

Crime against Women in India and World

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Symbol of Love and Respect for Women



The Taj Mahal is reflected in a pool in Agra, India, June 25, 2003.

[© AP Images]

Crimes against Women in India

Main article: [Women in India](#)

Police records show high incidence of crimes against women in India. The National Crime Records Bureau reported in 1998 that the growth rate of crimes against women would be higher than the population growth rate by 2010. Earlier, many cases were not registered with the police due to the social stigma attached to rape and molestation cases. Official statistics show that there has been a dramatic increase in the number of reported crimes against women.

Sexual Harassment

Half of the total number of crimes against women reported in 1990 related to molestation and harassment at the workplace. **Eve teasing** is a euphemism used for sexual harassment or molestation of women by men. Many activists blame the rising incidents of sexual harassment against women on the influence of "Western culture". In 1987, The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act was passed to prohibit indecent representation of women through advertisements or in publications, writings, paintings, figures or in any other manner.

In 1997, in a landmark judgment, the Supreme Court of India took a strong stand against sexual harassment of women in the workplace. The Court also laid down detailed guidelines for prevention and redressal of grievances. The National Commission for Women subsequently elaborated these guidelines into a Code of Conduct for employers.

While public **urination** is practised by men of all ages in India, it is socially unacceptable for girls and women to publicly urinate when restrooms are unavailable. In other countries such as Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam public urination is practised by women when there are no toilets. Resisting urination leads to harassment and UTI in women.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_in_India

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Crimes against Women in India

Dowry

Main articles: [Dowry](#) and [Dowry law in India](#)

In 1961, the Government of India passed the Dowry Prohibition Act, making the dowry demands in wedding arrangements illegal. However, many cases of dowry-related domestic violence, suicides and murders have been reported. In the 1980s, numerous such cases were reported. However, recent reports show that the number of these crimes has reduced drastically.

In 1985, the Dowry Prohibition (maintenance of lists of presents to the bride and bridegroom) rules were framed. According to these rules, a signed list of presents given at the time of the marriage to the bride and the bridegroom should be maintained. The list should contain a brief description of each present, its approximate value, the name of whoever has given the present and his/her relationship to the person.

A 1997 report claimed that at least 5,000 women die each year because of dowry deaths, and at least a dozen die each day in 'kitchen fires' thought to be intentional. The term for this is "[bride_burning](#)" and is criticized within India itself. Amongst the urban educated, such dowry abuse has reduced dramatically.

Crimes against Women in India

Female Infanticides and Sex Selective Abortions

Main article: [Sex-selective abortion and infanticide](#)

India has a highly masculine sex ratio, the chief reason being that many women die before reaching adulthood. Tribal societies in India have a less masculine sex ratio than all other caste groups. This, in spite of the fact that tribal communities have far lower levels of income, literacy and health facilities. It is therefore suggested by many experts, that the highly masculine sex ratio in India can be attributed to female infanticides and sex-selective abortions.

All medical tests that can be used to determine the sex of the child have been banned in India, due to incidents of these tests being used to get rid of unwanted female children before birth. Female infanticide (killing of girl infants) is still prevalent in some rural areas. The abuse of the dowry tradition has been one of the main reasons for sex-selective abortions and female infanticides in India.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_in_India

Domestic Violence against Women in India

According to United Nation Population Fund Report, around two-third of married Indian women are victims of domestic violence and as many as 70 per cent of married women in India between the age of 15 and 49 are victims of beating, rape or forced sex. In India, more than 55 percent of the women suffer from domestic violence, especially in the states of Bihar, U.P., M.P. and other northern states.

The most common causes for women stalking and battering include dissatisfaction with the dowry and exploiting women for more of it, arguing with the partner, refusing to have sex with him, neglecting children, going out of home without telling the partner, not cooking properly or on time, indulging in extra marital affairs, not looking after in-laws etc. In some cases infertility in females also leads to their assault by the family members. The greed for dowry, desire for a male child and alcoholism of the spouse are major factors of domestic violence against women in rural areas.

In urban areas there are many more factors which lead to differences in the beginning and later take the shape of domestic violence. These include – more income of a working woman than her partner, her absence in the house till late night, abusing and neglecting in-laws, being more forward socially etc. Working women are quite often subjected to assaults and coercion sex by employees of the organization. At times, it could be voluntary for a better pay and designation in the office.

