

## 4) International Conventions & Organizations for Women's Rights

*Correlates + Human Rights*  
① → CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women)  
CEDAW, is a landmark international agreement that affirms principles of fundamental human rights and equality for women around the world.  
*idea* The treaty was passed by the UN General Assembly on December 18, 1979. (186 nations have ratified CEDAW, U.S. Sudan, Somalia, and Iran haven't ratified it yet.)

② → Madre (Spanish word for Mother) ✓

MADRE, is an international women's human rights organization that works in partnership with women's community-based groups worldwide to address issues of health, economic development and other human rights. And it is demanding human rights for women and families around the world.

③ → Captive Daughters is Dedicated to ending sex trafficking. *anti*

④ → UN Women Watch is a UN-inter-agency network on women & gender equality.

Women's WORLD Formed for the Rights, Literature, and Development of women, as the founders believed that nowhere on earth are women's voices given the same respect as men's.

⑤ → Equality Now Equality Now works to end violence and discrimination against women and girls around the world through the mobilization of public pressure.

### WomenAid International

Women Aid International is a humanitarian aid and development agency which promotes all rights for all people in all countries.

⑥ → Women without Borders

Women without Borders is an advocacy, PR and lobbying organisation for women around the globe. *idea*

### Women for Women's Human Rights

Women for Women's Human Rights (WWHR) - New Ways, an independent women's NGO, was founded in 1993 with the aim of promoting women's human rights in Turkey and on the international level. Since its foundation, WWHR has become a widely renowned non-governmental organization around the globe.

⑦ → Womankind

is a development agency supporting women from the developing world tackling issues such as poverty and sexual or political oppression.

## Association for Women's Rights in Development

AWID's mission is to connect, inform and mobilize people and organizations committed to achieving gender equality, sustainable development and women's human rights.

### → Women's Human Rights net

Founded in 1997, WHRnet aims to provide reliable, comprehensive, and timely information and analyses on women's human rights in English, Spanish and French languages.

### → Stop the Violence against Women Campaign

Amnesty International is involved in an international campaign to stop violence against women.

### → Human Rights Watch

The Women's Rights Division of Human Rights Watch  fights against the dehumanization and marginalization of women.

## Women of Vision

Women of Vision is a volunteer ministry committed to demonstrating tangible evidence of God's love to oppressed and impoverished women throughout the world. Women of Vision is a program of World Vision, a Christian humanitarian organization that has served the poor since 1950 through emergency relief and long-term development.

## UN contribution for Women's Rights

The United Nations is an obvious main source of information and they have many resources, including:

- • The UN women's rights treaty, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
- • Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action for Equality, Development and Peace
- • United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)
- • The Women Watch web site, the "UN Internet Gateway on the Advancement and Empowerment of Women."
- • From UNICEF's Progress of Nations, 1998 report. The report is a compilation of information and statistics that measure how developed a nation is with regards to the state of the children rather than the state of the economy.
- • UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, is an international development agency that promotes the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity. UNFPA supports countries in using population data for policies and programmes to reduce poverty and to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person is free of HIV/AIDS, and every girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect.
- • World Health Organization's section on Gender, Women and Health highlights how gender and gender inequality affect health.



## her Organization and Agencies

The Girls Global Education Fund is an impressive web site that tackles the important issue of girl's education, especially where traditionally girls grow up not having the same access to education as boys.

Third World Network provides a collection of articles on Women's rights and gender issues, also looking at the relationship with other issues such as globalization, poverty, economics, health, violence, sexual exploitation, gender equity, culture and more.

Amnesty International also has a section on women.

The People's Movement for Human Rights Education (PDHRE)

OneWomen is a web site of the Asia Pacific Online Network of Women in Governance, Politics and Transformative Leadership. It has many articles and links.

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom provides a look at all sorts of issues, from political, economic, social etc.

The Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) is a portal of information and analysis on women's rights and global issues.

Mama Cash is the oldest international women's fund established in the Netherlands in 1983 supporting various initiatives around the world guided by the principle that social change starts with women and girls.

## 5) Scenario in Pakistan..

While discussing scenario of women's right in Pakistan, we'll discuss women's problem in Pakistan, crime against women in Pakistan and women empowerment in Pakistan,

### 5.1. WOMEN PROBLEMS IN PAKISTAN

#### 5.1.1. Child Marriage/ (Vani)

Although the Child Marriages Restraint Act makes it illegal for girls under the age of 16 to be married, instances of child marriages can be found.

Vani is a child marriage custom followed in tribal areas and the Punjab province. The young girls are forcibly married off in order to resolve the feuds between different clans and tribes.

#### 5.1.2. WattaSatta

WattaSatta is a tribal custom in which brides are traded between two clans. In order for you to marry off your son, you must also have a daughter to marry off in return. If there is no sister to exchange in return for a son's spouse, a cousin, or a distant relative can also do. Even though Islamic law requires that both partners explicitly consent to marriage, women are often forced into marriages arranged by their fathers or tribal leaders and after WattaSatta there are instances that problem in one family leads to dissolution of two marriages.

#### 5.1.3. Honour killings

It is the culture of WattaSatta

A majority of the victims of honour killings are women and the punishments for it often tend to be lenient.

#### 5.1.4. Karo Kari

Karo-kari is a combination of two words "Karo" means "black male" and "Kari" means "black female (Kari). Originally, Karo and Kari were metaphoric terms for adulterer and adulteress, but it has come to be used with regards to multiple forms of perceived immoral behaviour. Once a woman is labelled as a Kari, family members consider themselves to be authorized to kill her and the co-accused Karo in order to restore family honour.

#### 5.1.5. Marriage to Quran

In some parts of Sindh, the practice of marrying a woman to Quran is prevalent among landlords, although this practice is alien to Islam and has no religious basis. The practice is often used by men to keep and grab the land of their sisters and daughters.

#### 5.1.6. No Share in Property

In our society daughters are not able to get their share according to teachings of Islam. In majority cases only male or son inherit from his family property for this many tools are used, such as force, emotional blackmailing etc. If somehow the daughter is able to get the property then after marriage his husband consider himself the real owner of her property, and he can dispose of it as he wish. So basically we are not ready to accept women as the owner of property.

## 5.2. CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN

#### 5.2.1. Sexual violence

Rape is one of the most common crimes against women but under-reported due to the shame attached to the victim. But in our society this offence is increasing day by day because of frustration due to several reasons. Marital Rape is not recognised as a criminal offence in Pakistani law. Many cases of rape in police custody have also been reported. According to Report of the Commission of Inquiry for Women (1997), 70 percent of women in police stations were subjected to sexual and physical violence.

#### 5.2.2. Trafficking

Trafficking of women is on the rise in Pakistan. Foreign women from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Myanmar are brought to Pakistan and sold.

#### 5.2.3. Dowry abuse

Many cases of bride burning due to dowry issues have been reported in Pakistan. The wife is typically doused with kerosene, gasoline, or other flammable liquid, and ignited, leading to death by fire.

Rough idea point out that more than 300 deaths are caused in this manner every year.

#### 5.2.4. Domestic violence