

**Committee:** Human Rights Council (HRC)

**Issue:** Ensuring government assistance to victims of acid violence

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**Position:** Deputy President

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## INTRODUCTION

Acid Violence is known as a form of violence that has been used a lot of times throughout history. Even though our societies develop and there have been a lot of efforts in order to decrease violence in general, acid violence has increased over the past years. Generally, there have been a lot of acid attacks in recent times. Acid violence is particularly used more in the following countries: the UK, France, Bangladesh, India, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Cambodia. It is known as one of the most savage ways of violence and plenty of attacks take place yearly. Corrosive viciousness is a standout amongst the most ruthless types of brutality and there are a few thousand assaults over the world consistently. Lawful mediation as enactment explicit to the wrongdoing has been conceivable in a few nations inferable from the promotion endeavors of different common society associations and native gatherings. One of the greatest difficulties for NGOs and backing gatherings campaigning for better lawful structures to battle corrosive brutality has been the absence of information and data on the adequacy of the laws, the way in which courts have translated the laws and conveyed decisions. This issue is really important to be solved immediately since a lot of people suffer from this use of violence. In order to do so, governments should work hard in order to combat this form of violence. Governments' assistance is needed in order to put an end to this crucial issue. Unfortunately, only a few of the governments of the countries who suffer have actually established measures, with the main goal to eliminate this phenomenon.

## **DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS**

### **Acid Violence**

It is the purposeful utilization of corrosive to assault another person. Such assaults leave a horrendous human, therapeutic and careful inheritance. It is the act of throwing destructive corrosives on the body or face of another human being. As a result, there are not only physical legacies but also it affects the psychological situation of the survivors.

### **Acid Attacks**

They are one kind of corrosive brutality and regularly include tossing or pouring of corrosive.

### **Vitriolage**

The demonstration of deliberately sprinkling somebody with corrosive with malignant purpose.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **Historical Background**

Acid violence was first used in the 18<sup>th</sup> century after sulfuric acid or vitriol, as they used to call it, was first made on a mechanical scale in England during the 1740s, and individuals started utilizing it for savage purposes in Western Europe and the United States once it turned out to be effectively possible. (It was sold as a sanitizer and a cleaning specialist.) By the 1830s, a Glasgow periodical editorialized, " The crime of throwing vitriol has, we grieve to say, become so common in this part of the country, as to become almost a stain on the national character."

Acid was mostly used as a weapon residential ambush in the United States and Western Europe by the mid-20th century, because of both to the better guideline of possibly hazardous synthetic concoctions and to ladies' expanding monetary self-rule. Acid started to be used as a form of violence and in other countries all around the world during the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. Specifically, reports of corrosive viciousness have expanded since the 1960s in South Asia, Southeast Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Latin America. Human rights researchers note that corrosive savagery is related to gender inequality, the cheapness and accessibility of acid, and the failure of courts to convict perpetrators.

### Reasons why acid violence is used

Acid attacks are executed by individuals who know the victims, and the attacks are a result of clashes inside relationships. For instance, women might be attacked right after they reject a marriage proposal. Moreover, men are being attacked based on land disputes, or individuals being attacked based on political affiliation. It is observed that the majority of attacks take place against women and children including 75% (UNIFEM, 2012), with 95% of the culprits being men. Based on research conducted by Acid Survivors Foundation Uganda, the most common cited reasons for acid attacks were conflict within a relationship and conflicts related to business or property disputes. Roughly 33% had an "obscure" cause, mirroring the way that there was practically zero proof or record of the assaults. It is additionally essential to take note of the fact that inside Uganda, burn assaults are regularly utilized as a type of discipline. The point is to leave a scar as a notice of the offense with the goal that youngsters do not do that later on.

<b>The motivation of acid attack - 2016</b>			
<b>Reasons</b>	<b>Man</b>	<b>Woman</b>	<b>Children</b>
<b>Dowry</b>	-	<b>2</b>	-
<b>Family-related dispute</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Land/property/money dispute</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	-
<b>Marital dispute</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	-
<b>Refusal/rejection of love</b>	-	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Refusal/rejection of marriage</b>	-	-	-
<b>Refusal/rejection of Sex</b>	-	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Not know</b>	-	<b>2</b>	-
<b>Others</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>7</b>

Table based on the reasons and the motivation of acid attacks in 2016 in Bangladesh each gender have

### Types of acid violence

The use of sulphuric acid is most common since people can easily have access to them, knowing that they are available in car garages and car battery stores. Furthermore, they are not that expensive. However, not that often nitric and hydrochloric acid are also used.

