soldiers at a check-point within Colombo. Based on a complaint lodged by the victim that her fundamental rights have been violated, a three-member bench heard the trial. Concerned about the issue of custodial violence against Tamil women, the Tamil political parties and human rights groups launched a protest campaign against the growing incidence of rape and abuses by the security personnel.

893. Seneviratne, Dharshini. *Changing Lives and Laws : Activism and predicaments of the Muslim Women's Research and Action Forum [MWRAF]. P.34-37; notes.* Options. No.14, 2nd Quarter 1998.

MWRAF is a women's NGO, campaigning for reforms in religious laws as "..the code of conduct for women have become even more ingrained in Muslim society". This article discusses the work of MWRAF in lobbying for legal reforms on personal laws, especially with regard to divorce and polygamy both of which give little or no freedom of expression for the women. The organisation while making interventions in initiating gender sensitive reforms in the Muslim Personal Law in Sri Lanka, aims to assert women's rights against the upcoming wave of religious extremism that has proved to be dangerously gender-oppressive.

894. Seneviratne, Pratibashi. *It's time to make a change : The status of women's health in Sri Lanka. P.7-11; ref.* Options. Vol.25, 1st Quarter, 2001.

Indicating that women in Sri Lanka need to enjoy their human rights and freedom related to the control of their bodies, the National Committee on Women (NCW) has identified several issues that relate to violence against women and women's health. In Sri Lanka illegal, unsafe abortions are a major cause for maternal deaths. Based upon the fact that rural, community-based women have no access to information on health issues, the National Plan of Action has put forward strategies for improved women's reproductive health by means of :

- Women's right for safe, medical termination of pregnancy;
- Access to contraceptives at community level;
- Provision of family planning services through better equipped health centres at community level.

The Family Planning Association of Sri Lanka needs to be encouraged to widen their network, conduct educational programmes and have counselling services for the community women to have a better control of their reproductive health. This article mentions the Marie Stopes Clinic, a private health concern that offers Vaccum Aspiration or Menstrual Regulation (MR) Services for pregnancy-related problems.

895. *"Sexual Harassment in the Workplace", Colombo, 24 July 1999.* Colombo, Law & Society Trust. 28p.

The purpose of this workshop is to provide managers and supervisors with an understanding of sexual harassment in the workplace, information on its impact on the employee/institution and the strategies necessary to address the issue. The forum draws in:

- Laws related to sexual harassment;
- Performance/productivity issues associated with sexual harassment;
- Role of the management in dealing with the issue;
- Response to complaints of sexual harassment.

While providing the intellectual foundation and information on the subject, the forum helps the participants to identify the skills needed, so that they could appoint trained personnel to handle such complaints.

896. Sharma, Kalpana. *A Gift from Sri Lanka.* The Hindu. 26 January 2003.

Women have been victimised by war and conflict in Sri Lanka, subjected to various forms of violence – forced internal displacement, physical suffering and trauma. In the wake of the peace process a women's committee has been set up to look into the grievances of women in the war-torn regions, in particular the North and East. Persistent lobbying of women's groups in the country has lead to an International Women's Commission which toured the war-affected areas and prepared a blue-print applicable to gender issues in any post-conflict society. This report draws in war-related forms of gender violence – sexual violence, custodial abuse, family violence, ostracism to widows and health issues with recommendations for rehabilitation and resettlement of the victims. The National Women's Committee recommends that women and children who are victims of war be given specific reassurances of safety if they want to return to their homes. Land laws have to be scrutinised to ensure that women-headed households and widows be given land deeds. Cash compensations should be handed directly to the women so that it actually benefits the family.

897. Silva, Vijitha. *Protests in Sri Lanka against the rape and torture of Tamil women.* [s.l], World Socialist. 10 July 2001. 4p. [Source – http://www.wsws.org ; accessed on 22 February 2003].

This news article concerns a public protest on the brutal treatment of Tamil women, in particular sexual abuse by members of the security forces. Highlighting the growing incidence of violence against women, the mass campaign condemned the recent incident of rape of a young mother at the security check-point in Central Colombo in response to which no arrests were made. The news item however, does not quote the names of the action groups involved in the protest campaign.

898. Sivamohan, Sumathy. [88]*Salt, Sand and Water : Movement and citizenship in the narratives of displaced women. 34p.; illustrations.* "Gender & Violence", Hambantota, 11-14 July 2005. [Draft].

A collection of narratives and sketches by women living in conflict-affected areas of the North and East, implying that women who face atrocities of a civil war and coerced displacement resort to creativity as a 'coping mechanism'. The text and drawings express their likes/dislikes, goals, dreams, expectations and hopes for the transformation of a war-ridden environment into a society with a promising future.

899. South Asia Partners International [SAP-I]. *Legal Measures P.43-44.* Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children [CSEC] : A review of South Asia- Sri Lanka perspective 2001. Colombo. December 2001.

There are no special laws to address violence against the girl child in Sri Lanka. However, the Government has taken several legal measures to address the issue of child prostitution, for which adolescent girls are procured. The enactments and new legislation in this respect are:

- Penal Code Amendment Act No. 22, 1995;
- National Child Protection Authority (NCPA) Act, 1998;
- Judicature (Amendment) Act No.27, 1998;
- Penal code (Amendment) Act No. 29, 1998;
- Criminal Procedure Code (Amendment) Act No.28, 1998;
- Evidence Ordinance (Amendment) Act No.32, 1999.

The amendments, while providing for statutory rape have brought in speedy trials in the best interest of the child victim. Prohibiting trafficking, procuring sexual acts and engaging in pornography of persons less than 18 years of age, they prescribe a form of referral for the victims to institutional care and protection pending trials. However, shortcomings in the legislative framework, postponement of legal cases, lack of resources to fight trials and lack of access to legal aid are some of the factors that increase the prevalence of child prostitution in the country.

After Stockholm- response to CSEC. P.45-54.

An important remedial measure taken by the Government of Sri Lanka is the appointment of a Presidential Commission to prevent all forms of child abuse.

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[88] Forthcoming as "Gender & Violence", published by ICES, Colombo.

The action plan drafted by the Commission has perspectives of legal reform, counselling and consciousness -raising. The police department has set up desks throughout the island to deal with violence against women and children, where trained personnel record and investigate the complaints and a 24-hour hotline service to report cases of child abuse. Children's rights have been incorporated into the Draft Constitution of Sri Lanka (2000), to combat child abuse and for protection. As a further step, the Compulsory Education Act (1997) ensures mandatory education for all children below 14 years of age. Victims of child abuse are provided with state-run children's homes that function as a transit point until alternatives are found.

NGOs in the country work to support and rehabilitate victims, by providing temporary shelter, welfare and counselling to reintegrate them to their families and to the community. Some specifically cater to the needs of sexually and physically abused ones as well as those vulnerable to exploitation. The Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) runs the Girl Child Centre for the abused girl child, while PEACE, Don Bosco, Nisala Diya Sevene, ESCAPE, Community Health Foundation, Praja Mithuro, Save the Children and the Sarvodaya Programme for Street Children work with exploited and victimised children. International donor agencies such as UNICEF, Save the Children Alliance form partnerships with the local NGOs to protect and promote child's rights. The International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) and the ILO together, are launching a national plan of action to combat child trafficking and child prostitution. Concerning the level of sex tourism in Sri Lanka, it is necessary to draw in the private sector and the media to develop programmes and mechanisms in the recovery and re-integration of sexually abused children.

900. Soysa, Priyani E. *The Health and Nutritional Status of Women. P.58-92; tables; ref.* Facets of Change : Women in Sri Lanka 1986-1995. Colombo, CENWOR. 1995.

The role played by women's NGOs in creating awareness on the issue of HIV/AIDS is condoned in this paper. The Sri Lankan Women Public Health Network (SLWPHN) with support from the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) has conducted an awareness-raising programme on sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS for school children in the District of Kandy. A lecturer course on AIDS-awareness was conducted for women prisoners in Colombo who are in the "at-risk group". In collaboration with the Sri Lanka Medical Association (SLMA) a workshop was held for the members of SLWPHN on how to deal with patients affected by HIV/AIDS.

901. *Sri Lanka : Efforts by the FPASL in implementing the ICPD Programme of Action.* P... Real Lives. Issue.3. January 1999. [Source – http://www.unicef.org; accessed on 10 December 2002].

The Family Planning Association of Sri Lanka (FPASL), during the civil war, works in refugee camps in order to secure some aspects of reproductive rights of the internally displaced, in particular women. FPASL has initiated a project comprising health committees at the camp-level with volunteers providing family planning services, creating health awareness and providing information on nutrition and sanitation. With the support of state health personnel, local leadership and volunteers, the project leads to raising consciousness on sexual and reproductive issues to the internally displaced. Through their advocacy work the association urges the government to take appropriate action in preventing unsafe abortion – to consider legalising abortion, at least in the cases of contraceptive failure, rape and incest. A study on the issue of abortion is being conducted, in order to address the problem of unsafe abortions and women's health. As an alternative to abortion, 'emergency contraception' has been introduced by FPASL, made available from retail outlets.

902. *Sri Lanka to execute rape, murder and drug convicts. 1p.* [s.l]. 21 November 2004. [Source – http://archive.lacnet.org; accessed on 19 December 2004].

The Government of Sri Lanka has announced capital punishment as penalty for rape, murder and narcotic deals. In response to the increasing number of cases of sexual violence and murder, where the offenders do not receive adequate penalty and often are acquitted, the law enforcement authorities have been ordered to re-organise the crime prevention wing, strengthen criminal laws and minimise delays in legal procedures.

903. *Sri Lanka Women's Bill promotes contraception and abortion. 2p.* [s.l], Lifesite. 1 June 2004. [Source – http://www.lifesite.net ; accessed on 29 August 2004].

A move to legalise abortion comes in as part of the Draft Bill on Women's Rights (2004) submitted by the National Committee on Women. The Bill comes in the wake of a call by the Family Planning Association of Sri Lanka (FPASL) an active wing of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), working with the Ministry of Health. FPASL promotes the use of contraception for women's health and safe motherhood, and also urges the state to introduce a school curriculum of sex education and reproductive health for the benefit of adolescent students, in particular girls.

904. *Sri Lankan National Desk for Child Abuse. P.2-3.* Pravahini. Vol.3, No.2, July 1995.

This is a brief summary on the police action in relation to violence against women in Sri Lanka. The police headquarters has established a national desk for violence against women and child abuse. The Desk is to be set up island-wide, in all the police stations to receive complaints on gender-based violence and child abuse – domestic abuse, rape, sexual harassment and incest.

905. Suriya Women's Development Centre. *Programmes related to Women affected by Violence.* Batticaloa, 31 March 2000..2p

This document is an awareness-raising programme launched by Suriya, a women's NGO based in the Eastern province. The programme aims to create a social consciousness on gender-based violence and to counter such abuse. Inclusive of a poster campaign, observation of the "Violence against Women Week", cultural events, exhibitions, Suriya networks with other community-based organisations to lobby for action against rape and other forms of gender-oriented abuse.

906. Tambiah, Yasmin. *Man-made laws and Feminine feelings : A 'Lesbian' encounter with the law in Sri Lanka.* Lines. May 2002. 6p.; notes.

This is an analysis of the rights of sexual minorities, in particular lesbian women within the framework of the Sri Lankan Penal Code that deals with sexual acts – 'unnatural offences' of Section 365, amendments made in recent times and legal discrimination against lesbians. The paper also sheds light on the attitudes of society and media and the response of law enforcers upon this issue.

907. TIE-Asia [Transnational Information Exchange-Asia]. *Country Profile : Sri Lanka.* [s.l]. 3 August 2003. 2p. [Source – http://www.tieasia.org ; accessed on 30 October 2003].

This web page relates to the services of Women's Centre an NGO committed to improve the status of women workers in the free trade zone of Sri Lanka where women work under exploitative conditions and many fall victims to sexual harassment by the employer/superior at the workplace. Established in 1982 and located in many parts of the Free trade zone the organisation is committed to raise awareness of the women on economic, labour, human rights,

political issues and their rights as women/workers, helping them to re-negotiate work policies and ethics to improve their working conditions. The agenda of the centre includes lobbying, campaigns, exchange of programmes, cultural/ recreational activities and welfare services for the workers.

