

THE LANTERN TRIBE



**UNCOVERING THE
TRUTH BEHIND
MARITAL
RAPE**

EDITION 11

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Hasrat

MARRIAGE

IS NO

EXCUSE

A stylized, abstract illustration of a person from the chest up, wearing a vibrant red dress. The figure is rendered in a flat, graphic style with bold black outlines and solid colors. The person's right hand is raised to their chin in a thoughtful or listening pose. The background is a solid dark blue. Overlaid on the center of the image is the word "INTRODUCTION" repeated five times in a bold, sans-serif font. The top instance is bright yellow, while the subsequent four instances are a semi-transparent grey, creating a layered effect.

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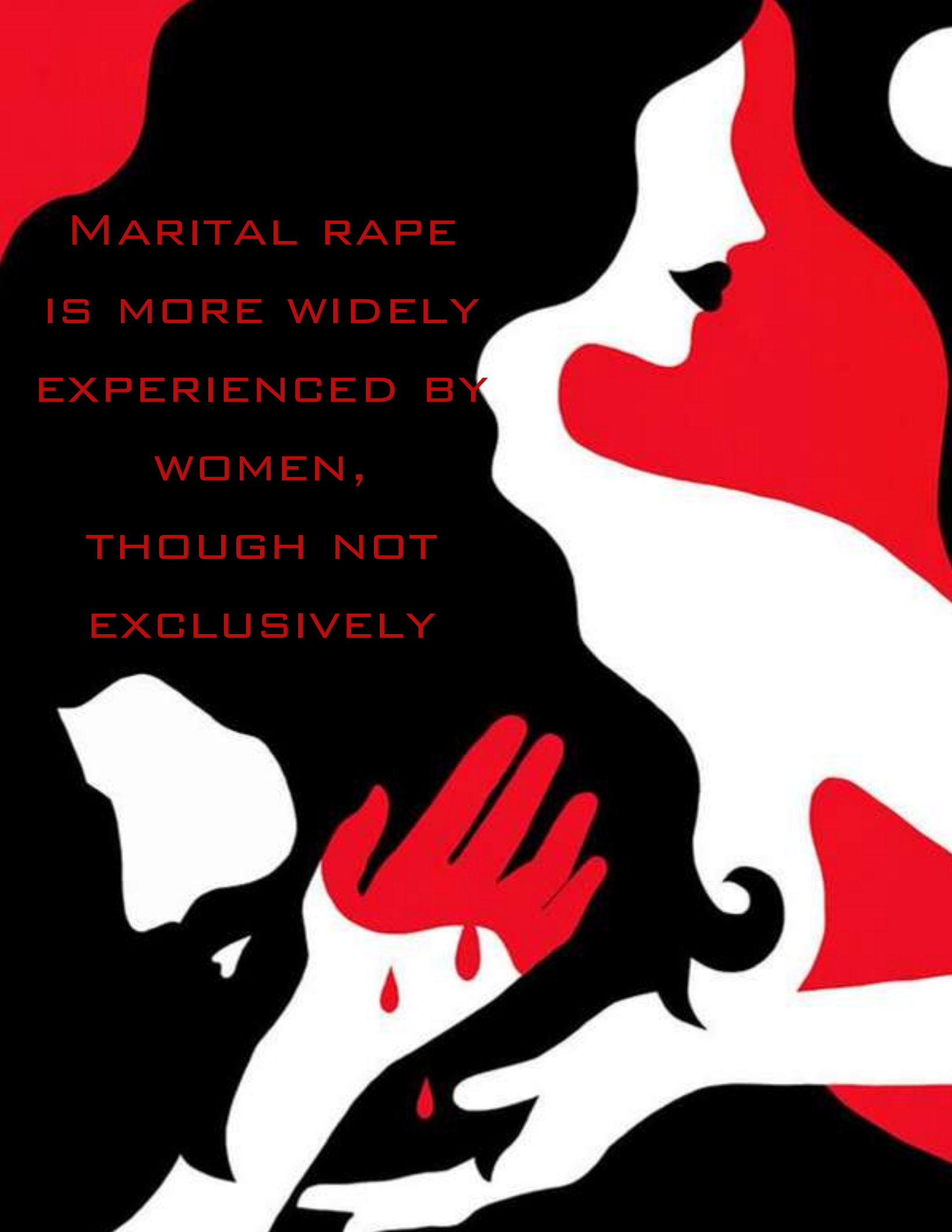
Suhani Goel

MARITAL RAPE OR SPOUSAL RAPE IS THE
ACT OF SEXUAL INTERCOURSE WITH
ONE'S SPOUSE WITHOUT THE SPOUSE'S
CONSENT.

The lack of consent is the essential element and need not involve physical violence. Marital rape is considered a form of domestic violence and sexual abuse. Although, historically, sexual intercourse within marriage was regarded as a right of spouses, engaging in the act without the spouse's consent is now widely classified as rape by many societies around the world, and increasingly criminalized. However it is repudiated by some more conservative cultures.

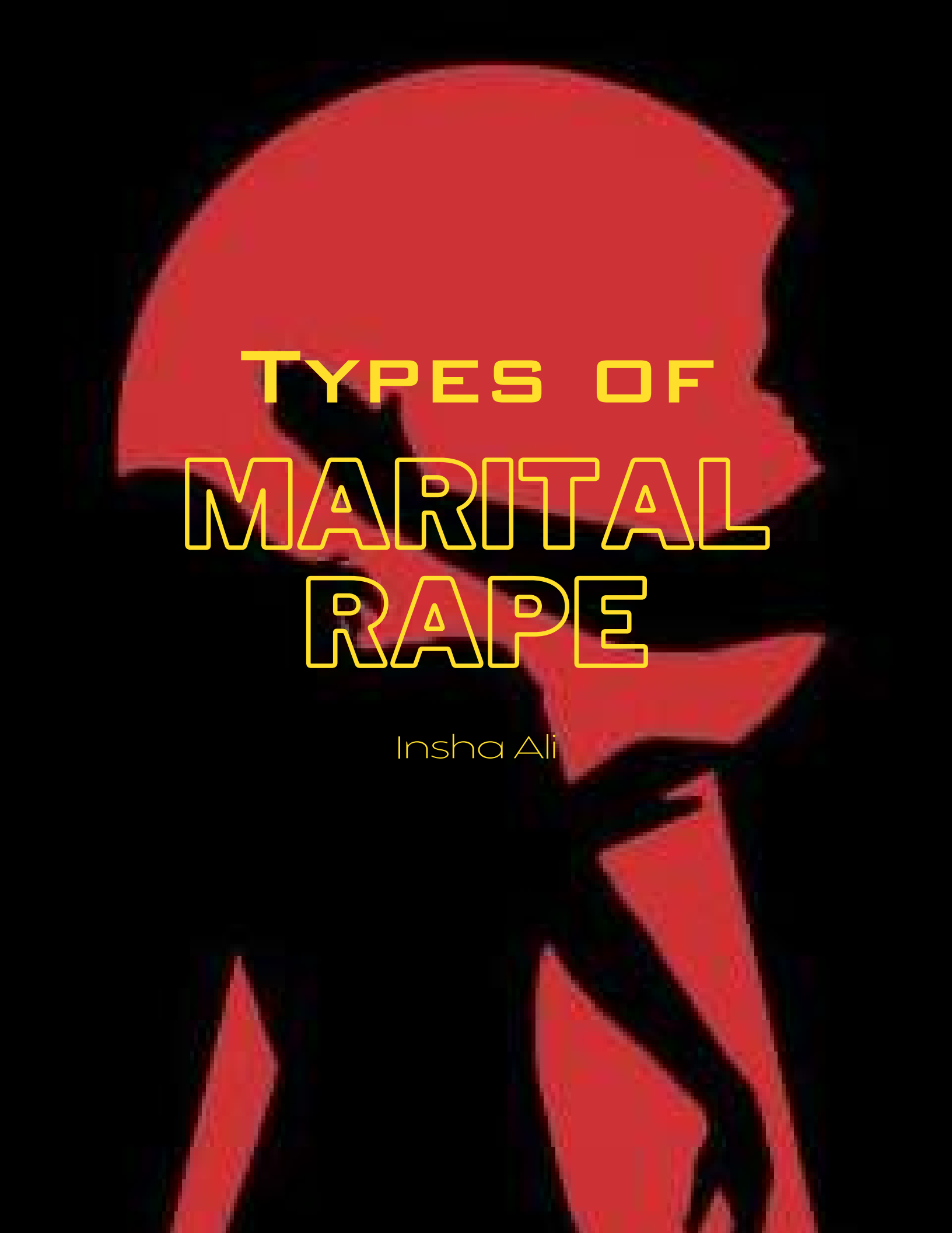
The issues of sexual and domestic violence within marriage and the family unit, and more specifically, the issue of violence against women, have come to growing international attention from the second half of the 20th century. Still, in many countries, marital rape either remains outside the criminal law, or is illegal but widely tolerated. Laws are rarely enforced, due to factors ranging from reluctance of authorities to pursue the crime, to lack of public knowledge that sexual intercourse in marriage without consent is illegal.

MARITAL RAPE
IS MORE WIDELY
EXPERIENCED BY
WOMEN,
THOUGH NOT
EXCLUSIVELY



Marital rape is often a chronic form of violence for the victim which takes place within abusive relations. It exists in a complex web of state governments, cultural practices, and societal ideologies which combine to influence each distinct instance and situation in varying ways. The reluctance to define non-consensual sex between married couples as a crime and to prosecute has been attributed to traditional views of marriage, interpretations of religious doctrines, ideas about male and female sexuality, and to cultural expectations of subordination of a wife to her husband — views which continue to be common in many parts of the world. These views of marriage and sexuality started to be challenged in most Western countries from the 1960s and 70s especially by second-wave feminism, leading to an acknowledgment of the woman's right to self-determination of all matters relating to her body, and the withdrawal of the exemption or defence of marital rape.

