



Gender-responsive Research and Advocacy through CEDAW (GRACE) in India, Indonesia, South Africa, and Kenya – May 2023



The George Institute
for Global Health

Facts:

- Women experiencing domestic violence are twice as likely to be diagnosed with cervical cancer and suffer disproportionately from depression and anxiety, suicidal ideation, self-inflicted injuries and alcohol use disorders.
- Survivors can also experience negative impacts on their sexual and reproductive health, including forced and unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions, traumatic fistula and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV.

Project Cycle:

2022 – 2023

Partners:

The George Institute

International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAP-AP)

Centre for Justice, Law and Society, OP Jindal Global University

Women's Legal Centre (WLC), South Africa

Jagori, India

The CEDAW Working Group Indonesia (CWGI)

The Kenya Sex Workers' Alliance (KESWA)

Supporters:

Co-Impact

Principal Investigators:

Dr Devaki Nambiar

Background:

- The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in gender-based violence and discrimination increasing at an alarming rate, significantly impacting women's health.
- The United Nations (UN) Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) reviews are a powerful tool for encouraging the implementation of legislation to improve women's health and human rights.
- These reviews have been conducted for the last 40 years but there is limited evidence on the acceptability and impact of their recommendations leading to the enactment of laws addressing gender-based discrimination and violence.

Aims:

- Investigate the role of the CEDAW reviews and recommendations in influencing the enactment of laws addressing discrimination against women in India, Indonesia, South Africa and Kenya.
- Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of laws relating to country-specific advocacy priorities each of the four countries: prevention of sexual harassment of informal women workers in India; implementation of the Domestic Violence Act in South Africa; protection of domestic workers' rights in Indonesia; and decriminalisation related to sex work in Kenya.

Methods:

- Desk reviews and informant interviews will be conducted to understand challenges and contexts around implementing specific legislation.
- Legal and policy contexts will be analysed to review how specific legislation aligns with CEDAW Committee recommendations.
- A witness seminar will be conducted to understand the impact of India's legislative action on preventing sexual harassment of women in the workplace.

Impact:

- Changes in guidelines, practice or funding related to addressing gender-based discrimination and violence.
- A larger and more meaningful role for national civil society organisation coalitions in the CEDAW process.
- Increased alignment of civil society organisation contributions to the CEDAW process.
- Greater proportion of countries engaging regularly with the CEDAW review process and reporting a reduction in discrimination against women.

Contact:

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