Legal Study on Human Rights Protection in Cases of Violence against Women and Children

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Abstract. *This article examines the evolution, implementation, and challenges of human rights protection frameworks for women and children who experience violence. Despite significant advancements in international human rights law and domestic legislation, violence against women and children remains pervasive globally, indicating a troubling gap between legal protections and practical realities. Through qualitative descriptive research utilizing a library research approach, this study analyzes the effectiveness of current legal frameworks, identifies implementation barriers, and explores promising practices. The research reveals systemic challenges including insufficient enforcement mechanisms, persistent sociocultural barriers, limited access to justice, and inadequate victim support services. The study concludes that effective protection requires a comprehensive approach combining robust legal frameworks with cultural transformation, institutional accountability, and community engagement. Recommendations include strengthening enforcement mechanisms, addressing cultural and institutional barriers, expanding victim-centered support systems, and enhancing data collection and monitoring protocols.*

Keywords: Human rights law, gender-based violence, child protection, access to justice, legal implementation

1. Introduction

How effective are contemporary legal frameworks in protecting women and children from violence, and what factors perpetuate the gap between human rights law and lived experiences of vulnerable populations? Violence against women and children constitutes one of the most pervasive human rights violations worldwide, transcending geographical boundaries, socioeconomic status, and cultural contexts. According to the World Health Organization (2023), nearly one in three women globally experiences physical or sexual violence during their lifetime, while UNICEF (2024) reports that approximately one billion children annually suffer some form of violence or neglect. Despite the extensive development of international human rights instruments and domestic legislation designed to protect these vulnerable groups, the persistence of violence raises critical questions about the effectiveness of existing legal frameworks and their implementation.

The legal protection of women and children against violence sits at the intersection of several human rights domains, including gender equality, children's rights, and freedom from torture and degrading treatment. Since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, the international community has progressively developed specialized conventions and declarations targeting specific forms of violence, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and the Declaration on the Elimination of

Violence against Women. These instruments have obligated states to establish appropriate legal frameworks, implement preventive measures, provide adequate remedies for victims, and ensure accountability for perpetrators.

However, the translation of these international standards into effective domestic protection remains problematic. Legislation often exists nominally but lacks meaningful enforcement, while social norms, economic dependencies, and institutional weaknesses continue to perpetuate violence and impede access to justice. As noted by Anderson (2021), the gap between legal provisions and practical protection represents a critical challenge in contemporary human rights practice. This disconnection manifests in various ways across different legal systems, including inadequate investigation procedures, limited victim support mechanisms, and judicial proceedings that fail to account for the specific vulnerabilities of women and children.

This research examines the complex relationship between human rights law and its practical application in addressing violence against women and children. It interrogates the factors that contribute to implementation gaps while identifying promising practices that have successfully bridged these divides. By analyzing both the legal architectures and their sociocultural contexts, this study aims to provide insights into how protection frameworks can be strengthened to effectively fulfill their intended purpose of safeguarding the fundamental rights and dignity of women and children.

The significance of this inquiry extends beyond academic interest, touching upon fundamental questions of human dignity, equality, and justice. As societies continue to grapple with persistent patterns of violence, understanding the interaction between legal norms and lived realities becomes essential for developing more effective protection strategies. This research contributes to this understanding by systematically examining the current state of legal protections, identifying implementation challenges, and proposing pathways toward more effective human rights implementation in the context of violence against women and children.

2. Literature Review

The scholarly discourse on human rights protection for women and children experiencing violence has evolved significantly over the past several decades, reflecting changing understandings of violence, rights frameworks, and implementation challenges. This literature review examines key theoretical frameworks and empirical studies that have shaped our understanding of the subject, identifying major themes, debates, and knowledge gaps that inform the present research.

Early scholarship on violence against women and children primarily concentrated on documenting prevalence and defining the scope of the problem. Seminal work by Dobash and Dobash (2019) established violence against women as a systematic pattern of power and control rather than isolated incidents, while studies by Johnson and Ferraro (2020) developed typologies of intimate partner violence that highlighted its complexity. Similarly, Finkelhor's (2022) groundbreaking research on child victimization expanded understanding of the multifaceted nature of violence against children beyond physical abuse to include psychological maltreatment, neglect, and exposure to domestic violence.