Most countries criminalized marital rape from the late 20th century onward — very few legal systems allowed for the prosecution of rape within marriage before the 1970s. Criminalization has occurred through various ways, including removal of statutory exemptions from the definitions of rape, judicial decisions, explicit legislative reference in statutory law preventing the use of marriage as a defence, or creation of a specific offense of marital rape, albeit at a lower level of punishment. In many countries, it is still unclear whether marital rape is covered by the ordinary rape laws, but in some countries non-consensual sexual relations involving coercion may be prosecuted under general statutes prohibiting violence, such as assault and battery laws.



TYPES OF MARITAL RAPE

Insha Ali

The term 'marital rape' (in some instances referred to as "spousal rape") indicates unwanted sexual contact between a man and his wife that was either gained with the use of physical force, the threat of physical force, or both when the victim was unable to consent. Any type of penetration, whether anal, vaginal, or oral, that is done against the victim's will or without her agreement is referred to as 'unwanted intercourse'.

In India, rape is de facto but not de jure, meaning that marital rape is not included in the definition of rape under section 375 of the Indian Penal Code. According to exception 2 of section 375, sexual contact between a man and his own wife who is over the age of fifteen is not considered rape. This revolves around the idea that a woman has no legal authority to forbid having sex with her husband once they get married. This directly violates the norms of human rights by granting men the freedom to have sexual relations with their wives and giving them permission to rape them.

BATTERING RAPE

Battering rape involves sexual and physical violence. During or before the rape, the victim may have been physically abused by her husband. Overpowering and raping the victim requires the use of more physical force than is necessary. A battering rape is the most common type of reported marital rape. In marriages with a lot of verbal and physical abuse, battering rape frequently occurs. The perpetrator of the rape may frequently be irate, antagonistic towards his wife, and have a propensity of abusing alcohol or other drugs. In a relationship like this, the husband may subject the wife to a wide variety of various forms of violence.

FORCE-ONLY RAPE

Using force and control to manipulate the victim constitutes this type of rape. The husband utilises the amount of physical force required to successfully rape the victim in a force-only rape. When the wife declines to have sex, the attacks generally follow. Attacks involving solely force occur more frequently in unions where sex is the primary topic of most heated confrontations and there are few other instances of IPV (Intimate Partner Violence). The main driving force behind this form of sex crime is to dominate and control the victim during sex.

OBSESSIVE RAPE

Sadistic or obsessive rape in a marriage involves the husband torturing his wife and committing acts of sexual perversion against her. The attacks include forced bizarre sexual acts and are frequently physically violent. Obsessive rape involves the husband acting on such bizarre sexual obsessions in which he forces his wife to perform deviant and/or painful sexual acts. The husband may have extreme pornography consumption habits and fetishes.

EFFECTS OF MARITAL RAPE

The **physical consequences** of rape that each rape victim experiences include:

- Damage to the vaginal and anal regions
- Scuffs and cuts
- Pain and bruising
- Ripped muscles
- Fatigue
- Vomiting
- Bone fractures
- Injury brought induced by weaponry
- Stillbirths or miscarriages
- Increasing prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases, such as HIV

Due to the intense sense of betrayal felt after being raped by an intimate partner, emotional responses to marital rape can be quite dramatic and severe.

Among the **emotional responses** of spousal rape are:

- Shock, worry, and great terror
- Depression
- Suicidal thoughts
- Disorders of acute and post traumatic stress (PTSD)
- A serious breach of trust



MARITAL RAPE CONSEQUENCES IN

INDIA

In India, marital rape is not a crime, but it is partially covered by civil law. According to the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act of 2005, any act, omission, commission, or conduct on the part of the respondent constitutes domestic violence if it endangers the health, safety, life, limb, or wellbeing of the victim, whether it is mental or physical, or has the potential to do so. This includes committing acts of physical abuse, sexual abuse, verbal and emotional abuse, and economic abuse. According to this, sexual abuse covers any sexual behaviour that violates a woman's dignity in some way, whether it be through abuse, degrading behaviour, or other means.

Therefore, there is still a long way to go before women receive their share of equality. However, there is hope, and steps are being taken in the right direction to achieve this.

ACT OF CONSENT
ACT OF CONSENT
ACT OF CONSENT
ACT OF CONSENT

Atreyee
Mukherjee



Rape is a sexual assault that involves sexual intercourse taking place without the person's consent. It is an act that violates the physical, mental, and psychological well-being of an individual. According to the Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses Act (POCSO), the age of consent has been changed from 16 to 18 years. In India, rape done by a third member (outsider) falls under sections 375 and 376 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860.

Surprisingly, it does not involve marital rape under the same section. Before arguing why or why isn't this form of activity is not rape, it is important to understand what marital rape is and how consent plays a significant role in marriage. Marital rape involves sexual intercourse with the other wedded partner without her assent or by anger, force, or compulsion. Girls above the age of 18 and boys above the age of 21 are legally permitted to get married and this age is the age of consent for marriages.

Marital rape is a serious violation of human rights, and there can be no justification for it, regardless of any "act of consent" in marriage. It is important to understand that consent cannot be assumed in marital relations and any form of sexual activity without the explicit consent of both partners is considered rape.

According to international human rights standards, the absence of consent in any sexual contact between legally married couples makes it a criminal act. It is crucial to recognize that marriage does not equate to automatic consent, and women have the right to control their own bodies. It is essential to educate individuals and communities about the importance of consent in all forms of sexual activity, including those that occur within marriage.

In India, it is legally mandated that both parties involved in a sexual encounter must provide clear and enthusiastic consent for any sexual activity to take place. Any sexual activity without consent is considered rape and is punishable by law. It is important to note that a lack of resistance or silence on the part of the victim cannot be interpreted as consent. Therefore, it is crucial that both parties communicate and obtain explicit consent before engaging in sexual activity to ensure a safe and consensual experience.

However, it is worth noting that historically, within the context of marriage in India, there has been a lack of understanding of marital rape and its legal implications. Marital rape was not considered a crime until recently when 2017 the government of India criminalized non-consensual sexual intercourse within marriage.

Only through such education can we work towards eradicating marital rape and promoting healthy, consensual relationships within marriages. Additionally, some women's rights activists have advocated for the inclusion of a marital rape clause in domestic violence laws. This is due to the prevalence of marital rape and the fact that it is often overlooked and underreported.

The legal recognition of marital rape as a crime is an important step towards addressing the long-standing issue of sexual violence within marriage in India. However, there is still a long way to go in terms of education and awareness-raising around the issue.





**PHYSICAL AND
MENTAL
EFFECTS OF**

**R
A
P
E**

Deepa Raghvan

“The day will come when man will recognize woman as his peer, not only at the fireside but in councils of the nation. Then, and not until then, will there be the perfect comradeship, the ideal union between the sexes that shall result in the highest development of the race.”

–Susan B Anthony

The Hindu scriptures make it abundantly clear that women in the past were respected, known as "Adhanginis," and treated on par with men. They were permitted to participate in the holy rites with their husbands and used their authority to carry them out. Domestic violence, the dowry system, and the idea of marital rape were nonexistent back then. However, as time went on, conditions for Indian women began to deteriorate. They fell prey to rape, dowry, and domestic abuse. The status of women in society started to deteriorate as it became more male-dominated.

Marital or spousal rape occurs when a spouse engages in sexual activity without consent. It is regarded as a type of domestic abuse. The institution of marriage enables a couple to sexually interact and legally consummate their union. This does not, however, grant the spouse the authority to coerce his wife into engaging in sexual activity against her will. Marital rape is a form of male dominance as well as physical, emotional, mental, and social abuse. Rapes committed during marriage have serious impacts on the women who are being sexually assaulted.

A person is negatively affected by marital rape. Committing such a crime is abhorrent. According to researchers, men who commit marital rape are either mentally ill or seek to dominate their partners. Due to the obvious fact that the perpetrator is her better half, with whom she had hoped to share a lifetime of happiness, research shows that marital rape has more severe and upsetting effects on women. Contrary to popular belief, research shows that marital rape frequently has serious and lasting effects on women. This is in contrast to the widespread belief that being raped by a partner is a relatively unimportant event that typically doesn't result in much trauma. Injuries to the vaginal and anal regions, lacerations, soreness, bruising, torn muscles, exhaustion, and vomiting are a few instances of the physical consequences of marital rape. Women who have been physically abused by their husbands, including being beaten and sexually assaulted,

may also suffer from other physical effects, such as broken bones, black eyes, bloody noses, and knife wounds. A study claimed that half of the survivors of marital rape in their sample engaged in sexual activity while being kicked, hit, or burned. Among the specific gynaecological effects of marital rape are vaginal stretching, anal tearing, pelvic pain, urinary tract infections, miscarriages, stillbirths, bladder infections, infertility, and the potential for contracting sexually transmitted diseases like HIV/AIDS. The women involved in some unintended pregnancies were brutally raped by their husbands.


Short-term effects of marital rape include anxiety, shock, intense fear, depression, suicidal ideation, disordered sleeping, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Women who have been raped by intimate partners are more likely to be diagnosed with depression or anxiety than those who have suffered physical abuse or who have been sexually assaulted by someone other than their partner. Among the long-term effects that are frequently noticed are disordered eating, sleep problems, depression, sexual distress, difficulty forming reliable relationships, a distorted body image, and an increase in self-deprecating thoughts. According to research, marital rape victims may continue to experience emotional distress, sexual dysfunction, and flashbacks for years after the incident. In one of the few studies, they even found that 5% of the women in the study indicated that their children had been coerced into participating in sexual violence by their partners and that 18% of the women in the study indicated that their children had witnessed an incident of marital rape at least once.

