
WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND LEGAL ADVOCACY: THE JOURNEY TOWARDS GENDER EQUALITY

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ABSTRACT

This abstract discusses the continued battle for women's rights and gender equality from the perspective of legal advocacy. It analyses the historical and current legal frameworks that have influenced women's rights, noting significant cases and legislative reforms. The analysis looks at the various challenges women experience across the world, such as gender-based violence, economic inequality, and restricted access to education and healthcare. It also looks at how important legal advocacy is in preventing discriminatory laws, pushing for changes to policies, and enabling women to assert their rights. This abstract highlight the need for intersectional strategies, considering the multifaceted experiences of women in terms of race, class, and other social categorizations.

Introduction

There is no sprint in the fight for gender equality; it is a marathon. It's a path filled with small victories, continuous failures, and the unwavering dedication of activists and victories, continuous losses, and the unwavering dedication of activists and legal champions who will not be silenced are all part of the process. Throughout generations and across countries, this journey is inspired by the principle that women deserve the same opportunities, rights, and respect as men. The road to equal rights remains filled with obstacles, even though major strides have been taken, and continued vigilant effort is needed.

A fair and just society hinges on attaining gender equality, which is also an elementary human rights requirement. Systemic violence and discrimination against women persist in most aspects of life despite improved developments. In order to modify, combat these inconsistency, and empower women to claim their rights, advocacy and legal frameworks have been critical. This article will strive to offer a thorough analysis of the development of women's rights, the position of legal activism, and the present obstacles to actual gender equality. Gender inequality is when an individual is discriminated against on the grounds of their sex or gender. Feminine, transgender, and non-binary individuals suffer from injustice and persecution. It is one of the oldest and most prevalent forms of inequality. Bigotry has excluded women, non-binary individuals, and transgender individuals from the social, political, and economic spheres for thousands of years. In addition, it has also prevented women from entering leadership positions and has caused a rise in gender-based violence.

The Historical struggle of women.

The fight for women's rights is a long lasting process, marked by important historic movements that are The fight for suffrage¹ for women saw a boom during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Political rights for example the right to vote and right to participate in decision making at the main issues of first-wave feminism. In July 1848, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott arranged a convention at Seneca Falls, New York, that marked the initial stage of the first assembled campaign to safeguard American women's rights. That lead resolutions approving different kinds of rights, including the right to vote, were adopted by attendees, and they signed the Declaration of Sentiments, which declared women's imperiality with men. In

¹ DuBois, E. C. (1998). *Feminism and Suffrage: The Emergence of an Independent Women's Movement in America, 1848-1869*.

addition to signing the Declaration of Sentiments, which confirmed women's equality with men, members required many resolutions promoting a variety of specific rights which includes the right to vote. Although the early women's rights movement was linked to abolitionism, some women's rights activists were incense that Black men were granted the right to vote before white women when the 15th Amendment was ratified in 1870. likely, the women's suffrage movement frequently excluded Black feminists² like Sojourner Truth and Ida B. Wells. Referred to as the "second wave"³ of feminism, the women's movement during the 1960s and 1970s was a apparently sudden difference from the tranquil suburban life represented in American popular culture

However, the new rebellion's origins lay in the annoyances of college-educated mothers whose dissatisfaction drove their daughters in a different direction. If the abolitionist movement served as an inspiration for first-wave feminists, the civil rights movement, the ensuing debate over concepts like equality and justice, and the revolutionary ferment brought on by anti-Vietnam War demonstrations swept their great-granddaughters into feminism. The third wave was facilitated by increased economic and professional status and strength gained by second wave women, the enormous increase in opportunities for the transmission of ideas brought about by late 20th century information revolution, and the political coming of age of Gen X academics and activists. Theorist and scholar Kimberlé Crenshaw's development of the term "intersectionality,"⁴ or how many forms of oppression (based on gender, race, class, etc.) overlap, was especially significant here. Third-wave feminists, who also promoted transgender rights as a part of this form of intersectional feminism, also drew on the arguments of gender theorist Judith Butler. Fourth wave feminism is the utilization of social media to discuss intersectional issues, promote body positivity, and combat sexual harassment. While contested by others, others Suring that there was a fourth wave of feminism that started around 2012, with a concentration on rape culture, sexual harassment, and body shaming, among others. One of the main aspects was the exploitation of social media to bring to light and speak about these matters. Individuals of different ethnic backgrounds who had been sexually harassed or assaulted began sharing it on social media using the hashtag #MeToo. In this month, the movement get bigger giving more power to men in the news media, entertainment, business,

² Giddings, P. (1984). *When and Where I Enter: The Impact of Black Women on Race and Sex in America*.