<http://www.youthkiawaaz.com/2010/02/domestic-violence-in-india-causes-consequences-and-remedies-2/>

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Domestic Violence against Women in India

Violence against young widows has also been on a rise in India. Most often they are cursed for their husband's death and are deprived of proper food and clothing. They are not allowed or encouraged for remarriage in most of the homes, especially in rural areas. There have been cases of molestation and rape attempts of women by other family members in nuclear families or someone in the neighbourhood. At times, women are even sexually coerced by their partner themselves against their will. They are brutally beaten and tortured for not conceiving a male child. Incidents like, ripping off a woman's womb for killing the female foetus when she disagrees for abortion have also come to light especially in rural areas. Female foeticide and female infanticide continue to be a rising concern.

Other forms of physical abuse against women include slapping, punching, grabbing, burdening them with drudgery, public humiliation and the neglect of their health problems. Some of the other forms of psychological torment against them could be curtailment of their rights to self-expression and curbing the freedom to associate with the natal family and friends.

Consequences of Violence against Women

Battered women have tendency to remain quiet, agonised and emotionally disturbed after the occurrence of the torment. A psychological set back and trauma because of domestic violence affects women's productivity in all forms of life. The suicide case of such victimised women is also a deadly consequence and the number of such cases is increasing.

In cases of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), violence against women leads them to maintain a distance from their partner. Their sexual life is affected adversely. Many of them file for divorce and seek separation which again affects the life of children. Some continue to be exploited in lack of proper awareness of human rights and laws of the constitution.

Incest Rape

Incest is sexual intercourse between close relatives that is illegal in the jurisdiction where it takes place and is conventionally considered a taboo.

The term may apply to sexual activities between: individuals of close "blood relationship"; members of the same household; step relatives related by adoption or marriage; and members of the same clan or lineage.

Incest between adults and those under the age of consent is considered a form of child sexual abuse that has been shown to be one of the most extreme forms of childhood abuse, often resulting in serious and long-term psychological trauma, especially in the case of parental incest. Prevalence is difficult to generalize, but research has estimated 10–15% of the general population as having at least one such sexual contact, with less than 2% involving intercourse or attempted intercourse. Among women, research has yielded estimates as high as 20 percent.

Father-daughter incest was for many years the most commonly reported and studied form of incest. More recently, studies have suggested that sibling incest, particularly older brothers having sexual relations with younger siblings, is the most common form of incest, with some studies finding sibling incest occurring orders of magnitude more frequently than other forms of incest.

Incest Rape in India

Incest means sexual relations between persons who, because of the nature of their kinship ties, are prohibited by law or custom from intermarrying, for instance: - Father, uncle, brother et al.

'Crime in India-2009' report released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) reveals that cases of incest rape have 'increased by 30.7 per cent from 309 cases in 2008 to 404 cases in 2009', and out of total rape cases of 21,397, 94.9 per cent involved offenders who were known to the victims.

The existing laws in India are highly inadequate in dealing with incest cases and particularly where the father is a perpetrator. Many developed countries such as Britain, the US and Germany have strong laws against incest. UK, which made incest punishable in 1908, sets a prison term of 12 years for the offence. Punishment in the US varies from one state to another; extending to 20 years in the state of Massachusetts, while in Hawaii it is five years. Some countries have, however, abolished or diluted their laws against incest - this is invariably because many of them viewed sexual partnerships between closely related persons - even adults - as incestuous, and in recent years there has been some liberalisation of their views on this. Incest involving minors, on the other hand, is uniformly frowned upon in the developed world, then why is India laid back at such instances?

There really needs to be a legislative augmentation in laws relating to rape and incest in India or else the victims would just sit back, holding themselves accursed and anticipating denial of justice at all times. All that they would be left with throughout their lives is the physical, psychological and social trauma of being raped. **With such infallible signs by the Judiciary, we await a legislation whereby the victim is no more a victim but a Survivor.....**

<http://www.legallyindia.com/Blogs/entry/incest-rape-cases-necessitate-a-serious-introspection-social-and-legislative-augmentation-html>