Marital rape victims suffer from mental anguish for the rest of their lives. Their social, mental, emotional, and physical well-being are all impacted. We also learn about the victims who were unable to fight back as many of these women are unaware of their rights or that they are being sexually assaulted.



MARRIAGE AFTER RAPE

Sikta Tarangini



JUST WHEN ONE LOSES THEIR SENSE OF AUTONOMY AND SANITY AS A VICTIM OF RAPE, SOCIETY LEAVES NO OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE THEIR LIVES EVEN WORSE. SADLY, THE CURATIVE AND EMPATHETIC ENVIRONMENT REQUIRED TO MOVE PAST THIS HORRIFIC INCIDENT IS DENIED TO THEM BY OUR PATRIARCHAL SOCIETY. WHEN ORTHODOX COUNTRIES ARE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION, THEIR SOCIETY IN THE FORM OF FAMILIAL, LEGAL AND ECONOMIC INSTITUTIONS PUSHES THE VICTIM FURTHER INTO THE FIRES OF VIOLATION OF ALL SORTS. THIS SECTION OF THE MAGAZINE BRINGS FORTH THE NOT-SO-TALKED-ABOUT SUBJECT OF MARRIAGE AFTER RAPE.

WOMEN AS VICTIMS OF PATRIARCHAL SOCIETY

Women have been objectified since old times, which is quite evident in the practice of labelling a woman as the family's honour/dignity. Even before the birth of the infant, gender determines its worth. When a woman is unmarried, she is recognized as a euphemism for her father's property and after marriage, it is almost like she is being sold off to her husband to increase his lineage. So, the woman's value is attached to her status of virginity before her marriage and being a rape victim leads to the loss of her worth in that sense. As a result, she is struck off from a man's list of potential brides. Thus, the consequences of rape in a woman's case are much more different and outrageous as compared to a man's.

FORCED MARRIAGE WITH THE RAPIST

In most instances, families of the victims do not file a complaint keeping in mind their family's honour and the victim's prospects for marriage and settled life. This is something specifically forced upon female victims. While some families decide on suppressing the matter, others may consider threatening the rapist into marrying the victim. The rapist, afraid of being convicted, marries the victim with or against his will (and may give her a divorce after a few months of marriage). Society's claim that either way her life is ruined is pure ruthlessness. Now comes the question of whether this is a reasonable solution for the heinous crime of rape.




THE MORAL QUESTION

It is extremely disheartening to witness not just the conservative family of the rape survivor but the justice provided by the legal institutions, too, give way. The law that is established to protect the vulnerable, violated and victimized happens to be just another tool for society to exercise its patriarchal conventions. Come to think of it, this isn't even about what is wrong or right, it rather poses a serious moral question: How could the victim/survivor be given away to her perpetrator, the one who is the root cause of all the mess, without even taking her will into account? As much as it acts against her basic human rights, this goes way beyond the surface. How inhumane it is to have the perpetrator become the life partner of the victim! How on earth is the rapist a saviour of the victim's honour?! The victim seems to be unchaste but the rapist is chaste enough to be a saviour in that sense? Or is it a punishment for the victim for having been raped, with marriage to her rapist acting as a mere damage control in the eyes of society? Society's hypocrisy is quite apparent.

As per a few survey results, it has been found out that the victims when questioned alone about their opinion towards marrying their rapist, agree on getting married due to familial pressure against their will. In some cases, the victims willingly agree to such a proposal to escape the tragic fate of a female rape victim that has no future or respect in society. This shows how dramatically an abstract thing called "family honour" holds much more importance in our society than the poor victim's predicament or the rapist's retribution. The whole notion of misogyny is rampant here.



REAL LIFE CASES



On 16th June 2020, a 52-year-old clergyman Robin Vadakkumchery raped and impregnated a girl of 16. He sought a two-month bail from the Kerala High Court after having offered to marry the victim since she had reached the legal age. Ironically, in his bail petition, his reason is “to ensure the welfare of the child” and what is worse is that the girl’s parents agreed to such a proposal. Another similar instance is that of the Orissa High Court granting an interim 30-day bail to the accused earlier arrested under a POSCO case, for marrying the girl he had raped who was now an adult. To quote Suman Chakravarti, the public prosecutor in the Vadakkumchery rape case, “A court of law cannot be a part of such settlements,” yet this is practised within courts and families, and especially by village councils.

There are also cases of allegations against men who make false promises to marry before indulging in sexual intercourse, and later deny the claims and gaslight the victim. This remains quite a debatable subject to this day as it meddles with the idea of morality primarily.

Consequences Of Marriage After Rape And Steps To Be Followed To Facilitate The Process Of Healing

Experiencing such horrific incidents of sexual violence can leave a deep traumatizing impact on the victim. Therefore, the role of one's partner, family, friends and colleagues is very essential. They should help her in the healing process by following the necessary measures and taking care of her needs and desires.

Prevent resurfacing the past

Avoid indulging in actions that may remind her of the traumatizing past as it may hamper her healing process.

Disrupts the smooth functioning of daily-life activities

The rape victims have a hard time processing the daily functioning of their lives, impacting even the most menial tasks. They may have a lack of trust in people and go through various phases of conflicts in the form of bodily changes, anxiety, nightmares and fits of negative emotions. Being patient and supportive of them is the first step towards healing.

Adverse effects on marital life

Her marital life could sometimes take a harsh toll on her mental health, she might not consider sexual activities as a kind of pleasurable experience, rather it could serve as a sort of salt-in-the-wound situation. Being an empathetic partner is imperative at this point.

Seek medical help

Such deep-seated psychological trauma may lead many victims to consider suicide as a viable option to escape the shame and horror. Most rape victims show symptoms of minor to serious illnesses such as panic attacks, Clinical Depression, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Schizophrenia as a result. These may last for months to years or as long as a lifetime. Thus, a prescribed visit to the therapist/psychologist also stands as an essential path towards gradual healing.



Arpan Shah

**MARITAL RAPE IN
THE CONTEXT OF
CHILD MARRIAGE**

A SILENT EPIDEMIC

The practise of child marriage, which is widespread around the world, has negative effects on young females. One of these effects is an increased chance of being raped in marriage. This essay explores the troubling problem of marital rape within the context of child marriage, illuminating the terrible effects it has on the lives of several young girls.



CHILD MARRIAGE AND ITS RAMIFICATIONS

Underage marriage, often known as child marriage, frequently involves girls who are wed off to older men. Young girls are subjected to a variety of negative repercussions and human rights violations as a result of this destructive practise. Child brides are more likely to suffer from physical and mental abuse, have less educational prospects, and have young pregnancies, all of which raise their risk of developing health issues. Marital rape is one type of violence that young brides are particularly susceptible to, which worsens the physical and mental harm they experience.

UNDERSTANDING MARITAL RAPE

Non-consensual sexual activity or sexual actions carried out by one spouse against the will or without their permission are known as marital rape. It is a violent act that violates the victim's human rights and profoundly harms them while disregarding their agency and autonomy. Marital rape is a violation of human rights, especially those of married girls, regardless of whether states choose to criminalise it.

The Intersection of Child Marriage and Marital Rape

Marital rape can thrive in circumstances when there is child marriage. They are especially vulnerable to sexual abuse due to the power disparity between the child brides and their adult spouses, as well as the absence of social and legal protection. Many young brides are coerced into having early sexual encounters since they are unable to comprehend consent or fight up for themselves. They frequently experience pressure to have sex against their will, which can cause them bodily and mental harm as well as have a long-lasting effect on their general well-being.

CONSEQUENCES AND CHALLENGES

In the context of child marriage, marital rape has disastrous repercussions. Due to their underdeveloped reproductive systems, young girls are more susceptible to obstetric difficulties, unplanned pregnancies, sexually transmitted illnesses, and physical harm. Additionally, they experience psychological trauma, such as anxiety, sadness, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, and a decline in self-esteem. In order to report and seek justice for marital rape, child brides must overcome several obstacles, including societal shame, a lack of information, weak legal systems, and a silence-promoting culture.

ADDRESSING THE ISSUE

A multifaceted strategy must be used to address marital rape within the context of underage marriage. This involves enhancing the legal frameworks to make marital rape a crime, increasing knowledge of the rights of child brides, offering thorough sex education, and advancing gender equality. Community-based treatments, such as support groups and counselling services, can give survivors a safe place to talk about their experiences and ask for help. To create a society that forbids child marriage and assures the safety and empowerment of young girls, governments, civil society organisations, and communities must work together.



CONCLUSION

Child marriage and marital rape together feed a cycle of violence and human rights violations. In order to address this silent pandemic, it is crucial to recognise the urgent need for intervention, prevention, and support networks. By putting young girls' rights and welfare first, we can fight to eliminate child marriage and marital rape in the future, enabling every child to develop to their full potential free from harm.

Social Expectations

OF



MEN AND WOMEN

Aarathi Deepu



“I’m not in
this world to
live up to
your
expectations
and you’re
not in this
world to live
up to mine.”

Bruce Lee

In this world, we all have to fight for our place. We all have to fight for the recognition that we crave for. We all have our mindsets. As if it is not already hard enough for us, expectations of people in our surroundings regarding us make the road even harder. Living up to someone's expectations is a tough thing to do. But this expectation turns out to be no less harmful in the institution of marriage. Being a sacred institution, touching it will lead to a breakdown of marriages. The culture of 'silence', 'tolerance', 'adjustment' and 'compromise' in a marriage is broadcasted to 'save and respect the honour', the 'pride' and the 'values' of the Indian family, overlooking the fact that violence, mental health issues are things only women experience, generally. But on the other hand we can see that the law against domestic violence has been misused by women and thus should be diluted. In today's scenario it is true to say that when it comes to rape it is not about gender anymore but all about power, position and dominance.