³ Freeman, J. (1975). *The Politics of Women's Liberation: A Case Study of an Emerging Social Movement and Its Relation to the Policy Process*.

⁴ Crenshaw, K. (1989). *Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex: A Black Feminist Critique of Antidiscrimination Doctrine, Feminist Theory and Antiracist Politics*.

and politics. Suffrage One of the oldest feminists which was created the battle for women's suffrage including the right to vote. The right to vote was fought for countless ways across the globe, and each nation's chronology was extremely distinct.

International Treaties and Conventions:

Most call the 1979 UN General Assembly approval of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) a global bill of women's rights. It depicts discrimination against women and gives a strategy for national action for its elimination. It is consisted of 30 articles and a preamble. A number of additional UN conferences and agreements have further promoted the rights of women globally. The Convention sets out discrimination against women as ".any distinction, restriction made on the ground of sex which has the purpose of impairing or nullifying the acknowledgment , enjoyment exercise by women, regardless of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field."

Milestones in Women's Legal Rights Across Different Regions have differed greatly throughout cultures and geographical areas. Some areas have made numerous developments in the political representation, employment, and education, while others keep on with to experience great challenges. immense reforms have been made in the laws relating to property rights, marriage, divorce, and reproductive rights. The passage of laws against violence against women, such as sexual harassment and domestic violence, has also played crucial role. Despite successes in legislating, large sections of the globe continue to lag behind in enforcing and applying women's rights. Cultural norms and societal attitudes sometimes inhibit women from fully enjoying their rights. Essentially, the history of women's rights is one of ongoing struggle and advancement, full of both important triumphs and ongoing challenges going challenges."

Protect and Promote Gender Equity in the Law

To achieve full gender equality, gender equity in the law is necessary. All parties involved—individuals, activists, governmental organizations, legal associations, and corporations—must work together to defend and advance these rights. Advocates ought to concentrate on creating legal resources, using the media to spread the word about gender inequality in the law, assisting community-based initiatives to increase gender equality in the law, and gathering evidence that calls for reform. Additionally, we must continue to be aware of how, when abused, technology

can both empower and further oppress women. Our ultimate objective should be to establish a society in which all women are able to use their entire range of legal rights and reach their full potential as equal members of society. We can strive toward real gender parity in the law and build a more just future for everybody if we have everyone's support.

Conclusion

The road to gender justice is a multiform and going on description spanning decades and continents, particularly through legal and women's rights activism. It was a vital phase in establishing the foundations for upcoming developments, with the force of organized protest displayed and the promise of legal solutions to bring about deeply rooted patriarchal establishments. While the United States' hard-fought win of the 19th Amendment, giving women the right to vote, was a moment, it also brought into relief the shortcomings of the movement, which were prone to discounting the experiences of marginalized communities and women of color. There was also second-wave feminism that happened in the mid-20th century, enlarging the opportunity of women's rights activism to social, cultural, and economic aspects and legal aspects. The world's support for gender equality was supported further with the development of international legal mechanisms, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). But the scope of second-wave feminism was not shared equally, and the movement was denounced for its concentration on the lives of white, middle-class women to the debarring of intersections of gendered oppression. Third-wave and later feminist movements also developed in the late 20th and early 21st centuries, focusing on intersectionality—the apprehending of how gender intersects with other social identities, considering race, class, sexual orientation, and disability. The struggle for women's rights and legal activism is ultimately a struggle for social justice and human dignity, not just for legal reform. We can make the world more equitable and just for all if we adopt intersectionality, promote cultural change, and build a stronger legal system. In order to take down the patriarchal systems supporting gender-based discrimination and violence, the ongoing pursuit of gender justice requires ongoing dedication, creativity, and collaboration. While promoting genuine gender equality is a trying and long-lasting endeavour, advocating for justice is an obligation that must inform our current and steer our future.