### Acid violence to men

Acid attacks are frequently observed as a wrongdoing against ladies. Most of exploited people are young ladies who face the rage of abandoned darlings and even law commissions have revealed that it is a sexual- orientation-based brutality. In any case, progressively, a huge offer of corrosive assault exploited people are men.

Even though in most of the nations globally acid attacks are more often against women, in the UK it has been noted that over the last years most of the acid victims are men.

### Acid violence to women

Most overcomers of acid attacks are ladies and young ladies. The most well-known explanations behind assaults on ladies and young ladies are the refusal of marriage, the disavowal of sex, and the sexual dismissal of men and young men. It is a declaration of power over ladies' and young

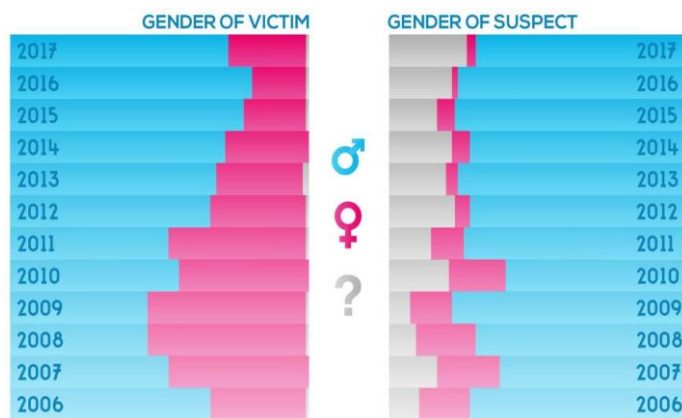


Diagram based on the number of women and men victims of acid violence from 2006 until 2017

ladies' bodies. Much of the time, individuals deliberately go for the face – decimating the eyelids so the eyes stay open – as a lady's face is viewed as consecrated. Her distortion at that point turns into an open sign of disgrace, making it difficult for her to get hitched or gain work. By harming the face of the survivor, the attacker limits their ability to engage in public life and damages their chance of marriage and having children. Corrosive assaults against ladies and young ladies, consequently, have an increased effect as a result of the response of society to the survivor – something that is most likely known by the culprit preceding the assault.

### Effects of acid violence for human beings

#### Health effects

The most prominent impact of a corrosive assault is deep-rooted in essence distortion. Thus, the unfortunate casualty is looked with physical difficulties, which require long haul careful treatment, just as mental difficulties, which require inside and out intercession from analysts

and instructors at each phase of physical recuperation. These sweeping consequences for their lives sway their mental, social and financial feasibility in networks.

#### Medical effects

The medical effects of corrosive assaults are broad. As a lion's share of corrosive assaults is gone for the face, a few articles altogether checked on the medicinal ramifications for these exploited people. The seriousness of the harm relies upon the convergence of the corrosive and the timeframe before the corrosive is altogether washed off with water or killed with a killing operator. The corrosive can quickly consume the skin, the layer of fat underneath the skin, and at times even the basic bone. Eyelids and lips might be totally obliterated, the nose and ears seriously harmed. The corrosive assault unfortunate casualties likewise face the likelihood of septicemia, renal disappointment, skin depigmentation, and even passing.

#### Social effects

Acid attack survivors likewise face numerous psychological wellness issues upon recuperation. One investigation demonstrated that when contrasted with distributed Western standards for mental prosperity, non-Caucasian corrosive assault exploited people revealed more elevated amounts of uneasiness, sorrow, and scored higher on the Derriford appearance scale, which estimates mental trouble because of one's anxiety for their appearance. Moreover, the ladies revealed brought confidence concurring down to the Rosenberg scale and expanded hesitance, both by and large and in the social circle.