Criminalizing marital rape has been a long standing demand made by the women's movement in India. Recommendations of penalizing rape within marriages were also made by the Justice Verma Committee Report formulated after the Nirbhaya gang rape case. The Criminal Law Amendment Act 2013 does not recognize marital rape as a crime unless a wife below 16 years of age is sexually assaulted or the rape is committed during the period of separation between the spouses.

MARITAL RAPE

MALE PERSPECTIVE

Marital rape is an extreme form of violence in connection with violation of trust and paramountcy in a relationship; into the bargain it also overlooks the rock bottom of one's bodily integrity. But there is an essential problem that is, it fails to address the structural inequalities inherent in the system and propagandize the acceptability of sexual violence against a spouse as 'normal' and advocating only women as the victim or survivor of Marital Rape is only one side view of portraying the crime. The agony increases in intensity when one expresses concern about the maximum degree to which the crime can be viewed as gender neutral, but refutes the worry that a man could also be subjected to such heinous crime and could even be in more precarious condition due to the current social stigma and society criticism, leading to mockery on raising voice against his wife for an experience to which he might not be physically and psychologically willing. The first school of thought, which is directly at odds with the first, holds that women may misuse and abuse dowry and domestic violence laws, but when it comes to crimes against human body, such as rapes where women are the perpetrators, the

orthodox or so-called women activists ensure that progress on such important issues is maintained by demeaning the judicial system. The second, however, is founded on the supposition that most men and women are uneducated, impoverished, and bound by conventional religious and societal views, and are thus unable to comprehend the nuances of sexual abuse in marriage. This argument directly refutes the first line of reasoning, which makes the unwarranted assumption that Indian women are too intelligent to comprehend the complexities and intricacies of the legal system and, as a result, are frivolously abusing the legal system to "implicate their family members in order to exact revenge."



MARITAL RAPE

FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE

According to this perspective a marital rape indicates to the sexual intercourse between husband and wife without the wife's consent i.e, a form of violence against women that is trivialized or turned a blind eye to. This leads to deep-rooted physical and psychological consequences including trauma, anxiety etc. for the victim or the survivor. In the past few years, there have been several attempts to introduce legal reforms to recognize marital rape as a criminal offense and provide women who are experiencing domestic violence from their husband a legal protection. Meanwhile it is important to note that there are two sides of a coin and that everything comes with an opposition. There was defiance citing cultural and traditional norms.

Gender Inequality and Myths

Marital rape is a manifestation of gender inequality and reflects the unequal power dynamics between men and women in society

First off, marital rape is an example of the power imbalance that exists between men and women in a marriage. In the past, marriage has been perceived as a transfer of ownership from a woman's father to her husband since women have traditionally been recognized as the property of males. This conviction has given rise to the idea that a man has the right to have sex with his wife without her permission. Such a viewpoint supports the assumption that males have the authority to rule women in all spheres of life, which contributes to gender inequity.

Second, when a woman is the victim of marital rape, it is sometimes challenging for her to seek legal recourse because of gender imbalance. Social and cultural standards prevent women from criticizing their spouses openly. Furthermore, it may be difficult for women to pursue justice if marital rape is not regarded as a crime by the judicial system.

Third, women frequently find it difficult to leave violent relationships, even ones that involve marital rape, as a result of gender disparity in economic and social power. Women are frequently financially reliant on their spouses and lack the resources to divorce. One of the major myths is that the 'Man is not Vulnerable' - Guys, particularly younger guys, are believed by masculine gender socialization to be immune from rape and not even susceptible. Because the masculine stereotype portrays men as being able to defend themselves, which may not always be the truth, in certain countries it is embarrassing and unmanly if a male infant cries. Due to social double standards regarding the use of force in self-defence between genders, an adult male may also be powerless to defend himself or fearful of doing so due to the possibility of being arrested for assault and/or battery in some cases of female perpetrators. This double standard is similar to the concern of male self-defense against non-sexual assault by a female.

CONCLUSION

Marital rape is a serious issue that requires legal and social attention in India. The prevalence of marital rape in India highlights the need to challenge traditional gender roles and promote gender equality. The only way to defend a man in this precarious situation is to throw off the preconceived notion that only men are capable of committing rape. Although the penal code still defines rape as an act of manhood, this definition needs to be expanded to reflect the fact that rape is not a crime based on gender but rather a stigma associated with the use of dominance, power, and authority that may come from the law or social pressure.

"Rape is a Rape let that be against a man or a woman, the psychological damages of aftermath of Rape cannot be segregated on basis of gender".

LEGALITY AND LAWS



OF MARITAL RAPE

Akshat Arora

Over 104 countries have criminalized marital rape but sadly India still lies in those remaining countries with have not yet considered rape done by partner as a criminal offense.

The term “Marital Rape” refers to non-consensual sexual activity done with the partner. It is not necessary that the victim would always be the wife but even the husband could be a victim. There have been various questions to criminalize marital rape as these laws could also be misused to make the partner vulnerable.

According to statistics, 83% of husbands were sexually violent to their wives. Majority of marital rapes happens in poor and uneducated households where men consider themselves as superior beings and do not feel the need to acquire verbal consent from the wives. The rape laws have undergone various changes but the status of marital rape has remained the same. Exception II to section 375 of the IPC decriminalizes marital rape and holds that rape done by a man to his wife who is not under the age of 18 without consent is not rape.

The petitioners want the exception to be struck down in totality, on the grounds that this exception violates the fundamental rights of married women like right to equality, the right to life with dignity and the right to self-expression, all of which are guaranteed under the Constitution. Some acts like the Domestic violence act, 2005 hint at marital rape by any form of sexual abuse in a live-in or marriage relationship. However, it only provides for civil remedies. There is no way for marital rape victims in India to initiate criminal proceedings against their perpetrator.



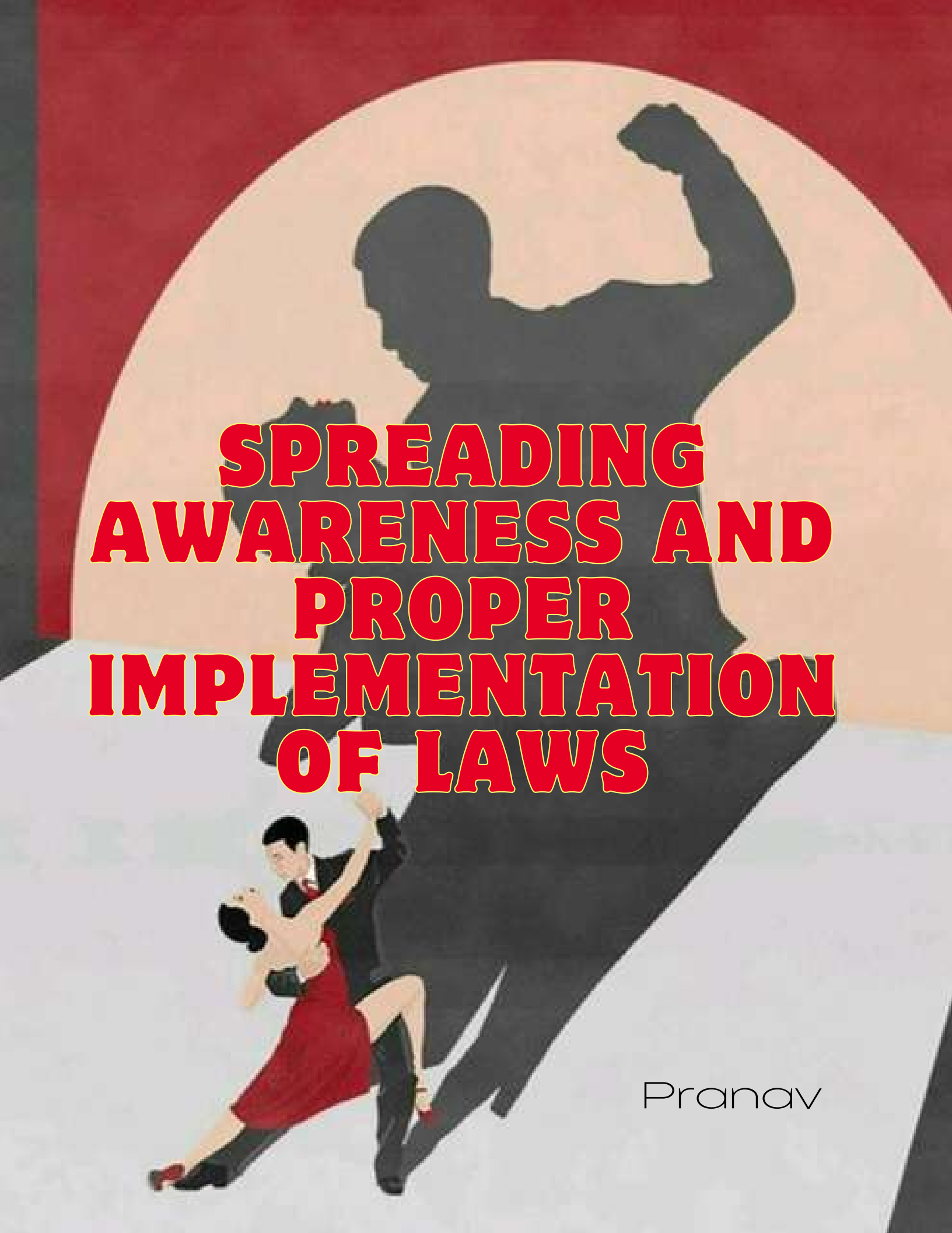
The Delhi government has told the court that remedies for marital rape are already present under the Indian Penal Code under offences such as cruelty and grievous hurt. It also said that striking down this exception would lead to the creation of a new offence, something that is outside the powers of the court. A batch of petitions has been filed in the Supreme Court after the Delhi High Court pronounced a split verdict on the issue in May 2022. While Justice Rajiv Shakti held that the immunity to husband from the offence of marital rape was unconstitutional, Justice C. Hari Shankar was of the view that it did not violate the Constitution. In early 2022, the government filed a fresh affidavit in the high court, claiming that the issue has a major social impact, so a meaningful consultative process with various stakeholders and state governments must be done as it “cannot be decided merely upon the argument of a few lawyers”.