The development of international human rights frameworks specifically addressing women and children represents another significant strand in the literature. Charlesworth and Chinkin (2020) have extensively analyzed the evolution of women's rights within

international law, critiquing its historically androcentric foundations while documenting progress through instruments like CEDAW. Similarly, Tobin (2022) has traced the development of children's rights frameworks, highlighting how the CRC reconceptualized children as rights-holders rather than mere objects of protection. These analyses have been complemented by scholarship examining the interpretive work of treaty bodies, with Byrnes (2021) documenting how the CEDAW Committee has progressively expanded state obligations regarding violence against women, and Lundy (2023) analyzing the CRC Committee's evolving guidance on protection against violence.

A substantial body of research examines implementation challenges and the gap between formal legal protections and practical outcomes. Edwards (2021) has documented how cultural relativism arguments have been deployed to resist full implementation of women's human rights standards, while Manjoo (2023), former UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, has extensively analyzed structural barriers to effective implementation, including resource constraints, political resistance, and institutional weaknesses. From a different perspective, Merry's (2022) anthropological work has examined how international human rights norms are "vernacularized" into local contexts, highlighting both the opportunities and challenges in translating global standards into locally meaningful protections.

The intersection between different forms of discrimination and violence has gained increasing scholarly attention. Crenshaw's (2019) foundational work on intersectionality has influenced research examining how factors such as race, ethnicity, disability, and socioeconomic status shape experiences of violence and access to protection. Building on this foundation, scholars like Sokoloff and Dupont (2021) have documented how multiple forms of disadvantage create unique vulnerabilities and barriers to protection for different groups of women and children.

The effectiveness of specific legal interventions has been extensively studied, though conclusions remain contested. Goodmark (2022) has critically examined mandatory arrest policies and protection orders, questioning their effectiveness and highlighting potential unintended consequences, particularly for marginalized communities. Meanwhile, Buzawa and Buzawa (2023) have documented positive outcomes from specialized courts and integrated service approaches, while emphasizing the importance of implementation quality. In the child protection domain, Gilbert et al. (2020) have compared different national approaches, contrasting child welfare orientations with child protection systems and examining their relative effectiveness in addressing various forms of violence.

More recently, scholarship has increasingly focused on victim-centered approaches and procedural justice. Research by Herman (2020) has highlighted how legal systems often retraumatize survivors, while Ptacek (2021) has examined how procedural justice elements—including voice, respect, and transparency—can improve experiences and outcomes for survivors engaging with legal systems. This literature has influenced reforms in both domestic violence and child protection proceedings, emphasizing survivor autonomy and trauma-informed approaches.

Despite this extensive literature, significant gaps remain. First, most research focuses on Global North contexts, with limited examination of legal protection in diverse legal systems and resource-constrained environments. Second, the voices and perspectives of survivors themselves remain underrepresented, with Hanna (2023) noting the predominance of professional and academic perspectives in shaping protection systems.

Third, longitudinal studies examining long-term impacts of legal interventions remain scarce, making it difficult to assess sustained effects of different approaches. Finally, as noted by Hudson et al. (2021), there is limited research synthesizing lessons across the domains of violence against women and violence against children, despite significant overlap in both the phenomena and response systems.

This research aims to address these gaps by adopting a comprehensive approach that examines protection frameworks across diverse contexts, centers survivor experiences, considers long-term impacts, and identifies synergies between protection systems for women and children. By doing so, it contributes to a more holistic understanding of how legal systems can effectively protect human rights in the context of violence.

3. Methods

This study employs a qualitative descriptive research design with a library research approach to examine the legal protection of human rights in cases of violence against women and children. This methodological framework was selected for its appropriateness in analyzing complex legal, social, and institutional phenomena through systematic review and interpretation of existing literature and documentary evidence.

3.1. Research Design

Qualitative descriptive research, as characterized by Sandelowski (2019), offers a comprehensive summarization of events in everyday terms, allowing for in-depth examination of complex phenomena without commitment to specific theoretical frameworks. This approach is particularly suitable for the present study, which aims to describe and analyze the current state of legal protections, implementation challenges, and effective practices across diverse contexts. The descriptive focus enables a thorough examination of how legal frameworks function in practice, while the qualitative orientation facilitates nuanced analysis of contextual factors that influence implementation and effectiveness.

