

# GENDER IDENTITIES AND GENDER ROLES

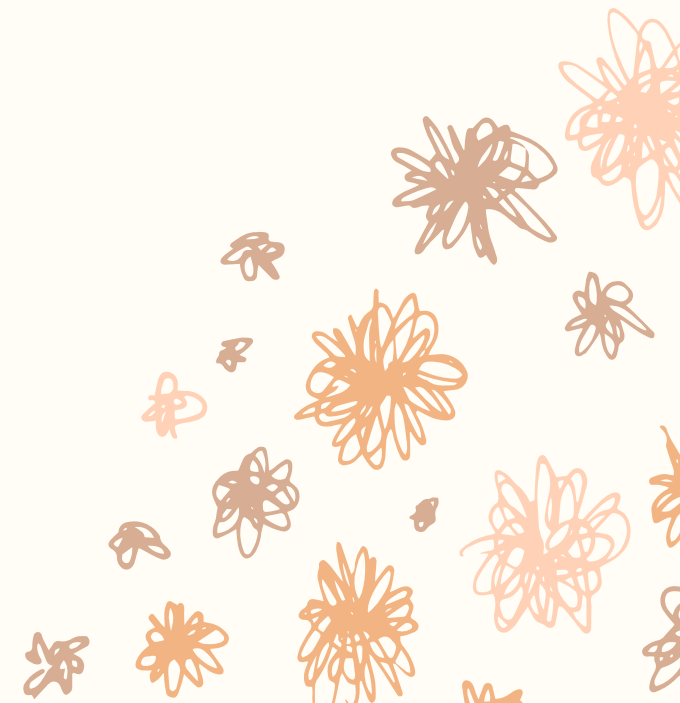


# Gender Identities

Gender is a social construct, an idea created by people to help categorize and explain the world around them.



You may not notice it all the time, but each gender comes with a set of expectations, like how to act, talk, dress, feel emotion, and interact with other people.

