

norms and practices and be capacitated to address by themselves those that are discriminatory or harmful to women.

4. In studying non-state justice or legal systems, it is also critical to surface how the community protects women. Closely examining a culture may reveal practices that may be consistent with the Women's Convention or human rights standards, even if the language used is different.
5. Anecdotal cases of individual experiences on the ground, which may not capture the complexities of the culture and the context of the tradition involved, should not be used as bases to judge a culture or make generalizations about its character.
6. Local community experiences might not be considered authoritative or legitimate for forming generalizations because they may appear too particular or micro. Also, recording the unwritten, ad hoc and undocumented decisions and processes of non-state systems poses dangers such as misinterpretation, distortion, misappropriation and fixation that may corrupt the integrity, character or nature of the processes. It is also critical to consider that existing data and knowledge in the community may have come from mostly male sources or experts, excluding women's experiences and knowledge. The research should take this into account so as not to distort the significance of available data.
7. Protocols and ethics in conducting research and in using the research output should be set in place and observed. These considerations should underpin the choice of methodologies. The community's ownership of the knowledge gathered must be considered.