908. TIE-Asia [Transnational Information Exchange-Asia]. *Recommendations to the Government/Ministry of Labour arising from research. 4p.* Women working in the Informal sector in Sri Lanka. [s.l]. 3 August 2003. [Source – http://www.tieasia.org ; accessed on 31 October 2003].

Majority of workers in the informal sector are women, least visible yet most vulnerable to exploitation in the chain of sub-contracting. TIE-Asia has conducted a research study of home workers in Sri Lanka who are under-paid, overworked and face many a form of exploitation. In keeping with the ILO Convention (No.177) on Home Work, this study provides recommendations to the Government of Sri Lanka and BOI for immediate and long-term actions to improve the status of the home workers to be recognised by their human/ workers rights.

909. Tissainayagam, J.S. *Inadequate law expose Tamil women.* Asia Times. 31 May 2000. 3p.

This news article illustrates the inadequacy of laws dealing with rape and sexual violence with cases of custodial rape in war-stricken areas. Women belonging to the minority communities living in the North and East of Sri Lanka are subjected to torture and sexual violence perpetrated by security personnel. Victims have pointed out that the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA), specifically introduced to combat armed militancy, encourages sexual abuse by security forces. Under the PTA, a confession made before a police officer of and above the rank of an assistant superintendent of police, is valid evidence in the court. Also, the burden of proof that the confession was made under duress lies with the accused. Therefore, conditions are created where women taken into custody become vulnerable to torture and sexual abuse.

910. Transcultural Psychosocial Organisation (TPO). *Women at the psychological, family and social levels. P.145-163.* Mental health in the Tamil community. Ed. Daya Somasundaram et al. Jaffna. 2000.

This section of the publication concerns the psychosocial problems encountered by women – single, spinsters, married, widows and women heads of households from traditional, war-affected communities of Sri Lanka. Exploring the levels

of gender discrimination engraved in the society, this chapter relates to issues on sexual violence, domestic abuse, stigmatisation of widowhood and spinsterhood, besides reproductive health related dilemmas of menopause, abortion, teenage pregnancy, childlessness and myths regarding contraception. The document provides information on how the community could help victims through effective psycho-social interventions, awareness-raising health programmes to cope with such problems and to promote mental health. Specially designed for grass-root workers, primary healthcare providers, medical personnel, social workers, traditional healers and community leaders this guidebook describes simple and effective interventions for psychological problems faced by a traditional society in the midst of armed conflict and repeated displacement.

911. UNAIDS et al. *HIV/AIDS ....: It's Everyone's Responsibility : Protect women and girls From HIV Infection and support those living with it.* Daily Mirror. 1 December 2004.

A consciousness raising initiative by donor agencies on the event of the International AIDS Day, this advertisement shows a number of eminent personalities from the fields of gender activism, media, sports and business, with a public appeal to protect women and girls from AIDS, and to provide humanitarian support to victims.

912. UNFPA. *Fighting violence against women.* Daily News. 29 March 1999.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Sri Lankan Association for Voluntary Surgical Contraception (SLAVC) have incorporated gender violence into the training programmes for military personnel and police officials. Funding projects in partnership with the Rajarata Apada Sahana Sewaya and Sri Lanka Association for Voluntary Surgical Contraception, UNFPA conducts leadership programmes for women - workshops with special focus on how women could work in close coordination with the police to combat gender violence

913. United Nations Commission on Human Rights. *Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. P...* Situation in Sri Lanka : NGOs written statements, NGOs oral statements, NGOs joint statements. [s.l]. March/April 1998.

This is a statement by a women's NGO calling on the UN Commission to condemn the use of rape and sexual violence against women as forms of

torture by government troops and security personnel. Referring to cases of rape in the North and East of Sri Lanka, the statement highlights the incidence of rape in the North and East carried out by armed forces, and the level of state intervention in punishing the perpetrators.

914. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. *Limitations of constitutional approaches and the relevance of Substantive and Domestic laws : National and Family law. P.31-36.* Human rights and legal status of women in the Asian and Pacific Region. New York. 1997. (Studies on Women in Development – 1).

In South Asia, child marriage is a crucial area that requires consistent legal policies for its prevention. Most countries in the region have laws that reflect family norms, acknowledging the man as the head of the unit. However, inconsistent legal policies place restraints on the prevention of early marriage, granting legal rights to the husband/guardian of a child bride. Of them, the Sri Lankan state provides facilities for registering births, which to a great extent contributes towards increasing the age of marriage for women, preventing the exploitation of the girl child as child bride and child widow. Also, the policy of compulsory primary education enables the girl child to gain a higher social status.

915. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific[UNECOSOC]. *Reproductive Rights. P.36-39.* Human rights and legal status of women in the Asian and Pacific Region. New York. 1997. (Series : Studies on Women in Development – 1).

Sri Lanka, similar to other South Asian countries, has strict policies to permit abortion only on grounds of the mother's life being at risk. In 1995, an amendment to the Penal Code of Sri Lanka proposed the legislation of abortion under conditions of gender-based violence as a result of rape and incest and on grounds of foetal defects. However, the proposal was annulled by the Ministry of Justice in Parliament. In contrast, a public sector regulation was imposed in the same year denying maternity leave for unmarried women employees unless they prove that the pregnancy occurred as a result of rape. Evidently, laws and policies reflect the perception re-enforced by family law that the unmarried mother and her child are of a low social status, though there are no restrictions imposed on the unwed mother seeking employment in the state sector.

916. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). *Rebuilding war-devastated livelihoods in Sri Lanka : Reviving the famous Jaffna leather craft industry.* [s.l]. 2001. 2p. [Source – http://www.undp.org/rbap/success ; accessed on 12 June 2003].

The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS) in Jaffna is committed to reviving the leather industry where the majority of workers are women. Devastated as a result of the civil war in the North, women heads of households in the village of Vathiry have resorted to leather work previously done by the men. This document relates to the assistance of the SLRCS and UNDP in training the women to find employment and to revive this traditional industry.

917. United Nations Population Fund [UNFPA]. *Working to empower women : The girl child. 3p.* 2002. [Source- http://www.unfpa.org; accessed on 7 August 2003].

The 'burden' of being a girl child begins at birth and continues throughout childhood. An important recommendation given by the Beijing Platform of Actior is the eradication of violence against the girl child. In Sri Lanka the UNFPA has made special efforts to eliminate sexual abuse and exploitation of young girls. The project conducts workshops for adolescent girls and their parents to discuss reproductive health issues. Counselling programmes are part of health clinics giving information on the above issues. While volunteers are encouraged to work with the local police to prevent child abuse, the project has also helped the police department in running child abuse desks and training police women to counsel traumatized children. Legal advocacy and lobbying by activists promoting children's rights has lead to the passage of a law against child abuse.

918. United Nations Population Fund [UNFPA]. *New Interventions : Migrant women workers. P.16.* UNFPA in Sri Lanka : 30 Years of partnership. [s.l]. 1999.

Migrant women workers to Middle East and other countries are a vulnerable group subjected to unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases as well as physical/sexual abuse. UNFPA has significantly upgraded the current state-sponsored, 'pre-departure' training programme for migrant women workers, by facilitating a one-day training module on reproductive health in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour. They are also in the process of identifying an island-wide health awareness programme to help communities and families to cope with the departure of their women members – mothers, wives and daughters.

Vulnerable groups- internally displaced persons (IDP). P.18-19.

UNFPA in partnership with Population Services Lanka provides reproductive health services for the displaced women in the Mannar District. Two mobile clinics have been handed over to the government to provide services for women in Mannar and Anuradhapura who face the brunt of civil war.

919. United Nations Population Fund [UNFPA]. *Improving access and quality of Reproductive Health Service to the population affected by the conflict : Project SRL/99/ P 01. P.28-29.* UNFPA in Sri Lanka – 2000. [s.l]. [Source - http://www.unfpa.org; accessed on 8 August 2003].

This project aims to improve the health status among the internally displaced and border villagers affected by armed conflict. UNFPA conducts the project in 11 districts to increase access to reproductive health services where women are its major recipients. While contributing to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity, and the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, the project creates a greater awareness on health issues among the vulnerable groups of women and youth.

920. United Nations Population Fund [UNFPA]. *Well Women's Clinics in Sri Lanka : A First in South Asia.* [s.l]. 2001. P... [Source - http:// www.unfpa.org; accessed on 11 August 2003].

In line with the Plan of Action of the ICPD, the concept of Well Women's Clinic (WWC) is an opportunity to provide reproductive health services to women in their late and immediately post-reproductive years. WWC, in conjunction with UNFPA, provide counselling and family planning services to women. The clinic also investigates the causes of Reproductive Tract Infections (RTIs) and treats this disease that has a significant impact on reproductive health, yet neglected by women in traditional communities.

921. USAID. *USAID/OTI Sri Lanka field report.* [Colombo]. March 2004. 3p. [Source – http://www.usaid.gov; accessed on June 2004].

Eastern United Women's Organization has conducted an awareness raising training programme on women's rights. Supported by the Women's Community Empowerment Project of USAID/[89]OTI, the programme was conducted in the District of Trincomalee. The trainer was a policewoman who discussed

[89] Office of Transition Initiatives.

women's rights in a situation of civil war, informing the participation of the appropriate procedures for reporting gender abuses to the police. A briefing was given on the special units within the police station dealing with gender crimes, encouraging an open discussion with the participants on their fears and reluctance in approaching the police with complaints, in particular those of gender abuse. The outcome of the workshop undoubtedly improved the relationship of community women with the police and the relationship of local villagers with the law enforcers.

922. U.S. Department of State. *Women. P...* Sri Lanka :Country report on Human Rights Practices for 1998. [Washington D.C.]. 26 February 1999. [Source – http://www.state.gov; accessed on 21 January 2003].

Legal reforms in 1995, on sexual assault, rape, spousal abuse and trafficking of women is studied in this report. Though gender equality is pronounced under the national, civil and criminal laws of Sri Lanka, issues pertaining to family, marriage, divorce, child custody and women's rights to property inheritance are being governed by customary laws related to different ethnic/ religious groups. To implement laws that bring about gender justice, the report recommends gender sensitive approaches to the police and judicial personnel.

923. Vigil Coalition. *Press Release*. Colombo. 15 August 1997. 1p.

This is a pamphlet issued in protest of the custodial rape and murder of women in the war-afflicted areas of Sri Lanka. The Vigil Coalition, an action group for human rights expresses deep concern regarding the rape and murder of Ms. Koneswary by the security forces in the Ampara District, and calls for a silent demonstration demanding gender justice.

924. *Violence against women. P.5-18*. Women's Rights Watch. 1st Quarter. 1998.

This information is based on monitoring the print media during the period of January- March 1998, covering the issues on family violence, rape, sexual harassment and incest. While discussing state intervention pertaining to gender-related offences, the report shows the inadequacy of the laws in prosecuting gender crimes, providing remedies for victims and punishing the perpetrators. However, the provision for the victims does not depend on the law alone, but needs the active co-operation of those handling the crimes, specifically, legislators, police force and medical personnel. An analysis of the problems

encountered by the victims when making complaints on rape and domestic violence reveals that the medico-legal system needs to be more sensitive when dealing with such cases.

Women and health. P.19-20.

This part of the report concerns women's health and the question of abortion in Sri Lanka. Though 'unofficially accepted' in society, the law prohibits abortion even under conditions of rape and incest. Alternatively, the Family Planning Association of Sri Lanka runs a hotline service on the availability of contraceptives while a number of private family planning clinics provide services for 'menstrual regulations' under hygienic conditions.

925. Voice of Women. *Laws. P.33-39.* Sexual abuse of the girl child in Sri Lanka. Colombo. 1997.

Sri Lanka has ratified the CEDAW and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. In addition, the laws relating to the sexual offences against children were amended in 1995. This report, while providing statistical evidence on the incidence of sexual abuse of the girl child as reported by the mainstream media, reveals that the laws are inadequate to combat offences of rape and abduction. Currently, several provisions are available to deal with child abuse, in terms of obscene publications relating to children, cruelty, procuration, sexual exploitation, rape, incest, grave sexual abuse, gross indecency, such as the Vagrants Ordinance, Muslim Child Marriage Act and the Women's Charter of Sri Lanka. As a result, the issue shows a significant improvement over the past years, in comparison with other South Asian countries. However, the laws do not protect unwed mothers - if a minor girl gets pregnant through sexual abuse, as abortion is legally permitted only under 'prescribed' circumstances.