Crime against Women in India during 2005-2009

Crime Head	Year					Percentage Variation in 2006 over 2005	Percentage Variation in 2007 over 2006	Percentage Variation in 2008 over 2007	Percentage Variation in 2009 over 2008
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009				
Rape	18,359	19,348	20,737	21,467	21,397	5.4	7.2	3.5	-0.3
Incest Rape*	-	431	405	-	-	-	-6.0	-	-
Kidnapping & Abduction	15,750	17,414	20,416	22,939	25,741	10.6	17.2	12.4	12.2
Dowry Death	6,787	7,618	8,093	8,172	8,383	12.2	6.2	1.0	2.6
Torture	58,319	63,128	75,930	81,344	89,546	8.2	20.3	7.1	10.1
Molestation	34,175	36,617	38,734	40,413	38,711	7.1	5.8	4.3	-4.2
Sexual Harassment	9,984	9,966	10,950	12,214	11,009	-0.2	9.9	11.5	-9.9
Importation of Girls	149	67	61	67	48	-55.0	-9.0	9.8	-28.4
Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act	5,908	4,541	3,568	2,659	2,474	-23.1	-21.4	-25.5	-7.0
Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act	2,917	1,562	1,200	1,025	845	-46.5	-23.2	-14.6	-17.6
Dowry Prohibition Act	3,204	4,504	5,623	5,555	5,650	40.6	24.8	-1.2	1.7
Total	155,552	165,196	185,717	195,855	203,804	6.2	12.4	5.5	4.1

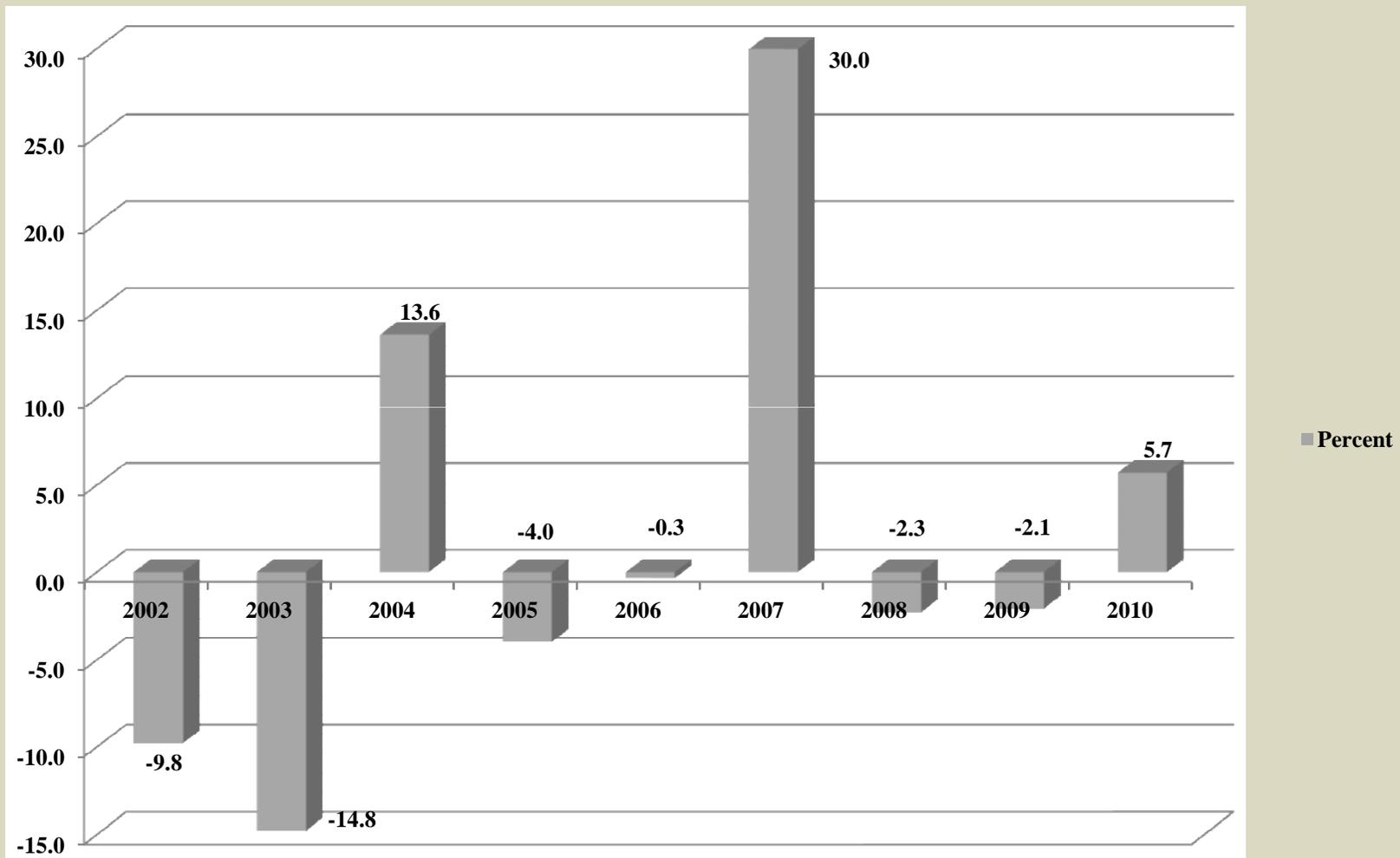
[http://mha.nic.in/pdfs/AR\(E\)1011.pdf](http://mha.nic.in/pdfs/AR(E)1011.pdf)