#### Psychological effects

Notwithstanding therapeutic and mental impacts, numerous social ramifications exist for corrosive survivors, particularly ladies. For instance, such assaults more often than not leave exploited people incapacitated here and there, rendering them subject to either their companion or family for ordinary exercises, for example, eating and running errands. These conditions are expanded by the way that numerous corrosive survivors are not ready to discover reasonable work, because of hindered vision and physical impairment. This adversely impacts their monetary practicality, causing hardships on the families/life partners that care for them. In addition, corrosive survivors who are single when assaulted more likely than not become shunned from society, adequately destroying marriage prospects.

Wellbeing impacts

The most noticeable effect of a destructive attack is the lifelong bodily disfigurement. In this way, the tragic setback is looked with physical challenges, which require whole deal cautious treatment, similarly as mental troubles, which require all-around intervention from investigators and teachers at each period of physical recovery. These broad ramifications for their lives influence their psychological, social and money related plausibility in systems.

**MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED**

**Countries**

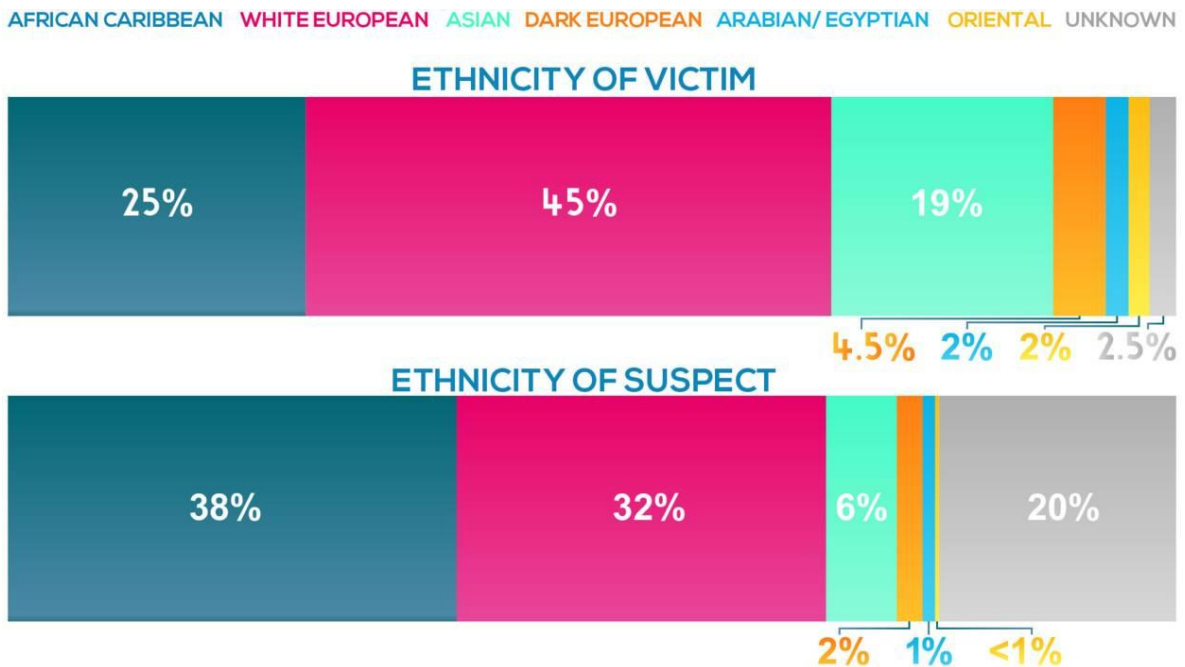


Diagram based on the percentage of acid victims and acid attackers of each continent and nation

**Bangladesh**

Assaults in Bangladesh topped at around 400 out of 2002. Practically 70% of unfortunate casualties are ladies and young ladies. An investigation of 90 casualties of assaults in Bangladesh found that 80% of the assaults happened in the unfortunate casualties' homes. Culprits are quite often men. Research on the financial status of exploited people (in light of checking on 90 unfortunate casualties) found that unfortunate casualties are bound to be from lower financial classes. In any case, corrosive assaults additionally happen against individuals from all classes. After much battling and media weight from numerous associations including the Acid Survivors Foundation, with the help of ASTI, the Bangladesh

Government presented enactment in 2002 which incorporates control of the deal, use, and capacity of corrosive. Assaults have now declined to under 100 every year.