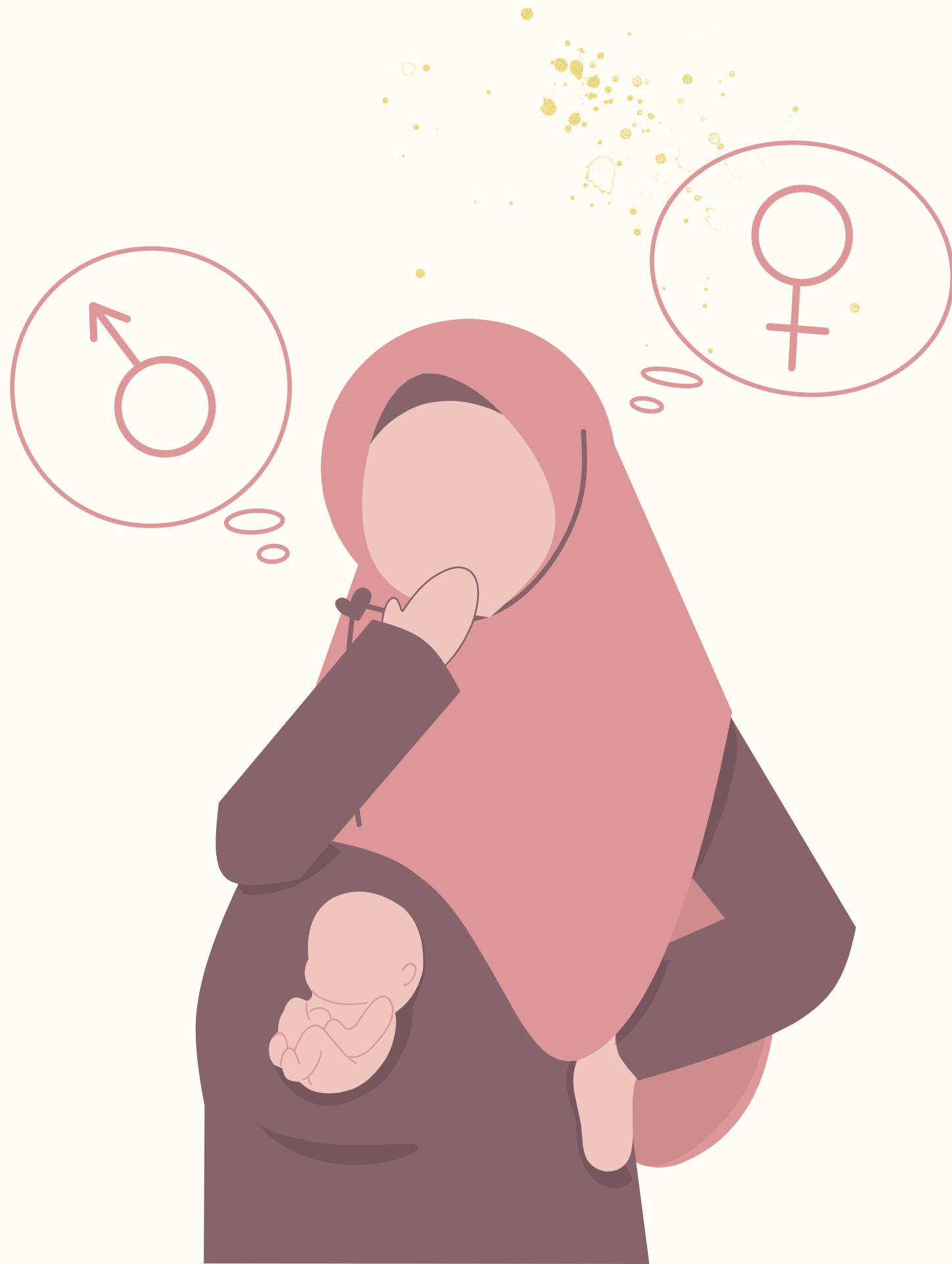


Here are some other gender-specific constructed differences that you may recognize-

- 1 Young girls often get pink clothes, and boys get blue clothes
- 2 Women are deemed overemotional and men are discouraged from crying
- 3 A deep voice is considered masculine while a high voice is feminine
- 4 Boys should play with building blocks and girls should play with dolls
- 5 Men are athletic and aggressive, women are nurturing and gentle

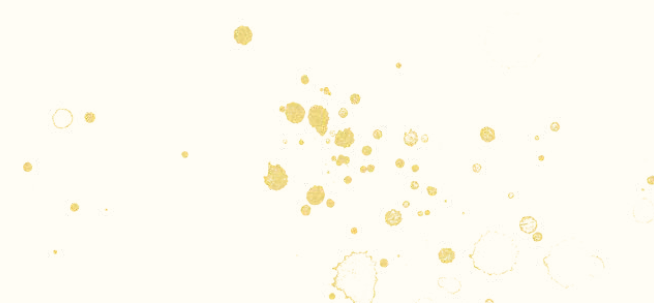
...the list of expectations based on gender can go on and on, and changes from culture to culture.





When we are born, a doctor assigns us a sex. This has to do with our biology, chromosomes, and physical body. Male babies are generally labeled as boys and female babies are generally labeled as girls.

But even sex is more complex than that — and it really exists on a spectrum. Intersex individuals have physical sex traits or reproductive anatomy that are present at birth or emerge spontaneously later in life, and differ from normative expectations of “male” and “female.”

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A person's gender identity is the gender that a person identifies with, which may or may not conform with their physical appearance (gender-related appearance or behavior is called "gender expression"), or the sex they were assigned at birth. Perhaps their gender is male, female, neither, or on the spectrum of both.

Gender identity is not related to sexual orientation—being gay, straight, or bisexual, for example—but gender identity is how an individual feels about their gender on a personal level, inside.





## **Gender Identity**

How someone defines their gender, which might be male, female, neither, or both, somewhere on the male-female gender spectrum.



## **Gender Expression**

How someone might express their gender identity outwardly, including through dress, behavior, or words.



## **Sex Assigned at Birth**

People are assigned a sex at birth, male or female, according to their physical traits such as sexual anatomy. When someone has physical traits that are not conventionally male or female, it's described as intersex.

# Gender Role and Division of Workload

## Unpaid Care Work

Women are primarily responsible for childbearing and caregiving, including caring for other family members like husbands and the elderly. This role is often viewed as "normal" or "not real work," which negatively affects perceptions of women's work and limits their leisure time.



## **Productive Work**



The productive role includes activities done for cash or in-kind support, such as subsistence or market production. Women's involvement in tasks like subsistence farming helps reduce household expenses and saves money.

