



# Role of Feminist movement in gender justice


**DR. NUPUR TIWARI**  
**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR**  
Indian Institute of Public Administration,  
IIPA Delhi

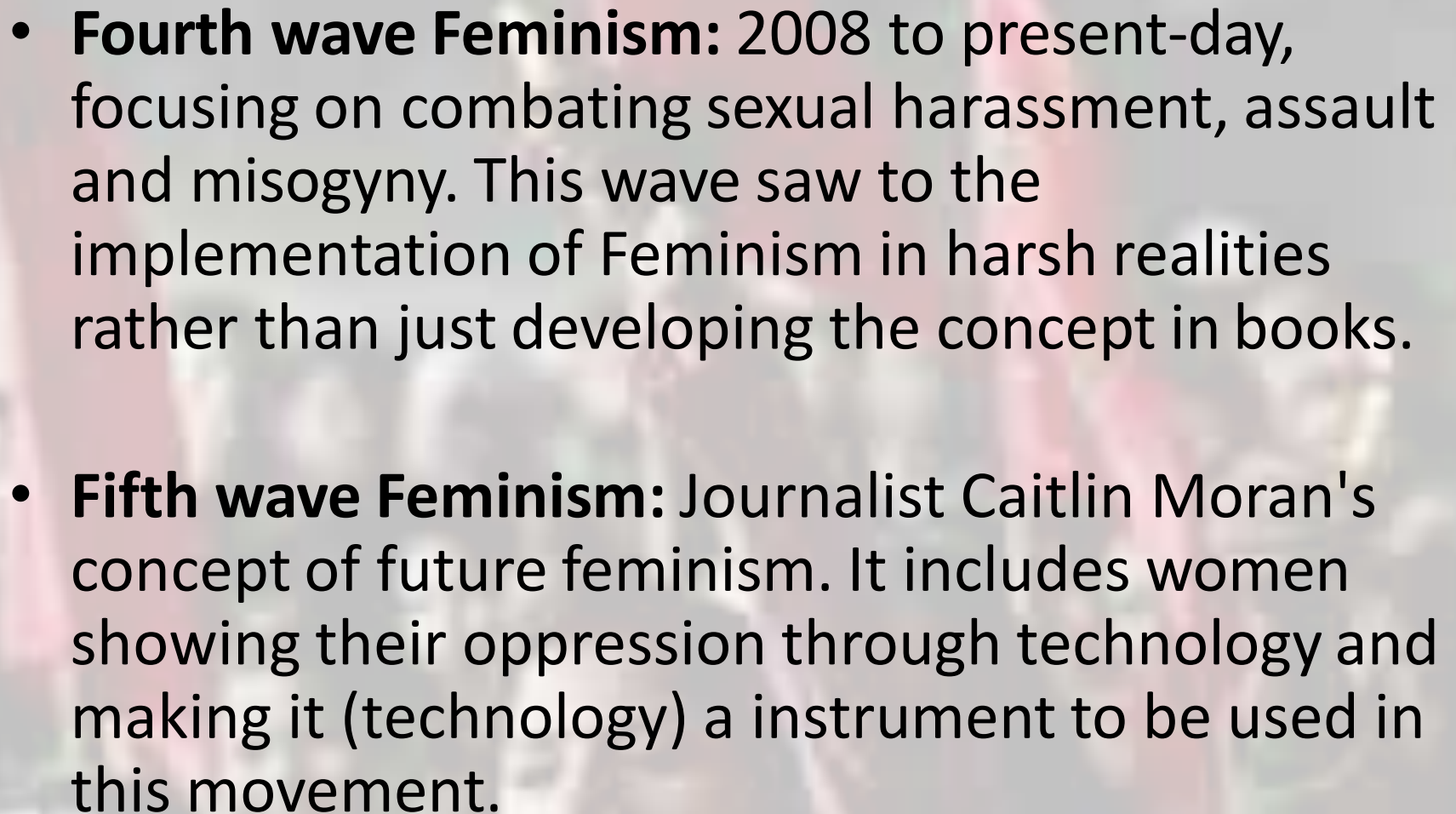
# Introduction

- Feminism is a collection of movements and ideologies, aimed at defining, establishing and defending equal political, cultural, economic and social rights for women.
- A Feminist advocates or supports rights and equality of women.