*http://wikigender.org/index.php/Crime_against_Women_in_India,_2007

Crime against Women in India from 2001 up to 31.08.2011

Crime Head	YEARS										
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Murder	36	28	31	29	24	23	30	36	37	27	28
Culpable Homicide	1	0	0	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	0
Rape	124	137	126	153	141	113	159	157	182	160	124
Dowry Death	10	6	6	8	2	3	7	3	1	2	3
Kidnapping & Abduction	106	119	96	97	101	108	153	137	123	163	124
Molestation	315	347	250	282	283	274	324	295	320	348	231
Abetment to commit Suicide	84	52	50	61	61	58	69	83	82	86	50
Cruelty to Women	326	234	221	252	228	256	343	343	284	275	159
Eve-Teasing	30	11	11	13	27	31	40	44	37	73	29
Chain Snatching	0	0	0	5	1	2	1	4	7	8	6
Dowry Prohibition Act	9	4	5	5	1	2	4	2	4	0	0
Immoral Traffic (P) Act	1	2	5	4	4	0	0	1	5	1	2
Total	1042	940	801	910	874	871	1132	1106	1083	1145	756

Year-wise Percent Change in Crime against Women in India from 2002 - 2010



Percentage of Crime against Women in US

S. No.	Crime Head	Percentage/Number
1	Rape (Completed or attempted)	
		17.60%
		21.6% (Younger than age 12)*
		32.4% (between the ages 12 and 17)*
2	Raped, physically assaulted and/ or stalked since age 18	64% (by current or former husband, cohabiting partner, boy friend or date)*
3	Domestic Violence	
	Bureau of Justice Statistics Factbook. Washington DC: U.S. Department of Justice.	Only 50% are reported to police
	FBI estimates of rapes	only 37% are reported to police
	US Justice Department	only 26% are reported to police
4	Raped and/ or physically assaulted	25% (by current or former spouse iting partner, or date in lifetime)
5	College women experience completed or attempted rape during their college years	20 - 25% (National College Women Sexual Victimization Study, Fisher 2000)
6	Sexually assaulted (somewhere someone in America)	Every two minute (2000 National Crime Victimization Survey. Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice)
7	Attempted or Completed Rape	Nearly 17% (National Institute of Justice and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1998)
8	Rapists will ever spend a day in jail	5% (US Department of Justice Statistics)
9	Sexually assaults	246,180 (Department of Justice 2001)
10	Sexual abuse	Nearly 88,000 children experienced (ACF 2002)
11	Rape Victims	
		About 81% of are white; 18% are black; 1% are of other races. (Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Dept. of Justice, 1994.)
		About 50% are in the lowest third of income distribution; and 50% are in the upper two-thirds
12	Forced to have sexual intercourse (high school students)	10% Female students (Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey, CDC 2002)
13	Rape or sexual assault	Females ages 12 to 24 are at the greatest risk (DOJ 2001)
14	Costs of intimate partner violence against women	Exceed an estimated \$5.8 billion (Costs of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States, Department of Health and Human Services, Georgia, March 2003)

<http://www.feminist.com/antiviolence/facts.html> ;

*National Violence Against Women Survey, November, 2000

Births outside Marriage - United Kingdom

S. No.	Head		Place/City/Country	Percentage/ Years	Cause of Concern
1	Parents not married	New born babies	Wales	52%	Births outside marriage
			North East England	55%	
			National	- 44.3% (2007) - just 8% (1971)	
2	Without two parents	Children growing-up	National	-	Worse outcomes as young adults; Professor Ermisch refers to the long-term negative consequences
3	Parents married	Baby born	National	spends 1.6 years of their first 16 years with a lone parent	-
4	Cohabiting parents	Child born	National	spends 4.7 years with just one parents	-
5	Single mother household	an infant born	National	spends 7.8 years	-
6	Brought up by a lone mum or dad	Experiences of the babies particularly before they start school	National	-	- Translates into lower grades, - Worse job prospects and - Poorer health
7	Parents who live together but are not married	Cohabitation has risen 64% in a decade	National	Just over a quarter of recent births	-
8	Parents who live together but are not married	Children brought up throughout their childhood	National	35%	-
9	An unmarried mum breaks up with her partner	-	National	More than 50% are still without a partner five years after the break up	It can take a long time to find a new relationship
10	Cohabiting unions	Non-marital childbearing	National	-	Tends to create lone mother families

