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Women and Justice: Development of International Policy

BOOK REVIEW

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Book Review

Women and Justice: Development of International Policy

1. About the Author

This book has been edited by American Writer Roslyn Muraskin. Roslyn is well known for her work on women issues and criminal justice. She taught criminology and subjects related to criminal justice at Long Island University. She has written and edited various books. *'It is a Crime: Women and Justice', 'Crime and Media; Headlines vs. Reality', 'Visions for Change: Crime and Justice in the Twenty- First Century'* co-authored with Albert R. Roberts and essays collected under the title of '*Morality and the Law'* are some of her well-known works.

2. Brief summary

The book, "Women and Justice: Development of International Policy", examines the evolution and development of international policies that safeguard women's rights in law enforcement, judiciary and transnational legal structures. The book addresses how international groups, treaties and reform movements have dealt with gender-based discrimination and injustice that happen frequently by putting together work from both academics and professionals.

The book talks about women's justice in the wider perspective of global governance, with a focus on how UN initiatives and international legal mechanisms fit into that perspective. It also refers to subjects like female-directed violence, women imprisonment, equal availability of legal remedies and how policy conversations are slowly starting to employ language that is sensitive to gender. The book doesn't have one main idea; instead, it shows different points of view on how international gender policy has changed, been put into action and had its limits. The book provides

both a history of women's issues and a look at how they have become part of legal systems around the world.

3. Critical Evaluation of the Book

3.1 Strengths: Institutional Mapping and Policy Documentation

The book contains a sound text regarding justice and fairness for women; the words boldly declare the policies and laws made to uphold the cause of the gender commonly considered as weaker and more vulnerable. The greater the inequality, the greater the need to address the matter on an international level. This publication documents the journey through which this delicate issue became part of global politics. It thoroughly expounds on the process of forming policies for women, thus proving to be a useful tool for students and researchers.

3.2 Missing Links: Structural and Intersectional Gaps

Much has been discussed and debated throughout its pages, yet issues like patriarchy, global capitalism, and power imbalances between countries have not been adequately addressed. Moreover, the book fails to describe social categorization, such as race, class, and gender, as the core of justice outcomes; these are merely used as references. The initiatives taken by the grassroots for gender equity within society are always worth mentioning, yet they are not part of this book. The stories of local people and the efforts put in by the community have not been given space in the publication.

3.3 **Comparative Perspective: Position within Broader Scholarship**

Different writers have written on the subject of women rights and justice for them. Catharine Mackinnon in her book ‘Are women Humans?’ has excellently challenged the basic values of the society where women are not treated at par with men and have been kept deprived of their basic rights. Similarly, Geoffrey Robertson in his book ‘The Politics of Human Rights’ has not only talked about the rights of humans in general and women in particular but has also discussed the measures for accountability of those who have been the cause of this deprivation. In comparison, we may say that ‘Women and Justice’ does document the policy contours for the women rights, however, it does not address the flaws of the system that must be eradicated and changed.

4. **Reflections, Contemporary Relevance and Future Directions**

4.1. Importance for Current Policy Discussions

The book emphasizes the need for a careful evaluation of international gender policy, challenging the notion that legal frameworks alone guarantee true justice for women. It is apparent that international conventions, declarations and guidelines are the first step towards, they have yet to eliminate gender-based violence, equal access to legal systems and discriminatory criminal justice practices continue to exist. Just acknowledging these problems does not mean they will disappear.A major challenge lies in the gap between the international law and domestic implementation. There are many international pledges that remain unfulfilled due to the lack of accountability. Therefore, modern policy deliberations need to go far beyond creating progressive framework documents.

4.2. **The Necessity for Intersectional and Grassroots Integration**

One major policy lesson drawn from the book is to place inter-sectional thinking at the core of policy-making, so that justice reform addresses gender-based discrimination in conjunction with discrimination based on race/ethnicity, income, disability, immigration status and sexual orientation. The book warns that if such an integrated approach is not taken by those creating justice reform policy, it will likely benefit very few women and will neglect many of the most marginalized women. Future policy development should enhance the ability for local community-based organizations and grassroots feminist movements to collaborate with international institutions; currently many formal institutions have limited knowledge of experience based on their community-based organization counterparts. For reforms to sustain they must involve local voices in international discussions as active partners instead of passive recipients of decision making by those at the top.

4.3. **Personal Learning and Broader Implications**

Looking at the book from a personal perspective, the book can be said to have helped in advancing the concept and understanding the basic issue of justice. The issue of justice has always been taken in legal terms and has not been understood as a political problem. This book has helped in describing justice as political problem and thus has furthered its scope and understanding. In other words, one may say it encourages the readers to think critically and broadly about the concept of justice in the society.

There are basically two issues while understanding the concept of gender justice at the global level. The first one is to record the development of gender policies over the passage of time whereas the second issue is to go in the direction of accountability and to highlight the grey areas that have obstructed the concept of justice for everyone. The book '*Women and Justice: Development of International Policy'* is indeed a great work as it records the development of gender justice in an effective way. It also invites the readers and researchers to focus their attention on the issue of accountability and remove the obstacles in the way to achieve effective gender justice.

5. **Conclusion**

This book has undoubtedly unveils the changes that have occurred in gender policies around the world alongside the systems that have helped in achieving this goal of policy change. It shows how things have changed with the passage of time in maintaining the imprints of policy framework that have been of great help for the professionals. However, it does not focus on cross cutting identities, rather it concentrates on institutional odds and ends. This shows that a lot has to be done as the book is both a starting point and a test for readers and policy makers.