# Waves of Feminism:

- **First wave Feminism:** 19th and early 20th century (1910s to 1950s), focusing on women's suffrage, property rights, political candidacy and representation in the government.
- **Second wave Feminism:** 1960s to 1980s, focusing on reducing inequalities in sexuality, family, the workplace, reproductive rights, de facto inequalities, and official legal inequalities..

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- **Third wave Feminism:** 1990s to 2008, focusing on embracing individualism and diversity. It arose because of a realization that women are of many colors, ethnicities, nationalities, religions and cultural background.

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- **Fourth wave Feminism:** 2008 to present-day, focusing on combating sexual harassment, assault and misogyny. This wave saw to the implementation of Feminism in harsh realities rather than just developing the concept in books.
  - **Fifth wave Feminism:** Journalist Caitlin Moran's concept of future feminism. It includes women showing their oppression through technology and making it (technology) a instrument to be used in this movement.

- Each wave of feminist movement, though in different era and ideology has addressed issues of gender inequality, whether legal, political or social.
- It also talked about educating women not just about their rights but also academically, so as for them to have a stand in society of their own and for them to be the efficient wheel along with men to run the chariot called society smoothly.

# Feminism aims at gender justice

- It aims for equality rather than superiority of women. At the normative heart of feminism lies the belief that nobody should be at a disadvantage because of their sex
- Gender justice to refer to a world where everybody, women and men, boys and girls are valued equally, and are able to share equitably in the distribution of power, knowledge and resources.
- It seeks to see all people free from cultural and interpersonal systems of privilege and oppression, and from violence and repression based on gender.



# Gerda Lemer, feminist historian

- Gerda Lemer, feminist historian rightly observed that 'Women are ignored in history'. There is need to address the issues of gender equality to achieve an egalitarian society. "The history of women is not linear, nor does it have a well organised structure.
- It is, in fact, an integral, though mostly invisible, part of the saga of civilisation. Its threads are closely interwoven with those of culture, society, state and, above all, with the lives of people.
- Untangling the treads through multiple layers of traditions is a fascinating enterprise.



- Gender Justice and Feminism, the social issues that our society deals with have turned political issues too.
- They have indeed gained popularity but what they actually need is proper support and implementation rather than
- We speak a lot of these issues but when it comes to really implementing them and supporting them, we back off. We really need to practice what we preach.

# Gender Justice: Key to Achieving the Millennium Development Goals

- The Millennium Declaration and the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) collectively herald a vision for a more just and equal world. Social, political and economic equality for women is integral to the achievement of all Millennium Development Goals.

