

#WomensHumanRights

Violation of women's rights has been an issue throughout history. Dehumanization, oppression, and inequality has prevailed throughout the world. In modern times, many first world countries like United States, the United Kingdom, etc. have progressed and women's status in society has dramatically improved, though there are still gender-related problems that occur. In third world countries, treatment towards females and their lifestyles are horrid and have not changed since the past. While we are in the 21st century, the majority of the world still hold on to beliefs and values from the past and still have a backwards mindset. From the rape culture in Haryana to honor killings in Pakistan, there are an infinite amount of struggles women face every day of their lives, some are even a matter of life and death.

#EndForcedMarriages



Forced and child marriages is still a very common occurrence in many third-world countries. Millions of girls are being wedded off without their consent in India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Niger, Brazil, Central African Republic, and countless other regions. Girls from the age of 5 to 20 are given away by their parents to or are promised to, in most cases, a much older man. For the most part, these cases occur due to: the family's financial situation, the idea that "Girls should be married early" or "Parents know best" is embedded into their culture or tradition, girls being valued less than boys, and/or to ensure safety against harassment and sexual assault. There are 12 million underage girls that are married under the age of 18

every year, and being married at such a young age hinders a girl's ability to gain an education or even to be an individual. Many have been able to escape, but the majority have to deal with this for the rest of their lives. More likely than not, their partner is very abusive and his family treats the girl like a slave. Time and time again, women have committed suicide due to their suffering in abusive relationships.

#EndViolenceAgainstWomen



Girls in most third-world countries always have to be aware of their safety. Not only do girls have to face sexual harassment, but in many countries, rape and harassment is not looked upon as an legitimate “issue”. Sexual violence against women is a major problem in South Africa, South Asia, etc. There are multiple cases where in forced marriages, the husband of the girl regularly rapes her to fulfill his sexual desires (e.g. #JusticeforNoura in Sudan). Even unwedded girls live in fear due to the barbaric and evil nature of the men. In South Asian countries, like India, girls cannot walk alone in the streets without continuous and shameless stares and catcalling from men. Rape culture and the objectification of women is normalized in many parts of India, such as Haryana (where rape is deemed as being consensual), and excuses blaming the victim are repeatedly used to justify this inhumane crime. Even a girl as young as 8 months old was raped once. Not only do females have to face sexual assault, but they also have to live in fear of dying. The movement #JusticeforZainab started after the kidnapping, horrendous torture/abuse, rape and murder of a 6 year old girl, Zainab Ansari, whose dead body was found in a dumpster, in Pakistan. This was one of many young female victims that were raped and brutally murdered in Pakistan. Many other murders that occur in Pakistan are known as ‘honor killings’. There have been many times where a girl or woman is killed by a family member if they bring shame to the family (same doesn't go for males). A well-known honor killing was that of Qandeel Baloch, who was known as the “Pakistani Kim K” for her sexually

explicit presence on social media. After being taunted by his friends, her brother killed Qandeel because she "brought dishonor to the family". This is a common occurrence in Pakistan and other countries with an estimated 5000 cases every year, where families prioritize their reputation and honor over the female members of the family, even so much that they'd kill them for doing anything that hurt their reputation. Women worldwide are constantly in fear of getting raped and murdered, and safety is very limited in these countries.

#Equality



In South Asian, African, and middle eastern countries (like Iran and Saudi Arabia), a woman's life is dominated by men, from their fathers when they are young to their husbands when they get married. At a young age, they are taught that their duty in life is to marry, obey their husbands, cook/clean, and take care of her children. They are very oppressed in how they can act (ideal girl is quiet, a good worker, and submissive), what they can say, dress, etc. They aren't treated as humans but instead as servants and have no voice in any matter. Normally, a girl's father or husband makes all her decisions for her. In several Middle Eastern countries, women are denied basic rights--like being able to drive, go out without a male guardian, etc. In certain countries, there are even rules implemented about how a female dresses. In regions where extremists groups are in control (like the Taliban in parts of Pakistan), girls lives' are threatened if they decide to do anything against their radical beliefs or something as basic to us as attending school. A major part of the reason why systematic oppression still exists in so many 'developing' countries is due to the lack of education girls receive. In many cultures, people don't believe it is necessary for girls to have an education, because their primary job is apparently to serve their husbands. For cultural and many other reasons, 65 millions of girls globally are not in school.