

3. Existing data show that non-state justice mechanisms within indigenous, customary or religious traditions sometimes provide women some form of redress for rights violations. However, serious discrimination against women also occurs within some of these mechanisms, thereby perpetuating structural injustice against women and negating the gains that have been made within state justice systems.
4. Thus, even as state justice systems need to be reformed in order to address discrimination against women, non-state justice systems must also be scrutinized in how they address rights violations or acts considered harmful to women, how they substitute for state action on those violations (if they do), how they interact or interface with or are treated by the state, whether they conform to international human rights standards or perpetuate gender inequality and injustice against women in the name of religious dogma or cultural tradition, and how they can be promoted, if at all, as critical mechanisms for enhancing women's access to justice.