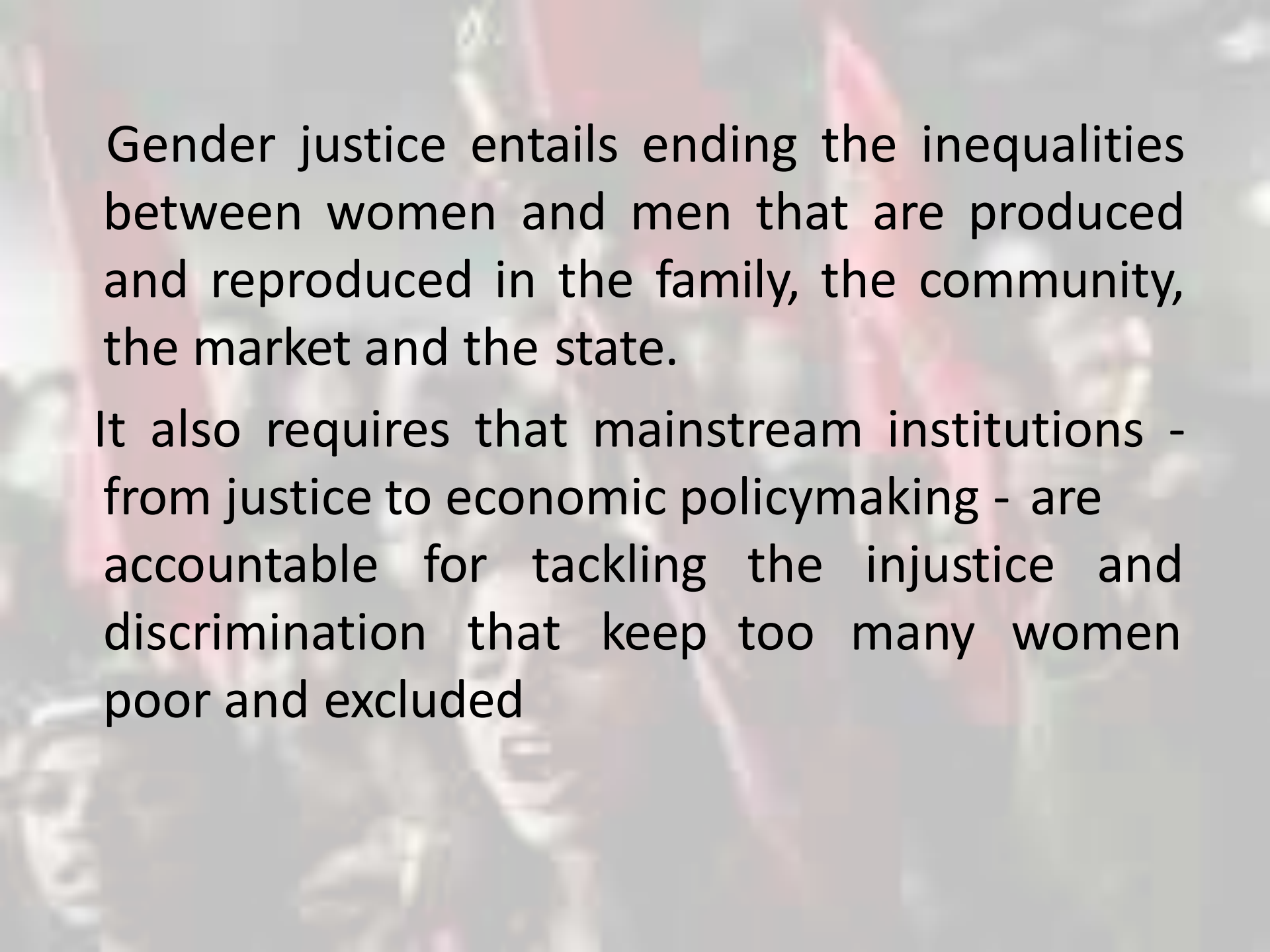
# FEMINISM VERSUS GENDER EQUALITY

Feminism is the advocacy of women's rights on the ground of the equality of the sexes

Mainly concerned with the rights of women

Gender Equality is the state in which access to rights or opportunities is unaffected by gender

Concerned with the rights of everyone, irrespective of gender



Gender justice entails ending the inequalities between women and men that are produced and reproduced in the family, the community, the market and the state.

It also requires that mainstream institutions - from justice to economic policymaking - are accountable for tackling the injustice and discrimination that keep too many women poor and excluded



# Need for Gender Justice and Equality

- There is need to strengthen the capabilities of the women to achieve gender justice and equality