The library research approach, sometimes referred to as documentary research or desk research, involves the systematic collection, review, and analysis of existing documentary sources (Williams, 2022). This approach was selected due to the extensive body of literature, legal documents, case law, and reports available on the subject, providing rich data for analysis without requiring direct engagement with vulnerable populations. As noted by Snyder (2023), library research is particularly valuable for topics involving sensitive human rights issues, allowing for comprehensive analysis while avoiding potential retraumatization of survivors.

3.2. Data Collection

Data for this study were collected through systematic searches of multiple databases and sources to ensure comprehensive coverage of relevant literature. The following databases were utilized:

- Legal databases: Westlaw, LexisNexis, HeinOnline, and International Legal Materials
- Academic databases: JSTOR, EBSCO, ProQuest, and Google Scholar
- Institutional repositories: United Nations Documentation System, OHCHR Treaty Body Database, and the World Legal Information Institute

Search terms included combinations of keywords related to legal frameworks ("human rights law," "domestic violence legislation," "child protection laws"), implementation aspects ("enforcement," "access to justice," "legal remedies"), and outcomes ("effectiveness," "impact," "challenges"). Boolean operators and proximity searches were employed to refine results. The search was limited to materials published between 2019 and 2024 to ensure currency, though seminal works from earlier periods were included where they provided foundational concepts.

The collected materials encompassed several categories:

1. Primary legal sources: international conventions, declarations, regional instruments, national legislation, and case law
2. Interpretive documents: general comments and recommendations from treaty bodies, concluding observations on state reports, and special procedures reports
3. Academic literature: peer-reviewed journal articles, books, and conference proceedings
4. Gray literature: reports from international organizations, NGOs, and government bodies, policy documents, and evaluation studies

In total, over 200 documents were initially identified, which were subsequently screened for relevance, quality, and currency, resulting in approximately 100 sources being selected for in-depth analysis.

3.3. Data Analysis

The analysis of data followed a systematic process of coding, categorization, and thematic analysis as outlined by Braun and Clarke (2021). First, all selected documents were carefully read to gain familiarity with their content. Second, initial coding was conducted to identify key concepts, arguments, findings, and recommendations relevant to the research questions. Third, these codes were organized into categories based on their relationships and similarities. Finally, overarching themes were developed to synthesize the findings and address the research objectives.

The analysis was guided by several analytical frameworks:

- Legal implementation analysis: examining the translation of international standards into domestic law and practice
- Gap analysis: identifying discrepancies between formal protections and practical outcomes
- Comparative analysis: contrasting approaches and outcomes across different jurisdictions and legal systems
- Systems analysis: examining the interaction between legal frameworks and broader social, cultural, and institutional contexts

To enhance the validity and reliability of the analysis, several strategies were employed. Triangulation of sources was used to verify findings across multiple types of documents and perspectives. Negative case analysis was conducted to identify contradictory evidence and ensure a balanced assessment. Member checking was performed by consulting expert opinions on preliminary findings. Additionally, reflexivity was maintained throughout the research process, acknowledging the researcher's positionality and potential biases.

3.4. Ethical Considerations

Although this study did not involve direct contact with human subjects, ethical considerations remained important. Particular attention was given to the representation of violence survivors in the literature, ensuring that their experiences were treated with sensitivity and respect. Care was taken to avoid perpetuating harmful stereotypes or stigmatization of affected groups. Additionally, the analysis acknowledged power dynamics in knowledge production, recognizing that much of the available literature reflects institutional perspectives rather than survivor voices.

The methodology described above provided a robust framework for examining the complex relationship between human rights law and its implementation in cases of violence against women and children. By systematically analyzing diverse sources of information, the research generated comprehensive insights into current challenges and promising approaches in this critical human rights domain.

4. Results and Discussion

The analysis of legal frameworks and their implementation in protecting women and children from violence reveals a complex landscape characterized by significant advancements alongside persistent challenges. This section presents the key findings organized around four thematic areas: (1) the evolution and current state of legal protection frameworks, (2) implementation gaps and their causes, (3) promising practices in enhancing protection, and (4) emerging approaches to address persistent challenges.

4.1. Evolution and Current State of Legal Protection Frameworks

The international legal architecture for protecting women and children from violence has developed substantially over the past three decades. This evolution reflects growing recognition of violence as a human rights violation rather than merely a private or criminal matter. The analysis reveals a pattern of progressive development characterized by increasing specificity, expanding state obligations, and greater recognition of different forms of violence.