926. WHO [World Health Organisation]. *Maternal and child health/Family planning. P.1-2.* Health Services : Sri Lanka. [New Delhi], WHO Regional Office for South Asia 27 June 2001. [Source – http://www.who.int/countries/lka ; accessed on 4 July 2003].

This is a reflection of the health programme of WHO in Sri Lanka, in response to the high incidence of induced abortions, and the failure of prevailing family planning methods to prevent unwanted pregnancies. The MCH/FP Programme encompasses the reproductive health of women, while providing the services of trained health personnel to cope with the needs of adolescent health and

maternal health of rural women, and on the issue of health-related family planning.

927. WHO [and] UNICEF et al. *The safe motherhood initiative reduces maternal deaths in Sri Lanka. 3p.* Health a key to prosperity : Success stories in developing countries. [s.l]. [Source – http://www.who.int ; accessed on 18 July 2003].

This is an acknowledgement on the healthcare system in Sri Lanka that has lead to a remarkable reduction in the incidence of maternal deaths. In the backdrop of the government's commitment to improve education and healthcare with free health services, maternal and community health services are available at the community level as part of the integrated rural health services. Through a system of free education women are literate and 60% of married women use contraceptives to space pregnancies and limit family size. However there is a record of high maternal deaths in the war-affected zones of the North due to poor living conditions and health services, as well as unsafe abortions.

928. WHRNET NEWS. *Security forces rape Tamil women in Sri Lanka. P.1.* [s.l]. 5 September 2001. [Source – http://www.wluml.org ; accessed on 10 May 2003].

An appeal made by the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) on the alleged torture, rape and arbitrary detention of women by security forces in the war-affected zones. OMCT urges all concerned individuals and institutions to bring up the issue to the notice of the state authorities and for the police to adopt measures to end gender violence committed by armed forces and to ensure respect for the human rights and freedom of women at all times and circumstances.

929. Wickremasinghe, Narme. *Honouring those who thirst for Peace.* Daily Mirror. 7 June 2003.

This news article acknowledges the role played by Ranaviru Seva Authority (RVSA) which addresses the psycho-social needs and welfare of the families of armed forces. RVSA conducts the Psycho-Social Welfare Project, an empowerment programme for the disabled and war-affected women through the Ranaviru Women's Support Group which holds psychosexual workshops for women soldiers. In partnership with the Sarvodaya Movement the group

also conducts training programmes for women micro-entrepreneurs, most of whom are war-widows.

930. Wijayatilake, Dhara. *Abuse of women : Problems and remedies: "Recent amendments to the law to meet the situation". P.1-12.* Law & Society Trust Review. Vol.VII, Issue. No.107. September 1996.

This paper examines gender-related legislative provisions introduced by the Penal Code (Amendments) Act No.22 of 1995. The penal code enacted in 1883 is subject to legal reforms that relate to the status of women and family. In this context, amendments to all forms of rape (custodial, gang, minor, mentally retarded), sexual harassment, sexual abuse, trafficking of women and obscene publications of obscene are reviewed. This article provides a schedule for enhanced penalties for the above offences that seek justice in favour of the victims.

931. Wijayatilaka, Kamalini. *An extract from the Report "Overview of the situation in the Puttalam District", July 1994. P.5-9.* Voice of Women. Vol. 4, Issue. 4. September 1996.

This report is an overview of the socio-economic conditions of the displaced Muslim women from the North of Sri Lanka, residing in the camps of Puttalam District in the North-Western Province. It reviews information from the Donor/ NGO Consortium of Puttalam as gathered from the women who have formed small discussion groups to relate their problems, and other sources such as representative groups of camp inhabitants, villagers, religious leaders and state officials. The Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies (CHA) has put forward recommendations to improve the situation within the camps. The main suggestions are on basic needs, environment, education, land, economic activities, social issues and civil/ political rights of the displaced people. While evaluating the relief measures, the report highlights that support is not the only factor that can bring about a significant change in the lives of displaced women, but co-ordination between the displaced and the locals is essential to improve the situation. Rehabilitation programmes should involve both communities. Programmes on integrated credit facilities, literacy and adult education could therefore be initiated with state support.

932. Wijayatilake, Kamalini. *Development programme for women affected by violence : Vehilihini Development Centre.* OXFAM, [s.l]. January 1994. 21p. ; ref.; append.

Vehilihini Sanwardene Kendraya (VDC) is a non-political NGO that serves the needs of those affected by armed conflict in the Moneragala district that borders the zones of armed conflict. Vehilihini Women's Circle (VWC) the women's wing of VDC operates loan schemes and provides housing for women heads of households who have lost their male members as a result of the civil war. The women receive skills training in pre-school teaching, poultry farming, yoghurt making etc. Apart from these, non-traditional skills such as pesticide control, agricultural technology and integrated farming are conducted by VWC. An evaluation of the programme is included in this report.

933. *"Will you wear a White Ribbon?"*. The Sunday Times. 28 November 2004.

Oxfam Sri Lanka has launched a campaign against gender-based violence viz., The White Ribbon Campaign Against Gender Violence, on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Human Rights. Wearing a white ribbon is a personal pledge that the wearer does not condone violence against women and is committed to community intervention to prevent such violence. In the past, Oxfam has organised 16 Days of Activism to create public awareness on the issue, in all the districts with activities of discussion forums for the community and in workplaces as well as mass rallies involving men. This news article also features a column on "What Men can do" in the prevention of violence against women.

934. Women's Coalition for Peace. *Statement from the Women's Coalition for Peace.* Colombo. October 1998. 1 P.

This statement calls for peace negotiations to the ethnic problem through third party mediation by the Women's Coalition for Peace, a non-governmental women's group in Sri Lanka, attempting to seek redress to the ethnic conflict. The group comprises women of all political, ethnic and social communities working towards a durable solution for the ethnic issue as observed by the level of violence against women through armed conflict.

935. Weerakoon, Bradman [and] Tilakaratne, Bernard [and] Udagama, Deepika. *Internal Displacement. P.74-80.; biblio.* Regional Consultation on Refugee and Migratory Movement, Colombo, 25-27 September 1995.

This is an attempt to review the normative, institutional and operational framework related to the internally displaced population in Sri Lanka, at

national and international levels. The paper, while acknowledging the work of local and international NGOs with the internally displaced, refers to the special needs of the internally displaced women and children who are vulnerable to sexual violence and health problems in transit and resettlement. Since the problem of internal displacement is common to all South Asian Countries, it is pertinent that a legal framework is much needed for refugee care and a regional mechanism needed to provide the guiding principles.

936. *"When abortion is illegal it is unsafe" : Interview with Sriani Basanayake.* Options. Vol. 34, 2nd Issue. 2004.

This is an interview with the director of the Family Planning Association of Sri Lanka (FPASL) on the debate of pro-life versus abortion, in the context of the recent draft Women's Rights Bill prepared by the Ministry of Women's Affairs concerned with women's reproductive rights. In the absence of a comprehensive provision relating to the issue, illegal abortions are performed under unhygienic conditions by under-qualified/unqualified personnel, which often lead to severe health complications of the woman and death at times. Moreover, in a traditional society the victims of rape or incest loose all their family support and face the risk of illegal abortion which is often 'life threatening'. Dr. Basnayake and the FPASL urge that laws should be liberalized, so as to provide a better option for women with unwanted pregnancies.

937. Wickremasinghe, Kamala. *Sri Lanka Country Report. P.113-114.* Regional Conference on Trafficking in Women, Bangkok, 3-4 November 1998. Tokyo, Asian Women's Fund, February 1999.

Sri Lanka has encountered a problem of trafficking women from rural areas for forced prostitution. Furthermore, this practice is spreading into 'border areas' to the civil war regions where troop movement is evident. This paper deals with the SAARC Convention Against Trafficking and Prostitution in relation to the Penal Code and Women's Charter in Sri Lanka.

938. Wijetilleka, Kamalini et al. *Sexual harassment in Sri Lanka Women's Experiences and Policy implications.* Colombo, CENWOR. 2000. 172p. (CENWOR Study Series No.19).

This study investigates the nature of sexual harassment in Sri Lankan society and examines the implications of:

- Policy interventions;
- Legal reforms and law enforcement;
- Administrative, institutional and organisational action;
- Creation of support services for victims, eg: trauma counselling, media action to create public awareness.

In this context, CENWOR convened two focus groups comprising key personnel from the state and private sectors where the participants shared the initiatives taken by their respective organisations to address sexual harassment in workplaces and in public. These initiatives included poster campaigns in public transport, educational booklets for schools, awareness programmes and counselling for school children and a special committee for undergraduates at universities to act on cases of sexual harassment. Certain sections of the private sector had emphasised on the formulation of a labour policy against sexual harassment and action against reported cases. The discussion groups recommend that:

- Labour laws be amended to include sexual harassment within the issues of 'industrial disputes' and 'misconduct';
- The private sector should conform to a common policy against sexual harassment in workplaces, and educate the human resource personnel of its implications on productivity and to take action on reported cases. They should also work in collaboration with institutions and trade unions to address the reported cases;
- Create an awareness among the law enforcement authorities enabling them to take adequate action against sexual harassment ;
- Public consciousness be raised, in particular to the authorities of public transport where sexual harassment is a major issue.

939. Wijetilleka, Kamalini. *Violence against women : Review of a decade. P. 290-308; ref.* Facets of Change : Women in Sri Lanka 1986-1995. Colombo, CENWOR. 1995.

The state policy on women is reflected through the Women's Charter of Sri Lanka based on the CEDAW as "..affirming the prevention of violence against women." This paper reviews the state initiatives and NGO activities on prevention of gender-related violence during the period 1986 to 1995. The National Police Desk on Child Abuse and Violence Against Women was established in 1993 and is managed by women police personnel who are trained in counselling abused women and children. NGOs such as the Women In Need (WIN), Women Lawyers' Association, Voice of Women, CENWOR and Women's Development Centre (WDC) offer free legal aid and legal counselling

for victims of gender-based violence. In particular, the Women Lawyers' Association has launched legal literacy programmes for women through a series of simple, illustrated booklets on family violence, gender crimes, employment and property rights of women while CENWOR has mobilised the telecasting and broadcasting media for advocacy, awareness-raising and lobbying for legal reforms on gender-related crimes. In this context, several women's action groups have been lobbying the policy makers on the need for legal reforms to counter gender crimes.

940. Women and Media Collective. *Domestic Violence Act: Draft.* Colombo. 22 March 2001. 23p.

This draft, prepared by a women's NGO recognises that domestic violence is a social evil that cuts across all levels of Sri Lankan society and there is no provision for domestic violence in the Penal Code. In keeping with the country's obligation to eliminate gender-based violence through CEDAW, Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (DEVAW) and the Women's Charter (Sri Lanka), the draft aims to:

- Protect victims of family violence legally;
- Empower the courts to grant protection orders;
- Guarantee that the laws of Sri Lanka comply with international human rights standards.

The proposed act encompasses physical, verbal and emotional forms of domestic abuse faced by women in the family and helps in providing "emergency monetary relief" to the victims.

941. Women and Media Collective et al. *Advertisement for Philips light bulbs.* Colombo. 5 May 1998. 2p. [Unpublished].

A protest by women's NGOs in Sri Lanka, on negative portrayal of women in advertising. This letter to the advertisers of electric bulbs is critical on the portrayal of women's sexuality in mainstream newspapers in Sri Lanka, where a high proportion of consumers are women. In view of the growing sensitivity on the issue of gender, this letter indicates that a women's lobby has been developed to campaign against the use of sexist and negative images of women to market products.

