

Empowerment and the Law: Strategies of Third World Women

Editor: Dr. Margaret Schuler,
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Empowerment And The Law is about Third World women and the law. It discusses the role that society plays in reinforcing female oppression; of women's efforts to confront that oppression and the empowerment of women who suffer the double burden of being poor and female.

Beyond "Nairobi and the 1985 Third World Forum On Women, Law and Development", the book presents a pioneering and comprehensive analysis of the emerging field of Women, Law and Development with empowering strategies that enable women to achieve equity in both their personal and public life. **Empowerment And The Law** is about women uncovering the legal, cultural, political, and economic underpinnings of inequity and subordination. It is about women gaining the skills needed to enforce the law and to challenge it in order to assert rights, redress injustices and access economic and political resources. Innovative women from 32 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America document in fifty cases the strategies and programs they are using to take their place as contributors and beneficiaries of development; linking multifaceted analyses to action, and including a cross-disciplinary bibliography.

In addition to the introduction by Dr. Schuler, the book includes four parts: Part I offers "An Approach to Women, Law and Development" and involves "Conceptualizing and Exploring Issues and Strategies". Part II speaks of "Confronting Patriarchal, Class, and Ethnic Biases in the Law". Women from the three continents speak about "The State, Law and Development"; "Customs, Religion, Ethnicity and Law"; "Violence and Exploitation". "Strategies for Using and Challenging the Law" appear in part III. Some of the strategies presented are "Educating and Organizing"; "Changing the Law"; and "Advocating for Justice" in "Family-Oriented Centers", "Centers Addressing Violence and Abuse" and "Advocating Labor and Land

Rights". Part IV reports the texts of the addresses presented at the Nairobi Conference and recommendations for the empowerment of women.

Empowerment And The Law is an innovation and contemporary collection of ideas, grievances of women and potential strategies and solutions. It includes the works of women like Asma El-Dareer (Sudan), Laure Moghaizel (Lebanon), Rashida Patel (Pakistan), Ghandermani Chopra (India), Rosa Parades (Venezuela), Nawal El-Saadawi (Egypt), A.R. Jiagge (Ghana) among other prominent women from the relevant continents.

The editor, **Dr. Margaret Schuler** is Director of **Women, Law and Development Program of OEF International**. She is involved in developing regional networks and centers for development of women in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Among the activities of Dr. Schuler and the OEF Women, Law and Development Program was a meeting for women lawyers in Washington D.C. in June 1989. The meeting was to further plans for regional networks of lawyers and others working on development issues. ⁽¹⁾

Still in the context of development, another association, **The Association For Women In Development** held a conference in Washington D.C. on November 17-19, 1989. This conference focused on women's empowerment for sustainable development in political and economic life, educational access and cultural expression. This conference aimed to link practitioners, policy makers and researchers in relating the experiences of women from industrialized and developing countries. ⁽²⁾

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1. From **The Women's Watch**, International Women's Rights Action Watch, IWRAW, Volume 3, N° 2, October 1989, p. 7.
 2. From **Women In Action**, ISIS International Women's Information and Communication Service, 2/1989, p. 26.