Various high courts had taken up the issue at different times

The Gujarat High Court in 2018 and the Chhattisgarh High Court in 2021 ruled that a husband cannot be prosecuted for forcing himself on his wife. Justice J.B. Pardiwala of Gujarat High Court, however, made some significant observations as he said the law that does not give married and unmarried women equal protection creates conditions that lead to marital rape. “It allows men and women to believe that raping wife is acceptable. Making rape of a wife illegal will remove such destructive attitude that promotes marital rape,” Justice Pardiwala wrote in his verdict.

The Karnataka High Court held that a man can be prosecuted for raping his wife and the exception granted to the husband under Section 375 of the IPC cannot be “absolute”. The institution of marriage does not confer, cannot confer and should not be construed to confer any special male privilege. The petitioners argue that striking down the marital rape exception does not create a new offence. The offence of rape already exists in Section 375. What removing the exception would do is just remove the protection married men receive from being prosecuted for rape.



**SPREADING
AWARENESS AND
PROPER
IMPLEMENTATION
OF LAWS**

Pranav

Understanding Marital Rape

Marital rape is defined as any unwanted sexual activity or penetration that takes place without the explicit consent of one's spouse. It encompasses various forms of sexual violence, including forced intercourse, coerced sexual acts, and emotional manipulation. Despite being a pervasive issue, marital rape often goes unreported due to societal taboos and legal loopholes.

Myths and misconceptions surrounding marital rape

One prevalent myth is the belief that consent is automatically given in marriage. This misconception disregards the importance of ongoing communication and mutual agreement within a relationship. Another misconception is that marital rape is not as serious as stranger rape, ignoring the fact that the violation of consent is equally traumatizing regardless of the perpetrator's identity. Additionally, the misconception that marital rape is an inherent marital right perpetuates a harmful belief system that disregards the autonomy and agency of individuals.

Long-term consequences for survivors

Survivors of marital rape often suffer severe physical, emotional, and psychological consequences. These can include physical injuries, such as bruises, cuts, and broken bones. Survivors may also experience long-term emotional trauma, such as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), depression, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts. Furthermore, the trust and intimacy within the relationship may be profoundly affected, leading to difficulties in forming and maintaining healthy relationships.



The Need for Spreading Awareness

Breaking the silence and challenging societal norms

Spreading awareness about marital rape is crucial to break the silence surrounding the issue. By openly discussing and acknowledging its existence, survivors are encouraged to come forward, seek support, and share their experiences. Additionally, awareness campaigns aim to challenge societal norms that perpetuate and normalize marital rape, emphasizing that no one should tolerate any form of sexual violence, regardless of the context.

Educating individuals about consent and boundaries

Spreading awareness involves educating individuals about the importance of consent and boundaries within a marital relationship. It emphasises that consent must be voluntary, enthusiastic, and ongoing. This education helps individuals understand that they have the right to establish and communicate their boundaries, as well as respect the boundaries of their partner.

Addressing victim-blaming attitudes

One significant barrier to reporting marital rape is victim-blaming attitudes within society. Spreading awareness seeks to combat victim-blaming by emphasising that the responsibility lies solely with the perpetrator. It promotes a shift in societal attitudes by encouraging support, empathy, and validation for survivors. This approach empowers survivors to come forward without fear of judgement or retribution, creating a safe environment for disclosure and healing.



Importance of Proper Implementation of Laws

Legislative measures against marital rape

Legislation plays a crucial role in addressing marital rape. Countries must enact comprehensive laws that explicitly criminalize marital rape and ensure that perpetrators are held accountable. The laws should provide clear definitions of marital rape, remove any legal loopholes, and establish appropriate penalties for offenders. Additionally, legal frameworks should prioritise survivor safety, protection, and access to justice.

Challenges in enforcing and prosecuting marital rape cases

Enforcing laws against marital rape can be challenging due to various factors. These include cultural and societal norms that discourage reporting, lack of awareness among law enforcement agencies, limited resources for investigations and prosecutions, and inadequate training for legal professionals. Overcoming these challenges requires collaborative efforts between law enforcement agencies, judicial bodies, and civil society organisations to ensure effective implementation of the laws.

Encouraging survivors to report and seek justice

Proper implementation of laws involves creating a supportive environment for survivors to report marital rape and access justice. This includes establishing specialized units within law enforcement agencies to handle such cases sensitively, providing training to law enforcement officers on recognizing and responding to marital rape, and ensuring the availability of confidential and survivor-centric support services. Additionally, legal procedures should be survivor-friendly, protecting their privacy, ensuring their safety during proceedings, and providing access to legal aid and counselling services.

Actionable Steps to Spread Awareness and Ensure Implementation

Educational campaigns and workshops

Collaborating with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community organizations is crucial in conducting educational campaigns and workshops on marital rape. These initiatives should target various settings, such as schools, colleges, and workplaces, to educate individuals about consent, boundaries, and the importance of addressing marital rape. Workshops can provide practical skills on communication, setting boundaries, and understanding healthy relationships.

Media and online platforms

Utilizing social media and digital spaces is an effective way to raise awareness about marital rape. Awareness campaigns can be launched through online platforms, utilising hashtags, videos, infographics, and personal stories to engage a wider audience. Involving celebrities, influencers, and public figures in promoting the cause can significantly amplify the message and generate public discussion.

Strengthening support systems

Establishing helplines and counseling services specifically tailored to support survivors of marital rape is essential. These services should be easily accessible, confidential, and staffed by trained professionals who understand the complexities of marital rape trauma. Additionally, providing training for healthcare professionals and legal authorities on recognizing and responding to marital rape cases ensures that survivors receive appropriate care and support throughout the process.

Advocacy and legal reform

Collaborating with lawmakers, activists, and organizations dedicated to addressing sexual violence is crucial in advocating for legal reforms. Efforts should focus on improving laws and policies related to marital rape, such as removing marital exemptions, increasing penalties for offenders, and implementing survivor-centric legal procedures that prioritize survivor safety and well-being.

International cooperation and knowledge exchange

Sharing best practices and experiences across countries is vital in addressing the global issue of marital rape. Participating in international discussions, conferences, and forums enables policymakers, activists, and professionals to learn from each other, develop effective strategies, and influence global policy frameworks that prioritize the prevention and response to marital rape.





SUPREME COURT PLEA AND JUDGMENT ON MARITAL RAPE:

Addressing Consent Within Marriage

Shreya Yadav



In a significant development towards upholding the rights of individuals within marriages, the Supreme Court recently heard a plea regarding the issue of marital rape. The case raises important questions about consent, the recognition of marital rape as a criminal offense, and the need to align legal frameworks with evolving societal attitudes. This article examines the plea in the Supreme Court and the subsequent judgement, highlighting the implications for addressing consent within the institution of marriage.



UNDERSTANDING MARITAL RAPE

Marital rape refers to non-consensual sexual activity between spouses, wherein one spouse forces the other to engage in sexual acts without their consent. It is a violation of personal autonomy, bodily integrity, and dignity within a marital relationship.

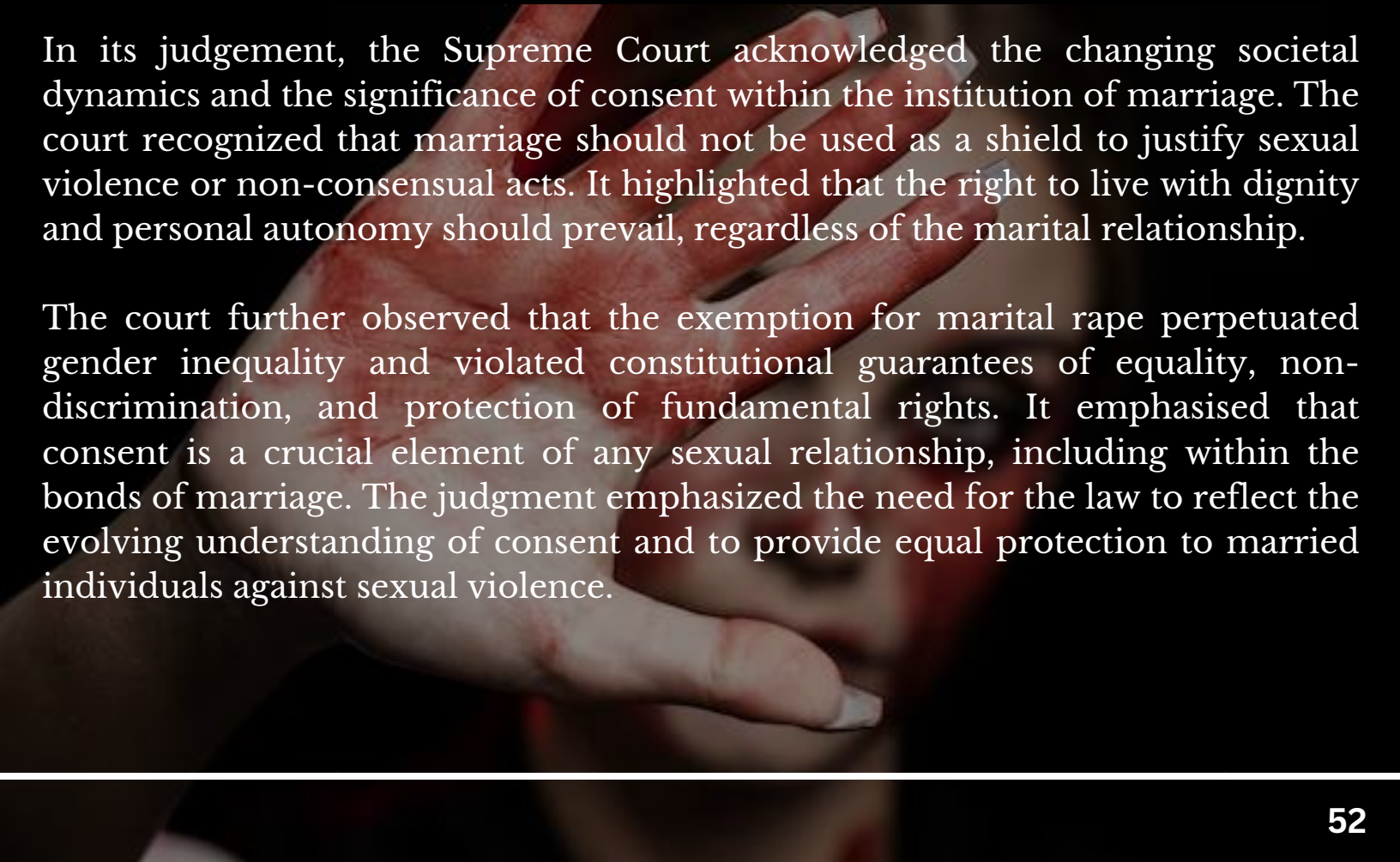
Historically, many legal systems treated marital rape differently from rape committed outside of marriage, often based on archaic notions of spousal ownership and the misconception that marriage implied perpetual consent.