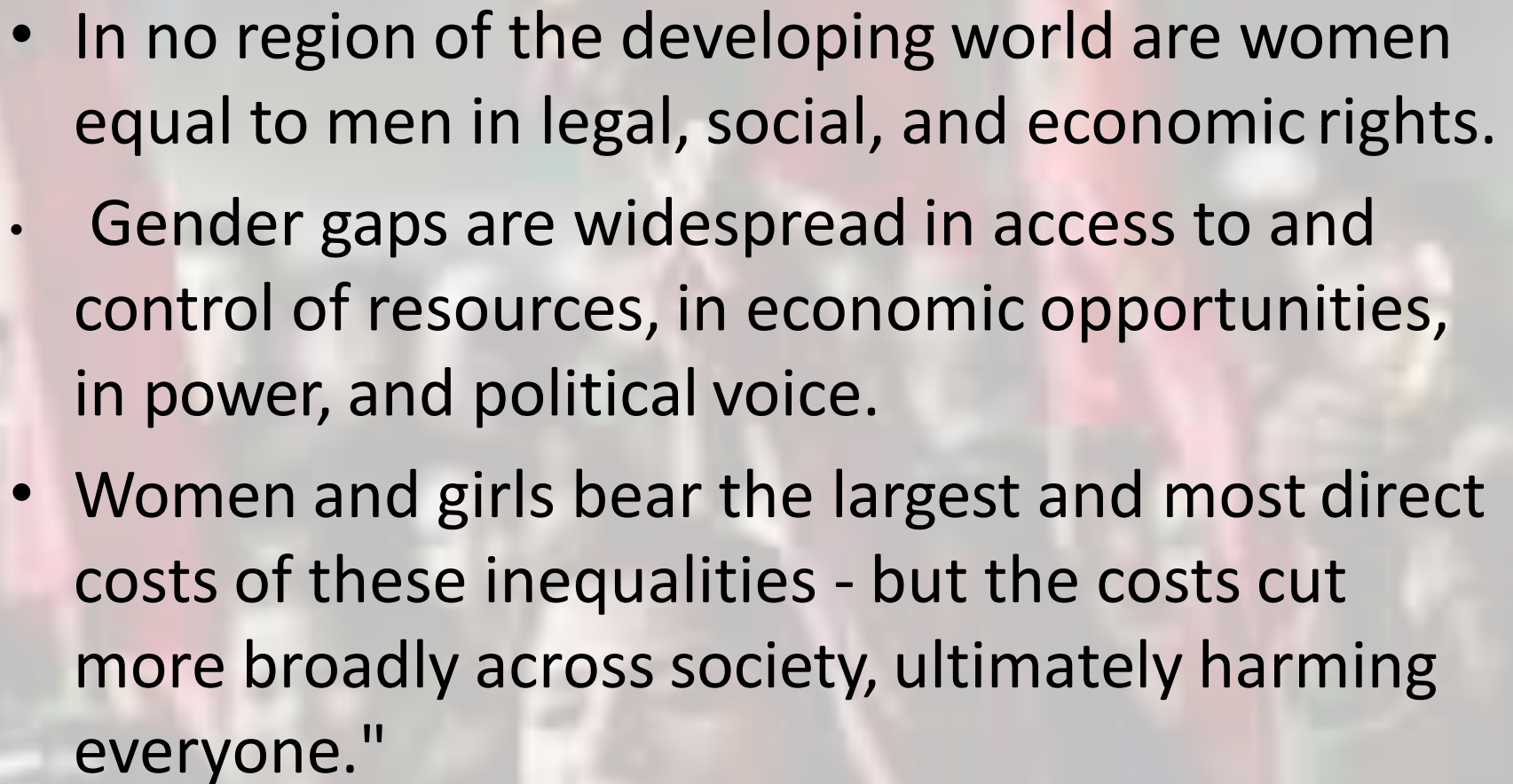
- "The problems of women in developing countries call urgently for new forms of analysis and for an approach that moves beyond utilitarian economics to identify a number of distinct components of human being's quantity of life including life-expectancy, maternal mortality, access to education, access to employment, and the meaningful exercise of political rights.