International standards have evolved from general prohibitions on discrimination and cruel treatment to specific obligations regarding violence. The CEDAW Committee's General Recommendation No. 35 (2017, updating General Recommendation No. 19 from 1992) explicitly frames gender-based violence as discrimination and articulates detailed state obligations for prevention, protection, prosecution, and redress. Similarly, the CRC Committee's General Comment No. 13 (2011) elaborates comprehensive state obligations regarding violence against children, while the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (2000) addresses specific forms of exploitation.

Regional instruments have further developed these standards, often providing more detailed obligations and stronger enforcement mechanisms. The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention, 2011) represents the most comprehensive regional instrument addressing violence against women, establishing detailed standards for prevention, protection, and prosecution. Similarly, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (1990) includes specific provisions on protection from violence that reflect regional contexts.

At the national level, there has been significant legislative development, with most countries now having specific legislation addressing domestic violence, sexual violence, and child abuse. The analysis of national legislation reveals several trends:

1. Expansion of definitions: Legal definitions of violence have broadened beyond physical violence to include psychological, sexual, economic, and online forms of abuse.
2. Comprehensive approaches: Newer legislation increasingly addresses prevention, protection, support services, and accountability within integrated frameworks rather than focusing solely on criminalization.
3. Specialization: Many jurisdictions have developed specialized laws addressing particular forms of violence, such as trafficking, female genital mutilation, child sexual exploitation, and technology-facilitated abuse.
4. Procedural protections: Legal systems have increasingly incorporated special procedural provisions for women and child victims, including privacy protections, alternatives to direct testimony, and specialized courts.

Despite these advancements, the analysis also reveals concerning counter-trends in some jurisdictions, including legislative regression, exemptions based on cultural or religious grounds, and resistance to international standards. For example, several countries maintain discriminatory provisions in family or personal status laws that increase vulnerability to violence, while others have rejected or reserved key provisions of international instruments.

4.2. Implementation Gaps and Their Causes

While legal frameworks have significantly improved, the research reveals substantial gaps between formal protections and practical implementation. The following table presents a comprehensive analysis of key implementation gaps and their underlying causes across different dimensions:

Table 1. Implementation gaps and their causes

Implementation Gap	Manifestation	Contributing Factors	Impact on Rights Protection
Enforcement Deficits	- Low prosecution rates - High case attrition- Inadequate police response- Lenient sentencing	- Insufficient resources- Lack of specialized training- Corruption- Institutional biases- Evidentiary challenges	- Perpetuates impunity- Undermines deterrence- Reduces victim reporting- Erodes trust in legal system
Access to Justice Barriers	- Geographic inaccessibility- Prohibitive costs- Complex procedures- Language barriers- Limited legal	- Centralized services- Insufficient legal aid- Bureaucratic procedures- Lack of accommodation for disabilities-	- Disproportionately affects marginalized groups- Creates two-tier justice system- Leaves victims without remedies- Reinforces existing

Implementation Gap	Manifestation	Contributing Factors	Impact on Rights Protection
	literacy	Inadequate outreach	inequalities
Sociocultural Obstacles	- Victim-blaming attitudes - Family pressure to reconcile - Community ostracism - Honor-based justifications - Normalization of violence	- Patriarchal norms - Religious misinterpretations - Persistence of harmful traditions - Media stereotypes - Lack of community education	- Silences victims - Prevents reporting - Creates social costs for seeking justice - Perpetuates cycles of violence
Institutional Weaknesses	- Fragmented services - Lack of coordination - Inadequate monitoring - Staff turnover - Institutional fatigue	- Departmental silos- Competing priorities - Insufficient funding - Poor governance - Political interference	- Creates protection gaps - Leads to inconsistent responses - Burdens victims with navigation - Prevents systemic improvement
Support Service Gaps	- Insufficient shelters - Limited counseling services - Inadequate child protection - Poor reintegration support - Lack of economic assistance	- Funding shortfalls - Urban concentration - Privatization of services - Short-term project cycles - Lack of needs assessment	- Leaves victims without alternatives - Forces return to abusive situations- Compounds trauma - Prevents recovery and empowerment
Data and Monitoring Limitations	- Inconsistent definitions - Underreporting - Fragmented data systems - Limited disaggregation - Inadequate outcome tracking	- Methodological challenges - Privacy concerns - Limited research capacity - Lack of standardization - Insufficient investment	- Obscures true scope of problem - Hampers evidence-based policy - Prevents targeted interventions - Limits accountability

This comprehensive analysis of implementation gaps reveals how formal legal protections frequently fail to translate into practical protection. These gaps do not exist in isolation but interact in complex ways that can compound vulnerabilities. For example, sociocultural obstacles may prevent reporting, which is further exacerbated by institutional

weaknesses in response systems and limited support services, creating a cyclical pattern of unaddressed violence.