### **Colombia**

Colombia's President Juan Manuel Santos has marked a law that forces harder sentences on the culprits of corrosive assaults. All the more explicitly, anybody indicted for such violations will presently serve somewhere in the range of 12 and 50 years in prison. Moreover, Acid assaults have turned into a noteworthy worry in Colombia over the previous decade. It is noticed that around 100 individuals - the greater part of them, are ladies - are assessed to be focused on consistently. In Colombia the aggressors can be male or female, going from displeased neighbors to desirous accomplices. While the new law signed by President Santos is a significant accomplishment for survivors of acid attacks, more needs to be done to end the use of acid as a weapon in Colombia.

### **India**

India had around 300 recorded assaults in 2016. Research demonstrates that most of the unfortunate casualties are ladies and young ladies and dissimilar to Bangladesh (where most assaults happen at home) assaults regularly happen in open places, for example, streets, schools, universities. The genuine number of assaults is probably going to surpass 1,000 assaults every year. As of late, the Indian government has found a way to address the issue through the death of new corrosive explicit enactment especially around the control and clearance of corrosive and remuneration for survivors. Notwithstanding, the usage of these laws differs inconsistency from state to state. Sadly, proof proposes that key parts of the laws are not being viably authorized; corrosive stays simple to acquire and numerous survivors experience difficulty getting to remuneration, medicinal consideration, and equity. ASTI research uncovers that the all-out time taken for prosecution around a case to end is between 5 – 10 years by and large and as a rule (76%) the assault is submitted by an individual who is known to the person in question.

### **Pakistan**

It is assessed that up to 400 ladies succumb to corrosive assaults executed by their spouses or in-laws every year, except due to underreporting, just 1,500 cases have been reported in the course of recent years. Assaults are regularly a heightening of aggressive behavior at home and established in sex fairness, showing as land questions, doubts of treachery, family

and 'respect' debates and competition. Corrosive tossing was made wrongdoing against the state with a correction to the Pakistani Penal Code in 2011 and can convey disciplines of lifetime detainment. In any case, the law is seldom authorized, especially in provincial territories, conviction rates are incredibly low and corrosive assaults proceed. Significantly more should be done to address the difficulties of examination, reasonable preliminary, free therapeutic and restoration administrations, subsidizing and observing system.

### The United Kingdom

Per capita, the UK has one of the most elevated rates of recorded corrosive assaults on the planet. In 2016, in London alone, destructive substances were utilized in 454 violations, contrasted with 261 out of 2015, as per London Police figures. Narrative proof recommends that huge numbers of the assaults are a piece of pack related exercises and that corrosive is turning into the weapon of decision. The UK does not have tight controls on the closeout of corrosive and nor does it have enactment explicit to corrosive assaults. ASTI has battled for more tightly controls on the closeout of corrosive and a survey of condemning. In the UK, in contrast to numerous nations, men make up most of the unfortunate casualties. Men likewise will, in general, be the culprits.



Picture which saw the rise of the men victims in UK from 2006 until 2016

Measurements discharged by London's Metropolitan Police to the BBC give a breakdown of each recorded corrosive assault over a 15-year time span by age, sexual orientation, ethnicity, ward, detest wrongdoing and result. It's the fullest picture yet of the capital's suspects and exploited people. The discoveries include:

- The suspect was male 74% of the time and the injured individual was male 67% of the time



- Only 6% of suspects were Asian
- Just one alleged 'respect' assault was recorded in 15 years
- Four out of five vicious offenses never reached trial

London acid attacks since 2012

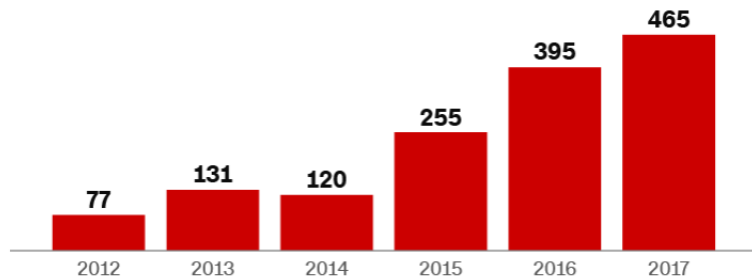


Diagram which saws the rise of acid attacks during the years 2012 and 2017

## Organizations

### ACID SURVIVORS TRUST INTERNATIONAL (ASTI)

Working in association with nearby accomplices Acid Survivors Trust International has conveyed genuine effect. With ASTI's assistance, its accomplices have given direct help to many survivors internationally. They have prepared several local



Picture which saws the countries all around the world where ASTI is working

specialists in numerous nations including Pakistan, Nepal, India, and Uganda, who thus have treated many survivors. They are additionally centered on fundamental change, changing laws and changing frames of mind with the outcome being a supported decline in the number of acid attacks around the world. They have changed laws in Colombia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Uganda, Cambodia, and the UK. As a result of implementing explicit enactment, acid violence has diminished fundamentally in Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Cambodia.

