Milestones in the International Legal History towards the Protection and Empowerment of Women*

26 June 1945  
Formation of United Nations Organization

16 February 1946  
Creation of Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on the Status of Women

21 June 1946  
Sub-Commission on Status of Women was elevated to the Status of “Commission on the Status of Women” at par with “Commission on Human Rights”

10 December 1948  
Adoption of the landmark ‘Universal Declaration of Human Rights’

2 December 1949  
Adoption of the Convention for the Suppression on the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of Prostitution of Others

29 June 1951  
Adoption by International Labour Organisation (ILO) ‘Convention on Equal Remuneration’

28 June 1952  
Adoption by ILO the ‘Maternity Protection Convention’

20 December 1952  
Adoption of Convention on the ‘Political Rights of Women’

29 January 1957  Adoption of 'Convention on the Nationality of Married Women'

25 January 1958  Adoption by ILO 'Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention'

7 November 1962  Adoption of the 'Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages'

12 December 1963  The General Assembly of UN designated 1968 as the International Year of Human Rights

1 November 1965  The adoption of 'Recommendation on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriage'

16 December 1966  Adoption of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

7 December 1967  Approval of Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women

18 December 1972  The General Assembly designates 1975 as the 'International Women's Year'

19-30 August 1974  The UN World Population Conference held in Bucharest under its 'Plan of Action' affirmed the central importance of women in population policies

5-16 Nov 1974  The World Food Conference held in Rome adopted the 'Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition'
14 December 1974
Adoption of the Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict

1975
International Women's Year

7 March 1975
The World Conference of the International Women's Day (8 March)

19 June-2 July 1975
The World Conference of the International Women’s Year in Mexico City is the first global conference to be held on women's issues, with 133 Governments represented. The Conference adopted a World Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women for the coming Decade

15 December 1975

1976-1985
United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace

18 December 1979

14-30 July 1980
The World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women took place in Copenhagen with delegates from 145 Member States. Sixty-four Member States signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
23 June 1981 The ILO adopted the 'Workers with Family Responsibilities Convention'

16 April 1982 An expert panel to monitor compliance with 1979 Convention (CEDAW), is established

3 December 1982 The General Assembly adopted the 'Declaration on the Participation of Women in Promoting International Peace and Cooperation'

14 December 1984 The Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women was renamed the 'United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)'

20 April 1987 Naifs Sadik was appointed Director of the United Nations Population Fund – the first woman to head a major UN programme

1989 Adoption of 'Convention on the Rights of the Child'

5-9 March 1990 The World Conference on Education for All: Meeting Basic Learning Needs, held in Jomtien, Thailand


14 December 1990 The General Assembly decided to hold a fourth world conference on women in 1995

21 December 1990 The General Assembly adopted resolution 45/239 establishing targets for the employment of women in the Secretariat of 35 percent women in professional posts subject to geographical distribution by 1995 and 25 per cent women in senior posts
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22 July 1991</td>
<td>The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees issued <em>Guidelines on the Protection of Refugee Women</em></td>
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<td>31 January 1992</td>
<td>CEDAW adopted General Recommendation 19 on Violence against Women</td>
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<tr>
<td>25-26 February 1992</td>
<td>The Summit on Economic Advancement of Rural Women was held in Geneva under the auspices of the International Fund for Agricultural Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>14-25 June 1993</td>
<td>The World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna adopted the <em>Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>20 December 1993</td>
<td>The General Assembly adopted the <em>Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>4 February 1994</td>
<td>The United Nations Commission on Human Rights appointed a Special Rapporteur to collect information on acts of gender-based violence and to recommend measures at the national, regional and international levels for its elimination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 March 1994</td>
<td>The United Nations Commission on Human Rights appointed a Special Rapporteur to collect information on acts of gender-based violence and to recommend measures at the national, regional and international levels for its elimination</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-13 Sept 1994</td>
<td>The International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo affirmed that there are four</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
requirements for any programme of population and development: gender equality; the empowerment of women; the ability of women to control their own fertility; and the elimination of violence against women.

6-12 March 1995
The World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, the largest gathering in history of heads of State or Government, proclaimed, the central role of women in fighting poverty, creating productive employment and strengthening the social fabric. It included a commitment by world leaders to make equality and equity of women and men a priority.

