

Legal Frameworks and Rights

India has several laws in place to protect women from violence and discrimination. Understanding these laws is crucial for women to assert their rights and seek justice. Key legislations include:

- **The Constitution of India:** Guarantees equality before the law and equal protection of the laws (Article 14), prohibits discrimination on grounds of sex (Article 15), and empowers the State to make special provisions for women and children (Article 15(3)).
- **The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005:** Provides protection to women from domestic violence, including physical, emotional, sexual, verbal, and economic abuse. It allows women to seek protection orders, residence orders, monetary relief, and custody orders.
- **The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013:** Addresses sexual harassment of women at the workplace. It mandates the establishment of Internal Complaints Committees (ICCs) in organizations with 10 or more employees to handle complaints of sexual harassment.
- **The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 (Nirbhaya Act):** Amended the Indian Penal Code to include stricter punishments for sexual offenses, including rape, sexual harassment, and stalking. It also introduced new offenses like acid attacks and voyeurism.
- **The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961:** Prohibits the giving or taking of dowry.
- **The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986:** Prohibits the indecent representation of women through advertisements, books, pamphlets, etc.