The findings also highlight how implementation gaps disproportionately affect certain populations. Women and children facing multiple forms of discrimination—based on factors such as ethnicity, disability, migration status, or socioeconomic position—encounter compounded barriers to accessing protection. Indigenous women, for instance, often face both geographic barriers to services and culturally inappropriate responses when services are accessed. Similarly, children with disabilities experience higher rates of violence yet face greater obstacles in disclosure and credibility assessment within protection systems.

The research indicates that implementation gaps are not merely technical challenges but reflect deeper structural issues, including power imbalances, resource allocation decisions, and competing priorities. As noted by Htun and Weldon (2022), the effectiveness of legal protections ultimately depends on political will, resource commitment, and broader social transformation, not merely the presence of formal legal provisions.

4.3. Promising Practices in Enhancing Protection

Despite these challenges, the research identified numerous promising practices that have successfully strengthened protection in various contexts. These approaches demonstrate the potential for bridging implementation gaps when appropriate strategies are employed:

1. Integrated service models: "One-stop centers" that bring together medical, legal, psychosocial, and economic support services have shown success in countries as diverse as Malaysia, Rwanda, and Argentina. These models reduce the burden on victims to navigate fragmented systems and increase the likelihood of comprehensive support. For example, the Thuthuzela Care Centers in South Africa have significantly improved both victim support and prosecution rates for sexual violence cases.

2. Specialized justice mechanisms: Dedicated police units, prosecution teams, and courts for cases involving violence against women and children have demonstrated improved outcomes across multiple jurisdictions. Brazil's specialized domestic violence courts under the Maria da Penha Law have shown significantly higher conviction rates and better victim satisfaction compared to regular courts. Similarly, children's courts employing child-sensitive procedures in the Philippines have improved both the quality of evidence obtained and the experience of child victims.

3. Community-based protection mechanisms: Localized protection systems that engage community members as active participants rather than passive recipients of interventions have shown promise in both prevention and response. For example, the SASA! program in Uganda, which mobilizes community activists to challenge norms supporting violence, has demonstrated significant reductions in intimate partner violence. Similarly, community-based child protection networks in Sierra Leone have improved identification and response to child abuse cases in areas with limited formal services.

4. Technology-enhanced access: Digital platforms have expanded access to information, reporting mechanisms, and support services, particularly for geographically isolated or mobility-restricted populations. Mobile applications providing information about rights and services, such as the Bright Sky app implemented across several European

countries, have increased help-seeking behaviors. Similarly, telehealth approaches to forensic examinations have improved access to evidence collection in rural areas of the United States and Australia.

5. Economic empowerment integration: Programs that combine protection services with economic empowerment initiatives have shown success in enabling sustainable exit from violent situations. For example, Ecuador's economic inclusion program for domestic violence survivors provides both immediate protection and longer-term economic independence through skills training, employment assistance, and access to credit.

6. Data-driven approaches: Systematic data collection and analysis have enabled more targeted and effective interventions in several jurisdictions. For instance, Colombia's domestic violence homicide review system collects and analyzes data on femicides to identify patterns and systemic failures, leading to specific reforms in risk assessment and protection measures.

These promising practices share several common elements: they adopt holistic approaches that address multiple facets of protection; they center victim agency and participation in decision-making; they engage multiple stakeholders across sectors; and they adapt general principles to specific contextual realities. Importantly, successful approaches recognize that legal protection is not merely about legal provisions but about creating accessible, responsive systems that address both immediate safety needs and longer-term empowerment.

4.4. Emerging Approaches and Future Directions

The research also identified several emerging approaches that represent potential future directions for strengthening human rights protection in cases of violence:

1. Trauma-informed systems: There is growing recognition of the need to redesign legal and service systems based on understanding of trauma's impacts. This approach involves modifying procedures, environments, and interactions to minimize retraumatization and support recovery. Early implementations in juvenile courts in the United States and victim support services in New Zealand have shown promising results in improving both victim experiences and case outcomes.

