

Women in Nepal

The position you have been assigned in the Constituent Assembly is to draft an amendment that addresses the status of women in Nepal.

Poverty and conservative patriarchal attitudes have made it difficult for women to attain access to healthcare, education and job opportunities. New reforms passed in the 1990s granting women basic human rights have not been enforced. There are no effective laws prohibiting domestic violence, and one study has indicated 70% of women in Nepal have been victims. Dowry payments to grooms are a tradition that is still practiced, it is very rare for a bride to be killed if the payments are unsatisfactory, and more common the bride is subjected to physical abuse if payment is insufficient.

83% of households in Nepal do not register property held in women's name. Work is often limited to agriculture and informal sectors where the wages are low, hours are long and working conditions poor.

There have been increasing numbers of reports of human trafficking in women and children in Nepal to foreign countries. It is estimated 5,000-7,000 a year are sent to India.

Literacy for women is considerably lower than for men.