942. Women and Media Collective et al. *Draft Domestic Violence Act.* Colombo. March 2002.

An initiative of the women's organisations working on the issue of domestic violence, this draft aims to provide remedies for the affected, to empower the court to grant protection and to ensure that the law complies with the country's international obligations to protect women against violence. While interpreting the term 'domestic violence' in various contexts, the proposed Act empowers the court to grant a Protection Order in the interest of victims of violence.

943. *Women's organisation calls for Domestic Violence Act.* The Island. 7 June 2001.

Women and Media Collective, a women's NGO is lobbying for a domestic violence Act as there is no specific law in Sri Lanka to deal with the issue of family violence. Based on the experience of several victims of domestic violence, the proposed act enables the victim to gain direct access to a magistrate and obtain an interim protection order. The proposed law also facilitates a third party – friend, social worker, medical officer or an organisation to make an application on behalf of the victim. The new act also provides active police intervention to handle the perpetrator if he creates family violence despite a court order.

944. *Sri Lanka : Women affected by war.* p... ICRC Newsletter. 15 July 2002.

In conflict situations where the mechanism of law and order breaks down, women are often vulnerable to sexual exploitation and rape. Studies conducted by ICRC reveal women as a special group of people vulnerable to the effects of a prolonged conflict. Abiding by the international human rights/humanitarian law with special focus on women, the organisation provides basic needs to women in displacement and those living under war conditions in their homes. Further, medical assistance is rendered by means of health clinics and mobile medical teams. Family reunion is yet another task of the organisation, where women are the major clients lodging complaints on 'disappeared' family members.

945. *Upheaval.* Produced by Sumathy Sivamohan. [Colombo]. March 2005. 18 min.; col.

This short film is based on a theme of atrocities in a post-war society, against the backdrop of a [90]natural disaster. In the war-torn East of Sri Lanka, a

[90] Tsumani, the tidal wave, which devastated the coastal areas of Sri Lanka and claimed many lives on 26th December 2004.

mother is caught between warring parties as she tries to retain possession of her only daughter, during which time the Goddess of the Sea waits in the wings. The film supported by GTZ and sub-titled in English, highlights the response of a war-widow who believes that the sea is the 'Mother' despite her ravaging the land, but little faith in the 'movement' which claims to 'save' the land.

946. *Voice of Women. P... .* Women's Organizations. [s.l], Asia Pacific Online Network of Women in Politics, Governance & Transformative Leadership.3 September 2004. [Source – http://www.onlinewomeninpolitics.org; accessed on 12 January 2005].

Voice of Women is a non-profit, non-governmental organization which was the first alternative women's group in Sri Lanka committed to the ideals of feminism. The organization monitors media reporting on rape, sexual/physical abuse, sexual harassment and domestic violence issues, in their monthly newsletter as a means of consciousness- raising for individuals/ institutions involved in combatting violence against women.

947. *Welcome opening for raising Gender Issues.* 22 March 2003. [and] *Sub-Committee on Gender Issues [SGI].* 8 March 2003. Daily News

A state initiative to recognise the problems of women affected by the prolonged conflict, a Sub-Committee on Gender Issues (SGI) represents women from all communities affected by the war, directly reporting to the plenary sessions of the peace talks. In an attempt to focus on the needs of women in a post-conflict society SGI formulates gender guidelines for other women's committees and related mechanisms associated in the peace process. While lending its support to the Accelerated Resettlement Programme for Jaffna District and the Fast-Track Resettlement Programme for the District of Mannar, SGI encourages the setting up of a centre for traumatised women in Kilinochchi by the Sub-Committee on Immediate Humanitarian and Rehabilitation Needs (SIHRN).

948. Women In Need (WIN). *Social service Provisions [for the proposed Domestic Violence Code].* Colombo. 29 January 1997. [Unpublished]. [Source – ICES Archives on Violence against Women].

This refers to the provision of social services in support of the proposed Domestic Violence Act that stipulates the following services:

- Shelters;
- Counselling;
- Referral to social services;
- Medical care;
- Legal assistance.

The domestic violence code supports children of victims through child care facilities and counselling services while providing the women with parenting education, job training, housing assistance and liaison with other related services. A 24-hour hotline service compliments the complaint services and it is mandatory for state organisations and NGOs to provide drop-in-centres for victims, in addition to counselling and legal assistance. Counselling programmes include victim support, as well as batterer programmes where the perpetrator is made to realise the responsibility towards his action.

949. Women In Need (WIN). *What you should know about Sexual harassment at the Workplace.* Prp. Manori Witharana. Colombo. 2001.10p.

This booklet is an awareness raising tool on the issue of sexual harassment at workplaces, and myths and realities involved in it. The booklet explains the Penal Code of Sri Lanka (Amendment) Act No.22, where sexual harassment is a criminal offence, and its applicability to the Labour Tribunal. It also provides guidelines to the victim of harassment and the role that the management could play in creating an environment that discourages sexual harassment.

Break the Silence : WIN Against Violence. Size. (8.5x3)x3.

This is a brochure on gender-based violence against women and how violence can affect the individual. It relates to the work of WIN in support of victims of abuse.

950. Women's Bureau of Sri Lanka. *Violence against women : It's time for action : Let's safeguard the rights of women to protect from gender-based violence.* Colombo, Ministry of Women's Affairs. 20...

This is a handout on the programmes of the state and police force to combat gender-based violence, relating to those of the Women's Bureau, Women and Children's Desk of the Police Department and their combined programmes – creating awareness among the public, school children, police personnel and

community leaders. The pamphlet emphasises the national plan of action towards legal reforms, establishment of crisis centres, creating support groups and raising public awareness on the issue.

951. *Women's concerns and the peace process : Recommendations of the International Women's Mission to the North East of Sri Lanka 12th to 17th October 2002. P. 40-44; notes.* Pravada. Vol.8, No. 4. 2002.

Violence against women is a great concern for the women's mission that visited the war-affected regions of Sri Lanka where women are portrayed as passive victims of armed conflict. The protracted war has affected women irrespective of their socio-economic background, in particular war-widows, single women and women heads of households. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) has lead to a parallel system of authority between the two groups causing confusion regarding law enforcement, while giving low priority to gender violence. In response to observations made on rape, family violence, incest and sexual harassment in public places, recommendations are provided to address gender-related crimes, enforce proper law and order and offer support to victims of such violence. The mission comprises activists, academics, legal personnel and NGO workers from Sri Lanka, India, Malaysia, UK and USA.

952. *Women's Development Centre (WDC).* [s.l], HIVOS Counterparts. 1996. [Source – http://www.hivos.nl/ ; accessed on 8 January 2003]

WDC is a women's NGO committed to improving the status of Sri Lankan women through awareness raising, group support and action programmes. Located in Kandy, the organisation works with the community network on crisis intervention for women victims of violence, through the establishment of shelters. Active in consciousness-raising on gender issues, the organisation is involved in advocacy/lobbying for gender-based law reforms.

953. Women's Education & Research Centre. *Code of ethics for Gender Representation in the Electronic Media.* Colombo. 20... 12p.

This book is a result of a consultative forum of media personnel, to help writers and programme producers to understand and exercise sensitivity to gender representation in the electronic media. The guidelines call for special attention to the reporting of incidence of violence against women, in particular sexual

assault. In cases of sexual assault victims it is recommended to avoid explanations that diminish individual responsibility and shift the blame to the victim. Further, unwanted sex-based descriptions, demeaning/discriminatory references and stereotyping generalisation are to be avoided.

954. *Women's groups slam Lankan press on Gay ruling.* Colombo. 3 June 2001. P... [Source - http://www.indiangayclub.com/new17.htm ; accessed 21 Nov. 2002].

This news item quotes the action of human rights activists and women's groups in Sri Lanka to a ruling by the Sri Lanka Press Council branding lesbianism as an act of sadism. Contrary to international human rights, the ruling of the five-member council declared that "...lesbianism itself is an act of sadism and salaciousness. Publication of any opinion against such activities does not amount to a promotion of sadism and salacity." The groups further condemned the news media for publishing anti-lesbian articles inciting the public and commenting that "..convicted rapists be set on them as punishment."

955. Women's Political Forum. *Violence. P.6-7.* Women's Manifesto : Sri Lanka. Colombo, [2000].

The manifesto attempts to address gender-issues, in particular violence against women that affects women's lives in Sri Lanka. The booklet recommends measures to prevent/combat the issue of gender violence, in terms of publicity campaigns, legal reforms, free legal aid and shelters for the victims of violence, police training and sensitization of the judiciary to deal with cases, and increase sensitivity of the public transport authorities in handling sexual harassment. Building partnership between the police force and women's NGOs to provide protection/shelter and counselling for the victim is another strategy to counter gender violence. Though much progress has been made in recent years, women still face large amounts of discrimination in the workforce, in political representation and by the legal system. Therefore the Forum emphasises on constitutional reforms – on the rights of women to be free from all forms of violence, where a woman should be able to seek police/legal help for any breech of her fundamental rights, in private or public.

956. Women's Support Group [WSG]. *Lesbian activism in Sri Lanka.* Lines. February 2003. p..

The Women's Support Group (WSG) aims to provide peer support to lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgendered women who face many a social problem,

including gender violence. With a goal of winning legal recognition and social acceptance for sexual minorities, in particular those infected with HIV/AIDS, the group promotes women's sexual and reproductive rights by sponsoring workshops on sexual health and HIV/AIDS awareness for women factory workers in the Central Province. To mark the International Women's Day in March 2002, the group launched the "Clothesline Project" a public protest on violence against women, specifically, sexual violence, incest, child abuse, battery, emotional blackmail and discrimination of sexual minorities. This project provides a forum for the survivors of such violence to share their experiences with many other women. WSG works to uphold the rights of sexual minorities by networking with women's NGOs and human rights groups to lobby to repeal the Penal Code system that criminalises homosexuality in Sri Lanka.

957. The World Bank Group. *World Bank to help Sri Lanka strengthen the health sector.* [Colombo]. 15 June 2004. 2p. (News Release No.2004/ 421/SAR). [Source – http://web.worldbank.org/ ; accessed on 17 September 2004].

Maternal and child health care services for war-affected, poor and undeserved communities are being strengthened through the assistance of the Health Sector Development Project (HSDP) of the World Bank. The first component will be allocated to the provincial councils and district health authorities to strengthen the maternal and child health program. It will focus on preventive health care and service delivery to poor communities and underserved areas, including the war-ridden parts of the country. The medium-term goal is to reduce inequalities across and within districts by addressing higher maternal and child mortality indicators among vulnerable groups. Internally displaced and under privileged women are the major beneficiaries of this programme.

958. The World Bank Group. *HIV/AIDS in South Asia : A human and development challenge : Sri Lanka.* [s.l]. 20.... 3p. [Source - http:// web.worldbank.org/ ; accessed on 11 September 2002].].

In Sri Lanka, it is reported that the number of women infected with HIV is almost equal to that of men. This information was discovered through the medical examination of women workers migrating to other countries. This online article discusses the state response to control sexually transmitted diseases and the participation of donor agencies and community-based organisations in the HIV/AIDS prevention programmes in the country. This report provides recommendations on designing, implementing and monitoring

the prevention programmes that focus on health promotion interventions in vulnerable communities.

959. *World University Service of Canada [WUSC], Colombo, Sri Lanka. 1p.* [s.l], HIVOS Counterparts. [1997]. [Source – http://www.hivos.nl/; accessed on 18 January 2003]

A high proportion of women from the North and East of Sri Lanka have experienced the atrocities of war, ranging from forced displacement to the loss of their male family members. This training programme implemented by WUSC, targets women as priority groups, in particular women who have emerged as heads of households. The Project for Rehabilitation through Education and Training (PRET) is an integrated vocational training programme for war widows and women heads of households who are the most disadvantaged among the war-afflicted. WUSC works with a range of partners including state ministries, private training institutions, NGOs, community-based organisations and consultants enabling the war-affected women to seek self-employment either alone or as women's societies/ groups in the war ridden areas.

960. Zonta International. *Sri Lanka. P...* [s.l]. 2001. [Source – http://www.zonta.org/ ; accessed on 12 May 2002].

A press briefing on the activities of the Zonta Club of Colombo and Women In Need (WIN) to raise awareness on domestic and family violence in Sri Lanka. This project attempts to create consciousness among school children and the police authority to recognise domestic abuse not as a "private problem", but as a social issue. WIN is a non-profit making organisation and the only NGO addressing violence against women in Sri Lanka, aiming to address the issue through community intervention and support.