## **Volunteer Work**



This role encompasses the unpaid, volunteer work that women do to support their communities, typically performed in their "free time" after fulfilling household and economic duties. In contrast, men often hold authoritative, paid roles within the community.

The background is a soft, pink watercolor wash. It is decorated with clusters of delicate cherry blossoms in various shades of pink and magenta, some with yellow centers. Interspersed among the flowers are small, dark green leaves. The overall aesthetic is gentle and artistic.

# GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

# Gender Based Violence



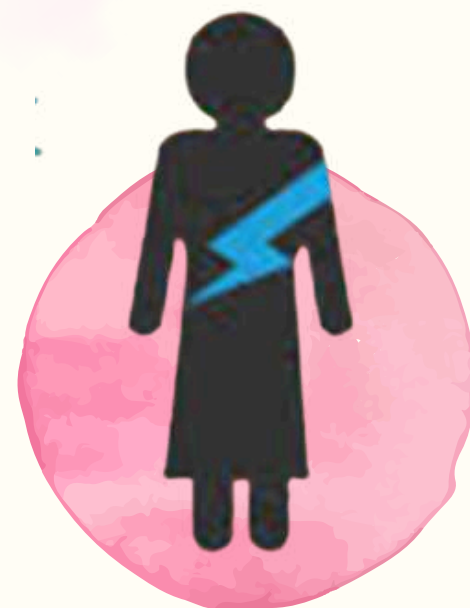
Gender-based violence (GBV) is violence directed at someone due to their gender, disproportionately affecting specific genders, especially women and girls. Recognized as a human rights violation and form of discrimination, GBV includes physical, sexual, psychological, and economic harm. It encompasses acts like domestic violence against women, men, and children within households, leading to severe impacts on victims and families.

# Forms of Violence



## **Physical violence**

Injuries from actions like beating or strangling.



## **Sexual violence**

Non-consensual sexual acts, trafficking, and other abuses.



## **Psychological violence**

Controlling, coercive behaviors, blackmail, and economic abuse.

Of the 26.21% of women who experienced some form of violence, 60% (11,679 women) endured physical violence. Among these, 23.87% (4,314 women) suffered physical injuries due to severe intimate partner violence (IPV), while 2.15% were subjected to sexual violence, and 9.54% faced emotional violence. (NFHS 5)

## Sexual violence and Psychological abuse



### Pre-birth

Pre-natal sex selection

### Infancy

Female infanticide  
Neglect (health care, nutrition)

### Childhood

Child abuse  
Child marriage  
Malnutrition  
FGM/C  
Trafficking

### Adolescence

Femicide  
FGM/C  
Forced marriage  
Forced sex (including initiation)  
Intimate partner violence  
Dating violence  
Sexual harassment  
Trafficking

### Elderly

Elder/widow abuse  
Economic abuse

### Reproductive age

Femicide  
Dowry-related violence  
Non-partner sexual assault  
So-called "honour" crimes  
Sexual harassment  
Political violence  
Economic abuse  
Trafficking

# In India, Survivors of Gender-Based Violence Do Not Seek Help

Almost a third (31%) of women in India have experienced physical or sexual violence



Source: National Family Health Survey 5, 2019-21

In India,  
Survivors of  
Gender-  
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# Why Indian Survivors of Gender-Based Violence Don't Seek Help

## Why Indian Survivors Of Gender-Based Violence Don't Seek Help

44.2%

men

and

45.6%

women

think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife

Gender-based violence is a public health crisis.  
Healthcare providers are often the first and only points of contact for the survivors. But...



6 in 10 women face problems in accessing healthcare



Two-thirds of the women have not had a contact with a health worker in last three months\*



Almost half of the women were not allowed to go to a health facility alone



Almost half of the women do not have money that they can decide how to use

Source: National Family Health Survey 5, 2019-21

\*In 3 months preceding the survey

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# **GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE: LEGAL PROVISIONS AND REDRESS SERVICES**

# Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

## Definition

It is an international treaty adopted by the United Nations in 1979.

Aimed at promoting gender equality and eliminating discrimination against women globally.

## Objective

To ensure women's rights and equality in all aspects of life.