## **ActionAid**

Action Aid is a universal philanthropy that works with women and girls living in destitution. Its main goal is to end savagery against ladies and young ladies and help change their lives, for good.

Action Aid tries to address lawful change, yet additionally to keep further assaults from happening to women and young ladies, by looking for an adjustment in the social standards which license men and boys to believe this is appropriate conduct and to society putting an incentive on ladies and young ladies dependent on their appearance.

Action aid basically helps survivors of acid attacks to tackle all the problems and the difficulties of being acid victims. More specifically one of the most important actions of Action Aid has done over the past few years in order to help the women survivors is the above:

Action Aid organized a fashion show in East London with models of acid attack survivors who had never been out of their home country before. As worldwide philanthropy supporting the most unfortunate women and girls on the planet, ActionAid has been working with corrosive assault survivors in Bangladesh for a long time. In 2002, after much campaigning and crusading, they accomplished genuine advancement when the Bangladesh government changed enactment controlling the import and closeout of corrosive. Assaults have since declined from 400 to 100 every year. As indicated by the philanthropy, 70% of acid assault survivors are ladies, and 80% of assaults happen in the survivor's home.

## **Mission and Vision or RISE**

“Rise is a grassroots nonprofit organization based in the US. We provide hope and support to acid attack survivors and collaborate with survivor organizations around the world. We strengthen the connection between survivor and activist to effect change.”<sup>1</sup>

Rise services are the following:

1. They give assets to accomplice focuses to extend programming for corrosive assault survivors. Further examples are the following:
  - a) Shoe training in Uganda
  - b) Outreach program in Uganda
  - c) Office rent in Nepal

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.risecoalition.org/mission-vision/>

2. They sell at private parties, craft fairs, stores, and in our online marketplace handmade purchase crafts from acid attacks survivors in order to ensure the economic empowerment of the survivors.
3. They assemble associations with social insurance suppliers and specialists who work in geographic territories near survivors, so survivors have more extensive alternatives for reconstructive and corrective medical procedures. They are additionally creating medicinal groups that will travel to nations to provide surgeries and training in advanced burn care techniques.
4. RISE has offers monthly online care group for corrosive assault survivors living in the US. It is an open door for survivors to meet up to share assets and offer help to each other.
5. They provide awareness and advocacy education both to victims and to people all around the world who have never even heard of acid violence.

## TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date	Description of Event
1763	The FIRST SULFURIC ACID, VITRIOL FACTORY opens in Twickenham in England
1797	Eight VITRIOL FACTORIES operate in Glasgow, Scotland
1820	Vitriol is commonly sold as BLEACH or CLEANING AGENT
1834	One of the first recorded acid attacks occurs in Scotland. Hugh Kennedy is hanged for throwing vitriol onto a fellow servant's face
The 1840s	Acid attacks are so commonplace in parts of the UK
1884	In the United States, Annie Van Reed is sentenced to three years for using VITRIOL sold to her as LOVE POTION
1916	Price Leopold Clement is attacked with acid by his COMMON LOVER. He died a month later after losing his eyes and part of his face
1950-1970	Acid attacks decline across Western Europe. Factors are the rise of WOMEN'S ECONOMIC AUTONOMY and the REGULATION OF ACID

	STATES.
2002	In Bangladesh, there were 492 attacks in 2002.
2004	Ameneh Bahrami, 24, was attacked with acid by a university classmate.
2008	Victim of an acid attack orchestrated by her jealous boyfriend.
2011-2012	There were 105 hospital admissions in England for "assault by corrosive substance", but the category covers more than just acid.
2016	PAKISTAN, COLOMBIA, AND BANGLADESH see a big decline in acid attacks. While they have passed laws to prevent them  400 acid attacks are reported in LONDON in 2016 with no laws to curb acid's easy availability.