1. Economic and Social Research Council pulled together some of the key findings from the British Household Panel Survey (BHPS);
2. A huge study of 10,000 British adults interviewed every year since 1991.
3. http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/thereporters/markeaston/2008/09/births_outside_marriage_a_real.html

Facts & Figures on Violence against Women (VAW)

The Violence against Women (VAW) Prevalence Data: Surveys by Country

Compiled by UN Women in 2011, presents data available for 86 countries on the prevalence of physical and sexual violence against women, forced sexual initiation and abuse during pregnancy, mainly drawn from leading international surveys, including: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Reproductive Health Surveys, Demographic and Health Surveys, Violence Against Women Surveys and the World Health Organization Multi-Country Study.

Violence against women and girls is a problem of pandemic proportions. Based on country data available, up to 70 percent of women experience physical or sexual violence from men in their lifetime — the majority by husbands, intimate partners or someone they know.

Among women aged between 15 and 44, acts of violence cause more death and disability than cancer, malaria, traffic accidents and war combined. Perhaps the most pervasive human rights violation that we know today, violence against women devastates lives, fractures communities, and stalls development.

It takes many forms and occurs in many places — domestic violence in the home, sexual abuse of girls in schools, sexual harassment at work, rape by husbands or strangers, in refugee camps or as a tactic of war.

http://www.unifem.org/gender_issues/violence_against_women/facts_figures.php?page=4

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Facts & Figures on Violence against Women (VAW)

Femicide

- In the **United States**, one-third of women murdered each year are killed by intimate partners.
- In **South Africa**, a woman is killed every 6 hours by an intimate partner.
- In **India**, 22 women were killed each day in dowry-related murders in 2007.
- In **Guatemala**, two women are murdered, on average, each day.

Trafficking

- Women and girls comprise 80 percent of the estimated 800,000 people trafficked annually, with the majority (79 percent) trafficked for sexual exploitation.

Harmful Practices

- Approximately 100 to 140 million girls and women in the world have experienced female genital mutilation/cutting, with more than 3 million girls in **Africa** annually at risk of the practice.
- More than 60 million girls worldwide are child brides, married before the age of 18, primarily in **South Asia** (31.1 million) and **Sub-Saharan Africa** (14.1 million).

http://www.unifem.org/gender_issues/violence_against_women/facts_figures.php?page=4

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Facts & Figures on Violence against Women (VAW)

Sexual Violence against Women and Girls

- An estimated 150 million girls under 18 suffered some form of sexual violence in 2002 alone.
- As many as 1 in 4 women experience physical and/or sexual violence during pregnancy which increases the likelihood of having a miscarriage, still birth and abortion.
- Up to 53 percent of women physically abused by their intimate partners are being kicked or punched in the abdomen.
- In **Sao Paulo, Brazil**, a woman is assaulted every 15 seconds.
- In **Ecuador**, adolescent girls reporting sexual violence in school identified teachers as the perpetrator in 37 percent of cases.

Rape as a method of warfare

- Approximately 250,000 to 500,000 women and girls were raped in the 1994 **Rwandan** genocide.
- In eastern **Democratic Republic of Congo**, at least 200,000 cases of sexual violence, mostly involving women and girls, have been documented since 1996, though the actual numbers are considered to be much higher.

Cost of Violence against Women

- Domestic violence alone cost approximately USD 1.16 billion in **Canada** and USD 5.8 billion in the **United States**. In **Australia**, violence against women and children costs an estimated USD 11.38 billion per year.

Sexual Harassment

- Between 40 and 50 percent of women in **European Union** countries experience unwanted sexual advancements, physical contact or other forms of sexual harassment at their workplace.
- In the **United States**, 83 percent of girls aged 12 to 16 experienced some form of sexual harassment in public schools.