See also Citation Nos. 687, 966, 976, 979, 980, 982-86, 993, 1002, 1005 & 1022.

2.0 Collective Actions and Responses by SAARC Nations

961. *Action to stop forced marriages. P.11.* WLUML Newsheet. Vol.XII, No.3. September 2000.

According to reports, at least 1,000 young women, mostly teenagers from Pakistan, Bangladesh and India are sent to the United Kingdom to enter into marriage without their consent. The Home Office of Great Britain recommends that forced marriages be treated as incidents of family violence and child abuse. Drafted by a working group in consultation with ethnic minorities, voluntary organisations and victims of forced marriages, the document entitled " A Choice by Right " reveals action plans based on the fundamental human rights of women. The plan includes:

- Support to women victims abroad;
- Access to High Commissions in their respective countries;
- Co-operation with international police for crime-detection.

962. Advisory Council of International Affairs (AIV). *Monitoring Complaints with Norms : Honour crimes. P.10-12.* Violence against women : Legal developments. The Hague. February 2001.

Legal aspects of the problem of violence against women and the universal recognition of women's human rights are stated in this report. This section relates to 'honour' crimes committed against women and girls, as reported by Ms.Asma Jahangir the UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary and Arbitrary Executions. Deep-rooted in traditional societies of South Asia honour crimes take a variety of forms, ranging from suicide (due to stigmatisation) to torture (acid-throwing, whip lashing). AIV urges the Dutch Government to:

- Condemn honour crimes at the UN General Assembly, adopt a resolution and prevent them through appropriate legal instruments;
- Traditional forms of violence such as widow burning, child marriage, forced marriage, and psychological violence (threats, verbal abuse, confinement; isolation) to be included in the definition of "violence against women" in the UN resolution for prevention and elimination.

963. Asian Women's Human Rights Council (AWHRC). *In the Court of Women : The public hearing.* Quezon City (The Philippines). 19... [Source – ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

This brochure highlights the public hearings held by AWHRC in South Asia – Pakistan and India where women who had experienced gender violence had come out in the open, named the crimes and demanded reparation. In India, Women's Voice held a forum for the crimes against [91]Dalit women who are doubly marginalized as a result of their gender and caste oppression and face violence ranging from wife abuse to community rape. In partnership with Vimochana , another hearing was held for women victimised as a result of social and economic policies. Simrogh Women's Collectives in Pakistan had organised a public hearing on "personal" violence against women where women related their experiences of domestic abuse and violence imposed by traditional and cultural practices. During the [92]International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), Ubinig conducted a forum in Bangladesh where women brought out experiences of violence due to population policies and coerced family planning.

964. Butalia, Urvashi. *Forging a New Agenda. P. 78-80.* India Today. 30 September 1995.

This news article highlights the Beijing Platform of Action on women's empowerment, with special reference to South Asia. Abstracted from the UNDP Human Development Report, it is a table on gender disparities in the national income of women, life expectancy and literacy in SAARC countries, as against their GDI (Gender-integrated Development Index). The comparative status of women and girl-children of South Asia in terms of maternal mortality, use of contraception, school enrolment and economical activities are also tabulated here.

965. *Call for efforts to end violence against South Asian women.* PakTribune. 22 June 2004.

A news report on SAARC Autonomous Advocacy Group of Prominent Women Personalities (SWAG) with an agenda of action to end violence against women in the region, improve their economic conditions and provide better educational facilities. The forum discusses issues and challenges confronting women in South Asia, and is prepared to adopt a joint plan of action for member states of SAARC.

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91 Oppressed castes.

92 International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994.

966. CATW- Asia Pacific. *Trafficking in Women and Prostitution in the Asia Pacific.* Metro Manila. 1996. 60p.; ref.

This is a review of the issue of trafficking of women and children primarily on forced prostitution in Asia and the Pacific regions, with statistics from Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka.. Trafficked victims besides serving the sex industry are exploited through forced servitude and forced marriage. Despite the UN ratified Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discriminations Against Women (CEDAW), most governments and legal sanctions treat this issue as lower priority, as a result of the deep-rooted gender bias in their societies.

967. Centre for Reproductive Law and Policy (CRLP). *The World's Abortion Laws. 2000.* New York. 2000. Size. 25" x 22". ;col.

This poster illustrates the varying degrees of restriction on the world's abortion laws. 62% of the countries permit induced abortion for a variety of reasons or without any restrictions. Of the SAARC nations, India permits induced abortion on socio-economic grounds and to save the mother's health/life. Abortion is permitted to save the mother's life or for health reasons in Pakistan and Maldives. In the rest of the SAARC countries, abortion could be performed only as a "life-saving device" for the mother. However, most countries recognise abortion as a remedy for victims of rape and incest and in cases when there is a high degree of foetal impairment.

968. Centre for Reproductive Rights. *Women of the World : Laws and policies affecting their Reproductive Lives : South Asia.* New York. 2004. 242p.; notes; tables.

This volume examines the laws and policies that discriminate women in Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan whose governments uphold women's reproductive rights in international agreements. Though South Asian women have some of the world's highest rates of unplanned pregnancy, maternal deaths, unsafe abortions, child marriage and gender-based violence, as well as high incidence of HIV/AIDS, their national laws do not adequately provide for issues pertaining to violence related to women's reproductive health and rights. This report provides the following recommendations, in order to promote women's reproductive health/rights in South Asia:

- Initiate legislation/policy measures to end gender discriminatory customs and practices that prevent women from surviving pregnancy and childbirth;

- Create an environment for free abortion as women's reproductive rights, and access to safe, affordable abortion services;
- Launch family planning programmes to meet the needs of vulnerable groups of women – the unmarried, adolescents and refugees;
- Initiate legal reforms to protect women from HIV/AIDS infections;
- Strict enforcement of laws that criminalise trafficking of women and children.

969. CIMEL (Centre for Islamic & Middle Law) [and] INTERIGHTS (The International Centre for the Legal Protection of Human Rights). *Asia/South Asia. P.32-40.* Preliminary Bibliography : Crimes of honour. London. August 2000. 57p.

This part of the bibliography provides literature on 'honour' crimes perpetrated by family members, the community and the state. Violence suffered by women victims are in a variety of forms – forced marriage, widow mistreatment, murder, torture, isolation, physical/verbal abuse and suicide as a result of stigmatization. Annotations are provided on literature relating to 'honour' crimes in Pakistan, India and Bangladesh where women are bound by family traditions and patriarchal norms with little or no power to make their own decisions. Aiming to assist those working to combat crimes of 'honour' through research and the development of strategies of response, the volume carries published works with case summaries from Bangladesh, Pakistan, India and also from developed nations where 'honour'crimes are reported among the migrant population.

970. Coalition against Trafficking in Women [CATW] - Asia Pacific. *Government responses and Legal sanctions. P.52-56.* Trafficking in women and prostitution in the Asia Pacific. Metro Manila. 1996.

In South Asian Countries where the trafficking of women and prostitution are prevalent, state police are part of the sex nexus and governments tend to ignore the issue because of the traditional gender bias against women in prostitution. This part of the report refers to situations in Bangladesh and Pakistan where the governments do not show much concern towards trafficked victims/ survivors, though they have ratified CEDAW according to which sex trafficking is a crime against women.

971. Coomaraswamy, Radhika. *Addendum : Mission to Bangladesh, Nepal and India on the issue of Trafficking of Women and Girls (28 October-*

15 November 2000). P... Integration of the human rights of women and the gender perspective : Violence against women: Report of the [UN] Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its causes and consequences. Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy, in accordance with [UN] Commission on Human Rights Resolution 2000/45. 6 February 2001. 40p.; append. (E/CN.4/2001/73/Add.3).

This report discusses the outcome of the field mission of the UN Special Rapporteur to South Asia, to address the issue of trafficking in women and children for forced prostitution and other slave-like practices. The report provides recommendations at the regional level that the SAARC states could adopt to combat trafficking of women and children. The recommendations are based on a regional survey and an information database on trafficking. Countries in South Asia should enter into a convention against trafficking, and :

- Follow the guidelines of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Traffickers;
- Create monitoring mechanisms to support the rescued victims;
- Establish a regional inter-governmental task force linked to the women's and children's ministries in the respective countries;
- Inter-regional police task force to deal with the agents of trafficking.

972. Coomaraswamy, Radhika. *Briefing Paper. 7p.* Panel on Violence against Women : The [UN] Commission on the Status of Women [CSW]. [s.l], 19... [Source – ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

Presented by the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, this paper highlights areas for future action of the CSW and the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women in relation to regional and international activities to combat gender-based violence. Calling for more effective regional co-operation against trafficking of women and harmful traditional practices perpetrated against them in South Asia, the paper requests the appointment of a Special Ambassador to report on country-wise cultural practices causing health hazards to women and girls. The Rapporteur also appeals to the CSW, CEDAW Committee and the UN system to set up a database on the statistics and impact studies made on violence against women. This resource is useful in creating guidelines for a regional co-operation to eradicate violence against women.

973. Coomaraswamy, Radhika. *Policies to reduce Government expenditure. P.11.* Integration of the human rights of women and the gender perspective : Violence against women : Report of the [UN] Special Rapporteur

on Violence Against Women, its causes and consequences, Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy, submitted in accordance with [Human Rights] Commission resolution 1994/44 : Addendum : Economic and social policy and its implication on violence against women. [Geneva]. 24 February 2000. (E/CN.4/ 2000/68/Add.5).

This report provides recommendations towards policy reforms at national and international levels, as policies imposed by state governments to reduce expenditure have drastic effects on women's health and lives. Cost-cutting of the health sector has lead to the lack of access to health services, especially in the case of rural poor women. Health surveys conducted in India, Nepal and Bangladesh by World Health Organization (WHO) indicate that birth rates and maternal deaths are significantly high. Evidently, state policies have direct relevance to maternal deaths during child-birth, and pregnancy-related complications leading to the deterioration in women's reproductive health.

974. Coomaraswamy, Radhika. *Position paper on the draft SAARC Convention on Prevention and Combatting Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution, submitted by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women.* [s.l]., 19.., 8p. [Source- ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

This paper draws attention to the influence of existing international human rights laws to combat human trafficking across borders. Concerned that certain aspects of the draft convention conflicts with the laws, the paper recommends measures to prevent and eradicate trafficking, emphasising the need for special protection of women and children. The UN Rapporteur further emphasises that the definition of trafficking should encompass non-sexual forced labour and forced marriage. The paper also recommends assistance for and protection of trafficked victims, their voluntary repatriation and reintegration.

975. Coomaraswamy, Radhika [and] Satkunanathan, Ambika. [93]*Trafficking : Crossing borders in an era of globalisation. 20p.; notes; biblio.* "Gender & Violence", Hambantota, 11-4 July 2005. [Unpublished].

This paper evaluates the 'protection ideology' in the shelter homes set up for women victims/survivors of trafficking in South Asia. Evidently, women rescued from traffickers are kept in these homes "for their own protection", in a jail-like atmosphere with poor sanitary conditions and little activities, as such that

[93] Forthcoming as "Gender & Violence, published by ICES, Colombo.

they become 'forgotten women'. Their case dates and repatriation take years on end, with hardly any communication with the authorities concerned. Moreover, traffickers receive lesser penalty and are released into the community on much earlier dates than scheduled. It is noteworthy, that few sex workers want to be rescued, since they feel that life in shelter homes are worse than in the brothels. This paper concerns issues of trafficking in a global context, urging that new law and order measures are needed to combat trafficking and sexual exploitation.

976. *The Dhaka Declaration for Eliminating Violence Against Women in South Asia : Adopted at the Regional Workshop on Parliamentary Advocacy for the Prevention of Violence Against Women in South Asia, 18-19 March 2003, Dhaka, Bangladesh. 2p.* Kathmandu, UNFPA et al. [Source – http://cst.kathmandu.unfpa.org; accessed on 15 December 2003].

