

NSOU

Women, Violence and Law : An Intimate Interrogation
Open Distance Paradigm (Volume I)

Edited by
Kajal De, Chandan Basu, Srideep Mukherjee

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**Women, Violence and Law :
An Intimate Interrogation
*Open Distance Paradigm***

Volume I

**Patron of the Publication
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FOREWORD

I am glad to note that the Women Harassment Prevention Cell (WHPC) of Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU) has taken initiative to publish edited volumes titled 'Women, Violence and Law: An Intimate Interrogation'. It is a Two-Volume Set on a theme that deserves meticulous attention not simply for academic interest but also for the cause of a better society.

It is difficult to deny that a section of our society is, though not always overtly, still hostile to the notion of women empowerment, gender equality and other related rights of women. The most blatant attitude of a male dominated society is both the open and undercover violence towards women; such type of violence could be physical as well as psychological in order to establish hegemonic control over them with the ulterior aim to legitimise the discourse of violence. Violence against women is the way of curbing any independent attempt or will to stand in favour of women's right. It is the crudest form of eliminating any possible question, doubt, proximity and even sympathy towards the woman question.

The nature of violence is wide and varied. It could, as stated earlier, be physical as well as psychological; just as it could embrace the domains of home and world. It also could be sexual, either overt or covertly. In one word, violence against women, in whatever form, attempts to debilitate womanhood in particular and humanity in general. There is a common assumption that the extent and degree of violence against women is rampant only in the war-ravaged countries of Asia or Africa. It is true that women in present day Nigeria or Sudan or Syria are the most soft and open targets of violent aggression. However, at the same time one should not be complacent about the state of women in countries like India (the largest democracy), USA (the most powerful nation) or China (possible economic superpower). Women of these countries are also facing violence; indeed it is an everyday practice of dominating them by various means.

Here comes the question of law. The fundamental understanding is that violence against women could be