Percentage of Births to Unmarried Women in Selected Countries - 1990 and 2007

S. No.	Country	Percentage	
		1990	2007
1	Iceland*	40	66
2	Sweden	40	55
3	Norway	15	54
4	France*	11	50
5	Denmark	33	46
6	United Kingdom*	12	44
7	United States	18	40
8	Netherland	4	40
9	Ireland*	5	33
10	Germany	12	30
11	Canada*	13	30
12	Spain*	4	28
13	Italy	4	21
14	Japan	1	2

http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/1/12/Non_marital_by_countries.gif ;

*Data is for 2004

Country-wise Number of and Per Capita Cases of Recorded Rape - UN Statistics

This list indicates the number of and per capita cases of recorded rape. It does not include cases of rape which go unreported, or which are not recorded. Nor does it specify whether recorded means reported, brought to trial, or convicted. Nor does it take the different definition of rape around the world into account.

Country	2008 Count	2009 Count	2008 Rate / 100,000	2009 Rate / 100,000
United States of America	90,427	89,000	29.3	28.6
U K (England and Wales)	12,637	13,093	23.4	24.1
France	10,132	10,277	16.4	16.6
Germany	7,511	7,292	9.1	8.9
Russian Federation	7,038	6,208	5.0	4.4
Sweden	4,269	4,901	46.6	53.2
Zimbabwe	4,762	3,186	38.3	25.6
Belgium	3,111	2,786	29.5	26.3
Philippines	2,409	2,585	2.7	2.9
Spain	2,530	2,437	5.7	5.5
Chile	1,980	2,233	11.9	13.3
Lesotho	1,797	1,878	88.4	91.6
Japan	1,766	1,582	1.4	1.2
New Zealand	1,314	1,308	31.3	30.9
Kazakhstan	1,518	1,298	9.9	8.4
Israel	1,270	1,243	18.3	17.6
Sudan	-	1,189	-	2.9
Morocco	1,215	1,130	3.9	3.6
Turkey	1,148	1,071	1.6	1.4
Romania	1,047	1,016	4.9	4.8
Norway	945	944	20.0	19.8

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rape_statistics

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Country	2008 Count	2009 Count	2008 Rate / 100,000	2009 Rate / 100,000
Finland	739	915	14.0	17.2
Switzerland	648	612	8.6	8.1
Canada	528	491	1.6	1.5
Hungary	468	489	4.7	4.9
Denmark	492	396	9.0	7.3
U K (Northern Ireland)	422	396	24.0	22.3
Mongolia	355	354	13.6	13.4
Kyrgyzstan	300	303	5.6	5.6
Oman	132	183	4.8	6.6
Estonia	122	160	9.1	11.9
Syrian Arab Republic	125	156	0.6	0.7
Slovakia	182	152	3.4	2.8
Egypt	63	87	0.1	0.1
Iceland	87	68	28.2	21.6
Luxembourg	44	57	9.3	11.9
Solomon Islands	61	56	12.2	11.0
Bahrain	21	36	2.8	4.6
Cyprus	19	34	2.2	3.9
Azerbaijan	34	25	0.4	0.3
Maldives	5	9	1.7	3.0

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rape_statistics

Remedies for Domestic Violence against Women

What exactly do we want?

A very important question in wake of domestic violence remedies is that what exactly we are looking for in the process of minimising their occurrences. **Is it so that we want to gather more information about such cases for just expressing our concern over this issue with more accuracy, having facts and figures at hand? Or instead of just raising our voices, we want to clean up the mess with sheer force and determination?**

Fighting the 'Domestic Violence' Evil

A recent study has concluded that violence against women is the fastest-growing crime in India. According to a latest report prepared by India's National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), a crime has been recorded against women in every three minutes in India. Every 60 minutes, two women are raped in this country. Every six hours, a young married woman is found beaten to death, burnt or driven to suicide.

The response to the phenomenon of domestic violence is a typical combination of effort between law enforcement agencies, social service agencies, the courts and corrections/probation agencies. The role of all these has progressed over last few decades, and brought their activities in public view. Domestic violence is now being viewed as a public health problem of epidemic proportion all over the world – and many public, private and governmental agencies are seen making huge efforts to control it in India. There are several organizations all over the world – government and non government – actively working to fight the problems generated by domestic violence to the human community.

There is an urgent need for stringent laws and severe punishment after proper investigation.

<http://www.youthkiawaaz.com/2010/02/domestic-violence-in-india-causes-consequences-and-remedies-2/>

Thanks