## Key Features:

- Legal framework to protect women's rights in all areas of life (family, work, education, health, politics).
- Requires countries to take action to end gender-based discrimination and ensure equality.
- Countries must report their progress to the CEDAW Committee.
- Encourages legal reforms and the adoption of policies that support women's equality.
- Focuses on areas like violence against women, healthcare, education, and employment.
- Promotes women's participation in political and public life.
- Requires the elimination of harmful practices such as child marriage and female genital mutilation.

# UN Declaration on Violence Against Women (VAW)

## Definition

Adopted by the United Nations in 1993, the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women defines violence against women as any act of gender-based violence that causes or is likely to cause physical, sexual, or psychological harm.

It includes acts that occur in public or private life, both within the family and in the community.



## Key Features:

- Recognizes that violence against women is a global issue affecting women of all cultures, classes, and backgrounds.
- Defines various forms of violence, including domestic violence, sexual violence, trafficking, and harmful practices.
- Stresses the importance of state responsibility to prevent and respond to violence.
- Calls for legal frameworks to protect women and hold perpetrators accountable.
- Promotes the need for preventive measures, including education, awareness, and support services for victims.
- Recognizes that gender-based violence is a violation of human rights and must be eliminated.

# Key Legal Provisions in India to Address GBV

## **Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 (PWDVA)**

Provides protection to victims of domestic violence (physical, sexual, verbal, emotional, economic).

Offers relief through protection orders, residence orders, monetary support, custody, and compensation.

Breaching protection orders is a criminal offense.

## **Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006**

Bans marriages where the girl is under 18 and the boy is under 21.

Penalizes individuals promoting, performing, or abetting such marriages.

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## **Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 (amended in 1976)**

Grants girls the right to repudiate child marriage before maturity.

Marriage (Amendment) Act (2001) further amends various marriage laws to expedite maintenance claims.

### **Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956**

Targets trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation, though not for other forms of exploitation.

### **Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961**

Aims to eliminate the dowry system and penalizes the giving or taking of dowry.

### **Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971**

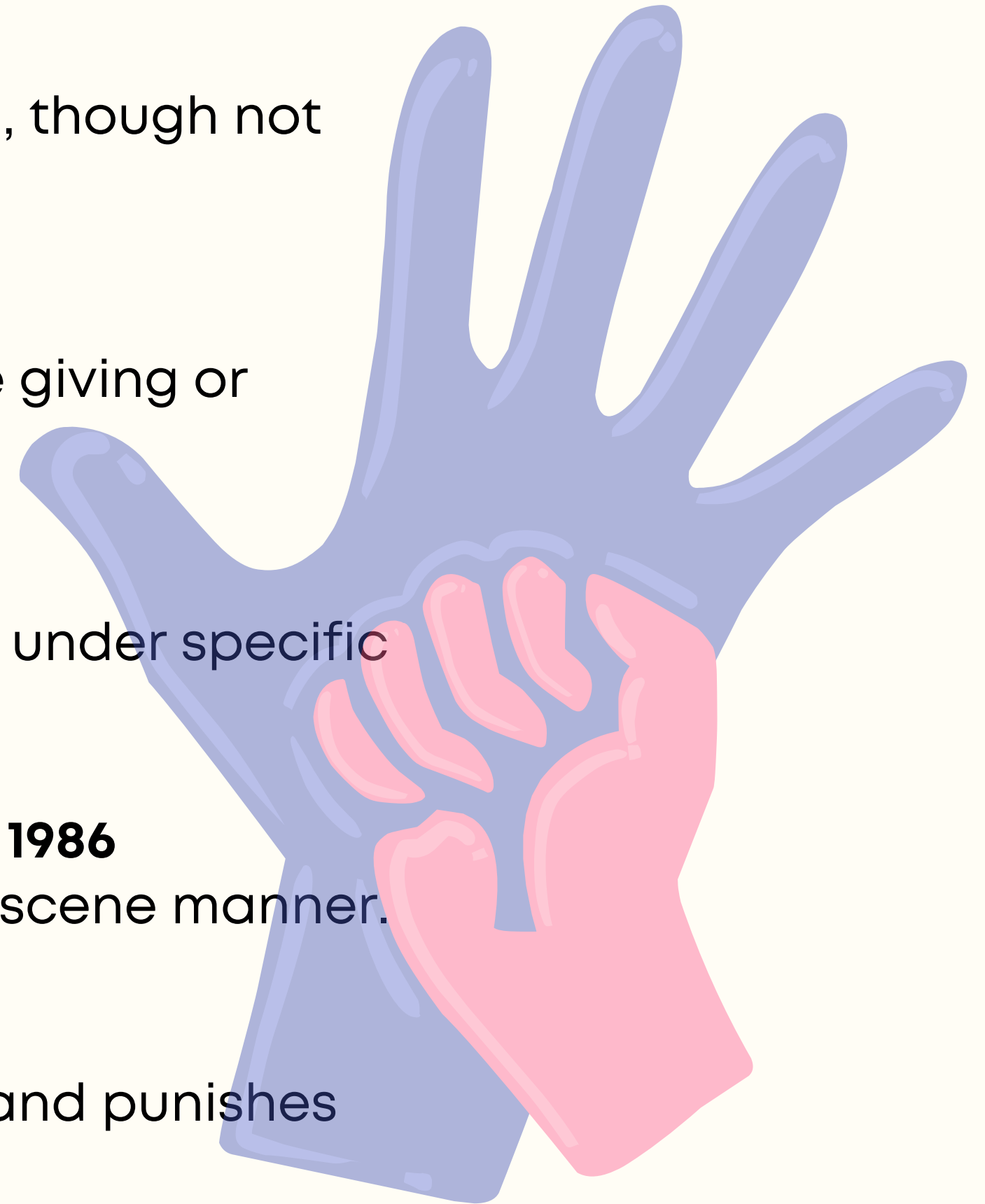
Allows legal termination of pregnancy up to 20 weeks under specific conditions.