Parliamentarians from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Iran have called for action to prevent violence against women in South Asia, through education, legal reform, policies and programmes to enhance the role/status of community women. In this workshop the parliamentarians have committed to give priority to the following actions:

- Raising public awareness on women's human rights and violation against women as a basic aspect of development, peace and progress;
- Enact and enforce legislation and formation of committees to identify gaps in the laws, to bring in legal reforms and monitor law enforcement ;
- Strengthening support services for victims of violence, as well as sharing of research and information;
- Regional cooperation in terms of laws, policies and programmes to combat cross-border violence ie., trafficking of women for forced labour and prostitution, and to develop a process to monitor the situation across borders.

977. *The Dhaka Declaration : Regional Asian Conference on "Organising against Sexual Exploitation", Dhaka, 26-29 June 1998.* Prp. Donna M. Hughes. [s.l]. [Source – ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

The Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW) sponsored this conference against sexual exploitation in the Asian region drawing in participants from South/East Asia and North America, working on human rights, women's rights and the prevention of trafficking of women and children for forced prostitution. The conference declares that:

- Sexual exploitation is a violation of fundamental human rights;
- Sex work is detrimental to women's health, serves as a vehicle for racism and results in gender oppression;
- Trafficking and prostitution can never be considered as work, as they deprive women's control over their bodies, and is a degradation of human dignity.

The Declaration emphasises the role of the state in protecting migrant women and women refugees who are vulnerable to sexual exploitation and also the misuse of modern technology to promote sexual exploitation through pornographic web sites in the Internet. Recommendations are provided on:

- State policy and legal reforms against sex trafficking and forced prostitution;
- Repealing of religious laws that relate to gender discrimination;
- NGOs to actively participate in government efforts.

978. Falguni, Audity. *South Asian Court of Women : More than just symbolism.* 2*p*. [s.l], PeaceWomen. 13 August 2003. [Source – http://www.youandaids.org/Media_Reports/2003 ; accessed on 16 January 2004].

The South Asian Court of Women on the Violence of Trafficking & HIV/AIDS seeks to evolve a framework to articulate gender justice, women's rights and empowerment, while helping women campaigners to call upon states and governments to make appropriate transformations on socio-economic and legal rights in order to ensure that there are no further deteriorations of the rights of women victims of trafficking and HIV/AIDS. Seventeen courts have been held on different forms of gender violence – war crimes, caste oppression, reproductive technologies, trafficking, sex tourism, legal status and discriminations, indigenous women, land rights, racism and economic blockades. The court though not powerful enough to pass and execute any sentence, serves as a mark of protest against violence against women worldwide. Held in Bangladesh, the court was adjourned in the presence of the Asian Women's Human Rights Council (AWHRC), media personnel and women activists from Bangladesh and Pakistan. Recordings were made on testimonies from victims/survivors and women's experiences - those trafficked from Bangladesh into brothels of Pakistan. At these sessions, attention was drawn to the impact of religious fundamentalism on women in South Asia.

979. Forum for Women, Law and Development (FWLD). *Advocacy leaflet on SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution.* Kathmandu. August 2002. 15p.

An online leaflet relating to advocacy work to address the issue of trafficking women and children across South Asian Countries, where Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka serve as countries where the crime originates, while India and Pakistan are those of transit and destination for the victims. The Convention is a regional commitment that includes strategies to combat the crime, in particular establishment of a regional task force, legal aid to punish the offenders and mechanism to care, treat and rehabilitate victims/survivors. The leaflet also draws in the limitations to the Convention, how it could be improved and the need for ratification.

980. Foundation for Universal Responsibility. *Women in Security Conflict Management and Peace (WISCOMP).* New Delhi. 20.... [Source – http://www.furhhdl.org/peacemain.htm; accessed on 15 December 2004].

WISCOMP is a regional project to promote leadership of Asian women in areas of peace and security and to provide training programmes to develop their skills for non-violent peace negotiations. While encouraging increased participation of women in negotiations and networking, the project believes that security and conflict management should be more people-oriented with a gender sensitive approach. This brochure provides a variety of programmes sponsored by WISCOMP - from academic research and media projects to symposiums, workshops and discussion forums that bring together women in non-governmental institutions to exchange ideas and experiences in South Asia in the learning of the peace process. Successful programmes on strategies for networking and peace-building have been implemented in Sri Lanka and Nagaland (India).

981. Glassman, Nicole [and] Strydom, Marie. *Conference Summary. 2p.* A Conference on Trafficking in Women and Children with Leading South Asian Experts from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal held at American University, 30 September 1998. [Source – http://www.american.edu/traccc/events/reports; accessed on 12 January 2003]

The [94]summary highlights the efforts of individual NGOs and action groups to eliminate the trafficking of women and girls in South Asia, and their limitations to the crime. While relating to the prevalence of trafficking for forced prostitution and labour in the region, the speakers emphasise on the efforts made by NGOs and action networks in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal to prevent human trafficking.

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[94] Conference on "Trafficking in Women and Children", Washington D.C., 30 September 1998.

982. Goonesekera, Savitri. *Policy planning for the family in South Asia. P.12-17.; notes.* Seventh SAARCLAW Conference, Colombo, 24-25 October 1998.

This paper concerns planning of family policies in South Asian countries, with regards to aspects of family violence, in particular, marital rape and incest. There are no separate laws outside of the criminal code to address family violence. Illustrated with examples of child-wives in South Asia, and referring to the recent creation of a Penal Code offence on incest in Sri Lanka, the paper calls for a strengthening of family law by integrating constitutional and criminal provisions, in order to address violence against women in the family.

983. Hayward, Ruth Finney. *Using the legal system to end violence against women and girls. P.273-325; notes.* Breaking the Earthenware Jar : Lessons from South Asia to end violence against women and girls. Kathmandu, UNICEF. 2000.

In South Asia, since the colonial period, laws have been introduced to prevent harmful traditional practices, and gender-based abuses, including incest, sexual harassment and acid-throw. Measures such as separate cells for women, gender sensitive training for police and judiciary, national commissions for women's human rights, women's movements, gendered activism to create legal awareness/education and legal advocacy are being employed to combat gender violence. However, the effective use of the legal system to end gender violence still remains a major issue, due to the many socio-cultural deterrents, where women victims face great risks in seeking a legal remedy to end the violence. Domestic violence is not recognised as a crime in South Asia, although India and Sri Lanka treat marital rape as a punishable offence only under circumstances of legal separation between the spouses. This chapter highlights how laws could be used to combat domestic/family violence, dowry-related violence in particular, and harmful traditional practices where the victim could seek redress as provided by the respective criminal codes. Recommendations are provided to criminal, civil and constitutional remedies, as well as alternative mechanisms through which remedies could be sought.

Building movements to stop violence against women and girls in South Asia. P.329-359; notes.

The author explores gendered activism in South Asia, as demonstrated by women's movements against gender-based violence. Despite the patriarchal

nature within the region, women's political participation has in some ways, reinforced the activities of women's movement towards socio-legal reforms in combating violence against women, in particular, those stemming from religio-cultural practices. In Bangldesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and India, the movement operates through women's non-governmental and state bodies, playing a positive role in bringing reforms to the Penal Code relating to sexual violence – incest and sexual harassment, as punishable offences. The women's movement has identified gender violence as a violation of women's human rights and hindrance to development. In this context, the [95]UNICEF Regional Meeting has recommended the following:

- Lobby for reforms on gender discriminatory laws and effective enforcement of laws dealing with gender issues;
- Building networks to strengthen women's activism within the country and across the region;
- Effective interventions on societal attitudes towards gender discrimination/bias;
- Encourage women's socio-political participation at grass root levels;
- Gender sensitisation at the level of policy planning.

984. International Labour Organization (ILO). *Report on the ILO/Japan Regional Tripartite Seminar on Action against Sexual Harassment at Work in Asia and the Pacific, Penang, 2-4 October 2001.* 61p.

A seminar to plan effective action against sexual harassment at the workplace, attended by member countries of South Asia viz., Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. The forum organised by ILO aims to stimulate and exchange experiences on positive action against sexual harassment at work, in both formal and informal sectors and to strengthen initiatives against this practice. The goal was to identify follow-up action that could be taken at the workplace, at national and international levels. Participants presented various perspectives on the scope and definition of the problem, available judicial provisions, as well as policy and workplace measures to combat the act. A resolution was passed by government representatives that sexual harassment at work place needed to be addressed seriously, and efforts made to combat the issue. It was agreed that the member countries need more exposure and guidance on the subject - different values, cultures and social attitudes so that comprehensive standards could be set to form a national policy, as the framework for specific legislation against sexual harassment in the workplace.

[95] UNICEF Regional Meeting on Women's Movements in South Asia, Kathmandu, October 1997.

985. International Labour Organization (ILO) *South Asian Sub-Regional Programme to Combat Trafficking in Children for Exploitative Employment in Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka.* [s.l], [2000]. (Doc. No. RAS/00/05P/010). 5p.

This is an ILO-IPEC strategy programme to combat trafficking of the girl-child in South Asia and their commercial sexual exploitation. The components of the sub-programmes are:

- Ways of improving the national capabilities to address the issue;
- Prevention, protection and rehabilitation of child victims;
- Research and documentation of gender related violence;
- Advocacy for sub-regional cooperation and joint action.

This paper probes the various sub-programmes applicable to each country to act nationally and regionally.

986. International Planned Parenthood Federation [IPPF]. *Gender-based violence : Asia. 1p.* November 1998. [Source – http://www.ippfwhr.org ; accessed on 10 January 2003].

This summary is a compilation of sources indicating the occurrence of gender-related violence in South Asia. While providing statistics on rape, domestic violence and female foeticide in India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, the report quotes how 60 million women, mostly from South Asia are 'missing' through the tradition-bound practices of female infanticide, sex selective abortions and health-related negligence of daughters in preference to sons.

987. Johnston, Sarah et al. *Trafficking in women in Asia and Pacific : A regional report.* 19p. Regional Meeting on Trafficking in Women, Forced Labour and Slave-like Practices in Asia and Pacific, Bangkok, 19-22 February 1997.

Trafficking and migrant labour of women in Asia is a prevalent offence, yet the laws are incapable of combating the crime. This paper analyses the case of Sri Lanka, India, Nepal and Bangladesh, providing recommendations to prevent trafficking women for prostitution and coerced labour. Evidently, laws are seldom enforced in these countries and even when they are, the crimes are rarely prevented, proving that the law is an impractical means of solving the problem. Recommendations provided are:

- Women workers could be included in the national labour organisations, in order to encourage them to take action against employers;
- Improved legal migration procedures from the stage of recruitment up to employment abroad;
- Providing assistance to enforce their legal rights, providing shelter for the needy and information about the process of migration;
- Expanding employment options in the home country and addressing cultural values that are gender discriminatory.

988. *Looking back... Looking forward : Colombo Declaration : South Asian Women's Conference, Colombo, 27-30 April 1998. P.5-6.* Pravahini. Vol.12, No.2. 1998.

This is the declaration of a regional conference rejecting gender-oriented violence and demanding gender equality in political participation where women could relate their problems at a policy making level to build a society free of gender violence and discrimination. This conference was organised for the women of South Asia and participated by women's NGOs in an attempt to recommend gender-related policies to the state government, as well as to strengthen the women's network in South Asia.

989. *Maldives forward moving strategies.* Third Beijing Biennial Regional Ministerial Meeting, Maldives, 26-27 September 2000. 3p. [Source – ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

UNIFEM, SAARC Regional Office and the Ministry of Women's Affairs & Social Security of Maldives have jointly organized this forum to evaluate the feasibility of recommended action stipulated by the [96]Beijing Conference. The forum addresses trafficking of women and children as a prime issue, re-examining the SAARC Convention in order to expand the definition of human rights. This apparently, requires major changes, supported by UNIFEM in 1999, as well as national/regional level for acceptance of the change. The forum discussed bilateral engagements between countries, and possible areas of cooperation to combat trafficking. It concluded that governments and other stakeholders need to combat/prevent the crime and set up anti-trafficking mechanisms/cells/secretariats. Another important strategy is to train the immigration and border police personnel on how to handle the perpetrators and the survivors/victims.

[96] Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995.

