



International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

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Why in News

United Nations observes **25th November** as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women **every year**.

- The official theme for 2019 is “**Orange the World: Generation Equality Stands Against Rape**”.
- The day is observed to **honour the Mirabal sisters**, three political activists from the Dominican Republic who were brutally murdered in 1960 by order of the country’s ruler, Rafael Trujillo (1930-1961).
- International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, 2019 will mark the **launch of 16 days of activism** that will conclude on **10 December 2019 (International Human Rights Day)**.
- For 2020-2022, the **UN Secretary-General’s UNiTE (to End Violence against Women campaign)** will **specifically focus** on the issue of rapes committed against women in times of peace or war.

Key Points

- **Global Scenario:**
 - **Every third of all women and girls** experience physical or sexual violence in their lifetime.
 - **1 in 2 women killed worldwide were killed by their partners or family** in 2017; while only 1 out of 20 men were killed under similar circumstances.
 - Only **52% of married women freely** make their own decisions about sexual relations, contraceptive use, and healthcare.
 - **71%** of all human trafficking victims worldwide are **women and girls** in which 3 out of 4 women are sexually exploited.

- **National Scenario:**

- According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report, **3.59 lakh cases** of crime against women were reported in the country in 2017.
- **Uttar Pradesh** reported the **highest number** of crimes against women whereas **Madhya Pradesh** registered the **highest number of rape cases** in the country.
- Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura - registered the **lowest figures of crimes against women**.

Global Conventions

- **The Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), 1979** was adopted by the UN General Assembly to prevent violence against women and girls worldwide.
- **The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women** was issued by the UN General Assembly in 1993.

It defines **violence against women** as “any act of **gender-based violence** that results in physical, sexual or psychological harm including threats of such acts, deprivation of liberty, etc. occurring in public or in private life.”
- **SDG-5** targets for **gender equality in the world by 2030**.

Steps Taken by the Indian Government

- **Constitutional Safeguards:**
 - **Fundamental Rights:** It guarantees all Indian women equality (**Article 14**), no discrimination by the State on the basis of gender (**Article 15(1)**) and **special provisions** to be made by the State in favour of women (**Article 15(3)**).
 - **Directive Principles of State Policies (DPSP):** It ensures equal pay for equal work (**Article 39 (d)**).
 - **Fundamental Duties:** It ensures that practices derogatory to the dignity of women are prohibited under **Article 51 (A)**.
- **Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005:**

It provides victims of domestic violence with a means for practical remedy through prosecution.
- **The Dowry Prohibition Act 1961:**

It prohibits the request, payment or acceptance of a dowry.
- **The sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and redressal) Act, 2013:**

This legislative act seeks to protect women from sexual harassment at their place of work.

Source: TOI, UN