It is illegal in nations which include, but are not limited to, Australia, Sweden, South Africa, Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, and India. They recognise that consent is an essential aspect of any sexual relationship, including ones that take place inside the context of marriage, and treat marital rape on par with rape that occurs outside of marriage.

THE SUPREME COURT PLEA

On 9th May, a plea was brought before the Supreme Court, urging it to recognize marital rape as a criminal offense and strike down the exception within the Indian Penal Code (IPC) that exempts marital rape from prosecution. The plea argued that the exception violated the fundamental rights of married individuals, particularly the right to live with dignity and the right to bodily integrity, as enshrined in the Constitution of India.

THE JUDGMENT: A PARADIGM SHIFT



In its judgement, the Supreme Court acknowledged the changing societal dynamics and the significance of consent within the institution of marriage. The court recognized that marriage should not be used as a shield to justify sexual violence or non-consensual acts. It highlighted that the right to live with dignity and personal autonomy should prevail, regardless of the marital relationship.

The court further observed that the exemption for marital rape perpetuated gender inequality and violated constitutional guarantees of equality, non-discrimination, and protection of fundamental rights. It emphasised that consent is a crucial element of any sexual relationship, including within the bonds of marriage. The judgment emphasized the need for the law to reflect the evolving understanding of consent and to provide equal protection to married individuals against sexual violence.

IMPLICATIONS AND THE WAY FORWARD

The Supreme Court's judgment on marital rape has significant implications for the legal landscape and societal attitudes. By recognizing the importance of consent within marriage and striking down the exemption for marital rape, the court has taken a crucial step towards ensuring gender equality and the protection of individual rights within the institution of marriage.

The judgement also highlights the need for legal reforms to align with the changing social fabric and promote a culture of consent. It calls for legislative action to criminalize marital rape and provide survivors with the necessary support, redressal, and legal remedies. Moreover, it emphasises the importance of awareness campaigns, education, and sensitization to foster a broader understanding of consent and respectful relationships.

EXPLORING THE COMPLEXITIES OF MARITAL RAPE

Marital rape has long been a contentious and complex issue, with varying legal perspectives and cultural considerations across different countries. While progress has been made in recognizing the significance of consent, there are still important aspects to explore and discuss like:

1. Legal Disparities and Global Perspectives.
2. Cultural and Social Factors.
3. Survivor Support and Rehabilitation.
4. Education and Awareness.
5. Intersectionality.
6. International Efforts and Human Rights.

CONCLUSION

The Supreme Court's plea and subsequent judgment on marital rape mark a significant milestone in addressing the issue of consent within the institution of marriage. By recognizing the rights of married individuals and affirming the importance of consent, the court has paved the way for legal and societal changes to combat marital rape. This development serves as a beacon for progress and underscores the urgent need to create a society that upholds the dignity, autonomy, and well-being of all individuals, regardless of their marital status.

Karthik

A stylized illustration featuring two women in profile against a black background. The woman on the left is rendered in a dark red silhouette, with long, wavy hair and a white circular earring. The woman on the right is shown in a pink silhouette, holding a white tablet with a pink and grey screen. The overall style is graphic and modern.

COMPARATIVE CASE STUDIES OF DIFFERENT COUNTRIES



In the light of recent court rulings and public debates around us, India is beginning to make strides in building consensus around criminalizing marital rape and recognizing that it remains a distressing issue that challenges the principles of human rights, gender equality, and the protection of individuals' bodily autonomy all over the world. In this context, it would be imperative to discuss where the rest of the world stands.

In the modern era, with feminist movements gaining ground, Russia and Poland took the first steps against marital rape, followed by other European countries gradually. Since then, marital rape laws in Western countries have evolved significantly over the years, reflecting a growing recognition of the importance of consent and the rights of individuals within marital relationships. While specific laws and their enforcement can vary from country to country, there is a general trend towards criminalizing and addressing marital rape.



In the United States, marital rape laws have evolved gradually. Historically, spousal immunity laws often exempted husbands from being prosecuted for raping their wives. However, over time, legal reforms and changing societal attitudes have led to the recognition that consent is crucial within a marital relationship. Today, all states in the U.S. have laws criminalizing marital rape, although the specific legal definitions and penalties can vary. Similarly, most western and European countries continue to focus on raising awareness, providing education on consent and healthy relationships, and improving support services for survivors of marital rape. While Western countries have made significant strides in criminalizing marital rape, challenges remain for women in the other portions of the world, especially in Middle Eastern countries and parts of Asia like China, India and Southeast Asia. Cultural beliefs and gender inequalities can also influence perceptions of marital rape, leading to victim-blaming or minimizing the severity of the issue.

In Australia, the criminalization of marital rape varies across states and territories. While marital rape is generally recognized as a crime, some jurisdictions have specific legal provisions that place limitations or conditions on its prosecution.

For example, some states have introduced a concept of 'constructive consent', where the absence of consent must be proven by the prosecution beyond a reasonable doubt, potentially making it more challenging to secure convictions. Efforts are being made to standardise the laws across jurisdictions and strengthen legal provisions to ensure consistent protection for survivors.





Japan is a unique case, where although rape is strongly criminalized in all forms, and it is recognized that consent is necessary within a marital relationship, but the enforcement and reporting of marital rape cases remain very challenging due to cultural barriers, social stigma, and underreporting. As a result, rarely does a court ever rule on such cases, except in situations of marital breakdown. There are also countries which take a somewhat unclear stance, like Indonesia - where rape is defined as being an act “out of marriage”, but marital rape is still considered a crime, albeit as a form of domestic violence.

In many other countries however, marital rape is not explicitly recognized as a criminal offense, or there may be legal loopholes that undermine the protection of victims. Traditional beliefs and cultural practices can influence the lack of legal recognition and hinder progress in addressing marital rape. For instance, Saudi Arabia does not explicitly criminalize marital rape. The country’s legal system is based on a conservative interpretation of Islamic law, and traditional gender roles often prevail, making it challenging for survivors to seek legal protection. The situation is more or less the same in countries like Yemen, Somalia, Sudan, and Afghanistan. Grassroots movements against the regressive policies also fail to gain traction in these countries, partially owing to their non-democratic nature of governance.

In such countries, the law still considers sex within marriage as consensual by definition, and has the notion that the wives have an obligation to meet the sexual demands of husbands. Victims of marital rape therefore find themselves excluded when matters of sexual assault are debated and discussed.



We are still a long way from treating marital rape at par with other forms of sexual violence, but gradual reforms, debates and movements all over the world paint a hopeful image of the future.

In this backdrop, India remains a key battleground for women's rights worldwide.





A Complex History:

Marital Rape in India -

Committees,
Government
Arguments,
and
Exceptions

Arpan Shah

THE NON-CONSENSUAL SEXUAL ACTIVITY THAT TAKES PLACE WITHIN A MARRIAGE, KNOWN AS MARITAL RAPE, HAS LONG BEEN A SENSITIVE TOPIC IN INDIA. MARITAL RAPE HAS HAD A LONG PROCESS OF LEGALISATION AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT, WITH SEVERAL COMMITTEES, OFFICIAL JUSTIFICATIONS, AND EXCLUSIONS INFLUENCING THE STORY. THIS ARTICLE EXPLORES THE ATTEMPTS TAKEN TO ADDRESS THIS ISSUE, THE DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED, AND THE PRESENT STATUS OF THE LEGISLATION IN ORDER TO GIVE INSIGHT ON THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF MARITAL RAPE IN INDIA.



Efforts to Address Marital Rape

Numerous committees and organisations have realised recently how urgent it is to confront marital rape. The National Commission for Women (NCW) advocated for making marital rape a crime in 2000, contending that a woman's consent should be honoured

within the framework of marriage. After the 2012 Delhi gang rape incident, the Justice Verma Committee was established, and it recommended for the punishment of marital rape and recognised it as a violation of a woman's fundamental rights.



Government Arguments and Opposition

Despite efforts to combat marital rape, the government has shown considerable resistance and reluctance. The protection of the institution of marriage has been one of the main grounds against making marital rape a crime. Some contend that it is a private affair and that meddling would cause families to fail. Others say that these rules will be abused to extract money during divorce procedures or to settle personal grudges.