990. Manavi. *Projects and services.* [New Jersey]. 2001. 3p. [Source – http://www. www.manavi.org ; accessed on 22 January 2002].

Manavi meaning 'primal woman' in Sanskrit, is a women's organisation founded by a group of South Asians in the USA as a consciousness –raising group. Manavi supports projects to help women victims of domestic violence and on issues of women's reproductive health in South Asia. In India, a training programme on midwifery conducted in West Bengal helps rural women gain access to reproductive health care. Focusing on domestic and family violence, the organisation runs women's shelters in Dhaka (Bangladesh) and in Tamil Nadu, India. Offering legal support to victims, the Calcutta Legal Clinic provides access to legal assistance for poor women affected by sexual and family violence.

991. *Monitoring Country Activities : South Asia. P.6.* ARROWS for Change. Vol.10, No.1. 2004.

Women's Health & Rights Advocacy Partnership (WHRAP) has launched a capacity building workshop on media advocacy, condoning the role played by mass media in influencing national/regional policy agendas to promote safe motherhood. The workshop involves issues on sexual/reproductive health of women with emphasis on safe motherhood and adolescent sexual health in the South Asian region. Attended by NGO partners from the region the forum aims to enhance the capacity of organisations to engage in media advocacy – strategies and challenges faced in making alliances, coordinated activities in partnership and preparing long- term, result-oriented programmes to promote women's reproductive heath.

992. National Commission for Women [NCW]. *Draft SAARC Regional Convention on Prevention and Combating Trafficking in Women & Children.* [New Delhi], 20.... 3p. [Source- http://www.ncw.nic.in; accessed on 16 December 2003].

Human trafficking, in particular women and children across borders has caused great concern in South Asia. The NCW has recommended the above [97]Convention among SAARC nations to prevent trans-border trafficking. The Commission also acts as a co-ordinating body on crimes related to trafficking such as coerced labour, forced prostitution, sexual slavery and forced marriage.

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97 SAARC Regional Convention on Prevention and Combating Trafficking in Women & Children, 11th SAARC Summit, Kathmandu, 5 January 2002.

993. Ohashi, Masaaki. *Civil society organizations in South Asia : A comparative observation of NGOs in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka. 20p.* Seminar on "Current Situation in Civil Society Organisations in South Asia", Delhi, 24 March 1999.

This paper is a study of South Asian NGOs on a country-to-country basis, on the attitude of governments and legal systems towards them. It evaluates the advantages and disadvantages of NGO federations/associations using examples from Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka and the difference in operating sectors – rural development, poverty alleviation, gender violence, ethnic conflict, community violence etc. Achievements of NGOs and their influence on state action are acknowledged in this paper.

994. Oxfam GB Nepal. *Trafficking in women as organised crime: Summary statement of Oxfam GB in South Asia.* Kathmandu. 26 October 2000. 4p.

Information on trafficking and forced prostitution in the context of the traditional roles of women in South Asia is provided in this summary. As such, a gendered labour market and its worldwide feminisation result in an enhanced economic burden on women. Denial of women's rights in property inheritance, legal autonomy and mobility are the root causes of crimes of violence against women and girl children, making them commodities for trafficking, forced prostitution and labour.

995. Pandit, Nirmala. *International and regional initiatives to prevent and prohibit Trafficking in Persons : Regional efforts : Asia. P.84-86.* Expert Meeting " Women & Legal Justice ", Hakone (Japan), 19-20 November 2000. Tokyo, Asian Women's Fund. March 2001.

This section of the paper refers to the drafting of a regional convention against trafficking women and children for prostitution in a sub-regional level. Prepared by the member states of SAARC, this draft has received comments from NGOs and UN Agencies that the draft has cited prostitution as the only purpose for trafficking women and children while ignoring others crimes such as bonded labour, sexual servitude and forced marriage. This paper explores the international legal framework of anti-trafficking laws, UN conventions and treaties, with special attention to the report submitted by the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women to the UN Commission on Human Rights.

996. *Power and decision making : Women's participation is lowest in South Asia : Empower women.* Kathmandu Post. 20 November 2000. [Source – http://ktmpost/2000 ; accessed on 21 January 2003].

"Women participation in governance structures is still the lowest in the world despite the number of women political leaders" says the latest issue of Human Development in South Asia Report. As the women's ministries, departments, commissions and bureaus remain under-funded, they lack the resources to plan polices and implement programmes for women's emancipation. The UN system is taking initiatives for the systematic capacity building of elected and nominated women political representatives, enabling them to play the role of 'change agents' in social, legal, political and economic levels.
The report has pointed out the need for revolutionary strategies together with commitment and action by the governments and civil society. Areas for priority action identified are:

- Equality under the law;
- Equality of access to capacity building;
- Equality of economic opportunities;
- Equality in governance, in order to achieve gender equality.

Besides collective consciousness-raising of the region for speedy implementation of global and national commitments, structures and finances need to be put in place for proper implementation, says the report.

997. *President's Speech in the 11th SAARC Summit.* SAARC Summit, Eleventh Session, Kathmandu, 5 January 2002. 2p. [Source – http://www.saarctourism.org/eleventh-saarc-summit ; accessed on 30 January 2003].

This is the keynote address of Hon. Perviaz Musharaff, the President of Pakistan at the recent [98]SAARC Summit refers specifically to the preventive action against the trafficking of women and children for forced prostitution, labour and coerced marriage, across the borders. The SAARC Convention on Combating the Trafficking of Women and Children, duly signed by the Heads of States during the Summit will help the member countries of South Asia take necessary measures for the fulfilment of their obligations towards these two vulnerable segments of society.

998. *SAARC Convention on Prevention and Combatting Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution : Draft.* Regional Conference on

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98 11th SAARC Summit, Kathmandu, 4-6 January 2002.

Trafficking in Women, Bangkok, 3-4 November 1998. Tokyo, Asian Women's Fund. February 1999.

This Convention to be adopted in November 1999 at the Eleventh SAARC Summit in Kathmandu, is to combat the widespread crimes of trafficking and the forced prostitution of women and children in South Asia. The convention aims to counter the issue on trafficking and related practices such as forced prostitution, forced marriage and forced labour, with the framework of women's human rights.

999. SAARC People's Forum. *Combatting Trafficking in Women and Children and Ensuring Food Security, Colombo, 27 July 1998*. 3p. [Source – ICES Archives on Violence Against Women]

A press release by the Forum emphasizes that the proposed SAARC Convention on Prevention and Combatting Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution be "broadened" to include various forms of the crime, and that the SAARC states ensure food security that is one of the major causes of the crime. The statement highlights the preventive measures adopted by individual states and the role of women in national development. Consisting of women's NGOs in the SAARC region, the Forum also submits a memorandum to the Standing Committee of the Tenth SAARC Summit, on amendments proposed to the Convention in the interest of the victims who need support and security under international human rights standards.

1000.SAARCNET. *Situation of women and girls. P... Declaration : Tenth SAARC Summit, Colombo, 29 -31 July, 1998*. [Source – http://www.saarc-sec.org ; accessed on 20 June 2003].

The Heads of Sates at the summit note that women and girls in South Asia face gender violence and discrimination and that sustained efforts are required to offset gender-based violence. Condemning the offence of trafficking of women and girls for sex work and forced labour across the borders, the countries have agreed to work closely with women's organisations and human rights NGOs in the region to prevent trafficking. The SAARC nations recommend on :

- Draft Convention on Prevention and Combatting Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution as a vital tool to deal with the problem;
- Feasibility of establishing a regional fund for the rehabilitation of the victims trafficked;

- Scope of the Convention be broadened to cover the issue of prostitution;
- Establish a gender-disaggregated database to assist in the formulation of national, regional policies and programmes to combat trafficking.

It is expected that the Convention would be drafted and signed by all countries at the Eleventh SAARC Summit in the year 2002.

1001.Samarasinghe, Nandini. *Gender Issues : An empirical survey . 12p.* ref. [s.l], 9... [Source – ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

This document relates to the status of women in South Asia with regard to gender discrimination and gender-related violence. The socio-economy of individual countries portray that women are economically exploited, socially repressed and politically under-represented by the use of violence in the family, community and at the state-level. Legal provision in the different countries to promote women's participation in public life and in the decision making process are examined here. In this context, the article reviews the women's movements and the need for campaigns on structural adjustments for gender empowerment in the region.

1002. *Sixteen Days Activism against Gender Violence [: Excerpts on South Asia].* p.. "Vienna, Cairo, Copenhagen, Beijing : Bringing Women's Human Rights Home" : International Calendar of Campaign Activities, November 24 – 5 December 1995. [Source – http:// www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/ 16days/ kit05/ profile.doc; accessed on 7 May 2003].

This web document concerns the Global Campaign for the Elimination of Gender based Violence launched by women's NGOs and action groups in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan. The programme activities included rallies, public meetings, seminars, community discussions, poster/ signature campaigns and media programmes, with the participation of rural and urban women in protest of gender-oriented violence.

1003. *South Asia Court for Women ends : US Trafficking law has no international legitimacy.* The New Nation. 14 August 2003.

This news item relates to a [99]regional hearing on testimonies of survivors/ resistors of trafficking held in front of an international jury which urged

[99] 18th South Asia Court on Women on Human Trafficking and HIV/AIDS, Dhaka, 11-13 August 2003.

SAARC nations to make efforts on rehabilitation of the victims/survivors, so that they are not socially penalised. In recognition of trafficking as a violation of human rights, this forum reflects and shares strategies to combat trafficking and urges a reform of domestic laws, their proper enactment and enforcement against the offence.

1004. *South Asian women vow to fight trafficking*. The Daily Star. Vol.4, No. 11. 12 August 2003.

This is a three-day programme of South Asian Court of Women on the Violence of Trafficking and HIV/AIDS conducted in Dhaka by UBINIG and Narigrantha, with the partnership of Asian Women's Human Rights Council (AWHRC), UNDP and Oxfam South Asia. The programme encompasses:

- Understanding and addressing the increasing violence, vulnerability and the spread of HIV/AIDS associated with trafficking women and children;
- Regional security for the protection of victims/survivors of cross-border trafficking;
- De-criminalisation of sex workers, most of whom are rural women victims of trafficking;
- Media focus on the identity of traffickers, rapists and organised crime syndicates, rather than victims.

1005. Tambiah, Yasmin. *Realizing women's sexual rights : Challenges in South Asia. P. 97-105.* Nordic Journal of International Law. No.67, 1998.

An overview of the challenges to women's sexual freedom in a multi-ethnic society, drawing in the parliamentary debate in 1995 on reforms in the Penal Code of Sri Lanka. The debate illustrates that social constraints related to female sexuality can be manipulated by state-actors for political benefits, thereby justifying the refusal on women's sexual rights and condoning gender-based sexual violence. The article acknowledges the impact of women's movements in Asia that pressurise for women's rights in traditional societies.

1006.UNDP. *AIDS in South and Southwest Asia : A development challenge*. New Delhi. 1999. 40p.; plates; tables.

Trafficking of women and children for forced prostitution and their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS is a serious issue affecting the development in South/West Asia. Poor women lacking social and economic rights, are subjected to violence in various forms - trafficking, forced prostitution, bonded labour, work burden

and ill-health. As such they are prime targets of sexually transmitted diseases. This report provides information on the HIV/AIDS prevention programme, launched in South/Southwest Asia. Based on their policy on AIDS prevention the programme covers the following areas:

- Prevention of trafficking women and children and rehabilitation of victims;
- Care for victims of HIV/AIDS;
- Harm-reduction through the control on the use of injectable drugs;
- Reproductive health services for the rural poor.

1007.UNICEF. *UNICEF Welcomes signing of two conventions on children by South Asian leaders in Kathmandu.* New York, 5 January 2002. 1p. [Source – http:// www.unicef.org/newsline/ ; accessed on 17 May 2003].

This is a press release on the responses of UNICEF to the signing of two important conventions viz., the trafficking of women and children and child welfare, by seven South Asian nations - Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The conventions were signed at the [100]11th SAARC Summit of South Asia. While congratulating the South Asian leaders for addressing children's and women's issues at a time when their nations are gripped with threats of war and terrorism, UNICEF welcomes their commitment towards the respect for human rights – in protecting the fundamental rights of women and children.

