

## Some Useful Sources

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There is fundamental recognition that the human rights of women are ‘an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights’ (Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, para. 18). Violence creates tremendous obstacles to the achievement of rights for women and nation states are obligated to exercise due diligence in the eradication of violence against women and to prevent violence against women wherever it occurs. The following list identifies key documents and resources available at International, European and UK levels. The list includes references to website gateways, documents, campaigns, organisations and publications. The websites provide free access to a wide body of literature and all sites were visited on 11 July 2005 to check that they were current. The list is not comprehensive but is indicative of key materials and services that are easily accessible.

### **International level gateways**

***Department of Gender, Women and Health.*** Part of the World Health Organization, this is responsible for ‘researching and disseminating information on neglected topics directly pertaining to women’s health, such as gender-based violence against women’. <http://www.who.int/gender/en/>

***Division for the Advancement of Women.*** This provides information on the work of nation states to advance the rights of women. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/>

***INSTRAW.*** The United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women was established in 1976 to promote research and training programmes on the advancement of women and gender equality. <http://www.uninstraw.org/en/index.html>

***International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW).*** This was created in 1976 and is ‘dedicated to improving the lives of women in poverty, advancing equality and human rights, and contributing to broader economic and social well-being’. <http://www.icrw.org/>

***Q Web: Beijing +10 Knowledge Portal.*** This is a gateway to on-line information and materials relevant to governments and non-governmental organisations on activities, seminars, on-line discussions and meetings related to the Beijing +10 process, globally, regionally, nationally and locally. The Portal is administered by Q Web, which itself developed as a result of the Beijing conference. <http://www.qweb.kvinnoforum.se.Beijing+10/>

***UNIFEM*** is the women’s fund at the United Nations. It provides financial and technical assistance to innovative programmes that promote women’s human rights. Over \$7 million has been disbursed to programmes around the globe in 85 countries. UNIFEM produces an e-mail newsletter distributed six times per year that provides information on international

women's issues and UNIFEM activities around the globe. Free subscription is available from the website. <http://www.unifem.org/>

**WomenWatch** is a gateway to information and resources on the promotion of gender equality throughout the United Nations system. It was created in 1997 to provide Internet space for global gender equality issues and to support implementation of the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/>

### International level documents

Many UN conventions and treaties contain specific gender violence provisions, for example, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict. Others acknowledge specific violences, for example the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime acknowledge the violence women experience in connection with the sex trade.

**Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women**  
<http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/e1cedaw.htm>

**Optional Protocol to CEDAW**  
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/protocol/text.htm>

**Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women**  
<http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/21.htm>

### European level gateways

**Council of Europe.** This is the access point to the European Convention of Human Rights, the European Social Charter and other relevant European documents including reports and case law. [http://www.coe.int/T/e/human\\_rights/equality/](http://www.coe.int/T/e/human_rights/equality/)

**Equal Opportunities Commission.** This site provides an overview of European law that applies to the UK, including EC Directives, EC Recommendations and the case-law of the European Court of Justice (ECJ).  
<http://www.eoc.org.uk/cseng/legislation/european.law.asp>

**Europa.** This is the gateway to the European Union and documentation on gender equality. [http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment\\_social/equ\\_opp/documents.en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/equ_opp/documents.en.html)

**The European Women's Lobby (EWL)** is a co-ordinating body of non-governmental women's organisations in the European Union. It has over 4,000 member associations in the 25 Member States and works to serve as a link between political decision makers and women's organisations. <http://www.womenlobby.org>

### European level documents

**European Convention on Human Rights.** This site provides the full text of the Convention and the Five Protocols. <http://www.hri.org/docs/ECHR50.html>

**European Declaration on Equality of Women and Men.** This is a specific European level document on gender equality. [http://portal.unesco.org/shs/en/ev.php-URL.ID=4143&URL.DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/shs/en/ev.php-URL.ID=4143&URL.DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

**European Social Charter.** This provides the full text of the Charter. <http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/EN/Treaties/Html/163.htm>

### UK level Campaigns and Organisations

**Amnesty International UK: Stop Violence Against Women.** On 5 March 2004 Amnesty International launched a global campaign to stop Violence Against Women. <http://www.amnesty.org.uk/svaw/>