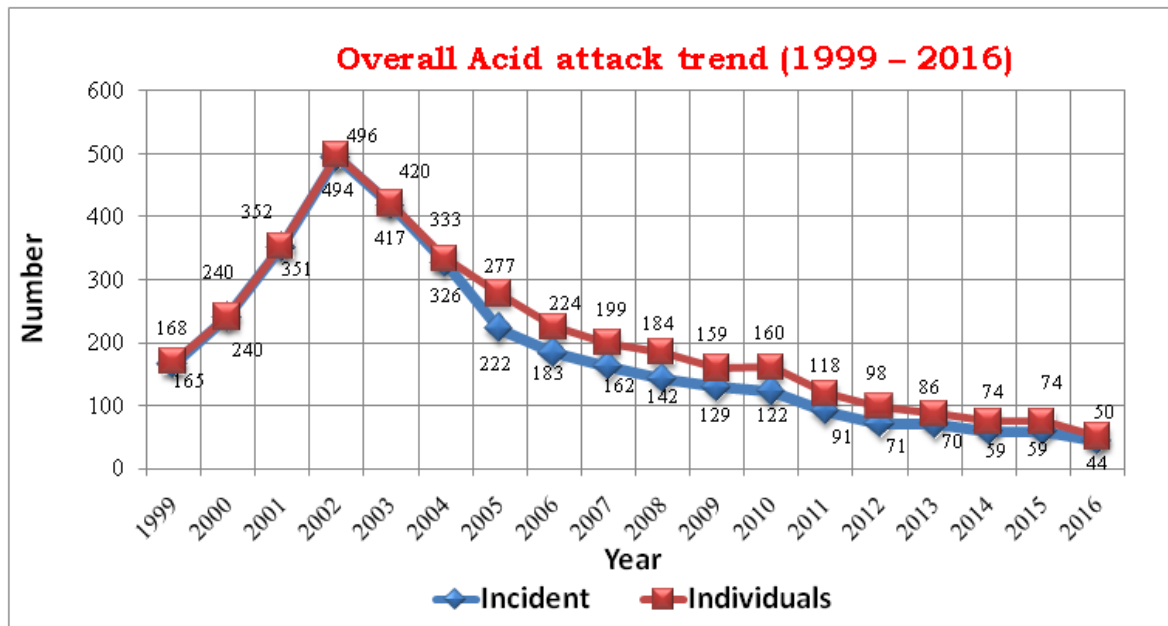


Diagram which saws the rise of acid attacks from 1999 until 2016

<b>Acid Attack Statistics (1999 – 2018)</b>		
<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of incidents</b>	<b>Number of survivors</b>
1999	165	168
2000	240	240
2001	351	352
2002	494	496
2003	417	420
2004	326	333
2005	222	277
2006	183	224
2007	162	199
2008	142	184
2009	129	159
2010	122	160
2011	91	118
2012	71	98
2013	70	86
2014	59	74
2015	59	74
2016	44	50
2017	39	48
2018	18	22
2019	06	07
<b>Total</b>	<b>3409</b>	<b>3788</b>

The table above shows acid attacks statistics during 1999 and 2019

## **UN INVOLVEMENT: RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES, AND EVENTS**

### **HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION 2004/41**

Specifically, the more important clauses for the current case are the following:

- clause number 1: which refers generally to all forms of violence against women and asks for the contribution of all nations and NGOs in order to eliminate the act of violence.
- clause number 2: which explains that violence against women is considered acid violence.

- clause number 4: which asks for the assistance of the state in order to eliminate all forms of violence(as well as acid violence).
- clause number 5: which ensures the right psychological and physical health to victims of violence.

### **BACKGROUND PAPER1 ON ATTACKS AGAINST GIRLS SEEKING TO ACCESS EDUCATION**

Another United Nations human rights report trying to break down the issue of acid violence against girls attempting to get to instruction found that in schools 70 distinct nations were assaulted in the five years somewhere in the range of 2009 and 2014, with numerous assaults explicitly focusing on girls, guardians and instructors supporting for sexual orientation uniformity in training.