Marital Rape Exception in the Law

Currently, Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) provides an exemption for marital rape in Indian law. The clause views sexual activity between a husband and his wife who is older than 15 as not being rape, even when it occurs without her permission. The outdated idea that a woman loses her agency and bodily autonomy inside the institution of marriage is perpetuated by this exemption. It has drawn a great deal of criticism, and in recent years, calls for its removal have gotten louder.

Activism and Changing Attitudes

Faced with these obstacles, grassroots organisations, activists, and women's rights organisations have been working nonstop to promote marital rape awareness and call for its prosecution. The #MeToo movement, media campaigns, and public debates have all contributed significantly to changing how society views consent and marital rape.

The way forward

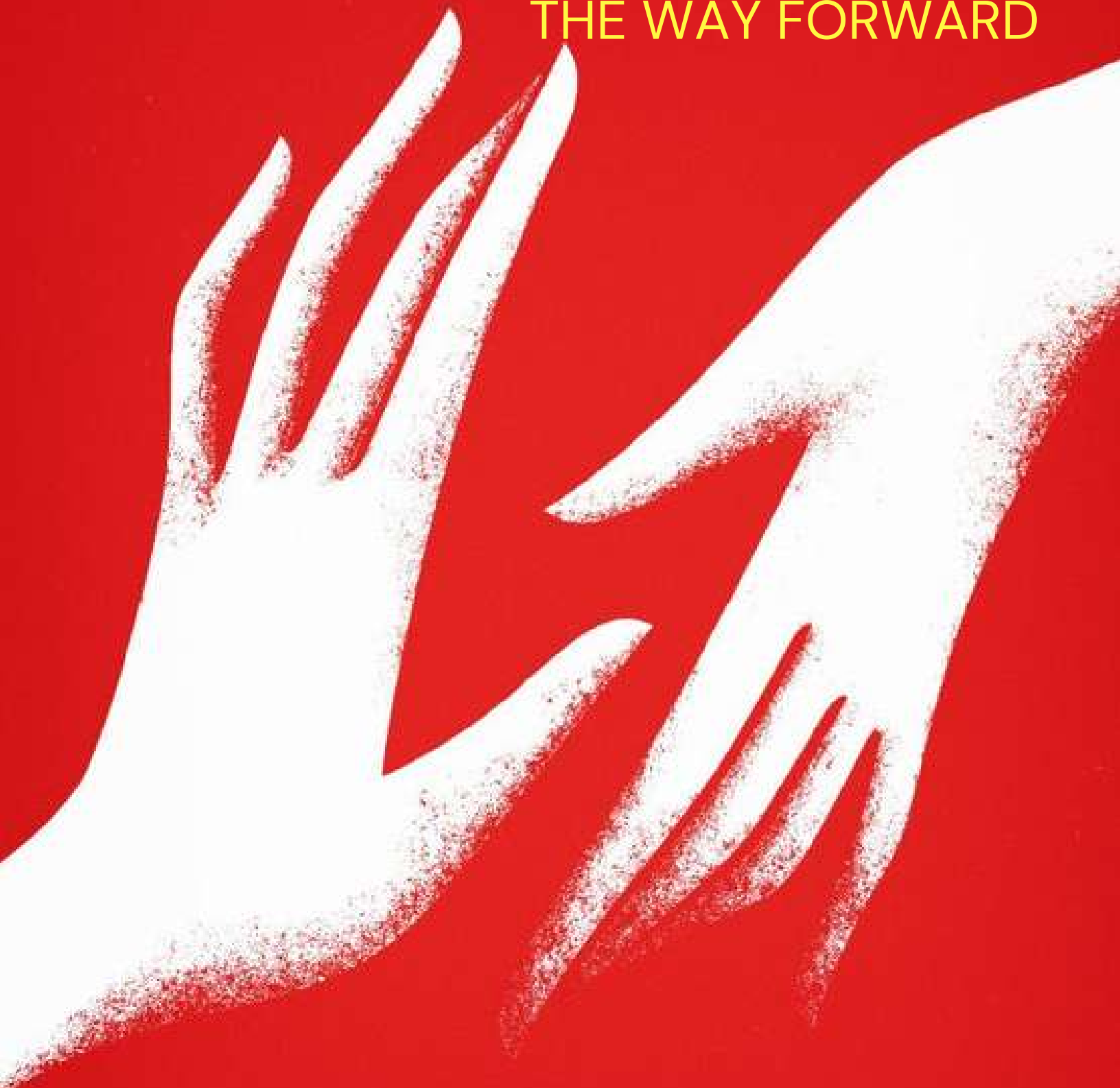
An all-encompassing strategy is required to deal with this urgent situation. The necessity for legal change is the first and greatest. It is essential to eliminate the IPC's exemption for marital rape in order to bring India into compliance with world norms. Efforts must also be taken to inform and sensitise the populace on gender equality, consent, and the significance of acknowledging marital rape as a violation of fundamental rights.



The rhetoric around marital rape in India has been formed by committees, government arguments, and exceptions throughout its history. Although there has been improvement, problems still exist. To guarantee that women's rights within the institution of marriage are recognised and protected, thorough legislative reforms must be implemented, and cultural attitudes must change.

MARITAL RAPE

THE WAY FORWARD



Karthik

Since 1993, after the landmark UN's "Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women", most nations in the world have criminalized marital rape. But today after so many years, India remains one of the very few countries where marital rape is still not considered a criminal offence. However, going by the current developments and supreme court's judgement, it seems that similar to every other civilised nation that swallowed this bitter pill, India too will eventually have to end the ignorance and criminalise it sooner or later. It is therefore only a matter of 'when', 'how' and in 'what form'.



In 2013, the Union government had said in a response to JS Verma committee's report that criminalising marital rape would weaken traditional family values in India, and that marriage presumes consent. They had also argued that the burden of proof would almost be impossible to meet in the case of marital rape. Forward to today, the current government's approach still remains lax. Recently in a response to the Delhi high court, it said that that marital rape cannot be criminalised until talks with all stakeholders end.

The governments obviously seem to be hesitant, probably owing to the serious repercussions that such a law could have. But even though some concerns and arguments against criminalization of marital rape seem reasonable, like weakening of the institution of marriage and misuse of laws, the solution is not to sweep the entire issue under the carpet but to build a discussion around this issue. We need to wake up and realise that marital rape is a horrific reality that countless women face in India and the notion of married women as a property of the husband must go away.



NOW COMES THE QUESTION OF 'HOW' AND IN 'WHAT FORM' WILL A LAW AGAINST MARITAL RAPE BE ENACTED. DEFINITELY, THERE NEEDS TO BE A ROADMAP TOWARDS ITS CRIMINALIZATION AND THE WAY FORWARD IS TO HOLD MORE PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND GET MORE HARD DATA.

A crucial aspect of addressing marital rape is the need for legal reforms that acknowledge its existence and provide necessary protection to survivors. Many countries still do not consider marital rape as a separate criminal offense, some even assuming that consent to marriage implies consent to sexual activity at any time. This legal loophole perpetuates an injustice that denies survivors the right to bodily autonomy and perpetuates a culture of silence.


The justice system needs to be equipped to handle cases of marital rape effectively. This involves training judges, prosecutors, and police officers on the dynamics of marital rape, consent, and trauma-informed approaches. Fast-track courts or special units can be established to ensure timely and fair trials.

Governments should be pressurized to prioritize enacting legislation that explicitly criminalizes marital rape and ensures that survivors have access to justice. Such laws should establish clear definitions of consent and consider factors such as coercion, intimidation, and the withdrawal of consent during a marital relationship.

Additionally, legal frameworks should provide mechanisms for reporting, investigating, and prosecuting cases, ensuring the safety and anonymity of survivors throughout the legal process. Tightrope issues, like “with whom the burden of proof will be?” also need to be tackled carefully, to prevent false allegations from harming the reputation of the accused and their family.

We must also focus on educating society about consent, gender equality, and healthy relationships. Schools and educational institutions should incorporate comprehensive sex education programs that emphasise the importance of consent, boundaries, and respect. By this we can create a generation that understands the fundamental principles of mutual respect and equality within marriages.