**Fawcett** (formerly the Fawcett Society) is one of the longest established women's organisations in the UK. Membership to Fawcett is by subscription and members receive newsletters, email updates and invitations to events. Fawcett produces materials on a range of equality issues and responds to government consultations. An example of this is in Fawcett's response to the 'Safety and Justice' consultation on domestic violence. <http://www.fawcettsociety.org.uk>

**Rape Crisis Website** provides useful information on services, statistics and the law. Following the closure of the Rape Crisis Federation on 5 November 2003 this website is now maintained by the Truth About Rape campaign. <http://www.rapecrisis.org.uk>

**Rights of Women** provide legal advice, training and a range of resources on using the law to address violence against women. <http://www.rightsofwomen.org.uk>

**Southall Black Sisters** was established in 1979 to meet the needs of black (Asian and African-Caribbean) women. Their aims are to 'highlight and challenge violence against women; empower them to gain more control over their lives; live without fear of violence; and assert their human rights to justice, equality and freedom'. <http://www.southallblacksisters.org.uk/>

**Truth About Rape** campaign is a multimedia campaign formed to challenge myths about rape, and bring the truth and realities of rape back on to the public agenda. Membership is free and the campaign has a wide membership from across the globe. <http://www.truthaboutrape.co.uk>

**V-Day: Until the Violence Stops.** This campaign developed from Eve Ensler's award-winning play The Vagina Monologues. There were around 70 performances of the play in the UK in 2004. It provides links to other campaigns in the UK and internationally. <http://www.vdayuk.org>

**Women's Aid** organisations perform a dual role in providing support services for abused women and in working for their safety by campaigning locally and nationally to raise awareness of the extent and impact of domestic violence in society. There are four nationally based Women's Aid organisations:

**Northern Ireland Women's Aid Federation** <http://www.niwaf.org/>

**Scottish Women's Aid** <http://www.scottishwomensaid.co.uk/>

**Welsh Women's Aid** <http://www.welshwomensaid.org>

**Women's Aid Federation England** <http://www.womensaid.org.uk/index.htm>

**Women's National Commission.** Established in 1969, the Women's National Commission (WNC) is based within the Department of Trade and Industry alongside the Women and Equality Unit.<sup>1</sup> The WNC is an advisory Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB), which means that although it is fully funded by government it claims independence to comment freely on government policy. The website includes a comprehensive list of women's organisations, many of which are WNC partners. The WNC has a specific section of its website dedicated to Violence Against Women.

[http://www.thewnc.org.uk/wnc\\_work/violence\\_against\\_women.html](http://www.thewnc.org.uk/wnc_work/violence_against_women.html)

### Academic

**Child and Woman Abuse Studies Unit (CWASU)** was established in 1987 and works from a feminist perspective to uncover the 'complexities of, and interactions between gender, race, ethnicity, class, age, sexuality and disability'. Although located within London Metropolitan University, CWASU works within national and international networks, conducting independent research of use to policy makers, practitioners, survivors, supporters and activists. Headed by internationally renowned Professor Liz Kelly, CWASU is a valuable resource of reports on violence against women. <http://www.cwasu.org>

**Co-ordination Action on Human Rights Violations (CAHRV)** is a collaboration between European 'research institutions, policy networks, and individual researchers, funded through the European Commission's 6th Framework Programme'.

<http://www.cahrv.uni-osnabrueck.de/index.htm>

**Feminist Institute for Studies on Law and Society (FISLS)** was established at Simon Fraser University in Canada in 1990 and aims to 'provide an environment for creative interaction among scholars and community representatives' locally, nationally and internationally. <http://www.sfu.ca/~fisls/index.htm>

**Violence Against Women Research Group (VAWRG).** Formerly the Domestic Violence Research Group, this Group 'acts as a focus for national, international and local research and offers wide-ranging consultancy, teaching and training on issues related to violence against women'. Located at the University of Bristol and directed by Dr Liu Hague, the Group works closely with Women's Aid Federation England (see above) and has a fifteen year history of combining academic work with activism.

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/sps/research/fpcw/vawrg/default.shtml>

**Women's Human Rights Resources (WHRR).** This web site is a project of the Bora Laskin Law Library at the University of Toronto in Canada. Established in 1995, its aim is to assist anyone researching international human rights law to promote women's rights and it acts as a repository for articles, documents and web links.

<http://www.law-lib.utoronto.ca/Diana/>

### Useful Publications

**Amnesty International** (1995), *Human Rights Are Women's Rights*, New York: Amnesty International.

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## Note

- 1 <http://www.womenandequalityunit.gov.uk/>