15 March-7 April 1995
The Commission on the Status of Women undertook second review and appraisal of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies and held the final preparatory meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women.

12 July 1995
The Security Council and the General Assembly of the UN elect Rosalyn Higgins (United Kingdom) to the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the first woman to sit on the Court.

14-15 Sept 1995
The Fourth World Conference on Women was held in Beijing, with delegations from 189 countries. The largest UN Conferences ever, adopted by consensus the Beijing Declaration and a five-year Platform for Action, which identifies 12 critical areas of concern.

6 October 1999
Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

1995-2004
UN decade for spread of 'Human Rights Awareness'
### Table of Cases

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Anjali Ray v. State of West Bengal, A.I.R. 1952 Cal. 825  

#### B

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**Beney Bhushan Chakravarty v. Govind Chandra Sharma, A.I.R. 1955 Assam 1780**  
**Bhagwant Singh v. Commissioner of police, Delhi A.I.R. 1983 S.C. 826**  
**Smt. Bitto v. Ram Deo, A.I.R. 1983 Allahabad 371.**  
C

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Nihal Singh v. Ram Bai, A.I.R. 1987 M.P. 126
Nirmal Kumar v. State, (1972) Cr. L.J. 1582

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Pratibha Rani v. Suraj Kumar, A.I.R. 1985 S.C. 628

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Y


Z

**Glossary**

| A | Adharmik | One who follows contrary to the Hindu customs |
| Ardhanarendra | Human body consists with half man and half women |
| Artha | Wealth |
| B | Brahanical Code | Laws to be followed by Brahmans |
| | Bulugyeth | Puberty |
| D | Dakshina | Gifts given to priests |
| | Dalits | Minorities people |
| | Dasi | Servants |
| | Dayabhaga | A position of Yajravalkya smrti dealing with assets |
| | Devadasi | Prostitute |
| | Dharma | The totality of human experience and existence |
| | Dharmashastras | Texts dealing with the code of law/jurisprudence and Duties |
| | Dharmasutras | Aphorisms of Law |
| G | Gargi | Another wife of Yajravalkya |
HARIJAN
Himavat
Hinsa

Dalit
Mountain Himalayas
Coercively violent

Jurisprudence

Kama
Kanya dana
Kanyadan
kshatriya
Kusa grass

Desire
Daughter gift
Marriage
Wife of Kings
A type of sacrificial grass

Mahanirban Tantra
Mahila Samjakku
Maiteryi
Mitakshara

Text dealing with Buddhism
Denoting ladies
Wife of Yajravalkya – a sage
Words having limited letters / Commentary on Yajravalkya smrti written by Kullinka Bhatta
Liberation
Chief person

Moksha
Mukhiya

Nagarpaliilka
Nibadhas

Municipality
Composing / Thesis / Theory
P

Panchayat Raj
Laws connected to Municipality
Parsi
People belonging to Persia
Pativrata dharma
Devotion to the husband / Duties of loyal wife

Q
Quran
Holy literature of Muslims

R
Ramba
Celestial nymph – one of the apsaras

S
Sadachara
Good custom
Sadhu
Saint
Saha Dharma Charini
One who follows the duties of the husband - Wife
Sahadharminis
Partners in religious duties/Wife
Saptapadi
Seven steps which is performed in the marriage ceremony
Sarva Dharma Samuhava
Providing the freedom of the individual to follow any of different streams of thought, expression, belief and religious preference.
Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah
All be happy
Satanik
One who follows ancient Hindu customs
Satyagraha
Non-violence
Satyagrahis
Followers of Non-violence
Shakti
Shakti
Shakti
The Goddess of Power, as the most powerful deity
Shakti
Muslim law
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Srauta and Grihya Sutra</td>
<td>Connected to sastra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smriti</td>
<td>Vedic texts transmitted orally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smritikaras</td>
<td>Remember the Vedic texts that are recollected by the sages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stridhana</td>
<td>Authors of smriti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swaraj</td>
<td>Texts dealing with Vedic rituals and domestic rituals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varadakshina</td>
<td>Property of a married woman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam</td>
<td>Freedom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vedic dasi</td>
<td>Dowry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viraj</td>
<td>World is our family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vispala</td>
<td>Woman in servitude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yainavalkya</td>
<td>Free from dirt (rajo kuna)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Devoid of results</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A sage</td>
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