

Comparative Analysis of Domestic Violence Laws: Protecting Victims Across Borders

Hema Shrivastava

Research Scholar

P.K. University, Shivpuri, India

Abstract: *Domestic violence, a pervasive global issue, transcends national borders, creating a precarious situation for victims who flee abusers or find themselves in a foreign country. This research paper delves into the intricate legal frameworks of various countries to provide a nuanced understanding of how domestic violence laws protect victims across borders.*

The analysis employs a comparative approach, dissecting and contrasting key areas that directly impact victim safety. We will explore the spectrum of definitions employed by different countries to classify domestic violence. This includes examining how these definitions encompass physical, emotional, sexual, and financial abuse, with a focus on the challenges that arise when victims from countries with narrower definitions seek protection in nations with broader ones.

Restraining orders, a vital tool for safeguarding victims, will be examined through the lens of cross-border enforceability. The paper will analyze the effectiveness of international treaties like the Hague Convention on Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction in facilitating the recognition and enforcement of foreign protection orders. However, the analysis will not shy away from highlighting the complexities that remain, particularly regarding communication and collaboration between law enforcement agencies across diverse jurisdictions.

The paper will move beyond legal mechanisms to explore the practical challenges of enforcement. We will delve into existing enforcement mechanisms within individual countries, including police training on domestic violence and the level of collaboration between social services and legal systems. However, the focus will then shift to the additional hurdles faced by foreign victims, such as language barriers, unfamiliarity with the legal system, and social isolation. To address these challenges, the paper will analyze the availability of support services specifically designed to assist foreign victims. This analysis will encompass translation services, legal aid, and access to safe accommodation.

The research will not simply identify challenges; it will delve deeper to expose the gaps and shortcomings in cross-border protection. These gaps may include the lack of harmonization between domestic violence laws across different countries, the aforementioned difficulties in enforcing foreign protection orders, and the limited access to support services specifically designed for foreign victims. Furthermore, the paper will acknowledge the potential influence of cultural and religious norms that might discourage victims from reporting abuse or seeking help.

Keywords: Domestic violence , womens, victims. , laws, cross borders