- Many feminists have discussed 'the issue of law and its impact on women's quality of life', asking how law has sustained and supported discrimination against women
- and how, on the other hand, it might embody a commitment to sex equality.
- "American law in the area of sex discrimination, makes proposals for national and international legal change, and comments on the limitations of market mechanisms in ending discrimination



# According to World Bank report

- According to World Bank report, "Gender Discrimination remains pervasive in many so dimensions of life-worldwide. This is despite considerable advances in gender equality in recent decades.
- The nature and extent of the discrimination vary considerably across countries and regions. But the patterns are striking.

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- In no region of the developing world are women equal to men in legal, social, and economic rights.
  - Gender gaps are widespread in access to and control of resources, in economic opportunities, in power, and political voice.
  - Women and girls bear the largest and most direct costs of these inequalities - but the costs cut more broadly across society, ultimately harming everyone."

- For these reasons, women's rights is a core issue
- In much of Sub-Saharan Africa, women obtain land rights chiefly through their husband as long as the marriage endures, and they often lose those rights when they are divorced or widowed.
- Gender disparities in rights constrain the sets of choices available to women in many aspects of life often profoundly limiting their ability to participate in or benefit from development

- Women continue to have systematically poorer control over a range of productive resources, including education, land, information, health, employment, and financial resources.
- "Such disparities, whether in education or productive resources, hurt women's ability to participate in development and to contribute to higher living standards for their families.
- "Gender justice envisages the equality of sexes in each and every sphere.

# Women's Rights Issues in Gender Equality and Justice

- Women's rights issues are those for which women are the intended beneficiary, constituency or object.
- Such a definition distinguishes women's rights from several related issues.
- First, women's rights as defined here distinct from the numerous policies where women have traditionally been expected to have greater interest, such as those pertaining to the family, children, and other private or domestic sphere concerns.

# WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND GENDER JUSTICE

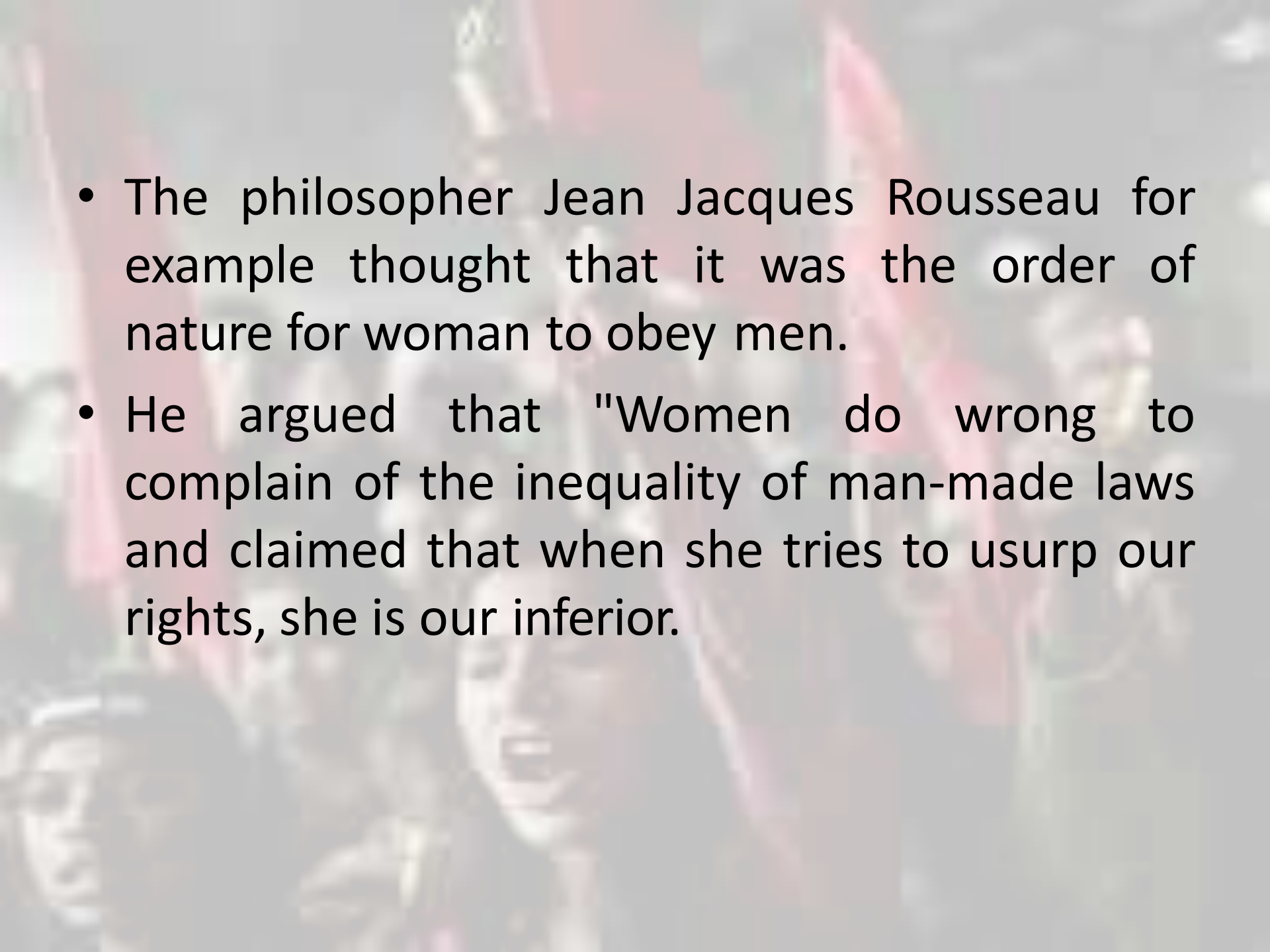
- Feminists all over the world are trying to focus on the human rights of women.
- Their slogan is "Women's rights are human rights. " Women's rights are Human Rights is a proclamation for gender justice.
- Women have the right to food, shelter, property, education, reproductive choice, social security, health care and employment.