The background paper was presented to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in order to contribute to the development of its general recommendation on access to education, and which was also published in advance of the 2015 High-level Review of Security Council resolution 1325, points to significant progress made towards guaranteeing education for all in many countries, while noting that girls still face barriers to full enjoyment of rights to, within and through education.

The report noticed a few late instances of violence against young ladies getting to training, which has featured the delicacy of accomplishments in expanding openness, accessibility, flexibility, adequacy, and nature of instruction for all.

### **SECRETARY-GENERAL'S STUDY ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN.**

- Background documentation for the 61<sup>st</sup> session of the General Assembly Item 60(a) on the advancement of women (Document A/61/122/Add. 1)

### **PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE**

- Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF) has given treatment, training and recovery chances to countless survivors. Numerous exploited people are currently expertly dynamic in ASF itself and past. Survivors are spoken to in the administering group of ASF. They are

currently in driving positions in ASF the executives and program usage. ASF has also transformed many 'survivors' into 'survivor ambassadors' who function as a platform for a collective voice to demand justice, protect rights, and act as an agent for prevention and integration into family and the society. A casualty of a corrosive assault living in the remote country puts presently approach psychosocial support from these 'survivor representatives.

- A Report with principle point "Combating acid violence in Bangladesh, India and Colombia" acknowledged by the Avon Global Center for Women and Justice at Cornell Law School, the Committee on International Human Rights of the New York City Bar Association, the Cornell Law School International Human Rights Clinic, and the Virtue Foundation.
- Ian Jack highlights the widespread prevalence of acid as a weapon of violence (The durability of an unfathomable crime, 11 February). He names several countries with a high number of attacks, including Bangladesh. But Bangladesh should not be included. It has had remarkable success in reducing the number of attacks. "I helped to establish an NGO in Bangladesh in 1999 to work on the issue of acid violence and was its first director. As well as providing medical support, we mounted a campaign to reduce the level of attacks. In 2002 we recorded more than 500 attacks annually. Within five years this had been reduced to fewer than 100. The number of attacks has now declined to the point where the NGO is scaling down its activities. The NGO worked closely with the government of Bangladesh, which introduced strict new penalties, set up special courts to deal with cases and restricted the sale of acid. Bangladesh shows that if the government, NGOs and civil society work together, acid violence can be overcome."<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup><https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/feb/15/bangladesh-campaign-has-cut-acid-attacks>

**John**

**Morrison**

*Scarborough, North Yorkshire*

## **POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS**

### **Enacting Effective Laws to Combat Acid Violence**

The obligation to forestall human rights violations incorporates a commitment to authorize enactment intended to control acid violence. States ought to order laws that accommodate fitting criminal cures and criminal systems to guarantee that culprits are brought to equity. Moreover, to battle corrosive brutality, it is fundamental for governments to establish laws to confine the simple accessibility of acids.

### **Ensuring Implementation of Laws Designed to Combat Acid Violence**

States ought not just to establish focused on enactment and arrangements to address acid violence however should likewise guarantee viable execution of those laws and approaches. So as to execute such criminal laws adequately, governments should lead suitable examinations of corrosive assaults and shield exploited people from dangers that could undermine those examinations just as indict and rebuff culprits of such assaults.

### **Providing Victim Redress**

A State's expected ingenuity commitment incorporates giving a change to exploited people to the human rights infringement they have endured. The review can incorporate the restoration of exploited people and money related to remuneration. Numerous corrosive brutality survivors must experience various entangled surgeries. These therapeutic techniques are in all respects exorbitant and require particular skills and offices. Governments ought to give sufficient human services in government offices to unfortunate casualties, and, where this is not accessible, the administration should pay the costs for fundamental treatment at private wellbeing offices.

### **Education and Public Information**

In order for the problem to be solved people should know from a very young age the major issue and how to combat it, but also how to preserve themselves in case of an acid attack. In the encouragement of the government's duty is to practice due tirelessness to counteract corrosive savagery, governments ought to establish criminal laws that explicitly address corrosive brutality and adequately manage the generation, dissemination, use, deal, and treatment of corrosive. What's more, it ought to guarantee that the laws intended to stop



corrosive viciousness are upheld and executed adequately. Ultimately, the administration ought to give a review to unfortunate casualties, including remuneration for human services costs.

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