



Committee : The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)

Country : French Republic

Agenda : Protecting the corporeal integrity and gender-based violence against women by developing an encompassing approach to achieve gender equality

The concept of ‘Corporeal Integrity’ emphasizes on physical autonomy which is considered as a fundamental right by various official instruments (UN Entities- UNWOMEN, WHO, UNHRC etc.; Conventions/Treaties- CEDAW, ICESCR, ICCPR etc.; Declarations- UDHR, DEVAW, Beijing Declaration etc.). However, the phenomena of Gender-based Violence (physical, sexual and mental) affects 1 in 3 (about 736 million) women on domestic level according to the report of WHO (World Health Organization). Such heavy toll of discrimination, ignorance, human rights violation on women put constraints on the roadmap of Sustainable Development Goal-5 on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment. Currently, UNWOMEN is working on attainable and multifaceted strategies via the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) under the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to mitigate violence through prevention, protection, and response by collaborating with governments. 155 countries passed laws on GBV so far and 140 countries passed legislation on sexual harassment in different platform according to World Bank report.

France has made immense contribution by including this agenda into their constitution (Article-71-1, Preambles-3,11,12). The implementation of Loi Génisson / Equal Pay Law (2001), Domestic Violence Law (2010), Law to Fight Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (2018), Protection Orders (2010, 2019) etc. are some remarkable additions. French Secularism has always advocated bodily autonomy and access to reproductive rights which led to the activation of Veil Law (Legalization of Abortion) in 1975. Besides, The Interministerial Plan for Equality between Women and Men 2023-2027 of France has been launched with 4 priority axes: Axis 1- Fight against violence against women, Axis 2- Women’s Health, Axis 3- Professional and Economic Equality, Axis 4- Culture of Equality. In order to implement the plan, The Interministerial Committee for Equality between Women and Men is working on ‘The State-Pôle emploi framework agreement 2021-2024’ in favor of the economic integration of women and professional equality between women and men, The National Sexual Health Strategy 2017-2030, deployment of protective measures like the serious danger telephone (TGD) and the anti-rapprochement bracelet (BAR) throughout the country to reduce GBV. These initiatives taken by the Government of France over the years make the country not only a contributor but also a leader of the world with the score of 75.1% on the European Gender Equality Index 2023 and over 50% female representation in service platforms. It aligns with the International instruments and standards, for instance-

- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
- General Comments of CESCR- General Comment No. 14, General Comment No. 22
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)- Article-3,6,23
- ILO Convention No. 100, 110
- The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention)
- THE OECD Gender Initiatives etc.

Despite having numerous mechanisms on the board many states struggle to implement and exercise them. Some inclusive strategies can be adopted, such as-

- a) Correlation of Internationally recognized frameworks with national regulations and laws.
- b) Adoption of the features of The Interministerial Plan for Equality between Women and Men 2023-2027 according to own legislative system of the member states.
- c) Promotion of inclusive ideologies like secularism to minimize societal prejudices that violates women's rights.
- d) Technological boost in methods used for law enforcement, national or regional projects etc.
- e) Youth advocacy and educational campaigns for societal reformations and improvement.

Several other key actions can be evaluated and implemented based on these recommendations.

References:

1. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/violence-against-women>
2. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women#>
3. <https://sante.gouv.fr/archives>
4. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/gender-matters/council-of-europe-convention-on-preventing-and-combating-violence-against-women-and-domestic-violence>
5. www.egalite-femmes-hommes.gouv.fr