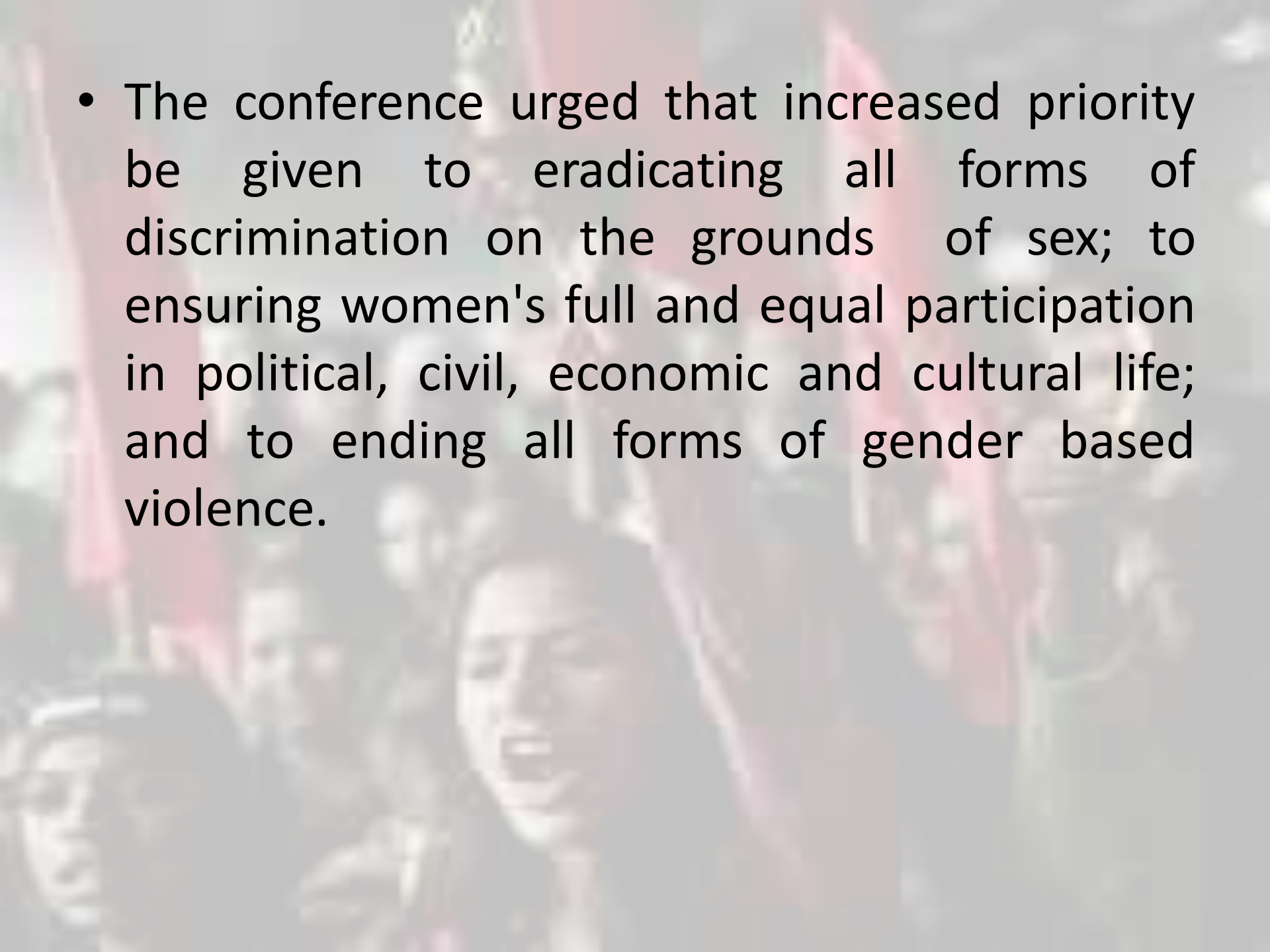


- Women have the right to political and religious freedom of expression, freedom from torture or slavery and the civil privileges of citizens. Women have the right to a livelihood free from all forms of violence.
- For decades, women's groups have focused on addressing women's civil and political rights
- Organizations working at the grassroots level and on local, national, and international policy have drawn attention to gender-based abuses, among them:
  - inequality of opportunity in education, employment, housing, credit, and health care, rape and domestic violence; reproductive freedom; and domestic labour.



- "While human rights standards may be invoked to protect women (as when they are applied to violations such as the rape of women in detention) and human rights organisations may take action on the behalf of individual women,
- human rights work has traditionally been concerned with state-sanctioned or condoned oppression, that which takes place in the "public sphere", away from privacy to which most women are relegated and in which most violations of women's rights take place."

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- The philosopher Jean Jacques Rousseau for example thought that it was the order of nature for woman to obey men.
  - He argued that "Women do wrong to complain of the inequality of man-made laws and claimed that when she tries to usurp our rights, she is our inferior."

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- The conference urged that increased priority be given to eradicating all forms of discrimination on the grounds of sex; to ensuring women's full and equal participation in political, civil, economic and cultural life; and to ending all forms of gender based violence.