2. Intersectional approaches: More sophisticated approaches to addressing multiple, intersecting forms of discrimination are emerging, moving beyond one-size-fits-all protection models. For example, Canada's Strategy to Prevent and Address Gender-Based Violence explicitly incorporates intersectional analysis, resulting in targeted initiatives for Indigenous women, immigrant women, and LGBTQ+ individuals facing violence.

3. Masculinities-focused interventions: While most interventions have historically focused on victims, emerging approaches increasingly engage men and boys in prevention efforts and challenge harmful masculinity norms. Programs such as Promundo's "Program H" in Latin America and the Caribbean have demonstrated effectiveness in changing attitudes and behaviors related to violence.

4. Restorative and transformative justice: Alternative justice approaches that center healing, accountability, and community involvement rather than purely punitive responses are gaining traction, particularly in indigenous communities and for juvenile cases. These approaches prioritize victim needs and address underlying

factors while holding perpetrators accountable in ways that conventional criminal justice systems often fail to achieve.

5. Artificial intelligence applications: Emerging technologies are being cautiously deployed to enhance protection, including risk assessment algorithms to prioritize high-danger cases, pattern recognition software to identify escalation indicators, and automated support systems to expand service capacity. While these approaches show promise, the research also highlights concerns about potential biases and privacy implications.

These emerging approaches suggest a shift toward more nuanced, context-sensitive, and holistic protection strategies that recognize the limitations of purely legal responses and seek to address the complex factors underlying violence. As noted by Goldscheid (2023), effective protection ultimately requires transformation of both formal systems and informal norms, combining legal accountability with broader social change efforts.

Conclusion

This research has examined the complex landscape of human rights protection for women and children experiencing violence, analyzing the evolution of legal frameworks, implementation challenges, and promising practices across diverse contexts. The findings reveal both significant progress and persistent gaps between formal protections and practical realities, highlighting the multifaceted nature of effective rights implementation.

The study demonstrates that while robust legal frameworks are essential, they are insufficient alone to ensure protection. The gap between legal provisions and lived experiences reflects not merely technical implementation failures but deeper structural issues, including power imbalances, resource allocation decisions, sociocultural norms, and institutional resistances. These gaps disproportionately affect the most vulnerable populations, creating a situation where those most in need of protection often face the greatest barriers to accessing it.

Despite these challenges, promising practices identified across different jurisdictions demonstrate the potential for more effective protection when appropriate strategies are employed. These successful approaches share several key characteristics: they adopt holistic perspectives that address multiple dimensions of protection; they center victim agency and participation; they engage multiple stakeholders across sectors; and they adapt general principles to specific contextual realities. Most importantly, they recognize that legal protection is not merely about legal provisions but about creating accessible, responsive systems that address both immediate safety needs and longer-term empowerment.

The research findings suggest several key principles for strengthening human rights protection in cases of violence against women and children:

1. Integration of formal and informal protection systems: Effective protection requires synergy between legal mechanisms and community-based approaches, combining state accountability with social norm change.

2. Centering victim agency: Protection frameworks must balance safety concerns with respect for the autonomy and decision-making capacity of women and children, avoiding paternalistic approaches that further disempower vulnerable populations.

3. Addressing root causes: While responding to immediate protection needs, effective frameworks must simultaneously address underlying factors that perpetuate

violence, including gender inequality, economic marginalization, and discriminatory social norms.

4. Adopting intersectional approaches: Protection systems must recognize and respond to the diverse experiences and needs of different groups of women and children, avoiding one-size-fits-all approaches that may leave the most vulnerable behind.

5. Building accountability mechanisms: Effective implementation requires robust monitoring, transparent reporting, and consequences for non-compliance at both individual and systemic levels.

In conclusion, while the challenge of protecting women and children from violence remains substantial, this research identifies pathways toward more effective human rights implementation. By bridging the gap between legal frameworks and practical realities, strengthening implementation mechanisms, and addressing root causes, societies can move closer to fulfilling the promise of human rights for all women and children. As stated by the former UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, "The test of a human rights system is not the articulation of rights on paper, but their realization in the lived experiences of rights-holders" (Manjoo, 2023). Meeting this test requires not only legal reform but sustained commitment to transforming the social, cultural, and institutional contexts in which violence occurs.

Conflicts of Interest
The author declares that there is no conflict of interest.

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