### **Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986**

Prevents the portrayal of women in an indecent or obscene manner.

### **Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987**

Prevents the practice of Sati (the burning of widows) and punishes its perpetrators.





### **Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, 1994**

Prohibits sex selection and prevents female foeticide through prenatal diagnostic techniques.

### **Criminal Law (Amendments), 2013 and 2018**

Strengthens penalties for sexual offenses, including the death penalty for the rape of girls under 12.

Mandates fast-track investigations and trials within two months.

### **Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019**

Declares the practice of instant triple talaq void and illegal.

### **Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017**

Increases paid maternity leave from 12 to 26 weeks and mandates crèche facilities in workplaces.

# Government of India Initiatives for Women

## **National Commission for Women (NCW), 1990**

Safeguards women's rights and legal entitlements.

Conducts gender-sensitization workshops and legal awareness programs.

## **73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments (1993)**

Reserves one-third of seats for women in local Panchayats and Municipalities.

## **Ratification of CEDAW (1993)**

India ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) to eliminate gender-based inequalities.

## **Universal Women Helpline (181)**

Provides emergency response and referral services for women facing violence

### **One Stop Centres (OSCs)**

Provide integrated services—medical aid, police assistance, legal aid, counseling, and temporary support—to women affected by violence.

728 OSCs approved, 551 operational.

### **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme**

Aims to improve the child sex ratio, prevent gender-biased sex selection, and promote the survival, safety, and education of the girl child.

Sex Ratio at Birth increased from 918 (2014-15) to 927 (2017-18).

### **Ujjawala Scheme**

Aims to prevent trafficking and support the rescue, rehabilitation, and reintegration of victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

### **Mahila Police Volunteers (MPVs)**

Deployed to bridge the gap between the police and community, assisting in reporting incidents of violence, abuse, and public safety concerns.

### **Nirbhaya Fund (2013)**

A non-lapsable fund dedicated to enhancing women's safety.

Supports projects across Ministries and States, including setting up Fast Track Special Courts for rape cases..

### **Swadhar Greh Scheme**

Provides shelter, food, healthcare, and social and economic security for women in difficult circumstances, including rape survivors.

### **Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences (Ministry of Home Affairs)**

Tracks cases of sexual assault to ensure prompt investigations and medical exams for survivors.

### **National Database on Sexual Offenders (NDSO)**

Facilitates tracking repeat sexual offenders to improve law enforcement in handling sexual violence cases.



# Other Relevant Frameworks and Laws

## **Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995)**

A global policy agenda to eliminate all forms of violence against women and ensure women's access to justice, security, and protection.

## **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5: Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls**

Targets the elimination of violence against women and girls, including trafficking, sexual and other types of exploitation.