

The status of women in the world is rarely above second-class and their subordination to men is damaging not just in typical or traditional respects, but also in relation to the safety of their bodies. While violence against women is a universal health crisis, there are levels to the severity of outcomes depending on location, class, and race. The global South consists of the most dangerous countries for women and that designation can be connected to cultural factors, religious affiliation/significance, and poverty levels. Access and availability of legal or support services can be extremely limited, with the lingering worry of whether those services might be corrupt in the first place. There is never justification for violence and abuse against women, yet women in developed nations could often be afforded a type of privilege that women from marginalized and displaced communities are not. The context of each situation is still determined by cultural norms that dictate the value of women's rights, favoring the power and control of the man over the safety and health of the woman.

The violence against women in the global South has been a health and human rights crisis for far too long. Within these countries, rural villages can be a breeding ground for unreported abuse and suffering. The notion of cultural relativism, that we can't compare a situation from one culture to our own because of contextual and cultural constraints, ceases to exist when human rights are consistently being violated (Cooley, p. 92). Courageous women around the world, especially in these countries considered to be dangerous and a threat to their lives, answered the call to activism with the goal of changing how women are treated and the consequences for the men who would harm them. The inequality experienced by women in these countries has been so ingrained in their culture, whether by way of religious doctrine or simply historical precedent, that the beliefs of these particular societies are difficult to alter. The power dynamics between men and women are a socialized concept that has been sustained for many years. When the outcomes of women victims of sexual violence are witnessed over and over again with endless terrible results, it reinforces the attitude that women are no more than objects for men to manipulate as they like. Eventually, women within that culture and society develop a certain apathy and reluctant acceptance that this is how life must be because this is how it has always been and they can't expect much more, or otherwise known as learned helplessness (Cooley, p. 216). While the men will realize that they can essentially behave outside the bounds of decency and fairness without fear of retribution or regulation because their actions won't bring about consequences. The video documenting the case of a victim from South Africa even contained a frustrated and upset proclamation from her mother that they are not some barbaric country without rules and order, but somehow men are still capable of committing atrocious acts against women without repercussions. The government in these regions was built by men for men, women are not represented and therefore their struggles or suffering are not important. It is a systemic problem and will need dedicated attention from influential stakeholders if we are to expect any change.

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