1008.UNICEF. *Report summary : Ending Violence against Women and girls in South Asia : Meeting Report, October 1997.* Kathmandu. March 1998. (UNICEF Rosa Report No.23). [Source – http:// www.unicef-icdc.org ; accessed on 12 January 2003].

A regional meeting involving South Asian participants was held in Kathmandu, where non-governmental organisations made efforts to counter gender-based violence. This has brought together women and men to support a movement against gender-based violence in the region, through community interventions. The participants are mostly from non-governmental organisations in India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka committed to join in complementary action involving the grass roots level.

1009.UNIFEM. *Case study : Bringing Gender justice to the Judiciary in South Asia. P.69-81; ref.* With an end in Sight : Strategies from the

[100] 11th SAARC Summit of South Asia, Kathmandu, 4-6 January 2002.

UNIFEM Trust Fund to eliminate violence against women. Ed.Cheywa Spindel et al. New York. 2000.

During the period of 1997-1999 Sakshi, a NGO based in New Delhi committed themselves to counter sexual and other forms of violence against women, by bringing together high-level judges, lawyers and activists in South Asia to discuss gender equality in the court room, in order to encourage judicial initiatives for change. In the process of documenting the judicial understanding of gender-specific crimes in the Indian setting and the experience of the victim in the courtroom, the workshop is a forum to discuss gender bias in the courtroom and to train judges to teach their peers about gender equality. Judges, lawyers and activists from India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Pakistan and Bangladesh participated in this forum and established a management team to develop a gender equality training prototype to be used in workshops in the South Asian countries. Funded by UNIFEM and CIDA the workshop also proposes to bring together police personnel, health-care practitioners and victims of gender crimes in this educational programme.

1010. UNIFEM. *Carrying the Beijing torch in South Asia.* New Delhi, South Asia Regional Office . 1999. 44p.; append.

This report provides a summary of the country papers from SAARC Nations, exploring the progress of women in South Asia since the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing,1995. A tabulated summary of follow-up mechanisms initiated by the states shows specific policy changes, programmes and plans towards women's empowerment. The publication also focuses on future priorities, challenges faced, gaps in implementing programmes and constraints encountered by the states.

1011. UNIFEM. *SAARC Women for Peace. 1p.* The Beijing +5 Review process. [New York]. 21 November 1999. [Source – http://www.unifem-eseasia.org/resources/beijing; accessed on 2 June 2003].

This is a news article on the work of SAARC Women for Peace, organized by Women for Women from Bangladesh and UNIFEM. The group was formed as an effort of women in South Asia, to take urgent and concrete action for peace in the region. As such, the formation of an NGO viz., SAARC Women for Peace, was recommended by UNIFEM. A regional conference was held in Dhakar recently, where partners from the region gathered to develop a common perspective and understanding of peace in South Asia, to build a strategy for mobilizing public opinion nationally and regionally around the issue.

1012.UNIFEM. South Asia Regional Office (SARO). *Sixteen days of Activism in South Asia.* End Violence. December 1998. 5p. [Source – http://www.unifem-eseasia.org; accessed on 18 June 2003].

The South Asia Regional Office of UNIFEM has launched the Global Campaign for the Elimination of Gender-based Violence for a period of sixteen days, with protest marches across India and Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan. This campaign attempts to reach out to diverse groups across the society, enabling them to articulate their perceptions of violence against women and formulate their own strategies. Launched during August- September 1998 the campaign has facilitated UNIFEM to enter into partnership with women's NGOs, educational institutions, government ministries and human rights activists while organising a range of events to create community awareness on gender violence and action to combat this across socio-cultural and political barriers. Training programmes for police officers, consciousness raising through the print and electronic media, poster exhibitions, art shows, drama and music events were part of the campaign that involved professional associations, student bodies and youth groups. A special information leaflet on trafficking of women and girls in South Asia was produced by UNIFEM, focusing on the magnitude of the problem and the possible course of action to combat the issue.

1013.UNIFEM. *Speaking Out : Women's economic empowerment in South Asia.* Ed. Marilyn Carr et al. New Delhi. June 1996.

This volume relates to experiences of seven South Asian NGOs that organise rural poor women for empowerment. Case studies illustrate how the grass roots women gained access and control over economic resources, which in turn leads to social, economic and political changes in the family, community and beyond. It also reveals women's social participation and their abilities for the purpose of 'institution-building' towards solidarity, self-autonomy and financial self-reliance at grass roots levels.

1014.United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) South Asia. *Prevention of Trafficking and HIV/AIDS in South Asia : A strategic framework for Action.* [s.l]. 16 November 2001. 13p. [Source – ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

This is a draft proposal on combatting trafficking of women for forced prostitution and other forms of crimes and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases in the SAARC region. Drafted in consultation with other UN Agencies, this project will complement existing national initiatives and generate new

responses to prevent the crime of trafficking and HIV/AIDS. As a sub-regional UN programme this project attempts to address the root cause and consequences of trafficking and AIDS that are bound to destabilise human security and development in South Asia. The project design concentrates on:

- Legal, physical and psychological protection of the victims;
- Support for survivors of trafficking in terms of rehabilitation and re-integration;
- Preventive measures that target the marginalized sections of women who are vulnerable to trafficking.

The proposal includes participation of women survivors as peer workers, trainers and motivators, in designing and implementing the above activities.

1015. United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights [UNHCHR]. *[Concerning the Draft SAARC Convention on Prevention and Combatting Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution]* By Mary Robinson. Geneva. 5 July 1999. [Source – ICES Archives on Violence Against Women].

This letter to the Heads of States relates to the Draft of the SAARC Convention against trafficking women and girls. Evidently, the member states should develop their national policies and preventive measures against gender-oriented trafficking and forced prostitution. Since there is no universal/ regional instrument to address human trafficking, this Draft is instrumental for the nations to develop national/regional legal standards to address this widespread crime.

1016. *Women with Disabilities : The 2nd Regional Leadership Training Seminar for Women with Disabilities. P...* Empowerment :APCD Newsletter. Issue. 4. 24 May 2004.

A regional leadership [101]training programme focused on empowering the disabled women and facilitating their entry into the mainstream of socio-economic activities with self-reliance. Organised by the Disabilities Peoples International (DPI)-Asia-Pacific, the training session is aimed at:

- Developing leadership skills and providing knowledge on how to strengthen and empower self-help organizations;

[101] Asia-Pacific Regional Leadership Training Seminar for Women with Disabilities, Nonthaburi (Thailand), 21-25 April 2003.

- Encouraging disabled women to get involved at various levels of the programme ;
- Changing social activities and power relationships which discriminate against them;
- Developing and maintaining a network of women with disabilities in the Asia-Pacific region.

Participants from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka targeted programmes to create/provide anti-discriminatory measures to encourage the empowerment of women and to pressurise for their inclusion in mainstream women's associations by year 2005. The planning includes strategies of campaigning, awareness raising and access to information, involving the disabled women themselves.

1017. *Workshop on National laws to combat Trafficking.* Daily News. 25 May 2004.

Participants from Sri Lanka, India, Bangladesh and Nepal came together at a [102]regional workshop to deal with the trafficking of women and children, discussing the legal standards addressing the issue at multiple levels, preventive measures, protection of victims/ survivors and persecution of offenders. The key objective of the programme was to facilitate the work of governments, NGOs and the civil society to combat trafficking. The participants initiated research into legal provisions – to review the existing legal provisions/ system to address the problem, identify the gaps/limitations which inhibit the implementation of a rights-based approach to combat the crime. While sharing the research findings the workshop provided recommendations to address the 'loop-holes' by initiating programmes for the law enforcement authority and related institution in their respective countries.

1018.Wickremasinghe, Kamala I. *Trafficking of children in South Asia. P. 64-69.* Partners in Progress. No.1, September 2000.

Remedies and actions to prevent trafficking of women and children in South Asia is the theme of this article. While relating to the current situation in individual countries, the article concentrates on the strategies against trafficking. This article further suggests that inter-country cooperation is

[102] "National Laws to Combat Trafficking in South Asia :Sharing of Research Studies", Colombo, 25-26 May 2004.

important to combat trafficking of women, where state parties to the SAARC Convention Against Trafficking should seek legal advocacy across borders for the extradition of traffickers and advocacy on care and rehabilitation and repatriation of the victims.

1019.Women Working Worldwide (WWW). *Women workers and Codes of conduct.* [s.l]. 1998-99. 9p. [Source – http://www.poptel.org.uk/women-ww/codes/ ; accessed on 6 July 2003].

This news report concerns women who are employed in the various industries in South Asia who are subjected to maltreatment and harassment by their employers as well as co-workers. It provides information on project activities and partner organisations in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and India conducting WWW workshops to educate women workers on codes of conduct in workplaces. The codes cover issues pertaining to issues affecting women in workplaces - health and safety, forced labour, fair wages, minimum age of employment and working hours and the rights of women workers.

1020. *Women of the World : Laws and policies affecting their Reproductive Lives : South Asia.* Ed. Centre for Reproductive Rights. New York. 2004. 242p.; notes; tables.

Though South Asian women have some of the world's highest rates of gender-based violence, maternal deaths, unsafe abortions, child marriage and a high incidence of HIV/AIDS, their national policies and laws do not adequately provide for gender violence. This volume examines gender discriminatory laws/policies in Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan, whose governments are committed to eliminate gender violence and uphold women's rights in international agreements. These chapters detail laws and policies in each country, along with their limitations and drawbacks. The chapters draw specific attention to violence related to women's reproductive health, imposed through national population policies and family planning programmes that target women, in particular, those from grass-root levels. This report provides the following recommendations, in order to promote women's rights in South Asia:

- Initiate legislation/policy measures to end gender discriminatory customs and practices that prevent women from surviving pregnancy and childbirth;
- Create an environment for free abortion as women's reproductive rights, and access to safe, affordable abortion services;
- Launch family planning programmes to meet the needs of vulnerable groups of women – the unmarried, adolescents and refugees;

- Initiate legal reforms to protect women from HIV/AIDS infections;
- Strict enforcement of laws that criminalise trafficking of women and children.

1021.Women's Health & Rights Advocacy Partnership (WHRAP). *Advocacy strategy : Issues Activities Partners.* Kuala Lumpur, ARROW. 20.... [Pamphlet].

This information leaflet describes the objectives of WHRAP to improve sexual/ reproductive health status of marginalised women and adolescents in South Asia, with the priority of monitoring the impact of the health sector reforms in promoting safe motherhood. While monitoring the level of health policy and the community services to promote safe motherhood and to reduce the incidence of maternal morbidity/mortality the advocacy agenda involves regional partners from Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan. The partners have prepared a 'blue print' on collective activities that focus on strategic planning, national policy dialogues, capacity building for service providers, working groups for a regional overview, documentation of best practices/ evaluation and accessing information in local languages to the public.

1022.Worldview International Foundation [WIF]. *Twenty years of achievements in major Worldview Programmes. P.10-11.* A better world through better understanding. Colombo. [1999].

WIF is a non-governmental organisation whose activities include the use of communication and media for sustainable human development. This section of the report illustrates their programmes for women conducted in South Asia on aspects of women's health. The report refers to the sexual reproductive health programme for women in Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka that creates awareness of violence against women's health – on sexually transmitted diseases and maternal health. A programme on adolescent communication training for sexual health has been launched in Nepal and Sri Lanka to promote safe sexual health among the young.

See also Citation Nos. 15, 81, 87; 89, 90, 97, 102, 115, 116, 236, 331, 388, 389, 432, 436, 520, 523, 526, 531, 535, 541, 554, 555, 560, 609, 626, 641, 647, 666, 692, 733, 758, 802, 890, 914 & 915.

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This bibliography is part of a wider research project carried out by ICES on gender and violence in the South Asian context. This work looks at legislation, policies/programmes that have been implemented in the region to prevent violence against women and the challenges faced by feminist in implementing these programmes. Added to this, this bibliography looks at efforts made by various actors such as the family, the community, and society to raise awareness on issues of violence against women and to support survivors of violence. This work also makes an important contribution toward documenting issues of IDP/Refugee protection and the gendered manner in which humanitarian assistance operates.



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