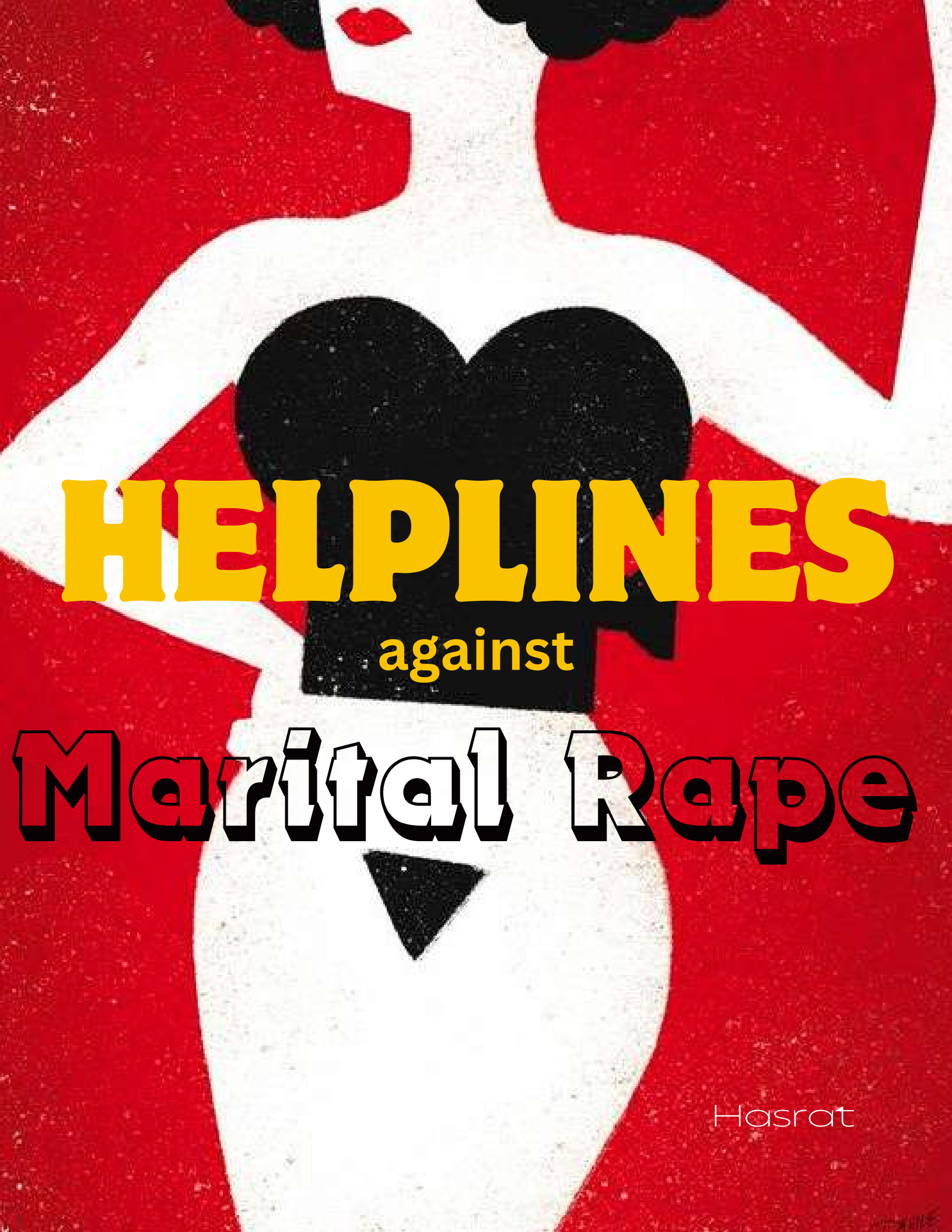
Public awareness through popular culture can also play a significant role in challenging societal norms and stigmas surrounding marital rape. By utilising various mediums, such as social media, television, and community initiatives, we can foster conversations that debunk myths, raise awareness, and empower survivors to speak out. Engaging



religious and community leaders in these campaigns can also be instrumental in changing attitudes and reducing the stigma associated with reporting marital rape.

Addressing marital rape requires a multi-faceted approach that encompasses political action, legal reforms, education, and robust support systems. By implementing legislative changes that criminalize marital rape, society can send a clear message that no one is exempt from the boundaries of consent and bodily autonomy. Finally, establishing comprehensive support systems for survivors is crucial in providing them with the tools and resources they need to heal and rebuild their lives.

The way forward is not easy, as it involves dismantling deep-rooted cultural and societal norms. By taking action against marital rape, we finally take a step towards considering a man and woman as equal partners in a relationship, and a society is created where the institution of marriage is not weakened, but strengthened – on the foundations of love, mutual respect and dignity.



HELPLINES

against

Marital Rape

Hasrat

Unfortunately, there is no legal law in India to protect women (and men) from marital rape. Rape in a married relationship is not considered a crime in our country.

“A man’s sexual relations with his wife, his wife who is no less than 15 years old, are not rape,” states section 375 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Alternatively, marital rape is recognised as a form of domestic violence by The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, passed by Congress in 2005. Till date, women have been using IPC section 304B and 498A of IPC along with Articles 14, 21 and 39(a) of the Constitution which deals with the lack of remorse, to protect themselves from “unreasonable sexual intercourse directed by the spouse”.

According to the NFHS data collected until 2021, 82% of married men were sexually violent with their wives, as were 13.7% of former husbands. This makes spousal sexual violence a distressing concern. It further revealed that 90% of the survivors who faced spousal sexual violence stopped themselves from taking any action or seeking help.

If a police complaint fails to be registered even under domestic violence, it must lead a victim to approach a family lawyer, a litigation lawyer, or a legal consultant who is responsible to present a case in front of the judiciary.

Alongside, there are several online platforms for the victims of marital rape that help you register an official complaint and get help without actually revealing your identity. This feature of anonymity allows the victims, especially women, to open up about the rape in a clearer manner.

1091 is the Women's Helpline Number that is applicable in India and should be the first step taken by a woman suffering rape by the husband. The National Commission for Women provides an official helpline number (7827-170-170) to seek help against any kind of violence against women.



“

THERE ARE SEVERAL ACTS IN THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION THAT CAN HELP REGISTER A COMPLAINT BY VISITING THE NEAREST POLICE STATION.

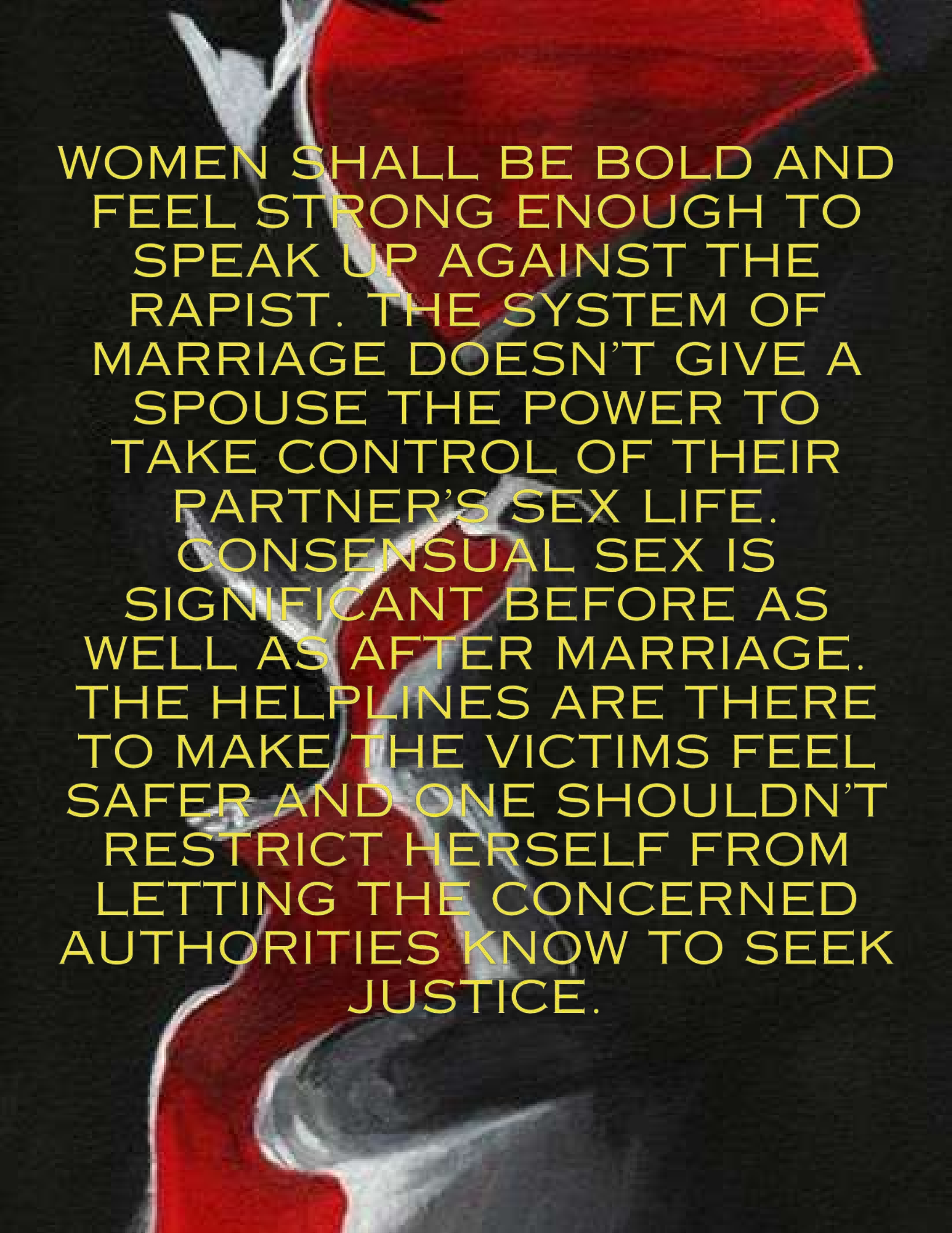
”

Section 354 IPC – Assault to outrage modesty of a woman.

011-26944880, 011-26944883 are some more contact numbers of the National Commission for Women that register women's complaints for violence against women as well as domestic abuse.

Sakshi (NGO helping women victim of sexual violence)- 01242562336/ 01245018873



A close-up photograph of a woman's hand holding a red telephone receiver against a dark background. The hand is positioned at the top left, with fingers gripping the receiver. The receiver is a vibrant red color, contrasting sharply with the dark, almost black background. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the hand and the smooth surface of the receiver. The overall mood is serious and focused.

WOMEN SHALL BE BOLD AND
FEEL STRONG ENOUGH TO
SPEAK UP AGAINST THE
RAPIST. THE SYSTEM OF
MARRIAGE DOESN'T GIVE A
SPOUSE THE POWER TO
TAKE CONTROL OF THEIR
PARTNER'S SEX LIFE.
CONSENSUAL SEX IS
SIGNIFICANT BEFORE AS
WELL AS AFTER MARRIAGE.
THE HELPLINES ARE THERE
TO MAKE THE VICTIMS FEEL
SAFER AND ONE SHOULDN'T
RESTRICT HERSELF FROM
LETTING THE CONCERNED
AUTHORITIES KNOW TO SEEK
JUSTICE.

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THE
LANTERN
TRIBE

WE THE BEARERS

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