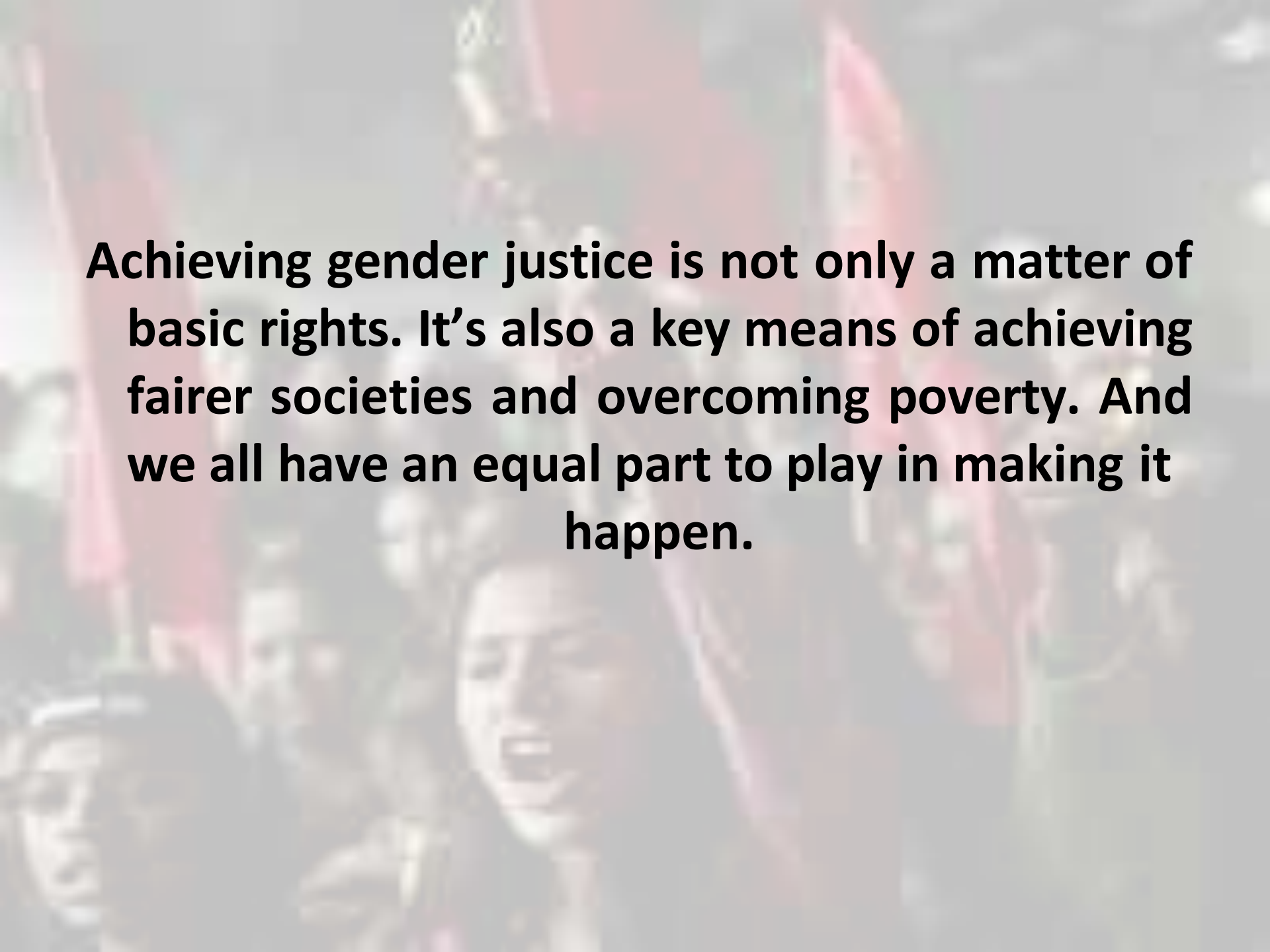
- Countries agreed that women's enjoyment of rights - including equal access to resources - is both an end in itself and essential to their empowerment, to social justice, and to overall social and economic development.
- As a result of the Vienna Conference's recommendations, the General Assembly in December 1993 adopted by consensus the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against women.

- Hence cultural feminists (Harding, 2004) conclude that women's actions should not be judged by the male standards. Instead, women be respected for the class of values that they represent.
- They should be put in such roles where these values find expression and enhancement. These values in the woman could be better utilized by placing her in leadership roles.



- They would allow them to secure all these values in the society thereby contributing to a better world. They speak of women being put into roles they are best suited to.





**Achieving gender justice is not only a matter of basic rights. It's also a key means of achieving fairer societies and overcoming poverty. And we all have an equal part to play in making it happen.**





**Thank you**