

# **Identifying Rights Based Mechanisms for Women in International Migration: A case study of India-Bangladesh Border**

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## **Abstract**

There are several factors which do not allow enforcement of a non-permeable border line between India and Bangladesh. Apart from course changing rivers, ethnic connections and illegal trade, the burgeoning population of Bangladesh combined in a package of local politics makes the region amenable for movement of people towards relatively prosperous locations in India. In the absence of any formal mechanism for free movement, most of these migrants adopt illegal means to cross over. In the process, violence against women during and post migration situation becomes a critical issue as women are vulnerable to sexual harassment and abuse, especially in the hands of agents, contractors, law enforcement personnel and touts etc. Therefore, along with strategic and political factors, the agent-victim continuum of migrant women needs to be understood from the human rights perspective. In recent times, there has been a considerable growth of feminist perspectives in migration studies in South Asia. Such studies have highlighted structural as well as procedural implications on women at various stages of migration. The human rights approach in studying the women in cross border migration is still a grey area. The objective of the proposed paper is to identify violence against women during international migration from a human rights perspective. The paper would focus on India-Bangladesh border as a case study. Existing domestic mechanisms of the destination country i.e. India, would be analysed to ascertain compliance with international mechanisms. It would be worth exploring specific provisions of UN committee reports on migration, recommendations of the UN Charter and Treaty Bodies; and other relevant mechanisms for safeguarding the fundamental rights of both legal and illegal cross border migrant women.